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Constitution is a guiding light: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ NEW DELHI/ KOLKATA

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



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

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

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



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

Maharashtra still awaits its next CM

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

SC asks for creative ways to deal with unruly air passengers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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



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

Two low-intensity explosions outside Badshah's lounge

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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

Doctors on duty still vulnerable to attacks

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

Mewar dynasty descendants spar in bizarre battle royale

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/ JAIPUR

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



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

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

LEST WE FORGET



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

Hemant Soren 2.0: Adityapur industries call for policy overhaul and aid



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Hit by economic slowdown and poor infrastructure, industrialists from Jharkhand's key industrial districts—East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, and Seraikela-Kharsawan—are looking to the newly formed state government for revival and support.

The industrial zones of Adityapur, Gamharra, Kandra, and Chandil have been grappling with inadequate infrastructure, including poorly maintained roads, lack of bridges, erratic water supply, and unreliable power. Entrepreneurs in these regions hope the new administration

will address these issues and work toward improving the state's industrial ecosystem.

The slowdown in production at Tata Motors and the closure of major industries like Tayo Rolls have significantly impacted the industrial belt. Ancillary units and vendors in the Adityapur Industrial Area are facing one of their toughest periods as Tata Motors continues to cut production to cope with the downturn.

"The government must immediately implement a robust rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) policy to facilitate smoother land acquisition for industries," said N K Singhal, a city-based entrepreneur. He added that mining licenses

for essential raw materials such as iron ore and coal must be expedited to support steelmaking and allied industries.

Financial stress is a critical concern for ancillary units. Around 300 ancillary businesses have secured loans from public and private banks over the last five years, but more than 100 of these units have been declared non-performing assets (NPAs), according to industry insiders.

"We urge the government to work with banks to provide a six-to-eight-month moratorium on loan repayments and prevent further units from being classified as NPAs," said a functionary of the Adityapur Small Industries

Association (ASIA) and an ancillary owner. Officials and industrialists alike are optimistic that initiatives such as the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the Adityapur Auto Cluster Limited can accelerate development under a stable and development-focused government. "A government with a clear vision for industrial growth is the need of the hour," said an official from the Jharkhand Industrial Area Development Authority (JIADA). It has been coordinating with ancillary units to secure some relief from banks but acknowledges its limited capacity to address the broader crisis.

The sprawling Adityapur

Industrial Area, located in Seraikela-Kharsawan, is home to 900 units, including 11 large-scale, 64 small-scale, and 166 micro-industries. Prominent companies such as Usha Martin Group, RSB Group, and Tata Steel Growth Shop (TGS) have operations in this belt. Notably, 20 industries from this region export products to markets in the USA, Australia, and Europe.

However, the financial struggles of several units have forced entrepreneurs to mortgage personal assets, including homes and valuables, to keep their businesses afloat. Despite these efforts, the fear of bank auctions looms large over many.

Recognizing the severity of the situation, officials from ASIA have announced plans to meet the Chief Minister to discuss the pressing challenges faced by the industrial sector. They intend to present a comprehensive update on the issues and propose solutions to revive the region's industrial ecosystem. "The state government's active intervention is critical for the revival of the industrial belt, which serves as a backbone for Jharkhand's economy. Entrepreneurs and industry leaders remain hopeful that the new administration will prioritize their concerns and drive meaningful change for the betterment of the sector," said an industrialist.

Discussion on the challenges in the Jharia coalfield at BIT Sindri

PNS : DHANBAD

The two-day international conference organized by the Department of Civil Engineering at B.I.T. Sindri concluded on Tuesday with presentation of around 50 research papers during various technical sessions.

Environmental degradation faced in Jharia coalfields too was part of discussions during one of the sessions. Experts from different fields, both domestic and international, presented addressed participants during the event.

In opening session, Chief Guest Dr. B. Bhattacharya, Professor at IIT Delhi, extensively discussed the topic "Sustainable Development, Carbon Emissions, and Challenges in Civil Engineering." He deeply explored the development of environmental laws and provided detailed insights on topics such as biological capacity and the ecological footprint. During his address, he explained the effects of Earth's energy cycle and carbon cycle, emphasizing their impact on the environment and human life.

Concluding his talk, Dr. Bhattacharya stressed the importance of environmental conservation, urging collective efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate their adverse effects. He



conveyed the message that addressing these challenges promptly can lead to a balanced and prosperous future.

The second expert of the lecture series was Prof. (Dr.) S.K. Das, a distinguished professor at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. He delivered an important lecture based on his experience and research, focusing on recycling construction materials and waste emissions. Highlighting the utility of waste, he elaborated on its various chemical compositions and the potential for creating new useful materials through recycling. Using the example of fly ash, he demonstrated its application in eco-friendly bricks and concrete construction.

At the end of this session, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Shukla, the

conference secretary and founder and chief editor of the International Journal of Geosynthetics and Ground Engineering, delved into the use of recyclable materials and environmental conservation perspectives. He discussed ways to reintegrate waste into nature without harming the environment, emphasizing the benefits of shallow foundations considering soil properties, costs, and suitable materials.

In another session, Dr. Pijush Samui, Professor at NIT Patna, extensively discussed the topic "Use of Data-Driven Models in Civil Engineering." He elaborated on the utility of data-driven models in enhancing decision-making accuracy and effectiveness in con-

struction, structural safety, transportation, water resources, and other civil engineering fields.

Dr. Sunil Kumar Gupta, Professor and expert in Environmental Science and Engineering at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, was the second expert in this session. He presented a lecture on sustainable solutions for water management. Discussing the growing threats of climate change and water scarcity, he highlighted effective and sustainable water management strategies and elaborated on the groundwater depletion and pollution challenges in the Jharia coalfield area, identifying it as a pressing issue. He suggested solutions such as rainwater harvesting,

soil and water conservation, and afforestation near mining areas.

Continuing the session, Dr. Fernanda B. Ferreira from Portugal's University of Aveiro discussed "Multistage Pullout Test of Uniaxial Geogrid in Granite Residues Soil" via an online medium. Dr. Ferreira is a recipient of the ISSMGE Bright Spark Lecture Award and the Young IGS Award.

After the conclusion of the lecture series, Conference Secretary Dr. Brahmdev Yadav delivered the vote of thanks.

In the evening, a cultural program organized by students delighted all attendees. The performances were highly praised by the guests, who commended the students not only for their academic achievements but also for their outstanding cultural presentations.

The event witnessed full participation from undergraduate and postgraduate students of the institute. The success of the program was significantly attributed to the contributions of Prof. Prafulla Kumar Sharma, Dr. Maya Rajnarayan Ray, Dr. Nishikant Kisku, Dr. Brahmdev Yadav, Dr. Komal Kumari, Dr. Abhijeet Anand, Prof. Iqbal Sheikh, Prof. Saroj Meena, Prof. Prashant Ranjan Malviya besides others.

Lohardaga DC reviews scheme progress



PNS : LOHARDAGA

Various schemes were reviewed on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna. In the meeting, schemes related to bypass road and other land acquisition, construction of Didi Cafe in Kudu and Sadar blocks, a sewing center under Kisco block, digital library located at BS College, updated status of new collectorate building,

residential school scheme under construction in Kisco, Peshawar block were discussed in the meeting. Conducting virtual classes in Homi Jahangir Bhabha Coaching Institute, Millet Processing Unit, Dairy Plant under construction in Kudu, Oil Processing Unit under construction in Kudu, operated in Kisco block. A detailed review was conducted at the Brick Plant, Carpet Plant operated in Peshawar, the updated sta-

tus of payment under the Chief Minister Mainiyana Samman Yojana, the status of man-days generation under the MNREGA scheme and the status of ongoing schemes. Deputy Development Commissioner Dilip Pratap Singh Shekhawat, ITDA Project Director Sushma Neelam Soreng, Land Acquisition Officer, all Block Development Officers and others were present in the meeting.

GARHWA DC OFFICE RECITE PREAMBLE OF CONSTITUTION

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

An important event took place today at the conference hall of the Garhwa District Collectorate to mark Constitution Day, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Shekhar Jamar. During the programme, all senior officials, heads of departments, and staff members recited the Preamble of the Constitution and pledged to faithfully uphold its rights and duties. All attendees reiterated their commitment to transforming India into a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic, ensuring justice and providing social, economic, and political rights for all citizens, alongside the freedoms of thought, expression, belief, religion, and worship. They also vowed to foster brotherhood in order to promote



human dignity and national unity. This gathering on 26 November 1949 took an oath to adopt, enact, and devote itself to this Constitution.

The Deputy Commissioner remarked that Constitution Day is celebrated every year on 26 November, the date the draft of the Indian Constitution was adopted. Although the Constitution came into force on 26 January 1950, it was initially adopted on 26 November 1949. The government officially recognised 26 November as Constitution

Day through a gazette notification on 19 November 2015. The Deputy Commissioner extended his greetings for Constitution Day and encouraged officials and staff to adhere to the rights and duties outlined in the Constitution. The ceremony was also attended by Additional Collector Raj Maheshwaram, District Land Acquisition Officer Sanjay Prasad, District Panchayati Raj Officer Pramesh Kushwaha, as well as other district-level officials and office staff.

DTO Bokaro urges schools to update fitness and documentation of Buses

PNS : BOKARO

BOKARO: District Transport Officer (DTO) Vandana Shejwalkar stressed the importance of adhering to a directive from the Transport Department, Jharkhand Ranchi, mandating the prompt updating of fitness certificates and other documents for school buses.



In this regard, all principals of private schools have been instructed to ensure that the vehicles operating under their institutions comply with the necessary documentation requirements. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will lead to inspections, and any discrepancies found will result in action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, including penalties.

The initiative aims to enhance the safety and compliance of school transportation systems across the district. Authorities believe this measure will reduce road safety risks, ensuring that vehicles meet operational standards, and safeguard the well-being of schoolchildren. Regular audits will be conducted to verify compliance, reinforcing accountability and the importance of maintaining stringent standards for school Children's safety.

