: DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA

the airline operators who already under financial stress,

operations stakeholders like

security forces logistics and

regulatory bodies to under take the drill to ensure safe

According to estimates from aviation industry sources, it costs about Rs one to three

Crores, on an average, to

undertake the security drills

and the burden is on all the

government to the private

agencies. Which means given

the total of 180 flights that

have undergone the process after the hoax calls an additional burden of about Rs

"Following the laid down protocols, relevant authorities

were immediately alerted, and

all security procedures strictly

adhered to, as per guidance

from the regulatory authorities and security agencies," an Air India spokesperson said in a

Protocols for the Bomb Threat

(BTAC), is convened in the

event of a bomb threat call to

an aircraft or airport, to tackle the spate of the ongoing "random" Internet-based

threats being made to various Indian airlines.
On Monday night, the BTAC

that assembled at seven

airports of Delhi, Mumbai,

Jaipur, Pune, Mangalore, Bengaluru and Kozhikode

Committee

"hoax or

flight.

stakeholders

300 Crore.

statement.

Assessment

AMERICAN SOFIA KENIN ADVANCES TO SECOND

ROUND AT PAN PACIFIC OPEN

# GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

www.dailypioneer.com



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, in Kazan, Tuesday

PTI KAZAN

provide all possible cooperation towards it, Prime provide Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday during his talks with Russian President

Putin hours after arriving in this central Russian city to The Russia-Ukraine conflict should be resolved in a peaceful manner and India is ready to manner and India possible.

The Russia-Ukraine attend the 16th BRICS summit. In his televised opening remarks, the Prime Minister conveyed to the Russian leader that New Minister conveyed to the Russian leader that the second confidence of the confidenc Minister conveyed to the Russian leader that New Delhi "fully supports" the early return of peace and etablity in the process. stability in the region.

Modi also said that his second Vladimir Putin. visit to Russia in the last three return of peace and stability. Modi held bilateral talks with months reflected "close" All our efforts give priority to

coordination and "deep trust" between the countries."We are in constant touch on the issue of ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As I said earlier, we believe that problems should be resolved in a peaceful manner," the Prime Minister said.

"We fully support the early

provide all possible cooperation in times to come," he said. "We have the provide

opportunity to discuss all these issues," he added.
On his part, Putin noted the "good condition" of trade turnover between Russia and India. In his remarks, Modi also referred to his summit talks with the Russian leader in Moscow in July. Our annual summit resulted in strengthening cooperation in every field, he said.

The Prime Minister also congratulated Putin on Russia's successful presidency of BRICS. Many countries want to join the grouping now, he added. "It is a matter of great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to visit a beautiful city like Kazan for the BRICS summit. India has deep and historical ties with

this city," Modi said.
"The opening of India's new consulate in Kazan will further strengthen these ties," he added. It is learnt that the Ukraine conflict figured prominently at the meeting. In the summit talks on July 9 in Moscow, Modi told Putin that a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace efforts do not succeed in the midst of bombs and bullets. Weeks later he travelled to Ukraine. In his talks with Zelenskyy, Modi said both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in the region. India has been maintaining that the conflict in Ukraine must be resolved through dialogue diplomacy.



Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi during a press conference, in New Delhi

### We are trying to restore the trust: **Army Chief**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/BEIJING

With India and China agreement on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday said as of now "we are trying to restore the trust" and both sides will have to "reassure each

It means both the armies will now resume patrolling in their respective zones as was the practice before May

Continued on page 8

### **Hoax threats leave financial scars** RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI While there seems to be no end to the menace of bomb threat messages targeting Indian airlines, as about 80 more flights, operating on domestic and

have to "reassure each other" to achieve this.

His assertion in New Delhi came a day after India announced an agreement with China on patrolling. China on Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

Following the Galwan clash in June that year, both sides deployed a large number of troops on the LAC leading to heightened tension.

### international routes, received fresh threats from Monday night to Tuesday, it has also had a huge financial impact on

### More CRPF schools get bomb threats

SAUMYA SHUKLA

Days after the crude bomb blast outside the Central Reserves Police Forces (CRPF) public school in Delhi's Rohini area, an email threat was received at the central agency's school in Telangana's Hyderabad on Tuesday threatening to blow up five schools across the country. However, official sources later confirmed that the email turned out to be a

According to police sources, an email was received in a CRPF school in Medchal near Hyderabad threatening to blow up three CRPF schools in Delhi and Hyderabad, and two Kendriya Vidyalayas within the forces' office premises in other cities.

The three CRPF schools include two in Delhi (Rohini and Dwarka), one in

nonspecific" bomb threat messages sent to 30 flights belonging to three carriers - Air India, Vistara and Indigo. The threat was assessed as "non specific" as it was found that one X handle posted these "bombs onboard" messages for 10 flights each of these



Hyderabad (Telangana); while the two Kendriya Vidyalayas are within the paramilitary forces' office premises at Panchkula (Haryana) and Rampur (Uttar Pradesh).

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dwarka, Ankit Singh said, "The CRPF school in Dwarka did not receive any message or mail regarding the same. However, the message was shared to us by stay alert.

Continued on page 8

three carriers between 10.46 pm and 11.42 pm. The protocol undertaken by the BTAC has been tweaked and a fine assessment, acting on a set of new 'red flags', is being undertaken now, the sources added.

Continued on page 8

## Kalyan Banerjee ko gussa kyon aata hai?



Members of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill leave after a meeting at Parliament House Annexe, in New Delhi, Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

In a bizarre incident, All India Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament Kalyan Banerjee created a ruckus during a crucial Waqf meeting in Parliament on Tuesday where he smashed a glass water bottle and hurled it towards the Chair. Banerjee injured himself and jeopardised the safety of other

Parliamentarians who had gathered for a discussion on the Joint Committee on Waaf (Amendment) Bill. Banerjee was suspended for one day from the parliamentary committee on the Waqf Bill after his theatrics. He later emerged with a bandaged hand, escorted by fellow

Sources at the meeting said the TMC MP smashed a glass water bottle and threw it panel towards

Jagdambika Pal of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), during a heated exchange of words with BJP's Abhijit Gangopadhyay, a former cutta High Court judge. This is the second time Banerjee has made news for odd reasons, the last time he had mimicked a presiding officer of the Parliament. The act was condemned by the President of India, Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues.

According to sources, the panel voted nine-eight on a resolution moved by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey to suspend Banerjee for a day for his choice of words for the panel chairman, and for smashing a glass bottle and throwing it towards Pal. After the meeting concluded, Banerjee refused to talk to reporters about the incident.

After being administered first aid, Banerjee was seen being escorted back to the meeting room by AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and AAP leader Sanjay Singh.

Continued on page 8



Officials at the blast site of Ordnance Factory Jabalour (OFJ), in Jabalour district. Madhva Pradesh, Tuesdav

### **Blast at Jabalpur Ordnance Factory, many injured**

More than a dozen workers were injured in a powerful blast at the Ordnance Factory Khamaria in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Tuesday morning, an official said. The blast took place at around 9.45 am when explosive material was being filled in the bombs at a refilling section of the factory, the official from the establishment said. Among the injured persons,

two were in a serious condition and admitted to a hospital. Another worker was missing and was possibly trapped under the debris of the section in which the blast took place, The blast was so powerful that it was even heard by people a few kilometres away, as per eyewitnesses. The Ordnance Factory Khamaria is one of the major ammunition production units under the Department of Defence Production.

More than a dozen workers received injuries in the blast and efforts were on to locate a missing worker, who was possibly trapped under the debris of the building, the official said. A probe has been ordered into the incident and the exact cause behind the blast will be known after completion of the investigation, he said. Fire brigade and security staff of the factory launched a relief and rescue operation, the official added.

## Delhi is most polluted city: IQAir

declared as

Even before the arrival of winter, Delhi along with several cities of north India is gasping for clean air as air quality has degraded to arming levels over the past few days. Based on the real time data, Delhi ranks top on the list of most polluted cities in the country. It was the second-most polluted city in the world on Tuesday, a live ranking on IQAir's a Swiss based air quality monitoring website indicated, after only Lahore in neighbouring Pakistan. AQI in Lahore recorded 394.

A layer of smog engulfed Delhi and surrounding areas, including Noida, on Tuesday morning, even as the air quality plummeted to the 'very poor' category at 327, followed by Haryana's Jind where the AQI stood at 311.

Meanwhile, out of 36 monitoring stations in the National Capital, 26 are in the red zone, with the AQI recorded in the "very poor" category, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board. These stations



A smog as air quality deteriorates, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

include Anand Vihar, Bawana, Dwarka, Jahangirpuri, Mundka, Narela, Patparganj, Rohini, Shadipur, Sonia Vihar, Wazirpur, Alipur, Ashok Vihar, Aya Nagar, Burari, Mandir Marg, and others. A thick layer of fog was seen in areas like Anand Vihar, Kalkaji, Nehru Place, and Akshardham Temple, as Delhi's air quality continued to deteriorate. contributing Factors

significantly to pollution include transportation, stubble burning, and dust pollution, with emissions from transportation accounting for approximately 11.45 percent of Delhi's air pollution, according to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management.

As the air pollution in Delhi reaches the red zone, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday wrote letters to the transport ministers of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, urging them to ensure no diesel buses from their states plied to the national capital in view of GRAP II restrictions in place. Rai announced a slew of measures. including enhanced water sprinkling to control road dust, use of dust suppressants and deployment of additional traffic personnel to ease traffic congestion, among others.

Continued on page 8



## Driving to Gurgaon? Pack a meal, and a diaper

### District administration has identified 18 hot spots on the city roads

BY PARVESH SHARMA

 $T^{o} \ \, \text{tackle traffic congestion in} \\ \text{the city, the Gurugram district} \\ \text{administration has identified 18} \\$ spots on the city roads which have reported heavy traffic movement and congestion. The officials have asked traffic police and other departments to take correctional steps in this regard.

These places include Delhi-Gurugram Expressway, Sohna Road, Delhi-Jaipur Highway, Sheetla Mata Road, Old-Delhi Road and other major roads. The city administration recently wrote to traffic police asking for a reduction in jams at the identified spots. Officials have advised enforcement and increased police presence on roads so that road

congestion is cleared quickly. "We conduct drives to reduce congestion and ensure traffic movement remains smooth. We have also increased the presence of traffic police personnel at these 18 hot spots and the enforcement has been made strict. We are also conducting awareness among the vehicle owners to follow traffic rules," Virender Vij, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) told The Pioneer.

Another traffic congestion reason is rain. A few hours of rain causes severe water logging in different areas of Gurugram, which in turn results in traffic disruption in the city. The traffic police have also identified more than 55 places in the city, including major key points on the expressway, that witnessed water logging due to rain.

Rainwater collected at various spots also hampers the traffic movement on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway. The traffic movement at this major junction of the ślowed expressway down. especially when two-wheelers and four wheelers faced huge inconveniences due to rainwater.



Among the 18 spots identified are Ambience Island, Iffco Chowk, Subash Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk, Umang Bhardwaj Chowk, Sohna Chowk, Kherki Daula toll plaza, Dwarka Expressway, Huda City Centre, Hero Honda Chowk, Subhash Chowk Underpass and Subhash Chowk.

Gurugram Deputy Commissioner has asked authorities to take strict measures to check violations of traffic norms. He asked officials to launch a drive to check wrong parking, ferrying of dangerous goods and seizure of old vehicles that are not allowed to ply on roads.

The city traffic police department said they have increased police presence at these hot spots and measures in line with the Graded Action Response Plan (GRAP). Traffic police issued over 24,000 penalties in the previous month. Offences include wrong-side driving, helmet-less riding, wrong

parking, jumping signals, underage driving, speeding, without a driving licence, without a highsecurity number plate, using a mobile phone while driving, overloading, and driving without seat belts.

"To make people aware of traffic rules in Gurugram, people should follow the traffic rules in public places so that they can save themselves and their families from road accidents and avoid being victims effort is being made by the traffic police in Gurugram to get rid of the problem of traffic jams and ease the traffic in the cyber city by taking continuous action against the violators as per the rules," Vij said.

"To curb the traffic menace across Gurugram we have been organising special drives from time to time. We have issued a clear direction to the traffic personnel to be present on the roads and curb traffic violations, he added.

## 'UP, India can emerge as global leaders in garment industry'

### Silk Expo inaugurated

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday, asserted that Uttar Pradesh and India at large, have both the potential and resources to compete with the major global players in readymade gar-

ments industry.

Inaugurating the Silk Expo at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, the chief minister said, "Small nations worldwide have established a strong presence in the readymade garment industry, even with limited resources and opportunities. We, on the other hand, have both the potential and resources."

The Silk Expo will conclude on October 28.

"If a significant portion of the workforce, especially women, is engaged in silk production, processing, readymade garments, designing, marketing and packaging, Uttar Pradesh and India can emerge as glob-al leaders in the garment industry," he said.

Yogi Adityanath highlighted a remarkable achievement in silk production, which has increased 84-fold under the current administration. "A day will come when Uttar Pradesh will be recognised among the top states in the country for silk production," he added.

The chief minister highlighted that since the Bharatiya Janata



#### **NOTICE**

It is to be informed that I Akhilesh Kumar Tiwari s/o Raj Kumar Tiwari No. 13631706N Rank NK 2 Rajput C/o 56 APO, my mother's name in the army records is Raj Kumari Tiwari and DOB is written as 02.03.1952, whereas correct name is Raj Kumari and DOB is 01.01.1946. Therefore, my mother's name should be recorded as Raj Kumari and DOB as 01.01.1946 in my army service records. Akhilesh Kumar Tiwari s/o Raj Kumar Tiwari, R/o-Village Prahlad Kheda, Post-Nyiper, Village- Nawada, Hayatganj, Hardoi.

### **NOTICE**

I Pradeep kumar khatri R/o 25 ,Sbi Colony, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur have changed my name from Pradeep khatri to Pradeep kumar khatri for all Future Purposes.

### **NOTICE**

I, Rashmi Singh, D/o Raghuvir Singh, R/o Arjunpur Bisalpur, Mangalpur, Sikandra, Kanpur Dehat, declare that my name and my father's name have been incorrectly written as Rashmi Devi and Raghuveer Singh in my CBSE 10th and 12th certificates. The correct names are Rashmi Singh and Raghuvir Singh.

### **AUCTION NOTICE**

दिनाँक 28-10-2024 प्रातः 11:30 बर्ज कार्यालय अपर आयुक्त आयकर, परिक्षेत्र– सीतापुर आयकर भवन, प्रधान डाकघर रोड सीतापुर में उपलब्ध निष्प्रयोज्य घोषित फर्नीचर, उपकरण, विद्युतयंत्र व अभिलेखों एवं पत्रावलियों की नीलामी के साथ ही आयक विभाग, लखीमपुर-खीरी एवं हरदोई के कार्यालयों में उपलब्ध निष्प्रयोज्य सामग्रियों व अभिलेखों एवं पत्रावलियों की नीलामी की जायेगी, इच्छुक बोलीदाता रु 5,000/- का बैंक ड्राफ्ट जो **आयकर विभाग, सीतापुर** के पक्ष में एस. बी. आई, मुख्य शाखा, सीतापु में देय हो, फर्म के जी. एस. टी. पंजीकरण आधार, पैनकार्ड के साथ जमाकर नीलामी प्रकिया में भाग ले सकते है। आई०पी० सिंह

### **NOTICE**

एण्ड सन्स.

Public Notice It is informed to the general public that my Bhuke Bainama which was done on page no.33-34 of book no. 1 volume no. 888. serial no. 35, 38 dated 15-12-1989. I was returning home keeping the said Bainama in the bag, due to the bag falling somewhere on the way, the Bainama got lost, regarding which information repeat LARNO 20220000258069 has been registered in Kotwali Raebareli on 1.6.2022, the said sale

deed has not been received by me

yet. Applicant Anil Kumar

Srivastava S/O Late Nanak Prasad

Srivastava M-95 Jail Road Indira

Nagar Raebareli.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at a stall at the Silk Expo in Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow, on Tuesday

the income of farmers and

generate employment. Uttar

Pradesh, with its population of

25 crore, has a vast potential in

silk production, and while

progress has been made in

recent years, much more

remains to be achieved to

match the state's immense pos-

The chief minister urged peo-

ple to explore the vast potential for development within

Uttar Pradesh. He pointed out that places like Varanasi,

Bhadohi and Azamgarh, known for their silk sarees such as those from Mubarakpur, hold significant

The Central and state govern-

ments are making concerted efforts to develop silk clusters in these regions. Varanasi silk sarees, a popular choice for aus-

picious occasions nationwide,

have seen increased demand

following the expansion of Kashi Vishwanath Dham,

which has attracted more devo-

tees and tourists. The establish-

ment of a Trade Facilitation

Centre at the Varanasi Expo

Mart has further boosted this

traditional industry," Chief

Minister Yogi asserted.

sibilities, he added.

promise.

Party came to power in Uttar only meets a basic need but also Pradesh in 2017, the state has serves as a vital means to boost taken significant steps to promote traditional products.

The state became the first in India to implement a dedicated policy for traditional crafts, identifying a unique product for each of its 75 districts under the One District, One Product (ODOP) initiative. By linking ODOP with market access, design and packaging, the initiative has not only created employment, but also boosted the export of traditional goods. Today, all 75 districts have distinct GI-tagged products recognised across the country, he pointed out.
The chief minister emphasised

the potential for further growth, particularly through the famous sarees of Varanasi, Bhadohi and Mubarakpur. He encouraged efforts to make the Silk Expo a platform for advancing Uttar Pradesh's prospects in this sector.

Referring to the age-old slogan of 'roti, kapda aur makaan' (food, clothing and shelter), Chief Minister Yogi stressed that while air and water are essential for life, the need for food, clothing and shelter is equally fundamental.

He noted that clothing not

**NOTICE** 

I, Afrroz Khanam (also known as

Afrroz or Afrroz Bano), wife of

Abdul Wahab Khan resident of

village and post Pure Shiva

Bakhtawar, District Gonda,

through an affidavit executed

before Notary Tripurari Prasad Upadhyay on 07.10.2024, I con-

firm that my official name is

Afrroz Khanam and from now on,

I will be known as Afrroz Khanam

for all purposes and documents.

**NOTICE** 

It is informed to the general

public that my child's name is

written as Mohammad Keyaan

Haider in his school documents

which is wrong whereas his

correct name is Syed Mohammad

Keyaan Haider, Mohammad

Keyaan Haider or Syed Mohammad Keyaan Haider both

are the same person Rabab Fatima

W/o Nadeem Haider R/o-

450/155/3 Ka, Hammam Lane

Abbas Nagar Muftiganj Lucknow

**NOTICE** 

swear that my daughter's name

is recorded as Rajani in the P.P.O.

of my Army Service Record,

which is wrong. Whereas in the Aadhar card it is Rajani Kumari,

which is correct and true. Which

should be recorded in the record.

Army Number - J.C. 339781N

Rank Ex Subedar Major Dinesh

Kumar S/O Hardev, Village and

Post - Khalispur, District - Ghazipur (U.P.)

**NOTICE** 

ters in Mirzapur, Varanasi and Bhadohi, indicating that the sector has considerable growth potential. However, the chief minister emphasised the need for local raw material production to support these initiatives. He encouraged farmers to participate, noting that the Central government offers several

schemes for their benefit. Furthermore, he called on the relevant departments to organise symposiums, seminars and outreach programmes in every district to inform progressive farmers about these schemes and connect them with training and processing pro-

He highlighted the progress of entrepreneurs associated with

the saree industry in Mubarakpur and the silk clus-

grammes.
This initiative aims to enhance opportunities, not just in the Gorakhpur division but also in Varanasi, Mirzapur, Lucknow, Devipatan, Basti and Devipatan,

Azamgarh. He emphasised the importance of locally linking silk produc-tion and processing with the textile industry to ensure affordable raw materials, which would naturally lower costs and make products more accessible to meet market demand. The government, he assured, will support training initiatives and assist in raw material procurement, processing, marketing and design.

The chief minister pointed out that farmers and entrepreneurs in Uttar Pradesh have long been connected to traditional crafts, but faced setbacks due to the neglect of previous governments, which failed to provide proper incentives, design support and packaging for their products. This challenge extended beyond silk to all traditional industries, he added. Today, the state showcases a variety of unique products: Bhadohi's carpets, Gorakhpur's terracotta, Varanasi's numerous GI-tagged items, leather goods from Agra and Kanpur, Moradabad's brassware, Firozabad's glass, and sports equipment from Meerut.

Yogi offers prayers to Lord Krishna

chief minister also paid his

respects at the Banke Bihari

Yogi arrived in Mathura on

Tuesday and held a meeting with

the Uttar Pradesh Braj Tirtha

Vikas Parishad. Subsequently, he

conducted a review meeting

# electrocuted

**Lucknow (PNS):** Two people, including a teenage girl, were electrocuted in separate incidents in the city on Tuesday. In the first incident, a 19-year old girl died from electric shock in Nigohan. The victim identified as Saloni, a Class XII student and daughter of Dinesh, a farmer from Mirkhanagar village, was attempting to switch on a submersible pump when the incident occurred.

'The police have sent the body for autopsy," Nigohan SHO Anuj Kumar Tiwari said. According to family members, Saloni was trying to start the

motor to fill water. "As she connected the wire to the electricity board, she suffered an electric shock and fainted. Her younger brother Shiva, who was home at the time, saw her in distress and immediately informed the neighbours. However, by the time they arrived, Saloni had

already died," her father recounted. Meanwhile, a 28-year-old man, Irfan, was electrocuted while repairing a washing machine at home. Irfan, who worked as a fast-food vendor at Abrar Nagar crossing, was rushed to RML Hospital, where he was pronounced dead by a doctor. The police said investigations

are ongoing. Meanwhile, a 32-year-old man died under mysterious circumstances in the Ashiyana police station area. The deceased, identified as Neeraj Tiwari, was found unconscious at his residence in Sharda Nagar Yojana, LDA Colony,

Ruchi Khand II. His family immediately rushed him to Lok Bandhu Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival. After being informed by the hospital, local police sent the body for the post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death. According to Ganesh Singh, the in-charge of Quila police outpost, there were marks of strangulation on Neeraj's neck, suggesting he may have hanged himself.

"However, the exact cause of death will only be confirmed once the postmortem report is received," he added.

focused on development pro-

Later, he visited Shri Krishna

Janmasthan, where he per-

formed darshan, puja, and aarti. He also visited Keshav Dev,

Yogmaya, Garbhagriha, and Bhagwat Bhawan.

iects and law and order.

## Two, including 19-yr-old girl, LMC caps mutation charges at ₹10,000

### **Executive committee nod to cleanliness,** traffic management, tech proposals

The Lucknow Municipal Corporation executive committee meeting, held in the presence of Mayor Sushma Kharakwal on Tuesday, approved several key proposals. Decisions were also made on pending issues of previous

meetings.
In the meeting, it was decided that the mutation fee, which was earlier one per cent of the cost of the building, would not exceed Rs 10,000.

