



GIVE PEACE A CHANCE



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

PTI ■ KAZAN
The Russia-Ukraine conflict should be resolved in a peaceful manner and India is ready to provide all possible cooperation towards it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday during his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Modi held bilateral talks with Putin hours after arriving in this central Russian city to attend the 16th BRICS summit. In his televised opening remarks, the Prime Minister conveyed to the Russian leader that New Delhi "fully supports" the early return of peace and stability in the region. Modi also said that his second visit to Russia in the last three months reflected "close coordination and "deep trust" between the two 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 return of peace and stability. All our efforts give priority to

humanity. India is ready to provide all possible cooperation in times to come," he said. "We have the 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 and 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 reaching an 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 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. It means both the armies will now resume patrolling in their respective zones as was their practice before May 2020. Following the Galwan clash in June that year, both sides deployed a large number of troops on the LAC leading to heightened tension.

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 international routes, received fresh threats from Monday night to Tuesday, it has also had a huge financial impact on 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 flight. 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 stakeholders from 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 300 Crore. "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 statement. Protocols for the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (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 declared as "hoax or



More CRPF schools get bomb threats

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

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 hoax. 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



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. of these 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.

Kalyan Banerjee ko gussa kyon aata hai?



Members of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill leave after a meeting at Parliament House Annex, 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

Jagdambika Pal of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), during a heated exchange of words with BJP's Abhijit Gangopadhyay, a former Calcutta 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.



Officials at the blast site of Ordnance Factory Jabalpur (OFJ), in Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh, Tuesday

Blast at Jabalpur Ordnance Factory, many injured

PNS ■ JABALPUR

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, he said. 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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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 alarming levels over the past few days. Based on the real time data, Delhi ranks top on the list of most polluted cities 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. Factors contributing 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.



Driving to Gurgaon? Pack a meal, and a diaper

District administration has identified 18 hot spots on the city roads

BY PARVESH SHARMA
To tackle traffic congestion in the city, the Gurugram district 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, Sheela 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 expressway slowed 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 high-security 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.

Notification issued for second phase of Assembly polls



CEO K Ravi Kumar holds a meeting with senior officials ahead of the Assembly elections at his office in Ranchi on Tuesday. PNS

PNS : RANCHI
Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand, K Ravi Kumar today said that the notification for the second phase of Jharkhand Assembly elections has been

issued. The last date for nomination for this phase is 29 October. He informed that in this phase, Mandu is the largest assembly constituency in terms of area, whereas, Jharia is the smallest. Bokaro is the largest assembly con-

stituency in terms of population and Silli is the smallest. Similarly, Bokaro is the largest in terms of maximum voters and Littipara is the area with the least number of voters. In the 38 assembly con-

Nominations for second phase to be held till October 29

stituencies, the number of male voters is 62,79,029 and the number of female voters is 60,79,019. Whereas, the total number of third gender voters is 147. The total number of polling stations is 14,218. Out of these, 2,414 centers are in urban areas and 11,804 polling stations are in rural areas. Whereas, the total number of third gender voters is 147. The CEO was addressing the press conference at Nirvachan Sadan, Dhurwa on Tuesday.

He informed that so far a total of 57 candidates have filed nomination papers for the first phase of elections. 32 people have filed nomination on Tuesday. So far a total of 12 cases of violation of model code of conduct have been registered. Process of action on them is going on. Maximum eight cases have been registered in Garhwa district. One case each has been registered in Ranchi, Saraikela Kharsawan, Dhanbad and Simdega districts.

He informed that a close watch is being kept on the elements influencing the election activities. A total of 290 checkpoints have been set up in the state. Illegal material and cash worth Rs 12.5 crore have been seized so far since the model code of conduct came into force. The state police has made the maximum seizure. During the press conference, a video of a Bhojpuri song related to voter awareness was also released. Its lyricist and music coordinator is Joint Chief Electoral Officer Subodh Kumar. Additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr. Neha Arora and Joint Chief Electoral Officer Subodh Kumar were also present in the press conference.

In another meeting with officials of the Vehicle Management Cell Kumar said that on the day of voting, vehicles should be managed with minimum impact on public transport. Efforts should be made that on the day of polling, the common people do not face any difficulty in commuting and the general public life is not affected. He was conducting a review meeting with the Deputy Election Officers of all the districts and the through online medium from the Election House today.

