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# **Constitution is a guiding light: PM**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ailing the Constitution as a "living stream", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the sentiment of 'nation will keep first' Constitution alive centuries to come. Recalling the words of President Rajendra Prasad in his concluding address to the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, PM Modi said he had stated that India does not need anything more than a group of honest people who will keep the country's interests above their own.

Addressing an event marking Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, Modi the Constitution has now been fully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir and Constitution Day was celebrated there for the first time there. "Our Constitution makers knew that India's aspirations, India's dreams will reach new heights with time. They knew that the needs of Independent India and its citizens will change, challenges will change. That is why they did not leave our Constitution as just a mere book of laws. Rather, they made it a living, continuously flowing stream," Modi said, adding that the Constitution is acting as a "guiding light" at a time when India is going through a period of transformation.

"Today every citizen of the country has only one goal, to build a developed India," he said at the event which was



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

Justice of India Saniiv Khanna and Supreme Court Bar Association of India President Kapil Sibal, among others. India is going through a period of transformation and at such an important time, it is the Constitution of India that is "showing us the way and is a guiding light for us", PM Modi Asserting that Indians should

get speedy justice, PM Modi said that for this a new judicial code has been implemented. "The punishment-based system has now changed to a justice-based system," he said. Speaking in a lighter vein while concluding his address, PM Modi said, "I have tried to keep within the boundaries of the job designated to me by

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

attended by Law Minister the Constitution. I have not "The backlog of check Arjun Ram Meghwal, Chief tried any encroachment. I bouncing cases in our district

courts have reached an alarming proportion - nearly nine per cent of the cases pending in the trial court. Data also reveals plea bargaining has been a nonstarter. Compounding and probation have not gained acceptance. Perhaps these legislative require interference," CJI Khanna said. The CJI also drew attention to

the disparity between the judicial workforce and the prison population. With approximately 20,000 judges at the district level and 750 High Court judges, the judiciary handles a prison population of 5.23 lakh. Despite this disparity, data reflects efficient case handling, he said.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ SAUGAR SENGUPTA NEW DELHI/ KOLKATA

Taking strong exception to attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, India on Tuesday noted with "deep concern" the arrest, and denial of bail, to Hindu leader Chinmov Krishna Das there and urged authorities there to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities.

Bangladesh police on Monday arrested Das, the leader of the Hindu group, Sammilita Sanatani Jote, from the Hazrat International Shahialal Airport area in Dhaka.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it has noted with "deep concern the arrest and denial of bail" to Das who is also the spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatan Iagran Jote. "This incident follows the multiple attacks on Hindus and other minorities by extremist elements in Bangladesh," it said.

There are "several documented cases" of arson and looting of minorities' and business homes establishments, as well as theft and vandalism and desecration of deities and temples, the MEA flagged. "It is unfortunate that while

the perpetrators of these incidents remain at large, charges should be pressed against a religious leader presenting legitimate demands through peaceful legitimate gatherings," the statement said.

The MEA also noted with



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

concern the attacks on minorities protesting peacefully against the arrest of Das. "We urge Bangladesh authorities to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities, including their right of freedom of peaceful assembly expression," it added.

Das was reportedly arrested on charges of sedition and his bail application was rejected Chittagong the Metropolitan Magistrate Court. The court, noting that the police did not request Das' remand, ordered his transfer to judicial custody.

It also directed that he be granted all religious privileges during his detention. He was arrested on charges of disrespecting the Bangladeshi flag during a rally he addressed in October, according to Bangladeshi

media reports. Hindus in West Bengal have

announced plans to protest and block the Petrapole Border if bail is not granted to ISKCON's Chinmoy Das. Meanwhile, Suvendu Adhikari, a senior Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) leader, said the party would hold protests in front of the West Bengal Assembly over the situation in Bangladesh. A torch rally is also planned. Concerned at the arrest of Swami Chinmoy Krishna Das sadhu of senior

International Society of Krishna Consciousness, Bangladesh the ISKCON has appealed to the Indian Government to take up the issue with the Government on the other side of the border so as to secure the release of the monk at the earliest.

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

#### awaits its next CM T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

**Maharashtra still** 

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

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## SC asks for creative ways to deal with unruly air passengers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court on}}_{\text{Tuesday called for creative}}$ ways to deal with unruly air passengers, while directing the Centre and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to frame more comprehensive guidelines to control unruly air passengers guidelines in accordance with the international norms.and observed "something creative" had to be done. A Bench of Justices B R Gavai and KV Viswanathan was hearing a plea filed by a 73-year-old woman, on whom a male co-passenger allegedly urinated in an inebriated condition on board an Air India flight in November,

Interestingly, during the hearing, Justice Viswanathan recalled an incident involving drunk passengers on a flight while travelling with another Supreme Court judge, Justice Surya Kant. "We had a recent experience during air travel. Two male passengers were fully drunk. One went to the washroom and slept off. The other one, who was outside and had a bag to vomit. The crew was all women. For 30 to 35 minutes no one could open the door. The crew then requested my co-passenger to open the door and take him out to the seat. It was a 2.40 hours flight," the judge revealed.

Justice Viswanathan, who was on a Bench with Justice BR Gavai, hearing the plea, asked Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to instruct the authorities concerned to examine and suitably modify the existing guidelines on unruly passengers, in line with the international norms.

Continued on page 8 This led to a heated

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday

indicated that a level of hypocrisy

is attached to criticism about the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), saving "EVMs are tampered when you lose and fine if you win". The oral remark was made by Justice Vikram Nath before dismissing a petition filed by evangelist KA Paul, who sought a judicial order to return to paper ballots. As the petitioner pointed out that even prominent leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had raised concerns about tampering with EVMs, the SC Bench remarked, "When Chandrababu Naidu or Mr Reddy lost, they said that EVMs were tampered and when they won, they didn't say anything. How can we see this? We are dismissing this. This is not the place where you argue all of this." Petitioner KA Paul referenced Elon Musk's remarks who had suggested that EVMs could be tampered with.

guilty of distributing money, liquor or other material inducement to the voters during polls.

"You have interesting PILs. How do you get these brilliant ideas?". The petitioner said he is the president of an organisation which has rescued over three lakh orphans and 40 lakh

"Why are you getting into this



political arena? Your area of work is very different," the Bench retorted.
After Paul revealed he had been to over 150 countries, the Bench asked him whether each of the nations had ballot paper voting or used electronic

voting.

The petitioner said foreign countries had adopted ballot paper voting and India should follow suit. "Why you don't want to be different from the rest of the world?" asked the Bench.

There was corruption and in June 2024, the Election Commission Apart from ballot paper voting, the plea sought several directions including a directive to the Election Commission to disqualify candidates for a minimum of five years if found

2024, the Election Commission announced they had seized Rs 9,000 crore, Paul responded. "But how does that make your relief which you are claiming here relevant?" asked the Bench, adding "if you shift back to claiming here relevant?" asked the Bench, adding "if you shift back to physical ballot, will there be no corruption?".

Paul claimed CEO and co-founder of When petitioner-in-person KA Paul said he filed the PIL, the Bench said, could be tampered with and added could be tampered with and added TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, the current chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, and former state chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had claimed EVMs could be tampered



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

## Two low-intensity explosions outside Badshah's lounge

Two low-intensity explosions occurred outside as many bar-cum-lounges, one of them owned by rapper Badshah, in the Sector 26 area of Chandigarh early Tuesday. No casualties were reported The blasts occurred outside De'Orra and Seville. Seville is reportedly owned by the rapper. The explosions shattered De'Orro's glass windows. explosions shattered De'Orra's glass windows. In CCTV footage, an unidentified person was seen throwing something towards the lounge and thereafter a cloud of smoke emerged. Sources said two suspects came on a motorcycle.

Police said they received a call reporting a "loud sound" from the area around 3.25 am. A police team recovered jute rope pieces from the spot. A team from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory collected the samples, police said.

Chandigarh Deputy Superintendent of Police Dilbag Singh Dhaliwal told media an investigating officer who responded to the call found broken glasses at the scene. An FIR has been lodged and an investigation was underway, Dhaliwal said.

Puran, a worker at one of the clubs, said though the joint was closed, there were seven to eight workers inside at the time of the incident. He said they heard a loud sound around 3.15 am and rushed outside. They found broken glass, but did not spot anyone, he added.

## Doctors on duty still vulnerable to attacks SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

A mid the nation-wide talk about the safety of resident doctors in the aftermath of RG Kar hospital rape and murder case in Kolkata, the medical workers still continue to remain vulnerable as they faced harassment in two Delhi government hospitals including Safdarjung hospital where a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer allegedly verbally abused a doctor on duty, over the treatment of his wife. A CCTV video, purportedly showing the incident, depicted the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Armed Police and Training in Puducherry, angrily gesturing at the doctor and pointing his finger towards him.

However, no police case has been filed in both the cases even though the Central government had asked heads of all government hospitals in the country to register an institutional FIR within six hours of any incident of violence against an on-duty healthcare worker in the wake of the RG Kar rape and murder case that happened in Kolkata. After the incident, doctors started sharing

their concerns, raising questions about the behavior of people toward healthcare workers. behavior of people toward healthcare workers. Expressing his displeasure over the incident, a doctor on X said, "Brijendra Kumar Yadav, DGP Pondicherry disgraced his position and abused power by threatening and verbally assaulting a young on duty resident doctor treating his wife at Safdarjung Hospital. We turn to the police when we are assaulted. What to do when a top police officer becomes the perpetrator of aggression?"

In the first instance at Safdarjung hospital, the incident led operations in the emergency ward being temporarily halted. The wife of Brijendra Kumar Yadav had been admitted to the hospital for postoperative care following surgery at the hospital's Sports Injury Centre

Although the CCTV footage had no sound, the man's body language clearly conveyed hostility. Later, the official X handle of the Resident Doctors' Association of Safdarjung Hospital shared an audio clip of the incident.



In the clip, a man can be heard saying, "I have studied twice as much as you, so don't think you are indispensable."

Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) also issued a press release strongly condemning the incident of verbal harassment and bullying faced by a general surgery postgraduate resident of VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital Delhi on duty.

"The concerned person, Brijendra Kumar Yadav (IPS Officer) Batch 2010 AGMUT

Cadre, and husband of patient Anita Roy (admitted to the seventh floor of the SIC building), engaged in behaviour that was both disgraceful and unacceptable. Such actions, particularly by a senior government official, are highly condemnable and violate the dignity of healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to serve patients," they said,

demanding an apology from Yadav.

In another incident that took place in GTB In another incident that took place in G1B hospital, a male patient, allegedly drunk, created ruckus in the neurosurgery department during treatment, breaking fixtures and threatening doctors on duty.

According to a statement by the Resident Doctors' Association of the University College

of Medical Sciences (UCMS) and GTB Hospital, on Monday evening, a patient became violent during an examination, abused doctors, nurses, and staff on duty, and attempted to assault them. The patient also broke cabin partitions and smashed glass fixtures, it said.

Continued on page 8

# Mewar dynasty descendants spar in bizarre battle royale

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/

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

confrontation on Monday night as tensions flared between two factions of the erstwhile royal family of Mewar, resulting in stone pelting, injuring several persons and a standoff at the historic City Palace.

The clash followed the coronation of BJP MLA Vishvaraj Singh Mewar as the 77th Maharana of Mewar

earlier that day at Chittorgarh Fort. On Tuesday, the district administration of Udaipur

appointed a receiver to

manage a disputed area of the City Palace. The issue stands unresolved. However, the situation is under control, district officials said.

Property dispute is at the core of this entire episode, which apparently has turned into the battle of supremacy. City palace and Eklingnathji temple are under the control of Arvind Singh. A stand-off between Vishvaraj Singh and his cousin Dr Lakshay Raj Singh Mewar followed at the gates of the historic city palace after Vishvaraj Singh Mewar was refused entry into the palace, which is now run by a trust managed by his cousin and uncle Shreeji Arvind Singh Mewar.

Continued on page 8



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



# sheets busted

cates by scanning original documents and creating counter-feit versions using high-level

These fake mark sheets and

degrees spanned across various

levels, including 10th, 12th,

graduation, master's degrees, and certifications from

Ayurveda institutes and open

The gang had a centre in Ghaziabad, where they made

fake certificates appear legitimate by applying seals and signatures. The price for a fake certificate ranged from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000, depending

on the level of education, and

it was used for job placements, promotions, and admissions.

The gang's network extended beyond Uttar Pradesh, with

operations in Bihar, Delhi, and

Local brokers were employed

in these states to connect with

customers, who were charged according to the type of degree

The brokers facilitated the

transactions, while the gang

received money based on the

specific degrée being pur-

Ram Prakash Verma, who was arrested during the raid, worked directly under Mangeram. The gang leader,

Manish Pratap Singh, a resident of Mathura, remains at large.

Mangeram has been previous-

ly arrested for similar crimes.

In September 2021, Chinhat

police arrested him in a fake

He was later arrested by

Aminabad police on February

11, 2022, and sent to jail. In

2023, he was arrested under the

POCSO Act. Mangeram has

several criminal cases against

him, including charges of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, rape, murder, ille-gal use of weapons, and nar-

NOTICE

I have changed my name from

Sultan to Sultan Khan s/c

Mujiburrahman R/o Saat Ana

NOTICE

Hasan Mohd Shakir Lari, Hasan

Mohd Shakir and Mohd. Shakir

Lari S/o Shamimul Hasan, 622/17,

Mayapuri KDA Colony Jajmau

Kanpur, are the same person.

Adhar Card at present is Mohd.

Shakir Lari name, contact if has

**NOTICE** 

I have changed my name from

ZAINAB FATMA to ZAINAB

FATIMA for all future Purposes

Zainab Fatima W/O Mohammad

Yousuf Ayub 51, Phase -4 Emerald

**NOTICE** 

No- 3008150N Havaldar Rajeev

Kumar Singh son of late Tej Bahadur Singh, Sir, in my service

document, my daughter's name

has been erroneously recorded as

Kumari Aditi whereas her actual

name is Aditi Singh, which is

recorded in her Aadhaar card and

high school. Therefore, please

enter my daughter's correct name

as Aditi Singh in my service

NOTICE

I have changed my name from

Nami Akhtar to Najmi Akhtar.

Tariq R/O 110, Bari Masjid

**NOTICE** 

My daughter's name has been

written by mistake as Mani

Srivastava in the Aadhaarcard.

Whereas in all the educational

records, Mahi Srivastava daughter of Gaurav Srivastava Resident–5A Sunder Nagar,

Galla Mandi Naubasta Kanpur,

should be known by this name in

shujatganj kanpur

Gulistan Jajmau Kanpur Nagar

Laluli Fatehpur

marksheet case.

cotics trafficking.

Madhya Pradesh.

they required.

chased.

software.

universities.

PNS LUCKNOW

Police on Tuesday claimed to have busted a gang involved in producing fake mark sheets and certificates, in Nishatganj. The police arrested Ram Prakash Verma, a computer operator allegedly working for the gang, but the kingpin, Manish Pratap Singh alias Mangeram, remains absconding. The gang has been responsible for selling thousands of counterfeit degrees and mark sheets over the years. The gang, led by Manish Pratap

Singh, operated under the guise of the 'Kaushal Vikas Mission' in Ghaziabad.

Mangeram, who has been committing fraud for the last nine years, has previously served multiple jail terms, including one under the Gangsters Act. When Mangeram was incarcerated, his associates continued running the racket in his absence. Mangeram was released from jail five months ago and set up a new centre in Lucknow three months later, planning to inaugurate it with a prominent political figure. a prominent political figure. Following a tip-off, the police raided a house in Nishatganj, where they discovered a laptop, printer, paper cutting machine, and a large number of fake mark sheets.

During interrogation, the arrested computer operator, Ram Prakash Verma, revealed details about the gang and its leader Mangeram. He disclosed that the gang operated across the country.
Mangeram, the mastermind

behind the operation, coordinated the entire network. The gang produced fake certifi-



## **NOTICE**

I Syed Ali Abbas Rizvi S/o Syed Maiidul Hasan R/o 297/124 Shah ganj, Nakhas Lucknow, I have evicted to my son Syed Himail Abbas Rizvi R/o 297/122 shahganj, Nakhas Lucknow from all my movable and immoval property due to his bad habits. behaviour and bad life style. I have no concern with any future transactions, (bank loan etc) done

## **NOTICE**

No- 3008150 N Havaldar Rajeev Kumar Singh son of late Tej Bahadur Singh Gram Po Mustafabad, District Mau, U.P. Sir, my son's name has been mistakenly mentioned as Ansh in my service document whereas his actual name is Ansh Singh. Which is mentioned in his Aadhar card. So please register his actual name as Ansh Singh in my service document

## **NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Alim Quraishi Shahid to Shahid Alim S/o Abdul Alim Quraishi R/o 14/145, Commerce Center 6th floor plot no.2 Chunni ganj Kanpur for all future purpose

## **NOTICE**

I, Bhavana Shukla D/o Ajay Kumar Shukla Residing At 67/1, O Block, Yashoda Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, UP-208011 Have changed my name & DOB from Bhavana Shukla & 02.07.2004 to Anushka Shukla & 02.07.2005 Vide Affidavit No.93AE597129 Dated 11.11.2024 at Kanpur Nagar

## **NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** PUBLIC NOTICE

Be inform that my client IDBI Bank Limited intends to provide a finance to one of its clients Sri Romel Soni & Smt. Vineeta against their property being House No. 595/PN-35 KN67, with land built over plot No. 35, admeasuring 500 sq. tts. i.e. 46.468 sq. mtr. only being part of Khasra No. 67, situated at Village- Bhuhar, Ward- Haidergani, Lucknow. In chain of title being original sale deed dated 12.06.2013 vide document No. 6616 favoring the ex-owner Sri Rajendra is allegedly lost simple special to the situation of the situation o

spect thereof against purchaser shall b (Tarun Prakash Srivastava) Advocate, Mob.: 9335914262 Office: Room No. 111, Citi Hotel, 24, B.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow.

# Gang making fake Victims leave behind certificates, mark kin more miserable

PTI SAMBHAL

Families of the four men killed in the Sunday violence in Sambhal are now forced to contend with the double tragedy of death and poverty, reliant as they were on the frugal income the four once brought.

Naeem, Bilal, Noman, and Kaif were killed in a violent fracas that broke out in Sambhal's Kot

Naeem, a resident of Kot Garvi area, ran a sweets shop, Bilal, a resident of the Hayatnagar Police Station area, had a clothes shop in the local supermarket, and Kaif, from an area under the Nakhasa Police Station area, sold cosmetics in a weekly market.

"My father, Haneef, is a vendor. Since the financial condition of my family is not good, Bilal started a clothing shop in the local supermarket. We are four brothers," Mohammad Aleem

He said his brother was shot on his way back home from the shop. "Our material (cloth) had come, and we had gone to the shop to keep it. As we were returning after closing the shop, police started a lathicharge and fired bullets. A bullet hit him. We searched for **SAMBHAL INCIDENT** 

he died," Aleem said.

Naeem's brother Tasleem said he was out buying groceries when he was killed. "He was going to take refined oil and 'maida,' when the vio-

lence broke out. He did not even know about it. Police killed him," Tasleem said. Naeem is survived by two sons and two daughters. Kaif is survived by his three

brothers, a cousin of his, Fardeen said. The family of Noman refused to speak to the Superintendent of Police of Sambhal Krishan Kumar said around 20-22 police personnel were injured in the violence.