Regarding payment of salary of sanitation workers (including contract workers) by 7th of every month, it was decided to make the payment between 7th to 10th of every month.

In view of the smooth management of traffic in the urban areas of Lucknow, for the operation of tempos, taxis and autorickshaws, the mayor was authorised to form a sub-committee on the proposal sent by the executive engineer (traffic) for operation through auto/tempo committee at 45 halts in urban areas and for approval of 27 pick-and-drop

points. Councillors Saurabh Singh Monu, Mukesh Singh Monty, Piyush Diwan and Laiq Agha were nominated in the subcommittee. The mayor said that the e-rickshaws would be streamlined.

A proposal to purchase 20 robots was put forward in the meeting, on which it was decided to purchase 20 robots in the next one month.

Keeping in view the financial

situation, it was unanimously decided to ensure action within the next one month regarding the proposal to install one smart screen in each school. The mayor directed the officials of LESA that wherever ABC wires are being laid by their department, street lights should

be installed immediately so

that street light theft can be pre-

vented. In the same sequence, the LESA officials were also told that information about whatever transformers are installed in the parks must be given to the

municipal corporation. In the meeting, the officials of Jal Nigam were directed by the mayor to provide the complete details of all the schemes being implemented by their department in the city to the munic-

ipal corporation. It was directed that all the zonal officers and executive engineers will ensure that encroachments are removed and cleanliness is maintained under all over bridges in the city.

The mayor gave directions that from November 1 onwards, no handcart should be found in the wards. If orders are not followed, action will be taken against the officers concerned. Instructions were given to pay special attention to the issues of cleanliness and hygiene in the municipal corporation area, make plans for the repair and maintenance of roads, take necessary steps to improve the water supply system, implement various social public welfare schemes.

Approval was given to the

proposal to construct a vending zone from Lajpat Nagar Primary School to Nimbu Park in Chowk Ward.

Instructions were given to start the work as soon as possible. Nod was also given for early construction of the dilapidated boundary wall of Maharaja Agrasen Park which has collapsed.

It was also discussed at the meeting that Vivekanand Hospital has not been paying tax to the municipal corporation for the last several years. Instructions were given to take legal action.

Instructions were also given to resolve all the problems of Gulala Ghat.

Both the boundary gates of the burial place under Gulala crematorium operated by Municipal Lucknow Corporation are broken due to which dogs enter and dig the soil and nibble on the buried bodies.

Often due to this, the family members of the deceased approach police, and local priests and other employees face undue harassment.

The proposal to secure the said burial place by installing iron gates on the boundary was approved. After 8 pm, there is a gathering of anti-social elements at the Gulala crematorium operated by LMC. These anti-social elements consume alcohol, gamble, abuse and also indulge in immoral activities there. A proposal to secure the entire premises by installing surveillance and CCTV cameras was approved.

## **Unable to pay creditors, woman** fabricated robbery case: Police

Unable to pay her creditors, a woman fabricated a story about a house robbery in the Nagram police area, police said on Tuesday. These details emerged during the police investigation, revealing that PNS LUCKNOW the jewellery and cash she claimed were stolen were actually found at her home. On October 16, the woman reported to the Nagram police hat unidentified individuals had entered her house, held a Tuesday. knife to her neck, and threatened her child with a gun. She alleged that they stole a necklace, earrings, anklets, and other jewellery, along with Rs 5,000 in cash from a cup-

board. An FIR under Section 307 of BNS was registered. However, during the investigation, a crime branch team, surveillance unit, field unit, and dog squad were deployed to the scene. Their findings indicated that the incident was suspicious. CCTV footage showed no sign of suspicious individuals, and there were no traces of robbers entering or leaving the premises, according to Mohanlalganj ACP Rajneesh Kumar.

Upon further questioning, the woman confessed to fabricating the story. The police stated that legal action would be taken in accordance with the rules after a thorough investi-

### Cop's wife alleges abduction attempt informed the police that his

Unidentified accused allegedly attempted to abduct a constable's wife while she was returning home from school with her child in the PGI area, police said on

The incident occurred on Saturday, but the victim filed a complaint at the PGI police station on Tuesday, they added. "A case has been registered under relevant sections, and preventive measures against the accused are being taken," PGI SHO Brijesh Chandra Tiwari said. The constable, who resides in Avadh Vihar Yojana,

wife picks him up daily at 11:30 am. For several days, a black SUV had been following her on her route to school. On Saturday, as she was

son studies at a private school

in Vrindavan Colony, and his

returning home with her son near the Barauli intersection, the accused attempted to take her hostage by parking two SUVs in front of her.

"However, as she raised an alarm, the accused fled the scene," the constable stated in his complaint. The police said efforts were underway to identify and apprehend the accused.

gation of all related facts. Meanwhile, in a crackdown on

illegal firecrackers ahead of Diwali, Banthra police claimed to have arrested a 36explosives, along with 3.5 kg of gunpowder.

the police station area, a three-

duty. Acting on a tip-off from an informer, we arrested the accused, Ankur Maurya, a resident of Banthra," the police in a press release. The seizure included 600 pieces of country-made illegal firecrackers-comprising 45 packets containing five pieces each and 375 single pieces—as well as 3.5 kg of gunpowder. The accused has been booked under Section 9B of the

### year-old man on Tuesday and seized 600 pieces of illegal

"In view of the upcoming festival and to maintain a vigilant

stance on crime prevention in member police team was on Explosives Act.

# exploitation by jail official

Ajail official has been accused of sexually exploiting a female student preparing for competitive exams, police said on Tuesday. He initially promised to marry her, but later used dowry demands as a tactic to distance himself from her, they added whiling citing the contents of the FIR.

Mathura (PNS): Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath, during his

one-day visit to Mathura on

Tuesday, offered prayers at Shri

Krishna Janmasthan. Earlier, on

August 26, he had visited the site

on the occasion of Janmashtami.

During that two-day visit, the

accused on a train, where he offered her his berth after discovering her waitlisted ticket had not been confirmed. This incident took place on September 7 last year, while the girl, who hails from Sultanpur, was return-

The accused, a resident of Khedka in Baghpat district, befriended her during the journey and even proposed to

gave a tentative agreement, stating she would consider marriage after establishing her career. The two remained in touch over the phone after the journey. While travelling to Lucknow by bus in October, the victim agreed to

meet the accused near Gosaingani police station. He then took her to his jail colony in Mohri Khurd, where he led her to a friend's room. It was there that he forced himself on her, claiming he was her future husband, she alleged. In subsequent meetings, the accused allegedly escalated his coercion. The victim claimed that he threatened to release a video of their encounters if she resisted. She also alleged that she was held hostage for four days at the official's residence in Gosainganj, where he repeatedly exploited her. The accused also visited her home several times, continuing his inappropriate behaviour.

### EIB team lauds Lko Metro efforts to increase ridership

Lucknow (PNS): The European Investment Bank (EIB) delegation concluded its three-day visit with a significant meeting in Lucknow. The team, which visited Agra on October 20 and the Kanpur Metro project on October 21, expressed satisfaction with the pace of construction work and praised Lucknow

Metro's efforts to increase ridership.
During their meeting with UPMRC officials at the Administrative Building, the EIB team commended the current construction progress in Agra and Kanpur, as well as the international safety standards adopted by UPMRC. They also discussed operational metro services on the

23-km-long North-South Corridor in Lucknow. The delegation highlighted the awareness campaign launched by Lucknow Metro in schools and colleges, as well as the celebrations for birthdays and kitties in metro trains and exhibitions at metro stations aimed at boosting ridership.
The EIB is providing financial assistance of €650 mil-

lion for the Kanpur Metro Rail project and €450 million for two corridors of the 29.4-km Agra Metro Rail Project. The total cost of the Kanpur Metro is Rs 11,076 crore, while the Agra Metro costs Rs 8,379.62 crore, with additional funding from the Central and state governments. Director of Finance at UPMRC SK Mittal noted the EIB's crucial role in financing projects. UPMRC MD Sushil Kumar emphasised the project's timely implementation and EIB's support in launching revenue services ahead of schedule.

Bank desires to take premises on rent having 800-1000 sq. ft. of carpet area preferably on ground floor or premises on first floor if the same is in Malls, Shopping Centers where infrastructure facilities like lifts, escalators are available The premises are required in the following localities for Shifting of its existing Branch/Office Sohramau, District The details may be collected from Bank's Zonal Office

75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road, Kanpur or can be downloaded from our Bank's web site at www.ucobank.in The last date of application in sealed cover on prescribed format is 18.11.2024 by 16:00 Hrs. EMD of Rs. 5000.00 to be submitted for each bid submitted by way of demand draft favoring UCO Bank payable at Kanpur.

Zonal Office, Kanpur

### ■ Notice ■

This is to inform you all that Smt Harmeet Kaur Bhalla want to mortgage Second Floor of Freehold House no 03 HIG Block RN Yojana- Second Ratan Lal Nagar, area 297.29 Sq meter, Sale deed SRO no 26483 dated 27-01-2024 in favour of Smt Harmeet Kaur Bhalla w/o Vikramjeet Singh Bhalla at Karur Vysya Bank Kanpur for loan application for renovation purpose. Earlier this property purchased by Smt Harmeet Kaur Bhalla from Harmeet Kapoor w/o Sachin Kapoor. For aforesaid mentioned property, if any person having objection regarding this, then please contact to Advocate of Karur Vysya bank Kanpur Mr Dinesh Singh Mob no 9889801933 within one week. After the expiry of aforesaid period no claim/objection will not be entertained.

RASHID TO RASHID KHAN D/O- TAJ MOHAMMAD R/O PALPUR GAIRAUNDA AYODHYA, for future purpose

### **NOTICE**

MOHAMMAD HASANAIN to MOHAMMAD HASNAIN. In future I Shall be known as MOHAMMAD HASNAIN. MOHAMMAD HASNAIN S/o Mohammad Yakoob, Bharauti Phulpur, Prayagraj, UP

# **Girl student alleges sexual**

Temple.

As per reports, the victim met the

ing home from Delhi.

her promising marriage.
The victim, impressed by his gesture,

On September 5 this year, the victim

was called to Haidergarh in Barabanki by the accused's family to discuss marriage. However, during the meeting, they demanded a dowry of Rs 15 lakh. Though the accused initially spoke against dowry, he later disappeared, leaving the victim in distress. Inspector Brajesh Kumar Tripathi stated that raids are being conducted to apprehend the accused, who is currently on

## **Yogi inaugurates projects** worth ₹1,147 cr at SGPGI

'Advanced Paediatric Centre taking shape'



PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on Tuesday that the long-awaited Advanced Paediatric ed Advanced raediatic Centre is taking shape in Uttar Pradesh, crediting the efforts of the double-engine government.

Drawing from his firsthand experience with health issues affecting children in the state, he recalled raising the matter in Parliament and through protests during his tenure as an MP.

The chief minister made these remarks during the inauguration and foundation stonelaying ceremony for various projects at SGPGI.

He stated, "Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the state is making continuous progress in healthcare. Heart Centre (Phase 2), and

PNS LUCKNOW

lence in Bahraich.

On October 18, Sureshwar

Singh, BJP MLA from Mahsi

in Bahraich district, filed an

FIR for rioting and serious

offences against the BJYM

office-bearer and several

unidentified people in the

Akhilesh alleged that the BJP

conspired to incite riots for

power and the rioters them-

selves were "revealing the

truth" in front of hidden cam-

The BJP has yet to respond to

Yadav's latest attack on the

communal violence case.

Before 2017, medical colleges existed in only 18 districts, but now there are colleges in 64 districts. We are rapidly moving towards the goal of 'One District, One Medical College."

He highlighted that the number of MBBS and PG seats has more than doubled in recent years and celebrated the successes in combating Japanese Encephalitis.

The chief minister inaugurated several healthcare facilities at SGPGI, including the Advanced Diabetes Center, Tele ICU, Saloni Heart Centre (Phase 1), and a hostel for the College of Medical Technology, all with a total Medical investment of Rs 1,147 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for the Advanced Paediatric Centre, Saloni

of Bahraich district last week.

"Shame on such BJP politics

its face. BJP MLAs themselves

are filing FIRs against BJP

members for conspiracy and

the rioters are revealing the

truth in front of hidden cam-

"The few supporters and vot-

ers of BJP that are left are also

ashamed to see this conspira-

torial and violent form of the

BJP. The BJP has used the sen-

timents of its supporters by

misleading them to save and

maintain its power. The truth

is that BJP is conspiring against

Akhilesh Yadav also alleged

its own people," he added.

eras," the SP chief said.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday which conspires to incite

alleged that the BJP was con-riots... for politics. Every day

spiring against its own people new revelations are being made

and that the ruling party was in the case of Bahraich violence

behind the communal vio- and the BIP is not able to show

party over the communal viothat the BJP was trapping its

lence in the Maharajganj town members by "getting them to

Rain Basera. CM Yogi noted that SGPGI is one of the most prestigious medical institutions in the country, emphasising the need for access to beds for seriously ill patients from various regions, including eastern, western, central, Bundelkhand, and Vindhya. The state government is actively addressing these challenges. The Advanced Paediatric Centre will feature 575 beds and provide services across 22 departments, including hormonal issues, diabetes, paediatric ICU care, emergency paediatric genetics, and pae-diatric neurology, all under one roof. He also announced that the first phase of the Saloni Heart Centre has com-

menced, and an MoU for the

second phase has been signed.

This centre, equipped with

Akhilesh: BJP conspired to incite riots in Bahraich

world-class facilities, aims to perform serious heart surgeries on 5,000 children annually and offer second opinions to an additional 10,000.

Furthermore, CM Yogi revealed the construction of a 1,000-bed night shelter funded by Rs 51 crore from ONGC's CSR initiative, which will significantly benefit attendants visiting the hospital. The shelter will also include parking and canteen facilities, providing meals for just Rs 15-20. Additionally, the hostel for 200 students at the College of Medical Technology has been com-pleted. Key officials present at the inauguration included Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak, Minister Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh, and Chief Secretary Manoj

report on X in which two

alleged rioters filmed on hid-

den cameras point towards a

conspiracy behind the commu-

nal violence in Maharajganj

and make several "revelations".

Communal violence broke out

in Maharaigani after a youth named Ram Gopal Mishra (22) was shot dead during a

Durga idol immersion proces-

MLA Sureshwar Singh lodged

an FIR in the city police station

on October 18 against seven named accused, including

BJYM's Srivastava, and many

other unidentified individuals

on charges of rioting and dis-

On the complaint of the MLA,

a case was registered against

Srivastava, Anuj Singh Raikwar, Shubham Mishra,

Kushmendra Chaudhary,

Manish Chandra Shukla,

Pundrik Pandey

sion on October 13.

turbance.

### UP conferred Award for mgmt, conservation efforts

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh has been conferred with the prestigious 'National Water Award' for its work in water management and conservation under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The state has secured second position in water conservation and management in the

Meanwhile, Odisha has bagged the first prize in water conservation and management, while Gujarat and Puducherry shared the third spot.

President Droupadi Murmu presented the award at the 5th National Water Awards ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan in New

Delhi on Tuesday. Additional Chief Secretary, Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply, Anurag Srivastava, and Housing Commissioner Dr Balakar Singh received the award on behalf of Uttar Pradesh.

Notably, UP has made significant strides in providing household tap connections in rural areas and implementing impressive water conservation and management initiatives under Yogi's leadership in recent years.

President Murmu praised Uttar Pradesh's efforts in providing tap water to every household and its innovative experiments in water conservation. During the programme, Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil also commended Uttar Pradesh's work in providing household tap connections and water conservation efforts in Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions. The state bagged the award for achieving a remarkable feat in 2023 by providing tap water connections to more than 17,900 villages, setting a record for the fastest implementation of the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme. Acting on the instructions of the Yogi government, Dr Balakar Singh, the then Managing Director of Jal Nigam (Rural), UP, implemented several innovative measures for water conservation and management, significantly benefiting farmers by improving irrigation facilities. To enhance irrigation infrastructure, over 6,000 check dams and 1,000 ponds were constructed.

Sudhanshu Singh Rana as well

as unidentified accused under

The MLA alleged that when

he, along with his bodyguards

and other colleagues, reached

the Bahraich Medical College

to take Ram Gopal Mishra's

body to the mortuary on

October 13, Srivastava and his

supporters raised slogans of

'murdabaad' against them and

hurled abuses. Apart from this,

stones were also pelted with

the intention of stopping his

car and killing him, Singh

A bullet was also fired by the

mob due to which the glass of

his car broke and his son

Akhand Pratap Singh narrow-

ly escaped, the Mahsi MLA

added. The police said the case against the BJYM office-

bearer and others was the 12th

FIR registered so far related to

the Maharajganj violence.

claimed.

relevant sections.

## 6 killed in Bulandshahr oxygen cylinder blast

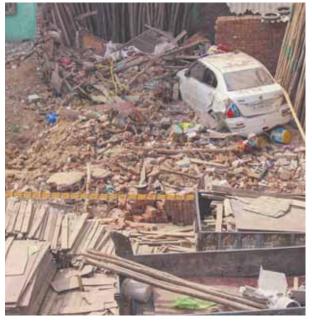
PNS LUCKNOW

 $S^{\mathrm{ix}}$  people, including three females, lost their lives and three others were wounded when an oxygen cylinder exploded in a house in Ashapuri Colony Sikandrabad area Bulandshahr district.

The explosion also led to partial collapse of the house According to Bulandshahr District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh, the incident happened late in the evening on Monday in the house of Riyazuddin, inhabited by about 19 individuals, including women and children. Nine members of the family were injured in the explosion, six of them fatally and they succumbed to their injuries in the

district hospital.
The deceased were identified as Riyazuddin alias Raju (50), his wife Rukhsana (45), Salman (16), Tamanna (24), Hivja (3) and Aas Mohammed (26).

One of the injured is in a critical state. Senior Superintendent of Police of Bulandshahr Shlok Kumar revealed that after being hospitalised for treatment, Rivazuddin's wife was recently taken home by the family, and they had brought an oxygen



Bulandshahr: Bodies of victims, who were killed in a cylinder blast, being carried for last rites, in Sicunderabad of Bulandshahr district, Tuesday

cylinder and its accessories for post-hospitalisation care and this oxygen cylinder exploded. Rescue and relief efforts were started soon after information about the explosion was received, according to Meerut Zone Additional Director General of Police Dhruva Kant

Thakur. The local police, Fire department, NDRF and medical personnel were involved in the rescue operation and gas cutters had to be used to pry open the

house's iron roof beams. An excavator was used to clean up

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा

Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region: 118/330, Bank of Baroda 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012

Possession Notice Branch : Chhibramau, Distt. Kannauj Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in genera that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers

conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the operty and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount

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

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and Out Standing Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date

Borrower: M/S SHRI PHARMACY, Proprietor: Shri Aneesh Kumar S/o Shri Jeevan Singh, Address Peepal Wali Gali, Awas Vikas, Chhibramau, Distt. Kannauj, **Guarantor**: Smt. Vimla Devi W/o Shr Jeevan Singh, R/o: 2/303, Awas Vikas Colony, Chhibramau, Distt. Kannauj. Demand Notice Date: 24-07-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 21.10.2024

Property: Commerical Shop Sitauted at Mauza Sector-2, Plot No. 2/146, Mohalla Awas Vikas Colony, Near Swati Hospital, Tehsil Chhibramau, Distt. Kannauj in the name of Smt. Vimla Devi W/o Shri Jeevar Singh, Area: 18.40 Sq. Mtr., Bounded: North: Plot of Seller, South: Plot of Seller, East: Plot of

Archana Verma, West: Peepal Wali Gali 9 Mr. Se Kam
Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 19,56,902.45 + Intt. +Others Charges
Total Dues Amount as on Dated 06-10-2024: Rs. 20,19,017.66 + Intt. +Others Charges

Date: 21-10-2024 Place : Kannauj **Authorised Officer** 

**Zonal Office** 

Kanpur-208011, Tel: 0512-2985004

128/24 Om Laxmi Tower, H-Block, Kidwai Nagar,

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule 8 (1)

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices to below mentioned Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest at other charges with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the below mentioned properties in exercise of power conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower guarantor in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India. The borrowers/guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor

Demand Notice Dt. | Possession Date

**Description of Properties** 

Amount as per Demand Mortgaged/Owner of the Properties Branch: Azad Nagar, 2A/157, Hastings Ave, Azad Nagar, Nawabganj, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh-208002

Mr Raj Gaur S/o Shri Ram Kishore Gaur and Mrs. Anchal Gaur W/o Mr Raj Gaur (Borrower)

S/o Mr. Shivpujan

Date: 23.10.2024

(Guarantor)

Demand Notice Dt. | Possession Date

Rs. 21,23,044.09 (Rs. Twenty One Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Forty Four and Paise Nine Only) + interest @10.45% w.e.f. 15.05.2024

EQM of Property situated at Premises. No. 117/620 Q Block Sharda Nagar, Kanpur, Kanpur Nagar Name of Mortgagor/Owner - Mr Rai Gaus Area: 86.12 Sq. mt

Boundaries of the property: East: Ho. No. 117/636, West 30 Feet wide road, North: Ho. No. 117/619, South Remaining part of Ho. No. 117/620

Place: Kanpur

Authorised Office: Bank of India

## 'Third eye' to monitor every inch of Maha Kumbh area

indulge in rioting", which was

why party members were filing

complaints against one anoth-

"UP kahe aai ka, nahin chahiye

Bhajpa (Today's UP says it doesn't need the BJP)," he said.

Yadav also shared a media

PNS PRAYAGRAJ

Adityanath government is implementing advanced surveillance measures to ensure comprehensive security throughout the fair area. In addition to licensed CCTV cameras and drones, high-resolution cameras will be installed on mobile towers, providing detailed monitoring of activities along the banks of the Sangam, various ghats and

In preparation for Maha Kumbh 2025, the Yogi

overall security system during the event. During the Maha Kumbh, the entire fair area will be monitored by the Kumbh Police through over 2,700 CCTV cameras, with more than half of these cameras equipped with AI (artificial intelligence) technology for enhanced surveil-

major routes. This initiative

aims to bolster the efforts of the

Kumbh Police to enhance the

lance. According to Senior Superintendent of Police, Maha Kumbh, Rajesh Dwivedi, Maha Kumbh 2025 is expected to attract a significant influx of devotees, particularly during the main bathing days, when the numbers could reach crores. He emphasised that every officer is committed to suspicious activities.

ensuring security in line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directives to prevent any untoward incident. Dwivedi noted that for the first time, the Kumbh Police plan to employ three to four tethered cameras. These cameras, secured to large balloons, will be deployed at considerable heights to monitor the entire fair area. However, they must be lowered every six to seven hours for maintenance. To enhance surveillance capabilities further, high-resolution cameras will be installed on mobile towers, allowing for continuous monitoring without the need for frequent adjustments.