Bokaro archers ready for state trials

PNS : BOKARO

Bokaro, November 26, 2024: The Bokaro District Archery Association has finalized its top eight archers to represent the district at the NTPC Senior National Archery Championship State Trials in Ranchi on December 1-2, 2024. In a testament to its excellence, seven of these athletes hail from the Vedanta ESL Archery Academy, showcasing its pivotal role in developing elite talent.



The Senior District Trials, hosted at Vedanta ESL Archery Academy within the Sijalori plant of ESL Steel Limited, witnessed fierce competition with over 25 participants from academies like SAIL-Bokaro Archery Academy, Chandankiyari Day Boarding Centre, and Anjela Archery Academy. Following a rigorous selection process, four boys and four girls were chosen, including Rahul

Mahato, Kuldeep Mahato, Chitranjan Tudu (Vedanta ESL), Amit Singh (Anjela Archery Academy), Kritika Kumari, Priya Kumari, Ganga Kumari, and Bani Munda (Vedanta ESL).

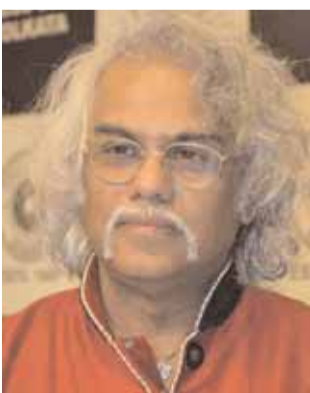
Established in 2020, Vedanta ESL Archery Academy has produced remarkable results, earning 185 medals across national, state, and district competitions. ESL Steel Limited's Head of CSR, Mr. Kunal

Daripa, reaffirmed the company's commitment to expanding the academy's resources and opportunities, ensuring greater success for Bokaro's rural talent on national platforms.

As Vedanta ESL Steel Limited continues to lead in both industrial and community development, its contribution to sports excellence underscores the company's vision of holistic growth for Bokaro and beyond.

Santoor maestro Pt. Tarun to perform

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR



Renowned Santoor maestro Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya will enchant school students with his performances under the aegis of SPIC MACAY Jamshedpur, an organization dedicated to promoting classical music, dance, and art among the younger generation. The performances are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

Bharati Banerjee, coordinator of SPIC MACAY's Jamshedpur chapter, shared that Pandit Bhattacharya will be accompanied on the tabla by Jyotirmay Roy Choudhury. The schedule includes a performance at Jamshedpur Public School on Wednesday, November 27, at 11:30 AM, followed by an evening session at KPS Kadma at 6:00 PM.

On Thursday, November 28, the maestro will perform at DAV Bistupur at 8:30 AM and Narberham Hansraj School, Bistupur, at 11:00 AM.

Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya, a recipient of numerous national and international awards, including honors from the Sangeet Natak Akademi, has trained under the legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar and collaborated with various eminent classical musicians.

Banerjee expressed gratitude to the principals and management of the participating schools for their support in fostering an appreciation for classical music, dance, and art among students.

Donation Camp Held at University Law College (VBU) on Constitution Day

AVINASH ANJAN : HAZARIBAG

To commemorate the 75th Constitution Day, University Law College, Vinoba Bhave University, organized a Blood Donation Camp in collaboration with HDFC Bank as a proud sponsor partner. The event was a resounding success, reflecting the spirit of social responsibility and constitutional values. The camp began with a warm welcome by Dr. Rashmi Pradhan, Principal-in-Charge of University Law College, who highlighted the significance of Constitution Day as a reminder of our fundamental duties and the spirit of fraternity. The Constitution Day emphasises Hamara sanvidhan hamare Samman. It also reinforces democratic ideals, encouraging active civic participation and responsibility. She pointed out that the day reflects the vision of a progressive, inclusive India, safeguarding the rights of its citizens while emphasizing their duties. Promotes awareness of constitutional values, rights, and duties. She emphasized that blood donation is a living example of the constitutional ideal of service to humanity and urged everyone to continue contributing to society in meaningful ways. The Chief Guest, Gaurav Khurana, Secretary of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), lauded the efforts of the college in organizing the event. He



spoke about the role of the Constitution in fostering equality and justice, emphasizing how blood donation transcends barriers of caste, religion, and socioeconomic status, embodying the principles enshrined in the Preamble. Dr. Khemlal Mehta, NSS Program Officer of UCET, inspired the audience with his words on youth engagement. He stressed the importance of student participation in community welfare and how initiatives like blood donation camps empower them to make a tangible difference in society. Nirmla Jain, renowned social activist from Hazaribag, as the Special Guest, commended the college for its unwavering commitment to social causes and shared his insights on the importance of health and social responsibility, calling for more collaborative efforts in addressing societal Prominent blood

donors are Santosh Kumar Nitesh Sharma Shubham Kumar Asif Nawaz Manish Chandra Khushi Kumari Deepak Kumar Subhash karmali Prabhakar chitranjan ki photo Rahul Raj Kshitij Kashyap Anish Ranjan chitranjan kis Kota Gopal Modi Shoaib Akhtar Rani Kumari Love Kush Pande Srishthi shrishtant Kesari Avinash Rana Abhishek Anand and many more. The event saw active participation from the college's faculty and students, making it a day of unity and service. Among the notable faculty members present were Dr. Urmila Kumari, Dr. Lakshmi Singh, Dr. Imran Ahmed, and Account Department officials Mr. Ravindra Kumar, Mr. Roshan Kumar, Mr. Ranjit Kumar, Mr. Mukesh, Mr. Amun, Nimman. The students of the college, UCET, department of economics, department of botany department of English showed exemplary enthusiasm in supporting this noble cause. Notable contributions were made by students Shubham, Lav Kush, Saurabh, Prabhakar, Santosh Kumar Nitesh Sharma Asif Nawaz Bhushan Sharma Mohammed sharik Manish Chandra divyanshu Raj Abhijeet Kumar Kunal Kant Ashutosh Sharma Ashutosh Singh Mohammed Kaif Yash Raj Pravin Kumar Reema top Komal Kaya Shruti hemram Anish dhairya Rahul Raj Kshitij Kashyap Shoaib Akhtar.

SAIL Cricket Championship 2024-25 Kicks Off in Bokaro

PNS : BOKARO

Bokaro, November 26, 2024: Bokaro Steel Plant inaugurated the "SAIL Cricket Championship 2024-25," aligning with SAIL's commitment to promoting sports across its units. The tournament, running from November 26 to 30, 2024, is being held at Sector 4 Cricket Stadium and Trainees' Hostel Ground No. 1, with eight teams from various SAIL units competing.



The championship was inaugurated by new Executive Director (HR), Rajashree Banerjee, in the presence of dignitaries, including Chief General Manager (Town Administration) Kundan Kumar, General Manager (Public Health) A.K. Avinash, General Manager (Liaison & Administration) C.R.K. Sudhanshu, and Assistant General Manager (S&CA) Subhash Rajak. Representing SAIL Corporate Office, DGM (Sports) Saurabh Shukla served as the event organizer.

The league matches on the opening day brought excitement to the championship. Rourkela Steel Plant secured an impressive 70-run victory against VISL Bhadravati, while ISP Burnpur triumphed over Durgapur Steel Plant with a 5-wicket win. The tournament's final match is scheduled for November 30, 2024. The championship aims to foster sportsmanship, teamwork, and collaboration among SAIL employees. With players and spectators alike showing great enthusiasm, the event promises thrilling matches in the coming days.

Soren meets PM Modi, invites him for swearing-in ceremony

Soren also met Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka, and party President Kharge, inviting them to the ceremony

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday and extended a formal invitation for the swearing-in ceremony of his government, which is scheduled to take place in Ranchi on November 28.

Hemant Soren was accompanied by his wife Kalpana Soren, the newly elected MLA from Gandel constituency. Prime Minister Modi congratulated Hemant and Kalpana Soren on their electoral success and shared pictures of the meeting on X.

Earlier, Hemant Soren also met Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka



Gandhi Vadra, and party President Mallikarjun Kharge, inviting them to the ceremony. A JMM spokesperson said that invitations have been sent to various prominent political figures, including RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, Bihar's

Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The swearing-in ceremony is set to take place at Morabadi Ground, Ranchi, on November 28 at 4 p.m. Along with the Chief Minister, several other ministers are expected to take the oath. Hemant Soren was unanimously elected as the leader of the INDIA bloc in the state on Sunday. The Hemant Soren Cabinet is likely to have representation from all regions and different communities.

A JMM sources said Kalpana, who swept to power from the Gandel constituency with a margin of more than 17,000 votes, "cannot be



ruled" as a minister in the state's 12-member cabinet. She is among 12 women MLAs to have been elected in the Assembly polls this time - three from the JMM, five from Congress and four from BJP.

On Thursday, half of the

12-member Cabinet - in which one seat is likely to remain vacant like last time - will be sworn in from among JMM, Congress and RJD legislators; the rest will follow. Each of the five administrative regions of the state will be represented," the source said, adding that the cabinet was not likely to accommodate a Deputy Chief Minister and "most of the portfolios would remain the same as in the previous government."

According to JMM sources, the post of Speaker of the Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha was likely to "remain with the JMM" and a five-day session was likely to be scheduled starting Monday. The results of the 81-member Jharkhand



Assembly elections, announced on November 23, gave the Hemant Soren-led JMM-Congress-RJD alliance a resounding victory with 56 seats. The JMM won 34, the Congress 16, the RJD 4, and the CPI-ML 2 seats. This marks the first time a gov-

ernment in Jharkhand has secured a two-thirds majority.

Hemant Soren will make history as the first leader to be sworn in as Jharkhand's Chief Minister four times. He first took oath on July 13, 2013, leading a Congress-RJD-supported government until December 2014.