He said that the Election Commission of India has also made provisions for acquiring school vehicles for use in election work. These vehicles should be used only for the movement of the polling party, with minimum disruption to the classes of school children. He said that for this, vehicles should be called for election work on the evening of 11 November, 2 days before the polling day, i.e. for the polling to be held on 13 November and school vehicles should be freed from polling work in the morning on the very next day of polling, due to which there may be unavailability of vehicles in schools for only 1 day.

Party hoppers make beeline to join other parties

RJD leader Radha Krishna Kishore joins Congress

PNS : RANCHI
The game of political in-out continues in Jharkhand politics. Leader in one party in the morning will be in a different camp by evening. As soon as the leader changes party, their tone and rhythm also start changing. The latest to join in the party hoppers handwagon is former MLA and RJD leader Radha Krishna Kishore.



Former Minister Radha Krishna Kishore joins Congress party in presence of JPCC President Kesav Mahto Kamlesh, Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon and Health Minister Banna Gupta during a programme in Ranchi on Tuesday. PNS

On Tuesday, Congress gave a big blow to RJD as former MLA and RJD leader Radha Krishna Kishore joined Congress. As soon as Radha Krishna Kishore joined Congress, it has become clear that he can be the Congress candidate from Chhatrapur assembly seat. This means that under the alliance, the Chhatrapur seat is going to Congress instead of RJD. In the 2024 elections, RJD was claiming the Chhatrapur seat till now. Mamta Bhuiya was considered a contender for this seat from RJD. Although RJD had made her a candidate during the Lok Sabha elections, she was badly defeated. With Radha Krishna Kishore joining Congress, there are clear indications that Congress has snatched the Chhatrapur seat

from RJD. Sources said that this is not the first time that Kishore has changed other political camps ahead of election. Kishore has experience of working with different political camps right from RJD, BJP, AJSU and others. Also, Kishore is not the isolated case as in the last five years, more than 40 leaders have said goodbye to their party and joined hands with another party. Currently, the list of candidates is being released by political parties.



BJP leaders Louis Marandi, Kunal Sarangi and others join JMM in presence of Hemant Soren and Kalpana Soren in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

Leaders are moving from one place to another when their tickets are not confirmed. AJSU leader Umakant Rajak joined JMM when his ticket was not confirmed. Similarly, when the Barkagaon seat slipped out of AJSU's hands, AJSU leader Roshan Lal Chaudhary started working to make the lotus bloom. BJP's Kedar Hazra and Ganesh Mahali joined JMM. BJP's Kunal Sarangi has also joined JMM. Saryu Rai joined JDU. BJP's biggest leader Louis Marandi also joined JMM after his ticket was cut from Dumka. It is

believed that JMM is giving him a ticket from Jama. On Monday, several BJP leaders, including three former MLAs, joined the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) weeks before the state's assembly polls. The former legislators who switched sides on Monday (October 21, 2024) were Louis Marandi, Kunal Sarangi and Lakshman Tudu. The development also comes barely two days after three-term BJP legislator Kedar Hazra and AJSU Party leader Umakant Rajak joined the JMM.

Congress announces list of 21 candidates



PNS : RANCHI

Congress released its first list for Jharkhand assembly elections late on Monday night. The first list contains names of 21 candidates. Amidst rumours and speculations, Congress has given a ticket to Ajay Nath Shahdev from Hatia, Irfan Ansari from Jamtara, Mamta Devi from Ramgarh, Munna Singh from



PNS : RANCHI

Congress candidates Ajay Nath Shahdev from Hatia, Irfan Ansari from Jamtara, Badal Pratalkh from Jarmundi, Pradeep Yadav from Poraiyhat, Deepika



PNS : RANCHI

Neera Yadav from Koderma, Munia Devi from Gandey, Tara Devi from Sindri, Aparna Sengupta from Nirsra, Ragini Singh from Jharia, Geeta Balmuchu from Chaibasa, Pushpa Devi Bhuiyan from Chhatrapur.

Hundreds of Muslim women join BJP in presence of Marandi



Social worker Javed Mansori with his supporters join Bharatiya Janata party in presence of State BJP President Babulal Marandi at the party office in Ranchi on Tuesday. Pix by Vinay Murmu



Dozens of muslim women join Bharatiya Janata party in presence of State BJP President Babulal Marandi at the party office in Ranchi on Tuesday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

PNS : RANCHI
More than a hundred of Muslim women on Tuesday joined the BJP at the BJP state office. In a function organized at the state party office, state president and former chief minister Babulal Marandi welcomed them into the party and got them enrolled.