Dwivedi mentioned that the installation of numerous mobile towers across the fair area is currently underway. These towers will be strategically positioned near major sites, including the Sangam banks, crowded ghats, and primary routes frequented by devotees. The high-resolution cameras installed on these marked towers will have an extensive range. allowing the control room to capture critical footage of the fair area. This capability will help identify crowded locations for immediate police deployment and monitor any

### Shaheed Wall to be inaugurated soon

**Prayagraj (PNS):** The Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh has constructed a 'Shaheed Wall' in Prayagraj, the martyrdom site of Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad. It is set to be inaugurated soon. Located on Mahatma Gandhi Marg in Civil Lines area, the monument, constructed by Prayagraj Smart City at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore, aims to educate tourists about the sacrifices made by the sons of Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh. Finishing touches are currently being given to the wall, and it is expected to be inaugurated before the Maha Kumbh. This year, devotees and visitors to the Kumbh City in Prayagraj will have the opportunity to learn about the martyrs' sacrifices while experiencing the spiritual atmosphere of the Maha Kumbh.

As part of this initiative, the Yogi government has built the Shaheed Wall to commemorate the anonymous martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation, helping to share their stories with the

### **Increased demand** raises income of hotel, house owners

Prayagraj (PNS): With the Uttar Pradesh government, headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, carrying out construction and beautification of roads, intersections, flyovers, parks, and hotels in Prayagrai ahead of the Maha Kumbh 2025, the city is witnessing an influx of national and international construction compa-

These companies have been camping in Prayagraj for several months, driving a significant demand for rental properties, hotels, and homestays to accommodate their officers and employees.

Local property dealers report a surge in inquiries for both well-furnished and unfurnished rental properties, as construction professionals seek long-term accommoda-

tion. In response, many homeowners are converting vacant

rooms and houses into home-

stays, offering lodging, meals,

and other essential services to

cater to the growing demand. Restaurants and tiffin services are experiencing increased business as they cater to the needs of these temporary residents. This trend has not only bolstered the local real estate market but also provided a boost to the hospitality sector.

Preparations for the grand event of Sanatan faith are moving ahead at a rapid pace in Prayagraj.

Construction and beautification work is happening across the entire city, and not just in the Sangam area, as efforts are being made to make the event divine, grand, modern, and eco-friendly. According to the CM's instructions, all construction work must be completed by December 15. Both government and private construction companies are working hard to finish their projects on time, transforming Prayagraj into a city ready to host the massive religious

### इंडियन बैंक (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) 🕰 इलाहाबाद



Indian Bank ALLAHABAD

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property) [Under Rule-8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed here in below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of the Indian Bank.

The Borrower's / Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

This Possession Notice is being served to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) & Mortgagor (s) to deposit the said dues.

Details as under:

Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Name & Address of the Borrower (s)/ Description of the Guarantor (s)/ Proprietor / Mortgagors

E	Branch : Balaganj Branch		
	1. Mrs Shail Kumari W/o Mr Rajendra Kumar Tiwari (Borrower & Mortgager), D-946, New Basti, Para Road, Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017  2. Mr Rajendra Kumar Tiwari S/o Mr. Dharm dutt Tiwari (Guarantor), D-946, New Basti, Para Road, Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017  3. Mr. Ashwani Kumar Rai s/o Batuk Rai (Guarantor), H No. C-13/70/73, Awas Vikas Colony, C block, Vishma No, Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017	709, New Basti Para Road, Rajajipuram, Lucknow, Total Area 259.293 sq mt of Mrs Shail Kumari W/O Mr Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, Boundaries: East-Road 20 FT, West- House of Mr. Jagdish Pandey, North- House no. D945 of Mr. Raj Bahadur	
E	Branch : Indira Nagar Branch		
	1. M/s Yash Car Bazar Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Add-1: 10, Draupadi Vihar, Laxman Puri, Faizabad Road Lucknow-226016		

Add-2: 2, Mount Carmel School Road, opp Hanuman Mandir, Badshahnagar Crossing, Nagar, Lucknow. Nagar, Lucknow. Mahanagar, Lucknow

2. Smt Reshma Waseem w/o Mohd Waseem

(Guarantor), 10, Draupadi Vihar, Laxman Puri, aizabad Road Lucknow-226016 serial no-1595/01 3. Mohd Waseem (Guarantor and Mortgagor), 10. Draupadi Vihar, Laxman Puri, Faizab Road Lucknow-226016

Date: 23.10.2024

Place: Lucknow

Sale deed registered on 05/03/2001 with sub registrar Lucknow-2 at book no-1, zild no-20152 on pages 23 to 46 a

20.02.2024

19.10.2024

and interest

16.08.2024

21.10.2024

Rs. 50.96.970.00

Bounded by- East- Plot no.09, West-Road 40 ft wide, North- Road 40 f wide, South-Plot no.11 **Authorised Officer Indian Bank** 

#### LUCKNOW | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2024

## Maha Kumbh: 30 pontoon bridges to be constructed

**DIFFERENT EXPE-**

RIENCE TO DEVO-

TEES: Different responsi-

bilities have been assigned to

the departments concerned

regarding the preparations for the Maha Kumbh here. They

have been asked to complete

the work on time. The work

has gained momentum after

the CM's visit. As a result, the



Chequered plates being laid before the construction of pontoon bridge in the Sangam area for Maha Kumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

in the Maha Kumbh to be held The number of pontoon bridges has been increased here. Last time in the 2019 Kumbh, the number of these

view of the number of devotees coming this time, the number of pontoon bridges to be built on the Ganga river has also been increased to 30 this time. With the fall in the water level of Ganga-Yamuna, the construction work of pontoon bridge for Maha Kumbh has started by the Public Works Department i.e. PWD Section-

The work of preparing two bridges on Old GT Road, one on Gangoli Shivala and one on Harishchandra Marg has been started. With this, the work of construction of other four bridges has started from Tuesday.

Talking about Jhunsi area the construction of two culverts has started since last one week. This time 30 pontoon bridges are to be constructed in Maha Kumbh. PWD Executive Engineer Surendra Singh said that the process of preparing the bridge has started. The department is currently

been completed up to 80 per cent. A deadline of November plates) at the bridge construc-tion site. The water level of Ganga is decreasing. In such a situation, every effort is being 15 has been set for all the departments to complete the made to complete the con-struction of the bridge by To give a different experience

November 30. At the same to the devotees time, JE (Store) Arun coming to the Tripathi said this time Maha 30 pontoon bridges Kumbh are being con-structed instead time, of 22 as comt h e pared to 2019 major Kumbh so that temthe visiting devoples of tees can get more the city convenience. BID TO GIVE being spe-

> rated. The work of giving facelift to the old Ganga Ghats is also going on at a fast pace. This will give people a special experience here. The Tourism department has taken the responsibility of completing these works on time. This includes Dashashwamedh

cially deco-

and other ghats. Apart from this, beautification of major temples like Shultankeshwar Mahadev, Padila Mahadev, Dwadash Madhav Temple is to be done. It is being completed rapidly.

rapidly.
According to Regional
Tourism Officer Aparajita
Singh at present about 80 percent of the work has been
completed. People are busy
completing it as per the deadline of November 15. Before Maha Kumbh, the city's his-torical temples Alopshankari and Mankameshwar temple are also being beautified. The government has released a budget of Rs 6 crore each for the beautification of both the temples. The construction of Satsang Bhawan, making the main entrance grand, mural making, flooring etc. are being done in Mankameshwar temple. Emphasis is being laid on completing these works. on time works Alopshankari temple as well.

## EIB delegation visits both corridors of Knp Metro project



European Investment Bank (EIB) delegation visiting Kanpur Metro Rail Project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Athree-member European Investment Bank (EIB) delegation visited both corridors of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project on Monday. During this, Director (Finance), Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC), Sheel Kumar Mittal, (Works Director

Director (Works & Infrastructure) CP Singh; Director (Rolling Stock) Naveen Kumar, Project Director (Kanpur Metro) Arvind Meena and other senior officials were present. The delegation appreciated the Kanpur Metro team's rapid progress in Metro team's rapid progress in the construction work on both corridors. The EIB delegation reached Kanpur Metro Depot at Gurudev Chauraha after its tour of Agra Metro. They held

a meeting with senior officials of UPMRC and took stock of the progress made so far in the construction works. After the meeting ended the delegation visited various construction sites of both corridors. The delegation expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of the construction works

adhering to world-class quality and safety standards.
Senior officials of Kanpur Metro apprised the delegation about the recent progress in the construction work of the Balance section of Corridor-(IIT – Naubasta). Kanpur Metro has also recently commenced tunnel construction work on the underground section of Corridor-2 (CSA –

It may be noted that the total project cost of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project is approximately ₹11,076 crore. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing financial assistance of approximately Euro 650 million to fund the Kanpur Metro Rail project. Similarly, for Agra Metro Project EIB has agreed to 450 million Euro. Previously, EIB has also funded 450 million Euros for the construction of Corridor-1 (CCS Airport -Munshipulia) of the Lucknow Metro Project. Apart from the funding from EIB, the remaining funding of these projects is being done by the Central and State governments. On the occasion UPMRC Managing Director Sushil Kumar said, "The Metro Rail project in Kanpur is being implemented at a fast pace in a planned manner. With the help of EIB, we were able to start revenue services on the 9-km-long priority corridor (IIT-Motijheel) before the scheduled deadline. With the continuous support from the bank, we will soon start operations on the Balance section as well." Director (Finance), UPMRC, Sheel Kumar Mittal, said, "We are receiving financial assistance and support from the EIB for the Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra Metro Rail projects with continuity. With the support from EIB and the efforts of the UPMRC team, world-class transport systems will soon be developed in these cities, which will make transportation much

## Role of vigilance highlighted

for the convenience of devotees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

society, life and workplace was

organised in the board room of the administrative building at IFFCO Phulpur unit on Tuesday. The programme started with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest Dr Jitendra Kumar, Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer, (IRTS) North Central Railway (NCR). Chief guest Dr Jitendra Kumar said vigilance gives us direction to work in a systematic, standard, rules and transparent manner at the workplace. The role of vigilance is very important in maintaining the purity of any system.

He said vigilance impacts in our workplace as well as the order and lifestyle of the society. Preventive vigilance is very important in the progress and develop-ment of any organisation. This dimension of vigilance alerts us

Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudeshia said that IFFCO A vigilance awareness seminar on dimensions of vigilance in organisation and IFFCO has auto-

matically adopted a transparent about unethical and corruption.



process, here the payment is done under cashless process and all the workers are covered under PF, Employees' State Insurance Regulations (ESIC). Chief Vigilance Officer Ajay Kumar ment heads and sectional heads before negligence in work. Senior Mishra said the main work of the

Vigilance department is to promote integrity, honesty, trans-parency and create awareness among employees and children He said that IFFCO is

continuously progressing under the leadership of Managing Director (MD) Dr Udai Shanker Awasthi. IFFCO top manage-ment has adopted a transparent culture which has been our policy. The programme was conducted by Sharad Agnihotri and vote of thanks was proposed by PK Verma. Senior GM Sanjay Vaish, GM respectively AP Rajendran, Sanjay Bhandari, PK Singh,

JGM respectively PK Patel, Anita Mishra, Arun Kumar, Ratnesh Kumar, Arvendra Kumar, SK Singh, AK Gupta, HOD Human Resources were present in the programme.

## Poster, content writing competition organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

A two-day poster and content writing Acompetition was organised by the department of English and Late Girija Devi Cultural Club, Mahila Mahavidyalaya PG College on Tuesday on the topic, 'The Gems of Indian English literature: A harbinger of Indian culture, tradition and social values' social values'.

Principal of the college, Professor Anju Chaudhary, addressed the students and motivated them to focus and learn through various activities organised in the college. She said educational posters are of great help to the students as they are easily understood and also provide a lot of information at a glance.

Head, Department of English and convenor of the programme Dr Nishi Singh introduced the subject and gave valuable information about the event and said that each poster displayed was appropriate and adhered to the theme of the event. She said Indian English literature has long been a rich and diverse body of work that not only explores universal themes but also serves as a harbinger of Indian culture, tra-dition and social values. Many Indian authors have left an indelible mark on



two-day content writing competition organised at MMV PG College on Tuesday.

global literature showcasing the complexity and beauty of Indian life through their

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Dr Saba Yunus judged the event and appreciated the efforts of the students and said the information was effectively presented through posters of Indian English writers who has been a harbinger of Indian culture, tradition and social values. Around 150 students from UG level participated in this event and bagged first, second and third prizes respectively.
The members of the cultural club graced the occasion and Dr Parul Awasthi, Dr

Indu Mishra and Dr Archana Trivedi of

the English faculty coordinated to make

## NCR achieves yet another milestone

 $T^{
m he\ North\ Central\ Railway}_{
m (NCR)}$  achieved yet another milestone under the leadership of General Manager (GM) Upendra Chandra Joshi by commissioning new electron-ic interlocking in connection ic interlocking in connection with Prayagraj Jn yard remodelling and Prayagraj Jn.-Prayagraj Rambagh doubling. Prayagraj is second biggest yard in NCR. Kyosan make Electronic Interlocking has been commissioned at Prayagraj Jn station thus providing 825 routes for better flexibility in train operations. The new interlocking will help in ensuring safe and seamless train operations. Commissioner Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle Pranjeev Saxena inspected the newlycommissioned electronic interlocking and the newly

the officers of executing agencies viz construction organisation of the zone and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. This was followed by the inspection of newly-commissioned Electronic Interlocking and the site inspection at Niranjan Bridge. Thereafter he did motor trolley inspection from Prayagraj to Prayagraj Rambagh and lastly conducted speed trial between Prayagraj Rambagh and Prayagraj.

SPECIAL TRAINS: The

North Central Railway is committed to ensure safe and convenient travel experience for its esteemed passengers during festivals. To ensure availability of trains and confirmed seats for various destinations during Diwali and Chhath Puja, NCR will operate a total of 667 trips of 130 festival special trains originating from the zone during the festival this year. Every year, special trains are operated for the convenience of railway passengers on the occasion of festivals. The number of these special trains have been increased significantly this year.

### **Bodies found**

Banda (PTI): The bodies of an unidentified woman and a oneyear-old girl were found drain at a village in neighbouring Fatehpur district, police said on Tuesday. The bodies were found near Bajapur village in the Malwan area on Monday evening, prompting an investigation into the matter, they said Both victims appear to have been murdered and their bodies discarded in the bushes, a police officer said. "A woman, aged around 25 years, and a one-year-old girl were found dead around 7 pm on Monday in the bushes by the drain adja-cent to the fields of Bajapur village, following information from locals," Fatehpur Additional Superintendent of Police Vijay Shankar Mishra told PTI.

The bodies seem to be two to three days old. It appears that both were killed with a sharp weapon before being thrown into the bushes, Mishra added. The officer said that the bodies have been sent to a

morgue. Efforts are underway to gather information on any missing women and children from nearby police stations and neighbouring districts, he said.

## **Ultrasound machine donated**



LIC Zonal Manager PS Negi donating ultrasound machine to Shri Ramlala Arogyadham Hospital, Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A s part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR), LIC Zonal Manager PS Negi donated untrasound machine to Shri Ramlala Arogyadham Hospital here run by Keshav Madhav Sewa Nyas on Monday. On the occasion Marketing Manager of Kanpur Division Vishnu Mishra said LIC had always been active in discharging its social responsi-bilities and will continue do so in future also. State Manager -Corporate Communication (NC Zone) BD Rawat, Manager (Sales), Kanpur Division, CS Khawade, Manager (Sales) Harish Chandra Dwivedi, Sunil Kumar of LIC, President Dr UK Paliwal, Secretary Neetu Singh of Ramlala Arogyadham Hospital Samiti, Radhey Shyam Singh, Bhawani Bhikh Tewari, Dr Saurabh Singh, Dr Amit Singh and CSR Coordinator Gopal Singh Tomar were also present.

In order to fulfil its social responsibilities, the LIC Golden Iubilee Foundation was set up in 2006.

The main objective of the Foundation is to improve education and amenities for general public and to assist institutions useful to the society.

## SPSEC wins prestigious award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Sir Padampat Singhania Kamla Nagar, has set a new milestone in academic excellence. By winning the prestigious award for Best Co-ed Day School under the Education World India School Rankings Awards 2024-25, the school has consolidated its remarkable contribution to the education sector. With this award, the SPSEC has proudly earned the distinction of being ranked first in both Kanpur City and the entire state of Uttar Pradesh. The school has achieved this extraordinary success by excelling across various crucial domains, including teacher welfare and development, faculty competence, academic reputation, co-curricular activities, sports education, curriculum and pedagogy, personalised student attention, leadership and management qualities, infrastructure provisions, mental and emotional well-being services, special needs education and community service.
Principal Bhawna Gupta

expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders, including parents, staff and students, for this achievement, acknowledging the visionary leadership of the man-



SPSEC Principal Bhawna Gupta with

agement team for their continued guidance and support. She emphasised that this success is a collective effort that would not have been possible without everyone's contribution. Vice-Principals Vandana Trivedi and Vibha Dwivedi proudly represented the institution and received the citation at the Education World Awards 2024-25 ceremony held recently. The event was marked by widespread praise for SPSEC with the school receiving accolades for its unparalleled standards in education. This recognition is a reflection of the school's commitment to delivering top-quality education, which has not only earned international recognition but has also been embraced globally. The school is proud to be one of the

established in-house Learning and Development Centres, conthe latest pedagogy into its curriculum. The focus of the educational system at SPSEC is to foster deep cognitive skills in students across various subjects, in alignment with their age and developmental stage. This award acknowledges the

few institutions in the city to have

easier and convenient.'

outstanding contribution of the SPSEC team, which remains steadfast in its commitment to enriching students' lives through innovative ideas, technology and continuous efforts in the field of education.

Chairperson, Manorama Govind Hari Singhania, Vice-Chairman, Abhishek Singhania, Vice-Chairperson, Varsha Singhania and Vice-Chairman and Director Partho P Kar extended their heartfelt congratulations to the entire school community, including all teachers and parents, for this remarkable achievement. They also encouraged continued success and further accomplishments in the future. This recognition once again highlights SPSEC's leadership and innovation in education. where tradition meets futuristic learning to shape the leaders of tomorrow.

## Three-day inter-institutional cultural & games extravaganza begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

doubled Prayagraj - Prayagraj Rambagh section on Monday

evening. In the morning he held a discussion about the

project and its commissioning

with Divisional Railway

Manager, Prayagraj, Himanshu Badoni and other

 $T^{
m he\ three-day\ Inter-}_{
m Institutional\ Cultural\ and}$ Games Extravaganza "Alfresco 2024" organised by Boys' High School and College commenced at the St Patrick's auditorium on Tuesday. Member of Parliament (MP)

Praveen Patel was the chief guest on the occasion. Prof Yogeshwar Tiwari, University of Allahabad and Prof Arif A Broadway, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) were the guests of honour. On the arrival, the chief guest was warmly received by Principal DA Luke. The inaugural function began with an impressive march past by the participating schools.In his inaugural address Praveen Kumar Patel emphasised the significance of good educa-



tional institutions for building a holistic personality. He added that getting admission in such a prestigious school still is one of the greatest challenges for students coming

from rural areas. He said as a public servant of this constituency, it was a matter of great pride for him to have institution like BHS and its alumni represent us on

ed post. The participating educational institutions were The Bishop's Co-Ed School (Bishop's), Pune, St. John's Co-Ed School, DP Public School (DPPS), Khelgaon Public School (KPS), Tagore Public School (TPS), Srinivasa Ramanujan Public School, Bal Bharti School, Erny Memorial Senior Secondary School, Bishop Johnson School and College and the host, Boys' High School (BHS) and College. In all more than 500 enthusiastic boys and girls from the educational institutions participated in the mega fest. The first event was debate, moderated by Rowan Luke. The teams argued for and against the motion 'The big fat Indian wedding is a vulgar display of wealth.' Next was scintillating round of quizzing with Boys' High school and col-

national stage in most covet-

lege bagging the first position. The audience was mesmerised by the wit, humour and spontaneity of HAM. The last on stage event was Rock On. The motto of Alfresco 2024,

'Educate, Enthral, Excel and Evolve' is aimed to facilitate personality development, confidence building and inter personal relationships among the students fraternity. Principal DA Luke extended a warm welcome to the principals and students of participating schools. The results of the on schools. The results of the on stage events are as follows: Colloquy: 1st – BHS, 2nd–Bishops; Quiz: 1st – BHS, 2nd–KPS; HAM: 1st – BHS, 2nd–Bishops; Rock On: 1st – BHS, 2nd-Bishop's; Off-Stage events: Charcoal on Canvas: 1st- DPPS &KPS (joint), 2nd-Bishop's;Shutter Bug: 1st -Bishop's, 2nd– BHS; BGMI: 1st – BHS, 2nd– DPPS.

### Workshop inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The weekly national workshop on research methodology and data analysis through SPSS and Sigma Plot was inau-gurated in the university auditorium by the Department of Food Nutrition and Public Health of Ethelind College of Community Science, SHUATS here on Tuesday. The chief guest was City North MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai. Workshop convener and Director Development Prof Ritu Prakash Dubey welcomed the guests. Harshvardhan Bajpai, while sharing his experience, called SPSS and Sigma Plot very important modules. Guest of honour Pro Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Bishwarup Mehera described SPSS as an extremely important model for research.

### Industrial tour conducted



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Under Kanpur Darshan Scheme, the industrial tour of MBA second year students of Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology (CSAUA&T)was conducted at Kanpur Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited (Jaypee Groups) on Monday. Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Anand Kumar, Dean CL Maurya, Registrar PK Upadhyay, Head of Department Mukesh Srivastava flagged off the tour from the university. As many as 60 students during the tour till 5 pm got information about urea production, nano urea production and spraying in farming with drone technology, crop inspection as well as advanced variety of fruit bearing hybrid variety trees which started bearing fruits in one

The students also learned the management of following the rules of safety and precautions during urea production. Dr Anshu Singh, Dr Neetu, Dr Saurabh and other teachers of the department were present.

## India values the close cooperation within BRICS says PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Tndia values close cooperation **L**within Brazil, Russia, India, South

Africa(BRICS)which has emerged as an important plat-form for dialogue and discus-sion on a range of key issues concerning global develop-mental agenda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. Modi made this assertion in a statement before embarking on a two-day visit to the Russian city of Kazan to attend the 16th summit of the BRICS grouping. "The expansion of BRICS with the addition of new members last year has added to its inclusivity and agenda for the global good," he said.

Being hosted by Russia, the summit is being seen as an attempt by non-Western powers to project their clout amid the conflict in Ukraine and the escalating situation in West



eral meetings including with Russian President Vladimir Putin and a likely meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the margins of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa). It will be the first summit of the grouping after it was expanded at its summit in Johannesburg last year.