He returned as CM on December 29, 2019, but had to resign after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on January 31, 2024. After his release on bail, he was sworn in for the third time on July 4, 2024.

Earlier, his father Shibu Soren, and BJP's Arjun Munda have each served three terms as Jharkhand Chief Minister.

Jharkhand players shine in IPL 2025 auction

PNS : RANCHI

Preparations for the 18th edition of the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL 2025) have begun in full swing. In the recently concluded mega auction of IPL 2025 organised in Jeddah city, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and November 25, bids were also placed on players hailing from Jharkhand. Cricketers Ishan Kishan, Kumar Kushagra, Anukul Roy and Robin Minj will be showcasing their talent on the pitch in the upcoming season.

As many as eight players were selected from Jharkhand for the mega auction of IPL including Ishan Kishan, Virat Singh, wicketkeeper batsman Kumar Kushagra, Robin Minj, all-rounder Anukul Roy, Utkarsh Singh, fast bowler Sushant Mishra and leg spinner Ravi Yadav. But the franchise has bid on only four out of eight players.

A total of which 574 players participated in the auction of which 366

were Indian and the remaining 208 were foreign players.

Ishan Kishan, a popular face in the Jharkhand Ranji team, was seen playing for the Mumbai Indians in IPL 2024. Kishan, a resident of Nawada, with a base price of Rs 2 crore, has been bought by team owner Kavya Maran's for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) for a whopping price of Rs 11.25 crore.

Wicketkeeper cum batsman Robin Minj, who hails from the 'City of Waterfalls' Ranchi, will be seen playing for Mumbai Indians in this edition. Robin's base price was Rs 30 lakh, but was eventually bought for Rs 65 lakh by team owner Akash Ambani for the MI squad. For IPL 2023, Minj was bought by Gujarat Titans for 3.6 crores, but a few days before the IPL matches began, he met with an accident while riding a bike in Ranchi due to which he could not play in the IPL.

Jamshedpur boy Kumar Kushagra has been bought by



Gujarat Titans this time for Rs 65 lakh as against his base price of Rs 30 lakh. In 2023, Kushagra was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 7.2 crore.

Anukul Roy, originally from Bihar, plays for the Jharkhand Ranji team and this IPL he will be seen playing for Kolkata Knight Riders. KKR has



bought Roy by bidding 40 lakhs. Previously, Anukul Roy was first bought by Mumbai Indians in 2017 for Rs 20 lakhs.

The tournament which is scheduled to take place from March 14, 2025 to May 25, 2025 will feature a total of ten teams competing in 74 matches.

Sudesh himself is now unemployed: Bhattacharya

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Tuesday has taken a dig at AJSU and said that the AJSU Supremo Sudesh Mahto himself is now unemployed.

Addressing a press meet at the party headquarter JMM General Secretary, Supriyo Bhattacharya said that Kela is now left alone. "Sudesh Mahto was talking about forming an employment-giving Government in Jharkhand. Now the MLA of Mandu has offered him employment, which is welcome," he added.

Bhattacharya has advocated bringing Giridih MP Chandraprakash Choudhary to the front. He also said that Sudesh Mahto did not give importance to Chandraprakash. "He was constantly marginalized. Chandraprakash should be made a minister in the Modi government. He should come forward and take charge of AJSU," he added.

Just one day earlier the JMM General Secretary said that the session of Parliament starts from today. It is feared that BJP will discuss how to abolish the reserved seats. He also told the opposition that we hope that the opposition plays a positive role in taking our proposals pending with the Governor to the Centre. He said that JKLM, in which the public has expressed faith, will move in a positive direction with the government, this is also the hope. "They neither like Dalits, nor tribals, nor minorities, nor do they like the youth. He said that they do not like farmers and women either. He said



that the Parliament session has also started from today. "In this too, there can be a discussion on the reserved seats of Jharkhand. The concerned officials will have to decide that if the number of reserved seats is reduced in the name of delimitation, it will not be right," he added.

The Party Spokesperson further said that on November 28, a new Government will be formed in Jharkhand under the leadership of Hemant Soren and this Government will start fulfilling the promises made and it will start fulfilling the aspirations of the people. He said that the opposition that is BJP Leaders are unable to digest the mandate received from the people and the victory of the All India Alliance. He said that the top leadership of BJP, which had imposed its leadership on the tribals and natives here, is also unable to digest this mandate.

Bhattacharya said that the hateful language coming out of the mouth of BJP Leaders even after the results is worrying. He said, while we have been talking about elections in a peaceful

environment and elections on issues from the beginning and now there will also be a meeting of BJP. The leader of the legislative party will also be elected in it, he added.

JMM General Secretary said that the areas where poison was spread, the areas where poison was spread, they have been wiped out from these areas as well. He said that out of the 18 seats in the entire Santhal, they have got only one seat. He said that his MLA from Rajmahal also used to raise the infiltration issue in the House even when his Government was in power but his Government believed that there was no infiltration here. But this time due to his stubbornness, the Central Leadership of BJP also started talking about alleged infiltration, he added.

Bhattacharya further addressed the newly elected Mandu MLA of AJSU and said that your leaders were going to form a Government of employment, but they themselves became unemployed but you took steps forward to give them employment, this should be welcomed.

Constitution is the backbone of Indian democracy: Dr. Ajoy Kumar



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

On the occasion of Constitution Day, Congress leader Dr. Ajoy Kumar extended his greetings to the people, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the dignity of the Constitution, which he called the backbone of Indian democracy. Constitution Day commemorates November 26, 1949, when the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution after extensive discussions and amendments. The

Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950, which is celebrated annually as Republic Day. Dr. Ajoy Kumar highlighted the pivotal role of the Constitution in shaping India's democratic ethos and urged all Indians to uphold its sanctity. He also criticized attempts to undermine the core values of the Constitution, such as socialism and secularism, as outlined in its Preamble. Referring to a recent petition in the Supreme Court seeking the removal of these terms from the Preamble, Dr.

Kumar condemned it as a reflection of BJP's "divisive mindset." He lauded the Supreme Court's decision to dismiss the petition, describing it as a victory for constitutional integrity.

Dr. Kumar expressed concern over what he described as blatant violations of constitutional principles by individuals holding key positions of power. "Those entrusted with upholding the Constitution are themselves tearing it apart," he remarked, accusing the ruling establishment of eroding democratic norms and institutions.

In his press statement, Dr. Kumar criticized the BJP for spreading hatred and divisive politics to consolidate power. He cited examples such as the Prime Minister's inflammatory slogans like "Bateenge to Katenge" (divide and cut) at election rallies, questioning how such rhetoric aligns with the values enshrined in the Constitution. He warned that such divisive tactics weaken the foundation of Indian democracy and called for collective efforts to protect constitutional values.

Demand to induct Vikas Munda in Soren cabinet

PNS : RANCHI

The demand to include Vikas Kumar Munda, who has been elected MLA from Tamar assembly constituency for 3 consecutive times, in the cabinet is being raised loudly by the people of the area as well as the Mukhiya Sangh of Tamar Bundo and Adki.

The public says that due to his leadership ability, development work and his commitment towards the overall upliftment of the area, he should be given a place in the cabinet.

Vikas Kumar Munda has taken the Tamar assembly constituency to new heights in the last ten years. His efforts have led to a significant improvement in road, electricity, water, education, and health facilities in the area. It is because of his efficient leadership that the tribal society and other communities of the area have expressed their full confidence and support towards him.

The tribal society and other communities of Tamar assembly have appealed in one voice that by making Munda a minister, his efforts should be made more effective at the state level. Many prominent social workers, intellectuals and regional leaders have come out in support of this demand. Regarding this demand, regional public representatives and social organizations have appealed to the state government to include Munda in the cabinet, so that the development model of an area like Tamar can become an example in the entire state.

Vikas Kumar Munda said that it is the trust and love of the people, which inspires me to serve my area. I have always given priority to development and prosperity. If the government and the people entrust me with a new responsibility, then I will fulfill it with full honesty and integrity.

DPS Bokaro Observes 75th Indian Constitution Day

PNS : BOKARO

BOKARO : Delhi Public School (DPS) Bokaro celebrated the 75th Indian Constitution Day with a special program to educate students on the importance of the Indian Constitution. The event focused on raising awareness about constitutional rights, responsibilities, and the significance of upholding its principles.

The school community pledged to protect and honor the Constitution while embracing its values. Students showcased creativity through illustrations of the Preamble, posters, and portraits of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Constitution's architect.

Principal Dr. A.S. Gangwar highlighted the importance of respecting the Constitution for the nation's progress and harmony, urging students to preserve India's democratic ethos.



Constitution makes citizens realize the feeling of citizenship



PNS : LOHARDAGA

The Preamble of the Constitution was read under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge Co-Chairman District Legal Services Authority Lohardaga Rajkamal Mishra on the occasion of Constitution Day on 26 November 2024 in the Civil Court Complex, Lohardaga. At the same time, all the judicial officers and employees of the Vibhag Court repeated the Preamble of the Constitution. Rajesh Kumar, Secretary of the Authority, said that the Constitution of India was completed on 26 November 1949. This Constitution itself makes the citizens of independent India



realize the feeling of citizenship of an independent country. It also reminds the citizens of their responsibilities in the fundamental duties given in the Constitution. On the occasion, Chief Justice Family Court Mr. Subhash,

ADJ First Mr. Akhilesh Kumar Tiwari, ADJ Second Mrs. Neerja Asri, CJM Mr. Krishna Kant Mishra, SDJM Mr. Amit Kumar Gupta, legal aid defense consultation system advocates, personnel, PLV and others were present.

PAS Celebrates 75th Indian Constitution Day

PNS : BOKARO

Bokaro, November 26, 2024: The Pentecostal Assembly School (PAS) commemorated the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution with a vibrant program held in the school's center field. The event began with a prayer led by Principal Dr. Karuna Prasad, followed by a collective reading of the Preamble, echoing the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The celebration emphasized understanding the significance of the Constitution and the role of citizens in upholding its principles. Students were reminded of their rights and responsibilities, fostering pride and a deeper connection to the spirit of the nation.