One of them is undergoing treatment in Meerut. A Circle Officer is also facing a bit of problems, rest of them

are recuperating, he said.
Tension had been brewing in Sambhal since November 19 when the mosque was first surveyed on the court's orders following a petition claiming that a Harihar temple had stood at

him in the hospital, where we came to know that he had been referred to Moradabad, where

On Sunday, a large group of people gathered near the mosque and started shouting slogans as the survey team resumed its work. They then clashed with security personnel, torched vehicles, and pelted stones.

According to official figures, four people died in the violent confrontation.

While a magisterial probe into the violence is on, the Sambhal SP on Monday said that the situation was under control and emphasised that "strict action will be taken against those responsible for the unrest." He said police were analysing drone footage, CCTV camera

recordings, and mobile videos to identify the suspects and apprehend them. Police have arrested 25 people so far and registered seven FIRs, naming the Samajwadi Party's Sambhal MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq, and Sohail Idpal
— son of the party's local MLA
Idpal Mehmood — and 2,750
unidentified individuals as accused. District Magistrate Rajendra Pensiya on Monday said that the survey was con-

ducted under court orders.



residence in Lucknow on Tuesday

## Café owner assaulted in repeat attack **Lucknow (PNS):** A group of and four others, but Azhar youths allegedly attacked a café alleged no concrete action was

owner in a brazen display of violence, showing him weapons

violence, showing him weapons and beating him with sticks before looting Rs 40,000.

The incident occurred in Kaiserbagh as the victim was on his way home. The accused allegedly threatened to kill him if he reported the crime, leaving him shalon and footing for ing him shaken and fearing for his life. This was not the first such incident. The café owner, Azhar, claimed he had been repeatedly harassed by the same group, who had earlier threatened him. CCTV footage has reportedly captured these

Azhar recounted that the trouble began on October 28 when five men visited his café and demanded tea without purchasing tokens, as per the shop's rules.

incidents.

When denied, they grew enraged and demanded money instead. Later that night, after Azhar closed his café, the group ambushed him near Nadwa College in Daliganj, where they assaulted him, causing a severe

head injury.
A complaint was lodged with
Hasanganj police against Salim

alleged no concrete action was taken. This apparent inaction emboldened the accused, leading to a second incident on November 24. On that night, the group intercepted Azhar near Shubham Cinema in Kaiserbagh, assaulted him again, brandished weapons, and demanded he withdraw his complaint. They also looted Rs 40,000 during the attack.

Azhar also accused the police of failing to ensure a medical examination after the first attack and not filing a report for the second incident.

Meanwhile, two men died after the tyre of their car burst and the vehicle rammed into a divider on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura on Tuesday, police said. The accident happened in an area under Baldeo police sta-

tion when the car was going from Agra to Noida, Circle officer Bhusan Verma said. The car rammed into a divider when it lost control after one of its tyres burst, he said. Those killed in the accident have been identified as Raunak Ahuja (30) and Vikas (28), the

## **Dual honour** for LU VC

PNS LUCKNOW

University T ucknow Lannounced on Tuesday that its Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai has been nominated to a prestigious committee formed by the Ministry of Culture. The committee, chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah, has been constituted to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Harekrushna Mahatab.

A prominent leader in the Indian National Congress and a key figure in the independence movement, Dr Mahatab served as the chief minister of Odisha and was known as 'Utkal Keshari'. The committee's role is to plan and oversee events marking this significant occasion and to provide guidance on their successful execution. In another notable achieve-

ment, Prof Rai has also been appointed to the General Assembly of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for a three-year term, beginning November 5, 2024. This nomination comes from the Union minister of education, in accordance with the NCERT regulations.

## Samajwadi Party delegation defers visit to Sambhal facts about the incident. I was Sambhal limped back to nor-

A Samajwadi Party delegation's scheduled visit to violence-hit Sambhal district on Tuesday has been post-poned following an assurance of a fair probe by the Uttar Pradesh Police chief, a senior leader said.

Senior SP leader and Leader of Opposition in UP Legislative Assembly Mata Prasad Pandey on Tuesday said during a press conference the party's visit to Sambhal has been deferred after his interaction with the Director General of Police Prashant Kumar.

'The SP chief (Akhilesh Yadav) had formed a delegation under my leadership to visit Sambhal and get actual information and

warm welcome

Lucknow (PNS): Rashtriya

Lok Dal (RLD) national secre-

tary Anupam Mishra was

accorded a warm welcome

from workers and leaders upon

his arrival in Orai on Tuesday.

Upon reaching Kalpi, Mishra was greeted by president of Bundeli Sena Sonu Thakur,

along with other officials and

Kiratpur pradhan Pawandeep

They, along with a large number of villagers, garlanded him in a show of respect. People continued to welcome the RLD

national secretary at various stops along the route between

Later, Mishra reached SR Inter

College, where, alongside senior BJP leader Ashok

Rathore, he participated in the Constitution Day celebrations.

Mishra encouraged the students to recite the Preamble of

the Indian Constitution and

administered an oath to uphold

He held a meeting with the office bearers of Vyapar

Nishad.

Kalpi and Orai.

its principles.

RLD leader

accorded

to leave at 10 am but I had a conversation with the DGP. "He was aware that I was going to Sambhal and that our people have been falsely implicated even as those who were not present there have been booked in the FIR. The DG assured me of an impartial probe into the matter and detailed investigation into it," Pandey said.

Prasad said he has decided to pay heed to the police chief's advice to refrain from visiting Sambhal for the next three days. "We have decided to stay here after the assurance and insistence," Pandey said, adding that the DGP has assured him that no innocent person would be implicated.

The situation in violence-hit

malcy on Tuesday with schools reopening and shops in local markets resuming work even as the internet remained suspended.

According to the SP, the delegation was to collect information about the violence and submit a report to party national president Akhilesh Yadav. The delegation included Pandey, LoP Legislative Council Lal Bihari Yadav, Rajya Sabha MP Javed Ali, Lok Sabha MPs Harinder Malik, Ruchi Vira, Zia ur Rahman Barq, Neeraj Maurya, MLAs Nawab Iqbal, Pinky Yadav, Kamal Akhtar, as well as SP's Moradabad district president Jaiveer Yadav Bareilly chief Shivcharan Kashyap.

# to come up at SGPGI

Lucknow (PNS): Director of Orthopaedics. Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) Prof RK Dhiman announced that eight new super specialty departments will be established at the institute, following government approval. These departments will expand super specialty services, particularly in the pediatric field, and improve diagnosis and treatment for children in Uttar cardiovascular conditions.
The Paediatric Urology and Pradesh and neighbouring states. "Children and adolescents, from newborns to 18 years old, make up approximately 40% of Uttar Pradesh's population. They require the best medical care for their

growth and development," Dhiman said. The new departments include Paediatric Endocrinology, Paediatric Urology, Paediatric Nephrology, Pediatric Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery (under the Saloni Heart Centre for Excellence in Children's Heart Care), Telemedicine and Digital Mandal to discuss various Health, Head and Neck Surgery, issues concerning the district. Infectious Diseases, and

explained that the Paediatric Endocrinology department will focus on managing young diabetic patients, while the Paediatric Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery department will address congenital heart diseases and other pediatric

Nephrology departments will specialise in kidney diseases. These departments will be part

of the forthcoming Advanced Pediatric Centre at SGPGI. The Infectious Diseases department will handle viral infections and vaccine development, while the Head and Neck Surgery department will focus on specialised surgeries in this region. The Orthopaedics department, located within the Apex Trauma Centre, will offer MS courses, training future surgeons. The newly approved Department of Telemedicine and Digital Health will provide outreach services to medical colleges across 75 districts in UP, connecting with SGPGI's specialised departments.

# 8 super specialty depts | Youth who kidnapped, raped 13-year-old girl arrested

Ayouth who had allegedly lured a 13-year-old girl into love and kidnapped her from her home in Naka was arrested on Tuesday, police said.

The accused took the girl to

Varanasi and stayed in a hotel where he raped her, they added. After that he took her to Surat. When the police pressure increased, he was trying to escape from Charbagh railway station. However, the police caught him before that. The police had been searching for him following a complaint was filed by the victim's fami-

ADCP (Central) Manisha Singh said that after committing the crime, the accused had gone to Surat with the girl. The police team caught him on the basis of surveillance and a tipoff by an informer.

The ADCP said that after getting the victim medically examined, she was handed over to her parents while the accused was sent to jail.

Naka Inspector Virendra Tripathi said that the accused, identified as Aamir, kidnapped the girl, a student of Class 8th, on November 18. The family alleged that the accused used to follow the girl on her way to the railway station.

school and back home. Aamir told the police during interrogation that he first took the girl from Lucknow to Varanasi. He stayed in a hotel there and raped the girl. After that, he took her to Surat.

In the meantime, a police team was sent to Surat after getting the location of the accused through surveillance of his phone. Aamir came to drop the girl to Lucknow on November 24. Fearing his arrest by the police, he got off the train before it reached Charbagh. Later the team intensified his search. On November 26, he was arrested near Aishbagh

# Wanted criminal,

accomplices were injured during an encounter in Kankerkhera area here, police said on Tuesday. Three criminals, including the injured duo, were arrested, they said. ASP (City) Ayush Vikram Singh said late Monday night, a team from Kankerkhera police station was conducting checks on the road leading to Lala Mohammadpur when they

# Driver held for killing woman in insurance scheme conspiracy

The driver who had killed a I woman, Pooja Yadav, to help his aides collect insurance benefits was arrested nearly two months after the police worked the murder case.

Pooja Yadav (28) was murdered in May 2023 for financial gain, with her husband, father-inlaw, and their accomplices con-spiring to claim insurance money. Chinhat police arrested an additional suspect in the

'The man, identified as Abhishek Shukla (36), was the one who brought the insurance proposal to the accused. He was also the driver who ran over Pooja, making it appear as though it was a road accident," Chinhat police station incharge Bharat Kumar Pathak said.

involved in the conspiracy to band Abhishek, main conspirator Kuldeep Singh (27), lawyer Alok Nigam (38), Deepak Verma (25), and Abhishek Shukla, the truck driver and insurance agent.
Alok and Deepak had also

participated in Pooja's wedding rituals in 2022 as eyewitnesses. "While solving the case in October 2024, the police arrested three individuals-Alok, Kuldeep, and Deepak-who staged a fatal accident to kill the 28-year-old woman in order to claim her life insurance of Rs 50 lakh, waive a loan totalling crores in her name, and also settle loans for six vehicles (four four-wheelers and two two-wheelers). Interestingly, these plans were made even before Pooja had married into the family," the SHO said. He added that the group had

staged the murder to look like a road accident and even filed an FIR. However, their plot unravelled when they applied for life insurance and loan claims in Pooja's name. The bank raised a red flag, leading to the exposure of the crime.

# Sales exec accused of over ₹2.77-lakh embezzlement

PNS LUCKNOW

A sales executive at a car dealership in Mahanagar has been accused of embezzling over Rs 2.77 lakh from the company. The com-plainant, Mohit Shukla, a manager at the dealership, reported that Rajiv Kumar Tiwari, a sales executive at the company, defrauded the firm. According to Shukla, the company is a reputed dealership authorised to sell new cars. Tiwari was responsible for

sales executive at a car

information about the vehi-In the first week of October, Faisal Haseeb Khan, a resident

providing customers with

of Malihabad, visited the dealership to inquire about purchasing a car. Khan met Tiwari, who provided the necessary information about the vehicle.

On October 23, Khan deposited Rs 11,000 to the dealership to book the car. On October 30, Tiwari

informed the dealership that he would not be able to come to work for a few days due to viral fever. On November 12, Khan returned to the dealership to pay the remaining balance for the car.

He claimed to have transferred Rs 2,11,000 in cash and Rs 66,690 online to Tiwari. When the dealership followed

up with Tiwari, he confirmed that he had received the money and assured them that he would deposit it in the firm by November 15. However, Tiwari did not show

up on November 15, prompting further inquiries. When the dealership contacted him again, Tiwari refused to deposit the amount and verbally abused Shukla. He allegedly threatened to have Shukla and his colleagues killed if a complaint was lodged against him.

The accused has been charged with breach of trust, and a case has been registered against him. An investigation is currently underway.

## aide shot at in police encounter Meerut (PTI): A wanted criminal with a bounty of Rs 25,000 on his head and one of his

received a tip-off.

"The informer revealed that Monu alias Mohan Giri, a wanted criminal from Ghaziabad and a suspect in the abduction and murder of Lakhan Singh (27) on June 8, was travelling with two accomplices," he said. "The suspects opened fire on the police with the intent to kill. In retaliatory fire by the police near Lala Mohammadpur, Monu alias Mohan Giri and his accomplice Sohail Qureshi of Meerut sustained injuries to their legs. Harun Qureshi from Ghaziabad tried to escape under the cover of darkness but was eventually apprehended after a police cordon," he claimed.

case. A total of six people were

murder Pooja, including her father-in-law Ram Milan, hus-

# Cong 'tampered' with Preamble, 'strangled' Constitution: Yogi

In a sharp critique of the Congress on Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accused the party of tampering with the Preamble and "stran-

gling" the Constitution.

He argued that the original
Constitution, drafted by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on November 26, 1949, did not include the words "secular" or "socialist."

Alleging that the Congress added these terms during the Emergency period, he further stated, "The people have delivered a fitting lesson to those betrayed Constitution."

The chief minister made these remarks during a ceremony here at Lok Bhawan to commemorate Constitution Day. He led the reading of the Preamble, paying tribute to the architects of the Indian Constitution.

Highlighting the strength and comprehensiveness of the Indian Constitution, the chief minister described it as the most robust in the world.

He credited Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar with laying the foundation of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" through the

Extending his congratulations to the people on the occasion, Yogi emphasised the significance of Constitution Day in reminding citizens of the greatness of India's democracy and Constitution.

He hailed Dr Ambedkar as a true son of India, highlighting how the drafting committee under his leadership incorporated core values like justice, equality, and fraternity into the document, ensuring a strong future for the nation. The chief minister shared his-

torical insights, stating that the Constituent Assembly, formed in 1946 on the demand of freedom fighters, held its first meeting on December 9, 1946. Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected as its President, and the Constitution was drafted by 13 committees, with the drafting committee chaired by Dr Ambedkar.

He further explained that the debates of these committees were instrumental in shaping the Constitution and called them its essence.

CM Yogi urged the legislature, executive, and judiciary to draw inspiration and guidance from these historic debates, which reflect the spirit and principles of the Indian Constitution.

Praising India's democracy, Yogi highlighted that the Indian Constitution ensures equal voting rights for individuals of every caste, opinion, and religion. He noted that while other democracies around the world were grappling with discrimi-nation, India had already granted universal suffrage to all adult citizens in its general elections, a testament to the foresight of Dr Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly.

emphasised Constitution Day serves as an important occasion to educate citizens about their rights and duties while reinforcing their faith in democracy.
Mounting a sharp attack on the

Congress, CM Yogi accused the party of undermining the Constitution's sanctity by attempting to alter its basic structure, holding the party responsible for the erosion of people's faith in it. He asserted that it was the BJP govern-ment that restored and strengthened this faith, upholding the true essence of the Constitution.

He emphasised that the soul of any Constitution lies in its objectives and principles. Yogi further remarked that the public has not hesitated in holding accountable those who tam-



pered with the Indian Constitution.

He emphasised the importance of exposing those who mislead the people of the country. "Their faces may appear demo-cratic, but their actions reveal

a dictatorial and fascist mentality. Whenever they get an opportunity, they do not hesitate to undermine democratic values," he said. Reflecting on past and present actions, the CM pointed out, "Whether it was during the Emergency in 1975 or now, their attempts to deprive socially marginalised and extremely backward caste groups of the constitutional rights granted by Dr BR Ambedkar are evident.

Their remarks, both within

India and abroad, speak volumes about their intentions." He underscored the significance of the Indian Constitution, calling it the legacy of Dr Ambedkar, which unites the entire nation and its 140 crore citizens in a bond of CM Yogi stressed, "It is our col-

lective responsibility to safe-

guard this Constitution. By adhering to the fundamental duties enshrined in it, we pay the truest tribute to Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the architects of the Constitution, and the great freedom fighters of India."

The chief minister highlighted India's progressive approach to women's empowerment, stating that India granted voting rights to women before many countries, considered the pioneers of modern democracy. "India has now gone a step fur-ther," he said, "with Prime Minister Narendra Modi passing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, reserving one-third of the seats in the legislature for women. This, too, is a first in the

The CM also credited PM Modi's vision for elevating the significance of Constitution

world.

"Ten years ago, during the launch of a grand memorial for Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, the prime minister emphasised the importance of observing Constitution Day as a significant public occasion. Following his initiative, the celebration of Constitution Day has been organised with grandeur across the country since November 26, 2015," he

Referring to the special session on civic duties held in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council in 2019, Yogi emphasised that both civil rights and duties are fundamental pillars of democracy. He stated, "It is not enough to only talk about rights; it is equally important to adhere to the civic duties enshrined in the Constitution." Yogi urged all citizens to embrace the ideals and values of the Constitution. He stated, "A strong and prosperous India can only be achieved when every citizen fulfils their duties and responsibly exercises the rights granted by the Constitution."

During the Constitution Day programme, Yogi honoured the winners of the debate and essay competition held on the theme 'Ideals and Values from the Constitution.'

The CM encouraged the students to embrace the principles of the Constitution and live by its ideals. As part of the event, a documentary showcasing the historical events and debates surrounding the drafting of India's Constitution was screened, offering insights into the journey of Indian democracy and constitutional devel-

# Criminal justice, not punishment, essence of 3 new laws, says CM

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised that the essence of three newly implemented laws lies in delivering justice, rather than focus-ing solely on crime and punish-

Speaking at the inauguration of a national conference on 'Role of Forensic Science and Cyber Security in the Justice Process, held on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution, Yogi highlighted the transformative nature of these laws.

He stated, "With the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, three new laws— Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023—were implemented on July 1,

He explained, "The essence of these laws lies not in criminal codes and penal provisions but in a code of justice and civil Modi declared this day to be security. The process will begin with evidence collection, followed by bringing the accused

Emphasising the rule of law as the foundation of good gover-nance, he noted, "Over the past seven and a half years, Uttar Pradesh has firmly established this principle, gaining recognition for its governance at both national and international lev-

new auditorium at the Forensic Institute and distributed certificates to students for various courses. He marked the importance of November 26, 1949, as a pivotal day in Indian history, saying, "On this day, India adopted the Constitution crafted by Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, a proud son of Bharat Mata, 75 years ago. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra observed nationwide as Constitution Day."

Addressing the rapid advancements in technology, CM Yogi acknowledged its dual nature. While development accelerates due to technology, some misuse it to cause financial harm through cyber frauds and other digital crimes. It is crucial to use technology pos-itively to combat such incidents," he said.

CM Yogi also inaugurated a new auditorium at the Forensic Institute and distributed certifi- with positive intentions shy away from technology, it allows negative elements to dominate. We must not let that happen."

To address cyber crimes, CM Yogi outlined the state's initiatives. "In the first phase, cyber police stations were set up in 18 ranges of the state, followed by their establishment in all 75 districts. Cyber help desks are now operational at all 1.775 police stations across Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences was established to enable students to study cyber frauds and contribute to preventing such crimes," he explained.