"India values the close cooperation within BRICS which has Modi is set hold a series of bilat- emerged as an important plat-

form for dialogue and discussion on issues concerning the global developmental agenda, reformed multilateralism, climate change, economic cooperation, building resilient supply chains, promoting cultural

departure statement. Modi said his visit to Kazan will further reinforce the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'

and people to people connect,

among others," Modi said in his

between India and Russia. The prime minister visited Moscow in July during which he held summit talks with President Putin.

"Building upon the annual summit held in July 2024 in Moscow, my visit to Kazan will further reinforce the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia," Modi said. "I look forward to meeting

other leaders from BRICS as well," he said. In a social media post, the Prime Minister said he was looking forward to extensive discussions on a wide range of subjects at the summit. The BRIC, as a formal grouping, started after the meeting of the leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg in 2006.

It was agreed to expand BRIC

into BRICS with the inclusion

of South Africa in 2010. would be at risk. Last year's expansion was the "Groundwater is not only getting polluted but also dépletfirst such exercise since 2010. The new members included Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the

ing.
This is a serious concern," the president said while confer-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

At the National Water Awards 2023 event here

on Tuesday, President

Droupadi Murmu gave a clarion call for collective respon-

sibility in safeguarding water

resources for future genera-

tions as she expressed concern

over the critical issue of

groundwater depletion and

Underscoring the alarming trend that threatens both the

environment and public

health, in her speech, she

highlighted the essential role

of groundwater in supporting

communities and ecosystems,

while urging a unified approach to water conserva-

The President emphasised

that without immediate and

concerted efforts to protect

this vital resource, society's

growth and sustainability

**NEW DELHI** 

pollution.

President Murmu expresses concern over

water issues at National Water Awards 2023

ring the National Water Awards 2023 here. She warned that without conservation efforts, society cannot progress

Murmu said that all major civilisations have thrived around water bodies, and yet, in modern times, water is often neglected.

'We at times forget the importance of water," she said. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that water is a basic necessity and a fundamental human right for every individual.

A clean and prosperous soci-

ety cannot be built without ensuring access to clean water. The unavailability of water and poor sanitation has a greater impact on the health,

food security and livelihood of

the underprivileged. The President pointed out that water conservation is part of our tradition.

Our ancestors used to build ponds near villages. They used to build reservoirs in or near temples so that the stored water could be used in case of water shortage.

Unfortunately, we are forgetting the wisdom of our ances-

tors. Some people have encroached upon reservoirs for personal gain.

This not only affects the avail-

ability of water during drought but also creates floodlike situations when there is excessive rainfall," she said. Murmu emphasised the role of the state governments in water management, praising the Ministry of Jal Shakti and minister C'R Patil for their dedication to conservation. The president also lauded the winners of the National Water Awards for their efforts and urged that their best practices

be shared widely. The awards, organised by the Department of Water Resources under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, recognised efforts across nine categories, with Odisha securing the top spot for Best State, followed by Ûttar Pradesh while Gujarat and Puducherry were joint third place.

The National Water Awards started in 2018 to promote water conservation is in line with the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat' (water-sufficient India).

### Haryana cracks down on stubble burning, 24 officials suspended for inaction



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Haryana's Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department has suspended 24 officials over alleged failure to take adequate steps to prevent stubble burning incidents in their respective areas. An order in this regard was issued on October 20.

While the order mentioned that the officials are suspended on administrative grounds, a senior officer of the department on Tuesday said the tors found guilty of stubble action has been taken because burning while summoning the officials to prevent stubble burning incidents.

He said more stubble burning cases were found in their

The officials, who have been placed under suspension, include agriculture inspectors, supervisors and agriculture development officers from nine districts -- Jind, Panipat, Hisar, Kaithal, Karnal, Fatehabad, Kurukshetra, Sonipat and Ambala.

When reporters here on Tuesday asked Haryana's Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana the reason behind suspension of the 24 officials,

he said, "The reason is that stubble should not be burnt." "Where farmers took wrong decision, even if under compulsion, but the decision is wrong," he

tered against the violators. He said Haryana is taking steps to control stubble burning incidents. When asked if strictness is

Rana said he has been told that

3,000 cases have been regis-

being done by the authorities in view of hearing in the Supreme Court, Rana said every government obeys the apex court's orders.

The Supreme Court had pulled up the Punjab and Haryana governments over the non-prosecution of violabefore it on October 23 for an explanation.

A bench of justices Abhay S Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Maish pointed out "complete insensitivity" on the part of both states, directing the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to take penal action against both the government officials for the failure to take action against the violators.

Stubble burning is a major contributor to the rising pollution levels in the national capital.

With the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) dispensation in Delhi blaming 'parali' (paddy stubble) burning in BJP-ruled Harvana as one of the reasons for poor air quality, Rana said it is being publicized that farmer alone is causing pollu-

"In Delhi, what are the reasons for pollution? How much population is there? A densely populated city will have more

How many airports are there? How much pollution is caused by an aircraft? How much construction work is taking place there? (in Delhi region). There are 28 nullahs (in national capital) which are flowing into Yamuna, pollution is because of that also," he

When asked Delhi is blaming Haryana, Rana said, "AAP is ruling Delhi and Punjab, but they will not say anything to their party ruled dispensation in Punjab."

Earlier on Sunday, Haryana Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad, who held a review meeting via video conferencing with the district deputy commissioners, to discuss measures to prevent stubble burning across the state, had emphasized strict adherence to the Supreme Court's orders, ting officials to ensur that incidents of stubble burning are effectively curtailed. Recently, former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Congress general secretary and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja demanded that the government fix MSP for stubble and buy it from the farmers. Referring to recent directions of Haryana agriculture

department, Hooda slammed the state government for issuing directions to register FIRs against the farmers found burning crop residue besides imposing restriction on selling crops in mandis through the e-kharid portal for the next two sea-

He also slammed the directions of making a "red mark entry" in farm records of the farmers found burning crop

## **BJP leader Vijaya Rhatkar takes** charge as NCW chairperson

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

United Arab Emirates.

Senior BJP leader Vijaya Rahatkar who officially took charge as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) on Tuesday emphasised her commitment to advancing women's rights and ensuring justice for victims of gender-based violence.

In her first address after assuming office, She also promised to build on the commission's ongoing efforts while acknowledging the significant responsibility of the role.

"This is a role of great responsibility, and I will strive to fulfill it to the best of my ability," Rahatkar said, recognising the pressing issues women face today.

Rahatkar, a former head of the Maharashtra Commission for Woman, highlighted two primary goals for her tenure: ensuring that those responsible for crimes against women are held ole and environment where such offenders fear legal consequences."We must make sure that those with this mentality are punished and that a deter-

rent is created," she said, underlining that the commission sion would continue to work toward these objectives.

She also addressed the public's perception of the commission's work, noting that while not all of its efforts are visible, the NCW remains committed to pushing forward on its commitment. "Not everything comes to the forefront, but the commission keeps working, and we will continue to expand our efforts," Rahatkar added. According to a statement issued by the Union Women and Child Development Ministry a few days ago, Rahatkar has demonstrated leadership skills across various political and social responsibilities.

During her tenure as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (2016-2021), she spearheaded initiatives like "Sakshama" (support for acid attack survivors), "Prajwala" (linking self-help groups to Central <sup>"</sup>Suhita" (a 24x7 helpline service for women). The NCW, a statutory body, is empowered to work towards the advancement of women's rights.

## Congress names youth leader Akash Sharma for Raipur South bypoll

Opposition Congress on Tuesday announced the candidature of its youth leader Akash Sharma for the next month's bypoll to Raipur City South assembly seat in Chhattisgarh.

The seat fell vacant after sitting Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator and former state minister Brijmohan Agrawal resigned following his election to the Lok Sabha from Raipur parliamentary constituency. president 'Congress

Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the name of Akash Sharma as the Congress candidate for the ensuing bye-election to the Raipur Čity South constituency," the party's state spokesperson said here. Sharma, the incumbent president of the state unit of the Youth Congress, has served as the state president of National Students' Union of India (NSUI), a student wing of in the past, he said According to political experts, fielding a young face in the form of Sharma may benefit Congress in Raipur City South seat, considered as the strong-



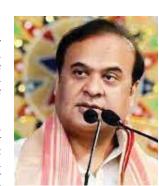
hold of the BJP. The ruling BJP has fielded its former MP Sunil Soni for the bypoll. The BJP has never lost Raipur City South, an urban constituency which came into existence in 2008. So far, this seat is being held by BJP's influential leader Brijmohan Agrawal. Agrawal, an eight-term legislator, was unbeaten since 1990 in assembly polls. The BJP fielded him in the last Lok Sabha polls and he was elected as an MP for the first time. Polling to the seat will be held on November 13 and the counting of votes will take place on November 23. October 25 is the last day of filcials said.

ing of nominations for the bypoll. In the last year's assembly elections, the BJP had registered a landslide victory winning 54 out of the 90 seats in the state, while the Congress had won 35 and Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) bagged one seat. There are 2,70,936 electors, including 1,33,713 males, 1,37,171 females and 52 transgenders in this constituency. A total of 253 polling bypoll and five companies of security personnel will be deployed to maintain law and order during the election, offi-

### Assam Chief Minister urges to expedite 57 national highway project

PTI GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said that the collective priority of both the Centre and the state government is the timely completion of 57 critical National Highway projects. Sarma said he attended a review meeting chaired by Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and requested him to expedite key projects, including the early



completion of the Jorhat-Dibrugarh highway, in the

'Building the road to progress. Today in New Delhi, I had the privilege of attending a review meeting led by Hon'ble Union Minister Shri @nitin\_gadkari ji, focused on the development of 1001 kms of highway projects in Assam.

Our collective priority remains the timely completion of 57 critical National Highway projects across various implementing agencies', the chief minister posted on 'X'.

The alignment of the Kaziranga elevated corridor has been approved, and the detailed project report of the Gohpur-Numaligarh Tunnel under the Brahmaputra river was also nearing completion, he said.

The completion of the four-laning of the Baihata Chariali-Tezpur highway stretch was also urged, Sarma said. He also requested Gadkari for re-tendering of the Majuli bridge over the Brahmaputra river, connecting Kamalabari and Nimati Ghat, where construction has been halted since early September.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Waterways and Ports Sarbananda Sonowal and MPs from Assam, he said.

Gadkari reviewed national highway projects of Assam, Meghalava, Mizoram and Sikkim in Delhi on Tuesday.

## **USAID** launches three initiatives to boost **Clean Energy Forum in South Asia**

**PTI** ■ JAIPUR

Three new initiatives designed to accelerate clean energy progress across the South Asia region were launched in the South Asia Clean Energy Forum by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) here. The new initiatives, supported by the USAID through its South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP), are aimed at combating climate change and supporting sustainable economic growth in South Asia.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the event, US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, said the US government is committed to supporting South Asia's clean energy transition.

"The new initiatives reaffirm the United States' commitment to partnering with coun-



the urgent climate crisis through transformative action. By working together, we have an extraordinary chance to protect our planet, our people and build our prosperity for generations to

come," Garcetti said. He said that South Asia has positioned itself as one of the tries in the region to address most influential regions in

devising creative solutions to its challenges.

Rajasthan Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar said collective efforts are important to effectively combat the global challenges of climate change.

He expressed confidence that the discussions at the South Asian Clean Energy Forum would shape future energy The new initiatives are the

'US-South Asia Mayoral Platform on Clean Energy and Sustainable Cities", which empowers local leaders to lead municipal clean energy transitions; the "US-India Low Carbon Comfort and Cooling Collective", aiming to mobilize USD 1 billion for superefficient cooling technologies by 2030; and "Clean Energy Investment Facilitation Platform", designed to connect investors with clean energy companies and close the financing gap for clean ener-

gy projects. The initiatives will give a push to the region's clean energy transition, promote sustainable economic growth, diversify clean energy supply chains and reduce carbon emissions.

"By facilitating innovation, cooperation and investment, the United States is partnering

with South Asian countries and private sectors to pave the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future in the region," a release said.

The clean energy transition will not only reduce emissions but also improve energy security and create opportunities for economic empowerment, driving progress toward global climate goals," the release added.

The South Asia Clean Energy Forum, being held from October 22 to 24 in Jaipur, is convening leaders from across the region to tackle the challenges posed by climate change, including rising temperatures, energy demands and the need for resilient infrastructure.

The Forum serves as a platform for collaborative solutions to meet these challenges, unlocking new economic opportunities and fostering regional cooperation.

## AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal to face trial in defamation case



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

The BJP said on Tuesday that L everyone in politics has a right to criticise but those levelling defamatory allegations will have to suffer consequences, as the Supreme Court cleared the way for AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal to face trial in a defamation case for remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualifica-

BJP leader and Lok Sabha MP Ravi Shankar Prasad claimed that Kejriwal's conduct towards Prime Minister Modi has been utterly irresponsible, saying it need not be told the kind of "abuses" he has heaped on

Prasad said Kejriwal offered to tender an apology during the hearing in the Supreme Court on Monday but it was declined. He has become an expert in tendering apologies, the BJP leader said, adding he has apol-ogised 10 times to different leaders, including Arun Jaitley, Nitin Gadkari and Kapil Sibal, for his defamatory remarks.

In a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, Prasad described him as a com-

panion of Kejriwal and noted that the Congress leader has also been facing defamation cases and tendered apologies in past. To a question about the opposition party's criticism of the government as India and China reached an agreement on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, he said, "As far as Rahul Gandhi and Asaduddin Owaisi are concerned, how much they understand the nuances of foreign policy is a matter of larger debate." He said the BJP has no comment to offer apart from what the External Affairs Ministry has already made.

Asked about Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav's alleged use of a profanity at the Supreme Court, Prasad noted that the Rajya Sabha MP has already clarified but added judiciary and judges should be www.dailypioneer.com

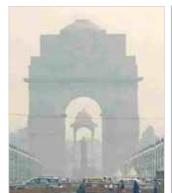
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-PAPER WITH PASSION—

## **Breathless in Delhi**

Delhi's air quality has once again plunged into the 'Very Poor' category, marking the beginning of the dreaded annual pollution season

s the Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 312 on October 21, 2024, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) announced the activation of Stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, which came into effect from October 22. The city is bracing for several days of toxic air, with forecasts indicating that the AQI will remain in the 'Very Poor' range due to unfavourable climatic and meteorological conditions, such as calm winds and stagnant air. Over the years, Delhi has consistently struggled with air quality issues, particularly during the winter months when pollution levels spike to alarming levels. The problem intensifies due to a combination of factors including the burning of crop stubble in neighbouring states, construction dust, vehicular emissions and industrial activities. In previous years, the city witnessed severe smog days that not only disrupted daily life but also had long-lasting effects on public health. Efforts to curb pollution have included initiatives such as the implementation of



the GRAP, which consists of a set of emergency measures that are triggered based on the severity of air quality. These measures have previously helped prevent air quality from worsening further, but the results have been mixed. While temporary improvements have been achieved, long-term solutions remain elusive. The annual nature of the problem indicates that past measures, though helpful, have not addressed the root causes effectively.

A significant contributor to Delhi's poor air quality is the burning of crop residue in neighbouring states like Punjab and Haryana. Despite bans and incentives for alternative disposal methods, stubble burning remains

a widespread practice due to economic and logistical challenges faced by farmers. Besides this vehicular emission and construction activities adds to the pollution. With the invocation of GRAP Stage 2, a range of measures will be implemented to tackle the escalating pollution levels: To reduce dust on roads, mechanical sweeping and water sprinkling will be conducted daily on identified roads. Besides, strict enforcement of dust control measures at construction and demolition sites will be carried out. The use of diesel generator sets will be discouraged, except for essential services. These actions will supplement the Stage 1 measures that have been in place since October 15, which include banning garbage burning, banning coal and firewood usage in hotels and restaurants, and imposing restrictions on brick kilns. Indeed, the 'Very Poor' air quality has serious implications for the health and wellbeing of Delhi's residents. While GRAP provides a framework for emergency measures, long-term strategies are needed to bring about lasting improvements in air quality. Without a comprehensive approach that combines policy interventions, technological innovations, and behavioural changes, the cycle of pollution will continue to haunt the city each year. Till that happens, Delhiites will have yet another season to breathe the polluted air.



People buy lanterns ahead of the Diwali festival, in Solapul

## Trump tries hard to win the second term



The traits Trump exhibits on the golf course serve as a metaphor for his approach to life and politics: a willingness to bend the rules and win at any cost

merican sportswriter Rick Reilly wrote a Commander in Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump, to explain Donald Trump's incorrigible ways. He alludes to Trump's selfclaimed prowess in Golf and his purported handicap of 2.8 by a fawning Golf Digest by saying, "If Trump is a 2.8, Queen Elizabeth is a pole vaulter."

However, perhaps the most damning reality check for Trump is the fact that both his 'wingman' (former and current) i.e., Vice President Mike Pence and his current running mate, JD Vance, would have the maximum access to Trump and know him as a person, have been critical - even if expediency forces Vance to conveniently renege from his earlier views and for Pence says a lot with his deafening silence and refusal to endorse his former boss's candidature.

For all his matching vitriol, boorishness (remember, 'childless cat ladies') and Oorah-style brouhaha as a former Marine, JD Vance was once stoutly anti-Trump. Vance had once declared himself as a 'never-Trump guy' and called Trump 'reprehensible' and an 'idiot'. Vance then had the clarity to articulate the reason for his non-support of Trump by insisting, "The reason, ultimately, that I am not...is because I think that (Trump) is the most raw expression of a massive finger pointed at other people."
In the 2016 US Presidential elec-

tions, Vance had rationalised Trump's authoritarian, illiberal and intolerant ways by slamming, "back and forth between thinking Trump is a cynical a-hole like Nixon who wouldn't be that bad (and might even prove useful) or that he's America's Hitler"! For all his matching vitriol, boorishness (remember, 'childless cat ladies') and Oorah-style brouhaha as a former Marine, JD Vance was once stoutly anti-Trump.

Vance had once declared h as a 'never-Trump guy' and called Trump 'reprehensible' and an 'idiot'. He was quick to 'take down' uncomfortable views that he had expressed about Trump like the one he had put about the 'Access Hollywood' tape where



Trump had shockingly claimed that fame had enabled him to grope women!

Then Vance had heeded to his moral conscience as a practising Christian and lamented, "Fellow Christians, everyone is watching us when we apologize for this man. Lord help us". But all his conscience came to nought at the altar of political ambition as Vance meekly retracted later, "I've been very open that I did say those critical things and I regret them, and I regret being wrong about the guy"

With that, everything was supposedly forgotten, and Vance now 'presumably' sees Trump as a paragon of Christian values, morality, and dignity that America needs for the future!

Meanwhile, the elephant in the room who says a lot by not speaking at all is former Vice President Mike Pence - once the most devout and virtuous of Christians who was earlier the most loyal confidante of Trump. Presumably, the diehard Republican had put up with all of Trump's crassness in the silent hope that the Republican Presidency would set things right with conservative and far-right policies, as any committed Republican would have hoped.

Much as he remained loyal to the bitter end, Pence did final-

TODAY, THE FORGOTTEN IMAGE OF PENCE IS REFLECTIVE OF THE CONUNDRUM THAT MANY COMMITTED REPUBLICANS FACE

IN TRUMP'S CANDIDATURE - HE REFUSES TO SUPPORT TRUMP AFTER "ALL THAT HE HAS DONE" AND CANNOT BRING ENDORSE A PARTISAN RIVAL, KAMALA HARRIS,

ly put fealty to the Constitution above the unreasonable demands of a man he had once slavishly addressed as 'my President', on the fateful 6th January 2021. That Trump had showed his

true character by shrugging his shoulders with a 'so what' refrain when told that Pence was at physical risk with rioters chanting 'hang Mike Pence, is a footnote in the long history of Trump's unhinged, amoral and reckless politics. Importantly, Pence had held his head, heart, and soul intact, when he played a pivotal role in saving America's democracy by confirming the electoral process and result, to the utter dismay of Trump.

Pence was to later reflect philosophically, "like the Bible says, at some point, you've just got to wipe the dust off your feet and go your separate ways". In Trump's golfing world, the term 'Mulligan' (an extra stroke allowed after a poor shot) is best applicable to Pence's tumultuous tenure, the Trump era.

Today, the forgotten image of Pence is reflective of the conundrum that many committed Republicans face in Trump's candidature - he refuses to support Trump after "all that he has done" and

cannot bring himself to endorse a partisan rival, Kamala Harris, either.

This lurking ambiguity in Republican ranks (or amongst the 'undecided') could tilt things decisively in the forthcoming cliffhanger of a Presidential contest. Meanwhile Trump's view of his former 'wingman' Pence is as expected of a cribbing, complaining and bitter man who vaingloriously claims that Pence lacked the 'courage' and 'stamina' in the ultimate

bidding. Even Vance's own mealymouthed and almost forced views on Trump's "stolen mandate" in the 2020 Presidential elections are also, hardly con-

This is situationally reflective of the 'cultlike campaign' of Donald Trump that is hoping to cross the bridge even if it tramples on imperatives that are constitutional, moral or ideological/partisan, as in Donald Trump's world, if you can cheat in Golf.

unceremonious parting, and You can surely cheat in life subsequent redemption with winning at any cost is only an extension of the selfish and deceitful spirit that represents Donald Trump.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; the views expressed are personal)

## Seeking validation: A necessity more than an add-on to our vanity



### Though contentment offers a deep sense of inner peace, validation serves as a crucial motivator

uch to the contrary of the popular belief **L**about happiness being commensurate with the degree of material success, my late father asserted that the key to happiness lies in contentment. Both views have their share of advocates, the former often relying on validation from outside, and the latter, a more philosophical contention anchored in an irrevocable sense of self-assur-

The philosophy of contentment is a long shot for many of us embroiled in making it materialistically big, and we tend to seek a lot of external validation to determine our core worth. Maybe, the philosophies are based on two entirely different life principles and the value of neither can be dismissed. Success has its sweet trimmings and contentment has its merit, and both may be equally

coveted. What distinguishes one from the other is the element of endorsement we crave for our endeavours. Even the most self-assured person looks for acceptance and recognition, and there is no shame in it. Validation from



others is indeed required for us to stay on course, not simply for the ego boost it brings but also for the motivation it gives us to strive and march forward in making a mark in the world. The more sagacious ones among us may, however, hold a different view. I have heard several suggestions that we should not seek approval from others and instead rely solely on our inner convictions.

While this notion seems noble, it underestimates a fundamental human need to feel seen, heard, and acknowledged by those around us.

To deny the significance of external validation is to ignore an essential part of the human experience. Whether we realise it or not, the approval we seek from others has a even just a simple "well

perception and our efforts to

work, it serves as a confirmatrack. It is a form of recognition that can affirm our abilities, encourage us to push further, and give us the confidence to take risks that we might otherwise avoid.

Take, for instance, the world of creative endeavours. Writers, artists, musicians those of us in professions where the outcomes are subjective—often look to their audiences for validation. It's not just about ego or pride. When someone appreciates a piece of art or writing, it signals to the creator that their expression has resonated with others, creating a connection.