Constitution Day celebrated with enthusiasm in CCL



PNS : RANCHI

Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) celebrated Constitution Day with great enthusiasm. The theme of this year was "Our Constitution, Our Honor". The purpose of the occasion was to underline the importance of the Indian Constitution and to increase awareness among employees about its principles, rights and duties.

The event was attended by CCL Chairman-director Managing Director (CMD), Nilendu Kumar Singh, Director (Finance), Pawan Kumar Mishra, Director (Personnel), Harsh Nath Mishra, Director (Planning/Project), Satish

our lives so that we can build a strong and prosperous India," he added.

Other dignitaries also addressed the gathering during the event and stressed the importance of the Constitution and the need to uphold its principles. The function concluded with a mass oath on the Preamble of the Constitution of India, in which the employees reiterated their commitment to the values of the Constitution.

As part of the Constitution Day celebrations, CCL organised a programme on general laws on November 22 and November 23. The aim of the programme was to impart necessary legal knowledge to the employees. Various eminent advocates and CCL officials conducted sessions in which they highlighted important legal aspects that every employee must know. The programme was significant in promoting legal literacy and making employees aware of laws useful in their personal and professional lives.

The Legal Department and other departments played a vital role in organizing this event, which reflects the Company's commitment towards an aware and educated workforce.

CCL is committed to uphold the values of the Constitution and empower its employees through knowledge and awareness.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Sadan.

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

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

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

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



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

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

freedom struggle.

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

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

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

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

national sovereignty, fostering unity, prioritising national interests, and safeguarding our environment".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



April 2, 2026.

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

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 Haryana.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chouhan inaugurates 227 new Gender Resource Centres

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

Annupurna Devi, Union Minister of Women and Child Development, 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 justice. Smt. Devi emphasised that GBV must be erad-

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

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

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 justice.

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 ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



per cent) as compared to the previous year.

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

Major contribution in the total meat production comes from West Bengal with 12.62 per cent share and it was followed by Uttar Pradesh (12.29 per cent), Maharashtra (11.28 per cent), Telangana (10.85 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (10.41 per cent). In terms of annual growth rate, the highest annual growth rate (AGR) has recorded in Assam (17.93 per cent), followed by Uttarakhand (15.63 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (11.70 per cent).

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

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

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

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

The major contribution in the total Wool production comes from Rajasthan with a share of 47.53 per cent followed by Jammu & Kashmir (23.06 per cent), Gujarat (6.18 per cent), Maharashtra (4.75 per cent) and Himachal Pradesh (4.22 per cent).

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

Opposition demands debate on Constitution in both houses of Parliament

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

Referring to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwaas, Sabka Prayaas', Singh said, "It will happen when confidence is instilled in every citizen from every community. Mr Prime

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 nation," Singh said.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

President Droupadi Murmu pays tribute to 26/11 martyrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"A grateful nation salutes its valiant security personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting our people.

It is also the day to reiterate that India remains firmly



committed to defeating terrorism in all its forms," the President said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Let us be united and determined to end terrorism," he said in Hindi.

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

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

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



strength to Dr. Ambedkar, crediting him with building the framework for "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," a united and prosperous India.

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

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

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

Mamata Banerjee putting personal interest above INDIA: LF, Congress

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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



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

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

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

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

working on cross purposes."

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

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

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

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

Four dead in LPG cylinder explosion

PTI ■ MORENA/MP

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

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



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

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

PTI ■ PORT BLAIR

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

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

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

The police are trying to get the call record of the satellite phone seized from the trawler which was coming from Myanmar, an official said.

"We are trying to get details of the recipients of the drugs through the seized satellite phone call detail record because the crew members are refusing to reveal anything during interrogation. It seems that they are scared to reveal the identity of the receiver and the person behind sending the consignments. We are trying to get in touch with the service provider to get the call detail record," the officer said. The huge consignment of Methamphetamine drug was supposed to be delivered in Thailand and could be part of drug cartels, police sources said.

"Based on the quantity of the consignments and the modus operandi it definitely seems like the handiwork of

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

The laboratory tests of the seized substance in Port Blair confirmed that the substance was Methamphetamine.

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

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

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

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

finer as per rules on those who do not follow GRAP.

The MCG officials said that in compliance with GRAP, the civic authority is using 14 machines for mechanized sweeping of roads to control the pollution level and sprinkling of water through tankers on the construction sites of the Municipal Corporation to prevent dust from flying. Apart from this, those doing activities prohibited under GRAP are also being monitored and the corporation's teams are taking action to issue challans as per their rules, the official added. Garg said that under the GRAP, burning garbage, throwing garbage and debris in public places, and keeping and transporting construction material without covering it is prohibited. He also informed that the civic body is spraying STP-treated water on roads and trees to reduce and control the level of pollution.

Robotic fire tenders to debut at Mahakumbh

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

For the first time, robotic fire tenders will be deployed at Mahakumbh 2025 to enhance fire safety at the world's largest spiritual gathering, according to officials.

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

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



PTI ■ IMPHAL

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



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

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

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who was to begin a fast unto death to press for farmers' demands, was taken to a Ludhiana hospital for a checkup on Tuesday after allegedly being forcibly removed from the Khanauri border point. Kisan Mazdoor Morcha leader Sarwan Singh Pandher alleged Dallewal was forcibly taken away by police early on Tuesday from the Khanauri border point.

A senior Punjab Police officer said Dallewal was taken to the private Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMC) in Ludhiana. Deputy Inspector General of Police Mandeep Singh Sidhu said the administration was concerned about Dallewal's age and health in the wake of his fast-unto-death call. "Considering his health and seniority, the administration decided that his proper medical checkup was important.

We are getting his medical checkup done at DMC, Ludhiana," said Sidhu.

Dallewal announced on Monday that he would begin a fast unto death on Tuesday to demand a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops. He had also asserted that he was ready to sacrifice his life to get the farmers' demands accepted.

Claiming that the police forcibly removed Dallewal from the spot early on Tuesday before he could begin his hunger strike, Pandher said he strongly condemned the act and demanded his immediate release.

Farmers said a police team of 250 reached the Khanauri border at 2:30 am and forcibly took Dallewal away. Initially, the farmers were not aware of Dallewal's whereabouts but later learned that he had been taken to DMC. Farmer leader Guramneet Singh Mangat said they were

informed that Dallewal had been taken to the hospital on health grounds.

Mangat, however, said they would continue with their fast-unto-death plan. Another farmer leader will now sit on the fast.

Meanwhile, Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu accused the Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab of orchestrating Dallewal's "detention". "Detention of farmer leader Dallewal ji is orchestrated by the Bhagwant Mann government. No central agency is involved in his arrest.

It is purely the work of the state police, aimed at shifting the blame onto central agencies to divert attention from the real issues. The central government always works for the welfare of farmers and does not engage in such tactics," Bittu said in a post on X. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha had earlier

announced plans to intensify their agitation in support of farmers' various demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP, by starting a fast unto death.

Farmers have been camping at the Shambhu and the Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 after their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces.

The protesting farmers have accused the Centre of not taking steps to address their demands, stating that it had not held any talks with them regarding their issues since February 18.

Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, the farmers are demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Yet another flashpoint

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

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



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

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

PICTALK



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

K P Sharma Oli walks a tightrope on China

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?



ASHOK K MEHTA

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

Prithvi Narayan Shah had described as a yam between two boulders. Geography and social and cultural factors have favoured India. The de-throned Maoist leader and four-time PM Prachanda, Oli's erstwhile short-term partner, accused him in an interview with an Indian journalist who had come for the Kantipur Conclave, of playing the China card. UML was incensed by the allegation, demanding an apology from Prachanda. At the Kantipur Conclave, Prachanda informed the audience that he was happy he was no longer heading the government as he could atone for his party's mistakes and serve the people better. He clarified that with 32 seats, he had never sought power but others (NC and UML) had come to him to form the government. He asserted he had made a direct assault on corruption - the no 1 bane of Nepal - and put many corrupt leaders including members of his party, and those who had supported his government in jail. This included the newsmaker and former Home Minister, Rabi Lamichhane from the Rashtriya Swatantra Party who is at 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 that the Kantipur Conclave that he had 'once given Rabi a job (in Nepal Television)' but did not know much about his case. The parliamentary probe that was ordered on him as demanded by the Nepali Congress was at the behest of PM Prachanda and Rabi himself who was the Home Minister in the coalition government. He added: 'let law take its course'. Oli's China conundrum was grabbing headlines. By declaring he won't sign the BRI Implementation plan on Chinese terms for coalition unity he has taken the fizz out of the champagne that was to be popped after his visit.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SC rejects plea challenging Preamble



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

tain the unity and integrity of the nation. The Preamble is considered the soul and spirit of the Constitution. It still plays an important role when there is ambiguity in Articles' provisions or when an interpretation of the Constitution becomes confusing. The Preamble, which highlights guiding principles and some fundamental values of the bases of which the Indian Constitution was written, will become invalid and insignificant when important terms 'Sovereign, Socialist, Secular' are removed from the Preamble. Knowing the importance of the Preamble, in 1973, in the Kesavananda Bharati case, a 13-judge bench of the Supreme Court declared that the Preamble would be considered as part of the Constitution. In the 1995 Union Government vs LIC of India case, the Supreme Court once again held that Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

Gautam Adani and his entire team in America, it is obvious that the Opposition of the country will raise its voice on it. Now our Prime Minister wants to defeat every solid allegation through his electoral victory (Maharashtra). That is why when the House was not functioning on Monday, he told the Opposition that "those who have been rejected by the people are indulging in hooliganism in the House." Is this really so? Obviously, the people who are sitting in the Opposition are sitting there because they are in the minority. Does minority mean that they should not even talk about such a big stain on the country's reputation? Why does this government repeatedly stand in favour of Adani? Charge sheets have been filed in a New York court against Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and six others. It is impossible to file a charge sheet there without proof. The US Securities and Exchange Commission has alleged that Gautam Adani and his associates paid a bribe of more than \$250 million, i.e., about two thousand crore rupees, for their renewable energy company in

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 Shivaling 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 damages.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Prasar Bharati unveils WAVES app amid criticism and challenges



AMIT KR ROY

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HISTORIC WIN AT PERTH

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

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

HOUSE ADJOURNED OVER ADANI

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



FIRST COLUMN

LESSONS IN HUMILITY AND FAITH

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



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Realigning India's economic strategy



ATUL SEHGAL

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ARUNESH SINGH

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

The pressing question now is whether India can fully capitalise on this demographic dividend, and can the skills ecosystem be the key to unlocking this potential. The

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

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

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

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



ating a more resilient and practical skill development ecosystem.

