RNI No. 2016/1957



Tunnel rescue Op on last lap



Ambulances on standby near the Silkavara tunnel where rescue operation of 41 workers trapped inside the tunnel for 10 days is underway in Uttarkashi on Wednesday. Horizontal drilling to evacuate trapped workers in the tunnel has reached 44 metres, rekindling hopes of the stranded 41 persons coming out soon

PNS/PTI DEHRADUN/ UTTARKASHI

n a crucial development on Wednesday evening, a multiagency operation to rescue 41 men trapped in the Silkyara tunnel reached a promising stage. Ambulances were poised for action, and a specialised ward at a local health centre stood prepared for potential medical attention. As of 6 pm, medical attention. As of 6 pm, an official update from Delhi reported that a significant progress was made, with up to 44 metres of an escape pipe successfully inserted into the debris of the collapsed section of the tunnel in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district. Earlier, officials said the American-made auger machine had to drill through a 57 metre stretch of debris to reach the workers, who were trapped when a portion of the under-construction tunnel collapsed 10 days back.

ed to crawl out. A National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team

was spotted entering the tunnel in the evening. A team of 15 doctors, including chest specialists, has been deployed at the site in anticipation of the evacuation. Twelve ambulances were on standby at the spot, and the plan was to keep a fleet of 40

six-metre section of the rescue pipe had been inserted over the past hour.

"Hopefully the next twothree hours will be comfortable in terms of assembling for the next push and attaining what all of us are waiting for," he said. Officials had said earlier that the stretch between 40 and 50 metres was the "most cru-

cial" one. Asked to spell out a timeline for workers' evacuation, Khulbe had said, "We hope to celebrate Bagwal with them", possibly meaning Igas, a festival cele-brated in the Garhwal region in Gaza after Diwali. This year Igas will be celebrated on Thursday. Several alternative plans are also in motion if the horizontal drilling from the Silkyara end fails. Officials said about nine metres of horizontal drilling had taken place from the Barkot end of the tunnel - a much longer process that could take several days. Prime Minister Narendra Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami once again on Wednesday morning for updates on the rescue oper-ation. First visuals of the trapped workers were captured early Tuesday with the help of an endoscopic camera sent through the new six-inch pipeline.

Terrorism unacceptable: Modi

PM Modi urges global unity in his virtual address to G20 leaders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

A s the Israel-Hamas conflict rages on, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned on Wednesday that insecurity and instability in West Asia are matters of concern. He emphasised the need to ensure that the Israel-Hamas conflict does not escalate into a regional conflict. Addressing the G-20 Leaders' summit, he stated, "Terrorism is unacceptable to all of us." Modi stressed that the death of civilians, regardless of the location, is condemnable, and he also welcomed the news of the release of hostages in West Asia. The summit was held in virtual mode.

Significantly, the meeting came on a day Israel's Cabinet approved a temporary ceasefire with the Hamas group. Moreover, the virtual meet-

ing of G20 leaders took place a day after leaders of the BRICS grouping held an extraordinary meeting on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Prime Minister Modi, in his opening remarks, said in the last few months, new challenges have emerged and the situation of insecurity and instability in West Asia is a matter of concern.

The virtual meeting was attended by leaders such as Commission European President Ursula von der Leyen, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazilian President Luiz



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the G20 virtual summit in New Delhi on Wednesday

Inácio Lula da Silva, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, and Chinese Premier Li Qiang, among others. "Our coming together shows that we are sensitive to all issues and standing together for their solution. We believe that terrorism is unacceptable to us. The death of civilians, wherever it may be, is condemnable. We welcome

the news of the release of hostages. We hope all hostages will be released soon," Modi said He asserted that it is imper-

ative that humanitarian assistance reaches on time and in a continuous manner. It is important to ensure that the Israel-Hamas war does not take the shape of a regional conflict, Modi said.

Highlighting the challenge osed by Artificial by Artificial Intelligence(AI), Prime Minister Mod: Minister Modi said it should reach people and must be safe for society. He said there are growing concerns across the world on negative use of AI.

He said, "India's thinking is clear, we have to work together on global regulation of AI. We must understand dangers posed by deepfakes to society and individuals."

Addressing the G20 leaders, he said, "When on November 16 last year, Indonesian President Joko Widodo handed the ceremonial gavel to me, I had said we will make G20 inclusive, ambitious, actionoriented and decisive. In one year, we have together achieved this." All of us together have taken the G20 to newer heights, he said. "In this world full of mistrust and challenges, it is this trust that binds us togeth-er. In the last year, we have world leaders for a second time during India's G20 Presidency before it passes on to Brazil in December. Noting expressed confidence in 'One Earth, One Family, and One Future.' Moving away from controversies, we have worked with unity and cooperation," PM Modi said.

"I can never forget that moment when in Delhi all of us welcomed the African Union into the G20. This message of inclusivity given by the G20 to the world is unprecedented. It other issues.

BJP, Congress sling mud over Herald, panauti PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The war of words between the BJP and the Congress escalated on Wednesday over the National Herald row and the "panauti" remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi early this week.

BJP hit back at the Congress over its condemnation of the seizure of National Herald assets, as the ruling party asserted that the Gandhi family must pay for its "sins". Former Union minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad accused the Gandhi family of capturing National Herald assets by converting the nowdefunct newspaper's properties into its "personal properties". Addressing a press conference, Prasad asked the Congress to explain as to how the action taken against "rank dishonesty and loot of public property" can be described as negation of democracy. Attacking the Candhi scion for his remarks Gandhi scion for his remarks, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan accused the former Congress chief of being "anti-national" for referring to the PM as "Panauti" and said the people of the country will not forgive this. The ED has issued an order

that several challenges have emerged since the September G20 summit, Kant had said development would be the prito provisionally attach proper-ties worth ₹751.9 crore in the money laundering case being investigated by it. The probe mary focus of the virtual meeting, and leaders might engage agency also alleged in the state-ment that the shareholders and in discussions on a myriad of donors of the Congress were "cheated" by the office-bearers

of AJL and the party. After the ED attached assets of the Congress-promoted National Herald on Tuesday, the Congress said such "petty vendetta tactics" cannot frighten it and dubbed the probe agency a "coalition partner" of the BJP. Its leader KC Venugopal slammed the BIP and the probe agencies as

"murderers of democracy"

to free hostages acknowledge the group's infrastructure remains intact else-Tsrael and Hamas agreed to a where. In recent days before the

four-day ceasefire in the war truce, Israel underlined that it were martyred and two others was determined to take its

Israel, Hamas truce 4 Army men martyred

MOHIT KANDHARI 🗖 JAMMU of valour and sacrifice, striving to prevent collateral damage to Four Army personnel, women and children in the highest traditions of the Indian Army White Knight Corps

in fight with terrorists

By this count, just 13 metres of debris remained to be drilled

Drilling from the Silkyara-end was put on hold Friday afternoon when the auger machine encountered a hard obstacle around the 22-metre mark, creating vibrations in the tunnel that caused safety concerns. The drilling resumed around midnight Tuesday.

As the machine drills through, six metre sections of steel pipes, just under a metre wide, are pushed into the escape passage. Once the pipeway reaches the other end, the trapped workers are expect-

readv A helicopter was also expect-ed to be earmarked for the operation. A special ward to accommodate all evacuated workers was readied at the community health centre in Chinyalisaur. All hospitals in the district as well as AIIMS, Rishikesh are on alert, officials

said. Relatives of workers who have spoken to them through a new six-inch pipeline insert-ed late Monday through the rubble expressed optimism.

"Today, we were taken inside the tunnel and we spoke to our family member. Sonu repeatedlv told me not to worry now and that we would meet soon," Devashish, whose brother-inlaw is among the 41 workers, said. "We called him on Diwali but could not reach him. His

colleagues told us that his mobile phone was damaged. Later, we saw his name in the newspaper and learnt that he was trapped inside the tunnel,"

he said At a media briefing in Silkyara around 4 pm, Bhaskar Khulbe, a former advisor with the Prime Minister's Office, was upbeat, saying that another

In a statement, the govern-ment said the second lifeline was functioning efficiently, ensuring an ample supply of food items like rotis, sabzi, khichdi, daliya, oranges, and bananas in the tunnel.

will facilitate the release of dozens of hostages held by militants as well as Palestinians a large influx of aid to the besieged territory, officials said

breakthrough that

AP JERUSALEM

on Wednesday. The truce raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, which was triggered by Hamas' October 7 rampage into Israel. Now in its seventh week, the war has levelled vast swaths of Gaza, fuelled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

Still, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would resume the war after the truce and keep fighting "until we achieve all our goals," including the destruc-tion of Hamas' fighting and governing abilities and the return of all hostages. The ceasefire temporarily

freezes both sides in the war in place at a tenuous moment. Israeli troops hold much of northern Gaza and say they have dismantled tunnels and much of Hamas' infrastructure there. But Israeli officials

ground offensive into the south.

Residents in Gaza City said Residents in Gaza City said the fighting intensified overnight into Wednesday, with gunfire, heavy artillery and airstrikes. "Apparently they want to advance before the truce," said Nasser al-Sheikh, who is sheltering with relatives in the city Paleetinian militants in the city. Palestinian militants continued firing rockets at Israel throughout the day, with-

out causing casualties. The announcement of the truce capped weeks of indirect, stop-and-go negotiations to free some of the roughly 240 hostages taken by Hamas and other militants during their

October 7 raid. The cease-fire is to take effect at 10 am local time (0800 effect at 10 am local time (0800 GMT) on Thursday, according to Egypt's state-run Qahera TV channel. Egypt and Qatar, along with the United States, helped mediate the deal between Israel and Hamas.

Fifty hostages will be freed in stages, in exchange for the release of what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinian prisoners. Both sides will let go women and children first.

were injured during an

encounter between security forces and a group of well-entrenched terrorists in the Solki forest area of Kalakote in Rajouri district on Wednesday. Another senior officer was evacuated to the Command Hospital in Udhampur after sustaining bullet injuries to his arm and chest.

his arm and chest. The fierce gunfight was going on in the area with the induction of more troops to neutralise two terrorists trapped there, officials said. The Army authorities had not issued any official state-ment to confirm the number of ment to confirm the number of death till late at night.

death till late at night. However, the Nagrota-based White Knight Corps posted a brief statement on X (previous-ly Twitter), stating, "Based on specific intelligence, joint oper-ations were launched in the Kalakote Area and Gulabgarh forset in Baiouri district on forest in Rajouri district on November 19. Contact was established on November 22, leading to an intense firefight. The terrorists have been injured and surrounded, and operations are in progress. Our bravehearts are displaying acts

salutes their supreme sacri-fice."

is a matter of pride for India

that under its presidency,

Africa was given a voice. In the

last year in the G20, the Global

South's voice has also been

ThePM asserted that the

G20 has increased confidence

in multilateralism, and global

governance reforms have been

given a direction. Addressing a

press conference here on

Tuesday ahead of the summit,

India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said the deliberations will

witness "excellent participa-tion" from leaders of the group-

ing. Kant described the virtu-

al summit as "rare and excep-

tional," which would give Modi

an opportunity to interact with

heard," Modi said.

The security forces are proceeding cautiously to prevent any further loss of life while neutralising the terrorists.

The suspected movement of terrorists was detected in the area four days ago. Subsequently, a high alert was issued, and search operations commenced in the general vicinity of Kalakote.

Ground reports indicated that the security forces encountered heavy gunfire during the search operations in the Solki forest area of Kalakote, based on specific information about the presence of a group of heavily armed terrorists.

The initial contact between the security forces and the concealed terrorists was reported around 9 am on Wednesday.

One of the Army officers sustained fatal injuries in the initial round of firing. Subsequently, elite Para com-mandos were swiftly deployed into the forest area to flush out the terrorists positioned in safe hideouts within the densely forested area. They targetted the elite commandos also.

Prasad said the newspaper had prime properties in many cities and alleged that senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul appropriated these assets as the shares of the firm owning it were transferred to a company where the two controlled 76 per cent of shares. What the family did was a

case of the "Congress and com-merce", he said, citing the use of the phrase in past cases of similar nature involving opposition leaders.

Rejecting the Congress' claim that the ED's action was an outcome of the BJP's frustration as it was losing in the current round of Assembly polls, BJP claimed that it was the Congress which will be defeated soundly and noted that the National Herald case probe began on a private com-plaint before the Modi government came to power in 2014.

Both Sonia and her son Rahul are facing cheating and forgery charges and are currently on bail, the BJP leader noted and cited the trial court's critical observations about the allegations against them to make his point.

Delhi back to square one with 'severe' pollution

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi's average air quality turned "severe" on Wednesday with the air quality index reading of 413 in the morning but settled at 395. According to the air quality early warning system, air qual-ity is likely to be very poor from November 23 to 25. The surface wind is likely to be coming from southeast/east directions with wind speed up to 8 kmph during daytime. It will be calm during evening/night. Shallow to moderate fog is likely in the morning on November 23 and 24. The minimum temperature was recorded at 10.6 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, on Wednesday, while the rela-

tive humidity was recorded at order will be issued." 76 per cent at 8.30 am. Delhi Transport Minister

from the date of issuance of this

order in Delhi Gazette, and if

GRAP IV is revoked, the said

Data from the Ministry of Agriculture showed Punjab Kailash Gahlot shared a notireported 512 farm fires on fication on the microblogging Wednesday, taking the total site X. "Entry of all buses, including All India Tourist buses/Contract Carriage number of such cases recorded since September 15 to 36,118. buses/State Transport Buses or holding any other kind of per-In October, the Delhi

Government mandated that only those electric/CNG or mit into Delhi from other states except CNG/Electric or BS-VI diesel buses would be BS-VI diesel buses will be allowed to enter the national restricted as and when GRAP capital from NCR cities of IV is invoked. The above-men-Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and tioned restrictions shall stand Rajasthan. automatically applicable, as and when GRAP-IV is invoked

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Area, a statuto-ry body responsible for formurestrictions stand terminated automatically; no separate lution in the region, had on



An anti-smog gun being used to spray water droplets to curb air pollution in New Delhi on Wednesday

November 18 asked Delhi and neighbouring States to revoke all emergency measures, under which only CNG, electric, and BS VI-compliant vehicles from other States are allowed to enter Delhi, with exemptions granted to those involved in essential services.

The main cause of air pollu-tion in Delhi is vehicle pollu-tion and construction works. The city's daily concentration of fine particles less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter (PM2.5) — which can enter the bloodstream, leading to poor health — remained above 200 micrograms per cubic metre between November 3 and November 9. World Health Organisation (WHO) guide-lines recommend concentra-

PTI

tions stay below an average of 15 micrograms per cubic metre over 24 hours. According to over 24 hours. According to experts, air pollution has a substantial impact on maternal and child health, raising the likelihood of a variety of negative consequences. Air pollu-tion has been linked to a spectrum of health complications, ranging from respiratory issues to more severe consequences. Expecting mothers exposed to elevated levels of air pollutants face an increased risk of complications.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, 401 and 450 severe and above 450 severe plus.



city 02

Hit-and-run case: Driver egged on by friend to step on gas Zig-zag barricades to check speed of vehicles

PNS LUCKNOW

In the hit-and-run case in which a woman police offi-cer's son was killed near Janeshwar Mishra Park in Gomti Nagar Extension police station area on Tuesday, police claimed that the youth driving the SUV was spurred by his friend sitting beside him to step on the gas as much as he could. There were reports that the SUV was being driven at a ferocious speed of 150 160 ferocious speed of 150-160 kmph when it hit the 10-yearold boy, Naimish, who was practising skating around 5 am.

His mother Shweta Srivastava, a PPS officer, and skating coach Gaurav were present at the scene when the heart-wrenching incident took place. The police will now place zig-zag barricades on several roads, including the G-20 road, on a permanent basis to check the speed of vehicles.

Those arrested on Tuesday were identified as Sarthak Singh of Indira Nagar and his friend Devsri Verma. Sarthak was driving the SUV at the time of the incident.

DCP (East) Ashish Srivastava said the SUV belongs to Devsri Verma's uncle, who is a native of Kanpur and was in city for some work. Devsri wanted to drive the new SUV and he took the keys of the vehicle from his uncle on Monday night.