It is this recognition that gives an artist the courage to continue crafting, to improve, and to share their innermost thoughts with the world. Without that validation, their passion might wither in isolation. In professional contexts, validation can often come in the form of promotions, awards, or

profound impact on our self- done." These acknowledgements are crucial motivators. They tell us that our efforts When someone validates our matter, that our contributions are recognised, and tion that we are on the right that we are moving in the right direction. While selfbelief is vital, external acknowledgement adds weight to that belief, making it more tangible. It confirms that our skills and efforts are seen as valuable by others, which can propel us toward even greater heights. Furthermore, seeking validation is not just about persongain—it also creates a cycle of mutual encouragement. When we validate others, we

lift them, creating a supportive environment where everyone's contributions are acknowledged.

It doesn't just boost their morale; it strengthens their commitment to the work they're doing. Of course, we must also be wary of relying solely on external validation. The danger lies in overdependence, where we begin to measure our worth only by what others say.

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai; Views are personal)

### **MAHAYUTI GAINS EDGE**

Madam —This refers to the news report, 'BJP releases 99-strong candidate list' (October 21). On one hand, alliance partners of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) are still struggling to finalise the seat-sharing formula for Maharasthra Assembly polls, the BJP has announced candidates for the majority of seats in its share. The MVA dealt a deadly blow to the Mahayuti by winning 29 out of 48 Lok Sabha polls. But, in the last 4 months, political equations have drastically changed in the state, which may help the ruling dispensation, i.e. the BJP-led Mahayuti, which was just 1.52 per cent behind the MVA in terms of Lok Sabha vote share. The Shinde government's Ladki Bahini Yojana scheme has been very popular among women

The Congress which won 13 seats and secured lead in 63 assembly segments in Lok Sabha polls, appeared to lose momentum after its poor performance in recent Assembly polls in Haryana and J and K. In addition, the Mahayuti has less discord over the chief ministerial face in the Assembly polls though it is going in the polls without any CM face. But the MVA is a divided house on CM face. The Shiv Sena (UBT) wants projection of former CM and party chief Uddhav Thackeray while Sharad Pawar is repeatedly hinting to support Jayant Patil as CM face. Unexpected success in Lok Sabha has also driven ambitions of the Congress high for the CM post in case of the victory of the MVA. The Manoj Jarange factor is also unlikely to be as effective as in

Lok Sabha polls. **Manoj Parashar** | *Ghaziabad* 

### **NAIDU'S BOLD MOVE**

Madam - Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu is a part of the farright government at the centre, which has been demanding for more than 10 years that 'population control policies should be

## Yamuna pollution on the rise

E EDITO



The current condition of the Yamuna River has been raising concerns for the past few days as the festive season arrives. The river is covered with a very thick layer of froth. The froth can cause major health problems, which can affect both human

opposite and talking about bringing the opposite policy to his state. He wants to encourage those who have more children and is planning to punish those who have fewer. He said that the increasing average age of people in the state is becoming a matter of concern. Families should have at least two or more children. In the coming times, only those who have two or more children will be able to contest local body elections.

The state government will soon make a law for this. Naidu further said that there are many districts in Andhra Pradesh where only elderly people are left in the villages. The fertility rate is continuously falling in the southern states. While the average fertility rate in the country is 2.1, this figure has fallen to 1.6 in the southern states. Is India really getting old? The young population is decreasing. According to the Centre's Youth in India-2022 report, by 2036, only 34.55 crore of the population of the country will be young, which is implemented as soon as possible to conmore than 47 per cent right now. trol India's population growth. But Currently, 25 crore youth in the country Chandrababu Naidu is going exactly the are between 15 and 25 years of age. In the

health and wildlife in the areas surrounding the river Yamuna. Now, as we see, pollution levels have reached an alarming stage. Instantaneous steps should be taken in order to address the issue as soon as possible.

According to experts, the froth contains high levels of ammonia and phosphates, which can lead to respiratory and skin disorders. Recently, the Environment Minister, Gopal Rai, mentioned that a few days ago, the officials were instructed to recognise the regional sources of pollution. 13 hotspots have been chosen for this purpose, where the main local source of pollution will be identified, which was causing the area's pollution levels to rise significantly above Delhi's AQI.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

next 15 years, it will fall even faster. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

### **IMMIGRANTS FACE UNCERTAINTY**

Madam — The escalating diplomatic row between India and Canada will have the more than 4 lakh Indian students studying in Canada worried and concerned about their future. Many have sold everything they owned in India to study in Canada, which is seen as a gateway to a better future. The 20 lakh Indians will won-

der what their future is going to be. The first thing the government needs to do is reassure the immigrants that their interests will be protected by the government of India. The Indian media too should stop bashing Justin Trudeau the way they have been doing. India needs also to be worried that other nations like America, the UK, Australia and New Zealand have come out in support of Canada over the plot to assassinate Canadian citizens on its soil.

**Anthony Henriques** | *Mumbai* 

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

### THE PATH TO **TRUE GROWTH**

Constant comparison overshadows cooperation, empathy and joy of life



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR **NIKUNJ JI** 

Il of us, whether we like it or not, have to compete from the time we are born until the time we die. Though most of us indulge in healthy competition all the time, nevertheless, one thing common to all kinds of competitions is the underlying desire to win a victory for the self or to defeat others. While competing, a person brings out their skill, ability, art, acumen, or talent to show that they are superior, stronger, better, more powerful, more skilful, more learned, or more competent than others. It is this habit of making comparisons with others that creates the competition background.

That is why we always see this subtle desire in people who are winners, to hear some words of praise about themselves or their performance. To fulfil this ultimate objective of massaging their egos, one does not care if the other person feels disappointed, depressed, defeated and even humiliated, ridiculed, or booed. This drive to be recognised as "better" than others sometimes overshadows the simple joy of participating or improving oneself. To understand this kind of behaviour, one needs to understand human psychology because the roots of comparison and competition have been sown into our minds since our childhood days. From school grades to sibling rivalries, we are conditioned early to pit our success against others' failures. Hence, they become more rigid with time. We need to understand that the core objective behind the competition is not simply the desire to win, but it is intertwined with the motive of laying aside the softer and nobler sentiments of cooperation, kindness, and gentleness, even if only for a while. In competition, one puts all energies and talents into bogging down or defeating another person, leaving them behind in the race while making a forward thrust to reach



the goal before anyone else. As the famous philosopher Schopenhauer said, "The world is a battle of will and intellect." But in this battle, one often loses sight of empathy and connectedness, which are essential

It may also put a limit on one's spirit of giving, helping, cooperating and sacrificing. Remember! Anything small and insignificant in the beginning has the potential to grow and become big. Hence, we must not forget that even though a spark or flame of fire may be small to start with, it can reduce a big apartment with valuables to ashes if it grows into a big fire. Thus, we should be careful and vigilant, because if the whole society catches this contagion or infection of selfishness or rivalry, it may spoil the charm of life and the atmosphere in society. Some people link competition to motivation and developing an attitude toward high performance. But they fail to understand that this evil trait to defeat others, which may look like a harmless thing initially, may eventually develop into a spirit of revenge, feelings of hatred or enmity, bitter jealousy, confrontation, hostile attitudes and ugly outbursts. These effects are not limited to the individuals involved but spill over into communities, organisations and even nations. Look at global politics or corporate boardrooms, and you will see this principle at play on a massive scale. Hence, it all depends upon the emotional maturity of a person whether or not he or she is affected. Because this seed of evil, as it grows, takes the form of a big tree with many branches; so, too, does selfishness or the spirit to downgrade others to gain ascendance for the self. It may proliferate into many evils or obnoxious habits. Hence, one must try to curtail selfishness and give up the ambition of winning by vengeance for the applause and praise of the self. Remember! The only competition that should matter to us is the one that takes place within ourselves. Hence, it is better to defeat one's inner demons first and become victorious from within to be an example for others to follow.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

## NEP 2020: A blueprint for transformative education



While NEP promises radical changes through holistic learning and flexible assessments, implementation challenges continue to hamper its progress

EP 2020 was founded on the guiding principles of Access, Equity, Quality, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. This was primarily to prepare the young ones to face the diverse national & global challenges for the present & future. The Policy aims to lead to a multi-disciplinary, holistic under-graduation syllabus, create wider choices of combinations of Subjects, Integration of Vocational Education with regular Subjects and multi-entry and multi-exit points with regular appropriate certification at various stages. The aim is to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth, economy and/or background. This should eventually lead to transformative changes which shall change the lifeline of education in our country. The emphasis is going to be on holistic education, early childhood care, flexible assessments, skill development, integration of technology, teacher training and higher education reforms. These are aimed at designing a learner-centric and inclusive education for a future-ready

By embracing these India is poised to provide quality education to everyone with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the 21st century. The motto has been to provide "Equitable and Inclusive Education" to ensure that no child should be denied quality education because of their socio-cultural background and 100 per cent GER is reached by 2030. Looking at all the facts presented alone, one gets a feeling that this is going to be a real game changer in the education system of our country but the reality remains that it has not taken off even after three years of its approval. The major reason is that a majority do not understand the spirit of this very mean-ingful policy. If implemented in letter and spirit then our country shall be comparable to the best in the world in the field of education. An in-depth analysis and exploring what lies ahead; One can divide this whole NEP-2020 into four main capsules which this Policy envis-

Teaching in the mother tongue or spoken language, Learn to leave, Teach to Transform and Educate to Empower. These highlighted Capsules shall completely sum up the entire NEP-2020, which none has so far put appropriately and completely. Elaborating each one of these shall drive home all the points: Teaching in spoken language: The importance of this cannot be undermined. Original thinking comes only in the mother tongue (spoken languages) and this advantage has never been given to our students in any of our earlier policies. English has always been overemphasised and a wrong notion has been created that English is knowledge whereas the fact remains that it is just a language and not knowledge. Knowledge can always be acquired by knowing a language. Our beginners have always been worried about learning English rather than developing an understanding of a concept in their way, therefore majority of the students are lost in this learning of the English language rather than focussing on the original thinking. This has been given an appropriate weightage under NEP. A student shall learn to



SKILLS AND or not) THRIVE IN THE

BECAUSE OF THEIR SOCIO-CULTURAL

develop an understanding of what subjects to learn and what to pick up eventually in higher classes which has not been the case so far. A course used to be thrust upon them. This very important facet has been very appropriately addressed in this.

Learn to Leave: Having decided what course to take up for see

what course to take up for sec-TO PROVIDE what course to take up for secondary and higher education, a student used to be trapped forever whether one liked the subject/course or not. (In the older education system for example if one cation system for example if one EVERYONE WITH had opted for Physics or Sanskrit: THE NECESSARY one was struck with that forever whether one liked these subjects

KNOWLEDGE TO There was no way to move out unless one gave up higher education or started afresh. The other difficulty was that due to some 21ST CENTURY. odd circumstances if one had to discontinue the education there THE MOTTO HAS was no way to restart unless you lose years/ time, but in this, one could leave anytime or rejoin "EQUITABLE AND anytime (Comes under Multi entry/ Multi exit system).

INCLUSIVE In the present system if one EDUCATION" TO stayed away for a few years one could not come back to education ENSURE THAT NO in desired subjects but under NEP-2020 one can restart anytime CHILD SHOULD one's education by including the BE DENIED Therefore, under the present NEP, no one shall stay away or be denied education because of cir-EDUCATION denied education because of the cumstances. This was not the case in the older system.

Education to empower: Under

this education is to give due benefits to society by developing the right kind of skill. For Example, BACKGROUND an electronic engineer is not able to do even basic electrical repairs or a mechanical engineer is not in a position to rectify even a basic fault. Integration of vocational courses with regular ones to provide practical skills for employment, benefiting students with diverse academic interests or lim-

ited access to traditional pathways or linking them with one another are some of the hallmarks of the present system.

This is to develop the right syllabus to reduce disparities. Emphasis in this is on equitable access to quality education. Essentially NEP 2020 shall be attempting to reduce the system. attempting to reduce unwanted syllabus for comprehensive understanding towards skill-based education.

**Teach to transform:** the teaching in the older system was not of any speciality. One acquires the right skills through one's efforts to be useful to society. Under this, it shall be essential to train teachers and educational staff to deliver child-centred education for job placement, which shall be an important feature so far lacking to a large extent.

**Challenges:** One of the biggest features of this has been the wide laboratories, libraries research choice of subjects that one could take. Now this wide spectrum of subjects will be possible to be taken by students if there is a way to keep a record of a student's movement and subjects taken. In a Country like ours which has more than 39K colleges, about 1000 Universities and 4.33 crores students (Nearly 80 per cent are in graduation and the remaining 20 per cent are from post-graduation classes), it shall be impossible to maintain a record of this kind unless there is a mechanism similar to computerised banking arrangement which maintains all types of record impeccably. For this an Academic Bank of Credit has been proposed where every institution shall be registered to enable a record of these movements of students, subjects taken and credits earned can be maintained like what is done in bank-

Biggest flaw so far: Unfortunately, to date, not even 50 per cent of Institutions have registered themselves in this (in ABC) which is the real key to the success of this policy. This is a way to keep records of students' subjects, their movements and credits earned.

Sharing of resources: Under NEP a wide umbrella of choice of subject, record of early education, movement from one institution to another and credits cleared/ earned by a student shall be possible only if the resources are shared by various institutions.

It will be impossible for any particular college to offer all subjects and to offer teaching in a variety of courses unless there is a huge staff to do this. It will be humanly impossible to achieve all this unless sharing is done particularly when online teaching has now come in a big way in our university system. Similarly, the resources for science

facilities as well as Entrepreneurship schemes can be very effectively shared to make the education truly inclusive as per the aims of NEP 2020. Therefore, in conclusion, this policy shall succeed if: Every institution registers with ABC (Academic Bank of Credit) Sharing of resources starts in a big way in earnest in all areas like teaching, especially in online modes, libraries, Laboratories and instrumental facilities; Open schooling system for all without conditions Establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India immediately to monitor the registration of ABC etc. It shall not become a roaring success unless all agencies like MOE, UGC etc

take concerted efforts to bring about a radical change. (The writer is a Former Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University and Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul; views

## Revolutionising India's food security: Route optimisation cuts costs, carbon emissions

With over 81 crore beneficiaries, the Govt is now leveraging advanced data-driven route optimisation tools as part of the PM GatiShakti master plan

he Government of India provides free food grains to more than 81 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) making it the largest food security programme in the world. This vast operation from sourcing food grains from farmers to delivering them to ration cardholdersrelies on a complex, decades-old supply chain. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), state procurement agencies, millers, transporters, ware-houses, and Fair Price Shops (FPS) all play a critical role in this network. However, its design has historically been shaped by administrative convenience more than scientific optimisation. Supply routes were planned manually by



SANJEEV CHOPRA

state officials, a process prone to sub-optimality, bias and human error. In October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the PM GatiShakti Master Plan aiming to enhance multimodal connectivity and optimise logistics across the coun-

One of its key pillars, "Optimisation," envisions selecting the most efficient routes for transporting goods,

thereby saving time and reducing costs. In line with this vision, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) launched a national route optimisation exercise in March 2023, in partnership with the World Food Programme (UNWFP) and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) from IIT Delhi.

This exercise, targeting the annual transportation of 6.8 crore metric tons of food grains through the PDS, marks a transformative step towards building a more efficient and cost-effective food supply chain. The process was comprehensive: geo-locations of warehouses and FPS, along with their capacities and road distances, were collected from each state. Using this data, cus-

tom algorithms were developed for each state to determine the most optimal supply chain routes. More than 50 physical workshops were held by DFPD and FITT officials to guide states in data collection and demonstrate the benefits of route optimisation. These optimised routes were

then validated on the ground to ensure they accounted for local conditions, and a statespecific intra-state optimisation tool was developed to allow for adjustments in the supply chain - such as adding or modifying entities like ware-houses or FPSs. For instance, Bihar developed an annual movement plan based on its PDS requirements, food grain volume, and monthly transport routes. The customised algorithm factored in different transfers of food grains



possibilities of local procurement within the state and the grain required to be sourced from the FCI. This gave the state a clear view of its yearly logistics, allowing for cost-saving adjustments. By choosing the optimal option, Bihar reduced transport distances by 19 per cent, saving over Rs 3.09 crore per month. Similarly, Mizoram optimised its routes by eliminating unnecessary

between warehouses, achieving a 50 per cent reduction in distance and saving an estimated Rs 1.27 crore monthly. A significant milestone in this effort was the integration of the route optimisation tool with the GatiShakti platform, which now houses geo-locations of FPSs and warehouses across all

This integration enables the platform to generate the shortest possible motorable routes from FCI godowns to state godowns, and further from state godowns to FPSs.

The platform also allows realtime route re-optimisation based on updated infrastructure data (such as new roads) from other ministries. Since March 2023, route optimisation assessments have been completed for 30 out of 31 states, with intrastate route optimisation tools developed for 15 states so far. Early results from 12 states show tremendous promise, with transportation costs reduced by an estimated Rs 112 crore annually. Once fully implemented across all states, savings could exceed? 250 crore per year. This initiative is not only an economic win but also an environmental one. Global food miles-representing the distance food travels from production to consumption—account for nearly one-fifth of total food system emissions. Optimising India's food distribution routes can contribute significantly to reducing CO2 emissions, aligning with the country's climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement and its Conference of Parties (COP) targets. The

reduction in fuel consumption will also help conserve foreign exchange reserves. Looking ahead, DFPD is exploring the possibility of earning carbon credits under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), offering states an added incentive to complete the route optimisation process and earn tradable carbon credit certificates. This step would not only strengthen India's commitment to a climatesmart supply chain but also potentially generate financial benefits. In conclusion, The integration of advanced technologies and data-driven tools is setting the stage for a smarter future in public distribution, one that safeguards both our resources and the planet.

(The writer is Secretary, Food & Public Distribution, Govt of *India; views are personal)* 

## High alert on Bengal coasts as Dana hurtles up

As the low pressure belt over the Bay of Bengal was intensifying into a severe cyclonic storm with a possibility of hurtling straight towards north-western Bay, the Bengal Government on Tuesday issued Red and Orange alerts for a number of districts in the southern part of the State.

Though the weather office predicted that the cyclonic storm Dana could make a landfall somewhere between Bhadrak --- Paradeep to be specific --- and Sagar Islands the State the Government was not leaving anything to chances sources said.

'The cyclonic storm is likely to hit the coastal areas in the intervening hours of Thursday midnight and Friday morning ... in view of that the Bengal Government Paradeep," IMD sources said has issued a high alert in the coastal districts of North and South 24 Parganas and two Midnapores," a senior official anti-clockwise manner the



at Nabanna said adding all the schools and educational institutions in the coastal districts will remain closed. "Most likely it may make a landfall around Balasore or

adding exact location of the

area could be given much later.

"As the cyclone is moving in

areas on right side of its path like the sea beaches of Digha, Mandarmani of Bengal could be affected," sources said.

"We are taking maximum precautions so that no life lost and other damages are kept to the minimum," sources quoting Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said adding several thousand people have been evacuated from the coastal areas, and banks of the tidal rivers to the safer areas. A number of embankments

particularly those in Namkhana area Sunderbans have been reinforced so that the tidal rivers do not breach them, said Bankim Hajra State minister in charge of Sunderbans.

Department in its latest bulletin said that the well marked low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal had concentrated into a deep depression and was positioned around 700 km south east of Sagar Islands. There could be heavy rains and wind lashes in southern districts like North and South 24 Parhanas, Hooghly, Howrah, Kolkata, two Midnapores, Bankura, Nadia and even Burdwan. As the wind speed could be between 100 and 110 km per hour with a gust of around 120 kmph all those who leave in 'kuccha houses" and near the coast have been asked to vacate the area, Bengal Ministers Firhad Hakim said adding the police and the disaster relief force had been put on high alert and the tourists in sea beaches of Digha, Bakkhali, Mausani Islands had been asked to return home.

A control room had been opened at State secretariat Nabanna, an official said.

## Secure vital infrastructure projects across J and K: LG Sinha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday highlighted the need for securing the vital infrastructure projects across the Union Territory of J&K and putting in place a multi-pronged and foolproof mechanism for coordination with project implementing agencies to prevent security breaches.

Sinha travelled to Gagangir, Ganderbal to interact with officers and workers of Project Implementing Agency and to review the security measures on the project site. During his visit, the Lt Governor chaired a meeting of Officers of Police, Civil Administration, Project Implementing Agency and other security agencies.

During the meeting he directed that the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero terror



incidents in order to push rapid social and economic development.

He said the safety and security of workers and officers working on key infrastructure projects is the highest priority for the government. The Lieutenant Governor

emphasised the need for stricter access control and regular patrolling around the project sites. He also directed the security forces and the police to conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations pro-actively to wipe out terrorism in J&K UT.

## Jitendra Singh emphasises on optimal use of AI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh on Tuesday emphasised on the need for the optimal use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in government working to enhance efficiency and productivity. Speaking at a special session on AI organised for the staff of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at South Block here, he highlighted the critical role AI can play in revolutionising governance, streamlining operations and improving decision-making processes across various government departments.

The session, which saw participation from officers across all levels — from Section

Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Union Minister — was a unique demonstration of breaking hierarchical barriers within the PMO, with officials learning the same advanced concepts alongside each other, according to an official state-

Addressing the session, which included senior officials like Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra and Advisors to the PM, Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor besides other senior officers, Singh underscored that AI has the power to automate routine tasks, freeing up government officials to focus on more strategic areas of gov-

He highlighted how AI could transform key sectors like

public service delivery, ensuring that government departments become more efficient and public services more responsive to citizen needs. responsive to citizen needs.
The session was part of the ongoing "National Learning Week" under Mission Karmayogi, an ambitious capacity-building initiative spearheaded by Prime Minister Modi, aimed at empowering government empowering government employees with the knowl-edge and skills required to navigate the complexities of

The initiative focuses on creating a more agile, transparent and effective bureaucracy, and Tuesday's session on AI was a step in that direction, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry. Singh praised the prime min-

ister's vision for Mission

modern governance.

Karmayogi, stating it not only enhances the skills of individual officers but also promotes a collaborative and inclusive learning environment, where traditional hierarchies are dissolved in favour of collective learning and growth.

He also emphasised the importance of deploying AI responsibly, stressing the need to safeguard data privacy, particularly in sensitive areas of government functioning. "While AI holds immense potential for enhancing productivity, it must be implemented with caution to ensure confidentiality and data security," the minister said, adding strong security measures are necessary to protect AI systems from cyber threats and unauthorised

### Woman stabbed by neighbour in Tilak Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old woman who avoided a neighbour following uncomfortable interaction was allegedly stabbed by him in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar

According to the police on Tuesday, the man was identi-fied as a 36 year old Ravinder Singh alias Goldy. Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Vichitra Veer said, "On Monday, at around 11:30 am, an incident of stabbing was reported in Tilak Nagar police station." The man was arrested and a weapon recovered from him, he added.