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

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 success at an individual level but also lay the groundwork for broader systemic changes that can redefine the impact of the skilling ecosystem.

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

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

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

curriculum or an instructional programme.

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

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

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's supporters reached the heart of Pakistan's capital on Tuesday after removing barricades and battling police in clashes that killed six security personnel and injured dozens. Four paramilitary Rangers and two policemen were killed late Monday and over 100 security personnel injured when protesters marching towards D-Chowk turned violent, prompting the federal government to deploy the army in Islamabad along with shoot-at-sight orders, state-run media said on Tuesday. The 72-year-old former premier, who has been in jail since August last year, issued a "final call" on November 13 for nationwide protests on November 24, denouncing what he termed as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime". Geo News shared footage, which showed Khan's supporters climbing on the shipping containers placed on the roads leading to D-Chowk, which is located close to several important government buildings: the Presidency, the PM Office, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court. It was unclear if the protesters would stage a sit-in or leave D-Chowk, though the top leaders

of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had vowed to remain in Islamabad until Khan was released. Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, who stubbornly led the protests, said in one of her addresses to the protestors to go away only if Khan comes in person to tell about the next course of action. They reached their declared destination despite repeated claims by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi that nobody would be allowed to make it to D-Chowk. Naqvi also said the government tried to convince PTI leaders in every way, but they only gained time from negotiations and moved towards the federal capital. "We offered the protestors to gather at Sangiani. Their entire leadership does not want a bloodbath, but there's one secret leadership controlling all this, which was the apple of the discord," he said. He also said that all PTI supporters had come from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Led by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Khan's wife Bushra, the marchers began their journey from the militancy-hit province on Sunday. Pakistan deployed the army amid a tense stand-off with Khan's supporters. The government has vowed to foil their attempt "even if a curfew needs to be imposed." Hours earlier, the state-run Radio Pakistan said a vehicle



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



AP/PTI

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

policemen were killed but didn't provide any details. According to Punjab police, one policeman was killed at the Hakla interchange on Islamabad's outskirts during clashes with the PTI protestors on Monday. It did not give details about the second policeman. Separately, Interior Minister Naqvi said, at a late Monday night media interaction, that more than 100 security personnel, mostly from police, were injured. "One senior police

officer was critically injured - he suffered a severe head injury - due to stone-pelting by protesters," he said. Radio Pakistan further reported that the Pakistan Army was called in "to deal with the miscreants with an iron hand" and "clear orders have also been issued to shoot miscreants and troublemakers on sight." Strongly condemning the attack on Rangers and police personnel by protesters, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a statement, directed to immedi-

ately identify those involved in the incident and ensure they are brought to justice. "Attacks on police and Rangers, under the guise of a so-called peaceful protest, are condemnable," he said, adding that the anarchist group seeks bloodshed and "Pakistan cannot afford any form of chaos or bloodshed. Bloodshed for nefarious political agenda is unacceptable and highly condemnable." Meanwhile, Khan's party has accused the authorities of using

violence in which several of its supporters have been injured. A party spokesman told BBC Urdu that two supporters have also been killed but it was not confirmed from other sources so far. All public and private educational institutions remained closed on Tuesday given the law and order situation both in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Khan has been implicated in dozens of cases since his government was dismissed through a no-confidence

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

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

AP ■ BEIRUT

Israeli warplanes struck buildings in Beirut's suburbs and in a southern Lebanese city Tuesday, as Israel's security Cabinet prepared to vote on a US-brokered ceasefire proposal aimed at ending more than a year of fighting with Hezbollah. Hopes have risen for the deal, which calls for a two-month initial halt in fighting and would require Hezbollah to end its armed presence in a broad swath of southern Lebanon, while Israeli troops would return to their side of the border. Israel's security Cabinet, meeting Tuesday afternoon, was expected to approve the proposal, which Lebanese officials have said Hezbollah also supports. Among the main sticking points has been an Israeli demand to reserve the right to act should Hezbollah violate its obligations. Under the proposal, thousands of Lebanese troops and UN peacekeepers would deploy in the south, and an international panel headed by the United States would monitor all sides' compliance. Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said the military would strike Hezbollah if the UN peacekeeping force, known as UNIFIL, doesn't provide "effective enforcement" of the deal. "If you don't act, we will act, and with great force," he said, speaking with UN special envoy Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert. The European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said Tuesday that Israel's security concerns had been addressed in the US-French-brokered deal. "There is not an excuse for not implementing a ceasefire. Otherwise, Lebanon will fall apart," Borrell told reporters in Fiumicino, Italy, on the sidelines of a Group of Seven meeting. He said the US would chair a ceasefire implementation committee, and France would participate at the request of Lebanon. Bombardment of Beirut's southern suburbs continues. Even as Israeli, US, Lebanese and international officials have



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

expressed growing optimism over a ceasefire, Israel has continued its campaign in Lebanon, which it says aims to cripple Hezbollah's military capabilities. Israeli jets struck at least six buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs Tuesday. One strike slammed near the country's only airport, sending large plumes of smoke into the sky. There were no immediate reports of casualties. The airport has continued to function despite its location on the Mediterranean coast next to the densely populated suburbs where many of Hezbollah's operations are based. Other strikes hit in the southern city of Tyre, where the Israeli military said it killed a local Hezbollah commander. The Israeli military also said its ground troops reached parts of Lebanon's Litani River - a focal point of the emerging ceasefire. It said troops clashed with Hezbollah forces and destroyed rocket launchers in the Slouji area on the eastern end of the Litani, just a few km from the border. Under the ceasefire deal, Hezbollah would be required to

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

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 ceasefire 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.

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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump said he will impose a 25 per cent tariff on all products coming from Canada and Mexico, and 10 per cent on Chinese goods to check the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs into the United States. In a series of posts on his Truth Social platform on Monday, he said he would sign executive orders imposing tariffs on the three countries as one of his first actions after assuming office on January 20. "As everyone is aware, thousands of people are pouring

through Mexico and Canada, bringing Crime and Drugs at levels never seen before. Right now, a Caravan coming from Mexico, composed of thousands of people, seems to be unstoppable in its quest to come through our currently Open Border," Trump said. "On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25% Tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders. "This Tariff will remain in effect until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all

Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country! Both Mexico and Canada have the absolute right and power to easily solve this long simmering problem," he said. "We hereby demand that they use this power, and until such time that they do, it is time for them to pay a very big price," Trump said. Further, the president-elect accused China of failing to stop the flow of drugs into the US. "I have had many talks with China about the massive amounts of drugs, in particular Fentanyl, being sent into the United States - But to no avail," Trump said. "Representatives of China told

me that they would institute their maximum penalty, that of death, for any drug dealers caught doing this but, unfortunately, they never followed through, and drugs are pouring into our Country, mostly through Mexico, at levels never seen before," he alleged. "Until such time as they stop, we will be charging China an additional 10% Tariff, above any additional Tariffs, on all of their many products coming into the United States of America," he added. Trump said the executive order to this effect would be signed on the first day of his presidency on January 20, 2025.

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

AP ■ HONG KONG

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ DAKAR (SENEGAL)

Interpol arrested 1,006 suspects in Africa during a two-month operation clamping down on cybercrime that left tens of thousands of victims, including some who were trafficked, and produced millions in financial damages, the global police organisation said Tuesday. Operation Serengeti, a joint operation with Afripol, the African Union's police agency, ran from Sept 2 to Oct 31 in 19 African countries and targeted criminals behind ransomware, business email compromise,

digital extortion and online scams, the agency said in a statement. "From multi-level marketing scams to credit card fraud on an industrial scale, the increasing volume and sophistication of cybercrime attacks is of serious concern," said Valdecy Urquiza, the Secretary General of Interpol. Interpol pinpointed 35,000 victims, with cases linked to nearly USD 193 million in financial losses worldwide, stating that local police authorities and private sector partners, including internet service providers, played a key role in the opera-

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

ven malware and advanced cyberattack techniques. Other dismantled networks included a group in Cameroon suspected of using a multi-level marketing scam for human trafficking, an international criminal group in Angola running an illegal virtual casino and a cryptocurrency investment scam in Nigeria, the agency said. Interpol, which has 196 member countries and celebrated its centennial last year, works to help national police forces communicate with each other and track suspects and criminals in fields like counterterror-

ism, financial crime, child pornography, cybercrime and organised crime. The world's biggest - if not best-funded - police organisation has been grappling with new challenges including a growing caseload of cybercrime and child sex abuse, and increasing divisions among its member countries. Interpol had a total budget of about 176 million euros (about USD 188 million) last year, compared to more than 200 million euros at the European Union's police agency, Europol, and some USD 11 billion at the FBI in the United States.