In a pointed critique of the previous Samajwadi Party government, CM Yogi remarked, "During a dark period in the

state's history, the land of this institute was occupied by the notorious land mafia. Action was taken against these elements, the land was reclaimed, and today, a grand institute stands on it, offering various educational courses."

Reflecting on the state of Uttar Pradesh before 2017, he recalled, "The conditions back then are well known. The youth were grappling with an identi-ty crisis, and law and order had completely deteriorated. Hooliganism was rampant, and people feared stepping out of their homes. Dreaded criminals and mafia freely operated parallel governments, creating insecurity and an identity crisis for the state's citizens."

Highlighting the transforma-tion since then, CM Yogi said, "Today, Uttar Pradesh is riotfree, goon-free, and mafiafree. Over the past seven and a half years, the government has conducted large-scale recruit-ments in the police force, filling over 154,000 vacancies nsparently Currently the recruitment process for 60,200 new police personnel is underway, and the results have been declared."

The event was attended by Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, DGP Prashant Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Deepak Kumar, ADG GK Goswami, DIG Rajeev Malhotra, and MLA Rajeshwar Singh, among others.

# Projects worth over ₹238 cr to be | 'It will be Digital inaugurated in Prayagraj today

PNS PRAYAGRAJ

During his visit to Prayagraj on Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will review the ongoing preparations for Maha Kumbh 2025 with a focus on cleanliness and security. He will also inaugurate major sanitation and security projects valued at over Rs 238 crore.

The projects include state-of-the-art equipment aimed at enhancing clean-liness and safety at Maha Kumbh.

A significant highlight will be the unveiling of a newly constructed control room in the municipal corporation, which is expected to streamline operations during the event.

In a move to empower workers and volunteers, the chief minister will distribute uniform kits to sanitation workers and 'Swachhagrahis' and provide life iackets to sailors, reinforcing their critical role in maintaining the event's standards.

Additionally, CM Yogi will launch various schemes to benefit these frontline workers.

Prior to reviewing Maha Kumbh preparations, the chief minister will inspect developmental works at key religious sites. The chief minister will inaugurate dvanced sanitation equipment, including tippers and compactors, at a programme in the Parade Mela area. These projects are valued at Rs 50.38 crore. Furthermore, CM Yogi will unveil fire safety, water police, radio, and traffic equipment worth Rs 173 crore.

In total, the Chief Minister will launch projects worth Rs 237.38 crore aimed at ensuring cleanliness, security, and support for 'Swachhagrahis' and Ganga Seva volunteers during Maha Kumbh 2025. The CM will also extend benefits to san-

Dedicated area for 7 Akharas established

itation workers and 'Swachhagrahis' through various welfare schemes. As part of this initiative, around 20,000 Swachhagrahis' and Safai Mitras will receive uniform kits, and life jackets will be distributed to boatmen.

Under the Swachh Kumbh Fund, over 15,000 personnel—including 10,000 workers, 3,000 boatmen, and others will be linked to more than five schemes aimed at improving their welfare. These schemes will also include the distribution of insurance certificates to the workers, ensuring their safety and well-being. CM Yogi and other dignitaries will take a pledge to realise the vision of a clean Maha Kumbh and a cleaner Prayagraj, reinforcing their commitment to a hygienic and secure event for all devotees and visitors.

The CM will review various development works and participate in several significant programs. Alongside attending an event at Allahabad University, he will offer prayers at the Nagvasuki Temple. The chief minister will also inspect key projects, including the Dashashwamedh Ghat, the Ganga Riverfront, dredging activities in the Ganga river, and the construction of pontoon bridges.

In preparation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit, Yogi will examine the proposed event site at Sangam Nose.

Additionally, he will oversee the signing of an MoU with Google. For the first time, Google will integrate the temporary city being set up for Maha Kumbh into its navigation services.

This initiative will enable visitors to easily locate major religious sites, ghats, and akharas within the fair area using Google Maps, significantly enhancing their experience.

# **Kumbh' in 2025'**

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday emphasised that the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj will not only set new benchmarks in cleanliness but will also embrace technology to present a Digital Kumbh' While attending a programme here on Tuesday, Yogi extended greetings on Constitution Day, emphasising that the three foundational pillars of the Indian Constitution are rooted in 'samvad' (dialogue and communication).
The CM provided detailed insights into the gov-

ernment's preparations for the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025, while also reflecting on the transformative changes Uttar Pradesh has witnessed over the past seven and a half years. He noted that this Maha Kumbh will not only be a clean and grand event but will also showcase a Digital Kumbh, marking a blend of tradition and technology. CM Yogi remarked, "There was a time when Kumbh was synonymous with dirt, stampedes, and chaos. The management of the Kumbh was often entrusted to individuals with little respect for faith, tradition, culture, or heritage. However, with a sense of reverence for this heritage and the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the arrangements for Prayagraj Kumbh in 2019 earned UNESCO recognition as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity." The CM said that Maha Kumbh 2025 will take place from January 13 to February 26, spanning

Key bathing dates include Paush Purnima (January 13), Makar Sankranti Shahi Snan January 14). Mauni Amayasya (January 29) Basant Panchami (February 3), Magh Purnima (February 12), and Mahashivratri (February 26). Described as one of the world's largest religious, spiritual, and cultural gatherings, Maha Kumbh 2025 promises to be a magnificent celebration of tradition and faith. Yogi shared details about infrastructure upgrades, noting that preparations are being carried out on a war footing to enhance Prayagraj's connectivity via air, rail, and road, including the development of four- and six-lane highways. The Maha Kumbh area has been significantly expanded from 3,200 hectares in 2019 to 4,000 hectares for 2025, divided into 25 well-organised sectors. He also spoke about parking and transportation facilities for the convenience of pilgrims.

## **UP procures 7.28 lakh** metric tonnes of paddy

PNS LUCKNOW

to justice."

overnment agencies have procured over 7.28 lakh metric tonnes of paddy under the Kharif procurement season for 2024-25. During the previous season, by November 25, 2023, agencies had procured 5.79 lakh MT of paddy. The current season shows an additional 1.49 lakh metric tonnes have been purchased.

The agencies have paid Rs 1,464 crore to the farmers so far. The Food and Civil Supplies department is conducting regular inspections at procurement centres across districts to ensure smooth operations. Additionally, payments to farmers are being processed within 48 hours. So far, paddy has been pur-

chased from 105,439 farmers. Recently, CM Yogi held a review meeting to assess the paddy procurement process. He instructed officials to ensure speed and transparency in the procurement and emphasised that farmers should receive payments within 48 hours. He also directed regular

reviews of the process. To date, Rs 1,464 crore has been paid to

farmers. The CM further instructed that basic facilities like seating, shade, and drinking water should be provided at procurement centres. Following these instructions, the local administration and the Food and Civil Supplies department have been conducting regular inspections of the procure-ment centres, with headquarters also monitoring the process.

In western Uttar Pradesh, paddy procurement began on October 1 and will continue until January 31, 2025. During this period, paddy is being purchased in Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Meerut, Jhansi, and Lucknow divisions, including Hardoi, Sitapur, and Lakhimpur Kheri.

Similarly, in eastern Uttar Pradesh, paddy procurement started on November 1 and will continue until February 28. Procurement is running smoothly in Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, Basti, Devipatan, Azamgarh, Varanasi, Vindhyachal, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Chitrakoot, Lucknow, Rae Bareli and Unnao districts

of the Lucknow division. The government has set the support price for paddy at Rs 2,300 per quintal and Rs 2,320 per quintal for Grade A paddy. Farmers are also being reimbursed Rs 20 per quintal for activities such as threshing,

cleaning, and sorting. A total of 4,215 procurement centres have been set up by the Food and Civil Supplies department and other agencies across Uttar Pradesh for farmers to

sell their paddy. These centres are operational from 9 am to 5 pm. This year, sharecropper farmers are also registering and renewing their details to sell their paddy.

**Prayagraj (PNS):** A dedicated area for seven Akharas has been established, while the construction of nine police stations and five out-

posts is nearing completion to

ensure seamless security. Adding to the allure are nine VIP camps, designed to rival grand royal palaces. These camps feature luxurious 14x28-foot rooms equipped with all modern amenities, promising an unforgettable experience for international and domestic visitors.

Along with Sadhus and Mahatmas, more than 45 crore devotees from

across the country and abroad are expected to attend the Maha Kumbh. Officials are working round the clock to ensure preparations are completed on time. One of the highlights will be the grand entrance gates, which will be 100 feet long and showcase India's cultural heritage, leaving a lasting impression on visitors. Additionally, the VIP camp designed as a Maharaja tent is set to be a major attraction for tourists. Work is progressing rapidly in Arail, where a new Circuit House is also under construction, along

with three newly built police stations. The work at the Jhunsi police line is also progressing fast. Once completed, the fair area will shine with new developments in sectors stretching f Samudrakoop to Sadhu Kuti.

## DIGITAL MAHA KUMBH EXPERIENCE CENTRE

A Digital Maha Kumbh Experience Centre is being built to convey the mythological and spiritual legacy of the grant event. This centre will offer a digital journey of the Maha Kumbh, using advanced technolo-

gies like virtual reality (VR), holograms, and digital projections to bring the mythological traditions and rich saga of the Maha Kumbh to life. The experience will allow the new generation to connect with the spiritual and cultural significance of the Maha Kumbh, Triveni Sangam, and the history of Prayagraj. During his visit to Prayagraj on Wednesday, CM Yogi will review the progress and outline of the Digital Maha Kumbh Experience Centre. This centre promises to be a significant addition to the Maha Kumbh festivities.

## Important Notice

wife of late Ram Nagina(Singh, for reconstitution of the dealership of the retail outlet M/s Lalta Singh & Sons situated at Murdhawa, Renukoot, NH-75E, District Sonbhadra. operated by under Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Prayagraj Divisional Office. In which she has applied for 100% partnership (proprietorship) in the firm. Therefore, in continuation of the above, all the concerned are informed that if they want to submit any objection or claim related to participation in the dealership of the above retail outlet, then submit their claim to the company within 30 days from the date of advertisement at Prayagraj Divisional Office, 5th Floor Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Prayagraj. After the expiry of the time period, no claim of any kind regarding the dealership will be entertained by the company. DRSH, Prayagraj DO

# Portion of British-era bridge collapses



Unnao (PTI): A portion of a historic bridge on the Ganga connecting Kanpur and Unnao, built during the British period, fell into the river in the early hours of Tuesday, locals

The bridge, which had been closed for almost four years, collapsed around 2 am. No untoward incident was reported due to the incident, they said. Locals claimed that the bridge near the Ganga ghat was built in 1874 by the Avadh and Rohilkhand Kailway Limited Company in the Shuklagani area of Únnao district. Ashu Awasthi, a local, said, "A

portion between two pillars of the bridge fell into the Ganga after 2 am. No one was hurt as the bridge was closed for traf-

Another local, Panda Raju, said the bridge was closed in 2021 after cracks appeared. "At that time, it was known through the media that deep cracks were found in rooms 2, 10, 17 and 22 from the Kanpur side, due to which the administration completely closed the bridge on April 5, 2021," he added. As the portion of the bridge collapsed in the Ganga, a number of locals made their way near the spot and made videos of the structure. The clips and photographs of the structure soon found their way to social media.

While there was no immediate statement from any government body over the matter, Krishna Kumar, who lives along the riverbank, said some officers came to the site in the morning in a Lucknow-registered vehicle. "They went near the broken part and left after some time," Kumar claimed.

# Bank of India

Borrower: Smt

Ritambhara Gupta W/o

Shailendra Kumar

Gupta, Shri Siddhartha

Gupta S/o Shailendra

Kumar Gupta and Legal

heirs of Late Shri

Shailendra Kumar

Gupta S/o Shr

**Mahanand Gupta** 

Zonal Office 128/24 Om Laxmi Tower, H-Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur-208011, Tel: 0512-2985004

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule 8 (1) Relationship Beyond Banking

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer Bank of India under the Securitisation 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 demand notices to below mentioned Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest at other charges 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 Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the below mentioned properties in exercise of power conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower guarantor in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India. The borrowers/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.

Demand Notice Dt. | Possession Date Name of the Borrower/Guarantor Amount as per Demand

(Published in

Amar Ujala and

**Indian Express** 

dated 07.08.2024)

Rs. 27,91,299.65

(Rs. Twenty Seven Lakh Ninety One

Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Nine and

Paise Sixty Five Only) with

interest and other charges thereor

Mortgaged/Owner of the Properties Kidwai Nagar Branch, 133/128 M Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur- 208011 nand Notice Dt. **Possession Date** 03.08.2024

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No SF-2 situated over Premises No. 1232 Block-Y Scheme -II. 26.11.2024

Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur District Kanpur Nagar owned by Sm Ritambhara Gupta Boundaries of the Flat SF-2 situated at second floor North- Flat No SF-1 thereafter 40 feet wide road, South

Boundaries of the whole premises: East- Plot/Premises No-1233, West- Plot/Premises No-1231, North- 40 feet i.e.

Open Land thereafter Premises No- 1175. East- Plot

Premises No-1233, West- Gallery thereafter Plot/ Premises

**Description of Properties** 

12. 19 mtr wide Road, South-Plot/Premises No-1175 Authorised Office: Bank of India

Date: 27.11.2024 Place: Kanpur

# **Constitution soul of democracy: MLC**

District president of Bharatiya Party (BJP) Hansraj Vishwakarma said the soul of democracy is the Constitution of India. "It is not a lawyer's document but is the vehicle of life and its soul is always the spirit of the age", he was while speaking at the Constitution Day programme organised at Circuit House here on Tuesday. He said November 26 was

declared as Constitution Day in 2015 the year that marked the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. Earlier it was celebrated as Law Day.

"Its purpose is to increase awareness among citizens about constitutional values", he said, adding that Dr Ambedkar played an important role in making of the Constitution as he was the Chairman of the Drafting



MLCs Hansraj Vishwakarma and Dharmendra Rai taking a pledge on Constitution Day in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Committee of the Constituent Assembly.

While addressing the programme, MLC Dharmendra Rai said November 26 is celebrated as Constitution Day because on this day in 1949, the Constitution of India was adopted and it was implemented on January 26, 1950. "Our Constitution is both rigid and flexible. The basic structure is

its main feature, which cannot be changed. Our fundamental rights and fundamental duties are also given in the Constitution. We should discharge our duties with full responsibility, honesty and hard work", he said. District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal and others also paid tribute to Dr

Ambedkar, garlanding his portrait. The participants also took the oath to the Constitution. In Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) the day was celebrated with great enthusiasm. On the occasion General Manager (GM) Naresh Pal Singh addressed the officers and employees at the Administration Building and did a collective reading of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution. Emphasising the values of 'unity in diversity', 'justice', 'equality' and 'fraternimentioned in the Constitution, the GM administered the oath to protect and follow them. He inspired all the officers and employees to follow the rights and duties conferred by the Constitution so that the progress of the country and society can be ensured. Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) Sushil Kumar Srivastava, Principal Chief Mechanical

Principal Chief Materials Manager (PCMM) Raineesh Gupta, Principal Financial Advisor (PFA) Neeraj Verma, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Janardan Singh, Principal Chief Engineer (PCE) Vinod Kumar Shukla, Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) Ankur Chandra, Deputy General Manager and Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Anuj Katiyar, Joint Secretary of Staff Council Shrikant Yadav and many others were also present. In another function held at Divisional Railway Manager's office, Lahartara, the DRM of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vineet Kumar Srivastava read out the Preamble to the Constitution along with the officers and employees, which everyone repeated expressing their com-

India. Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) Rajesh Kumar Singh, Senior Divisional Engineer (SDE/Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (SDCM) Sheikh Rehman, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Signal & Tele-communication Engineer- II Yashveer Singh, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Operation) Anil Kumar Srivastava, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) Pankaj Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Engineer-I Rishi Srivastava, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction) RN Singh along with other officers and employees working at the DRM Office were also present.

# Former MLA Shyamdev Rai Chaudhari no more PM, CM condole demise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Seven-time MLA from Varanasi City South Shyamdev Rai Chaudhari, who was popularly known as 'Dada' died after prolonged illness at a private hospital here on Tuesday. Due to his simplicity and courageous protests against injustice, whenever he had contested elections between 1989 and 2017, slogan in his poll campaigns like 'Dada nahi yeh aandhi hain, Purvanchal ke Gandhi hain' was common. In his message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also an MP from Varanasi, expressed deep condolences on the demise of former minister and the Almighty to give strength

seven-time MLA and prayed to to the family and supporters in this hour of grief. The PM, on his X platform, tagged two of his photos and wrote, "I am deeply saddened by the demise of senior BJP leader Shyamdev Rai Chaudhary, who devoted his life to public service. We all used to call him 'Dada' with affection. He not only contributed significantly in nurturing and grooming the organisation, but he also remained dedicated to the development of Kashi. His demise is an irreparable loss for Kashi as well as the entire political world. May God give strength to his family and supporters in this hour of grief. Om Shanti!".

Just a few days ago during his visit on the occasion of Dev Deepawali, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had visited Oriana Hospital (Ravindrapuri Colony) to inquire about his health. The CM in a post on X also expressed his grief on the demise of senior politician in his lifetime.

terming it as an irreparable loss for the BJP family. Paying tributes to him, Yogi said, "I pray to Lord Shri Ram to grant salvation to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this immense loss. Óm Shanti!".

Notably, Dada was a popular local politician, always associated with the BJP since the days of Jan Sangh and he had registered seven consecutive wins from 1989 to 2017 from City South assembly constituency. He was known for his simplicity who was often seen travelling on rickshaws and two or three wheelers even when he was an MLA. Dada was a member of Jan Sangh from 1968 to 1976. He was BJP's city vice- president from 1980 to 1988. He was imprisoned during the Janata Curfew movement in 1974 and during the Emergency from 1975 to 1977. The news about the death of Dada has shocked the local residents. He was ill for a long time. On November 5 last he was admitted with severe respiratory infection, cardiogenic shock and other serious conditions. The entire Medical Health and Family Welfare Department, including the CMO, offered condolences and paid tribute on the death of Dada. All the top BJP leaders, including UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal and others, paid their homage at his Badadev located residence. Later, hundreds of people joined his funeral procession.

Manikarnika Ghat. Expressing condolences former city president of SP Vishnu Sharma said Dada made a significant contribution to politics

He was cremated at

# Preamble reading ceremony held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Constitution Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on the Jhalwa campus of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A) on Tuesday and patriotism.

The Preamble reading ceremony organised in the administrative building auditorium was led by Prof OP Vyas. He said the Constitution Day is observed to commemorate the adoption of the Indian Constitution on November 26, 1949. The students and faculty members come together to pay homage to the founding fathers of the Constitution and to reaffirm their commitment to uphold the values enshrined in it. Coordinator Dr Sanjay Singh spoke on the occasion. Meanwhile General Manager,

North Central Railway (NCR), Prayagraj, Upendra Chandra Joshi, read the Preamble to Constitution along with officers



headquarters office here on Tuesday. The Constitution of India became the supreme law of our nation with its adoption by the Constituent Assembly of India on November 26, 1949, and came into effect from January 26, 1950. PCPO Anurag Tripathi, principal heads of all departments and other officers and staff of the headquarters were present.