"Both said in their confession that they knew that the police checking was not so intense in the morning and so they took out the SUV. Devsri drove the SUV first in the area around Janeshwar Mishra Park. While driving, he avoided hitting a woman and her daughter with a narrow margin. On their way back, Sarthak was driving the vehicle," the DCP

Lucknow (PNS): In yet another hit-and-run case, an over-speeding tanker of Lucknow Nagar Nigam crushed a woman to death near Hazratganj multilevel parking on Wednesday evening. The incident took place before the victim's daughter. The victim, identified as

Rahila Khan (60) of Husainabad in Chowk, was going towards Atal crossing in Hazratganj. Around 4 pm, the tanker, which was being driver by one Mazhar Khan, hit her scooty from behind. Due to the heavy impact, the woman fell down and was crushed under the wheels of the tanker. She died on the spot.

A spokesman said a case was registered against the errant driver and he was arrested. "The dumper has also been impounded," he added. Initial investigation

revealed that the woman and her daughter had gone shopping and were returning home.

said. He said Devsri egged on Sarthak to speed up. "The car was running at a high speed and it went uncontrolled near a curvature and hit the boy who was practising skating on the pavement," he added. "Devsri taunted Sarthak that the latter would not be able to break his speed record in driving," he

said. About the driving licence of the accused, the DCP said Sarthak has a learning licence while Devsri has a permanent licence. "Both the accused claimed during interrogation that they have licences but they have yet to produce the same," the DCP said.

Srivastava said that the police served a notice on



Passersby at the scene after the road mishap in Hazratgan

The entire incident was captured in a CCTV camera installed near the scene. The footage helped the police in identifying the vehicle and nabbing the errant driver.

Rahila's daughter Farheen also suffered minor injuries in the mishap. Police registered a case against Mazhar Khan and booked him under culpable homicide not amounting to murder

Rahila is survived by husband Nisar Hasan, sons Asif &

Sarthak's father Ravindra, who had initially lied about Sarthak and claimed that no such person lived in his house.

"We served the notice under Section 201 of the IPC for causing disappearance of evidence of offence/giving false information to screen the offender. He got the vehicle washed and attempted to get Sarthak to flee the city to avoid police action. The court grant-ed Ravindra bail," the DCP said. Srivastava said that the

SUV was recovered and sent for a technical inspection. He said the police would place zig-zag barriers on roads

like Lohia Path, G20 road and other places where traffic load is less. "We will also launch a

Institute. The family was get ting a modular kitchen built in the house and the motherdaughter duo had gone to purchase some items required for it. Farheen was driving the scooty. The police took Rahila to the Civil hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead On being informed, police reached the scene and arrested Mazhar.

Anas and daughters Aroma &

Farheen. Nisar has retired from

Technology

Industrial

drive against those plying vehicles at a high speed or those using silencers in the vehicles," he said.

The police said they also quizzed the woman who and her daughter had a narrow escape. "They were not aware of the death of the woman police officer? can but panie police officer's son, but panic was writ large on their faces. They also said that the SUV was running at 150-160 kmph" the police said.

On Wednesday, a police team inspected the crime scene again and prepared an entry and exit route of the SUV Cops were also deployed at the running points and at some of the places near the Janeshwar Misĥra Park.

Thieves make off with valuables, cash from house PNS LUCKNOW

Thieves struck at the house of a former gram pradhan in Sarojininagar on Tuesday night and made off with cash and ornaments worth several lakh on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

The thieves locked the doors of the rooms from out-side before fleeing the scene. The house-owner came to know about the incident in the morning and informed police. A forensic team and dog squad reached the scene to collect evidence.

As per reports, house-owner Amit Singh aka Sonu of Pipersand and his wife were asleep in their room on the second floor of the house while others were in their respective rooms on the ground and first floors. The thieves entered the house by breaking the main gate's lock and then locked the doors of three rooms.

When the house-owner and others woke up on Wednesday morning, they found the doors locked from outside. A neighbour reached the scene and opened the door of a room. It later came to the fore that the thieves had made off with Rs 75,000 and ornaments worth about Rs 2 lakh kept kept in an almirah.

BODY FOUND

A body was found floating in a pond near a temple in Sangrampur area in Amethi district on Wednesday, police said. The man was identified as Abhishek Mishra (35), a res-ident of Khairona village, they said Station House Officer of said. Station House Officer of Sangarmpur Police Station Sri Ram said, "The body was retrieved from the pond near Kalikan Dham temple in the morning."

It has been sent for a postmortem examination, he said. We are trying to contact the family members of the deceased," the SHO added.

UP to table supplementary budget on November 30

PNS I LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh govern-I ment will table the supplementary budget for the current fiscal 2023-24 in the state legislative assembly on November 30. Finance Minister Suresh Khanna will table the finance bill during the winter session of Uttar Pradesh assembly beginning November 28. The brief winter session will have four sittings till December 1.

According to the tentative agenda of the assembly released by Principal Secretary (Assembly) Pradeep Kumar Dube here on Wednesday, on first day of the session on November 28, the House will adjourn after obituary references of the sitting and former members. On November 29, the government will table the bills replacing the ordinances and other official business.

officer said.

alleged that he made derogato-

ry posts against Hinduism on

his Facebook page and

uploaded the Pakistani flag.

The FIR was registered under

the IT Act and Section 153 A

(promoting enmity between

different groups of religion on

At 12:20 pm the same day, posals for seeking supplemen-

Man held for social media posts against Hinduism

Lucknow (PTI): A man was police said.

arrested in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday Meanwhile, a truck driver and cleaner were killed when for allegedly making derogatotheir vehicle collided with another truck in Bahraich disry posts against Hinduism and putting up the Pakistani flag on his Facebook page, a police officer said. The accused was identified as Buddan Ali, the trict of Uttar Pradesh, a police officer said on Wednesday. The driver of the second truck was injured in the accident in the Hardi police station area of Izatnagar police station the district and was admitted to inspector Surendra Kumar said hospital, Additional Superintendent of Police an FIR was registered against Ali, a resident of Dhaurera Pavitra Mohan Tripathi said. Mafi, by one Sonu Pathak who

"Two trucks collided headon near Chalrighat area Tuesday night. A truck driver, Anwar (28), and cleaner, Mohammed Tahir (20), were killed in the accident. The driver of another truck, Majid Ali, was injured and has been admitted to hospital," the police ground of religion etc) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the officer said. The accident led to a major traffic snarl in the area.

Khanna will table the finance bill for the first supplementary Öfficial sources said the

grants of 2023-24. The assemgovernment is likely to seek supplementary grants for the bly will also meet on November 30 and December 1. The agenda released by the state assembly secretariat is

yet to be approved by the business advisory committee of the assembly. The agenda is likely to be adopted by the committee on the eve of the session (November 27).

The bills replacing the ordinances are UP Molasses Control (second amendment) Bill 2023, UP Goods and Service Tax (second amend-ment) Bill 2023, UP Private Universities (sixth amendment) Bill 2023 and UP State Universities (amendment) Bill 2023. The size of the supplementary grants is likely to be around Rs 42,000 crore. The cabinet meeting held in Ayodhya approved the pro-

ongoing development projects in Avodhya and other infrastructure across the state. The date for the inauguration of the temple at Ayodhya

has already been announced and it will happen on January 22 next year. Development projects like road, power and urban amenities are being exe-cuted in Ayodhya at a fast pace and many of them are targeted to be completed before the inauguration of the temple by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The supplementary budget will also be significant as the Lok Sabha elections are due in April/May next year. The Yogi Adityanath government wants to complete major infrastructure projects ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

'AAP's door-to-door drive getting support'

Lucknow (PNS): The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday said that it's door-to-door programme to tell the truth behind party leader Sanjay Singh's arrest is getting widespread support from the public which was convinced that the AAP was being troubled for being

vocal to the ruling dispensation. The party said enthusiasm among workers due to public support climbed high and workers would soon reach every home in UP. The party said that the Narendra Modiled government is going to lose the 2024 elections and due to frustration of anticipation of losing election, it is trying to put opposition leaders in jail.

Since Tuesday, AAP has been running a door-to-door campaign in every district of UP and distributing pamphlets having its policy and reasons for Sanjay Singh's arrest.

Akhilesh lays foundation for MSY memorial 2,350 acres of land earmarked for PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday laid the foundation for a grand memorial of party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav in Saifai on Wednesday. The party organised grand celeon We needay to mark the 84th birth anniversary of Yadav in his ancestral village Saifai in Etawah district. The entire Yadav family was present in Saifai along with senior party leaders. Addressing the meeting, Akhilesh Yadav said: "Saifai was always in the heart of Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav). All his life, he fought for the people from this 'dharti', that was why he was known as 'Dhartiputra.'' He said that after long consultation with people from different fields in India and abroad, it was decided to build a memorial on the lines of



demand for a caste census. "A caste census is necessary for social justice to give due representation to various castes in reservation," he said.

Hundreds of SP cadre and leaders, party's national general secretary Shivpal Yaday, Ram Gopal Yadav, Mainpuri MP Dimple Yaday Buda

Dharmendra Yadav were

prominent among those pre-

on an 8.3 acres area. A grand

park and public facilities are

The memorial will be built

sent on the occasion.

NOTICE Informed that I, Passport (J1065429) record In my Hasband Name is ASIFUDDIN SIDDIQUI

S/o FATEHUDDIN is wrong.

PNS LUCKNOW **D**or boosting the pharma-

tricts.

mega drug parks state has signed up Adani Gas for supplying piped natural

gas to this park.

सतलाल चाहान पुत्र जगदाश चाहान ग्राम–नासिरपुर, पोस्ट– कहिनौर, जनपद-मऊ (पिन नम्बर 275101)

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता

है कि संतलाल को संतलाल चौहान

के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए।

NOTICE

NOTICE

I Pushpa Kanyal W/o Late Dr. ..S. Kanyal R/o 16/1415 Indira Nagar Lucknow have lost two pages of my original lease deed which is registered in the office of chief Dy. Registrar Lucknow dated 11.6.96 Book No. -1 Zild No. 3258 Page No. 291 to 306 Sereial No. 3328. in the ame of my husband.

This property was registered by U.P. Awas awam Vikas Parishad Lucknow. I searched a lot but couldn't find its. If anyone finds these papers please reteren it to me at the above said address. If any one is found these papers misusing then he himself will be held responsible.

REQUIRED

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 H.O.D.

 Associate Prof. •Assistant Prof. for M.P.Ed, M.Ed, B.Ed, B.P.Ed, D.L.Ed., B.Sc., B.Com Qualification & Salary as per NCTE/UGC State Govt. Norms. Apply within 10 days. Opp. Ambedkar University Utrethia, Raibareli Road, Lucknow 7007960489, 9721725258 E-mail : aryavart.lko@gmail.com

REQUIRED

T.S. MISHRA UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW Invites Applications for the following posts: Principal (Law College)-1, Assistant professor of Law- 4, Business Management-3 Political Science-1 Sociology-1, Psychology-1, English Librarian and Clerk- 1 each. Peon-2 **Essential Qualifications:**

As per UGC norms. Interested Candidates can send their applications through registered post along with self-attested copies of al their documents to-Last Date of Application 10.12.2023

EGISTRAR, T.S. MISHRA UNIVERSITY AMAUSI, LUCKNOW, 226009

Correct name is ASIFUDDIN S/o FATEHUDDIN. For all future purposes. with immediate effect, affidavit date 22th November 2023.

PARVEEN W/o ASIFUDDIN R/o 223, Kheldar Distt. Fatehpur UP 212601

NOTICE

In my Late husband's PPO account my name is entered as Sudha Devi by mistake, while my actual name is Sudha Pandey. Which is also mentioned in my all doc-Sudha Devi and uments. Sudha Pandey both name are the same person. Sudha Pandey W/o Late Shiv Prasad Pandey R/o-570/S-201, Sanik Colony, Azad Nagar,

Alambagh, Lucknow.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Public Notice: Lost/Missing Original Page of Dafa 60 in Sale Deed dated 08.09.2016, Document No. 13158 executed by Zameer Mustafa in favor of Smt. Shabnam Jafri registry, has been lost. if you have any relevant information regarding this matter. Please inform immediately, Shabnam Jafri W/o -Syed Nafisul Hasan 444/141-

Ali Colony, Baraf Khana, Thakurganj Lucknow -226003

NOTICE

Inform that, I Deep Narayan

S/o Late Ram Nath (Service

No. 14388902 K.N.K.T.S. R/o

Village - Angnakheda Post -

Jafarganj Tahsil Bindki Distt.

Fatehpur U.P. (212657). I

Declare that in my Army

Records my Daughter Rachna

Devi's D.O.B. 09/10/1997 is

wrong. Correct D.O.B. is

04/03/1998 & Sekend

Daughter Deepa Devi's D.O.B.

10/12/2000 is wrong. Correct

D.O.B. 02/07/1999. On behalf

Educational Documents.

Please note this. In the future.

dustr Anotl state, the Uttar Pradesh govpark in Sector 28 of the ernment has earmarked 2,350 Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority acres of land for setting up mega drug parks. The plan is (YEIDA) in Greater Noida is part of the government's ambitious bid to boost manufacturing and make the state a market leader in pharmaceutical and medical devices produc-

Buddha Nagar (Noida) dis-

including the Council of

low-cost drugs and medical

devices. UP has signed mem-

on affordable drugs. "These partnerships will

the diagnosis and treatment of

India, as well as almost 200

ernment official said.

The government has roped

also proposed to position UP as a leading medical hub in south Asia. The third medical project entails a modern biotech park in Pilibhit to aid in cutting tion. The proposed manufacdown on import of fermentaturing parks will come up in tion-based goods. Lalitpur, Pilibhit, and Gautam

medic

"The state should push 'Make in UP' in different sectors to achieve its \$1-trillion economy target and boost in top scientific institutions, employment generation to retain the talent pool," Association of Indian Manufacturers (AIM) nation-Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Defence al president Manmohan Research and Development Agarwal said. Under its phar-Organisation (DRDO), as knowledge partners to develop ma sector roadmap, UP aims to increase its contribution to India's pharma industry from orandums of understanding two per cent to 10-12 per cent. India is the global leader in generic medicines by volume, (MoUs) with more than 80 CSIR and DRDO laboratories commanding a 20 per cent market share. However, the for research and development country imports 80 per cent of foster research on innovative its domestic medical devices drugs and medical devices for requirement. UP is aiming to target this huge segment by severe and chronic diseases in ramping up its manufacturing capabilities.

The domestic pharmaceuother countries," a senior govtical industry, valued at \$42 bil-The 2,000-acre Lalitpur lion in 2021, is estimated to park is the flagship project of touch \$130 billion by 2030. The the government. It will be dedpharma shipments from India, ued at \$25 billion.



On the occasion of Founder's Day, Canara Bank, Goila branch, sweaters and school bags were given away to students of Goila Primary School in the village. The CSR activity was conducted under the guidance of branch head Sumbul Jalali.

Lincoln memorial in the USA. He said the upcoming memorial would be a source of inspiration for the coming genera-

3 arrested with 88.5 kg charas in Maharajganj

Lucknow (PTI): The Uttar and the police arrested four Pradesh Police arrested three alleged smugglers and recovalleged smugglers and recovered 300 grams of smack persons and recovered 88.5 kg of charas from their possesworth Rs 30 lakh from their sion in the Kolhui area of possession in Bareilly on Maharajganj district on Wednesday, officials said. The Wednesday, police said.

seized drug is worth Rs 50 crore, they said. Superintendent of Police of Maharajganj district Kaustubh said, "Two vehicles on, they said.

were stopped by police in the Kolhui area for a routine check and 88.5 kg of charas was recovered from them."

Arjun Singh from Gorakhpur, Chandrashever from Shahajanpur and Sonu Gupta from Gorakhpur, who were travelling in the two vehicles, were arrested for the possession of the contraband, he said. "The trio were headed to Gorakhpur from Nepal," the police officer said. The accused were booked under relevant sections of the IPC and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the officer

also disclosed that they sold added. the smack "at good prices" and Meanwhile, a joint team of distributed the profit among the Anti-Narcotics Task Force themselves.

tion and act as a light house.

"This is the place from where we got the 'cycle' and this is the place from where Netaji started making backward and deprived sections of the society aware of their rights and struggle for their dignity. Netaji began his struggle from this place," the SP president said.