Tamil film Maharaja to be released in China

PTI ■ BEIJING

Tamil suspense film Maharaja will be released in China on Friday becoming the first Indian cinema to be screened for Chinese audiences after the normalisation of ties between the two countries following last month's agreement to resolve the standoff in Eastern Ladakh. The suspense film Maharaja has already begun pre-screenings and its release here coincides with two major competitors - Hollywood's Gladiator II and local film Her Story. State-run Global Times reported on Tuesday that the film currently holds a high rating of 8.7/10 on Chinese

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at their meeting in Kazan in Russia on the sidelines of the BRICS summit on October 23 endorsed the agreement and issued directions to revive various bilateral dialogue mechanisms and normalise ties that were hit by a deadly military clash in 2020 at Galwan Valley. Indian films specially Aamir Khan's Three Idiots, Dangal and Secret Superstar have become a major success in China in recent years as the themes largely resonated with the Chinese audiences and earned a significant amount of revenue. Khan has become a household name in China.

Sri Lanka to present interim budget on Dec 5

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

He also announced that the full budget for 2025 would be presented in parliament on February 17 next year. Earlier last week, the new parliament of Sri Lanka - the 10th parliament since 1978 - was convened on Thursday for the first session after the ruling National People's Power's (NPP) landslide electoral victory.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake plans to visit China following his proposed official trip to India, Cabinet spokesman Nalinda Jayathissa said on Tuesday. Jayathissa said an official invitation has been handed to Dissanayake by the Chinese Ambassador in Colombo.

Jaishankar who became the first foreign dignitary to call on Dissanayake when he was elected President in September had extended the invitation. Jaishankar visited Sri Lanka in October since the National People's Power (NPP) government led by Dissanayake came to power on September 23.

New NATO chief Rutte says alliance needs further support Ukraine

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

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

minimum for NATO members, and is seeking a change in European Union budget rules to allow for greater military spending. It also wants to help create a common European air defence system. "We agree on one of the fundamental priorities for all allies: the need to strengthen our collective defence, a goal that requires a strong defence industry with significant investments," Mitsotakis said, adding that Athens backed "a more functional relationship between NATO and the European Union, to further strengthen the European pillar of the alliance."

been discussing plans to boost defence investments for months due to the ongoing war in Ukraine and uncertainty surrounding the incoming US administration following the election victory of President-elect Donald Trump. Rutte's visit to Athens follows meetings with Trump in Florida and Turkish leaders in Ankara Monday. Rutte also held talks with Greece's Minister of Foreign Affairs George Gerapetritis and Minister of Defence Nikos Dendias. Several thousand protesters marched through central Athens in opposition to the NATO chief's visit.

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

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

nearly impossible, but the reports were confirmed by witnesses by telephone. Video clips circulating on social media, which could not be independently verified, showed what was said to be a KIA member raising the group's flag at the tunnel through the mountain to China. Other clips showed a vast quantity of weapons allegedly captured by the KIA.

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

ernment, and how much directly to the NDA-K, however, and while the loss of any revenue stream would be bad for the military, the fall of Kanpaiti is not necessarily a game changer for the overall conflict, said Morgan Michaels, a Singapore-based analyst with the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) who runs its Myanmar Conflict Map project.

Philippine Vice-President summoned over her public threats against President

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

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

Public Notice: To be known to all that, I, Shu Sikka W/o Manish Sikka R/o Flat No. 35-C, S/F, Bk/Pk-B, East of Kailash ND-65 owner of DDA SFS-1 flat no. 35-C, S/F, Bk/Pk-B, East of Kailash, ND-65 has applied for conversion of the above property from leasehold to freehold vide application No. DDA/H/CA/501/0898 dt. 25.10.2024 in DDA, Original Document i.e. Allocation 5th & Final Demand Letter, of above property has been lost. An FIR against this effect has been lodged in Police station. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/with in above named party at add: P/37348512 with 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Director Housing or Dy. Director (SFS), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, ND-23

Public Notice: This is to inform the general public that Smt. Gaiinda Devi is the GPA Holder Property No. 58 area measuring 82 1/2 Sq. Yds., Block-A 'C' Out Khassa No. 104/9/1 Situated at Village: Palam, Colony known as Rajapur New Delhi. She is in possession through GPA, ATS & Will Dated 22.10.1982 executed by Smt. Rat Ram in favour of Smt. Gaiinda Devi in respect of the said property. Smt. Gaiinda Devi intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned property to Mr. Nitin Malkot. Subsequently, Mr. Nitin Malkot is in the process of mortgaging the said property with Aarti Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 15-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 15-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline: +91120-3101683, Email: accounts@lvnorth.in

Philippine Vice-President summoned over her public threats against President. Duterte, a 46-year-old lawyer, said her remarks were not an actual threat but an expression of concern over her own safety due to unspecified danger to her life. The Marcos administration's statements against her were "a farce" and part of efforts to persecute critics like her, Duterte said. The subpoena ordered Duterte to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation on Friday to "shed light on the investigation for alleged grave threats."

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

Public Notice: My client HDFC Bank Ltd, Capital Court, Munirka, New Delhi, in the business of Housing Loan, from whom Mr. Ashish Vilas Tale and Mrs. Urmi Ashish Tale has taken a housing loan against Flat No. M-1307, 13th Floor, Ashiana Town-Beta (05 to 08) Sector-39, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan but in the internal movement of file one containing the original Flat Buyer Agreement dated 19.10.2013, Allotment Letter dated 25.09.2013, Tripartite Agreement dated 25.09.2013, Permission to Mortgage dated 25.09.2013 and Two Payment receipts is not traceable which was lost/misplaced, if any body find the same may return to the undersigned, if anybody misuses the same, the same shall be at his/her own risk and cost. Karnail Singh, (Advocate), K-8, LGF Jangpura Extn, New Delhi-110014.

GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HISAR (Established by State Legislature Act 17 of 1995) 'A' Grade NAAC Accredited AUCTION NOTICE Sealed quotations are invited from interested and eligible participants for Auction of obsolete/condemned E-Waste items of various departments/offices under E-Waste Policy of the University. For details, eligible/interested persons may contact in person or on phone 01662-263126/ 263132 and send quotations through registered/speed post/courier to Deputy Registrar (General & Purchase), GJUST&T, Hisar, Haryana-125001 by 19.12.2024 (till 5:00 P.M.). The details of E-Waste items and terms & conditions can be downloaded from University website www.gjust.ac.in. REGISTRAR RO 30579/C/2717

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is informed to the general public that original allottee of Plot No. JH-02, Sector 159, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Smt. Kalawati, wife of Late Sujan Singh, resident of Village Jhata, Tahsil and District Gautam Budh Nagar had registered a will in favour of Smt. Madhu Chauhan, wife of Sri Rohit Singh Chauhan, resident of J-47, Palao Vihar, Ghazalabad, currently resident of G-28, Sector 70, Noida, of Khata No. 70 and Khassa No. 192, Village Jhata, in respect of residential plot No. JH-02, Sector 159, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, received in lieu of the above 5 percent Khassa 11 of Kisan quota. Which is registered in Sub-Registrar Office, Noida, in the same No. 3, Document No. 172, dated 16/03/2011. Original allottee of the above residential plot, Smt. Kalawati, died on 14/11/2018. Therefore, the will of the said will, an application has been made for transfer or mutation of the above property in favour of Mrs. Madhu Chauhan. If anyone has any objection in this regard, then within 30 days of the publication of this notice, register your objection with all the evidence in the Residential Plot Office, Noida Development Authority, Sector 6. No objection will be valid later.

सार्वजनिक सूचना: सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवासीय भूखंड खसरा नं. 862 और खता नं. 453 खं. 70 खसरा कुल खसरा 345.55 वर्गमीटर लिविका वर्तमान खं. 02-सह-11, खं. 167-145, नोएडा है। जोकि स्व. गणेश शर्मा व ज्ञानदेव शर्मा भूखण्ड श्री शीवदेव निवासी दोस्तपुर नगरपाली नोएडा में शोका कुमार सिंह पुत्र ख्यामदेव सिंह निवासी राजानापुर उस्तास के पत्र में दिनांक 09.08.2016 में उचित रूप से प्राप्त हुआ है। जो इस सूचना के माध्यम से सर्वजन को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त आवासीय भूखंड एक विवाहित खं. 8 और कानूनी प्रक्रिया चल रही है जिसेको खरीदने/ बेचने से बचाव करना है। ऐसा करने वाला व्यक्ति अपने मुकदमा का खर्च निम्नदर्त होगा, उसके लिए मैं मुकदमा को खर्च जिम्मेवारी नहीं हूँगी। नॉ. नं.- 9999507392, 8577616246. Sunny Chauhan Advocate & Legal Consultant Supreme Court of India, New Delhi

Form no INC-26 Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the Company from one State to another State. BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NORTH REGION OFFICE, DELHI In the matter of sub-section 4 of section 13 of the Companies Act 2013 and clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND in the matter of CNW Courier Network India Private Limited (CIN: U53200DL2023PT416128) A Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and having its registered office at B1/H3, Ground Floor, Mohan Co-Operative, Mathura Rd, Industrial Area, Block B, Badarpur, South Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi, India, 110044. Petitioner Notice is hereby given to the general public that the Company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on Thursday 17TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 10:00 AM to enable the company to change its registered office from National Capital Territory Delhi to the state of Uttar Pradesh. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the Company may deliver on MCA portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/ her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/ her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Directors, Northern Region D-2 wing, 2nd floor, Pt. Deendayal Aryavodya Bhawan, 2nd floor, CGO complex, New Delhi-110003 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant Company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: Address of registered office: - B1/H3, Ground floor, Mohan Co-operative, Mathura Rd, Industrial area, Block B, Badarpur, South Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi, India, 110044 (Present Address)

Public Notice: This is to inform the general public that Smt. Gaiinda Devi is the GPA Holder Property No. 58 area measuring 82 1/2 Sq. Yds., Block-A 'C' Out Khassa No. 104/9/1 Situated at Village: Palam, Colony known as Rajapur New Delhi. She is in possession through GPA, ATS & Will Dated 22.10.1982 executed by Smt. Rat Ram in favour of Smt. Gaiinda Devi in respect of the said property. Smt. Gaiinda Devi intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned property to Mr. Nitin Malkot. Subsequently, Mr. Nitin Malkot is in the process of mortgaging the said property with Aarti Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 15-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 15-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline: +91120-3101683, Email: accounts@lvnorth.in