After the joining ceremony, BJP state president and former chief minister Babulal Marandi said that the BJP works on the basic mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas'. In the last 10 years, the Modi government has provided the benefits of schemes to all the people without any discrimination. No poor child was allowed to sleep hungry. More than 80 crore people in the country are being given free ration every month. The

Modi government has started many schemes for mothers and sisters. They are being empowered. The Modi government is making women lakhpatis. Marandi urged the Muslim women to inspire the people of their neighbourhood to vote for the BJP. He said that in the last 5 years, the Hemant government has cheated the people of Jharkhand. He had said that he will give Rs 72000 to people in 1 year. It has been 5 years, Hemant Soren has not given 72000 rupees to anyone. He had said that mothers and sisters will be given 2000 rupees every month for cooking expenses. 5 years have passed, no one has been given cooking expenses.

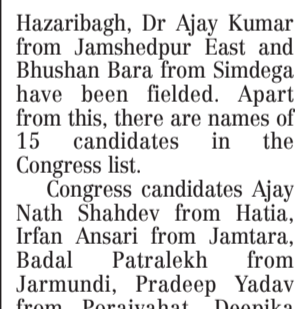
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3-Day program on cyber security begins in CCL

PNS : RANCHI

The 7th program in the series of "Capacity Building Program" was launched by the Human Resources Department of CCL in collaboration with the Vigilance Department and System Department. About thirty officers from CCL headquarters and regions are participating and benefiting from it.

In the inaugural session of the program, Chief Vigilance Officer Pankaj Kumar welcomed all the participants and highlighted the importance of cyber security at personal and workplace in today's environment and discussed the measures to avoid cyber attack by always being alert. General Manager, Human Resource Development, Ramakant Pandey welcomed all the participants and mentioned the topics discussed in this program and motivated all the participants to share the experience of the program.



PNS : RANCHI



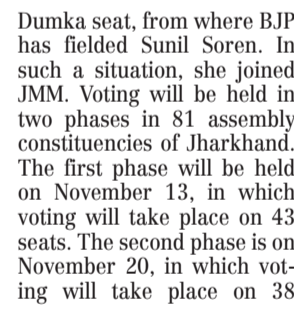
Hazaribagh, Dr Ajay Kumar from Jharkhand assembly and Bhusan Bara from Simdega have been fielded. Apart from this, there are names of 15 candidates in the Congress list.



PNS : RANCHI



Neera Yadav from Koderma, Munia Devi from Gandey, Tara Devi from Sindri, Aparna Sengupta from Nirsra, Ragini Singh from Jharia, Geeta Balmuchu from Chaibasa, Pushpa Devi Bhuiyan from Chhatrapur.



PNS : RANCHI



The Jharkhand election is special in many ways this time. On one hand, BJP is trying its best to win Jharkhand this time. On the other hand, the India alliance is also trying hard to remain in power. Amidst the election fray, JMM played a big bet late on Monday night. Hemant Soren got six veteran BJP leaders included in his party. These include BJP's potential candidate against Hemant Soren from Barehat assembly seat,

Cyclone Dana to bring heavy showers in State

PNS : RANCHI

Owing to the effects of the cyclone 'Dana' a change in the weather in Jharkhand is on the cards with heavy rainfall especially in the southern parts of the State being predicted. Cyclone 'Dana' was named by Qatar and the word Dana means generosity in Arabic.

PNS : RANCHI

As per the Meteorological Centre, Ranchi, the depression over east-central Bay of Bengal has moved west-northwards and lay centered over the same area on October 22. It is likely to move west-northwards and intensify into a cyclonic storm over east-central Bay of Bengal on October 23.

PNS : RANCHI

Thereafter it is expected to move north-westwards, intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm over north-west Bay of Bengal by the morning of October 24. On the night of October 24 and the morning of October 25, it is expected to cross between Puri in Odisha and Sagar Island in West Bengal as a Severe Cyclonic Storm with a wind speed of 100-110 km per hour, gusting to 120 km per hour.