"The country will witness a big change after the 2024 Lok

Mishra, said the joint team

arrested four persons from

Mirganj's Karaura-Gawara

road and recovered 300 grams

of smack, four mobiles and

The SP said the smugglers

two bikes from their posses-

disclosed during interroga-tion that they had bought the

smack from a person they met

on the highway in Fatehganj

West town. The smugglers

said that they were not aware

of his name and address, he

The SP said the smugglers

sion

added

also planned here, as already announced by Akhilesh Yadav on October 31. Some of the structures of the memorial will resemble Sabha polls and the PDA the design of the Abraham (Pichda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak, Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson that is, backward, Dalit, and memorials in the US. minorities, especially Muslims) Some of the pillared archicycle yatra has spread the mestecture of the memorial will

reflect the architecture of the sage well across UP constituencies," he said. The cycle yatra era of Emperor Ashoka, as concluded at Saifai on Tuesday. seen in Lumbini, Meerut and Akhilesh also said follow-Prayagraj. "Efforts will be made ing the demand raised by his to complete this memorial ahead of the UP assembly elec-

party, several other parties were now supporting the

tions in 2027," Akhilesh said. **Electronic surveillance** for township project

Mohaan road urban hi-tech township, electronic surveillance is underway across the entire 800-acre project site. A permanent police outpost will be established to ensure unin-A case has been registered terrupted civil work by Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) engineers. The against those arrested at the Mirganj police station here and further investigations are chief engineer, while asserting full land acquisition, acknowl-Superintendent of Police edged that a portion remains (SP), Dehat, Mukesh Chandra with locals, prompting con-

cerns. LDA Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi stated that

Lucknow (PNS): In the and lighting projects would be floated in December. However, protests emerged as residents from Pyarepur, whose land was acquired, argued for increased compensation. A delegation approached ACS Nitin Gokarn, advocating for higher compensation, citing a pending court case on the matter.

The dispute arose when locals allegedly illegally occupied the land, disrupting the layout. Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob, and the ACS discussed the compensation issue, emphasising its resolution post the court verdict.

tenders for road, sewer, water,



Varanasi Bench

Railway Station Junction, Old PRS Building No. RCT/Varanasi/Outsourcing Stenos/2023

Dated 21-11-2023

Railway Claims Tribunal, Varanasi will conduct a walk in interview for temporarily filling up two posts of English/Hindi Stenographer on contract basis for a specified period as per terms and conditions decided by Railway Board (Ministry of Railway) on date, time and place mentioned below:-

Place		Date	Time
Railway Claims Tribuna Junction, Old PRS Buildin	l, Railway Station g, Varanasi	05.12.2023	11.00 Hrs

Willing candidates may visit RCT website www.rct.indianrail.gov.in for detail ter and conditions of engagement of outsourced Stenographers through walk interview

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

city 03



Stage set for launch of projects worth over ₹7.16 lakh cr in UP

PNS LUCKNOW

The stage is set for the launch of projects worth over Rs 7.16 lakh crore in Uttar Pradesh during the first phase of Groundbreaking Ceremony (GBC) for investment proposals received during the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 (UPGIS 2023) held in February this year.

Meerut divisions tops with investment proposals worth Rs 2.5 lakh crore set for implementation during the GBC while Jhansi, Mirzapur, Lucknow and Varanasi are the other four among the top five divisions which will see the implementation of the highest number of investment proposals on the ground during the ceremony. Efforts are now underway to implement investment proposals worth nearly Rs 40 lakh crore received during the UPGIS held this year.

Seeing the excellent possibilities, the industrial sector has decided to invest in all 18 divi-

sions of the state. However, the 3,954 crore, Azamgarh division interest of investors varies in different divisions with the Meerut division topping the list, followed by Jhansi, Mirzapur, Lucknow and Varanasi.

with Rs 3,400 crore and Basti with Rs 3,018 crore. Bundelkhand Purvanchal were once considered the most backward areas

of UP. Since taking power, In terms of divisions, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath investment proposals worth has focused on developing Rs 2,55,097 crore are set for these two areas by formulating implementation in Meerut strategies accordingly. In the division, followed by Jhansi past six years, not only have division with Rs 91,128 crore, criminal networks, mafia, and gangsters been dismantled in Mirzapur division with Rs the Purvanchal and Bundelkhand regions, but 85,104 crore, Lucknow division with Rs 48,770 crore, Varanasi division with Rs 37,372 crore. efforts have also been made to enhance tourism by developing Bareilly division with Rs 35,322 crore, Ayodhya division with Rs basic facilities such as better connectivity and electricity 23,921 crore, Agra division with Rs 23,706 crore, Kanpur supply. CM Yogi's efforts are now division with Rs 22,992 crore,

Moradabad division with poised to manifest in the form of investments on the ground. 17,833 crore, Prayagraj division In the Bundelkhand region, with 17,780 crore, Gorakhpur division with 15,600 crore, Jhansi and Chitrakoot divi-Saharanpur division with sions are prepared for invest-12,413 crore, Aligarh division ments exceeding one lakh with 9,873 crore, Chitrakoot crore. In this regard, the Jhansi division with 9,213 crore, division holds the second position in the state. Devipatan division with Rs

Sonbhadra to see projects worth ₹79k cr on ground

and

n a remarkable turnaround, the Sonbhadra district in Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the second most pivotal district in the state's development journey. A total of 43 investment projects, with a cumulative value of around Rs 79,000 crore, are poised for implementation in Sonbhadra, which was once plagued by Naxalite insurgency.

Despite its abundant natural and mineral resources, industrialists were wary of investing in Sonbhadra because of the extortion threats from Naxalites.

Sonbhadra faced decades of lawlessness and Naxal activities, which deterred investors in the past.

However, the district is currently undergoing significant transformation with investments pouring in through the groundbreaking ceremonies. The same entrepreneurs, who were once scared of investing in the district due to demands for extortion from

Naxalites, are today queuing up for the

purpose. The Yogi Adityanath government's commitment to zero tolerance for crime, extensive development of basic facilities in previously inaccessible areas, the construction of essential infrastructure and improved connectivity have not only eradicated Naxal activities in Sonbhadra, but have also positioned the district as a focal point for Uttar Pradesh's development. It is now poised to become the second growth engine after Noida driving progress of Uttar Pradesh.

The UP government is gearing up for the launch of 43 investment projects valued at approximately Rs 79,000 crore in Sonbhadra. Following the Global Investors Summit-23, where Uttar Pradesh secured investment proposals totalling Rs 40 lakh crore, Sonbhadra has emerged as a key focus area, attracting the secondhighest investment after Noida.

The upcoming investments are poised to not only catalyse develop-

ment in Purvanchal, but also contribute to the overall progress of the state. Two substantial projects in the energy and renewable energy sectors, amounting to about Rs 35,000 crore,

are set to be launched soon. These include the launch of a 2x1600 MW Super Thermal Power Plant at Obra and the expansion of Thermal Power Plant at Singrauli. Apart from this, the 3,660 MW offstream closed-loop pumped storage project will also prove to be a boon for Sonbhadra. These three big projects have been approved by the government.

In the first phase of the groundbreaking ceremony, various departments have been directed by the chief minister to implement projects worth more than Rs 13 lakh crore. The investments in Sonbhadra assume significance in view of the fact that the Yogi government is focusing on attracting investments to all 75 districts of the state.

In the first phase of the ground-

breaking ceremony, Noida takes the lead with projects worth Rs 1.96 lakh crore.

Notably, Sonbhadra district follows closely in second place. Jhansi is gearing up for the implementation of 175 projects valued at approximately Rs. 63,000 crore, while Lucknow and Bareilly are set to witness 327 projects worth Rs 34,000 crore and 357 projects worth Rs 31,700 crore, respectively.

The remarkable surge in Sonbhadra's position has captured widespread attention. Additionally, in the Naxal-affected districts of Chandauli and Mirzapur, substantial investments are ready for implement investments are ready for implementation in the initial phase. Chandauli is slated to receive projects worth Rs 17.4 thousand crore, while Mirzapur is set for launch of development projects totalling Rs 6,000 crore. The investments are considered to be a direct outcome of the improved law and order condition in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

environment-friendly roads

Deputy chief minister bats for

Rajasthan has government of curfews, riots: Yogi

PNS JODHPUR/BIKANER/NAGAUR/CHURU

During his sixth day of campaigning in poll-bound Rajasthan on Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath came down heavily on the Congress Party led government for the worsening law and order situation in the state.

Yogi Adityanath said, "Two years ago in Jodhpur, the streets witnessed the alarming sight of individuals brandish-ing naked swords and engaging in riotous activities. A bulldozer would have crushed these rioters if they had been in Uttar Pradesh, but the Rajasthan government remained silent."

Yogi urged support for Atul Bhansali in Jodhpur city, Devendra Joshi in Sursagar, and Mahendra Singh Rathore in Sardarpura. Reflecting on events that took place in Jodhpur a couple of years ago in which swords wielding rioters went on a rampage on the streets of the city, he lashed out at the Ashok Gehlot government for its studied silence on the disturbing incident. He emphasised that had such rioters been in Uttar Pradesh, they would have been swiftly dealt with by his bulldozer.

Expressing concern over unleashing of anarchy to secure vote banks, he criticised the current administration, labeling it as a 'government of curfews' and riots'. The chief minister lamented Gehlot government's indifference to the killings of revered saints in Alwar and Jodhpur, urging voters to consider these issues while casting their votes. He also highlighted the success of the water scheme implemented by the BJP, its impact



Yogi gets unprecedented reception at Tijara



sarkar ke kaam nahi , 'kaarname' bol

Meanwhile, recognising Bikaner and Rajasthan for their significant role in producing high-quality sweets and snacks, he lamented the leaks of examination papers, suggesting that a 'double engine government' in Rajasthan would have prevented such occur-rences. Criticising the influence of mafias in the state with the support of the political power, he called upon the people to elect a government that would build their future rather than vote

for someone out of sympathy. In Jaipur, he urged the residents of Didwana to support BJP candidate Jitendra Singh Jodha. He said, "The money that Modi sends gets distributed in Jaipur itself and does not reach the eligible beneficiaries." Yogi Adityanath highlighted the shift in dynamics, noting that in the past, terrorists carried out indiscriminate attacks causing harm to innocent lives. Presently, wrongdoers are aware that their actions will have consequences. Drawing a sharp contrast with the Congress, he accused them of bringing poverty, chaos and distrust to the country while praising PM Modi for safeguarding the dignity of every individual. "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam as an initiative to honour and respect women. PM Modi worked to ban triple talaq forever," he said.

The chief minister also visited the Ratangarh Assembly constituency, urging voters to support BJP candidate Abhinesh Maharshi. Yogi Adityanath emphasised the potential for development in Rajasthan with the formation of a 'double engine government'. Noting he historica connection between

PNS LUCKNOW

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Wednesday said that for the balanced and holistic development of villages, an important dimension was to plant saplings of perennial species along the rural roads, this would give impetus to the Mission Life campaign.

Maurya said that the FDR (Full Depth Reclamation) technology been adopted in the construction of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) roads in Uttar Pradesh was proving beneficial and useful for the Mission Life campaign.

Maurya was addressing a workshop based on Green/New Technology under Mission Life at the Ganna Sansthan. The workshop was organised by Uttar Pradesh Rural Road Development Agency (UPRR-DA). The deputy chief minister called upon the representa-tives from different states to do more research work in addition to FDR technology in the construction of roads, which would promote environment and water conservation. Maurya said that Uttar Pradesh was leading in adopting FDR techtechnology were low cost, high PMGSY roads. He said that the roads should be designed in such a way that along with the convenience of transportation, it also proved beneficial from the point of view of environmental friendliness. He said that while moving ahead in any field, environmental protection should be our priority. He said that Uttar Pradesh was the leader in



adopting green technology. The construction work of 5400 kilometres (684 routes) under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana was being done on green technology due in which 900 kilometres of construction had been completed. In this technology, separate aggregate was not used, due to which natural resources were not exploited. He said that in the construction of PMGSY routes under 5400 km FDR in Uttar Pradesh, about 86 lakh cubic metres of aggregate and its relative saving of 650 lakh litres of fuel in transportation had been estimated. Thus, carbon footprint was being reduced through FDR technology and this technology was environment friendly. The roads been built using FDR

tourism, but is also proving to be very useful from the point of view of environment and water conservation, not only this, Shilaphalakam and Amrit Vatika have also been built near these lakes, which are in line with the objectives of the Mission Life campaign. They are also proving helpful in bringing it to fruition and it is the responsibility of all of us to keep them safe," he said.

Minister of State, Rural Development Department, Vijay Lakshmi Gautam said that the quality of roads made with FDR technology was better than the roads made with conventional technology. The workshop was also addressed by rural development commissioner GS Priyadarshi, chief executive officer of Uttar Pradesh Rural Road Development Agency Sukhla Bharti. The workshop was attended by representatives of 17 states Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura and Uttarakhand, representatives of various technical institutes and officials of UPRRDA.

clean water nationwide.

Yogi sought votes for MLA and Nokha candidate Bihari Lal Vishnoi. He said that the party, 'having foreseen its its defeat in the polls, was spreading rumors since yesterday that I was not coming to hold the rally here. People were calling, and I informed them that the second public gathering was taking place in Nokha. We were devotees of Lord Shri Ram. I had made a promise, and I had come to Nokha again to ful-

hief Minister Yogi Adityanath • concluded his final public meeting in support of Alwar MP and BJP candidate Mahant Balaknath in Tijara.

The residents welcomed him with mobile lights, marking an unprecedented reception. Yogi Adityanath, who initiated the Rajasthan election campaign from Tijara, criticised the state government on issues of corruption, crime, and anarchy.

The chief minister said, "Rajasthan

Baba Balaknath's ability to make 'Tijara a Sitara' and brighten its future. Yogi also called upon people to make opposition candidates lose their deposits.

Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, UP Minister Dayashankar Singh, Girish Yadav, Haryana Minister Banwari Lal and several other ministers, MPs and MLAs of many states were present at the public meeting.

Gorakhpur and Ratangarh, he criticised the Congress for its failure on multiple fronts, asserting that it had lost public trust. Yogi Adityanath highlighted the Congress's inability to control criminal elements, emphasising their unsuitability for governance. He praised Abhinesh Maharshi's dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he selflessly served people risking his own safety, while continuing the fight against the Congress

also more dural "In accordance with the far-reaching thinking and vision of the Prime Minister, on the occasion of the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, construction of Amrit Sarovaros was started in the villages and Uttar Pradesh stands first in the country in the construction of Amrit Sarovaros. Amrit Sarovar is not only proving to be the center of rural

Youth dies in police custody in Bijnor

Lucknow (PNS): In an alleged excess of the men in uniform, a youth from Shahlipur Kotra died in the custody of Badhapur police station in Bijnor.

The police brought the victim to the police station in connection with the case of assault on his wife on Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning, he was admitted to the district hospital in Nagina, where doctors pronounced him dead. The police have sent the body for postmortem and denied the use of any excessive force on the victim.

Reports said that Neetu Singh (35) of Shahalipur Kotla village in the Badhapur police station area, allegedly assaulted his wife Sarita. Following Sarita's complaint on November 12, the Badhapur police arrested Neetu. On Tuesday night, his condition deteriorated inside the police station. At 5 am on Wednesday, the police admitted him to the Community Health Centre of Nagina, where doctors referred him to the district hospital. The doctors at district hospital pronounced him dead upon arrival. The family members claimed that the police excesses led to the death of the victim in police custody.

Police, however, said that Neetu was in an intoxicated state when he was arrested by the police. Nagina circle officer Sangram Singh said that when the police reached the village, Neetu was in drunken state. There was also a possibility that he had consumed poison. Due to which he was admitted to the hospital, where he died. The police are awaiting the post-mortem report to conduct further investigation.

Yogi government to boost religious tourism in UP PNS LUCKNOW

In line with its efforts to promote religious Ltourism in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government is working on the beautification and development of various pilgrimage sites of religious, spiritual and historical importance in the state.

In this sequence, a detailed action plan has been prepared as per the intention of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the process of implementation has been started by Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Limited (UPSTDC)

The UPSTDC has started beautification and development works on a total of 10 places of religious importance, including Kali Mata Temple, Jharkhandi Temple and Shri Ram Janaki Temple in Basti, Kalika Temple in Azamgarh and Siddhpeeth Mata Mansharani Temple in Unnao and Kali Temple, Seth Ghat and Baba Banwari Das

Temple in Bareilly.

It is worth mentioning that the completion of beautification and long-term development work at these places will not only boost tourism to these pilgrimage sites, but will also contribute to the overall progress of the region.

The Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Limited has started a beautification and development drive for pilgrimage sites in five districts, including Basti and Lakhimpur. In Basti, the Vikramjot village's Iharkhandi Temple, Dubkhara's Kali Mata Temple, and Repura's Shri Ram-Janaki Temple are prioritised for beautification and development. UPST-DC has initiated an e-tendering process to select companies and agencies for implementing these projects.

Similarly, the development process has begun for Mata Kalika Temple in Harkhori of Azamgarh district and for Siddhapeeth Mata Mansarovar Temple in Unnao. Additionally, the beautification Dham in Lakhimpur and Dhopeshwar Nath and development process of the Buddhist pilgrim-

age site in Naval Jatapur has also begun through the allocation process.

The Yogi government is also preparing to start rejuvenation of the Dhopeshwarnath Temple. The temple, located in the cantonment area of Bareilly, is not just a religious pilgrimage site but also a witness to many historical events.

It is believed that Dhrum Rishi, the guru of Draupadi, meditated here during the Dvapara Yuga, around 5,000 years ago. During his meditation, he established a Shiva Lingam here, and since then, the temple got the name Dhopeshwarnath. Some devotees also refer to it as Dhopa Mandir.

Similarly, Seth Ghat in Lakhimpur, Baba Banwari Das Dham in Bankeganj and Kali Mata Temple in Mohammadi village of Padsar are also significant pilgrimage sites with their own unique stories. All these pilgrimage sites are set for a facelift through building of infrastructure, installation of facilities for devotees and tourists as well as beautification.

То

Former DGP Sulkhan Singh forms new party Lucknow (PNS): Former Director

Uttar Pradesh and Damoh, Panna Sagar, Chhatarpur, Datia, Niwari, General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Tikamgarh, and Ashoknagar from Pradesh Sulkhan Singh officially Madhya Pradesh into the proposed entered active politics by forming his own political party on Bundelkhand state.

Sulkhan Singh announced the formation of a new party in Banda. He said that even today there are no employment opportunities in Bundelkhand. Due to lack of timely irrigation, Annadata's crops are drying up. The construction of Mau and Marka bridge was started, but after the change of government, this important project also put on hold. The former DGP said that he was entering active politics for the development of this area. For this he had formed the Bundelkhand Democratic Party.

Tension prevails in Pratapgarh over killing of youth by girl's family

PNS LUCKNOW

n a sensational killing over 'family honour, a youth was brutally murdered by the family members of his lover when he went to meet her in Pratapgarh.

The killing also fueled communal tension in the area as both the lovers belonged to different communities. Local police along with senior officers rushed to the spot soon after learning of the killing and heavy police force is still camping in the area to avert any clash.

According to reports, Dilip Kumar Jaiswal alias Mintu (28), resident of Gopalapur of Jethwara police station area, has a grocery shop in Ramganj market. On Monday evening he closed the shop

and left for home but did not reach home.

Dilip's brother, Pradeep, said that around 10 pm, Nazia Bano of Parvatpur Puri Nagiya had called Dilip and requested him to visit her at home. Several hours later, Nazia's brother, Asif, contacted Pradeep to convey the tragic news that Dilip had succumbed to electrocution. When the family members reached Nazia's house, they were shocked to see the body of Dilip lying inside a closed room.In his complaint, Pradeep alleged that Nazia's family members deliberately killed his brother and subsequently attempted to portray it as an accidental death

Superintendent of Police Satpal Antil said that the police reached the spot and

had collected evidence. The forensic team also investigated the incident site and collected evidence. Based on Pradeep's complaint, the police registered a case against Asif, Shaukat Ali, Moin, Nazia Bano, Mohammad Saeed, Saeed's wife, Shaukat's wife and two unknown persons. The SP said that action would be taken on the basis of technical and forensic investigation.

He claimed that post-mortem would also be done by a panel of doctors. He said that to confirm whether the victim was not given poison, the viscera was preserved. Meanwhile, the villagers claimed that the family members of Dilip and the girl were aware of the love affair between them.



Wednesday.

Sulkhan Singh, who served as

DGP of UP in 2017, has founded

his political party named the 'Bundelkhand Loktantrik Party'.

His entry into politics is marked by

the demand for the creation of a

Bundelkhand state by merging 15

districts from Uttar Pradesh and

eight districts Madhya Pradesh.

His demand is to include Jhansi,

Banda, Hamirpur, Chitrakoot,

Lalitpur, Jalaun and Mahoba from

He has demanded to create

separate state for Bundelkhand.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ms. Vineeta Singh, Employee Code: 162842, Officer (Ex Staff) 14/38, Sector-14, Vrindavan Yojna Lucknow-226029,

Ms. Vineeta Singh, Employee Code 162842, Officer (Ex Staff) who was posted at Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Ayodhya from 12.7.2022 to 09.10.2023 was "Removal from service, which shall not be a disqualification for future employment" by order issued by Dy. General Manager & Disciplinary Authority. Bank has tried to hand over the order No. LZ:DA:HRM:49F:P:1499 dated09.10.2023 issued by Dy. General Manager & Disciplinary Authority to Ms. Vineeta Singh in-person to her by deputing -02- officers, but Ms. Vineeta Singh refused to take the copy of order. It is requested to Ms. Vineeta Singh to take the order issued by Dy. General Manager & Disciplinary Authority from the Bank of Baroda Regional Office : Ayodhya within the -07- days of this publication.

Date : 23-11-2023

Place : Ayodhya Regional Head, Ayodhya



state 04

MoE, IIT-K announce successful Dispute claims youth's life outreach of SATHEE for students

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

 $T_{(\rm MoE)\ and\ IIT\ Kanpur}^{\rm he\ Ministry\ of\ Education}$ have announced the successful outreach of SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams), an innovative online education platform to empower millions of students preparing for competitive exams across the country. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and in achieving Sustainable achieving Sustainable Development Goal. The platform was unveiled by K Sanjay Murthy, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.

Addressing the session, he said, "The outreach of SATHEE is an important step towards bridging the educational divide in India. We have created a platform that simplifies and enhances the learning process for competitive exams. Our focus is on delivering quality education in an accessible format. We believe SATHEE will be instrumental in helping students across the country to better prepare for their future, aligning with our mission of educational inclusivity and excellence. SATHEE, now live, offers a comprehensive suite of resources for NEET and JEE aspirants, including video lectures from renowned faculties of IITs and IISc. The platform commenced with its first 45-

to provide intensive preparation and revision in a short

period, ideal for students looking to consolidate their learning before exams. The platform will also host series of intensive, expert-

designed learning modules along with novel features like es that either many cannot afford or access easily due to an interactive chatbot. Regular distance. It offered a beacon of hope to millions of studoubt-clearing sessions led by dents, particularly those in the rural areas and financialstudents from IITs and AIIMS will enhance the learning experience and maintain a human ly constrained environments. Prominent among those preconnect with the students. The SATHEE platform is expected sent were Govind Jaiswal, to receive an overwhelming Joint Secretary, Higher response from students across Education, MoE, Sanjay the nation. The officiating Kumar, Secretary, School Director of the IIT-K Prof D Education, MoE, Professor Amey Karkare, Principal Ganesh said "The outreach of Investigator, SATHEE Project, SATHEE marks a significant IIT Kanpur. step towards enhancing acces-

sibility to education in India. This platform opens up new avenues for students preparing for competitive exams, offering quality resources and support. Our goal is to ensure that every student, irrespective of their location or financial situation, has the opportunity to excel in their academic pursuits. SATHEE is a testament to our commitment to educational equity and excellence".

The platform also stands out with its multilingual support, offering content in English, Hindi and various Indian regional languages, ensuring no student was left behind due to language barriers and further encouraging students in their journey day JEE crash course, designed towards academic excellence.

SATHEE is not just a learning platform; it represents a movement towards equal educational opportunities for all, challenging the monopolisa-tion of competitive exam preparation by private class-

dered the need for following traffic rules while moving on roads. She said the Kanpur traffic police is making every effort to ensure that there is increased awareness among the people, especially teenaged students moving on two-wheelers who were majorly at risk.

Key speaker Traffic incharge of South Zone Manoj Srivastava said traffic rules were meant for safety of people moving on the road and if they followed the rules then accidents, especially fatal ones, can be reduced drastically.

He said the traffic police has linked itself to the awareness programme especially in schools and colleges. He said the government is seriously planning to link traffic safety TRÂFFIC AWARENESS workshops and seminars as part of the curriculum so that PROGRAMME: The Dr Virendra Swarup Institute of there is increased awareness among the younger generation. Professional Studies (VSIPS) organised a traffic awareness He advised students to ensure



programme, conducted by its they possessed valid driving NSS unit jointly with the licence and explained about the Kanpur traffic police on traffic lights. He cautioned people to refrain from drunk-Wednesday. Addressing the programme Principal Dr en driving. The vote of thanks Poonam Madan said the rise in was proposed by Dr Seema fatal road accidents engen- Mishra.

A youth was killed after falling into a 100 feet deep well during a duel with his friend over a pecuniary dispute in Langhanpura locality of Mahoba on Tuesday night. During it his friend also fell into the well and sustained serious injury. Fire brigade succeeded in taking out both of them from the well after two hours and found one of them dead. Seriously injured another vouth was admitted to the district hospital. The brother of the deceased accused latter's friend of throwing into the well and lodged a complaint with the police. Shabbir alias Manau (24) of Mukeripura, Mahoba, had financial transactions with Vipul Kant Tewari (30) of Kasbathai. Around 8 pm on Tuesday both were sitting near the well in Langhanpura locality. Suddenly they clashed with each other and fell into the well. On hearing the noise, residents rushed to the spot and informed the police and fire brigade. With the help of the hook and rope, fire brigade took out both the youths after two hours and found Vipul Tewari dead. Shabbir alias Manauj was seriously injured and admitted to the district hospital. The brother of the deceased Mukul Kant alleged that six months ago Shabbir had taken ₹35,000 on credit from his younger brother Vipul. On demanding his money back several times in

the past, Vipul was threatened with dire consequences. On Tuesday evening Shabbir took Vipul with him on pretext of paying his money. The former

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 📕 KANPUR beat him up and threw into a well which led to his killing, he alleged. The police sent the body for an autopsy and started a probe in the matter.

SUPERVISOR KILLED: A supervisor overseeing the road construction work was killed in Asoha police station area of Unnao on Tuesday afternoon. The injured supervisor was taken to the CHC by his colleagues where doctors declared him dead. According to reports, the construction of six km road from Raipur canal bridge to Mirrikalan was being carried out in the Asoha police station area of Unnao under the Pradhan Mantri Village Road Scheme. Around 3 pm on Tuesday supervisor S Rajshekhar (24) son of Ramarao of Trilange, Srikakulam district (Andhra Pradesh) suddenly came under the PTR machine and was crushed under it. Colleagues rescued him and took him to the community health centre (CHC) where he was declared dead by the doctors. One of the colleagues Vijay Kumar said kin of S Rajshekhar had been informed about the incident. Kotwali incharge Suresh Singh said on information from the CHC the body was kept in the mortuary. On receipt of complaint, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said.

INJURED: As many as 15 children and the driver were seriously injured when their school van, after colliding with an electricity pole, fell into a pit in Konch town of Jalaun on Wednesday morning. All the injured were taken to the CHC from where due to their serious condition some of them

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

dren of Phulela and Hinguta villages under Kailia police area was going to school when it suddenly lost control near the crematorium on the Kailia bypass and hit an electricity pole. The van driver and school children were injured. With the help of passersby the injured were sent to a hospital on ambulance. There were 18 children in the van. Seriously injured driver Ashish of Deogaon, Jhansi and Atharv were sent to Gwalior while five other children, were referred to the district hospital. ADM Atul Kumar, CO Ram Singh along

were referred to Jhansi. A

Maxximo van carrying chil-



with force rushed to the spot. DM Rajesh Kumar Pandey and SSP Dr Iraj Raja also reached there. It was informed that the van driver allegedly with earphone plugged in suddenly drove the vehicle to the wrong side and failed to notice the electricity pole. The injured included the van driver Áshish (25) of Deogaon, Atharv (7), Vicky (17), Somia (10), Sonu (8), and Suryansh (7), Manvi (9), Madhay, Anirudh (12), Sauhil, Tanish (6), Gajraj (6), Ritesh (13), Kartik (14), Shivam (14), and Anshul Kumar (13) of Hinguta. FIRE: A furniture shop

caught fire under mysterious

circumstances in Ompurwa

700 woollen blankets distributed

police station on Tuesday night. In the incident entire furniture goods were gutted. Two fire tenders rushed to the spot and controlled the fire. BJP leader Salim Ahmad runs his shop by the name of Chaudhary Furniture in Ompurwa. On Tuesday night fire broke out on its roof under

locality under the Chakeri

mysterious circumstances which gutted the entire furniture goods stored there. On seeing the fire residents informed the fire brigade. Two fire tenders rushed to the spot and took around half-an-hour to extinguish the flames. Jajmau FSO Rahul Nandan said the cause of incident could not be ascertained. However, the fire was controlled timely, he said

TAEKWONDO CHAM-PIONSHIP: Vishal Yadav, a class XII student of DD Vidya Niketan Education Centre, Chakeri, will represent the city in under 78 kg weight category in the CBSE national taekwondo championship to be organised at Gagan Public School, Sector 50, Greater Noida, from November 23 to 26. Vishal had qualified for the national championship after winning gold medal in the CBSE East Zone Taekwondo Championship held here at the Sunbeam School from October 25 to 28. School manager Mohan Tewari, Shubham Tewari, Principal Renu Srivastava, sports coach Satyendra Yadav, Rajesh Mishra, Sulochana Yadav, Swati, Shivani and Pallavi congratulated Vishal for his selection in the national championship.

BHU registers 312 international students grammes and 112 for post-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $B_{\rm (BHU)}^{\rm anaras\ Hindu\ University}\ has\ registered\ a$ total of 312 international students for the academic session 2023-24 proving that it is among the most preferred Indian institutions of international students seeking higher education. This is for the first time international admissions in BHU have crossed the 300 mark. With this the number of international students currently enrolled in the university has reached 734 (from 49 countries), also an all-time high.

Of the new admissions, a total of 172 students have enrolled in undergraduate pro- total, students from 30 countries

graduate courses, while 16 students are enrolled in Ph.D. programmes of the university. As many as 12 students have taken admission in certificate or diploma courses. Among the fresh entrants 253 are in the selffinanced category, while 49 are ICCR sponsored candidates. 4 students have secured admission through EdCIL, while 6 have been facilitated by the study in India programme. The highest number of new entrants is from Nepal with 155 students enrolling in various programmes. 85 students from Bangladesh, 11 from Sri Lanka and 10 from Myanmar have made their way to BHU. In

have enrolled in different courses at the university. The spike in these enrollments is a result of the varsity's efforts to attract more international students. V-C Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain said that BHU has been laying a greater focus on enhancing student amenities on campus. "We have been able to significantly increase the hostel accommodation for international students. Scholarship for international students is also helping in BHU's international outreach, said Prof Jain. At present, the BHU offers accommodation to nearly 600 international students. The under construction new international girls hostel will offer an additional capacity of 400. The

university has also made the admission process for international students hassle free. Its International Centre is constantly endeavouring to respond to the queries and address the challenges faced by applicants as well as students. Prof SVS Raju, Coordinator, International Centre, informed that this year the varsity has entered into an understanding with EdCIL and SII initiatives of the Government of India. This is facilitating a greater participation from foreign nationals in the admission process of BHU. The New Education Policy 2020 puts a greater emphasis on internationalisation of Indian institutions of higher education.

Camp held PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The 95 Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Wednesday organised yoga and ayurveda camp at its head office in Pahadia Mandi here under the guidance of its Commandant Anil Kumar Briksh. A team of doctors examined the health of CRPF personnel and informed them about the mysterious fever spreading in the current season and the damage caused by it. The personnel were also advised about diet and medicines were distributed among them. Commandant of Battalion, Briksh said that we should adopt avurveda and yoga to cure all the disorders of the body.

The Shubham Goldiee Masale Pvt Ltd distributed 700 woollen blankets to the inmates of Kanpur Jail. The function was graced by Director Sudip Goenka along with Shubham Gupta. Jail Superintendent Dr BD Pandey while addressing the function informed that the woollen blankets which had been distributed by the Goldiee Masale Pvt Ltd were of very good quality and will greatly benefit the jail inmates in the cold weather. He said these blankets were being distributed as per the requirements of the jail inmates.