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236 E-TENDER NOTICE E-tender are invited for the procurements of following items upto 10.12.2024 1) Rate contract for procurement of Implants material at GSGMCH, Faridkot 2)SSMA Services of various photocopier machines 3)Providing of Pest control services 4) Rate contract for the purchase of Xerox Toner and copy cartridges for photocopier machines 5)Supply and installation of Skin Craft Mesher 6)Supply and installation of Patient Bath Trolley machine 7) Procurement and installation of Neurosurgical Electric drill at GSGMCH, Faridkot 8) Rate contract for supply of Radiopharmaceuticals in Nuclear machine department at GSGMCH, Faridkot 9) Supply and installation of NCT Machine 10) Supply and Installation of Electrocauter. E-tender are invited for the procurements of following items upto 17.12.2024 1) Re-construction of damaged boundary wall from TB ward upto water works of GSGMCH, Faridkot 2) Raising height of boundary wall & providing concertina coil fencing around boundary wall from water works to Aara (Sadiq Road) in GSGMCH, Faridkot 3) Raising height of boundary wall & providing concertina coil fencing around boundary wall from Aara market to class 4 quarters in GSGMCH, Faridkot 4) Special Repair of Old Pharmacy Block (Shed) in GSGMCH, Faridkot 5) Construction of shed for four wheelers vehicles in premises of BFUHS, Faridkot 6) Repair of 8 nos. warehouses of MBBS Girls Hostel, Repair of damaged RCC parapet walls, leakage of damaged ceiling plaster, painting, Distemping of Block no. 1 & 2 in GGS Medical Residential Complex, Faridkot 7) Providing fixing and up gradation of Electrical works at Laundry Plant in GSGMCH, Faridkot 8) Special Repair of Laundry Plant in GSGMCH, Faridkot 9) Supply and installation of Physiotherapy equipments at SINPMS, Badal. 10) Procurement of Projectors and IT equipments. Terms and conditions can be downloaded from http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The tenders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from the University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in REGISTRAR 00/12/323/2023/39469 Dated CHD :- 11/28/2024

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

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A GOVT. OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING) CIN:U40101OR1955GC063963 REGD.OFFICE: OHP Corporation Office, Bhoi Nagar, Jajpur, Bhubaneswar-751022 Phone: 91-0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545526, 2542826 E-mail: ohpc.co@gmail.com, website: www.ohpcetd.com OHP: TECH: C&P:16/2024-25/ 10084 Date: 22.11.2024 E-TENDER NOTICE NO.01/2024-25 INVITATION FOR BID OHPCL Ltd., Bhubaneswar, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system (Cover-I Technical Bid and Cover-II Price bid) for the work as detailed below through 'e'-procurement. The bids should be submitted 'online' in https://tendersodisha.gov.in by the "A" & "B" Class of contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Government / Railways / MES having registration for execution of civil works on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with their own valid Digital Signature Certificate. The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66 Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop e/Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:- Sr. No. Name of Work/Item Period/Tentative Qty 1. For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Automatic Machine Made Ghee Tins with C. Boxes. Annual/ 15 Lac 20 Lac 1 Lac 50 K 2. For Verka Chandigarh Dairy I. Manual Tenders:- a) Tully fruitly b) Spong cake(Veg.) c) Calcium Chloride d) Kassatta box e) Plastic tray for Kassatta slice f) Kassatta dibbi Annual II. e-Tenders:- a) Pouches & rolls i. Kaju pinni rolls ii. Besan burfi rolls iii. Punjabi kullfi pouches iv. Ice candies rolls (40) (all variants) v. Ice cream bar rolls (40ml) (all variants) Annual Annual Annual Half Yearly Annual b) Flavours and colours c) Sweet boxes for kaju pinni (800gm, 400 gm, 2kg) d) Nitric Acid e) 1.25 litre ice cream brick cartons f) Punjabi kullfi sticks (114x10x2mm) h) Sundae magic cups Annual Annual Annual Annual 3. For Verka Mohali Dairy Hiring of Agency for packaging of dahi pouch/cups/matkas, lassi pouches, kheer cups, ghee, paneer and yoghurt, packaging and recombination of white butter and reconstitution of SMP/WMP & Sugar. As per day to day requirement of market. 4. For Verka Sangur Dairy I. Supply, installation and commissioning of GC (Gas Chromatography) Machine with FID, HPLC Machine under NPDD PB 09 project. Annual/04 No's ii. Hiring of - a) Insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from MCC/BMC to Milk Plant, Sangur. Annual/01 No. b) Passenger vehicle with Fuel Diesel/ Petrol/ CNG (Swift Dzire, Toyota Etios, Bolero or equivalent) at Verka Sangur Dairy for Field/Extension work. Annual/01 No. 5. For Verka Bathinda Dairy I. Supply of Rice Husk for Boilers. 3500 MT (+10%) Annual/ 01 Complete Job ii. Pest Control services. Annual 6. For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) e-Tender for hiring of vehicles for supply of Fresh Milk and Milk Products at - i. Army Route -1 ii. Local Route-1 iii. Local Route-6 b) e- Tender for the Disposal of Unserviceable Material. 61 Items Annual c) Purchase of - i. Polypropylene bottles cap. 180ml with caps. ii. Printed shrink sleeve rolls for PP bottles cap. 180ml. iii. Corrugated tray for PP bottles cap. 180ml. d) Outsourcing of Security, Housekeeping and Horticulture activities. Annual 7. For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana Hiring of passenger vehicle Bolero/Swift Dzire/Etios (Platinum) or equivalent (AC)-2 no's along with drivers. 02 No's NOTE: 1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in. 2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only. Dy. General Manager (Purchase) NA/12/26629/2023/39464 Dated CHD :- 11/28/2024

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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



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

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

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 84.32 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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



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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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



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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

TN GOVERNOR ADDRESSES NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



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

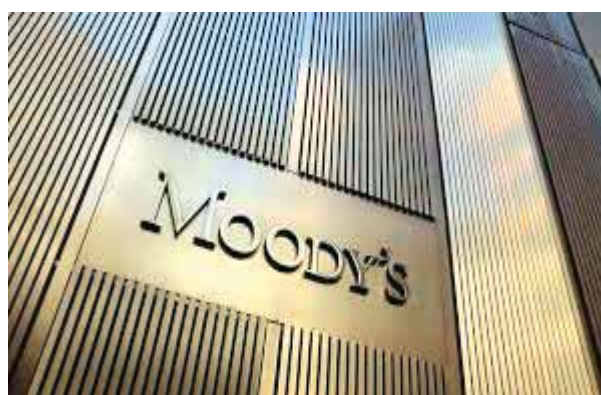
Moody's cuts outlook on Adani firms to negative; Fitch puts some Adani bonds on negative watch

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ratings agency Moody's said 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 Transmission Step-One Ltd, Adani Transportation Restricted group 1 (AESL RG1), Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd and Adani International Container Terminal Pvt Ltd. "These rating actions follow the indictment of Adani Green

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

US goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher retires from international soccer

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

Tiger Woods to skip his holiday tournament in the Bahamas

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



surgery of the lumbar spine for nerve impingement, and the recovery time typically is eight to 12 weeks. Woods said while he was disappointed not to play, he looked forward to his role as the tournament host. Woods finished 18th in the 20-man field a year ago. Thomas is a two-time PGA champion whose wife gave

birth to their first child a week ago, a daughter they named Molly Grace. He has played only once since the Tour Championship. The newcomer to the unofficial event — its gets world ranking points but not official money — is Dunlap, who won a PGA Tour event as an amateur, left Alabama to turn pro and picked up a

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

Iceland coach Áge Hareide resigns ahead of 2026 World Cup qualifying

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Andretti in September stepped aside from leading his namesake organization, so the 11th team will be called Cadillac F1 and be run by new Andretti Global majority owners Dan Towriss and Mark Walter. The team will use Ferrari engines its first two years until GM has a Cadillac engine built for competition in time for the 2028 season. Towriss is the CEO and president of Group 1001 and entered motorsports via Andretti's IndyCar team when he signed on financial savings platform Gainbridge as a sponsor. Towriss is now a major part of the motorsports scene with ownership stakes in both Spire Motorsports' NASCAR team and Wayne Taylor Racing's sports car team. Walter is the chief executive of financial services firm Guggenheim Partners and the controlling owner of both the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers and Premier League club Chelsea.



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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

The all-powerful board of the International Cricket Council will meet virtually on November 29 to finalise the much-delayed schedule of the Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan in February-March next year.

The cause of the delay has been India's refusal to play in Pakistan considering the tense relations between the two countries. India has not toured Pakistan since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. The BCCI wants the tournament to be played in a hybrid model with India games scheduled in a third country, preferably UAE, something that its Pakistani counterpart has not agreed to thus far.

"The ICC board will meet on November 29 to discuss the Champions Trophy schedule," an ICC spokesperson told PTI on Tuesday.

The crucial virtual meeting takes place two days before BCCI secretary Jay Shah takes over as ICC chairman on December 1.



He and other board members would be keen to resolve the matter before the new regime takes over.

With the deadlock over the schedule and venue yet to be broken, questions have been raised against the current dispensation of the ICC

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. A similar model was followed last year when India played their Asia Cup

matches in Sri Lanka while four group games were hosted by Pakistan. The PCB has spent millions of dollars to renovate stadiums in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi for what will be its first ICC event since it co-hosted the 1996 World Cup.

Major teams including England and Australia have toured Pakistan recently after years of isolation following the horrific attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in 2009.