# Importance of Constitution emphasised

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■ KANPUR

 $T^{
m he}$  Constitution Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Political Science Department of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, on Tuesday. The event aimed at spreading awareness about the significance of Constitution and foster a sense of civic responsibility among students and staff. The programme began with an oath-taking ceremony in the college campus. Chief Proctor Prof Mamta Gangwar, Dr Anamika Verma, Head, Department of Political Science, Dr Saba Yunus, faculty, staff and students collectively read the Preamble, pledging to uphold the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. In her address, the chief proctor emphasised the importance of the Constitution in safeguarding democracy and urged everyone to adhere to its principles in their daily

Head, Department of Political Science, Dr Anamika Verma, said, "we should know



our rights and respect the Constitution". The ceremony was followed by an awareness rally where students, holding banners marched through the campus and surrounding areas. The rally received a positive response from the local community, promoting constitutional literacy and

Prof Rashmi Chaturvedi, Dr Meera Tripathi, Dr Deepali Srivastava, Dr Pooja Srivastava, Dr Anju Srivastava and whole Mahila Mahavidyalaya family and students actively participated and made the celebration a success, reinforcing their commitment to uphold the values of the Indian Constitution.

CONFERENCE: Prof Narendra Mohan, a renowned sugar technologist and former director, National Sugar Institute (NSI), Kanpur, has been invited to address "Asian Sugar & Bioenergy Conference" to be held at Bangok, Thailand, on January 23 and 24, 2025. The conference is likely to be attended by large number of delegates from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and other South- Asian Countries for discussing the latest technologies which can be implemented for enhancing productivities from farm to factory, particularly, with a view to reduce cost of production, utilise resources available in sugar industry for accelerating bio-energy generation and for taking forward production of nutritional and healthier sugars.

Prof Mohan will make presentations on sustainable sugar production and bio-energy innovations while discussing the future shape of the sugar industry.

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INVITATION FOR BID

OHPC Ltd., Bhubaneswar, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system (Cover-I Technical Bid and Cover-II Price bid) for the work as detailed below through 'e'-procurement. The bids should be submitted 'online' in https://tendersodisha.gov.in by the "A" & "B" Class of contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Government / Railways / MES having registration for execution of civil works on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with their own valid Digital Signature Certificate. The bidder

possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III or Class-III					
Name of the work	Value of	E.M.D.	Cost of bid	Class of	Period of
	work put	(in ₹)	document	Bidder	completion (in
	to tender	(Online)	(Online)		calendar
	(in ₹)				month)
Civil, PH, Electrical,	Ļ	1,10,800/	11,800/-	"A" & "B"	06 months
Interior Furnishing and	,10,7		(Rs.10,000+1	Class	
Signage works of OHPC			8% GST)	Contractor	
Corporate Office	33				
building at Bhoinagar,	1.00				
Bhubaneswar					

Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: From 11:00 Hrs of Dt.28.11.2024

Last date & time of submission of bid: The date & Time of opening of the Technical bid:

12:00 Hrs of Dt.17.12.2024

 $Further\ details\ can\ be\ seen\ from\ the\ e-procurement\ portal\ https://tendersodisha.gov. in$ OIPR-04012/11/0023/2425 C & P Head

Notice Inviting Tender

## **Maurya targets SP** PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ station here on Tuesday. Her

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya visited Prayagraj on Tuesday and congratulated everyone on Bharatiya Janata Party (BIP)'s victory in the byelections held recently. While holding a press conference at Circuit House, he targeted the Samajwadi Party (SP). Maurya said Akhilesh Yadav has become furious after the defeat and his dream of forming a government in 2027 wil remain only a dream. This is Maha Kumbh and its preparations are going on at a fast pace. After inspecting the works, he issued instructions to the officials concerned regarding the preparations. WOMAN DIES: A 35-year-

old married woman died after falling into a pond in Khansar village under Phulpur police

family members are inconsolable. Kanchan, daughter of Pvarelal Bind of Khansar village under Phulpur police station area, had come to her maternal home in Khansar village from her in-laws Suvansa Pratapgarh with her three children. On Tuesday morning, she had gone to the pond. As soon as she bent down to take water near the pond, she slipped and fell into it. As it was dawn there were no people preset there. Therefore, she could not get any help and died by drowning in deep water. When the villagers saw her body floating, they raised an alarm. On hearing the noise, a large number of villagers gathered there. People took the body of Kanchan out. At the same time, the people of the maternal side immediately informed

her in-laws about her death.

## Cong delegation submits memo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the instructions of All India Congress Committee (AICC) national secretary and president of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (Minority Cell) Shahnawaz Alam, a memorandum addressed to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) was handed over to Additional City Magistrate-III Anand Mohan here on Tuesday in protest against Sambhal district court's decision. Under the joint leadership of district and city presidents of Minority Cell Dr Munir Siddiqui and Abdul Hameed respectively, the party leaders submitted a memorandum.

The delegation included Abdul Hameed Dode, Taufiq Qureshi, Ashok Singh, Laxmeshwar Nath Sharma, Badre Alam, Arif Jamal, Ansh Yadav, Irshad Ahmed, Shamsher Alam, Rais Ahmed, Sameer Haider and Afsar Ahmed.

## Fire in medical store PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

A medical store caught fire in Pheelkhana police staton area on Tuesday morning. Three fire tenders rushed to spot and controlled the flames. The medical store situated near Phoolbagh chauraha caught fire around 6.30 am. On receiving of information at the mini-control room, one fire tender from Colonelganj fire station and two from Latouche Road fire station rushed to the spot. At the time of the incident, the medical store was closed. The FSO also reached the spot and suspected short circuit as the cause of incident. He said no casualty was reported in the incident.

FDP BEING ORGANISED: The School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, is organising a seven-day offline Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled "Innovative approaches in drug design and development" from November 25 to December 1 in collaboration with the Council of Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh and E-Spin Nanotech Pvt Ltd Kanpur. This FDP aims to focus on the strategies involved in discovering, inventing, designing and characterising drug molecules via applying advanced technologies and analytical equipment. The key elements are awareness on newer methods employed to design drug molecules, understanding their physicochemical parameters, biological and toxicological profiles. Programme organising secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Dr Anupriya Kapoor highlighted significance of FDP in multidisciplinary research activities.

# BLW celebrates IRAS Day in a unique way

Rally against gender discrimination

Varanasi (PNS): The Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) celebrated Indian Railway Accounts Service Day (IRAS Day) in a unique way to promote environmental protection and greenery. In this programme organised in BLW EDP Centre premises, the message of environmental responsibilities was given through tree plantation.

Principal Chief Financial Advisor (PCFA) Neeraj Verma started this initiative by planting a sapling on the occasion. He emphasised BLW's commitment towards environmental protection and green rail. While planting a sapling, he emphasised the importance of greenery and cleanliness and said that such efforts are not only helpful in preserving the environment, but also become a medium to spread awareness among

Varanasi (PNS): An anti-

women violence fortnight start-

ed on Monday in Nagepur, a

village adopted by PM

Narendra Modi under Sansad

Adarsh Gram Yojana. On the

first day, scores of people took

out a rally in the village against

anti-women violence and gen-der discrimination. The school

children, adolescent girls and villagers demonstrated by rais-

ing slogans like stop sexual vio-

The programme was organised

by Lok Samiti and Asha Trust

under the Anti-women

Violence Fortnight. The mes-

lence etc.

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

the general public. Finance Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer, (Headquarters) Ajay Srivastava, Deputy Finance Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer (General) Anuj Kumar and Assistant Finance Advisor (Administration) Ankit Pradhan also participated in the programme. This event proved that BLW, Accounts department is not only leading in the economic management of railways but is also playing an active role in environmental protection and social responsi-

This initiative of BLW was appreciated by all the employees and officers and this event proved to be an important step towards realising the dream of clean and green railways. Thus, the message of 'where there is environment, there is green future' was given on IRAS Day.

sage of the fortnight to be cel-

ebrated from November 25 to

December 16 is "We will erad-

icate discrimination and create

a new society". On the occasion Anita of Mahila Sangthan

said it is important to talk about

violence against women and we

all have to eliminate it togeth-

er. Lok Samiti convener

Nandlal Master said we also

have to change the male dom-

inated structural system. Sunil

Madhubala, Panchmukhi,

Manjita, Seema, Manish, Asha,

Ashish, Vidya, Shama Bano

and others were present.

Shvamsundar

Master,

# BECDC's foundation day celebrated

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■ KANPUR

The 21st foundation day of 1 Bhagwanti Education Centre Degree College (BECDC), Mandhana, Kanpur, was celebrated with full enthusiasm on Monday and Tuesday. The students of the college participated in different competitions like sports, Rangoli,

course level (first floor). Double Γ-girders were used to support the concourse levels of the elevated stations, a technique used by Kanpur Metro for the first time in the country during the construction of the Priority Corridor (IIT to Motijheel). Kanpur Metro is reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability



Bhagwanti Education Centre Degree College

dance, songs etc. In the end, prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions. This programme ended with a colourful Dandiya dance.

MILESTONE: The construction of the pre-engineered building (PEB) structure — the roof of the platform — was completed at the Baradevi station on Monday. With this milestone, the outline of the Baradevi station is now clearly visible to the city's residents. In addition to work at Baradevi, construction is ongoing at the other stations, focusing on the PEB structure and technical rooms on the con-

by incorporating renewable energy solutions across all elevated stations. The five stations of the Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section are being designed similarly to the priority corridor to maximise solar energy usage. The platform roofs of all stations are being constructed using PEB structures, which not only provide an aesthetically pleasing design but also span large areas without the need for supporting pillars. This approach is both cost-effective and environmentally friendly. The PEB structures feature translucent or transparent sheets that allow

reducing the need for artificial lighting and conserving electricity. Additionally, the concourse levels (first floors) of the stations are being designed to be more open and airy, with extensive use of stairs in the station complexes. These design elements will not only save costs but also contribute to lower carbon emissions. UPMRC Managing Director Sushil Kumar said, "The civil construction work on the Baradevi-Naubasta elevated section of the Kanpur Metro project is progressing rapidly. With the completion of key milestones, including the erection of pre-cast structures such as U-girders and I-girders, as well as the casting of platform levels at all stations, the focus has now shifted to the construction of PEB structures and technical rooms. The design of the platforms across all stations is highly optimised, blending functionality with aesthetics, sustainability, and cost-efficiency. Thanks to the coordination and cooperation of all Kanpur Metro departments, a trial run of the train from Motifheel to Kanpur Central will take place soon, and passenger services are expected to commence by January 2025." Meanwhile Kanpur Metro's vigilant security system has once again demonstrated its commitment to honesty and service. A female student received her lost purse containing ₹7,900 in cash and other important documents which she had misplaced while travelling at the IIT Metro station.

natural sunlight to flood the

platforms throughout the day,

#### Period/Tentative Qty For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Automatic Machine Made Ghee Tins with C. Boxes Annual a) Tutty fruity b) Spong cake(Veg.) c) Calcium Choride d) Kassatta box e) Plastic tray for Kassatta slice Kassatta dibbi II. e-Tenders:-Annual Pouches & rolls i. Kaju pinni rolls ii. Besan burfi rolls iii. Punjabi kulfi pouches Ice candies rolls (40) (all variants) v. lee caream bar rolls (40)ml) (all variants) b) Flavours and colours c) Sweet boxes for kaju pinni (800gm, 400 gm, 2kg) Annual d) Nitric Acid Annual e) 1.25 litre ice cream brick cartons f) Punjabi kulfi sticks g) Wooden sticks (114x10x2mm) Half Yearly h) Sundae magic cups Hiring of Agency for packaging of dahi pouch/cups/matkas, lassi pouches, kheer cups, ghee, paneer and yoghurt, packaging and recombination of white butter and reconstitution of SMP/WMP & Sugar. As per day to day market. For Verka Sangrur Dairy i. Supply, installation and commissioning of GC (Gas Chromatography) Machine with RP- HPLC Machine under NPDD PB 09 project. ii. Hiring of:a) Insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from MCC/BMC to Milk Annual/04 No's Plant, Sangrur. b) Passenger vehicle with fuel Diesel/ Petrol/ CNG (Swift Dzire, Toyota Etios, Bolero or equivalent) at Verka Sangrur Dairy for Field/Extension work. Annual/01 No For Verka Bathinda Dairy i. Supply of Rice Husk for Boilers. 3500 MT (+-10%) Annual/ 01 Complete Job Pest Control services. For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) e-Tender for hiring of vehicles for supply of Fresh Milk and Milk Products Army Route -1 Local Route-1 Local Route-6 e- Tender for the Disposal of Unserviceable Material 61 Items c) Purchase Of:i. Polypropylene bottles cap. 180ml with caps. ii. Printed shrink sleeve rolls for PP bottles cap. 180ml Corrugated tray for PP bottles cap. 180ml. d) Outsourcing of Security, Housekeeping and Hotriculture activities. For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana. Hiring of passenger vehicle Bolero/Swift Dzire/Etios (Platinum) or equivalent (AC)-2 no's along with drivers.

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#### LUCKNOW | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 27, 2024

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

A commemorative coin and stamp were released on the 'Making of the Constitution of India: A Glimpse", "Making of the Constitution of India and its Glorious Journey" and a booklet dedicated to the illustration in the Constitution were also released. The president unveiled Sanskrit and Maithili translations of the Constitution.

Constitutional ideals get strength from the active participation of the executive, legislature and the judiciary, as well as all citizens, the President said.

The president said the aspirations of the people found expression in the many legis-lations enacted by Parliament and, during the past few years, the government took many steps for the development of all sections of society, especially the weaker ones.

President Murmu said she was happy to note that, with the efforts of the Supreme Court, the country's judiciary was making efforts to make the judicial system more



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

identity was achieved for

India in the comity of nations and the Constitution-makers had given a directive for India to play an important role in promotion of international peace and security, the president said. She said the Constitution was the strong foundation stone of India's democratic republic and ensured the country's collective and individual dignity. On January 26, India will

celebrate the 75th anniversary of the republic and such celebrations provide the country with opportunities to take stock of the journey so far and plan better for the journey ahead, President Murmu said. She said the Constitution, in one sense, was the outcome of nearly three years of deliberations by some of the greatest minds, but, in the true sense, it was the outcome of the long The celebrations

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

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

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

with decorum and discipline

cliff hanging in parliamentary discourse", Dhankhar said there was a need to resolve by reiterating the pristine glory of the Constituent Assembly's embellished functioning. Dhankhar said it was time to

fully commit to "our fundamental duties -- protecting unity, prioritising national interests, and safeguarding our environment".

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

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

"I do not know. But this much is certain that if the parties place creed above country, our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost forever. This eventuality we must all resolutely guard against. We our independence with the last drop of our blood," he further said, citing Ambedkar. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged members to follow the tradition of constructive and dignified debates set by the Constituent Assembly while deliberating upon the Constitution that was adopted 75 years ago.

"These traditions of constructive and dignified debates should be implemented by our respective Houses as well," he said.

Birla said the Constituent Assembly has seen members sharing views with dignity and tradition of such discourse should continue.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

Three vacancies were created in Andhra Pradesh when YSRCP members Venkataramana

Mopidevi, Beedha Masthan Rao Yadav and Ryaga Krishnaiah had quit their membership in August. The terms of Yadav and Krishnaiah as Rajya Sabha members were to end on June 21, 2028, while Mopidevi was to retire on 21 June, 2026. A vacancy occurred in Odisha

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



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

lowing his election as an MLA in the recent state polls.

After the recent assembly polls, TDP in Andhra Pradesh and BJP in Odisha will have an upper hand in the Rajya Sabha bypolls. While the TMC rules West Bengal, the BJP had retained

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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



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

Rahul Gandhi said the coun-

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

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

'This X-ray is the first step, we know that Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, poor general caste people, minorities are in pain. So we have to find out where is the injury, where is the fracture, whether there is a acquisition act, the right to

compound fracture...We will get data by caste census," he said.

The day this data comes into

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

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

# Chouhan inaugurates 227 new Gender Resource Centres

**NEW DELHI** 

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

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



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

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

have equal opportunities for participation in economic, social, and political spheres. Other leaders, including Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State for Rural Development, and Shri Kamlesh Paswan, Minister State for Rural Development, highlighted

the importance of a wholeof-society approach to end gender-based violence. Shailesh Kumar Singh,

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

icated, and all women should Building on this success, the month-long Nayi Chetna 3.0 focuses on the theme 'Ek Saath Ek Awaaz - Hinsa Ke Khilaf', encouraging collective action against violence, fostering safe and inclusive spaces, and breaking the barriers of inequality, the statement added.

The campaign is being organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Union Ministry of Rural Development. It is a nationwide effort involving SHGs across India and aims to create a Jan Andolan for gender

At the event, three gender champions from Jharkhand, Puducherry, and Madhya Pradesh shared their personal journeys, moving from being victims of gender-based violence to becoming leaders in the fight against it.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

try's whole system is pitted

against Dalits, Adivasis and

backward-class people.

"Slowly the wall (obstructing

the path of SCs, STs, OBCs)

is getting strengthened. Earlier, the UPA government gave MGNREGA, the land

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

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

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

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



per cent) as compared to the previous year.

In an official statement, the ministry said that the total meat production in the country is estimated as 10.25 million tonnes during 2023-24 and registered a growth of 4.85 per cent over the past 10 years as compared to the estimates of 6.69 million tonnes in 2014-15. "Further, the production was increased by 4.95 per cent in 2023-24 over 2022-23," an official statement said.

Major contribution in the total meat production comes from West Bengal with 12.62 per cent share and it was followed by Uttar Pradesh (12.29 per cent), Maharashtra (11.28 per cent), Telangana 10.85 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (10.41 per cent). In terms of annual growth rate, the highest annual growth rate (AGR) has recorded in Assam (17.93 per cent), followed by Uttarakhand (15.63

lowed by Uttarakhand (15.63 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (11.70 per cent).

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

duction increased annually by 3.18 per cent during 2023-24 over the preceding fiscal.

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

As per the data, the total wool production is estimated as 33.69 million kg during 2023-24, registering a slight growth of 0.22 per cent over last year.

The major contribution in the total Wool production comes from Rajasthan with a share of 47.53 per cent followed by Jammu & Kashmir (23.06 per cent), Gujarat (6.18 per cent), Maharashtra

(4.75 per cent), Manarashita (4.75 per cent) and Himachal Pradesh (4.22 per cent). In terms of annual growth rate, the highest AGR has been recorded by Punjab (22.04 per cent), followed by Tamil Nadu (17.19 per cent) and Gujarat (3.20 per

## Opposition demands debate on Constitution in both houses of Parliament

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

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

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

Kharge said. Senior party leader Digvijay Singh read out the Preamble of the Constitution and ques- every community. Mr Prime nation," Singh said.



tioned if it is being implemented in letter and spirit. 'Are people getting justice, liberty? Is there freedom of expression? Where is fraternity? Only bowing to the Constitution will not lead to it

being followed," he said. Referring to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwaas, Sabka Prayaas', Singh said, "It will happen when confidence is instilled in every citizen from Minister, follow what you are saying. Practice before you preach".