The Shubham Goldiee Masale Pvt Ltd distributed 700 woollen blankets to th inmates of Kanpur Jail

He praised the philannoble deed and thanked them. thropy of the organisation Jailer Anil Kumar Pandey, and handed over a certificate of commendation for their officials were present.

Rajesh Kumar and other jail

Target to organise marriage of 1,500 couples in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

A target to get marriage of A1,500 couples during manglik muhurat, has been set in Varanasi under Chief Minister Mass Marriage Scheme. The Social Welfare department has so far received a total of 419 applications for marriage under this scheme. The District Social Welfare Officer GR Prajapati informed that a target to get marriage of 1,500 couples has been set in Varanasi in the financial year of 2023-2024 under the Chief Minister Mass

marriage under this scheme as the state government will bear all the expenditures of marriage and also make available the household items to the couple, he informed. The department is making preparation to hold a programme for mass marriage at vast level as the government aims to benefit the helpless, poor and needy girls under the scheme, he informed, adding that unmarried, widow and divorcee could also take advantage of the scheme.

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Short Term E-Tender Eng. No.7487/P-3/EMP-12490 dated 17-11-23. Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP invites E-Tender ID No.2023_POWER_112807_1 for Roopnagar Procurement of MS Pipe sizes 200NB, 250NB & 300NB for Dry Fly Ash handling System installed at GGSTP Ropar. detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 21-11-23/ 4.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online a https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-138/23

76155/12/2425/2023/29968 Dated CHD :- 11/22/2023



300 prisoners trained in silk weaving

Marriage Scheme. The bride PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI and groom can apply online for

> As many as 300 prisoners of Varanasi jail became proficient in silk dyeing and weaving and certificates were distributed among trained prisoners under Samarth Scheme of the Union Textiles Ministry at a function held at Shivpur Central Jail here on Tuesday. The skill development training in silk weaving for jail inmates was given by the Central Silk Board with the objective of social reform, rehabilitation of

jail inmates, dignified livelihood opportunities in jail premises and income generation and pursuing entrepre-neurship after completion of sentence period. After achieving proficiency in the silk dyeing and weaving, certificates were distributed. In this programme, Kumar Nityanand, Deputy Secretary (Samarth), Ministry of Textiles, Radha Krishna Mishra, Senior Superintendent, Central Jail, Varanasi, Subedar Yadav, Jailer, Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Deputy Director, Bunkar Seva Kendra, Nagendra Ram, Assistant Director (Sericulture), Dr Siddiqui Ali Ahmed, Senior

ditional sectors of handloom handicrafts, sericulture and jute. Central Silk Board is a regional organisation under the Ministry of Textiles that conducts skill development training in the silk sector across the country. As an innovative initiative, Central Silk Board is conducting skill development training in silk weaving and dyeing for the jail inmates of Central Jail, Varanasi. Radha Krishna Mishra requested the Central Silk Board, Bunkar

Seva Kendra and Ministry of Textiles to provide assistance in developing mulberry silk pro-duction farms, common facility centres with advanced handlooms and marketing outlets for the products produced by trained jail inmates. HANDBALL TOURNEY In a remarkable victory, the

Varanasi Division beat Ayodhya Division in the final of State Level Junior Handball Tournament and clinched the champion trophy after a gap of two decades. In the final played in the sports ground of Purvanchal University, Jaunpur on Wednesday, the junior girls handball team of Varanasi Division emerged victorious, beating the team of Ayodhya Division 23-16 and became the UP Champion after 20 years in junior girls handball. Naina Yadav, Suman Yadav and Reshma Yadav scored 8, 7 and 3 goals respectively for their team of Varanasi Division, while Aradhana Tripathi made 8 goals for her team of Ayodhya Division. As many as 10 players of the winning team are the students of Vikas Inter College of Varanasi. Satakashi Patel was captain of winning team and other players were Reshma Yadav, Preeti Yadav, Naina Yadav, Shivangi Pandey, S Yadav, Kajal Patel, Komal, Suramya Pathak, Roshani Bharati, Niharika Thakur and Suman Yadav.

CBSE workshop on accountancy for teachers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Sir Padampat Singhania

L Education Centre conducted a two-day CBSE workshop on accountancy for the senior secondary teachers of various schools. It began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp seeking the blessings of the Almighty, followed by a welcome song sung by the school choir. It fostered a dynamic learning environment, equipping educators with valuable insights and tools to enhance their institutional approach in the class.

Tailored for teachers, this session employed quizzes, questionnaire and interactive activities to delve into subject

gained a deeper understanding

of accounting principles and effective teaching strategies. The sessions facilitated a vibrant exchange of ideas, fostering a collaborative environ-

chapters and participants ment aimed at enhancing the quality of accountancy education for teachers.

> Several teachers teaching Commerce in senior classes attended it. Principal Bhawna Gupta expressed gratitude to

of one's bone. She said test

helped one's health care

provider detect osteoporosis or

bone loss and predicted one's

Jyoti Trivedi informed that as

per research reports 61 million

people in India had osteo-

porosis and out of these 80 per

cent were women. She said as

per research report out of the

4,11,744 patients identified

with disorders of bone and

mineral metabolism, 2,13,760

(52 per cent) had nutritional bone disease, 1,77,200 (43 per cent) had endemic skeletal flu-

orosis and 20,784 (5 per cent)

had metabolic bone disease and

in 41 patients (0.19 per cent)

the bone disease was rare, mixed or unidentified. She said

Addressing the session Dr

risk for bone fractures.

resource persons for their guid ance in accountancy. City CBSE coordinator Balwinder Singh delved deep into the subject. He said each educator must take up a compassionate role for students and quest of learning should not stop.

CBSE accounts workshop proved to be a success bringing together educators and experts to be exposed to innovative teaching methodologies and curriculum updates. Tarun Rupani, Principal, Dr Amrit Lal Ishrat Memorial Sunbeam School, Chaubeypur, Varanasi, and Jyoti Bansal, PGT Commerce, Mariampur Sr. Secondary School, Kanpur were the resource persons for the same.

Ortho & BMD camp inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 📕 KANPUR

reneral Manager of Gordnance Parachute Factory (OPF), MC Balasubramaniam while inaugurating an ortho and bone mineral density (BMD) camp in the premises said it is highly essential for every person to remain healthy. He emphasised on adopting a healthy lifestyle and said it is the bounden duty of every individual to keep physical and mentally fit so that one can be

positive and constructive. The subject expert was Dr Tarnima Saha, Chief Medical Officer, Combined Hospital, who said bony skeleton of a body provided support, pro-tection and mobility for the body and constituted a major body and constituted a major storage site for calcium and phosphorus. She said bone health is intrinsically linked to calcium and phosphorus metabolism. She said skeleton is also a storehouse for calcium and phosphorus essential for functioning of other body systems. She said maintenance of a constant level of calcium in the blood as well as an adequate types of minerals are in an area



supply of calcium and phosphorus in cells was critical for the function of all body organs, but particularly for nerves and muscle. Dr Saha said bone

health is difficult to maintain as skeleton is simultaneously serving two different functions that were in competition with each other. She said first bone must be responsive to changes in mechanical loading or weight bearing, both of which required strong bones that had ample supplies of calcium and phosphorus. She said bones weaken if they were not subjected to adequate amounts of loading and weight bearing for sufficient periods of time. She said a BMD test measured how much calcium and other

if one had osteoporosis medical treatment can prevent further bone loss and reduce risk of bone fractures. She said treatment options for osteoporosis included dietary changes, exercise, lifestyle changes, falls prevention, supplements and medications. Dr Trivedi said there are several reasons why women are more prone to suffering from osteoporosis than men. She said women had smaller and thinner bones compared to men. She said oestrogen, a hormone in women which protects bones, starts decreasing rapidly with the onset of menopause, causing bone loss. She said for this reason a slip or a fall led to fracture in women. She advised dark green leafy vegetables such as collard greens, spinach, mustard greens, turnip greens and brussel sprouts. She said calcium and vitamin D are sometimes added to certain brands of juices, breakfast foods, soy milk, rice milk, cereals, snacks and breads. Prominent among those present were Vivek Gupta, KS Charak, Ram Gyan Singh, KK Toppo, Roopesh Kumar and

Amar Deep Kumar.

state 05



link for growth: Vaishnav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav flagged off a new train service from Mau to Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) through video conferencing on Wednesday. The inauguration train only went up to Prayagraj Jn from Mau. Addressing the function, Vaishnav extended best wishes for Chhath Puja and congratulated the residents of Mau region on the launch of the inaugural Mau-LTT train service. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi considers Railways as a major link in the development of the country.

"Railways are being transformed and 100 per cent electrification of railways has been done in Uttar Pradesh. Railway infrastructure is being strengthened. For this, special attention has been given to investment in Railways, as a result of which new facilities are being provided and employment opportunities are being increased," he said. The Railway Minister said that UP is a huge state which is important from every point of view and keeping this in mind, an allocation of Rs 17,507 crore was made in the Budget for the expansion and development of railway infrastructure in UP in the year 2023-24, which is 16 times more than the average Budget allocation of the Rs 1,109 crore during 2009-14.

"At present, railway projects worth Rs 98,000 crore are going on in UP. Keeping in



Railway Minister flagging off Mau-LTT Weekly through a virtual medium (inset) while UP Ministers AK Sharma and Anil Rajbhar present at Mau on Wednesday

of redevelopment of 156 stations is being done, in which Mau Jn station is also included. These stations are being made world class," he said, adding that the PM had laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 stations. "The design for redevelopment of the station has been prepared," he said, adding that the PM has released the 'One Station One Product' scheme, through which, along with providing employment to weavers, crafts-men etc by providing stalls at the stations, their products are

being recognized globally. Addressing the function in Mau, UP Minister of Urban view the traffic needs of the Development Arvind Kumar next 50 years in the state, work Sharma expressed gratitude to

the PM and Railway Minister to Mumbai. This train is also for this new train. He said that very useful from the point of the PM is of the opinion that view of weavers and farmers. This train will be very benefi-Railways is the carrier of India's cial in sending clothes as well as agricultural products from economy and at this time Railways is being given a new height. "This new train is a here to Mumbai," he said. direct proof of this. At present the safety record in the General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) Soumya Mathur welcomed the Railways is quite good. Today, guests. UP Labour Minister the gift of a new train to the people of Purvanchal (eastern

Anil Rajbhar. MLC Yashwant, Divisional Railway Manager UP) by the Railway Ministry has fulfilled a big demand of the people, he said, adding that earlier, people here faced a lot (Varanasi) Vineet Kumar Srivastava and many senior leaders and administrative offiof problems in going to cers of Mau and NER were also Mumbai and now direct train present

Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj facility has become available. "Mau's textile industry is quite famous in the country. 50 per Kumar Singh conducted the cent of the sarees made here go function.

PM considers Railways as major | Fewer cases of dengue this year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Fewer dengue cases have been reported this year in comparison to last year. Records of the district health department revealed that, "This year, the Sangam city registered 467 confirmed dengue cases (From June 1 to till date) compared to previous year (824 cases from June 1 to November 18). Moreover, there was no particular hotspot for dengue in the city this year while number of hotspot in previous year stood 13.

Ironically, the graph of dengue cases was more in city's posh and semi-urban areas compared to trans-Ganga and trans- Vomune, mockets trans Yamuna pockets. Statistics claimed, "In 2022, city recorded a total of 1,465 confirmed dengue cases while the figure in 2021 was 1,299". Officials of the Health department claimed that this year saw more cases of viral infections compared to dengue or chikangunia. Data also claimed that prevalence of dengue infection among men was higher than in women in city. District Malaria Officer (Prayagraj) AK Singh told the media, "The depart-

ment has recorded 467 dengue

November 18 this year". The data of dengue patients has been analysed to check which age group and gender is more susceptible to dengue fever and viral infection. The highest number of cases was from the 12-45 years age group with over 300 cases. Areas which reported dengue cases on frequent intervals included Mundera, Naini, Bamrauli, Shantipuram, Jhunsi, Civil Lines, Phaphamau, Rajapur, Preetamnagar, Katra. Kalindipuram and Teliyarganj. Moreover, most of the chikungunya cases were reported in

three pockets of city west areas. IN V E S T I G A T I O N ORDERED: Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak has taken cognizance of the case of death of a newborn due to 'negligence' of doctor and health workers of Baghrai CHC in Pratapgarh. He has formed a team, ordered an investigation and asked the committee to submit its report in two weeks. Pathak said the culprits will not be spared and action will be taken against them. Pragya, wife of Amit Tiwari, of Barau village under Baghrai police station area was admitted to the

cases between June 1 and Baghrai CHC on the night of November 8 due to labour pain. The family alleged that staff nurse conducted the delivery negligently and the condition of the newborn deteriorated. She was referred to Prayagraj allegedly without first aid and the child died during treatment. Amit alleged that the CHC nurse even got the delivery kit and stitches from the market. The victim had sent a com-

plaint to the chief minister along with the Health department officials demanding action. Taking cognizance of this, Deputy CM Brijesh Pathak has ordered the CMO to form a team to investigate it. After receiving the report of the committee, strict action will be taken against any medical officer or employee found negligent. It has been said that if necessary action will be taken at the government level also.

ALLEGATION: A game of making fake medical reports is allegedly going on in Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital. A complaint has also been made to the district magistrate who has sent a letter to the CMO directing him to investigate the matter and take action.

The CMO has also written a letter to the CMS of Beli Hospital.

Nirmala Devi of Kirav village under Mauaima police station area complained that she is having a land dispute with Aarti Devi of her village. Aarti suffered an accidental injury on October 31. On this basis she reached Mauaima police station. It is alleged that without referral to CHC she went to Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital and wrongly got a fake report made there. She is threatening to file a fake case. Besides Uday Singh Yadav of Baji village of Mauaima complained that an Electricity department employee has filed a fake case against him even though there was no assault on him. By making a fake injury report, this case has been registered at the Colonelganj police station. The DM has ordered the

CMO to conduct an investigation. Uday said this case has been registered by making a 'fake' injury report from the Beli Hospital.

CMÔ Dr Ashu Pandey said investigation into the entire matter is being carried

Gangsters Act invoked against history-sheeter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

The Naini police invoked Gangsters Act against history-sheeter Mohd Javed alias Pappu Ganjia who was also a member of Atiq Ahmed gang. Action has also been taken against Ajmal of Kareli. Pappu Ganjia was arrested by the STF from Ajmer a few months ago and is currently in

A total of 42 cases are registered against Pappu of Ganjia locality, Naini. He was absconding for a long time in a case of extortion demand registered at the Naini police station in June last year.

The police were busy searching for him. In August the STF arrested him from

Ajmer.

inspector Yashpal Singh said along with Pappu Ganjia, action has also been taken against Ajmal. He is originally Cases are registered against from Kaushambi but current

him under serious sections in ly lives in Kareli. INAUGURATED: A new many police stations, including Ghurpur, Kotwali and add-on course 'Certificate Dhoomanganj. His house was course on environmental studattached just two months ies' was inaugurated at SS before his arrest. In 2020 his Khanna Girls' Degree College luxurious farm house located in for undergraduate students. Dr Sippy Singh, Dr Anuradha Singh, Dr Shabnam Parveen, Ganjia was demolished. Pappu Ganjia also allegedly grabbed a large amount of land in Naini. Dr Sarita Agrawal and Dr All the plotting that took place Durgesh Singh are the course in Naini was done in his name coordinators. The programme and his henchmen made away was inaugurated by Professor with crores of rupees. He has SI Rizvi, Dean Research Development, University of

Allahabad. The 'Saraswati vandana' was presented by Arya Pandey, PG student of Zoology department.

Principal Prof Lalima Singh welcomed the distin-guished guests. Dr Shabnam Parveen introduced the speaker. The chief guest highlighted the importance of environmental studies and elaborated on the importance of every organism, ecosystem and circadian rhythms .

The programme was conducted by Dr Sippy Singh and the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Anuradha Singh. All the members of Science faculty were present.