"As per the details that came during the enquiry, a female around 30 years of age was stabbed by a man named

Ravinder Singh. The lady was admitted in the hospital with multiple stab wounds. She was operated late last evening and is under observation," he added. The incident took place on Monday when the accused entered the victim's house and stabbed her multiple times, they said. The accused used to live nearby with his family. "In the initial investigation, it has come forward that the victim had come to live in this neighborhood around two years back with her husband and kids," Veer said.

Singh and the victim had formal interactions occasionally. The accused and the victim had a formal interaction occasionally, living in the same neighborhood," another senior

### delayed, ally PWP names 4 candidates T N RAGHUNATHA Congress on

**MVA** seat tie up

With the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) still to formalise the seat-sharing arrangement among its key constituents, its small ally Peasants and Workers' Party (PWP) on Tuesday went ahead and announced the names of four its candidates for the State Assembly polls.

Informed sources in the MVA attributed the delay in its key constituents signing the seatsharing pact for the November 20 State Assembly polls to the lack of consensus between the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) on at least half a dozen seats from Vidarbha and Mumbai. The leaders of the MVA - comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar) -- held one more round of talks on Tuesday evening to iron out differences over the sharing of at least six out of the total 288 Assembly seats. "We expect to arrive at a consensus on the seat-sharing process. A formal announcement on seat tie-up among the MVA constituents will be made tomorrow," a senior MVA

Without waiting for the to arrive at an understanding on the seat-sharing for the Assembly polls, the PWP announced its list of four candidates -- comprising Atul Mahtre ( Pen), Pratima Mahtre (Uran), Balaram Patil (Panvel and Sanusha Chitralekha Patil (Alibaug)

leader said.

Talking to media persons, PWP president Jayant Patil said that his party would contest the State Assembly polls as a con-

stituent of the MVA. The seat-sharing within the MVA will happen among Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar). Once the seat pact is signed, the three key constituents will allot seats to the smaller parties like the Samajwadi Party, PWP, CPI and ĆPI-M.

The release of candidates' list by PWP came a day after the Monday announced that the discussion on its share of 96 seats had been completed. However, on Tuesday, the Congress did not release its list of candidates as announced on Monday.

Meanwhile, BJP's former minister Rajkumar Badole from from Gondia in Vidarbha region joined the NCP (Ajit Pawar)

The Ajit Pawar-led NCP is likely to field Badole, a twotime MLA (2009 and 2014) from his home constituency of Arjuni Morgaon in Gondia district of eastern Maharashtra. In what came as a pre-poll boost to the NCP (Ajit Pawar), several several wrestlers led by Deenanath Singh, who is a winner of the Hind Kesari and Maharashtra Kesari titles, joined the NCP on Tuesday. At a function, outgoing deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and State NCP president Sunil Tatkare welcomed Deenanath Singh and other wrestlers into their party.

Apart from Deenanath Singh, the other wrestlers who joined the NCP (Aiit Pawar) are: Aba Kale (Mumbai Kesari), Sagar Garud (Upmaharas) Kesari), Amol Barate (Hind Kesari), Yuvraj Vahag (Twice Upamaharashtra Kesari), Sonba Kale (Pune Mayor Kesari), Akshay Garud (Young Maharashtra Kesari), Akshay Hirgude (Hind Kesari, Gold Medallist), and Rishikesh (Maharashtra

Champion). The wrestlers' entry has come as a shot in the arm for the NCP (AP) in Kolhapur district of western Maharashtra. Kolhapur has a long history of wrestling and has produced many noted wrestlers. Kolhapur's wrestling culture has over the years been dominated by Gangavesh Akhara, Shahupuri Akhara, Motibag Akhara and New Motibag

### Officers to the Principal healthcare, agriculture and Kalyan Banerjee

From page 1

The committee was listening to the views of two organisations from Odisha, which included retired judges and lawyers, when the Empowerment, Efficiency questioned what was their stake in the bill.

ko gussa...

A BJP member said Banerjee was the first person to speak and was also allowed some interventions by the Chair. When he sought another turn to speak, Pal declined and a heated exchange erupted between him and Gangopadhyay, objected to the repeated disturbance.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill was referred to the joint panel of the Houses soon after being introduced in the Bohras and Aghakhanis. The Lok Sabha in the Monsoon Session. The Bill to amend the law governing Waqf Sunnis, Bohras, Agakhanis boards has proposed far- and other backward classes reaching changes in the among present Act, including communities.

It also aims at renaming the Waqf Act, 1995, as the Unified Waqf Management, Development According to its statement of objects and reasons, the Bill seeks to omit Section 40 of the current law relating to the powers of the Board to decide if a property is Waqf property. It provides for a broad-based composition of the Central Waqf Council and the State Waqf Boards and ensures the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies.

The Bill also proposes the establishment of a separate Board of Augaf for the draft law provides for the representation of Shias, Muslim

ensuring the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies.

Act 1995

## **Hoax threats...**

From page 1

Industrial Central Security Force (CISF) and the respective airline security have also been asked to ensure "focussed" security protocols for frisking passengers, their baggage and the aircraft so that nothing is left to chance while preparing a flight, they

When it is established that the bomb or hijack threat message made through social media was published "without any rationale", the BTAC will categorise it "non specific or hoax" so that passengers and airlines crew are not harassed and their precious time is not wasted, they said, without elaborating on the specific details due to operational

There will still be some cases where a message or call will be declared "specific" but that will not be done en masse, the sources said. Aviation security officials said they expect that these new measures will help to ease "some" trouble posed

by these fake social media or phone call messages.

Cyber security agencies have said some of these threats are triggered from virtual private network (VPN) activated Internet connections and many such handles, especially on X, were created only a few hours or days before posted the threats to various The most recent threats

targeted flights to major

destinations such as Jeddah, Riyadh and Medina are in Saudi Arabia, Istanbul and Doha are the capital of and Qatar respectively. This has led to schedules, disrupting bleeding airlines and panic among passengers during the peak festive season. This is the first time that hoax callers have targeted flights bound to Middle East

countries. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has said that making hoax bomb threat calls to airlines will be made a cognisable offence.

## **Delhi is most** polluted city...

From page 1

He stated that a major buses reaching Delhi from their

Rai also announced a series of anti-pollution measures, including extra metro trips, deployment of more than 6,000 MCD staff for road dust control and 1800 more traffic personnel at congestion points. He said 1,800 additional traffic personnel will be deployed at 97 congestion points across the city, while inspections at construction-demolition sites will also be intensified under

the GRAP II. The minister further said the Delhi Metro will make 40 additional train trips daily from Wednesday and the frequency of DTC buses will also be increased to encourage people to take public transport

to aid the fight against pollution.

During the winter months, component of this air pollution Delhi faces severe pollution is vehicular emissions largely due to a combination of attributed to the significant factors, including low wind speeds temperatures, high moisture levels, and pollution particles that serve as surfaces for condensation.

> At least 16 farmers have been arrested in India's northern state of Haryana for illegally burning paddy stubble to clear fields, a practice that stokes air pollution in the region around New Delhi at the onset of winter, authorities said on Tuesday. India's National Capital Region pollution at this time each year as temperatures fall and cold, heavy air traps pollutants such as construction dust, vehicle emissions and smoke, much of which authorities say travels from the neighbouring breadbasket states of Punjab

### More CRPF schools get...

The school also announced a holiday for students." He added that a bomb squad was deployed, and the school was checked by anti-sabotage

suspicious was found. However, student turnout has remained relatively low and business owners in the Rohini area continue to bear the brunt of the blast. Eateries opposite to the school remain shut as locals said that they have been asked to do so by the police. A senior Delhi Police officer,

details of the sender.

premises by 11 am on Tuesday.

Security and intelligence agencies are probing the role of alleged Khalistani supporters in the Sunday morning blast after a purported Telegram post was being circulated on social media which claimed that the blast was carried out in retaliation to the "targeting" of pro-Khalistan allegedly by Indian agents.

"If the Indian coward agency and their master think they can hire filthy goons to target our members to silence our voice then they live in a fool's world. They can't imagine how close we are to them and how capable we are to strike anytime #KhalistanZindabad #JĹI," read a Telegram post by "Justice League India," it

According to the sources, the sender has also mentioned "politics in Tamil Nadu" and sacked DMK functionary Jaffer Sadiq in the email. The CRPF schools are run by the country's largest paramilitary force that is deployed in three major combat theatres of antioperations, counterterrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and counter-

insurgency in the Northeast.

There are a total of 14 schools

in the country of the CRPF.

explore cooperation with Kazakh **National University** 

Academicians agree to

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

A group of academician from Kazakasthan visiting India has agreed to explore possibilities of cooperation between CIS, MERÎ and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. The areas identified for coop eration were information technology, artificial intelligence, international relations; geopol-

The outcome followed after talks were held between Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, Management Education Research Institute (MERI), New Delhi and Prof Kuralay Baizakova, Director, Institute for Security and Cooperation Studies (ÍSCS), Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Almaty, Kazakhstan and Prof Fatima Kukeyeva also from the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University last Friday. Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, Centre for International Studies (CIS), MERI was also present during the deliberations.

From page 1 Once patrolling commences, the two sides will eventually disengage by withdrawing their troops from the LAC to peacetime locations in their respective territories. After this step, the area may see

de-escalation. Speaking at an interaction other stages will follow session after delivering a lecture hosted by defence think-tank USI, the Army Chief said "As far as we are concerned, we were looking at... We want to go back to the status quo of April 2020. Thereafter, we will be looking at disengagement, de-escalation and normal management of Line of long military standoff ahead Actual Control. And, this normal management of the LAC will not just start there. There are phases in that also," the Army chief said.

"So, this is what I am saying. This has been our stance since April 2020... And even today remains the same. So, as of now, we are trying to restore the trust. How the trust will get restored. It will get restored once we are able

able to convince each other" related to the buffer zones that have been created, he said. "And, both will have to reassure each other," the Army chief added.

We are trying to restore the...

Patrolling gives you that kind of advantage, and that is what is commencing. "And, as we restore the trust, the through," he said.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday announced has reached an agreement with China on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. This is seen as a major breakthrough in ending the over four-yearof a likely meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia this

"Over the last several weeks, Chinese Indian and diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums," the

foreign secretary said. "As a result of these to see each other, and we are discussions, agreement has saw disengagement include

been arrived at patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," Misri added. Later, External Affairs

Minister S Jaishankar also

said Indian and Chinese

soldiers would be able to resume patrolling in the way they had been doing before the border face-off began. Army Chief Dwivedi also said India would be looking at disengagement and deescalation after a return to the 2020 situation. He said it was important to see that buffer zones that have been

created were not being

encroached upon.

The troops of both nations had previously disengaged from four places, including the Galwan Valley, where a deadly clash in June 2020 left 20 Indian soldiers and several Chinese troops dead. The new agreement will facilitate patrolling in the Depsang and Demchok areas. The four places which Galwan Valley, Pangong Lake, Hot Springs, and

Newsagency PTI reported from Beijing, China on Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh. "Over a recent period, China

and India have been in close

communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues related to the China-India border," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing here. Now, the two sides have reached a resolution on the "relevant matters," he said. spokesperson added China will work with India to implement it but declined to provide details.

About the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping on the margins of the BRICS summit at Russia's Kazan, he said, "We will keep you updated if anything In New Delhi, Navy Vice

Swaminathan on Tuesday said the naval force was happy to learn about India and China reaching an agreement on patrolling along the LAC in eastern Ladakh as he underlined that in national security issues, it is "not easy" to come to any kind of a settlement. He said this during a media interaction held at Kota

House ahead of the third edition of Navy's flagship seminar Swavlamban. "In national security issues, it is not easy to come to any kind of a settlement. It's not easy, because there are views, there are perceptions, there are emotive issues. There are

land issues and there are national security considerations. So, at one time you address several elements of national consciousness. You go and talk, negotiate," Vice Admiral Swaminathan said. "So, if you come to any kind of settlement, I don't know what the details are, and I dont even need to know it, but I... Know there is some kind of settlement, and all of Chief Vice Admiral Krishna us are happy," he added.

### From page 1

and Haryana.

Singh stated that nothing

who did not wish to be named, said the cyber cell has launched a probe into the threat mail and the police has written to the email service provider to get the user ID and other

"A Delhi Police cyber cell team has been constituted to probe if the threat was in any way linked to a blast Sunday morning at the CRPF Public School in Rohini's Prashant Vihar in Delhi," he said. The hoax threat was received by Monday night and claimed that the improvised devices may explode on the schools'

## Blinken arrives in Israel as US looks to renew cease-fire efforts

Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Israel on Tuesday on his 11th visit to the region since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war. The US hopes to revive ceasefire efforts after the killing of top Hamas leader Yahva Sinwar, but so far all the warring parties appear to be dig-

ging in. Israel is still at war with Hamas more than a year after the militant group's Oct 7 attack, and with Hezbollah in Lebanon, where it launched a ground invasion earlier this month. Israel is also expected to strike Iran after its ballistic missile attack on Oct 1.

Blinken landed just hours after Hezbollah launched a barrage of rockets into central Israel, setting off air raid sirens in the country's most populated areas and its international airport, but causing no apparent damage or injuries. The Israeli military said it intercepted most of the five projectiles, with one

landing in an open area. Another 15 projectiles were fired from Lebanon into northern Israel at around the same time, the military said.

Blinken is expected to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other top officials. Following Israel, lives," Miller added.

### Hezbollah fires rockets into central Israel

resume cease-fire talks in Gaza following the

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has

pledged to annihilate Hamas and recover

dozens of hostages held by the group. Hamas

says it will only release the captives in return

for a lasting cease-fire, a full Israeli withdraw-al from Gaza and the release of Palestinian pris-

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants blew

holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in,

killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and

abducting another 250. Israel's offensive in

Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians,

in August.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have brokered months of

talks between Israel and

Hamas, trying to strike a deal

in which the militants would

release dozens of hostages in

return for an end to the war, a

lasting cease-fire and the

release of Palestinian prisoners.

But both Israel and Hamas

accused each other of making

new and unacceptable

demands over the summer,

and the talks ground to a halt

The US has also tried to bro-

ker a cease-fire between Israel

and Hezbollah, but those

efforts fell apart as tensions

spiked last month with a series

death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

Emirates.

Secretary Blinken will dis-

ing the war in Gaza to an end,

Blinken will also discuss plan-

ning for when the conflict

ends and "the need to chart a

new path forward that enables

Palestinians to rebuild their

Hezbollah launched a barrage of rockets into central Israel on Tuesday, setting off air raid sirens in the country's most populated areas but causing no apparent damage or injuries, a few hours before US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken arrived in the region on a mission to restart stalled Gaza ceasefire talks. The Israeli military said five projectiles were fired from Lebanon into Israel and said most were intercepted by Israel's missile defense sys-

tem. One landed in an open area.
The rocket fire came as Israel stepped up its strikes in Lebanon, targeting a Hezbollah-run financial institution, and as the US pushed to

according to local health authorities, who do not distinguish combatants from civilians. he's expected to visit a number He said Blinken also would of Arab countries, likely to underscore the need for a drainclude Jordan, Saudi Arabia, matic increase in the amount of Qatar and the United Arab humanitarian aid reaching Gaza, something that Blinken

be hindered.

and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin made clear in a letter to cuss the importance of bring-Israeli officials last week. securing the release of all That letter reminded Israel hostages, and alleviating the that the Biden administration suffering of the Palestinian people," State Department could be forced by US law to curtail some forms of military spokesman Matthew Miller aid should the delivery of humanitarian aid continue to

> Blinken's previous trips have yielded little in the way of ending hostilities, but he has managed to increase aid deliveries to Gaza in the past.

of Israeli strikes that killed the militant group's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and most of his senior commanders.

Israel is currently waging another major operation in already-devastated northern Gaza, which has killed hundreds of Palestinians over the last two weeks, according to local health authorities.

In Lebanon, Israel has carried out waves of heavy airstrikes across southern Beirut and the country's south and east, areas where Hezbollah has a strong presence. Hezbollah has fired hundreds of rockets, missiles and drones into Israel, including some that have reached the country's populous centre. Hamas-led militants stormed

into southern Israel on Oct 7.

2023, killing some 1,200 peo-

ple, mostly civilians, and taking another 250 hostage. Around 100 of the captives are still held in Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel's offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians in Gaza and wounded tens of thousands, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were combatants but say more than half were women and children. It has also caused massive devastation across the territory and displaced around 90% of its population of 2.3

million.

## Two men plead guilty to murder of Air-India bombing suspect

Two men accused of killing Ripudaman Singh Malik, a Sikh man acquitted in the trag-ic 1985 Air India Kanishka terrorist bombing case, have pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in a Canadian court, according to media reports.
Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez entered the pleas in the British Columbia (BC) Supreme Court on Monday on the eve of their

trial for the killing of 75-yearold Malik, who was shot several times outside his family business on the morning of July 14, 2022. Malik was shot dead in Surrey,

British Columbia in 2022. He and co-accused Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted in 2005 of mass murder and conspiracy charges related to the two bombings in 1985 that killed 331 people.

In the court in New Westminster on Monday, both Fox and Lopez pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of seconddegree murder, the Global News reported.

The court heard an agreed statement of facts that revealed the two men had been hired to kill Malik, the report added. 'What we know from the agreed statement of facts is that there was some type of financial incentive that was involved in the commission of this crime, but in terms of any other specifics, it is another one of those situations where unfortunately it is just something that we as people on the outside will probably never know," Lopez' lawyer Gloria Ng told Global

News. "One of the things we certainly have in the forefront of our minds is the youth of our client — Lopez is a very young man and we are certainly hopeful with prospects for rehabilitation."

In a statement, Malik's family described him as a "father, brother, husband and grandfather as well as a tireless comther as well as a tireless community leader," the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported on Monday.
"While we are grateful that the shooters are being brought to justice, we know that nothing

will erase the pain that we have gone through losing a family member in this way," the familv said.

However, the work is not complete. Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez were hired to commit this murder. Until the parties responsible for hiring them and directing this assassination are brought to justice, the work

remains incomplete."
The family called on the killers to "co-operate with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in bringing those that hired you to justice."

removal of

Crown and defence lawvers have agreed that Fox and Lopez should not be eligible for parole for 20 years. And they will next appear in court on October 31 for sentencing. The 1985 Air India bombing is

among the worst terrorist attacks in Canadian history and in the history of the airline. On June 23, 1985, Air India flight 182, carrying 329 people, including 268 Canadian citizens and 24 Indian citizens, flew from Toronto and stopped in Montreal from where it was en route to London and then onwards to its final destination Bombay.

The plane was flying 31,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean when a suitcase bomb exploded in the front cargo, killing all on board.

Another bomb was meant to be planted in an Air India flight scheduled to take off from Japan but it exploded at Tokyo's Narita airport killing two bag-

gage handlers. Inderjit Singh Reyat was convicted on various charges and spent 30 years in prison for helping to make the bombs, and for lying during trials, including Malik's. He was released in 2016 after serving two-thirds of his perjury sentence.

Reyat was the only person convicted for the Kanishka bombing.

**COMMENTS ON HASINA'S RESIGNATION** 

Protesters demand

B'desh president

## **China holds live-fire** drills opposite Taiwan

said in a statement.

China is holding live-fire drills off the coast of its southern Fujian province facing Taiwan, just a week after a massive air-and-sea drill it called punishment for Taiwan's president rejecting Beijing's claims of sovereignty.
The live-fire drills were being

held near the Pingtan islands off Fujian province, according to a notice from the Maritime Safety Administration. It warned ships to avoid the area. It did not offer additional details.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said China's drills were part of an annual exercise and was tracking them. "It cannot be ruled out that it is one of the ways to ment ships. expand the deterrent effect in

Taiwan Strait," the statement added.

Taiwan is a self-ruled island that Beijing claims is part of China. Tensions around the issue have flared in recent years. China has increased its presence in the waters and skies around Taiwan. It now increasingly sends large amounts of warplanes and navy vessels in military exercises near Taiwan and its coast guard

carries out patrols.
Last week, China held a oneday military exercise aimed at practicing the "sealing off of key ports and key areas". Taiwan counted a record oneday total of 153 aircraft, 14 navy vessels and 12 Chinese govern-

In response t

line with the dynamics in the US has continued what it calls "freedom of navigation" transits through the Taiwan Strait. On Sunday, the destroyer USS Higgins and the Canadian frigate HMCS Vancouver transited the narrow band of ocean that separates

> Germany sent two warships through the Taiwan Strait last month as it seeks to increase its defence engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

China and Taiwan.

China has also exerted diplomatic pressure on Taiwan, poaching its allies. South Africa, which does not recognise Taiwan as a country, asked the island last week to move its liaison office outside the capital, Pretoria, as a concession to China. Taiwan on Monday said it would fight the request



Rescue workers search for victims at the site of Israeli airstrikes that destroyed buildings facing the city's main government

## Pollution affects

Lahore most **PTI** ■ LAHORE

Pakistan's cultural city Lahore been declared the most polluted city in the world, with an alarming Air Quality Index (AQI) of 394, and the Pakistan's Punjab government has planned for artificial rain to mitigate smog impact. The AQI is a measure of the concentration of various pollutants in the air. An AQI above 100 is considered unhealthy and above 150 "very unhealthy". The Smog crisis has been fuelled by crop residue burning and industrial emissions. The hazardous smog has led to widespread health issues among the city residents, includamong the city residents, includ-ing coughing, breathing difficul-ties, eye irritation, and skin infec-tions. "Yesterday Lahore was declared the most polluted city in the world. We have taken a number of initiatives to address the matter and now we are planning for an artificial rain in the city," Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari told a

A prominent students' organ-isation, which spearheaded the protests against Sheikh Hasina's government in Bangladesh, on Tuesday staged demonstrations in Dhaka, demanding the removal of Mohammed President Shahabuddin over his comment on the resignation of the deposed prime minister. In an interview with Bangla

PTI DHAKA

daily Manab Zamin last week, Shahabuddin said he does not have any documentary evidence of Hasina resigning as prime minister before she fled ne country in August amidst

student-led mass protests.
The Anti-discrimination
Student Movement, which spearheaded the campaign that led to the ouster of Hasina, rallied in front of the Central Shaheed Minar here, demanding Shahabuddin's resignation. "The president is an ally of fascism. He was in favour of

genocide. We demand his resignation," Nasir Uddin Patwari, a protest leader, said. Some of the protesters also said

that the president might face a campaign against him.

A group of protesters under the banner of Shadhinota-Shorbobhoumotto Rokkha Committee (Committee to protect independence and sovereignty) also staged a sit-in protest at the Dhaka University demanding campus, Shahabuddin's resignation and calling for the termination of the Constitution and the for-mation of a "revolutionary government".