Incidents like Sambhal are repeatedly occurring. I am surprised that even Supreme Court judges and our retired Justice Chandrachud overlook the laws of this country and state that surveys are permitted as it is a matter of faith... Every individual in this country has equal rights to practice their religion and faith. The growing disharmony is a threat to the

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

defence cooperation. The Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad, included senior officials

from the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The High Commissioner of India to Tanzania Bishwadip Dey also attended the meeting. The Tanzanian delegation was led by Land Forces Commander Major General Fadhil Omary

As part of the tour, the Tanzanian delegation will visit Goa Shipyard Ltd to get first-hand experience of India's capabilities in port develop-ment and shipbuilding. The delegation is also scheduled to visit INS Hansa and National Institute of Hydrography in

India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Tanzania which are bolstered by robust capacity building and avenues for developing partnership. The two countries have a fiveyear roadmap to guide defence cooperation.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION—

# **Yet another flashpoint**

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

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



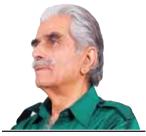
esied site of Lord Vishnu's Kalki avatar. The petition sought ASI intervention and public access to the site, accusing the mosque administrators of obstructing entry and the ASI of negligence in protecting the monument. The legal dispute led the Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) in Sambhal to order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

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



eople buy groundnut during the inauguration of the 'Kadalekai Parishe', in Bengaluru

# K P Sharma Oli walks a tightrope on China



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

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

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

Oli last visited China in 2016 after the Indian blockade and signed several agreements including nergy trade but almost none has materialised. China is insisting that BRI projects that were truncated at Beijing's request from 35 to 9 be under loan whereas Nepal, especially Nepali Congress, the senior coalition partner, wants them under grant. There were fears Oli might sign in to please the Chinese which resulted in considerable squabbling between them. A high-level task force of the two parties has been meeting to arrive at a consensus. Opposition lawmakers wanted all the agreements signed so far to be made public and discussed in Parliament and with civil society. At a UML meeting, Oli recently announced he would not sign BRI for the sake of coalition unity.

Chinese envoy Chen Song who had been lobbying with lawmakers to sign the BRI plan has clarified that Chinese-built Pokhara airport would not be converted from loan to grant. Foreign Minister Arzu Rana is going to China on November 28 to prepare for Oli's visit with some plans on BRI.

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



OLI LAST VISITED Right parties but New Delhi has historically favoured CHINA IN Nepali Congress. Oli had said some pretty undiplomatic, even unkind things about 2016 AFTER THE INDIAN India during his second term as PM after he had internation-BLOCKADE alised the Kalapani dispute and made it into a national issue. AND SIGNED But later, Oli did work with India. Oli going to China SEVERAL without Beijing making any **AGREEMENTS** concession on BRI is cocking **INCLUDING** During the annual Kantipur **ENERGY** Conclave in Kathmandu this month, he clarified that as a **TRADE** sovereign nation, a PM can visit any country first. He **BUT ALMOST** compared the 'first visit India NONE HAS or China conundrum' to vis-

MATERIALISED

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

At the Kantipur Conclave, Prachanda informed the audience that he was happy he was no longer heading the government as he could atone for his party's mistakes and serve the people better. He clarified that with 32 seats, he had never sought power but others (NC and UML) had come to him to form the government.

He asserted he had made a direct assault on corruption the no 1 bane of Nepal – and put many corrupt leaders including members of his party, and those who had supported his government in jail. unity he has taken the fizz out This included the newsmaker of the champagne that was to and former Home Minister. Rabi Lamichhane from the Rashtriya Swatantra Party who is at present in jail, being investigated for fraud. In Kathmandu, I discovered that Lamichhane has created a problem for the government

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

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

# Prasar Bharati unveils WAVES app amid criticism and challenges



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

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

However, the event's significance was overshadowed by the absence of central ministers, drawing criticism that this oversight represented a missed public relations opportunity. A Shift from OTT to App:

A Branding Challenge Originally envisioned as an OTT platform, WAVES has

undergone a rebranding as an app. This shift has sparked speculation that the change may be linked to limited new content. Critics have argued that the current branding does little to leverage Doordarshan's rich legacy, potentially alienating audiences, particularly in rural areas where Doordarshan's identity is deeply entrenched.

Many users remain unclear about the relationship

WAVES between Prasar Bharati and

Doordarshan, adding to the confusion about accessing the app.

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

cials in key roles.

Adding to these challenges ing out against global giants are unresolved trademark issues surrounding the name "WAVES," which their vast libraries and could further complicate advanced technology, prethe app's rollout. Private sents a formidable chal-broadcasters, wary of lenge. potential regulatory challenges, have shown reluctance to collaborate with the platform, dampening its industry reception.

Content and Vision

Despite the hurdles, WAVES aims to differentiate itself in the competitive Indian media landscape. Offering over 65 live channels and content in 12+ languages, the app seeks to combine nostalgia with fresh appeal.

Iconic Doordarshan programmes like 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat' are set to feature alongside new productions such as 'Fauji 2.0.' WAVES also plans to support emerging talent by showcasing student films and works by National Creator Awardees.

Operating on a revenue-sharing model, WAVES aspires to empower creators while ensuring the protection of intellectual property. However, stand-

like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, known for

The Road Ahead

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

As WAVES ventures into the competitive digital media space, its journey will be closely watched. For Prasar Bharati, the app represents both a bold opportunity and a test of its capacity to adapt and thrive in an evolving media ecosystem.

(The writer is a journalist; views are personal)

#### **HISTORIC WIN AT PERTH** Madam —Apropos to the news headline

tions with India.

a snook at India.

iting Nizamuddin or Ajmer

Sharif first: which made little

impact on the mainly Nepali

audience, adding that his visit

to China will not harm rela-

For Nepal maintaining balance

between India and China is a vital strategic mission that the

founding father of Nepal,

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

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

## **HOUSE ADJOURNED OVER ADANI**

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

## **SC** rejects plea challenging Preamble

LETTERS TO THE EDITO

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

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

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

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

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

India and hide this information from investors while raising capital in America. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

## **SAMBHAL MOSQUE DISPUTE**

Madam — The horrific incident that occurred in Sambhal highlights the authorities' alarming reaction, where, without conducting a proper hearing or trial, they initiated a survey within just two hours. The incident has spread a curtain of fear and horror across the country.

The assertion of replacing a mosque with a temple is intensifying over time, threatening the diversity and unity of our nation. Mohan Bhagwat's statement should be taken into account: it is not right to dig beneath every mosque in search of a Shivling and claim it as a temple. Such actions are detrimental to the harmony of society. Early recognition can help us to take immediate measures to limit any dam-

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

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# **FIRST COLUMN**

## **LESSONS IN HUMILITY AND FAITH**

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



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# Realigning India's economic strategy



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



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

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



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

SABOTAGE

that needs the urgent attention of 100 smart cities conceived in the government is the MSME sector which continues to lie stagnant. This sector is the prime driver of employment growth and needs steps to facilitate the establishment of new units and expansion of the existing ones. These steps are bureaucratic reforms to cut red tape and reduce unnecessary regulatory compliances that engender corruption and impede growth. To boost Indigenous manufacturing and increase the share of manufacturing in the national GDP from 16 per cent (almost stagnant since 2015) to upwards of 20 per cent, rebooting the entire Make in India program is needed.
The blueprint of this otherwise visionary plan was, alas, not implemented seriously.
Too much dependence on foreign capital and FDI was never forth-

coming and efforts should have been made to utilise domestic capital. The central sector and state sector Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) should have taken the initiative in enhancing domestic manufacturing. Also, Make in India should have emphasised Make by India. Bureaucratic reforms, an increase in domestic manufacturing especially by PSUs by increasing import tariffs and further increasing fiscal concessions are some of the steps needed. Good work has been done in the area of defence and space in this context by encouraging and promoting startups.
This should be extended to other

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

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

foundational base of the Make in

India program. When will it be

passed? Political expediency has been truly the bane of our country and the main impediment to our fast-track economic progress. In the above context, it would be appropriate to mention that strongly nationalistic citizens can collectively create conditions conducive to the growth of the domestic industry. The economic resurgence of Germany and Japan post World War 2 are case in point. Though the USA lent economic support to these countries, their citizens were patriotically driven to establish their domestic manufac-turing base and the countries developed into major industrial and economic powers in a period of barely two decades following their defeat and total devastation in 1945, the end year of the war. Both these countries lay stress on manufacturing, innovation and technology development. Their emphasis was on production and value-added exports. A similar strategy is needed. India has been the world's major economic power for millennia and in keeping with its inherent potential; it is capable of a long-term economic growth rate of 12 per cent.

For this to happen, the aforesaid steps brook no delay. In the destiny of nations, there are some phases when it becomes necessary to take bold steps in line with progressive principles of economic development rather than get bogged down by over-strategising and political expediency. Our revered political and economic scholar Chanakya had stated that Dharma (righteousness) should take precedence over everything else in governance and even strategy should be aligned with universal divine Dharma. We need to proceed further in our economic

journey accordingly.

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

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

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

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

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



ARUNESH SINGH

reaping the demographic dividend. UNFPA reported that Korea saw its per-capita gross domestic product grow about 2,200 per cent between 1950 and 2008, and Thailand's GDP grew 970 per cent.

The pressing question now is whether India can fully capitalise on this demographic dividend, and can the skills ecosystem be the key to offers compelling evidence of unlocking this potential. The To leverage India's demograph-

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

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

ic dividend effectively, scalable solutions for skill development are imperative. This involves creating an ecosystem

support large-scale skill enhancement initiatives. Firstly, systemic change cannot occur in isolation; therefore, it is vital for government bodies and private companies to collaborate and pool resources, expertise and fund-

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



ating a more resilient and practical skill development ecosystem.

Several initiatives in the realm of skill development highlight the transformative impact of targeted training and strategic partnerships. One such initiative is Project AMBER, a unique public-private partnership (PPP) where each stakeholder—government, training partners, and the private sector (philanthropy)—contributes to the model. This initiative aims to enhance overall employment and retention outcomes by prioritising the quality of training, mentoring, and retention. Such initiatives not only help achieve suc-cess at an individual level but also lay the groundwork for broader systemic changes that can redefine the impact of the skilling ecosystem.

Secondly, aligning skilling programs with market demand is crucial. Collaborating with businesses provides valuable input on course content which ensures that learners are trained on skill sets that are relevant for the industry. Employer feedback mechanisms enable continuous adjustments to training programs, which are in sync with

industry requirements. This approach addresses the skills gap by equipping learners with relevant skills, helping them adapt effectively to the workplace. Ultimately, this strategy offers a solution to talent scarcity and unemployment by bridging the gap between workforce skills and market

To ensure training programmes remain dynamic, it's important to integrate datadriven insights to evaluate the progress of the trainees. Thirdly, focusing on outcome-based skilling is essential as it prioritises employment and retention rather than just training. Outcome-based skilling is an approach to training that focuses on achieving specific, measurable outcomes rather than merely completing a set

curriculum or an instruction-

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

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

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



Saturday stormed to power in

Jharkhand for a second

consecutive term, winning 56 seats in the 81-member

assembly, despite an all-out

campaign blitz by the BJP-led

NDA, which managed only 24

He also retained the Barhait seat by defeating BJP's Gamliyel Hembrom by a

Senior leaders of the INDIA

bloc, including RJD's Tejashwi

Yadav, may attend the swearing-in ceremony on

All top leaders of the bloc are

being invited to attend the

swearing-in ceremony at Morabadi Ground here on

November 28. Leader of the

Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool

Congress supremo Mamata

Banerjee and RJD leader

Tejashwi Yadav are likely to

attend the event," a Congress

As far as ministerial berths are

concerned, in all likelihood,

there may be four ministers

The JMM had contested 43

seats and won 34, the highest-

ever tally of the party in its

history. The Congress got 16 seats, RJD four and the CPI

(ML)L secured two seats in

the INDIA bloc. As per the

arrangement, RJD may get

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for the oath-taking

Soren had on Sunday met

Jharkhand Governor Santosh

Kumar Gangwar and staked

claim to form government.

soon after leaders of the

INDIA bloc in the state unanimously elected him as

He will officiate as the acting

chief minister till the oath is

consistently demanding an

increase in security measures

appeals, no action has been

taken on this matter," he said.

"Another premiere hospital vandalised and open rape

GTB Hospital. They verbally

the legislature party leader.

one ministerial berth.

ceremony.

from the grand old party.

leader had earlier said.

margin of 39,791 votes.

Thursday.

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ RANCHI

Acting Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, in his first visit to the national capital after leading his ruling alliance to an unprecedented second straight term in the

The Prime Minister's Office posted pictures of the meeting. Soren was accompanied by his wife Kalpana, who has also been elected as an MLA in the recent elections.

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader led the combine, which includes the Congress, the RID and the Left, to a comprehensive win over the BJP-led alliance.

In a post on X, Soren said he has invited Modi to his oathtaking ceremony in Ranchi on Thursday.

"Met Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji in Delhi today and invited him to attend the swearing-in ceremony of 'Abua sarkar' (our government) on 28th November," Soren said on X in Hindi.

He also met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as well as former party chief Rahul Gandhi, besides AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal and his wife, in New Delhi and invited

them for his oath-taking.
"Today in Delhi, I met the Congress president respected Mallikarjun Kharge ji, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi ji and senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra ji and invited them to attend the swearingin ceremony of 'Abua' (our) government on November 28," Soren said in another post

Soren's JMM-led alliance on administered to him.

Neurosurgery Department,

where a patient not only

abused the doctor on duty but

also vandalised hospital

that the RDA submitted a

From page 1

**Doctors on duty still...** 

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Cix men who were recently Sreleased from jail planned a series of robberies in Delhi's Dwarka area to finance a trip to the hills. However, their plan unraveled when they were caught by the police soon after robbing their first target. According to the police on According to the police on Tuesday, the gang of criminals, residents of Bindapur's JJ Colony, had robbed a shopkeeper at gunpoint in the southwest locality on the evening of November 12.

"Mukesh, a grocery shop owner, was returning home on his scooter when he was intercepted near the DDA flats in Bindapur. Three individuals on a motorcycle stopped him and robbed Rs 50,000 at gunpoint," Deputy Commissioner of Police

(Dwarka) Ankit Singh said, adding that multiple teams were formed to identify and nab the accused.

Six arrested in Delhi for robbing

shopkeeper to fund trip to the hills

They analysed footage from over 500 CCTV cameras to trace the movements of the suspects and identified them, police said. Acting on a tipoff, police laid a trap and arrested the three accused – 23 year old Mohammad Sazid, 19 year old Mohammad Shoeb, and 22 year old Mohammad Rashid, on November 17.

During interrogation, they confessed to the crime and disclosed the involvement of three more accomplices, leading to the arrest of Mohammad Ayan, 19, Mohammad Aftab, 22, and Mohammad Altab, 24, said the police officer.

"All the accused are history sheeters and had been struggling financially. Recently released from jail after serving sentences for various crimes, they planned to experience snowfall at a hill station. But as they were short on funds, they decided to commit robberies," said the They targeted Mukesh based

insider information on obtained from a market acquaintance. The gang meticulously planned the conducted heist, reconnaissance, and used a motorcycle and a countrymade pistol to execute the crime, he said. The police recovered Rs 35,200 of the robbed cash, a motorcycle and a country-made pistol, the officer said.

According to police, the gang had planned to rob other shopkeepers in the area but was caught.

#### tried to kill kin after they bury hatchet **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI an inebriated Kumar attacked to rigorous imprisonment of his cousin Mukesh with a Tn an unusual ruling, a Delhi

Delhi court gives nine months to man who

court has sentenced a man to a mere nine months of imprisonment in a 2017 attempt to murder case where he attacked his cousin after being denied money to buy liquor.

The convict however will walk free as he has already undergone detention for a little over nine months. Under the erstwhile Indian Penal Code, applicable in the present case, the offence of

attempt to murder is punisĥable imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine. If a person is hurt the offence,

imprisonment can be extended to life. The court took a lenient view while deciding the quantum of sentence after noting the victim's submissions about forgiving the convicted cousin and claiming both were "living in harmony" after

resolving their differences. Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Pahuja was hearing the arguments on sentencing against Naveen Kumar who was convicted under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of

surgical blade after claiming that a few days ago, the victim refused him money to buy liauor.

The incident occurred on November 17, 2017, and Mahesh suffered serious injuries on his vital body parts, it said.

In an order passed on November 25, the court said, Complainant (Mahesh) who is present in the court today has submitted that convict is his cousin brother, hence, there is no bad blood between them so he does not want any monetary compensation from the convict and also prays for lenient view against the convict in terms of punishment."

The court underscored the victim had forgiven the convict for his deeds and resolved all the disputes and had been "living in harmony" for the past several years. The court noted Kumar did

not have a criminal history and had a "good social background". It said, "Convict (also) has a

medical record pertaining to mental illness for which he has been under treatment for the last 20 years."

According to the prosecution, The court sentenced Kumar

nine months and a fine of Rs 20,000, saying it had balanced the aggravating mitigating factors.

Kumar, however, got the reprieve of Section 428 of CrPC, which allows the period of detention undergone by an accused to be set off against their sentence.

"As the convict has remained in judicial custody for nine months 17 days as per the record, therefore the benefit of Section 428 CrPC be given to the convict and the period already undergone in custody be adjusted against the sentenced period," the court

Crucially, the court convicted Kumar after rejecting the plea of insanity taken by his counsel.

It said at the time of committing the offence, Kumar was not suffering from any mental disorder and he was very much aware of his violent act.

"If the words and actions of accused the demonstrate that he is capable of understanding the nature of his act during the commission of offence, he cannot take the benefit of plea of insanity," held the court.

alleged Padaria hit him with

## J and K police raids overground terror workers

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) Police have raided at least 56 locations in the last two days across four districts after it launched a massive crackdown against the terror networks channeled by the overground workers (ÓGW) across the Jammu region. So far raids have been

conducted across the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and the hilly districts of Reasi and Udhampur. These districts witnessed maximum number of targeted terror strikes in the recent months. The modus operandi of Pakistan based terrorists also remained the same and in majority of incidents of terrorist violence they relied on the OGW network for logistics support.

The searches were conducted in cases linked to proscribed terrorist organizations like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Toiba According to intelligence reports, these terrorist outfits were trying to activate OGWs to initiate, organise, and execute terror-related activities in the region.
According to the police, searches were conducted at multiple locations, including remaining elements residential houses and attempting to disrupt peace in hideouts, based on specific intelligence inputs. police

According to a police spokesman several OGWs and terror suspects were arrested in these raids. The police teams also recovered incriminating materials, including electronic devices, documents, unaccounted cash, weapons, and ammunition, during the searches.

The spokesman said the operations were aimed at identifying, tracking, and apprehending OGWs and other terror suspects involved in providing support to terrorist outfits, including managing the logistics, recruitment, and facilitating the movement of arms, ammunition, and funds. According to the spokesman

these searches were carried out as part of investigations into two separate cases registered at Thanamandi Police Station in 2023 and Rajouri Police Station this year. "Investigations will continue

based on the material and

information gathered during

attempting to disrupt peace in the region," remarked the ADGP, Jammu.

He also urged citizens to report suspicious activity of individuals in their vicinity and help security forces strengthen collective efforts against terrorism. "The searches were carried out meticulously, with due care taken to avoid any collateral damage or inconvenience to innocent civilians", ADGP added.