PM's dream is to eliminate poverty from India: Anil Rajbhar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh's Labour and Employment Minister Anil Rajbhar said that the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to eliminate poverty from India as the PM has resolved to make the country self-reliant and a developed nation by 2047. Rajbhar was speaking after inaugurating the 'Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra' in Varanasi district by lighting the lamp in Amarpatti Gram Panchavat building under Chiraigaon block here on Wednesday. The Minister also administered oaths to the people to make India a developed nation by 2047 and to fulfill the dreams of the PM. Thereafter, he flagged off the IEC campaign vehicle. Highlighting the objective of the yatra, he said that this yatra will reach every gram panchayat. Referring to the PM's 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' ideals, he said that everyone's efforts should lead to development of all. "This yatra will reach every gram sabha, locality and wards of the entire district and the officers will go door-to-door there apart from listening to the problems of the common people and ensuring the solution on the spot," he said, adding that in the coming



Healthy baby show held at Cholapur CHC

VARANASI (PNS): A total of their babies in the 'Healthy Baby Show' organised at

we are taking care of our child, whether the child was fed 21 parents of children up to one year of age participated with whether the child was fed mother's milk within an hour of birth or not and what should be fed to the child to keep him Cholapur Community Health healthy. CHC Superintendent Centre (CHC) on Tuesday. Dr RB Yaday. Additional

also been a corporator. Naini

objective of organising the to lay the foundation for a well-'Healthy Baby Show' is to make people aware and encourage year of age about health standards. "This is an effort to about giving balanced and reduce the infant mortality nutritious rate," he said, adding that the first 1.000 days of nutrition is very important because malnutrition has the greatest impact on the child in the womb and the first two years of his life. After this, it becomes difficult to remove malnutrition even if efforts are made. The period from conception to the first two years of life, that is the first 1,000 days of life, is very important from the nutritional point of view because this period provides a golden opportunity

nourished future of children," he said, adding that for this, it diet to pregnant women and children. Deputy CMO Dr HC Maurya said that under the Newborn Care Week, public awareness programmes were held at community and primary health centres in which information was given to the parents about the weight of children depending on their age, vaccination, colostrum feeding (mother's first thick yellow milk), exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months, additional supplementary food after six months.

third economy of the world and self-reliant with the efforts of everyone Áccording to Rajbhar, the

PM will also come to participate in the yatra in his Varanasi parliamentary constituency. He appealed to the officers/ employees to implement this entire programme as per the intention of the government. He also requested the villagers that when officers go to their villages, they should inform them about the problems so that their issues can be resolved.

Apart from gram panchayat Amarpatti, the yatra also reached Allopur of Chiraigaon block, Jagatpur of Arajiline, Shahababad, Aladdinpur and years, India will become the Korota of Kashi Vidyapeeth,

Chorkala and Chitrasenpur of Sewapuri and Gadkhada and Jathi of Pindra block along with some urban areas during the

UP Minister Anil Rajbhar flagging off IEC van of Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Varanasi on Wednesday.

day. A grand programme was organised at a total of 12 places, including two primary schools in Ganeshpur. A total of six vans including one for urban areas and five for rural areas are being operated in Varanasi district. Every day, each van will go to two wards in urban areas and two gram sabhas in rural areas

The Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra is being organised from November 15 to January 26 next year to increase awareness through outreach activities for the saturation of public welfare schemes of the government.

The objectives of the yatra are to ensure carrying the benefits of major schemes to the deprived and dissatisfied people in a timely manner, to spread the benefits of the schemes to the deprived by making the general public aware through sharing the personal stories/experiences of the beneficiaries apart from collecting information, nomination/selection of potential beneficiaries from the details obtained during the visit and providing basic facilities like sanitation facilities, essential financing services, LPG connections, housing for the poor, food security, proper nutri-tion, reliable health facilities, clean drinking water, quality education etc.

Among the participating children, Pratima's daughter Deepti (14 months) stood first and was declared the healthiest child. Sonali's son Rudra (nine months) and Sunita's daughter Shweta (one year) got the second and third prizes respectively. Apart from this, mothers and fathers of other children also looked very happy to participate in the competition. Deepti's mother Pratima said that during the competition an attempt was made to know how

Research Officer RK Srivastava and Health Education Officer Shikha Srivastava encouraged the parents of all the children. They also gave necessary advice for special care and along with this, a public awareness seminar was also organised in which staff nurse, ANMs, ASHA workers and divisional coordinator of Nutrition International (NI) Aparajita Singh were also present. Chief Medical Officer Sandeep (CMO) Dr Chaudhary said that the main

Minister conducts inspection

CORRESPONDENT MIRZAPUR

Uttar Pradesh Minister of Industrial Development and minister incharge of the district Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' on Tuesday inspected hospital, school, Anganwadi centre and other works under Pahadi block

crepancy in registers related to medicines as well as other items. He directed the CMO to suspend the two pharmacists posted at the hospital and ini-



UP Minister of Industrial Development and minister incharge of the district Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' inspecting Padari PHC on Tuesday

ceeded in nabbing the accused

of Darwan village under

Rajgarh police station and sent

police arrested an accused of

raping a minor girl on Tuesday.

After a named FIR was lodged

by one person on November 20

alleging that the accused had enticed his minor daughter

away. After registering the case

the police started the investiga-

tion. The police sent the accused of Gobaraha village

under Chilh police station to

raping a minor girl on Tuesday.

A women had lodged a case on

November 7 against unknown

person that her minor daugh-

Besides the Dehat Kotwali

Meanwhile the Chilh

him to jail.

iail

POCSO Act, the police sucment. The minister patted Dr Anand Kumar on the back for keeping the campus clean. The minister inspected the cow

cient. ARRESTED: The Rajgarh, Chilh and Dehat Kotwali police arrested three accused of rape on Tuesday. The Rajgarh police arrested an accused of raping a minor girl on Tuesday. One person had lodged a named FIR on October 17 alleging that the accused had enticed his minor daughter away. After registering the case the police started the investigation. Taking action under relevant sections of IPC, including the

was registered and the investigation was started. The accused was identified but it was also revealed that the minor girl was raped. Taking action under the relevant sections, including POCSO Act, the police arrested the accused belonging to Jasovar village under Dehat Kotwali police station and sent him to jail.

SÚSPENDED: SP Abhinandan suspended head clerk of Padari police station Sachin Kumar Rai with immediate effect on Tuesday. He was found lax in duty and allegedly involved in vitiating the atmosphere of the police station. After issuing the suspension order the SP has appointed the inquiry officer to look into it

PROGRAMMES HELD: Programmes were held in 14 villages of seven blocks under Viksit Bharat Sanklp Yatra on Tuesday. In some villages villagers were so enthusiastic that the yatra was not only accorded warm reception but concluded with cultural programmes. Even the women came forward to tell their success stories as Manju Devi of Chhanbey block thanked the government that under Uiiwala scheme she was facilitated with fuel gas connection.

police arrested an accused of Shamsuddin of village Duhaua under City block said the house provided to him by the government was proving ter was enticed away. A case helpful.

Make every booth strong: BJP

VARANASI (PNS): State general secretary (organisation) of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Dharampal asked the party office-bearers to make every booth strong for success on all Lok Sabha seats in the state and in this direction, the contribution of every public representative and party's office-bearer and worker needed for Mission 2024. He was addressing a joint meeting of BJP of Kashi and Goraksh (Gorakhpur) regions at Seth MR Jaipuria

School in Azamgarh on Tuesday. Addressing the meeting as the chief guest, Dharampal first reviewed the district-wise programmes conducted so far regarding Voter Chetna Abhiyan, which will be run from November 25 to December 3. For this purpose, preparations for the campaign have to be completed by Thursday by holding meetings at the district, assembly constituency and Shakti Kendra level. After this, a doorto-door contact campaign is to be conducted, he said, adding



BJP leader Dharampal addressing a joint meeting of Kashi and Goraksh regions at Azamgarh on Tuesday.

that on November 26, party

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' at the booth level and then they will inspect the voter lists at outside counters of the booths. "As per the intention of the

party leadership, the voter awareness campaign will be run group wise and to make the world's most popular leader Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country for the third consecutive time, the strength of BJP at every booth is necessary," he said, adding that in such a situation, every public representative, officebearer and worker of BJP need

workers will first listen to



the experience of the last assembly elections, he said that irregularities in the voter list came to light at every booth. Therefore, there is a need to be alert from now on to ensure that irregularities are not repeated in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he said. State BJP vice-president

and in-charge of the campaign MLC Manvendra Singh, while speaking as the special guest, called for everyone to work diligently to make the campaign a success. Regional president of Goraksh Region Sahajanand Rai welcomed the participants. While expressing his gratitude to everyone, regional president (Kashi Region) Dilip Patel informed about the progress of the campaign and said that a target has been set to create at least 10,000 new voters in every assembly constituency. "The team of the region and the district is fully engaged in achieving this target at any cost," he said.

Regional general secretary Sunil Gupta conducted the meeting. According to Navratan Rathi, media incharge of Kashi region, in this very important meeting, the MPs, MLAs, MLCs, party office-bearers of Kashi and Goraksh regions were present in the meeting apart from members of the working committee, state office-bearers, district heads, district in-charges and many others. Among those who were present were former BJP state president and MP Dr Ramapati Ram Tripathi, state general secretary and in-charge of Kashi Region Amarpal Maurya, MLC Ashwani Tyagi state secretaries Shankar Giri and Meena Choubey, UP ministers Anil Rajbhar and Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh, MLC Dharmendra Singh Ashok Chaurasia, Sushil Tripathi, Santosh Patel, Nagendra Raghuvanshi Amarnath Yadav, Sant Baksh Singh, Nandji Pandey, Saroj Kushwaha, Kaushalendra Patel and Rakesh Trivedi.

tiate departmental action. The CMO was asked to ensure that the records are updated and crystal clear, especially related

At Ayurvedic Hospital Bharpura the minister became aware of the facilities being provided to the patients, interacted with them and issued necessary directions. At Bharpura primary school the minister examined the standard of teaching through the students and tasted the mid-day meal. The minister asked questions related to the course but the students failed to respond satisfactorily. The teachers were warned to improve the standard of teaching. The minister inspected the Anganwadi centre too and directed the BEO to make the campus of school and Anganwadi centre safe from monkeys. He inspected the Atal play ground, Bhagat Singh Shaheed Udyan and waste disposal centre too. During the inspection of Padari PHC the minister found dis-

to medicines and other equip-

shelter centre located at Sindhora Ghat and the caretaker was taken to task for not keeping the campus clean. He found stock of fodder suffi-

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A true leader

The G20 leaders' virtual summit was all about assessing Delhi Declaration commitments

or the first time since September 9-10, when India hosted and presided over the hugely successful 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi, it was time for the top global leaders to interact once again with one another. The decision to host the virtual summit was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 10, aiming to coincide it with the conclusion of India's G20 presidency on November 22 before Brazil formally takes over the grouping's presidentship for one year. Invitations were extended to leaders from all G20 member countries, the Chair of the African Union, nine guest countries and heads of 11 international organisations. Modi presided over the virtual summit, whose primary objectives were to address critical issues, assess outcomes and evaluate developments since the Delhi Declaration. Substantial progress had been achieved on key priorities and outcomes following the G20 leaders' summit in September. Noteworthy accomplishments included a consensus on tripling global renewable ener-



gy capacity and doubling the global rate of energy efficiency improvement, both by 2030. The commitment to these goals, announced for the first time during the Delhi Summit, is anticipated to be a key outcome of COP28. In a joint statement on November 14, the US and China expressed full support for the G20 leaders' declaration to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030. Both nations also agreed to undertake five significant Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) projects, contributing to the reduction of CO2 emissions from sources such as power plants and industrial sites.

India's G20 presidency successfully advocated for the

Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), securing a commitment of \$44.5 million. Furthermore, initiatives based on G20 AI Principles, UNESCO's Ethical AI Guidelines and India's "AI for AII" Principle are ongoing, led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The Independent Expert Group on Strengthening of MDBs submitted Volume 2 of its report, which was welcomed by G20 Finance Ministers in October. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) proposed a quota increase to the Board of Governors on November 7, and progress is underway on an action plan for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2023 G20 New Delhi Update, a comprehensive report on progress toward SDGs and India's contributions, was finalised on November 13. Efforts to promote the Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE) and advance women's leadership through a mentorship platform were also highlighted. A significant accomplishment during India's G20 presidency was the launch of TechEquity, a digital inclusion platform for women. This platform aims to bridge the gender digital divide by providing self-learning courses on digital literacy, financial literacy, tech skill development and core skill enhancement from the G20 and guest countries. Lauded as it is as a global influencer, India has concluded its G20 presidency with an impactful bang!

PICTALK



The cornerstone of all relationships



nion 06

Whether lying gets you to hell or not, the truth is that credibility is the foundations of all relationships which must be protected at all costs

he essence of life is credibility. There is a story from the Mahabharata where there was an announcement in the battle to the effect of "Ashwatthama Hatow' (Ashwatthama is dead). The play on the name Ashwatthama was intended. There was an elephant by the name of Ashwatthama, and the name of the son of Dronacharya was Ashwatthama. Therefore, it was not clear from the announcement who died: was it the man or the elephant? In the middle of the battle, Dronacharya heard this announcement and is reported to have opined, Let Yudhishthira say this.

The essence was simple: Yudhishthira being the 'truthful' man, was expected not to not lie on this. When evoked by the Dronacharya, Yudhishthira said in a loud voice, "Ashwatthama Hatow: ha Iti, Naro va Kunjaro va naiw Janamee" (Ashwatthama is dead, whether it is a man or an elephant, I can't say). Shri Krishna knew that Yudhishthira was going to say this. To fool Dronacharya, strategically, as soon as Yudhishthira said Narova... he blew his conch. In the sound of the conch, the rest of the sentence of Yudhishthira could not be heard. The negation of Yudhishthira added that he did not know whether Ashwatthama, declared dead, was a man or an elephant. That is another story. Just to complete it, Dronacharya closed his eyes to see with his far sight whether Ashwatthama, his son, had died. Then, Krishna prompted Arjun to shower arrows on Dronacharya to kill him.

The story brings out very effectively, the power of credibility. That the story had its twists and turns is another matter. More to the focus of this write-up, the emphasis on credibility remains an important part of one's personality. Whether lying gets you and more difficult to acquire to hell or purgatory according to Christian philosophy or hell according to Hindu philosophy is a separate point. The truth is that trust and credibility are the foundations of all relationships. Be it a husband-wife relationship, a father-child relationship, a lies is denial. He responds



relationship between friends, and more, the point remains. If there is no trust, there is no relationship. Unfortunately, not enough attention is paid to this aspect of character building in the formative years of a child's life, or, for that matter, even the life of a teenager or pre-adulthood.

No reference is made to the adult stage because it is presumed that personality is fully formed by the time one reaches adulthood. Be that as it may. Like many aspects of life, the value of credibility and trustworthiness is what one inherits from the values of the environment in which one grows up. In the latter years of one's life, credibility becomes progressively more critical (as one walks through the corridors of life), if one does not have it already. One of the most common responses of a person who does not believe in trustworthiness in a situation where he

did, so what?" This is a tricky question to answer. It is tricky because it strikes at the foundation of relationships. It's trivial, if, in any case, one does not value one's word.

That such an attitude could shake the foundation of any relationship is a matter of grave enough. But many people do not consider it so. The long and short of this is that ONE OF THE it is difficult to carry on any social relationships without **CRITICAL THINGS** credibility. As one observes, **ONE OFTEN MISSES** "Even the thieves do not like each other, because if they did, IS THE CENTRALITY the whole 'profession of theft' would be in jeopardy! So be OF THE PRACTICE it, but as the actual relation-OF CREDIBILITY OR ship with one's life with oneself goes, it's difficult to change INTEGRITY. THIS habits.

Something is missing in the ous attention. Society needs SHOULD BE AN

with an elan: "I said what I this, no one would disagree. However, it is rarely seen as a deliberate or conscious outcome choice of education.

This matter needs thought. It

needs to be thought out because anyone who is not credible can hardly be considered 'educated'. He could be very knowledgeable; he could be very successful, but certainly not educated! It would be akin to attempting to write a play named "Hamlet" without the Prince of Denmark. How can one be educated without being trustworthy? There is no easy answer to this dilemma. In effect, there are no easy answers to most of the serious dilemmas of life. They are left to be handled by personal choices. Difficult as it may be the matter needs seri-

education system where we sound individuals with sound

EDUCATION

OUTCOME OF talk about many things but, also, miss many things. One of the critical things one often misses is the centrality of the practice of credibility or integrity. This should be an outcome of education. To

values, to have a sound society. This may be a no-choice situation.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

Participant of the 'longest moustache' competition during the annual Pushkar Fair, in Pushkar

Transformative approach to upskilling youth



MANAV SUBODH

By embracing transformative approach to upskilling youth, we can ensure that they not only thrive but also lead us toward a more sustainable future

n a world marked by rapid evolution and constant change, it is imperative to recognise the significance of preparing our youth for the future. With over 1.8 billion individuals aged between 10 and 24, as highlighted by the United Nations, the potential of this demographic to drive progress and transformation is immense. But it is equally important to acknowledge the challenges they face in a job market that is constantly in flux.