The protesters also demanded the disbanding of Hasina's Awami League party and its allies from political activities. They later marched towards Bangabhaban, the president's official residence. A prominent press conference here on Tuesday. | leader of the group, Rafiq

"culprit" as he was "unlawfully" appointed by "killer Hasina".
"We request him to resign immediately and vacate the Bangabhaban. Otherwise, we will start another movement like the one in July," he said. In his interview with the Bangla Daily, Shahabuddin said he heard that Hasina had resigned as prime minister before she fled Bangladesh, but he does

Khan, called Shahabuddin a

dence. Despite numerous efforts, the president said, he had failed to find any documents. "Perhaps she did not have the time," Shahabuddin said

not have documentary evi-

Nobel laureate Muhammad became Yunus, 84, Bangladesh's interim government's Chief Adviser on August 8 after Prime Minister Hasina fled to India on August

Narrating the events of August 5, Shahabuddin told the daily that at around 10:30 am, a call came to Bangabhaban from Hasina's residence, informing him that Hasina would meet him. However, "within an hour, another call came, saying she was not coming". Shahabuddin said before he administered the oath of office to Yunus and his advisory council members on August 8 he had sought the opinion of the Supreme Court, which advised him go ahead in view of the extraordinary situa-

tion. The interim government's Law Affairs Adviser Asif Nazrul on Monday accused the president of "falsehood", saying his remarks were "tantamount to violation of his oath of office". He said if Shahabuddin remained firm on his comments, the interim government would need to think whether he was still qualified to hold his office.

### S Korea warns it may supply arms to Ukraine years. In June, they signed a major defense deal requiring criminal group" that forces its youths to serve as Russian tems and acquire a space-based surveillance system

South Korea warned Tuesday it could consider supplying weapons to Ukraine in response to North Korea allegedly dispatching troops to Russia, as both North Korea and Russia denied the movements.

The South Korean statement is apparently meant to pressure Russia not to bring in North Korean troops in its war against Ukraine. South Korean officials worry that Russia may reward North Korea by giving it sophisticated weapons technologies that can boost the North's nuclear and missile programs that target South Korea.

In an emergency National Security Council meeting, top South Korean officials condemned North Korea's alleged dispatch of troops as "a grave security threat" to South Korea and the international community. They described North Korea as "a

mercenaries for an unjustifiable war, the South Korean presidential office said in a statement.

The officials agreed to take phased countermeasures, linking the level of their responses to progress in Russian-North Korean military cooperation, according to the statement.

Possible steps include diplomatic, economic and military options, and South Korea could consider sending both defensive and offensive weapons to Ukraine, a senior South Korean presidential official told reporters on condition of anonymity in a back-

ground briefing.
The official said North Korea could attempt to get high-tech Russian technologies to perfect its nuclear missiles. The official said Russia's possible help for North Korea's efforts to modernize its outdated conventional weapons syswould pose a serious security threat to South Korea as well. North Korea and Russia intensify cooperation

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, South Korea has joined U.S.-led sanctions against Moscow and shipped humanitarian and financial support to Kyiv. But it has avoided directly supplying arms to Ukraine in line with its policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively engaged in conflicts.

South Korea's spy agency said last week it had confirmed that North Korea sent 1,500 special operation forces to Russia this month. Ukrainian Volodymyr President Zelenskyy has said his government had intelligence that 10,000 North Korea soldiers were being prepared to join invading Russian forces.

North Korea and Russia have been sharply boosting their cooperation in the past two

both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance if either is attacked. South Korea said at the time it would consider sending arms to Ukraine, a similar statement

that it made Tuesday. South Korea's spy agency said that North Korea had sent more than 13,000 containers of artillery, missiles and other conventional arms to Russia since August 2023 to replenish its dwindling weapons stockpiles.

North Korea and Russia have denied the North Korean troop deployment as well as the purported weapons trans-

At a UN Security Council meeting Monday, Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia dismissed the South Korean assertion as well as Western allegations of Iran supplying Russia with missiles and China providing arms components. He accused the West of "circulating scaremongering with Iranian, Chinese and Korean bogeymen, each one of which is more absurd than

the one before." At a separate UN committee meeting, a North Korean diplomat said his delegation feels no need to comment on the troop dispatch, calling it "groundless, stereotype rumors aimed at smearing the image" of the North and undermining the legitimate cooperation between two sov-

ereign states.
The US and NATO haven't confirmed North Korea's troop deployment, but they warned against the danger of such a development if true. US deputy ambassador to the UN Robert Wood said that if true, the North Korean troop dispatch marks "a dangerous and highly concerning development" and noted that the US was "consulting with our allies and partners on such a dramatic move."

## Japanese police chief apologises to man acquitted after 50 years on death row

A Japanese police chief on Monday apologised in person to Iwao Hakamada for his decades-long suffering that started from an overbearing investigation and wrongful conviction that had kept him on death row until last month, when he was acquitted in a retrial.

The 88-year-old Hakamada, a former boxer, was acquitted by the Shizuoka District Court, which said police and prosecutors had collaborated to fabricate and plant evidence against him, and forced him to confess with violent, hourslong closed interroga-

when the prosecution waived its right to appeal — though it complained about the ruling — finally ending Hakamada's nearly 60-year legal battle to prove his inno-

cence. Shizuoka Prefectural Police chief Takayoshi Tsuda on Monday visited Hakamada at his home and offered an apology in person. As he entered the room where Hakamada, his sister Hideko Hakamada and their supporter waited, Hakamada silently rose from his sofa to greet him.
"We are sorry to have caused

you unspeakable mental distress and burden for as long tions. The acquittal was as 58 years from the time of finalised earlier this month the arrest until the acquittal



was finalized," Tsuda said, as he stood straight in front of Hakamada and bowed deeply. "We are terribly sorry." Tsuda promised a "meticulous and appropriate investigation."

Hakamada, who has difficulty carrying out conversation due to his mental condition from the decades of death row confinement, responded: "What it means to have the authority ... Once you have the power, you're not supposed to grumble." Hakamada's 91-year-old sister, who had stood by her brother through the long process to clear his name and now lives with him,

thanked the police chief for

visiting them.

"There is no use complaining to him after all these years. He was not involved in the case and he only came here as his duty," she told reporters afterward. "But I still accepted his visit just because I wanted (my brother) to have a clear break from his past as a death row inmate."

He was arrested in August, 1966, in the killing of an executive at a miso bean paste company and three of his family members in Hamamatsu, central Japan. He was initially sentenced to death in a 1968 district court ruling but was not executed because of the lengthy appeal and retrial process in Japan. It took nearly three decades for the Supreme Court to

deny his first appeal for a retrial. His second appeal for a retrial, filed by his sister in 2008, was granted in 2014. The court ordered his release from his death row solitary cell but without removing his conviction, pending the retrial process. Hakamada was the world's longest-serving death row prisoner and only the fifth death row inmate to be acquitted in a retrial in postwar Japan, where criminal trials take years and retrials are extremely rare. His case and acquittal have triggered calls for more transparency in the investigation, legal change to lower hurdles for a retrial and debate over death penalty in Japan.

# India well positioned to capitalise growth opportunities: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

The global economic environment may present challenges but India is well positioned to capitalise on new growth opportunities, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, underlining that as nations re-evaluate their supply chains, India hopes to become a key partner for many countries seeking to diversify their sources of goods and services.

Sitharaman made these remarks on Monday while delivering a special lecture on 'India's Economic Resilience and Prospects Amidst A Challenging and Uncertain Global Environment' at

Columbia University here. She said that India is looking towards boosting domestic capacities, and building resilience against external

"While the past decades saw global growth led by broad multilateral trade, the coming years, I think, will likely be defined by strategic economic partnerships and India is very well poised to take advantage of this transition."

She said that the global economic environment may present challenges, but "India is well positioned to capitalise on new growth opportunities.
"The shift towards a more fragmented global economy, characterised by redefined alliances and changing trade patterns, could in fact work to chat on India's decadal



India's advantage. As nations re-evaluate their supply chains, India hopes to become a key partner for many countries seeking to diversify their sources of goods and services," she said at the lecture organised by the Deepak and Neera Raj Center on Indian Economic Policies at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.

Sitharaman arrived in New York Sunday from Mexico where she had chaired the Tech Leaders Roundtable in Guadalajara. She had also visited the TCS headquarters in Guadalajara.

In New York, she addressed a Roundtable on 'Investment Opportunities in India' at the New York Stock Exchange

economic reforms and economic growth with IBM Chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna.

From New York, Sitharaman will head to Washington DC to participate in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the 4th G20 Ministers and Finance Bank Governor Central (FMCBG) Meetings, besides the G20 Joint Meeting of FMCBGs, Environment Ministers, and Foreign Ministers; and G7 - Africa Ministerial Roundtable.

Sitharaman noted that it may be an understatement that "we are living through times of profound uncertainty, which is steadily rising before

"The world today grapples with multiple challenges, such

largest economy.
The International Monetary

Fund has projected it to become the third-largest economy by 2027. "India's contribution to global growth is projected to see an increase of 200 basis points in the next five years," she said.

She further stressed that India's trade policies have also undergone significant reform, with a focus on facilitation and greater integration with key economic partners. India is fostering a more competitive and export-oriented economy by pursuing free trade agreements with nations like the UAE and Australia, alongside initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive schemes and One District One Product

schemes. "Furthermore, India must continue to strengthen its position in the geopolitical landscape. As the world undergoes a realignment of power dynamics, emerging economies like India would need to projecte complex. need to navigate complex international relationships. This would require a nuanced approach to diplomacy where interests are economic with strategic balanced concerns," she said adding that as countries look inwards, globally there is the added risk of regress towards

de-industrialisation. She said India's rise in the its growing influence in sectors like high-end capital goods, renewables and pharmaceuticals, signal its potential to become a vital player in global markets. 'Another vital aspect of the

policy agenda has been the strengthening of India's financial sector. soundness of our banking system marked by low levels of NPAs (nonperforming assets) and enhanced provisioning for bad loans reflects the reforms we have undertaken to improve asset quality," she said.

She added that by 2047, as India celebrates 100 years of independence, "we will have a chance to define a new era of prosperity, not just for our own citizens, but for the global community as well. "India's role in the world is

expanding, and we stand to ready engage constructively with the international community, international community, sharing our innovations and contributing to global peace and prosperity," she said, as she cited the example of the COVID-19 pandemic during which India supplied vaccines developed and manufactured by it to pations agrees the by it to nations across the world. "The coming decades will be defined by how effectively India manages its demographic dividend, strengthens its global partnerships, and navigates the complexity of a rapidly changing world," she said.

Insurance industry can use e-commerce, telecom network to distribute policies: LIC chief



PTI MUMBAI

tate-owned life insurance Shehemoth LIC's chief executive and managing director Siddhartha Mohanty on Tuesday pitched for using the e-commerce and telecom network to distribute policies deep in the country. "As we are serious about

'insurance for all', we must rethink how we distribute and market insurance products," Mohanty said, speaking at an event organised by CII here. He said the current channels, including agents, brokers, and bancassurance have been effective, but fraught with its own limitations given the challenge of taking insurance to each citizen of the country. Specifically, the current models have "limitations" to taking insurance to the vast and underserved rural market, the LIC executive said, adding that the future is in opening non-traditional channels.

"Collaborating with non-traditional players, such as telecom companies, fintech firms and e-commerce platforms, we can significantly

increase our outreach," he said.

unparalleled access to remote and "These organisations have communities. By partnering with them, we can ensure that affordable and accessible coverage is available to all," he added.

Adopting a newer approach will hugely increase the spectrum of insurance products across the insurers that will be available for sale to meet the varied needs of the customers, he said, stressing that reaching over a billion

people "is no easy task". Moĥanty also said that digital technologies should be a key to reaching rural and lowincome groups and sought regulatory support to ensure that any innovations are "nurtured and appropriately".

Technologies and platforms like artificial intelligence, machine learning automation revolutionising the entire insurance sector and making it more customer-friendly, he

## Consumers worried about data breaches: PwC India survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

onsumers are worried Cabout data breaches, and a large number of them are not aware of their rights related to personal data,

According to a PwC India

The PwC Survey on Data Privacy offers vital insights from 3,233 consumers and 186 organisations across exploring awareness

implementation concerning the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), the consultancy firm said.

As per the survey report titled 'How aware and prepared are Indian consumers and businesses to navigate the new era of digital privacy?? A survey of India's data privacy landscape', 42 per cent of consumers are not sure if they will continue using the services of a company post a

"This rate is higher in Tier-1 cities at 46 per cent. Although 52 per cent of organisations are planning additional security controls around personal data, technology alone won't solve the compliance issue," PwC India

data breach.



The survey also showed that only 16 per cent of consumers are aware of the DPDP Act across diverse geographies, age groups, occupational backgrounds and urban-rural divides.

Sivarama Krishnan, Partner & Leader - Risk Consulting, PwC India and Leader of APAC Cyber Security and Privacy, PwC opined that the DPDP Act 2023 will play a critical role as India transitions to a high-growth

digital economy.
"Our engagement with over 3,000 consumers across the country and with around 200 corporates reveals significant gap in the understanding of the basic tenets of privacy among all," Krishnan said.

The survey also found that 56 per cent of consumers are not aware of their rights related to personal data and 69 per cent are not aware of their rights to take back their consent.

Anirban Sengupta, Leader and Partner, Business and Technology Risk, PwC India said that in India, sectors that are regulated and direct-to consumer show maturity in privacy mechanisms express concerns about data prīvacy laws enforcement.

"The need of the hour is a cultural shift towards prioritising data privacy, necessitating active participation from both businesses and consumers to foster a privacy-conscious environment," Sengupta added.PwC India said the Sengupta survey also throws light on the urgent need for ecommerce, social media and technology sector to focus on educating the age group of 18-30 years on digital privacy, consent management, of personal protection information consequences of data sharing

### Reliance Infrastructure to launch Dhirubhai Ambani Defence City



PNS MUMBAI

**D** eliance Infrastructure on setting up of Dhirubhai Defence City Ambani largest (DADC) the project for integrated Manufacturing of Explosives, Ammunition and Small Arms in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. The company has been allotted 1000 acres of Land in

as the conflict in the Middle

East and between Russia and

Ukraine. There's also a

destabilising events such as the dollar liquidity shocks, increases in global tariffs due to trade wars and oil price

shocks - all at the same time.

In addition to these events,

the emergence of a veritable

China terms of trade, and that

as a shock, has made it

necessary for countries to

take measures to safeguard

their domestic production,"

Sitharaman stressed that

despite an increasingly complex global environment,

"sound", acting as a strong

foundation upon which to

build future growth. She said that in 2013, India

macro-economic

remain

possibility

she said.

India's

fundamentals

of

other

Watad Industrial Area of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra to develop DADC. It will be the largest GREENFIELD project in Defence Sector in India by any Private Sector company. Reliance Infrastructure will invest over Rs. 10,000 Cr over the next 10 years. Reliance Infrastructure through its subsidiaries has exported defence equipment worth

Reliance Infrastructure's wholly owned subsidiaries Jai

period of time.

Armaments Limited and Reliance Defence Limited already have license from Govt

manufacturing of Arms and Ammunition. The proposed Projects envisage potential Joint Ventures with up to six leading Global Defence Companies.

Ammunition range to include Small, Medium & Large Caliber and Terminally Guided Munition (TGM). Small Arms portfolio will address the export markets, both Civil and Military applications Reliance already has successful Joint Ventures (JVs) at MIHAN, Nagpur, Maharashtra with two of the leading Global Defence companies Dassault Aviation and Thales of France.

Dassault Reliance Aerospace more than Rs. 1,000 Cr over a Limited (DRAL) and Thales Reliance Defence Systems (TRDS) export 100% of their production.

## India likely to grow at 7.2 per cent: RBI Deputy Governor

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's GDP growth is projected at 7.2 per cent in 2024-25, around 7 per cent in the next fiscal, and after that, there is a strong likelihood that the growth will revert to the 8 per cent trend, said Reserve Bank of India deputy governor Michael Debabrata

He was speaking at the New York Fed Central Banking Seminar organised by the Federal Reserve Bank here on Monday. ...I do believe with all the

strength of my conviction that India's time has come," he said, and highlighted the country heads into its future with the youngest population in the world with a median age of 28 years.

Unlike in many parts of the world, the working age population is growing -- every sixth working age person is an Indian.

Patra said that since independence in 1947, India's growth path has undergone three structural shifts with trend growth, having risen to 7 per cent during 2002-2019. After the severe contraction



per cent seems to be forming during 2021-24, he said. India is now regarded as the fastest growing major economy in the world.

Already the fifth largest economy in terms of market exchange rates, it is poised to become the third largest economy by 2030, the senior RBI official said and added the country is already the third largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity.

Our projections show that India's real GDP growth will be 7.2 per cent in 2024-25 and around 7.0 per cent in 2025-26 in a cyclical correction to the rebound from the pandemic. Thereafter, there is strong likelihood that India's growth will revert to the 8 per cent trend," Patra

On inflation, he said it is projected to average 4.5 per cent in 2024-25 and 4.1 per cent in 2025-26.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation fell below target during July-August but rose to 5.5 per cent in September on the back of a pickup in price momentum in some food items and adverse base effects inherent in yearon-vear measurement.

"Our projection indicates that these price pressures will persist in October and November before headline inflation realigns with the target from December 2024 and remains aligned in 2025-26," the deputy governor said. He also emphasised that India is emerging as a world leader leveraging technologies

transformative change.

## Adani Group to acquire Orient Cement

without thought.

PTI NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani-led Adani Group on Tuesday said it will acquire CK Birla group firm Orient Cement at a valuation of Rs 8,100 crore, as part of its expansion drive.

With this acquisition Adani Cement will achieve a capacity of 100 MT (million tones) per annum by end of FY25 and a gain of 2 per cent in the overall market share in the country.

Adani Cement has signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of Orient Cement Ltd (OCL) at an equity value of Rs. 8,100 crore.

As per that, its step down unit "Ambuja will acquire 46.8 per cent shares of OCL from its current promoters and certain public shareholders", according to a joint statement. The acquisition will be fully funded through internal accruals, it added.

The latest acquisition will add



growth-hungry Adani group firm, which operates through Ambuja Cements in the

sector. Besides, this deal will also help Adani group, which is aspiring to have 140 MTPA capacity by FY28, reduce the overall logistics costs for the cement business and improve

market share. Adani had June, announced the acquisition of Hvderabad-based Penna Cement at an enterprise value 16.6 MTPA capacity to the of Rs 10,422 crore, which

added 14 MTPA capacity to the country's second largest cement manufacturer.

In December last year, it completed the acquisition of Saurashtra-based Sanghi Industries Ltd at an enterprise value of Rs 5,185 crore. Commenting over the latest

Ambuja development Cements Director Karan Adani said: "This timed acquisition marks another significant step forward in Ambuja Cements' accelerated growth journey, increasing

cement capacity by ~30 MTPA within two years of Ambuja's acquisition." By acquiring OCL, Ambuja is poised to reach 100 MTPA cement capacity in FY25, he

added. "The acquisition will help to expand Adani Cement's presence in core markets and improve its pan-India market share by 2 per cent," Adani

added. OCL has 5.6 MTPA of clinker capacity and 8.5 MTPA of cement capacity along with the statutory clearance to increase the clinker capacity by another 6.0 MTPA and cement capacity by another

8.1 MTPA C K Birla, Chairman of Orient Cement and the CK Birla Group, said, "The CK Birla Group is continuously reallocating capital to sharpen its focus on consumer-centric, technology-driven and

service-based businesses. 'We are confident that the Adani Group, with its strong

focus on cement and infrastructure, is the ideal new owner to drive continued growth at Orient Cement for our people and stakeholders." he said.

Adani Group entered into the cement sector in September after acquiring 2022 controlling stakes in Ambuja Cement from Swiss firm Holcim for cash proceeds of USD 6.4 billion (about Rs 51,000 crore). Ambuja Cements owns a 51 per cent

stake in ACC Ltd. Later it also launched a Rs 31,000-crore open offer for the acquisition of 26 per cent additional stakes from public shareholders.

According to data from the Manufacturers Cement Association, the country has a total of 541 metric tonnes (MT) of installed cement capacity.

The Indian cement market is led by Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement Ltd, which has a consolidated capacity of

### Power Grid board approves raising up funds via bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power Grid Corporation's board on Tuesday approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore through issuance of bonds on private placement basis. The base issue size of the bonds is Rs 1,000 crore with additional 'Green Shoe Option' of Rs 4,000 crore."Committee of Directors for bonds in their meeting held today i.E. On 22nd October, 2024 approved the raising bonds unsecured. Nonconvertible, cumulative, redeemable, taxable, POWERGRID Bonds...Up to Rs 5,000 crore on private placement basis," it stated. Bonds are redeemable at par at the end of 10th year and interest payment on yearly basis. The bonds will be listed on BSE/NSE.

### INBRIEF

JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE-LECTURE SERIES II AT GNDU

AMRITSAR: Jallianwala Bagh Chair of Guru Nanak Dev University has started the lecture Series on the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. The Second Lecture was delivered by Prof. Sukdev Singh Sohal, Former Prof. & Head, Department of History & Chairperson Ghdar Chair, Guru Nanak Dev University. Jallianwala Bagh Chair initiated Jallianwala Bagh Lecture Series with a new to focus on the events associated with the Massacre on April



### N. F. RAILWAY TO OPERATE FOUR DIESEL SPECIAL JOYRIDES



MALIGAON: The Northeast Frontier Railway has decided to operate four Diesel special Joyrides under the toy train service of Darieeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) between Darjeeling and Ghum from 21 st October to 05 th December, 2024 on daily basis to cater the passenger rush during the peak season .It may be noted that DHR, a UNESCO World Heritage Site witnesses footfall of thousands of local as well as foreign tourists during this peak season.

## India eye Paris revenge against Germany in Test series as international hockey returns to Delhi

PTI NEW DELHI

**▼**nternational hockey will return to the capital after a 10-year gap when Olympic bronze-medallists India take on world champions Germany in a two-Test bilateral series starting here on Wednesday, aiming to test some new faces and extract revenge for a recent heartbreak inflicted by the visitors.

For the last 10 years, the capital's Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, once considered the spiritual home of the game, has not hosted any international match.

The last game played here was the 2014 Hero World League Final, although inter-departmental hockey has been held here occasionally. But the two Tests against the world No.2 and Paris Olympics silver-winning outfit on Wednesday and Thursday would be a perfect comeback for the sport.

It has been learnt that over 12,000 fans have already registered for the free tickets on offer through a private ticketing portal. The National Stadium has a seating capacity of just over 16,000. The two Tests hold great



significance for Indian hockey, which is on an upswing following back-toback Olympic bronze medals in Tokyo and Paris.

In the French capital, the Indians, under the talismanic and in-form Harmanpreet Singh's leadership, lost 2-3 to Germany in a closely-

contested semifinal. "This series is not just about the two teams playing; it's about reviving the spirit of hockey in Delhi. We hope this will inspire more young players from the region to take up the game," Harmanpreet had said after the rubber was announced.

That sentiment aside, India also have a very good opportunity to avenge their loss in Paris.