Since the ICC awarded Champions Trophy hosting rights to Pakistan in 2021, PCB has been facing constant pressure from the fans to host all the games in the country.

PCB has also threatened that it won't send its national teams to India for future ICC events if the latter doesn't cross the border for Champions Trophy. Having said that, Pakistan toured India for the ODI World Cup last year, the team's first visit to the country in seven years. Both India and Pakistan only play each other in ICC events and Asia Cup.



Gukesh draws with Liren in second game of World Championship

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh bounced back to draw a largely uneventful second game against defending champion Ding Liren of China in the World Chess Championship here on Tuesday.

Playing with black pieces, Gukesh made a comeback of sorts, having lost to Liren in the opener of the 14-game showdown, on Monday.

It was a good recovery by Gukesh as Liren could do very little with his white pieces and had to share the point.

"Draw with black in the world championship match is always nice and it's too early, we still have a long match," the Chennai-based GM said in the post-game press conference.

"I think after I was surprised in the opening, I reacted pretty decently, and I didn't give him any chances. It was a solid game with black, which is nice," he added.

If Monday was the day when nothing he did worked according to plan, Tuesday changed everything for Gukesh as he could not have asked for a better start.

Liren did not press at all while Gukesh just followed the basics as the game ended in a draw via repetition soon after black had completed the 23rd turn.

It was one of the quietest variations in the Italian opening as Liren probably did not want to rush things having grabbed a full point advantage in the first game

itself.

It may be recalled that the Chinese had won the last world championship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia after coming back from behind as many as three times.

The 32-year-old said he was happy with how he performed in the second round.

"In the first game I played something new in the opening and of course it requires a lot of memory. Today I also played not a common move (for me) 1.E4 and I prepared a lot," Liren said.

"I think it will be a big fight tomorrow. He's a point down and he will have the white pieces, so I am ready for a fight," he added.

Liren's fifth move, when he moved his Queen's knight, was indication enough about his peaceful intentions. There have been many top-level games that have ended in draws through this manoeuvre and this game was no exception.

Gukesh just had to develop his pieces randomly and the game never really got off to a situation where it could be truly called complicated.

Both the Bishops and the Queens were off the board early and what remained were a couple of Knights, the Rooks pair and eight pawns each for both players with hardly any real chances for a breakthrough.

The draw was a just result but there was no denying that it was a morale-boosting moment for Gukesh who can

now look up to his next game with optimism with the slightly favourable colour in the game.

In head-to-head encounters, Liren has a handsome three-point lead in Classical games and Team Gukesh will now be focused on bringing it down in the USD 2.5 million prize money championship.

The 18-year-old Gukesh is the youngest ever challenger to the world crown and is looking to become the first Indian after the iconic Viswanathan Anand to win the title.

"There is obviously some pressure for anyone playing in a World Championship; there is a lot of pressure. But I also see it as a privilege that I can represent so many people and my country," he said.

"I am just focusing on one game at a time. Hopefully, things go my way," he added.

The first player to reach 7.5 points among the two will claim the coveted crown in the USD 2.5 million prize money event.

Anand, who has played a major role in shaping Gukesh's career, held the title five times in his illustrious career before Norwegian superstar Magnus Carlsen dethroned him in 2013.

The Moves:
1.E4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.D3 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.A4 d6 7.0-0 h6 8.Be3 Be6 9.A5 Bxc4 10.Dxc4 0-0 11.Bxc5 dxc5 12.B3 Qxd1 13.Rfxd1 Rxd8 14.Rdc1 Nd4 15.Ne1 Rd6 16.Kf1 g6 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.F3 Kg7 19.Kf2 h5 20.Ne2 Nc6 21.Nc3 Nd4 22.Ne2 Nc6 23.Nc3 Nd4 game drawn.



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

PTI ■ PERTH

Brought up in penury, the sensational Yashasvi Jaiswal says he now uses the experience gained from those difficult days as ammunition to conquer the battles on and off the field.

Jaiswal stamped his class with a masterful hundred in the first Test against Australia, and is poised to take over the mantle of being India's batting mainstay from the great Virat Kohli, who also made a century after a long time.

Having moved to Mumbai from Uttar Pradesh's Bhadoli at age 11 to train at Azad Maidan, Jaiswal lived in tents with the groundsman and sold paani puri at night to earn money for food.

"It's something (his backstory) that always gives me confidence that I can come out of any situation. I always fight, I always look to fight, I want to be in the battle, I want to enjoy the

battle and I want to win the battle," Jaiswal said during a chat with Australian television broadcaster Mark Howard.

The 22-year-old opener added, "So this is what I give me and I am really blessed that I have this life, that can give me a lot of confidence, learnings about myself, how I can believe in me, and how I can go through with different emotions, different situation in my life.

"So I think it's just incredible and I really want to thank god for where I am and what I am doing, and I am doing what I love, so I am just happy at the moment. I want to enjoy this with every ball."

His journey to fame is a fascinating tale of a strong-willed man making his own destiny. His swashbuckling hundred more than made for the first-innings duck at Perth, where the five-match Test series began from November 22.

Asked about his unusual

celebration after getting to the three-figure mark, Jaiswal said, "Yes, it was (an unusual) way to bring up the hundred. In my mind, I was like, I will do this or that, and then suddenly, something happened, and I was like, oh my god, what should I do.

"So, I was like, okay, I will just celebrate, and I will enjoy this moment. I was blessed, I was grateful, I enjoyed it, this feeling will stay with me for a long time.

"I give kisses to all my loved ones, all my fans who have supported me. I just wanted to give them my love with the kisses.

He spoke to his family after the fine achievement.

"I just called my family on whatsapp, getting everyone along and celebrate with them. My brother always talks to me about cricket."

India won the first Test by a huge margin of 297 runs and the second match will be played in Adelaide from December 6.

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

PTI ■ PERTH

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has flown back to India with his family due to "personal emergency" and is unlikely to be present during the two-day pink ball warm-up game in Canberra starting November 30.

Gambhir, however, is slated to directly link up with the squad in Adelaide before the 'Pink Ball Test' starting December 6.

It is understood that Gambhir has sought permission from BCCI brass with regards to his return.

"He left with his family on early Tuesday morning for India. It is an unavoidable

personal emergency. He will be back in Adelaide before the start of the second Test match," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The Indian team will leave for Canberra on Wednesday, November 27 where the entire team is expected to attend an official reception thrown in their honour by the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The two-day Pink ball match will give the Indian team a chance to get some game time under its belt.

PMXI is a squad full of youngsters but India will get some good match practice with pacer Scott Boland expected to play the game.

Getting Venky was one of our main priorities, says Bravo

PTI ■ JEDDAH

Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who is now the mentor of reigning champions Kolkata Knight Riders, has defended the team's strategy of "going all out" for Venkatesh Iyer to keep the "core" of the IPL championship-winning side intact.

Seen as a potential captaincy candidate for KKR, Venkatesh's acquisition has sparked some criticism over why he wasn't retained if leadership was part of the team thinktank's plan for him.

"Getting Venky (Venkatesh Iyer) was one of the main priorities for us, as you could see, we went all out for him," said Bravo, a four-time IPL winner at Chennai Super Kings.

"It's good that we have 90 per

cent of the players from the championship-winning team. That in itself is a positive sign.

"It's important to keep your core because when you have to build from scratch, it becomes complicated to make combinations and all."

"We started planning while I was in Trinidad. We had come with a proper plan, the players we wanted to target," added Bravo, who will be in charge of all the franchises of the Knight Riders label in T20 leagues.

At a staggering Rs 23.75 crore, the 29-year old Madhya Pradesh all-rounder, who has represented India in nine T20Is and two ODIs, emerged as the third most expensive player at the two-day IPL mega auction that concluded here on Monday.

Only Rishabh Pant (Lucknow, Rs 27 crore) and Shreyas Iyer



(Punjab, 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 bowl, coach and selector Andrew McDonald has said.

Following the crushing loss, McDonald revealed that the team would land in Adelaide for the day-night second Test beginning December 6 earlier than planned to allow an additional net session.

"The people in that change-room (for Perth Test) are the

same people that will be in Adelaide," McDonald was quoted as saying by 'cricket.Com.Au'.

"It (making changes) is always a consideration, wherever you go in the world in terms of the personnel you pick for conditions."

Marsh, who bowled just 17 overs in the first Test for a match haul of three wickets, has been dealing with "niggles" since the white-ball tour of England in September.

Skipper Pat Cummins has already revealed that Marsh finished the first Test "a little bit sore."

McDonald expressed satisfaction with Marsh's bowling performance in the first innings

but said his fitness would be monitored closely moving forward.

"Has he (Marsh) pulled up okay? We'll wait and see," McDonald said.

"No, we didn't feel that (was a weakness). We knew that Mitch (Marsh) was slightly underdone coming in, but I thought the performance in the first innings was satisfactory."

Another player under scanner is top-order batter Marnus Labuschagne, who has struggled for form with an average of just 13.66 in his last 10 Test innings.

However, McDonald said he has faith in Labuschagne's abilities, describing him as "the



player we need" and urging him to rediscover his form.

"That's an ongoing discussion and that ebbs and flows in players' careers, so at the moment

he's in one of those patches and no doubt he'll be getting critiqued externally," McDonald said.

"But internally we're really con-

fidant 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 mind-set?"

"There's some technical aspects to that also within the mindset play. So as I said, we're really confident that he can turn that around."

The decision to ask debutant Nathan McSweeney to open the innings backfired as he scored just 10 and 0 in his two innings. McSweeney had enjoyed success in first-class cricket, as had Beau Webster, but neither of them has the

experience of being an opener. "I think there's been enough players banging down the door. I feel as though we've got some depth there if called upon," he said.

"I think sometimes people look

at the pure numbers of what's happening in Shield cricket, but it's sometimes hard to get a connection with the surfaces they're playing on. So we feel as though we've got ample players available if called upon."

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Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834008, Jharkhand, India

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