According to the spokesman, searches were conducted across nine locations in Rajouri district. 12 similar search raids were conducted in different locations of district Poonch-Surankote, Mandi, Poonch, Mendhar, and Gursai. In district Udhampur, police conducted extensive searches at 25 locations in the Basantgarh area, including Rai Chak, Chaka, Kadwah, Morha, Kund, Khaned, Ponara, Loudhra, and Sang. 10 similar raids search were conducted different in locations of district Reasi-Puni, Gulabgarh, Arnas, Mahore-Panassa, and

## Gujarat cop attacks Patidar leader

Saurashtra

Sardardham's

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

A police inspector allegedly attacked and injured a senior office-bearer of a Patidar prominent community organisation in Gujarat's Rajkot district over the issue of the latter joining the outfit, an official said on

The inspector, Sanjay Padaria, has been booked on attempt to murder charge after the victim lodged a complaint. As per an FIR, Padaria attacked a local businessman and Patidar community leader, Jayanti Sardhara, at a marriage function over the latter's decision to join the outfit, 'Sardardham', said Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) BJ Chaudhari. While Sardhara is vice-president of

zone, inspector Padariya is serving at the State Reserve Police Training Centre in Junagadh, said Chaudhari. Sources revealed Sardhara was earlier associated with another outfit, Shree Patidar Khodaldham Trust, also headed by a businessman, Naresh Patel. On Monday night, both Sardhara and the accused inspector had an altercation at the marriage function on the outskirts of Rajkot city, said Chaudhary. "As per the FIR, Padaria was

unhappy over the complainant's decision to join Sardardham. Padaria allegedly called Sardhara a 'traitor' during the argument at the function. Later, the inspector allegedly thrashed Padaria in the parking area. Sardhara has

his gun on the head during the altercation," said the ACP. Based on the complaint submitted by Sardhara, the Rajkot Taluka police on Tuesday lodged an FIR against Padaria on charges of assault and attempt to murder, said the officer. As per the FIR, Padaria claimed he is an "active member" of Naresh Patel's team. He then accused Sardhara of "betraying" Patel, who heads the Khodaldham Trust, by joining another outfit of the community, Sardardham. Sardhara, in his complaint, alleged the Khodaldham Trust and Patel were unhappy over his decision to join Sardardham. The Khodaldham Trust sought to distance itself from

## the raids. Further operations Maharashtra still awaits its next CM

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

BJP's central leadership

preferred Fadnavis over him Athawale said. as the new chief minister of There was speculation during the past two days that (Shinde) would have no Kesarkar, gently rubbished leadership will take a favourable decision. It may be recalled that the other choice but to accept the decision by the BJP's

leadership. Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Social Justice Dr. Ramdas Athawale went on record saying that the BJP's central leadership had already conveyed to Shinde that it wanted Fadnavis to be the next chief minister. He advised Shinde to step aside to facilitate Fadnavis' take over as the CM... "If he (Shinde) does not work under Fadnavis as the deputy chief minister, he should move to the Centre and become a Union Minister,"

Athawale for interfering in matters between their party and the BJP. In a related development, outgoing State Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar denied the speculation that Shinde was unhappy with the BJP's decision to appoint Fadnavis.
"Eknath Shinde is not at all unhappy. Nor is the Shinde Sena unhappy. Shinde has already made it clear to the central BJP leaders that he would accept whatever decision to be taken by them in matters relating to the that the BJP's central BJP-led Mahayuti staged a spectacular comeback in the

Maharashtra Assembly polls, by winning 230 seats in the 288-member house. In the polls, the ruling BJP won an astounding 132 seats out of the total 288-member State Assembly, as against 57 seats won by the. Eknath Shindeled Shiv Sena and 41 seats by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). On its part, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP has

reportedly thrown its weight behind Fadnavis nomination as the next CM

# **EVMs** are tampered when you lose...

From page 1

"When Chandrababu Naidu lost, he said EVMs can be tampered with. Now this time, Jagan Mohan Reddy lost, he said EVMs can be tampered with," noted the Bench. When the petitioner said everybody knew money was distributed in elections, the Bench remarked, "We never received any money for any elections." The petitioner said another prayer in his plea was the formulation of a comprehensive framework to regulate the use of money and liquor during election campaigns and ensuring such practices were prohibited and punishable under the law.

The plea further sought a direction to mandate an extensive voter education campaign to raise awareness and importance of informed decision making. "Today, 32 per cent educated people are not casting their votes. What a tragedy. If democracy will be dying like this and we will not be able to do anything then what will happen in the

years to come in future," the petitioner said.

În April, the Court dismissed a batch of petitions seeking a return to the paper ballot Terming the system. suspicion of manipulation of the EVMs "unfounded", the apex court then rejected the demand for reverting to the old system, saying the polling devices were "secured" and eliminated booth capturing and bogus voting. However, the Court opened a

window for aggrieved unsuccessful candidates securing second and third places in poll results and allowed them to seek verification microcontroller embedded in five per cent EVMs per assembly constituency on a written request upon payment of a fee to the poll panel. It directed that from May 1, the symbol loading units should be sealed and secured in a container and stored in a strongroom along with the EVMs for a minimum period of 45 days post-declaration of results.

# India expresses...

said the association has been official handle.

"There was an incident of and deployment of more

verbal abuse in the guards. "Despite our repeated

property," RDA President threats given to doctors-on-Rajat Sharma said, adding duty in Delhi in UCMS &

letter reporting the violence abusing and threatening the

to the administration but no on-duty doctor with vile

FIR was filed yet. "Such acts comments like 'Come outside,

of violence against resident we will rape your sister'!" doctors are unacceptable." He tweeted FAIMA from its

wrote, "We have come across peace-loving disturbing reports that Sri Chinmoy Krishna Das one of the prominent leaders of Jagaran Manch in Kolkata Iskcon has been detained by also warned of a strong the Dhaka Police... It is movement if the Iskcon monk outrageous to make baseless allegations that Iskcon has Bengal Opposition Leader anything to do with terrorism Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday anywhere in the world. Iskcon took out a procession

inc. urges the Government of condemning the arrest and India to ... Speak to the Government of Bangladesh In a strongly worded post on Government of Bangladesh the X the Vaishnava order and convey that we are a Bhakti movement."

The BJP and the Hindu was not released immediately.

said his party would gherao the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission if the Indian Sadhu was not released. "All the Sanatanis will descend on the streets and the BJP will lead this movement as the TMC will not act due to its votebank politics... we will gherao the Deputy High Commission and even blockade the Petrapole border," Adhikari posted.

PIL in March, 2023, saying she was constrained to moved the SC as Air India and the DGCA failed to treat her with care and responsibility after the unpleasant experience. The woman referred to seven instances of passenger misconduct on board between

standards laid

matters are sub-judice, and the impact of media coverage based on unverified statements end up impacting the victim as well as the accused, it added. A fellow passenger who was in an inebriated state had urinated on the petitioner during an international flight on November 26, 2022. The incident was brought to light after the woman's letter to the Chairperson of the Tata Group made it to the media.

was later arrested by the Delhi Police in Bengaluru. Wells Fargo, which was Mishra's subsequently employer, released a statement that the allegations against him were "deeply disturbing". He was dismissed from the job.

# Mewar dynasty descendants spar in bizarre battle royale

formation of a new

government. We are hopeful

started throwing stones and attempted to storm the palace gates. Others are retaliating

In the ceremony, Vishwaraj's 'Tilak' was done by the head of erstwhile Salumbar royal family, Devvrat Singh who slashed his finger on a sword and anointed him in blood- a tradition which has been followed for hundreds of years. Vishvraj and others had plans to go to pay obeisance at the 'Dhuni' in Udaipur city palace and at Eklingnathji temple but both the places are under the control of Arvind Singh. The latter, through his lawyer, reportedly got two public notices published in local

damaging the property.
When Vishvaraj and others reached the city palace, they were denied entry by the local not only hurt the glorious legacy of Mewar but has also disgraced himself," Randheer

will return after having darshan of the Dhuni and no is the head of the family.

which was abolished by the government of India in 1971. However, in community and

Poswal said that talks with both the sides have been going on to resolve the issue. Udaipur superintendent Yogesh Goyal

Venkataramani restrictions that stifled or discriminated against the rights and liberties of people were an anathema to an "enduring" Constitution. "We the people of India have a duty to ensure that the Constitution endures, and enduring an

Attorney

only Constitution, can script liberty," Venkataramani said. "(The concept of) both rights and liberties running riot or restrictions (on rights and liberties), which stifle or discriminate are anathema to an enduring constitution," he

guiding light: PM Underlining that Constitution Day was a day for stocktaking General and an occasion for engagement on future road said maps, Venkataramani said all citizens "being custodians of the great and perennial values of Bharat" were also

**Constitution** is a

custodians of Constitution. "The question, however, would always be, how faithful are we in our roles as custodians? How accommodative are we in bridging and narrowing the social gaps which require and deserve elevated levels of resolutions? How inclined are we to astutely avoid wasteful and distorting social conversations which can debilitate our social fabric?"

#### SC asks for creative ways... notified for controlling unruly to make conjectures when From page 1 passengers. The woman filed a remarked

The judge

something creative needed to be done. Advocates Rahul Narayan, Tanya Srivastava, and Harshita Malik appeared for the petitioner.

The SC in May, 2023, issued notices to the Centre, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and all airlines, including Air India, on the woman's plea. During the hearing, the woman's counsel submitted the DGCA filed a reply stating everything was in place but the petitioner had suggestions that could be incorporated.

Bhati, representing the Centre, informed the Bench that an affidavit was filed and guidelines and circulars were reporting, whether they ought

2014 and 2023, alleging they were not dealt with properly by the airline concerned.

The PIL sought a direction to the Centre and the DGCA to ensure that civil aviation requirements and norms adhered to the highest down internationally. The absence of clear guidelines for media outlets on what requires

The accused, Shankar Mishra,

The row it sparked escalated as the day progressed. Post-10 pm, the MLA's supporters

from inside the palace. Vishvaraj Singh Mewar was anointed as the titular head of the erstwhile royal family after his father Mahendra Singh Mewar's death on November 10. However, the ceremony was overshadowed by a longstanding feud between Mahendra Singh, and his estranged younger brother, Arvind Singh. Both are descendants of the Rajput king Maharana Pratap.

police. Vishvraj waited for several hours at Jagdish Chowk to enter the city palace, but tension escalated in the night when there was stone pelting from both sides. After Dhuni, Vishvaraj was scheduled to go to Eklingnathji temple in Udaipur where he was to be given a 'Chhadi' or stick of silver as a symbol of 'Deewan' of Eklingnathji. However, Vishvaraj Singh, who was waiting in Jagdish Chowk, returned to his residence in Udaipur at 1.30 am Tuesday without visiting the city palace. Mewar's "pagari dastur" or coronation ceremony was held at the 7th-Century Chittorgarh Fort. Members of erstwhile royal families from across India attended the ceremony marked by a 21-gun salute. "What Lakshayraj Singh has done is a blot on the history of Mewar. By not allowing Vishvaraj Singh to pay obeisance at the Dhuni, he has

newspapers on Monday to Singh Bhindar, the head of warn of legal action on trespassers and those Bhindar, said. "We asked him that Vishvraj

> one will be occupying that place. The Rajput community is furious with him," he said. Bhindar, a former MLA, said that Lakshyaraj might have thought that if Vishvaraj is allowed to enter the City Palace and he completes the ritual then it will be validated that he The Mewar family head used to be called 'Maharana', a title

> social circles, many still regard the head as 'Maharana'. When Mewar was a princely state before integration Rajasthan, the 'Maharana' used to have 16 'Umrao' (or ministers), 32 'Thikanerdar' (Battisa) and several Gol sardars for ruling the state. District Collector Arvind

> said Mewar was unable to perform the ritual at the

palace due to the dispute.

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

PTI ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

policemen were killed but didn't provide any details.
According to Punjab police,

one policeman was killed at the Hakla interchange on Islamabad's outskirts during clashes with the PTI protestors on Monday. It did not give details about the second police-

Separately, Interior Minister Naqvi said, at a late Monday night media interaction, that more than 100 security personnel, mostly from police, were injured. "One senior police officer was critically injured he suffered a severe head injury — due to stone-pelting by protesters," he said. Radio Pakistan further report-

ed that the Pakistan Army was called in "to deal with the miscreants with an iron hand" and "clear orders have also been issued to shoot miscreants and troublemakers on sight." Strongly condemning the attack on Rangers and police personnel by protesters, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a

demnable." Meanwhile, Khan's party has statement, directed to immediaccused the authorities of using

ately identify those involved in

the incident and ensure they

"Attacks on police and Rangers,

under the guise of a so-called peaceful protest, are con-demnable," he said, adding,

that the anarchist group seeks bloodshed and "Pakistan can-

not afford any form of chaos or

bloodshed. Bloodshed for

nefarious political agenda is unacceptable and highly con-

are brought to justice.

violence in which several of its supporters have been injured. A party spokesman told BBC Urdu that two supporters have also been killed but it was not confirmed from other sources so far. All public and private educational institutions remained closed on Tuesday

Rawalpindi. Khan has been implicated in dozens of cases since his government was dismissed through a no-confidence

given the law and order situa-

tion both in Islamabad and

motion in 2022. He has been in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi since last year facing over 200 cases. His party won the largest number of seats in the February general elections despite contesting as independents as the party was denied an election symbol. The party founder has alleged that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its coalition partners, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), had "stolen the mandate" to grab power at the

# Israel bombards Beirut suburbs as its **Trump to impose tariffs on imports** leadership prepares to vote on ceasefire

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

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

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

Among the main stick has been an Israeli demand to reserve the right to act should Hezbollah violate its obligations. Under the proposal, thousands of Lebanese troops and UN peace-keepers would deploy in the south, and an international panel headed by the United States would monitor all sides' compliance. Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said the military would strike Hezbollah if the UN peacekeeping force, known as UNIFIL, doesn't provide "effective enforcement of the deal.

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

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

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

Bombardment of Beirut's southern suburbs continues

Even as Israeli, US, Lebanese and international officials have



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

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

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

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

Under the ceasefire deal, Hezbollah would be required to move its forces north of the Litani, which in some places is about 30 km north of the Israeli border.

A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, the strongest Iranianbacked force in the region, would likely significantly calm region-al tensions that have led to fears of a direct, all-out war between Israel and Iran. It's not clear how the ceasefire will affect the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Hezbollah had long insisted that it would not agree to a ceasefire until the war in Gaza ends, but it dropped that condition.

Hezbollah began firing into northern Israel, saying it was showing support for the Palestinians, a day after Hamas carried out its Oct 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, triggering the Gaza war. Israel returned fire on Hezbollah, and the two sides have been exchanging barrages ever

In early September, Israel escalated its campaign of bombardment and sent troops into Lebanon, vowing to put an end to Hezbollah fire.

More than 3,760 people have been killed by Israeli fire in

Lebanon the past 13 months, many of them civilians, according to Lebanese health officials. The bombardment has driven 1.2 million people from their homes. Israel says it has killed more than

2,000 Hezbollah members. Hezbollah fire has forced some 50,000 Israelis to evacuate homes in the country's north, and its rockets have reached as far south in Israel as Tel Aviv. At least 75 people have been killed, more than half of them civilians. More than 50 Israeli soldiers died fighting in the ground offensive in Lebanon.

After previous hopes for a cease-fire were dashed, US officials cautioned that negotiations were not yet complete and noted that there could be last-minute hitches that either delay or destroy an agreement. "Nothing is done until everything is done," White House national security spokesman John Kirby said. While the ceasefire proposal is expected to be approved if Netanyahu brings it to a vote in his security Cabinet, one hardline member, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, said he would oppose it.

# from Canada, Mexico, China

PTI WASHINGTON

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

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

through Mexico and Canada, bringing Crime and Drugs at levels never seen before. Right levels never seen before. Right now, a Caravan coming from Mexico, composed of thou-sands of people, seems to be unstoppable in its quest to come through our currently Open Border," Trump said. "On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders."

many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25% Tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders.

This Tariff will remain in "As everyone is aware, thou-sands of people are pouring in particular Fentanyl, and all

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

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

"Representatives of China told cy on January 20, 2025.

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

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

Trump said the executive order to this effect would be signed

on the first day of his presiden-

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

Hong Kong's top court on Tuesday upheld earlier rulings that favored subsidized housing benefits and equal inheritance rights for same-sex married couples, in a landmark victory for the city's LGBTQ+

community.
The Court of Final Appeal's dismissal of the government's appeals ended some yearslong legal battles over the differential treatment facing same-sex couples married overseas under Hong Kong's Housing Authority policies and two

inheritance laws. The unanimous decisions are expected to have a far-reaching impact on the lives of same-sex couples, who have traditionally had fewer rights compared to their heterosexual counterparts in the global financial hub. Chief Justice Andrew Cheung said in his judgement that

exclusionary housing policies

were argued to be beneficial to

opposite-sex married couples

because they increase the sup- In September 2023, the top ply of subsidised housing for them and thereby support the institution of traditional families. But Cheung said authorities failed to provide evidence showing the potential impact on opposite-sex couples if those policies were relaxed.

"The challenged policies can-not be justified," he wrote. On the inheritance laws, judges Roberto Ribeiro and Joseph Fok ruled that the disputed provisions are "discriminatory and unconstitutional" in their written judgement. Hong Kong does not recognize

same-sex marriage, prompting some couples to marry elsewhere.

Currently, the city only recognizes same-sex marriage for certain purposes such as taxation, civil service benefits and dependent visas. Many of the government's concessions were won through legal challenges, and the city has seen a growing social acceptance toward same-sex marriage.

court ruled that the govern-ment should provide a framework for recognizing same-sex partnerships. This ruling, along with other successful legal challenges brought by members of the LGBTQ+ community, made Hong Kong the only place in China to grant such

recognition for same-sex cou-

In separate judgements handed down in 2020 and 2021, a lower court had ruled that the housing policies involved in Tuesday's cases violated the constitutional right to equality, and that excluding same-sex spouses from inheritance law benefits constituted unlawful

discrimination. The government had challenged these decisions at the Court of Appeal but subsequently lost in October 2023. It then took the cases to the top

court. Nick Infinger, who first launched a judicial review against the Housing Authority in 2018, told reporters that Tuesday's rulings "acknowledged same-sex couples can love each other and deserve to live together."

"This is not only fighting for me and for my partner, but this is fighting for all the same-sex couples in Hong Kong," he said outside the court building. But he added he was still "a bit pessimistic" about whether Hong Kong could become like Taiwan and Thailand in legalizing same-sex marriage.

Hong Kong Marriage Equality, a non-governmental organization, said in a statement that the judges' decisions made it clear that discrimination and differential treatment on the grounds of sexual orientation violate human dignity and equality. It called on the government to immediately end the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage.

The top court's rulings also concluded a long legal journey taken by Henry Li and his late partner, Edgar Ng.

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

AP DAKAR (SENEGAL)

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

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

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

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

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

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

ven malware and advanced cyberattack techniques.

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

Interpol, which has 196 member countries and celebrated its centennial last year, works to help national police forces communicate with each other and track suspects and criminals in fields like counterterrorism, financial crime, child pornography, cybercrime and organised crime.

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

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

## Tamil film Maharaja to be released in China Prime Minister Narendra

**PTI** ■ BEIJING

Tamil suspense film Maharaja will be released in China on Friday becoming the first Indian cinema to be screened for Chinese audiences after the normalisation of ties between the two countries following last month's agreement to resolve the standoff in Eastern Ladakh. The suspense film Maharaja has already begun pre-screenings and its release here coincides with two major competitors Hollywood's Gladiator II and

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

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

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

Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at their meeting in Kazan in Russia on the sidelines of the BRICS summit on October 23 endorsed the agreement and issued directions to revive various bilateral dialogue mechanisms and normalise ties that were hit by a deadly military clash in 2020 at Galwan Valley. Indian films specially Aamir Khan's Three Idiots, Dangal

and Secret Superstar have become a major success in China in recent years as the themes largely resonated with the Chinese audiences and earned a significant amount of revenue.