But the Germans will be a hard nut to crack as they are the reigning world champions and displayed that fortitude in Paris, going down only in the shoot-out to Netherlands in

the gold medal match. Going by rankings, the Germans are favourites as India are currently placed fifth in the world but in modern hockey, there is hardly any difference between the top 10 teams and anyone can beat a high-

placed rival on their day. In the last five encounters between the two sides, India hold an edge, having won three and lost two.

India have been on a high India have been on a mgn since the Paris Olympics. A new-look team retained the Asian Champions Trophy title in September, beating hosts China 1-0 in the final. That was India's fifth ACT

The Indians have fielded a mix of youth and experience for the two matches, thereby highlighting chief coach Craig Fulton's vision of planning for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The most notable inclusion in the squad is defender and drag-flicker Varun Kumar, who is returning after a sabbatical from the game that was forced by allegations of sexual harassment by a junior volleyball player. His name has since been cleared in the

The Indians will be led by star drag-flicker Harmanpreet, who is enjoying the form of his life and mid-fielder Vivek Sagar Prasad will be his

deputy.
The hosts, however, will continue to miss the services of mid-field mainstay Hardik Singh, who is still recovering from an injury he sustained at

from an injury he sustained at the Olympics.
Fulton drafted in some new faces in mid-fielder Rajinder Singh and striker Aditya Arjun Lgale, who will be making their international debut. Besides Vivek, veteran Manpreet Singh will be in charge of the mid-field.
Striker Mandeep Singh, who was rested for the ACT, will

was rested for the ACT, will look to dazzle upfront in the company of Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek, and Dilpreet Singh among others.

The Indian goal will be manned by Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera, who lived up to expectations in the ACT in Hulunbuir, China after the legendary PR Sreeiesh's retirement. The two matches will provide

newcomers and comeback-men a chance to prove their mettle in front of the team management and national selectors.



### American Sofia Kenin advances to second round at Pan Pacific Open in Japan

Former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin has extended her perfect record against Wang Xinyu, beating the 10th-seeded Chinese player 6-1, 6-4 in a firstround match at the Pan Pacific Open on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old American, who won the Australian Open in 2020 and was a French Open finalist the same year, won her fourth straight match over Wang. Her previous victories over Wang were twice at Wimbledon - in 2021 and 2023 - and at Auckland, New Zealand last year.

Garbiñe Kenin beat Muguruza in the Melbourne Park Grand Slam singles final

in 2020 and lost to Iga Swiatek in the French Open final a few months later.

After her Australian Open win, she achieved her highest ranking of No. 4, but a series of injuries over the past several years has seen her ranking slip to her current No. 155. She also had to withdraw from the 2021 US Open due to COVID-19.

Kenin was joined in the second round by Canadians Bianca Andreescu, who beat Serena Williams for the US Open title in 2019, and Levlah Fernandez, who won their opening matches Monday.

The top-seeded player in the Pan Pacific this year is Olympic gold medalist Zheng



### Zverev sympathises after routing local wild card in Vienna

AP VIENNA

No. 3-ranked Alexander Zverev was sympathetic old in Hamburg, where I got to the semifinals and all of a for Joel Schwaerzler after sudden had a sold out hammering the 18-year-old stadium and was playing wild card in his hometown against a certain David Ferrer. debut at the Erste Bank Open. Zverev won by a quick 6-2, 6-2 then gave 347th-ranked Schwaerzler, appearing in his second ATP tour-level match, encouragement when they met at the net.

When you come to your home tournament and probably the biggest crowd you have played in front of, as an 18-year-old and you're playing the world No. 3, it's Flavio Cobolli were also not the easiest thing in the winners.

world," Zverev said. "I've been there. I did that as a 17-year-'The match was over half an hour later and I won one game. I know exactly how (Schwaerzler) feels. It's not an easy situation to be in but he's a wonderful player and he's going to have a wonderful career.

Zverev's 60th win of the year equalled his season best from

## Hockey, shooting, cricket, badminton among major sports axed from 2026 Glasgow CWG

PTI ■ LONDON

In a body blow to India's medal prospects in the Commonwealth Games, key sports such as hockey, badminton, wrestling, cricket and shooting have been dropped from the 2026 edition by host city Glasgow, which unveiled a pruned

roster of 10 disciplines to keep the event budget-friendly. Table tennis, squash and triathlon have also been axed in a bid to limit the cost and streamline logistics given that only four venues will host the entire showpiece. The total number of events at the Games will be nine fewer compared to the 2022

Birmingham edition. "The Games will include 10 sports - striking a balance between ensuring the event has a multi-sport feel and the need to manage financial and operational risk," the Games Commonwealth Federation said in statement.

"The sports programme will include Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field),

Swimming Swimming, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball," the Commonwealth Games Federation said in a statement.

The 23rd edition of the Games is scheduled to take place from July 23 to August 2, marking Glasgow's return as host after 12 years. "The Games will take place

across four venues --Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre, Emirates Arena including the Sir Chris Hoy
Velodrome, and the Scottish
Event Campus (SEC).
Athletes and support staff will
be housed in hotel accommodation," it added. The roster is a massive setback to India's medal prospects given that bulk of the country's medals came from the removed disciplines in the past editions. Shooting was never expected to return



ramme four years ago, owing to logistics.
While announcing the
Glasgow schedule, the CGF
said "Glasgow 2026 will
feature a 10-sport programme
concentrated across four venues within an eight-mile

corridor". This ruled shooting out of the roster as the Barry Buddon centre in Dundee -- the venue during the 2014 CWG -- is more than 100km away from Glasgow. Also, archery

after being dropped from the continued to be ignored. The sport last featured at the Games in the 2010 Delhi edition.

Glasgow Green and the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, which hosted hockey and wrestling in 2014, has been dropped from the list of venues, while Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, where badminton was held that year, will be used only for cycling this time.

Aside from cost, hockey's exclusion could also be down

to the fact that the Games are 
The wrestling competition being organised close to the World Cup that is scheduled two weeks later from August 15 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands The Australian state of Victoria was the original host of the 2026 edition but pulled out last year due to rising costs. Scotland then stepped in to save the Games.

Hockey's omission from the Games would be a significant blow for India. The men's team has won three silver and two bronze medals, while the women have also shone, clinching three medals, including a historic gold in Games.

In badminton, India has racked up an impressive 31 medals -- 10 gold, eight silver,

nedals -- 10 gold, eight sliver, and 13 bronze.

Notably, the nation was to enter the 2026 edition as defending champions in men's and women's singles, as well as men's doubles. Shooting was a stronghold for India, with a staggering 135 medals to its name. The count

included 63 gold, 44 silver,

and 28 bronze.

After the reintroduction in 2022, the Indian women's team claimed a silver.

has yielded 114 medals for the

nation, including 49 gold, 39

silver, and 26 bronzes.

Para-athletes have been a part of the Games since the 2002 Manchester edition and will continue to be there in the 2026 edition as well.

"Para sport will once again be fully integrated as a key priority and point of difference for the Games, with six Para sports included on the sport programme," CGF said.

The CGF Games will deliver over 100 million pounds of "inward investment into the city" and is expected to add an economic value of over 150 million pounds for the region.

The body asserted that all this would be possible thanks to a model "that has been specially designed to not require public funding for the delivery of the

## Neymar back after a year out and helps Al-Hilal in Asian Champions League

AP AL AIN

bench 369 days later for the four-time Asian champion with 13 minutes remaining at Al Ain. He almost scored

shaved the post.

In a thrilling match between Al-Hilal and the defending champion, Renan Lodi gave Neymar returned to action after a year out through injury and helped Al-Hilal beat Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates 5-4 in the transfer of the AFC. United Arab Emirates 5-4 in the group stage of the AFC Champions League Elite.
Neymar signed for the Saudi Arabia club in August 2023 but played only five times before tearing an anterior cruciate ligament last October. He came off the bench 369 days later for the soored twice more to scored twice more to complete a hat trick, and

Rahimi achieved the same

feat to make it 5-4.

immediately when his low The win maintained Alshot from left of the area Hilal's perfect record in Asia

after three games. Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia's Al-Ahli won at Qatar's Al-Rayyan 2-1 thanks to goals from Gabri Veiga and Firas Al-Buraikan.

Iraq's Al-Shorta drew with Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor 0-0, and Qatar's Al-Sadd defeated Iran's Persepolis 1-

Al-Nassr and Cristiano Ronaldo are in action on Tuesday against Esteghlal of Iran. The game was moved from Tehran to Dubai due to the security situation in

# India eye top spot, Bangladesh seek crucial draw in SAFF showdown

**PTI** ■ KATHMANDU

With a semifinal spot already secured, India will look to reaffirm their dominance when they take on Bangladesh in their final Group A match of the SAFF Women's Championship here

on Wednesday.
For Bangladesh, a win would hand them them the top spot in Group A.

As things stand now, India lead the table with three points, while second-placed Bangladesh have a superior goal difference (0) against Pakistan (-3), with both teams sitting on one point each.

A draw would leave Bangladesh as group runnersup with two points.
The Blue Tigresses clinched their place in the semifinals

with a commanding 5-2 victory over Pakistan but now their focus shifts to topping the group and avenging a painful memory of 2022. In that edition, Bangladesh dealt a shocking blow on India by ending their unbeaten streak in the

championship with a decisive 3-0 win in the group stage. It marked the first time India had lost to their South Asian rivals in SAFF history, and the Blue Tigresses will be eager to



set the record straight.
"We have faced Bangladesh before, and we watched their last game against Pakistan. Our sole focus now is to win this match," skipper Bala Devi

"We have both senior and young players and we are prepared to push for a win. We have had productive training sessions, and I hope we can put what we have practiced into action."

As the captain, I aim to lead by example and support the team in every way. Bangladesh has some fast and

youthful players, but I believe our mental strength gives us an edge, which will be crucial in tomorrow's game," added 34-year-old from Manipur.

Head coach Santosh Kashyap has led the team through five days of training in Kathmandu, preparing for the challenges that lie ahead against Bangladesh.

He has carefully assessed all the potential threats posed by the opposition. "Tomorrow's match will be challenging, as Bangladesh are a strong side with a

foreign coach and have solid tactical plans. Although we have already booked a spot in the semi-finals, we are taking it one game at a time, aiming to win every match.

"I prefer playing attacking football because it's not only effective but also entertaining for everyone. It's a style that I, as well as the players, enjoy, and we will try to maintain that momentum," Kashyap

Defender Dalima Chhibber, who was named the Most Valuable Player in the 2019 Women's

Championship, is making her return to the tournament after missing the 2022 edition. She was absent last time due to playing three seasons in Canada, but now she's back and ready to compete in the SAFF Championship once again. Bangladesh and Pakistan are

currently tied on one point each after a 1-1 draw in their

group-stage match.
For Bangladesh, the absence
of coach Golam Rabbani
Choton, along with key
players like defender Akhi
Khatun and Anai Mogini, will be felt.

However, the team have brought in fresh talents, including young players such as Afeida Khandakar, Matsushima Sumaya, and

Airin Khatun. "We are coming up against an Indian team, who, in my opinion, are probably the best team in the tournament," Bangladesh head coach Peter Butler said.

"They are very disciplined and organised in their manner and their demeanour of actually how they walk around the hotel. I think it'll be quite an attacking game. The most important thing is to try and share out the workload with all our players.

## NO POINT SUGARCOATING, THERE'S FIGHT FOR A SPOT BETWEEN RAHUL AND SARFARAZ: TEN DOESCHATE

ndia assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said on Tuesday that middle-order batters KL Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan are locked in a selection battle for the second Test against New Zealand here even though head coach Gautam Gambhir is keen to give the former,

With India looking to bounce back from the eight-wicket thrashing at Bengaluru in the opening Test, focus will be on the team combination with Washington Sundar being added to the squad. Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant are both aiming to shake off injury concerns for the match starting Thursday.

"Yeah, there's no point in sugarcoating it, there's a fight for a spot," ten Doeschate told the media when asked if Rahul and Sarfaraz were battling for a place in the team, here at the MCA Stadium ahead of India's training session.

"Sarfaraz was obviously brilliant in the last Test. I went to KL after the last Test (and) said how many balls do you play at (and) miss at? He didn't play at (and) miss at one ball and that's what tends to happen when you're not getting runs.

"There's certainly no concerns about KL, he's batting nicely, he's in a good mental space. But we are certainly



be best for the team," he said.
Sarfaraz scored a second-innings 150 in the Bengaluru game, while Rahul remained off-colour in both

While admitting that it is difficult to keep Rahul out of the equation in the Test format, ten Doeschate said head coach Gautam Gambhir is "keen to" give him a long rope.
"It's not like we're worried about his

going to have to fit seven pieces into six spots for this Test and look at the pitch now and decide what's going to pitch now and decide what's going to he's keen to give him (Rahul) as are close to attaining their full much rope as we can. We have a lot of faith in him," he said.

"But at the same time, it's a very competitive environment, with Sarfaraz getting 150 plus runs (222 not out) in the Irani Trophy final. The decision will be what's best for the team, but we'll certainly back all the guys in," he added.

Pant, who did not keep wickets for a significant part of the opening Test, Bangalore, he had a few nets, he's got Ten Doeschate said the addition of

a little bit of discomfort, but I think he'll be good to go for the Test," he

Washington Sundar is "no desperate measure" but to add a bowling option who would take the ball away from the Kiwis left-handers.

"Definitely not. They (New Zealand) are filled with four left-handers in the XI. We've had Washy around the white-ball squad for a while and we like the way he operates. It's also nice to see that guys are getting rewarded for Ranji Trophy performance as

"We just want to make sure we're absolutely prepared for conditions here and if that does mean taking the ball away from the left-hander, we want that option," he added.
Ten Doeschate said Mohammed

Siraj could be going through a "wicket-drought" but there was nothing to suggest that he was struggling for rhythm.

Siraj bowled beautifully in the second innings. That hour of Test match cricket on the last morning was really high quality," he said.
"It maybe wasn't a nicking wicket, which is obviously his big strength,

particularly to left-handers when he moves the ball across. There's nothing there to say like he's not bowling well or his rhythm is not

"Alongside trying to win the series, the tour will serve as

important preparation for next year's ODI World Cup

New Zealand won the

Women's T20 World Cup in

Dubai with a 32-run win

over South Africa.

"It's been an amazing 24 hours for this group becoming T20 World Cup champions," said Sawyer.

"We're relishing the win but when we get to India we'll need to refocus and set our sights on the next challenge."

over South Africa.

in India."

challenge."



## Cook backs Root to surpass Sachin Tendulkar as leading run-getter in Test cricket

Former England captain Alastair Cook feels Joe Root has the potential to surpass the legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the leading rungetter in Test cricket thanks to his insatiable hunger and incredible talent.

33-year-old Root currently has 12716 Test runs and is 3205 short of the Indian icon (15921).

Indian icon (15921).
Root occupies the fifth spot in the leading run-getter's chart at the moment with Rahul Dravid (13,288), Jacques Kallis (13,289) and Ricky Ponting (13,378) and Tendulkar ahead of him.
"I think Joe Root could set a mark certainly on an English

mark, certainly on an English side, that'll be very hard to beat. But, you just never know," Cook was quoted as saying by the ICC.
"I hope he can get very close, if not be the first person who

if not be the first person who scores 16,000 Test runs. It'd be a great achievement."

Root overtook Cook as England's leading run-scorer in the longest format during the Multan Test against Pakistan earlier this month.

Having watched his compatriot go past him to become England's most decorated batter, the 39-yearold Cook struggled to express his feelings and called up Root to congratulate him for his massive feat.

"I watched the moment, then I rang him after the end of the

Kasperek are the only two come and I know everyone players missing from the is looking forward to the Rowe, Lea Tahuhu.

Georgia Plimmer, Hannah in his hand, which I think he has changed the mentality of what was possible."

Root's remarkable form over the past four years has seen him score more than half of his total 35 Test centuries in that period, averaging close to 60.

Cook believes that he is currently the best batter in the world with New Zealand's Kane Williamson coming close to matching him.

"I think at this precise moment in time, I find it hard to see anyone playing as well as Joe Root. Over the last year or so, of the so-called 'Big Four, I think Williamson and him are probably in the best form at the moment.

"They're all wonderful, wonderful players, all very different, actually, in their methods and ways of playing. But one thing, which kind of unites them is that hunger and desire to keep improving and keep churning out the runs," Cook said.

Root will look to continue to amass big scores and add to his tally during the third Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi, beginning on Thursday.

Moving to another topic, Cook has expressed his support for England's 'Bazball' style of play in Test cricket.

"I think the game has certainly made a big jump forward in what is now deemed possible in Test cricket.

"I think the jump happened in one day cricket first, probably. The fundamental change, certainly from the English point of view, is when "So, I thought I'd just ring Owen Morgan took the side forward in 2015. And obviously the Ben Sto

### We're here to make amends: Cummins

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

Australian skipper Pat Cummins is determined to "make amends" against India in the upcoming fivematch Test series, as he aims to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in over a décade.

The two teams will face off in a five-match series starting November 22 in Perth. India will come into the contest with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy firmly in their grasp, having held it for nearly a decade and winning two consecutive series Australia. "We've had a bit of a break, so I'm excited for the five match Test series. Excited to get into it," the 31-year-old said in Star Sports' Press Room."We haven't had a lot of luck against India over the last few Test series, but we always pride ourselves on playing

## Inglis earns maiden call-up as NZ name squad for Women's ODI series against India

fitness.

"Rishabh is pretty good. I think Rohit (Sharmna) touched on it the

other day. He was having a little bit

of discomfort at the end range of his

movement with the knee. But fingers

crossed, he'll be good to keep in the Test as well," he said.

"He (Gill) looks so (available for this

Test). He has batted last week in

Wicketkeeper-batter Polly Inglis earned her maiden call-up as recently-crowned Women's T20 World champions New Zealand announced their 15-member squad for the 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against India, beginning in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Inglis, 28, was rewarded for consistent performances with both bat and gloves for Otago Sparks in the

Otago Sparks in the women's Super Smash and New Zealand A, leading to her first New Zealand Cricket central contract in Iune.

'We're really excited to introduce Polly for her first tour," Head coach Ben Sawyer said in a statement. She nut her hand un in las season's Johnstone Shield one-day following a maternity break.



competition and throughout the New Zealand A series

against England, so it's a great next step for her." Lauren Down also returns to the squad after resuming Hallyburton international cricket in July

Rosemary Mair, sustained a serious back injury earlier this year, has been rested as part of her long-term rehabilitation. Mair and off-spinner Le

squad that won the T20 World Cup in the UAE. "Touring India is one of the great experiences in world cricket," Sawyer said. "It's such a special p

New Zealand Women's ODI squad: Sophie Devine (C), squad: Sophie Devine (C),
Suzie Bates, Eden Carson,
Lauren Down, Izzy Gaze,
Maddy Green, Brooke
Halliday, Polly Inglis (WK),
Fran Jonas, Jess Kerr, Melie
Kerr, Molly Penfold,

## Williamson ruled out of 2nd Test against India

**PTI** ■ PUNE

Senior New Zealand batter Kane Williamson will not be available for the second Test against India here as his rehabilitation from a groin strain is still not complete, the country's cricket board announced on Tuesday.

New Zealand lead the three-match series 1-0 after winning the first game by eight wickets in Bengaluru. The second match will start here on Thursday. Williamson, who is yet to join the squad here, suffered the

injury during the recent Test series against Sri Lanka. Blackcaps head coach Garv Stead said Williamson was not yet ready even though he improvement over



has made significant progress. "We're monitoring Kane and he's tracking in the right direction, but isn't yet 100 per cent fit," said Stead in a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket (NZĆ). "We're hopeful to see further

coming days and have him available for the third Test. "We'll give him as much time as possible to get himself ready, but certainly continue to take a cautious approach," he added.

The third Test is scheduled in the Mumbai from November 1.

### Shaw left out of Mumbai squad for next Ranji Trophy clash due to fitness and disciplinary issues

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

Top order batter Prithvi Shaw has been left out of the Mumbai squad for their next Ranji Trophy match against Tripura owing to fitness and disciplinary issues.

The match is scheduled to be played

in Agartala from October 26 to 29. The right-handed opening batter, who has played five Tests, six ODIs and one T20I for India, seems to have run into trouble.

It is reliably learnt that the 24-year-old does not regularly attend the team's training sessions and has also appeared a "little overweight". 'You have to look at his fitness and his

running when he is on the field. The MCA has a rich history and there cannot be exceptions for a certain



Cricket Association told PTI. Shaw's form has been a concern given that he has scores of 7, 12, 1 and 39 not out in the two rounds of Ranji Trophy.

player," an official from Mumbai taken by the Mumbai senior men's selection panel owing to his fitness and "general conduct".

The Mumbai selectors have named 29-year-old left-handed opening The decision to drop him has been batter

replacement. Herwadkar has played 41 first-class matches and averages 36.51 with seven centuries and 10 fifties.

Also, middle-order mainstay and India's T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav has been rested from the Mumbai squad. Suryakumar scored seven in his only outing for Mumbai in their nine-wicket win over Maharashtra. Mumbai squad:

Ajinkya Rahane (c), Ayush Mhatre, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Akhil Herwadkar, Shreyas Iyer, Siddhesh Lad, Suryansh Shedge, Hardik Tamore (wk), Sidhaant Addhatrao (wk), Shams Mulani, Karsh Kothari, Himanshu Singh, Shardul Thakur, Mohit Avasthi, Juned Khan, Royston

## MI, KKR among five IPL franchises bidding for teams in The Hundred: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants are among the IPL franchises who have submitted bids to acquire teams in the English Cricket four in the next step which Board-run The Hundred, will start in November when

according to a report.
The GMR Group, recently named the new owner of Hampshire, and Avram before the ECB's October 18 deadline for potential

investors,

ESPNCricinfo.

The ECB has invited bids for a 49 per cent stake in each of the eight franchises, with the board retaining majority control.

"Expressions of interest could be for all eight teams, which would be culled to the investors get to meet the host counties of each Hundred franchise," stated the report.

Glazer, co-owner of "Following that, investors Manchester United Football would need to prune their Club, also submitted bids wishlist to four teams, as part of the second stage, which will then come down reported to two teams of which they



would need to make their "Punjab Kings opted out, final choice." "Punjab Kings opted out, while there has been no

The ECB is aiming to finalise investors by early 2025 but is committed to a

others are sold to private investors.

showed early interest, not all followed through with bids.

confirmation on whether five-times IPL champions Chennai Super Kings and deliberate approach to avoid "underselling what it believes is a valuable product".

Definition and the committed to a content of the content ECB chairman Richard "Global sports investors Thompson has also INEOS, owned by Jim mentioned the possibility of "International Property of Theorem 1997 and 1997 also be added." a "hybrid" ownership model, stake in Manchester United where some teams remain and run the football club's under ECB control while operations wing, have also opted out of bidding." One of the main concerns

The report further says for IPL franchises was while several IPL franchises whether they would be "happy being passive investors".

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