PNS : RANCHI

As per the bulletin released by the MET Centre, Ranchi, lightning, thunderstorm and gusty winds with speed up to 30-40 km per hour which may intensify to 60 km per hour in some places.

FIRST COLUMN

THE PATH TO TRUE GROWTH

Constant comparison overshadows cooperation, empathy and joy of life



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

All 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 booted. 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 for human growth.

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



GURMEET SINGH

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

NEP 2020 was founded on the guiding principles of Access, 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 system:

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 meaningful 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 envisages:

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



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

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 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 had opted for Physics or Sanskrit: one was stuck with that forever whether one liked these subjects or not) There was no way to move out unless one gave up higher education or started afresh. The other difficulty was that due to some odd circumstances if one had to discontinue the education there was no way to restart unless you lose years/ time, but in this, one could leave anytime or rejoin anytime (Comes under Multi entry/ Multi exit system).

In the present system if one stayed away for a few years one could not come back to education in desired subjects but under NEP-2020 one can restart anytime one's education by including the credits earned before leaving. Therefore, under the present NEP, no one shall stay away or be denied education because of circumstances. 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, 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 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 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 banking.

Biggest flaw so far: Unfortunately, to date, not even 50 per cent of Institutions have reg-

istered 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 laboratories, libraries research 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 any conditions and 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 are personal)

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

The 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 cardholders—relies on a complex, decades-old supply chain. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), state procurement agencies, millers, transporters, warehouses, 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 country. 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 state-specific intra-state optimisation tool was developed to allow for adjustments in the supply chain—such as adding or modifying entities like warehouses 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



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 transfers of food grains

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 states.

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 real-time 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 intra-

state 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 climate-smart 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)

India well positioned to capitalise growth opportunities: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW YORK



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 and participated in a fireside chat on India's decadal

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 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor (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 us. "The world today grapples with multiple challenges, such

as the conflict in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine. There's also a possibility of other 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," she said. Sitharaman stressed that despite an increasingly complex global environment, India's macro-economic fundamentals remain "sound", acting as a strong foundation upon which to build future growth. She said that in 2013, India

was the 10th largest economy and presently, it is the fifth 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 navigate complex international relationships. This would require a nuanced approach to diplomacy where economic interests are balanced with strategic 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

Global Innovation Index and 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. The 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 ready to engage constructively with the 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 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

State-owned life insurance behemoth 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. "These organisations have unparalleled access to remote and underbanked 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". Mohanty also said that digital technologies should be a key to reaching rural and low-income groups and sought regulatory support to ensure that any innovations are "nurtured and scaled appropriately". Technologies and platforms like artificial intelligence, machine learning and automation are revolutionising the entire insurance sector and making it more customer-friendly, he said.

Consumers worried about data breaches: PwC India survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



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 a 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 yet, express concerns about data privacy laws and 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 survey also throws light on the urgent need for e-commerce, social media and technology sector to focus on educating the age group of 18-30 years on digital privacy, consent management, protection of personal information and consequences of data sharing without thought.

Reliance Infrastructure to launch Dhirubhai Ambani Defence City



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reliance Infrastructure on Tuesday announced setting up of Dhirubhai Ambani Defence City (DADC) the largest integrated project for Manufacturing of Explosives, Ammunition and Small Arms in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. The company has been allotted 1000 acres of Land in Wataad 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 more than Rs. 1,000 Cr over a period of time. Reliance Infrastructure's wholly owned subsidiaries Jai

Armaments Limited and Reliance Defence Limited already have license from Govt of India for 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 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 Patra. 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

during the pandemic, a new growth trajectory averaging 8 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 a strong likelihood that India's growth will revert to the 8 per cent trend," Patra

said. 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 year-on-year 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 in leveraging digital technologies for transformative change.

Adani Group to acquire Orient Cement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



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. In June, Adani had announced the acquisition of Hyderabad-based Penna Cement at an enterprise value 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 development Ambuja 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. "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. "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. "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.

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 2022 after acquiring 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 Cement Manufacturers 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 152.7 MTPA.

Power Grid board approves raising up funds via bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power 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 of bonds as unsecured, non-convertible, non-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 Ghadar Chair, Guru Nanak Dev University, Jallianwala Bagh Chair initiated Jallianwala Bagh Lecture Series with a new focus on the events associated with the Massacre on April 13, 1919.



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 Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) between Darjeeling and Ghum from 21st October to 05th 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.