Khan has become a household name in China.

#### LUCKNOW | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 27, 2024

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

Chashikant Ruia, a first-Ogeneration entrepreneur who turned a small coninfrastructure conglomerate, died after a prolonged illness. He was 80.

Shashi Ruia, as he was fondly called, co-founded the metals-to-technology conglom-erate Essar with his brother

Ruia, who would have turned 81 next month, died in Mumbai around midnight. He had returned from the US, where he was undergoing treatment, about a month

Patriarch of the Ruia and Essar Family," the Ruia family said in a statement.

He is survived by his wife struction business into an Manju and two son's Prashant and Anshuman.

Starting his career in 1965 under the guidance of his father Nand Kishore Ruia, Shashi and his brother Ravi laid the foundation of Essar in 1969 when they bagged a Rs 2.5 crore order from the Madras Port Trust for the construction of an outer breakwater in the port.

In the early years, Essar focused on construction and engineering projects and built a number of bridges, dams "It is with profound grief that we inform of the passing of 1980s, Essar diversified into

the energy sector with the acquisition of oil and gas

A decade later, it became a significant player in steel and telecommunications, setting up a large steel plant in Gujarat, and rising to become India's second-largest telecom operator in a joint venture with Hutchison. It also went on to build an oil refinery in Gujarat despite funds being stopped because of business rivals.

Later, it exited the telecom business, sold the oil refinery to a consortium led by Russia's Rosneft and had to let go of steel plants to ArcelorMittal when insolvency proceedings were initiated to recover unpaid loans.



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

structure, energy, metals and mining, technology, and services.

According to the Essar Group's website, these port-

"With an unwavering com-

mitment to community upliftment and philanthropy, he touched millions of lives leaving an enduring impact. His humility, warmth, and ability to connect with everyone he met, made him a truly exceptional leader," the Ruia family statement said.

"An iconic industrialist, Shri Shashikant Ruia, Chairman, Essar Group, played a signif-icant role in redefining India's corporate landscape. He laid the foundation of the Essar Group and made it a global conglomerate.'

His "extraordinary legacy will remain a guiding light for

folio companies generate all of us, as we honour his combined revenues of USD 14 vision and continue to uphold vision and continue to uphold the values he cherished and championed," it added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Ruia a 'towering figure' in his condolence mes-

"Shri Shashikant Ruia Ji was a colossal figure in the world of industry. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence transformed the business landscape of India. He also set high benchmarks for innovation and growth. He was always full of ideas, always discussing how we can make our country better. Shashi Ji's demise is deeply saddening. My deepest con-dolences to his family and

loved ones in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," the PM wrote on social media platform X (formerly Twitter). He also posted a picture of him

Ruia held several prominent positions in national and industry organisations. He was part of the managing committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and served as chairman of the Indo-US Joint Business Council. He was also the former president of the Indian National Shipowners Association and a member of the Prime Minister's Indo-US CEO Forum and the India-Japan Business Council.

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

PTI MUMBAI

 $B_{\text{and Nifty snapped the}}^{\text{enchmark indices Sensex}}$  two-day rally and closed lower on Tuesday in line with weak global market trends amid concerns over tariff threats by US President-elect Donald Trump.
In a volatile trade, the 30-

share Sensex declined 105.79 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 80,004.06. During the day, it lost 311.18 points or 0.38 per cent to 79,798.67.
The broader NSE Nifty

declined by 27.40 points or 0.11 per cent to 24,194.50.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid were among the biggest laggards.

Asian Paints, Infosys, JSW Steel, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries were among the biggest gainers.

Global stock markets declined following concerns over US President-elect Donald Trump's comment

that he plans to impose new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office on January 20.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled lower while Hong Kong ended higher.

European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Monday.

Áll Adani group stocks ended lower, with Adani Green Energy tumbling 7.05 per

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.71 per cent to USD 73.58 a barrel.

surged on Monday, helped by the BJP pulling off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory.

The BSE benchmark jumped 992.74 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 80,109.85 on Monday. The Nifty surged 314.65 points or 1.32 per cent to 24,221.90.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Monday after unabated selling for the past many days. They bought equities worth Rs 9,947.55 crore, according to exchange data.

# Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 84.32 against US dollar

Rupee fell 3 paise to close at 84.32 (provisional) against US dollar on Tuesday, as the greenback strengthened on Donald Trump's tariff plans and a muted trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said US President elect Donald Trump's comments that he would impose additional 10 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods and impose a 25 per cent levy on imports from Mexico and Canada has affected risk sentiment.

Traders are also awaiting the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes of the November 7 meeting for further cues.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.27 and touched an intraday high of 84.22 and low of 84.35 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 84.32 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 3 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee appreciated 12 paise to close at 84.29 against US dollar.

in futures trade. "Traders look forward to the



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

The overall strength of the

American currency and elevated crude oil prices are likely to strain India's trade balance, creating challenges for the rupee, forex traders

said. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 105.79 points, or 0.13 per cent, to close at 80,004.06 points, while Nifty fell 27.40 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 24,194.50 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, purchasing shares worth Rs 9,947.55 crore, according to exchange

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has stayed clean energy agency SECI's decision to bar Anil Ambani group firm Reliance Power Ltd from participating in auctions for three years, the company said on Tuesday.

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) had earlier this month barred Reliance Power and its units from participating in auctions for three years over allegations of sub-mitting a fake bank guarantee to support its bid for a recent battery storage tender.
"High Court of Delhi, in its hearing held today, has grant-

ed stay on notice of debarment and public notice issued by SECI against the company, including all its subsidiaries except Reliance NU BESS Limited (formerly known as Maharashtra Generation Limited)," the firm said in a stock exchange filing. Reliance NU BESS had submitted a bank guarantee purportedly issued by the FirstRand Bank through its



branch supposed to be located in Manila City, Manila, the Philippines. Upon detailed investigation, it

was confirmed by the Indian branch of the above Bank that there does not exist any such branch of the bank in the Philippines, prompting SECI to conclude that the BG submitted was a fake document.

On November 6, SECI announced debarring Reliance Power and Reliance NU BESS from participating in SECI tenders for three years for submitting "fake documents". Reliance Power said it had challenged the notice of debarment by SECI in the Delhi

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $oldsymbol{\Gamma}$ M Nagaraju on Tuesday said public sector banks will unveil new products in the next few months to improve credit

growth.
"We are actually committed to enhancing, and we want to push as much credit as possible because we have a huge number of young people," he said while addressing the Financial Inclusion and Fintech Summit organised by CII here. Public sector banks are going to launch new products in the next 3-4 months to push credit for all sectors, including MSME, he said.

Over the last few years, the government has already taken multiple steps to improve credit availability to small borrowers, including announcing a new credit model in the Budget to lend to borrowers with no

previous financial records.
Though the banking sector is robust, Nagaraju said rising digital frauds are posing a risk to financial sector stability, and banks should focus on



addressing this challenge. Both digital innovations and financial literacy will help mitigate this, he added.

Speaking on the sidelines, Nagaraju also said the Banking Amendment Bill tabled in Parliament during the monsoon session will likely be moved in the ongoing winter session.The amendments are aimed at bringing changes to banking regulations, including redefining substantial interest for directors, increasing the number of nominees for bank deposits and changing compliance reporting dates.

Speaking on Fintech, he said

India is the third largest country in terms of startups, and there are about 13,000 such entities working in the space. The government remains committed to the goal of financial inclusion and it is working closely with the fintech industry to attain greater inclusivity, especially in under-pene-

trated areas. "The government is making a lot of efforts to foster ease of doing business and reduce compliance burden for the Fintech companies," he noted. He underscored the government's continuous endeavour to provide a facilitating ecosystem to the fintech industry, including robust digital infra-Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana, which could bring huge opportunities for the industry.

"A fine balance is required between fostering innovation and protecting the regulatory system's integrity," he cau-

Speaking on the occasion, Nabard Chairman Shaji KV emphasised the need to bring about technological transformation in a more democratic manner, especially in the rural economy.

While bigger banks have benefited from greater digitisation, cooperative banks and regional rural banks may not have reaped the benefits of digitisation to a similar extent, Shaji added.

Given that these banks may not have sufficient funds to invest in new technologies, it is important that all stakeholders make a greater effort to include RRBs and cooperative banks in new digital endeavours, he

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

PTI MUMBAI

round 80 per cent of Gen Az professionals prioritise mentorship and career growth over traditional metrics like salary, reflecting a stronger focus on personal and professional development, a report said on Tuesday.

Gen Zs (people born between the mid-to-late 1990s and early 2010s) adopt a more deliberate approach, seeking clarity and purpose in their careers, unlike those from previous generations for whom financial stability was the primary concern, said a report by jobs and professional networking platform

apna.Co. They aim to build skills that naturally lead to rewards, emphasising a future-oriented, strategic mindset instead of short-term gains, said the report.

The report is based on a survey carried out among 10,000 Gen Z professionals during October and November to explore their professional



preferences and workplace expectations.

Positive work environment emerged as a critical factor for 74 per cent of respondents, indicating the importance of inclusivity, respect and active engagement, it said.

While people of earlier generations often overlooked mentorship and structured learning, Gen Zs demand continuous feedback, collaboration, and recognition. Gen Zs reject working in isolation or receiving occasion-

al acknowledgement. Instead,

they value workplaces that

align personal and profes-

sional growth, it stated.

## TN GOVERNOR ADDRESSES NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM Three R. N. Roye

**BUSINESS BRIEFS** 



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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{atings agency Moody's said}}_{\text{on Tuesday that it has cut}}$ the outlook on the ratings of seven Adani entities to 'negative' from 'stable', citing the US indictment of Chairman Gautam Adani and others on alleged bribery charges, while Fitch Ratings put some bonds of the conglomerate on negative watch.

Moody's affirmed the ratings on all seven entities -- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, two limited restricted groups of Adani Green Energy Ltd, Adani Transmission Step-One Ltd, Transportation Adani Restricted group 1 (AESL RG1), Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd and Adani International Container

Terminal Pvt Ltd. "These rating actions follow

Energy Ltd's (AGEL) chairman Gautam Adani and several senior management team members by the US Attorney's Office in a criminal case and the filing of charges by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in a civil case," Moody's said.

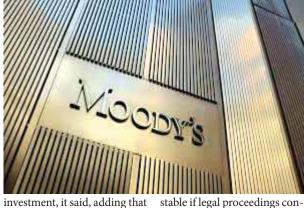
The charges and allegations include bribery of Indian government officials, securities and wire fraud; conspiracy to violate the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and obstruct justice; false statements made in annual reports, and false statements made to the US government in relation to its investigation into the group.

The change in the outlook on the seven Adani entities to negative considers the indictment of Adani and other senior Adani executives on bribery and other charges, which will likely weaken Adani Group's the indictment of Adani Green access to funding and increase

its capital costs," it said. The rating action, Moody's said, recognises the possibility of broader weaknesses in the governance structure across the rated Adani group entities as well as potential operational disruptions, including on their capital spending plans, while legal proceedings are going.
"Although the allegations and

the charges made by US Attorney's Office and SEC pertain to AGEL's chairman and senior management team members, we believe they could have a broader credit impact on all rated Adani Group issuers, given Gautam Adani's prominent role as chairman of each of the rated entities or their parent compa-nies as well as the controlling shareholder," it said.

The project finance entities of the group are not exposed to refinancing risk and do not require any substantial capital



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

stable if legal proceedings conclude clearly with no material negative credit impact.

"A stable outlook will also be predicated on the group maintaining appropriate financial metrics for the respective ratings, demonstrating its retained access to funding to meet growth initiatives and refinancing requirements, and strengthening its governance

practices across the group entities," it added. "We could downgrade the ratings of the group entities if the legal proceedings lead to a material disruption to their operations or access to capital. A downgrade is also likely if the group is unable to address or rectify governance issues associated with the ongoing legal proceedings" Separately, Fitch placed ratings

on Adani Energy and Adani Electricity Mumbai on negative watch list following the bribery charges and indictment of certain board members of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) by the US Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of Justice.

This, it said, "reflects increased corporate governance risk and potential contagion risk that could affect the funding access and liquidity.
"While the US indictment

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

spreads. The rating agency expected the near-term liquidity of AESL

potentially higher credit

and AEML to be sufficient, as there are no significant scheduled debt maturities in the next 12-18 months. They also have some flexibility in capex

"We believe the latest developments could hamper the group's funding access. This can significantly affect the growth plans of AESL, though there is some flexibility in its capex plans. Increased reliance on onshore funding could heighten refinancing risk over the medium term, and a material rise in borrowing costs could reduce operating cash flow generation," it said.

"The impact of a material deterioration in the group's funding access is likely to be limited for AEML, as regulations allow for pass-through of operating and interest costs, limiting the impact on the credit profile even in the event of rising borrowing costs, it said.'

# US goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher retires from international soccer

women's national team goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, known for her unflappable demeanor in the face of pressure, is retiring from international soccer.

Naeher was on the team's roster for a pair of upcoming matches in Europe but those games will be her last after a full 11 years playing for the United States.

Naeher was the starting goalkeeper for the U.S. Team that won the Women's World Cup in 2019 and the gold medal at this year's Olympics in France. She's the only U.S. Goalkeeper to earn a shutout in both a World Cup and an Olympic final.

She made a key one-handed save in stoppage time to

Swanson, who scored the only goal, ran down the length of the field to embrace Naeher at the final whistle. Naeher announced her retirement on social media Monday.

"Every tear shed in the challenging times and disappointments made every smile and celebration in the moments of success that much more joyful. This has been a special team to be a part of and I am beyond proud of what we have achieved both on and off the field," she wrote. "The memories I have made over the years will last me a lifetime."

Naeher has been known throughout her career for her calm and steady leadership. She is one of just three preserve the Americans' 1-0 goalkeepers to make more victory over Brazil in the than 100 appearances for the



Naeher made her debut with the national team in 2014 and was a backup to Hope Solo at the 2015 World Cup, which the United States won.
She became the team's regular starter following the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and was on the squad that repeated as World Cup winners in 2019.

For her career, Naeher has appeared 113 games with 110 starts, 88 wins and 68 shutouts. She had four shutouts over the course of the Olympic tournament in France.

In all, she was on the U.S. Roster for three World Cups and three Olympic teams.

The 36-year-old has also played for the Chicago Red Stars in the National Women's Soccer League since 2016. She plans to play for Chicago next season.

The United States is headed to Europe for a match against England at Wembley Stadium on Saturday and on Dec. 3 against Netherlands in The Hague.

In addition to her save at the Olympics, Naeher has had many other memorable moments. In the 2019 Women's World semifinals against England, she stopped Steph Houghton's penalty kick in the 83rd minute. The Americans won 2-1 before downing the Netherlands 2-0 in the final.

Earlier this year in the semifinals of the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup, Naeher made three saves during a penalty shootout with Canada and also converted a penalty kick herself — tucking the ball neatly into the corner of the



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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Mohammedan SC will be The only consolation they can attain is that Bengaluru's their maiden home win of only loss this season came in Wednesday.

On the other hand, BFC has been on a solid ride this season, winning five games and drawing twice. They have collected 17 points from eight contests and sit second in the standings.

Bengaluru is in a close battle with table leaders and defending champions after their opening nine Mohun Bagan Super Giant, engagements in an ISL who also possesses a similar tally - 17 points from eight

fixtures. While The Blues look like the favourite for this tie, the Black Panthers, coming off a goalless draw to city rival East Bengal FC, would want to ride that momentum and go a step further to Also, Bengaluru has drawn eventually triumph in a and lost twice in its previous

home outing. five outings while facing a No side to date has failed to side for the first time in the grab a win in its five home meetings, a record that

Andrey Chernyshov and co will be desperate to avoid. The only consolation they

to settle into the season.

matches, along with a highest by any side this success and a draw each. The hosts will have to hold their ground early, especially since BFC has also scored on

four occasions in this phase of the ongoing campaign. Meanwhile, success in this tactical fixture will mark only the second time The Blues would bag 20-plus points after their opening nine

season (23 points in 2018-They have performed as a cohesive unit under Gerard Zaragoza this season, netting 13 goals and conceding just

six, thus maintaining a sufficient stronghold over most clashes.

event.

encounter between the two in the tournament, The Blues will be hoping to change that record with a victory here. Ahead of the meeting, MSC the season when they host an away match – versus FC head coach Chernyshov Bengaluru FC in the Indian Goa. heralded BFC and its Super League here on MSC tend to take some time

The 12th-placed MSC, proceedings, having "We will play against one of competing in their debut ISL conceded four goals in the season, has suffered three defeats in their previous five contests this ISL – the strong and have started the season perfectly. Their style of football makes them one of the best teams in the ISL,"

Chernyshov said. Meanwhile, Zaragoza, highlighted his players' hard work on their technical and movements, during especially

international break. "The break was good. We prefer playing matches but breaks help us look at things technically and tactically. The good thing is that we had the whole squad training with us this week," Zaragoza noted.

Bengaluru's Sunil Chhetri holds an impeccable record of netting against each of the 14 sides he has faced in the competition.

Scoring versus the Black Panthers will make him the first player in the ISL's history to do so against 15 With this being the maiden different opponents.

# Tiger Woods to skip his holiday tournament in the Bahamas

**AP** ■ WASHINGTON

iger Woods won't be Tiger Woods won't be playing in the Bahamas next week at the Hero World Challenge as he recovers from a sixth back surgery he

from a sixth back surgery he had in September.
In announcing Monday on social media he won't be playing, Woods said the 20-man field for his holiday tournament will be filled out by Justin Thomas, Nick Dunlap and Jason Day. Scottie Scheffler is defending champion.

Woods was unlikely to play in the Bahamas since disclosing Sept. 13 he had yet another surgery on his lower back — his sixth in 10 years — that he hoped would relieve some of the spasms he had experienced this year.



surgery of the lumbar spine for nerve impingement, and the recovery time typically is eight to 12 weeks. Woods while he was said disappointed not to play, he looked forward to his role as the tournament host. Woods finished 18th in the

20-man field a year ago. He described it as a Thomas is a two-time PGA microdecompression champion whose wife gave

birth to their first child a week ago, a daughter they named Molly Grace. He has played only once since the Tour Championship.

The newcomer to the unofficial event — its gets world ranking points but not official money — is Dunlap, who won a PGA Tour event as an amateur, left Alabama to turn pro and picked up a

second win. Dunlap joins Woods as the only players to win the U.S. Junior Amateur and the U.S. Amateur. Woods, meanwhile, is far more likely to play the PNC Challenge on Dec. 14-15 in Orlando, Florida, a 36-hole event with his son, Charlie. Woods is allowed to ride a Woods is allowed to ride a cart that week because it is sanctioned by the PGA Tour Champions.

A year ago at the Hero World Challenge, Woods spoke about his hopes of playing a big tournament every month. But he withdrew after one round at Riviera and did not play again for nearly two months. He finishes the year completing only 11 rounds. He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut, and then Woods missed the cut in the other three

## Iceland coach Åge Hareide resigns ahead of 2026 World **Cup qualifying**

AP ■ REYKJAVIK (ICELAND)

Veteran coach Åge Hareide has resigned from the Iceland national team ahead of the start of World Cup qualifying, and said he plans to retire.

The Icelandic soccer federation announced the 71-year-old Hareide's decision to leave in a statement late Monday.

"I have enjoyed my time with the Icelandic national team, but I believe that now is the right time to retire," Hareide was quoted as saying in the federation statement.

He added that there are "exciting times ahead" for a team with emerging young leaders.

The next coach's first games

are against Kosovo in March in a promotion-relegation playoff in the Nations League where the winner advances to the second tier in the next edition of the tournament. Iceland will be in the pot of third-seeded teams when FIFA makes the draw for

World Cup qualifying groups for Europe on December 13. Only group winners advance directly to the 2026 tournament being co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Iceland has played at one World Cup, in 2018 in Russia, becoming the smallest nation ever to qualify.

An international defender for Norway, Hareide coached the Norwegian national team for five years through 2008. He later took Denmark to the 2018 World Cup — losing to eventual finalist Croatia in a penalty shootout in the round of 16 — and helped it qualify for the European Championship played in 2021.

Hareide joined Iceland for the Euro 2024 qualifying program and the team was one game from the tournament, losing a playoff final against Ukraine in

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

Newcastle's winning run in the English Premier League came to an abrupt end when goals from Thomas Soucek and Aaron Wan-Bissaka gave West Ham a surprise 2-0 win at St. James' Park.

The Hammers rose into 14th place and the pressure on coach Julen Lopetegui was eased.

The London club has been inconsistent all season and Monday's win was just its fourth in 12 league games. West Ham was worth it in the end but

the three points came courtesy of slack defending by the home side. Emerson whipped in an out-swinging corner after 10 minutes and, with Newcastle defenders rooted to the spot, Soucek stole in to nod home the opener.

Then eight minutes into the second half, captain Jarrod Bowen found Wan-Bissaka in the penalty box and he was left unchallenged and had time to fire an angled drive past Nick Pope.
"The second goal... If you settle on a



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

"I said we needed a performance and we did that," Bowen said. "Newcastle

always score at home so to keep them to a clean sheet and score twice... It's a tough place to come to. We did that perfectly."

The defeat ended a three-game winning streak for Newcastle and left the Saudi Arabia-owned club in ninth place, four points outside the top four.

## **AP** ■ LAS VEGAS

 $F^{
m ormula\ 1}$  at last said it will expand its grid in 2026 to make room for an American team that is partnered with General Motors.

"As the pinnacle of motorsports, F1 demands boundary-pushing innovation and excellence. It's an honor for General Motors and Cadillac to join the world's premier racing series, and we're committed to competing with passion and integrity to elevate the sport for race fans around the world," GM President Mark Reuss said. "This is a global stage for us to demonstrate GM's engineering expertise and technology leadership at an entirely new level." The approval ends years of wrangling that launched a U.S. Justice Department investigation into why Colorado-based Liberty Media, the commercial rights holder of F1, would not approve

Andretti in September stepped aside from leading his namesake organization, so the 11th team will be called Cadillac F1 and be run by new Andretti Global majority owners Dan Towriss and Mark champion, will have an

the team initially started by

Michael Andretti.

Walter. The team will use Ferrari engines its first two years until GM has a Cadillac engine built for competition in time for the 2028

Towriss is the the CEO and president of Group 1001 and entered motorsports via Andretti's IndyCar team when he signed on financial savings Gainbridge as a sponsor. Towriss is now a major part of the motorsports scene with ownership stakes in both Spire Motorsports' NASCAR team and Wayne Taylor Racing's sports car team.

Walter is the chief executive of financial services Guggenheim Partners and the controlling owner of both the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers and Premier League club Chelsea.

"We're excited to partner with General Motors in bringing a dynamic presence to Formula 1," Towriss said. "Together, we're assembling a world-class team that will embody American innovation deliver unforgettable moments to race fans around the

Mario Andretti, the 1978 F1 world



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

ambassador role with Cadillac F1. But his son, Michael, will have no official position with the organisation now that he has scaled back his involvement with Andretti Global.

The Cadillac F1 Team is made up of a strong group of people that have worked tirelessly to build an American works team," Michael

Andretti posted on social media. "I'm very proud of the hard work they have put in and congratulate all involved on this momentous next step. I will be cheering for you!"

The approval has been in works for weeks but was held until after last weekend's Las Vegas Grand Prix to not overshadow the showcase

event of the Liberty Media portfolio. Max Verstappen won his fourth consecutive championship in Saturday night's race, the third and final stop in the United States for the top motorsports series in the world.

Grid expansion in F1 is both infrequent and often unsuccessful. Four teams were granted entries in

never made it to the grid and the other three had vanished by 2017. There is only one American team on the current F1 grid — owned by California businessman Gene Haas — but it is not particularly competitive and does not field American drivers. Andretti's dream was to field a truly American team with American The fight to add this team has been

going on for three-plus years and F1 initially denied the application despite approval from F1 sanctioning body FIA. The existing 10 teams, who have no voice in the metter also leggly voice in the matter, also largely opposed expansion because of the dilution in prize money and the billions of dollars they've already invested in the series.

Andretti in 2020 tried and failed to buy the existing Sauber team. From there, he applied for grid expansion and partnered with GM, the top-selling manufacturer in the United States. The inclusion of GM was championed by the FIA and president Mohammed Ben Sulayem, who said Michael

2010 that should have pushed the grid to 13 teams and 26 cars for the Andretti's application was the only one of seven applicants to meet all first time since 1995. One team required criteria to expand F1's current grid.
"General Motors is a huge global

brand and powerhouse in the OEM world and is working with impressive partners," Ben Sulayem said Monday. "I am fully supportive of the efforts made by the FIA, Formula 1, GM and the team to maintain dialogue and work towards this outcome of an agreement in principle to progress this application."

Despite the FIA's acceptance of

Andretti and General Motors from the start, F1 wasn't interested in Andretti - but did want GM. At one point, F1 asked GM to find another team to partner with besides Andretti. GM refused and F1 said it would revisit the Andretti application if and when Cadillac had an engine ready to compete.

"Formula 1 has maintained a dialogue with General Motors, and its partners at TWG Global, regarding the viability of an entry following the commercial assessment and decision made by Formula 1 in January 2024," Fi said in a statement.

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

**PTI** ■ DUBAI

The all-powerful board of the International Cricket Council will meet virtually on November 29 to finalise the muchdelayed schedule of the Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan in February-March next year.
The cause of the delay has

been India's refusal to play in Pakistan considering the tense relations between the two countries. India has not toured Pakistan since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. The BCCI wants the tournament to be played in a hybrid model with India games scheduled in a third than the scheduled in the scheduled in a third than the scheduled in the sch country, preferably UAE, something that its Pakistani counterpart has not agreed to thus far.

The ICC board will meet on November 29 to discuss the Trophy ICC Champions schedule," spokesperson told PTI on Tuesday.

The crucial virtual meeting takes places two days before BCCI secretary Jay Shah takes over as ICC chairman on December 1.



He and other board members would be keen to resolve the matter before the new regime takes over.

With the deadlock over the schedule and venue yet to be broken, questions have been raised against the current dispensation of the ICC

including chair Greg Barclay and CEO over why it did not resolve the issue earlier and left it for the 11th hour.

With the Indian government firmly sticking to the status quo, Champions Trophy in a hybrid model with India games outside Pakistan is the most likely option. Sources said that PCB will be offered financial incentives, over and above the hosting fees of USD 70 million, to agree to the hybrid model.

matches in Sri Lanka while

four group games were hosted by Pakistan.

The PCB has spent millions of dollars to renovate stadiums in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi for what will be its first ICC event since it co-hosted the 1996 World

Major teams including England and Australia have toured Pakistan recently after vears of isolation following the horrific attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in 2009.

Since the ICC awarded Champions Trophy hosting rights to Pakistan in 2021, PCB has been facing constant pressure from the fans to host all the games in the country.

**PTI** ■ SINGAPORE

Indian Grandmaster D

Gukesh bounced back to

draw a largely uneventful

second game against defending champion Ding Liren of China in the World

It was a good recovery by Gukesh as Liren could do very little with his white

pieces and had to share the

'Draw with black in the

world championship match is

always nice and it's too early,

we still have a long match," the Chennai-based GM said

in the post-game press

"I think after I was surprised

in the opening, I reacted pretty decently, and I didn't give him any chances. It was a solid game with black, which is nice," he added.

If Monday was the day when nothing he did worked according to plan, Tuesday changed everything for Gukesh as he could not have

the basics as the game ended

It was one of the quietest

opening as Liren probably

Getting Venky was one of our main priorities, says Bravo

conference.

23rd turn.

PCB has also threatened that it won't send its national teams to India for future ICC events if the latter doesn't cross the border for

Champions Trophy. Having said that, Pakistan Chess Championship here on Tuesday. Playing with black pieces, Gukesh made a comeback of toured India for the ODI World Cup last year, the sorts, having lost to Liren in the opener of the 14-game team's first visit to the country in seven years. showdown, on Monday.





**PTI** ■ PERTH

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has flown back to India with his family due to "personal emergency" and is unlikely to be present during the the two-day pink ball warm-up game in Canberra starting November

Gambhir, however, is slated to directly link up with the squad in Adelaide before the 'Pink Ball Test' starting December 6.

It is understood that Gambhir has sought permission from BCCI brass with regards to his return.

personal emergency. He will be back in Adelaide before the start of the second Test match," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. The Indian team will leave

for Canberra on Wednesday, November 27 where the entire team is expected to attend an official reception thrown in their honour by the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. The two-day Pink ball match will give the Indian team a chance to get some game

time under its belt. PMXI is a squad full of youngsters but India will get "He left with his family on early Tuesday morning for India. It is an unavoidable some good match practice with pacer Scott Boland expected to play the game.

It may be recalled that the Chinese had won the last world championship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia after coming back from behind as many as three times

Gukesh draws with Liren in second

game of World Championship

The 32-year-old said he was happy with how he performed in the second round.

"In the first game I played something new in the opening and of course it requires a lot of memory. Today I also played not a common move (for me) 1.E4 and I prepared a lot," Liren

"I think it will be a big fight tomorrow. He's a point down and he will have the white pieces, so I am ready for a fight," he added.

Liren's fifth move, when he moved his Queen's knight, was indication enough about his peaceful intentions. There have been many top-level games that have ended in draws through this manoeuvre and this game

was no exception. Gukesh just had to develop his pieces randomly and the game never really got off to a situation where it could be truly called complicated.

asked for a better start.
Liren did not press at all
while Gukesh just followed Both the Bishops and the Queens were off the board early and what remained were a couple of Knights, the Rooks pair and eight pawns each for both players with hardly any real chances for a in a draw via repetition soon after black had completed the variation in the Italian breakthrough.

The draw was a just result but

now look up to his next game with optimism with the slightly favourable colour in

the game. In head-to-head encounters. Liren has a handsome threepoint lead in Classical games and Team Gukesh will now be focused on bringing it down in the USD 2.5 million prize money championship.

The 18-year-old Gukesh is the youngest ever challenger to the world crown and is looking to become the first Indian after the iconic Viswanathan Anand to win the title.

"There is obviously some pressure for anyone playing in a World Championship; there is a lot of pressure. But I also see it as a privilege that I can represent so many people and my country," he said.

"I am just focusing on one game at a time. Hopefully, things go my way," he added. The first player to reach 7.5 points among the two will claim the coveted crown in the USD 2.5 million prize money event.

Anand, who has played a major role in shaping Gukesh's career, held the title five times in his illustrious career before Norwegian superstar Magnus Carlsen dethroned him in 2013. The Moves:

1.E4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.D3 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.A4 d6 7.0-0 h6 8.Be3 Be6 9.A5 Bxc4 10.Dxc4 0-0 11.Bxc5 dxc5 12.B3 Qxd1 13.Rfxd1 Rad8 14.Rdc1 Nd4 15.Ne1 Rd6 16.Kf1 g6 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.F3 did not want to rush things there was no denying that it Kg7 19.Kf2 h5 20.Ne2 Nc6 having grabbed a full point was a morale-boosting advantage in the first game moment for Gukesh who can 23.Nc3 Nd4 game drawn.

# My backstory always gives me confidence

# to tackle any situation: Yashasvi Jaiswal

**PTI** ■ PERTH

Brought up in penury, the sensational Yashasvi Jaiswal says he now uses the experience gained from those difficult days as ammunition to conquer the battles on and off the field. Jaiswal stamped his class that can give me a lot of with a masterful hundred in the first Test against myself, how I can believe in Australia, and is poised to take over the mantle of being India's batting mainstay from the great Virat Kohli, who also made a century after a

long time. Having moved to Mumbai from Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi at age 11 to train at Azad Maidan, Jaiswal lived in tents with groundsmen and sold paani puri at night to earn money

for food. "It's something backstory) that always gives me confidence that I can come out of any situation. I always fight, I always look to fight, I want to be in the November 22. battle, I want to enjoy the Asked about his unusual

battle." Iaiswal said during a with Australian chat television broadcaster Mark Howard.

added, "So this is what it and gives me and I am really blessed that I have this life, confidence, learnings about me, and how I can go through with different emotions, different situation in my life.

"So I think it's just incredible and I really want to thank god for where I am and what I am doing, and I am doing what I love, so I am just happy at the moment. I want to enjoy this with every ball." His journey to fame is a fascinating tale of a strongwilled man making his own destiny. His swashbuckling hundred more than made for the first-innings duck at Perth, where the five-match Test series began from

battle and I want to win the celebration after getting to Jaiswal said, "Yes, it was (an unusual) way to bring up the hundred. In my mind, I was The 22-year-old opener like, I will do this or that, and then suddenly, something happened, and I was like, oh my god, what

should I do.

"So, I was like, okay, I will just celebrate, and I will enjoy this moment. I was blessed, I was grateful, I enjoyed it, this feeling will stay with me for a long time. "I give kisses to all my loved ones, all my fans who have supported me. I just wanted to give them my love with the kisses.

He spoke to his family after the fine achievement. "I just called my family on whatsapp, getting everyone along and celebrate with them. My brother always talks to me about cricket." India won the first Test by a huge margin of 297 runs and the second match will be

played in Adelaide from

**PTI** ■ JEDDAH

 $F^{\rm ormer\ West\ Indies\ all-}_{\rm rounder\ Dwayne\ Bravo,}$ who is now the mentor of reigning champions Kolkata Knight Riders, has defended the team's strategy of "going all out" for Venkatesh Iyer to keep the "core" of the IPL championship-winning side intact.

Seen as a potential captaincy candidate for KKR, Venkatesh's acquisition has sparked some criticism over why he wasn't retained if leadership was part of the team thinktank's plan for him.

"Getting Venky (Venkatesh Iyer) was one of the main priorities for us, as you could see, we went all out for him," said Bravo, a four-time IPL winner at Chennai Super "It's good that we have 90 per

cent of the players from the championship-winning team. That in itself is a positive

sign.
"It's important to keep your core because when you have to build from scratch, it becomes complicated to make combinations and all." "We started planning while I was in Trinidad. We had come with a proper plan, the players we wanted to target," added Bravo, who will be in charge of all the franchises of the Knight Riders label in T20 leagues.

At a staggering Rs 23.75 crore, the 29-year old Madhya Pradesh all-rounder, who has represented India in nine T20Is and two ODIs, emerged as the third most expensive player at the twoday IPL mega auction that concluded here on Monday. Only Rishabh Pant (Lucknow, Rs 27 crore) and Shreyas Iyer



(Puniab, Rs 26.75 crore) were ahead of Venkatesh on the list of most expensive players as he even eclipsed experienced Indian batter KL Rahul, a former Lucknow Super Giants captain, who was picked up by Delhi Capitals for Rs 14 crore. Bravo was also excited that KKR roped in fiery pacer

Umran Malik.

"The pace at which he operates, I always admire him - his work ethic, energy and all. Happy that we're able to nail him down."

KKR CEO and MD Venky Mysore added: "The way the retention rules are set up, the RTM rules, the salary caps, marquee players, and the two-day auction – this was definitely more demanding,

for sure. Quite nerve-wracking because of the nuances. The think tank's unanimous

view was to maintain the structure, which we have done. In certain areas, we have also improved and upgraded. Hopefully, it will continue to work well."

Mysore also highlighted the value Rovman Powell would bring to the Kolkata Knight Riders setup, emphasising his extensive experience and leadership qualities.
"Rovman Powell, over the

years, we have seen what he has done in the CPL, other leagues, and, of course, the IPL as well. He's highly experienced, leads West Indies – that leadership experience, captaincy, and what he has achieved - all of it put together makes him really, really special. Great to have him in the side."

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

PTI PERTH

Australia will not make any change to the squad that took a 295-run hammering from India in the opening Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test here but there are some fitness concerns over all-rounder Mitchell Marsh's ability to Marsh, who bowled just 17 bowl, coach and selector overs in the first Test for a Andrew McDonald has said. Following the crushing loss, McDonald revealed that the team would land in Adelaide for the day-night second Test beginning December 6 earlier already revealed that Marsh than planned to allow an additional net session.

"The people in that changeroom (for Perth Test) are the satisfaction with Marsh's However, McDonald said he

"It (making changes) is always a consideration, wherever you go in the world in terms of the personnel you pick for conditions.

match haul of three wickets, has been dealing with "niggles" since the white-ball tour of England in September. Skipper Pat Cummins has finished the first Test "a little bit sore."

expressed McDonald

same people that will be in Adelaide," McDonald was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au. bowling performance in the first innings but said his fitness would be monitored closely moving forward. "Has he (Marsh) pulled up okay? We'll wait and see,"

> "No, we didn't feel that (was a weakness). We knew that Mitch (Marsh) was slightly underdone coming in, but I thought the performance in the first innings was

McDonald said.

satisfactory."

Another player under scanner is top-order batter Marnus Labuschagne, who has struggled for form with an average of just 13.66 in his last 10 Test innings.



abilities, describing him as "the player we need" and urging him to rediscover his

has faith in Labuschagne's "That's an ongoing discussion abilities, describing him as and that ebbs and flows in players' careers, so at the

moment he's in one of those

getting critiqued externally," McDonald said. "But internally we're really confident that, at his best, he's

the player that we need."

When asked if Labuschagne's struggles were due to a technical issue, McDonald responded: "It's always a combination of factors, isn't it,

with the mindset? "There's some technical aspects to that also within the mindset play. So as I said, we're really confident that he can turn that around."

The decision to ask debutant Nathan McSweeney to open the innings backfired as he scored just 10 and 0 in his two patches and no doubt he'll be innings. McSweeney had

enjoyed success in first-class cricket, as had Beau Webster, but neither of them has the experience of being an opener.

"I think there's been enough players banging down the door. I feel as though we've got some depth there if called upon," he said.

"I think sometimes people look at the pure numbers of what's happening in Shield cricket, but it's sometimes hard to get a connection with the surfaces they're playing on. So we feel as though we've got ample players available if called upon."

Despite the heavy defeat, McDonald said morale of the

team was strong. "I think we've got to own it, and we've got to own that as

coaches as well. So there will be a semblance of review around what we have done and what we can learn from it," McDonald said. "But I think morale is pretty

good. I think this team is really good at the highs and lows, it's quite a level team, so we'll be somewhere in the middle of that."

The coach also stated that while a review of the performance would take place, the team's preparation had been sound, and they were focused on the challenges ahead.

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