The statistics are revealing: in 92 countries, nearly three out of four young people aged 15-24 lack the emerging skills needed for employment, as per estimates by the Education Commission and UNICEF. This challenge is particularly pronounced in developing countries where access to education and resources can be limited. This glaring disparity underscores the urgency of providing our youth with skills that are not only relevant but also adaptable, transcending borders and empowering. Let's consider India, a nation with a vast talent pool in the information and technology sector. India has the potential to



become a hub of technology and innovation, expanding beyond its role as one of the biggest IT exporters globally. However, it is imperative to transition from merely acquiring new skills to creating well-rounded individuals with the capacity to address social issues.

Changemakers Mindset: Fostering a Changemakers Reality (AR), and Virtual mindset leveraging entrepre-Reality (VR). neurial thinking and problem The focus should shift to a solving is essential to equip holistic, interdisciplinary eduthe next generation for the cation, preparing youth for a 21st century's challenges and tech-centric future in various opportunities. Global leadersectors even in traditionally ship programs and initiatives non-technical fields like medicine or psychology. offer a unique platform to Beyond the Classroom: instill this mindset in young students. By immersing them Learning extends beyond the in a curriculum that emphaconfines of a traditional classroom. Students acquire sises on innovation and entrepreneurial thinking around knowledge and skills through some real life challenges, we experiential opportunities, can prepare students to excel such as engaging in projects in the 4th Industrial centred around environmen-Revolution. Programs aligned tal sustainability, social justice, with the United Nations and community involvement. Sustainable Development Empowering Youth: Invol-

Goals provide students with ving youth in shaping their own education is crucial. a sense of purpose and Instead of imposing a strict, responsibility, reinforcing the importance of changemaking in creating a more sustainable top-down approach, a more flexible, bottom-up method is and socially conscious future. desirable. This means listen-Nurturing Digital Skills: ing to the ideas and opinions Technology is a crucial tool of young people about what for transformative education. they're learning. By equipping It connects students to a youth with new skills, we wealth of knowledge and empower them to pass on experts worldwide, enabling their knowledge to the next innovative problem-solving. generation in their communi-Beyond job readiness, it ties. This results in a collabempowers youth to address orative system where everypressing issues using advanced tools like Artificial one has a role in making sure young people gain valuable Intelligence (AI), Augmented skills.

The path to equipping our youth for the future is multifaceted. It involves fostering a changemakers mindset, nurturing digital skills, emphasising socio-emotional growth, empowering youth to take charge of their education, and extending learning beyond the classroom. By embracing these transformative approaches to upskilling our youth, we can ensure that they would lead us toward a brighter, more sustainable future.

> The writer is Founder & chief mentor 1M1B (1 Million For 1 Billion), views are personal

LETTERS EEDITOR

DR SS BADRINATH IS NO MORE

Sir — Dr SS Badrinath, the founder of Sankara Nethralaya, has passed away at the age of 83. He was a visionary and a pioneer in the fields of ophthalmology and vit-reoretinal surgery. He dedicated his life to improving the accessibility and affordability of eye care in India and beyond. He was also a humanitarian and a philanthropist who established Sankara Nethralaya as a not-for-profit missionary institution for ophthalmic care. He received many awards and honours for his excellence in clinical services, research, and social service, including the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Dr B C Roy Award.

Dr. Badrinath's demise is a great loss for the medical fraternity and society at large. He will be remembered as a legend and an inspiration for generations to come. His legacy will live on through the work of Sankara Nethralaya and its staff, who continue to serve the cause of vision with compassion and dedication. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and patients. May his soul rest in

Sir — When the nation was dipped into the joy of Deepawali, with crackers, 'diyas,' sweetness, festivities, and happiness all around, 41 lives were stuck in the darkness of the huge debris mound of the Silkyara tunnel, which was a part of India's esteemed Char Dham National Highway project. Trapped in the tunnel of a Uttarkashi-based tunnel, an area already prone to the seismic activities of tectonic Indian plates submerging with the Eurasian plate, it seems like man was put in a cage by nature itself, so as to remind him that nature does not bow to man's greed.

After the first glimpse captured on the endoscopic camera came out, the feared but fine faces of workers appeared before the camera, and the nation as a whole and their families in particular took a deep breath of relief. As all of them are alive, there is no serious casualty to report about.

Israel-Hamas agreement



rom the kind of agreement that has been reached between Hamas and the Israelis, it seems that an agreement has been reached between the Islamic country and Hamas to surrender to Israel. Otherwise, who makes such an agreement that 50 Israeli hostages will be released in exchange for a ceasefire lasting just

The 6-inch alternative hole is now being used to deliver food, drink, and oxygen to these trapped workers.

Although the teams of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation, Rescue team is working with their full strength to rescue these trapped workers, It is extremely regrettable to note that the lives of these casual and temporary workers are so cheap. They have to die and lose their lives to earn some money. They even risk their lives for critical projects, but despite that, we forget to cheer them on as real heroes and nationbuilders. We hope that all 41 labourers returned to normal life safely

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

AUSTRALIAN GAMBLE

Sir — there will be life lessons aplenty in this bloody, beautiful game of cricket. Travis Head was injured, but soon as he burst on to the scene, he lit up the hills of Dharamsala with his maiden WC tonne

hostages. Likewise, the entire hostage will be released. What will the Palestinians get in return? Ten or fifteen more days to live? Benjamin Netanyahu clearly said that after releasing the hostages, Israel would start attacking Gaza again. Was this agreement the essence of the meeting called by Islamic countries on this issue a few days ago?

Just a few hours before this agreement, the administrators of four Islamic countries-Indonesia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Palestinian Authority-went to China and met its Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Is this one-sided agreement the result of this visit to Beijing? If this is true, then despite Muslims constituting 24 percent of the world's population, they announced defeat in front of only 94 lakh Israelis. In such a situation, the future of Palestinians is in danger

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

and then wrapped it up with a knockout punch to decimate India in the final. The selectors backed him even when he had a broken hand, and the medical team was working to get him back.

It was a big risk that Australians took, and it paid off. He is indeed a legend, and we love him. The credit goes to Head and Labuschagne, who stitched together a big partnership and put us completely out of the game. Indian team tried everything it could, but wicket got slightly better to bat under lights. The 2011 World Cup winner and Indian legend, Sachin Tendulkar, ambled out to the centre and shook hands with almost every Indian player and said we should consume the bitter pill and swallow it for every Indian fan who pinned lofty hopes on this high-octane contest

Jayanthy S Maniam | Kozhikode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

peace. Sabita Kumari | Hazaribagh **TUNNEL TROUBLE**

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FIRSTCOLUMN 'SHAD DARSHAN': BASIS OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

'Shad Darshan' are six philosophical systems in Vedic and post-Vedic schools of thought



SWAMI CHARANSHRIT

C had Darshan, which translates to "Six Philosophies" in Sanskrit, refers to the six classical schools of Indian philosophy that have played O a crucial role in shaping the intellectual and spiritual landscape of ancient and medieval India. These philosophical systems, each with its unique perspective and emphasis, provide diverse insights into the nature of reality, consciousness, and the purpose of human existence. Let's explore a brief introduction to each of the Shad Darshan schools.

Nyaya Darshan: The Science of Logic and Reasoning

Nyaya, meaning "logic" in Sanskrit, is a system that focuses on the analysis of reasoning and logic. It provides a structured approach to understanding and validating knowledge through inference, analogy, and deduction. Nyaya philosophers, known as Nyayaikas, seek to establish a systematic methodology for discerning truth and knowledge.

Vaisheshika Darshan: The Atomic Theory of Matter

Vaisheshika is a philosophical system that delves into the nature of the physical world. Founded by the sage Kanada, it explores the concept of atomism and classifies the various elements of the universe. Vaisheshika proposes that everything in the material world is composed of distinct, indivisible atoms. The philosophy also addresses the concept of karma and its role in shaping individual destinies.

Samkhya Darshan: The Enumeration of Reality

Samkhya is one of the oldest schools of Indian philosophy attributed to Sage Kapila. It focuses on enumerating the fundamental components of reality. Samkhya identifies the dualistic nature of existence, distinguishing between Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter). The philosophy aims to liberate the individual soul (purusha) from the entanglements of the material world by understanding the true nature of reality.



Yoga Darshan: The Path to Union

Yoga, popularized worldwide as a system of physical and mental practices, is deeply rooted in the philosophical framework of Yoga Darshan. Attributed to Sage Patanjali, this system outlines a path to self-realization and union with the divine. Yoga includes ethical guidelines (yamas and niyamas), physical postures (asanas), breath control (pranayama), and meditation. The ultimate goal of Yoga Darshan is to achieve a state of inner tranquillity and spiritual enlightenment.

All talk and no action on reviving the industry



analys \$ 07

With hardly any investment coming to Kerala, its industries are dying a slow death and the lack of job opportunities is forcing youth to seek jobs abroad



erala is fast becoming a graveyard of industries, enterprises and entrepreneurs. A trip from Kasaragod in the north to Thiruvananthapuram, the cap-ital city in the south, offers one the experience of a ghost town. Industries that have been shut down for years and units awaiting their turn to pull down the shutters are what welcome the visitors to the State. It resembles scenes straight out of Western Spaghettis. No entrepreneurs with a little bit of common sense would venture out into this landmass laden with deadly mines! The State may be the only one of its kind in India where entrepreneurs have resorted to suicide having failed in their efforts to open shop. Sometime back, The Pioneer had reported about the suicide of Sajan Parayil, a man in his early 40s who made a fortune having worked in West Asia for years and invested his savings to construct a convention centre in Anthoor in Kannur. P K Shyamala, the then municipal chairperson, refused to allot building numbers to the Convention Centre for months citing some minor procedure issues. The real issue was the refusal of the entrepreneur to pay speed money (as a bribe is known in Kerala) to the political masters. Shyamala was not an ordinary chairperson. She is the wife of M V Govindan, who is the CPI-M State Secretary. Sajan had invested Rs 20 crore in the convention centre but no investigation was held on the factors leading to his suicide.



A STUDY BY THE KERALA STATE

sons in the units. But the party apparatchiks won't allow the garages to function till their palms are greased. Despite all these developments, the CPI-M-led Kerala Government relentlessly campaigns and projects the State as the most investor-friendly destination in India! Though no major industries have been opened in Kerala during the last 20 years, the claims by the government of the day show no dearth of enterprises. Of late, news about start-ups compensates for the failure of the Government in attracting investors to the State. But PLANNING if any questions are asked about the number of jobs created out of **BOARD SAYS** these start-ups, the chances are that the persons who ask such unpleas-ant questions would be labelled as THAT ACCORDING TO A reactionaries and agents of the SURVEY HELD IN Centre. The Periodic Labor Force Survey 2013, THERE (PLFS) report released recently by the Union Ministry of Statistics is startling as well as shocking. The WERE 25 LAKH CPI-M Government portrays the GUEST State as the role model for the coun-LABORERS IN trv as well as economically advanced nations in Europe and THE STATE East Asia. However, according to the PLFS data for 2022-2023, Kerala leads the table of States with the highest unemployment rates. The all-India unemployment rate for the period 2022-2023 stands at 6.7 per cent while in Kerala it is 10 per cent. But the State is a study in contrast. (The writer is a special Though unemployment is rampant correspondent with in Kerala, it has become an El The Pioneer, views are Dorado for migrant workers (Guest Laborers as the CPI-M describes

them). A study by the Kerala State Planning Board says that according to a survey held in 2013, there were 25 lakh Guest Laborers in the State. Migrant workers, as well as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, constitute this workforce. Though there is no data about the latest figures, agencies monitoring the arrival and departure of such migrant labour forces put the figures at 40 lakhs. And many of them have disembarked in Kerala with fake Aadhar cards. Besides the

labour-intensive plywood compa-

tants to MLAs, MPs and chairmen of government corporations which make them eligible for State Government pension if they put up 30 months of service. The Public Service Commission has become a scarecrow as only those with the right connections in the right places would get jobs through this agency.

Persons like John Milton hailing from the Idukki district were intelligent enough to see the writing on the wall and "escaped" to neighbouring Tamil Nadu where the garment manufacturing unit started him making money by the hour. "I owe it to the comrades who made life difficult for me forcing me to set up a manufacturing unit at Tirupur. Had I not decided to leave Kerala, I would have ended up as a wreck," said Milton. The same is the case with Shaji George, who returned from Britain to his hometown of Tiruvalla and opened a five-star clubhouse with all modern facilities like tennis and squash courts, a swimming pool and a convention centre meeting global standards. But the local leaders had other ideas. "Why people of Kerala require an establishment like this?" they asked and made the local body authorities deny Shaji the building numbers which alone would allow him to open the clubhouse. "They asked for a hefty sum as a bribe and I am not accustomed to paying speed money (as a bribe is known in Kerala)," said Shaji. Even God may not be able to save God's Own Country!

Mimamsa Darshan: The Science of Rituals

Mimamsa, also known as Purva Mimamsa, is a school that concentrates on the interpretation of Vedic rituals and sacrificial ceremonies. The Mimamsa philosophers, called Mimamsakas, meticulously analyze the Vedas to understand the correct performance of rituals and the implications of these actions. The philosophy emphasizes the importance of adhering to Vedic injunctions for individual and societal welfare.

Vedanta Darshan: The End of Knowledge or ultimate knowledge

Vedanta, meaning "the end of the Vedas," is a philosophical system that interprets the Upanishads, the concluding part of the Vedic scriptures. Vedanta explores the nature of ultimate reality (Brahman) and the relationship between the individual soul (Atman) and the cosmic consciousness. Advaita Vedanta, one of the most influential schools within this system, teaches the non-dualistic nature of reality, asserting that the individual soul and Brahman are ultimately one.

Shad Darshan represents a rich tapestry of philosophical thought in ancient India, offering diverse perspectives on metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and spirituality. Each school within this framework contributes unique insights, providing seekers with a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of existence and the paths to self-realization. The enduring legacy of Shad Darshan continues to inspire philosophical inquiry and spiritual exploration in contemporary times.

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

Close on the heels of Sajan's suicide, two more UAE returnees took extreme measures because of the high-handedness of the party's local leaders in the Kollam district. The entrepreneurs had set up motor garages and had employed nearly 20 pernies, these Guest Laborers work as toddy tappers, at construction sites, hotels, eateries, and hairdressing salons. They live a frugal life and save reasonably. Ali, a resident from Lucknow who runs a hairdressing saloon, makes at least Rs 10,000 per day and flies to his village twice a month. An average casual labourer saves Rs 1,200 per day by working from 8 am to 5 pm. But the Malayali comrades are reluctant to work like these migrant youths and they wile away their time gossiping and consuming

liquor. A disturbing trend that is visible in Kerala is students and youth flying away to countries like Germany, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the US for studies and employment. Those who leave the shores of Kerala are unlikely to return as the above-mentioned countries offer vast scope in education, employment and career prospectus. Those who are left behind manage to get jobs as assis-

Antimicrobial resistance: A result of misuse of medicines

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a problem driven by misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals

personal)

ntimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when Abacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and become resistant to (or no longer respond to) medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. As a result of drug resistance, medicines become ineffective, and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat. That is why AMR ranks among the top ten global health threats worldwide.

"Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a problem driven by misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals, and results in critical medicines losing effec-



SHOBHA SHUKLA



BOBBY RAMAKANT

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant lead the editorial team of Citizen News

Service and are on the Board of Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA) and Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development, APCAT Media; views are personal

today

tiveness to treat infections," Drawing attention to World said Thomas Joseph, Head, AMR Awareness Week AMR Awareness, Advocacy (WAAW) which is celebrated and Campaigns, World Health Organization (WHO), between 18-24 November every year, Thomas cautioned at a recent pre-conference that "All stakeholders should meet of 22nd International realize that if we do not act Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). now, we could go back to a pre-antibiotic era, when even "AMR is associated with 5 simple infections become million deaths a year. Besides untreatable". this, there is a huge burden of Personal experience of sur-

morbidity and healthcare viving AMR

expenditure that can affect Vanessa Carter, an AMR household welfare severely. patient survivor, One Health The World Bank estimates advocate, Chairperson of the that Global GDP could fall by WHO Taskforce of AMR Survivors, and founder of \$1 to \$3.4 trillion annually The AMR Narrative was one after 2030 due to AMR," he added. The World Bank estiof the speakers at the 3rd mates that an additional 24 Annual Global Media Forum million people will be forced on AMR, hosted by Global into extreme poverty by 2030 AMR Media Alliance in lead up to WAAW 2023. She if no action is taken on AMR shared her eye-opening per-



sonal experience of her battle with AMR

"In 2004, I was 25 years old. I had a severe car accident in Johannesburg, South Africa, and ended up in a hospital with a lot of massive injuries. I had been resuscitated on the side of the road, I was put on life support, I had multiple fractures in my face- a broken

jaw and a broken nose- and also lost one eye. I also had a head injury, major abdominal injury, fractured pelvis, neck, and back injury. But the most complicated injuries were to my face, and it took me 10 years to recover from them, during which time I have had 4 different facial prosthetic implants," said Vanessa.

But the worst was yet to come. Six years into the accident and after her fourth implant, one day, while getting into her car, Vanessa saw moisture seeping all over her face. It was pus oozing out from her 4th implanted prosthetic. She underwent emergency surgery, and the doctors did "debridement" and reconstructive surgery to fix up the damaged tissue. Two weeks later, the infection

returned. She got more tissue reconstruction done. But the infection kept on returning and it worsened over time. This went on for the next 11 months during which she was kept under the care of several specialist surgeons. Vanessa was eventually diag-nosed with a highly antibiotic-resistant form of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) infection. She could not undergo any more surgeries for one year, as the doctors had to wait for the tissue to recover. "I had to cover my face as I looked terrible. My face was very red, full of fluid and swollen. I could not wear my artificial eye. I could not go to fetch my child from school because the kids would get scared looking at me", she

"I lost ten valuable years of my life between 25-35 years of age, being in and out of hospital, and not being able to look in the mirror without seeing a changed face. I nearly got a bloodstream infection and sepsis and almost died. But I am also living with a severe disability now- facial disfiguration which was partially caused by the accident but exacerbated by the fact that we could not treat this infection. When I learned about antibiotic resistance, it came as a surprise why it was not a common knowledge even though it is such a widespread global threat," she shared in the forum.

recalls.

This is first part of two-part series on AMR. To be continued...

the pioneer LUCKNOW | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 23, 2023

nation 08

India resumes e-visa services for Canadians after two months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In a positive development amid strained diplomatic ties between the two countries, India has resumed electronic visa services for Canadian nationals after a nearly twomonth pause, sources said here on Wednesday.

Tensions flared between India and Canada in September following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated". Days later, New Delhi announced it was temporarily suspending issuance of visas to Canadian citizens and asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in India. India had also asked Canada to come down hard on terrorists and anti-India elements operating from its soil.

The latest development follows last month's decision by the Indian government to renew certain categories of



visa services for Canadian citizens after a month-long ban. Ottawa had welcomed the decision as "good news for Canadians".

The move to restore e-visa services is a significant step towards mending relations between the two countries following a sharp downturn caused by Canada's allegations. In response to Canada's

actions, India took several retaliatory measures, including the expulsion of intelligence officers, pruning of diplomatic staff and the issuing of travel advisories. The easing of visa restric-

tions signals a potential thaw in ties, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar previously indicating the country's

willingness to relax these measures. However, he acknowledged that relations between the two countries were going

through a "difficult phase". In October, India resumed visa services in certain categories for Canadian citizens, excluding tourist, employment, student, film, missionary and journalist visas. The resumption of services for all categories of visas came hours ahead of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's participation in the virtual G20 leaders'

summit headed by Prime Minister Narendra Áodi.

This would be the first time Trudeau would come face to face with Prime Minister Modi, albeit virtually, after ties between India and Canada

took a nosedive following the former's allegations against New Delhi.

On November 12, Trudeau reaffirmed his allegation of Indian involvement in Nijjar's killing and accused New Delhi of violating the Vienna Convention by "kicking out" dozens of diplomats in a sharp escalation of a weeks-long cri-

External affairs minister Jaishankar last week asserted that India is not ruling out an investigation into Canada's accusation, but highlighted that Ottawa is yet to provide evidence to back its claim.

During an event organised at Wilton Park, an agency of the UK foreign office, in London, Jaishankar was asked if there is any evidence of Indian involvement in Nijjar's killing. "None," he replied.

Noting that he had discussed the issue with his Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly, Jaishankar said: "And we have told them, if you have a reason to make such an allegation, please share the evidence with us. We are not ruling out an investigation and looking at anything which they may have to offer. They haven't done so."

NHAI to undertake |India's CAG elected safety audit of all under construction tunnels

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

To ensure safety and adher-ence to the highest quality standards during construc-tion, central road making agency NHAI will undertake safety audit of all 29 under construction tunnels across the country. The decision comes at the backdrop of 41 comes at the backdrop of 41 labourers trapped in an under construction tunnel in Uttarakhand the rescue oper-ation of which is still under-way on 10th day by experts from world over overseeing the operations the operations.

NHAI officials along with a team of experts from Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as well as other tunnel experts will inspect the ongoing tunnel projects and will submit a report within seven days.

With a total length of around 79 km, the 29 underconstruction tunnels are spread over different locations across the country with 12 tunnels in Himachal Pradesh, 06 in Jammu and Kashmir, 02 each in Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and one each in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh,

Uttarakhand and Delhi respectively.

NHAI also signed a MoU with Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) where KRCL will provide services for NHAI projects to review design, drawing and safety aspects related to tunnel construction and slope stabi-lization. KRCL will also conduct safety audits of tunnels and if required, suggest reme-dial measures. In addition to this, KRCL will organize training programs for capacity building of NHAI officials. This agreement will remain in effect for a period of two years. Earlier in September 2023, NHAI signed a similar agree-ment with DMRC, who will provide services for reviewing planning, designing, construction and maintenance of tunnels, bridges and other structures on National Highways across the country.

The initiatives highlight NHAI's resolve to create a safe & seamless National Highway network and collaborate with Government Organizations to share best practices for the enhancement of transport infrastructure, contributing towards the goal of Nation Building.

vice-chair of UN panel of external auditors

PNS NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of Auditors for the forthcoming year. This recognition underscores India's commitment to the highest standards of external audit and its active participaaudit and its active participa-tion in shaping the global audit landscape, said a Press statement from the CAG

office. On the side-lines of the panel meeting at New York, Murmu also held a bilateral meeting with Pierre Moscovici, First President of Cour des comptes (Supreme Audit Institution of France) to discuss strengthening of bilateral relations between the two SAIs. The CAG participated in the 63rd session of the Panel of External Auditors, held at the United Nations Headquarters on November 20-21. The Panel of External Auditors comprising of Heads of 12 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) globally, oversees the external audit of the UN Secretariat, Funds and Programmes, and Specialized Agencies.

including representatives from Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Philippines, Russia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, conducts financial, performance and compliance audits of UN entities.

The annual meeting served as a unique platform for col-laborative discussions on various issues, including follow-up actions on the Secretary-General's response to the Panel Letter, and addressing critical concerns related to Financial and Management, Climate Change, and Digital matters. In the meeting, Murmu led the discussion on critical financial and management issues affecting UN organizations.

In a separate meeting, Murmu along-with panel members met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, exchanging views in the areas of risk management, the challenging financial environment, and the imperative for well-structured funding strategies. The Panel members emphasized the pivotal role of the UN system in guiding and managing climate finance issues, alongside expressing concerns about dig-

This independent body, ital transformation.

Air India fined ₹10L for non-compliance of norms

RAJESH KUMAR MINEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday imposed a fine of Rs. 10 lakh on Air India for the second time over noncompliance of compensation rules. These pertain to "not providing hotel accommodation for passengers affected by delayed flights, non-training of some of their ground personnel as per the stipulations and non-payment of compensation to international business class passengers who were made to travel on unserviceable seats.

After carrying out inspections of airlines at Delhi, Kochi and Bangalore airports, the DGCA had observed that Air first time that Air India faced India was not complying with a scrutiny for non compliance the provisions of the relevant of aviation rules. Last year, the Aviation Requirement (CAR). A show cause notice was also issued to Air India 2023 seeking their response for non-compliance to the provisions of the relevant regulations. Based on the reply submitted by Air India, it was found that Air India has not complied with the provisions of the CAR, inter-alia, not providing hotel accommodation for passengers affected by delayed flights, non training of some of their ground personnel as per the stipulations laid down in the CAR and non-payment of compensation to international business class passengers who were made to travel on



imposed a financial penalty of Rs.10 lakhs on Air India for non- compliance of DGCA regulations. This is not the airline was fined for Rs 10 lakh

storage and handling. Accordingly, DGCA has initiated enforcement action on M/s Red Bird Flight Training Academy Pvt. Ltd. and a show cause notice has been issued for the deficiencies," it In September, Mirziyoyev, the President of DGCA has reviewed the Uzbekistan signed the Decree corrective actions taken by M/s Red Bird Flight Training "On the Uzbekistan - 2030 Academy Pvt. Ltd. on the findings of the maintenance Strategy". The document is designed for the next seven years and includes 5 priority areas containing 100 goals. They define all the important audit. The review has indicated that the flying training organisation has failed to continuously adhere to the tasks of the socio-political and provisions of Aircraft Rules, socio-economic development of 1937 and Civil Aviation the country. Requirements in order to At the conference, represenensure proper maintenance of tatives of academic and research the aircraft for ensuring concenters in India paid special tinued safe operations. attention to the role of the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy at Accordingly, recertification of the maintenance organizathe current stage of the countion and continuous airwortry's development. thiness management of M/s In particular, Skand Ranjan Red Bird Flight Training Tayal, the former Ambassador Academy Pvt. Ltd. is being undertaken afresh by DGCA. of India to Uzbekistan, noted





PNS NEW DELHI

A presentation ceremony of the Strategy "Uzbekistan -2030" took place here at the Embassy of Uzbekistan. The event was attended by diplo-mats, representatives of academic and analytical circles, and media workers from Uzbekistan and India.

that Uzbekistan has been going

through a consistent stage of development in recent years, and in the course of these changes, solutions to pressing problems are being found to ensure the interests of ordinary people. Sanjay Kumar Pandey, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University and a leading expert

on Central Asia, acknowledged that the Uzbekistan-2030 a programme adopted after achieving the lofty goals set in the Action Strategy and the Development Strategy. These important documents serve as the basis for great successes in all spheres of life in New Uzbekistan.

'1,232 health camps held in first week of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra launch'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday said here 1,232 health camps have been conducted in 203 gram pan-chayats under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the first week of its launch, recording a footfall of more than 1,66,000. Also, more than 33,000 Ayushman cards were created at the camps and over 21,000 physical cards distributed, it said.

Under the initiative, Ayushman cards are being created using the Ayushman app and physical cards are being distributed to the beneficiaries.

The ministry said screening of patients for TB is being carried out for symptoms, sputum testing and using



the PMTBMBA and more and more than 10,000 were than 1.400 new Nikshav referred to higher public Mitras were registered by the end of the first week. ministry said

health facilities, the ministry stated.

set up by the departments

such as the postal depart-

ment, health department and

The yatra, designed to

inform and empower the cit-

izens about the government's

others.

for similar violations.

Pursuant to two serious incidents in quick succession involving aircraft of M/s Red Bird Flight Training Academy

Pvt. Ltd. on 19th and 22nd October 2023, DGCA carried

out a special maintenance audit of the organisation at its main base at Baramati, Maharashtra and four (04) sub-bases at Seoni, Madhya Pradesh Kalburgi (Karnataka), Belgavi (Karnataka) and Lilabari (Àssam).

"The findings from the special maintenance audit revealed deficiencies in personnel training, maintenance schedules and records, interunserviceable seats. nal audit practices, tool and Accordingly, DGCA has store management and fuel store management and fuel

Professor Shahid Taslim, head of the Department of Foreign Languages at Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, founder of the first Uzbek language courses in India, noted that the process of change taking place in Uzbekistan in recent years is increasing the interest of Indian youth in learning the Uzbek language. For example, about 300 young students are studying Uzbek at Jamia Millia Islamia.

NAAT machines wherever available

It said more than 41,000 people have been screened by the end of the first week, as on November 21, and over 4,000 of them were referred to higher public health facilities.

The ministry added that under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA), consent of the patients suffering from TB is being taken for receiving assistance from Nikshay Mitras.

The attendees willing to be Nikshay Mitras are also being provided with on-spot registration, the ministry said, adding that more than 2,500 patients gave consent under

at saturating the benefits of with predominant tribal population, screening of eligible the central government population (up to 40 years of age) is being done for the detection of sickle cell disease schemes across the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Viksit through the point of care (PoC) tests for the Sickle Cell Bharat Sankalp Yatra from Jharkhand's Khunti on Disease (SCD) or through November 15. solubility test. To facilitate immediate services, various camps are being

It added the cases testing positive are being referred to higher centres for management. The ministry further said more than 24,000 people were screened by the end of the first week and 1,100 of them were found to be posi-

tive and referred to higher flagship schemes, aims to create awareness and deliver the public health facilities. Besides, around 1,35,000 benefits of welfare programmes directly to the peopeople were screened for hypertension and diabetes, ple, the ministry said.

Safety norms implementation in campus now among criteria for medical college assessment

Attack on Indian consulate in US: NIA raids in Punjab

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

mplementation of safety I measures in teaching blocks, hospitals and hostels will be part of the criteria for assessment and rating of medical colleges along with focus on curriculum, research and laboratory facilities, according to a draft framework.

As part of the draft framework prepared by the National Medical Commission (NMC) and Quality Council of India, there is a parameter related to survey perception of alumni towards quality and reputation of colleges concerned from where they had completed UG or PG programmes in medical education.

The NMC had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Quality Council of India for the purpose of assessment and rat-ing of the medical institutions in July. Both government and private medical colleges in the country will be assessed and rated from the 2024-25 acade-



Meena said. Anonymous online

Students will be required to

mic session.

from students pursuing under-Database of alumni will be provided by the medical colgraduate and post-graduate lege. Perceived quality by alumprogrammes in the colleges, Dr ni will be captured relating to faculty staff, clinical posting, feedback will be captured from lab and library facilities and teaching hospital. Data for this minimum 25 per cent sampled students from each professionparameter will be captured from a minimum of 100 alumal year by each programme. Colleges will be required to ni, Dr J L Meena, Member upload student data in required Medical Assessment and format. Rating Board at NMC said on Wednesday. give anonymous feedback

Also, there is a parameter

this parameter. For this parameter, students will rate given facilities on a three points scale," Dr Meena said.

There is also a parameter related to capturing feedback from 25 per cent randomly selected faculty staff from clinical and non-clinical sub-jects/specialty for which online feedback form will be circulated among sampled faculty staff, Dr Yogendra Malik, Member Ethics and Medical Registration Board of NMC said. Under the according to requirements of

hostel accommodation capacities and safety measures, the draft stated that with reference to regulations laid down by medical regulator, the college/institution shall make provision to provide accommodation for at least 75 per cent of all students enrolled and interns, and all girl students who request for it, Dr Malik said. Adequate recreational, dining and roundthe-clock security facilities shall be provided at the hostels. The parameter -- "Amount spent on strengthening of Safety Measures in Campus in last 1 year " -- is related to amount spent by Medical College for strengthening safety measures on the entire campus including teaching hospital.

This parameter is related to minimum standard requirements laid down by the medical regulator for providing a safe physical environment to all stakeholders. Dr Malik said that so far a pilot project involving eight medical colleges -- four private and four government has been done based on the draft parameters.

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out raids at 14 locations in Punjab and Haryana in connection with its probe into attacks on the Indian Consulate in San Francisco in the US earlier this year, an official spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said these places located in north India were raided to unravel the complete conspiracy behind the attacks on March 19 and July 2, involving criminal trespass, vandalism, damage to public property and attempts to cause hurt to the consulate officials and set the building on fire through acts of arson.

The locations raided by the NIA were spread across the districts of Moga, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Gurdaspur, Mohali and Patiala in Punjab and Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar in Haryana.

The crackdown led to the seizure of digi tal data containing information related to the accused persons, along with other incriminating documents, the spokesperson said. The NIA has been probing the case with the aim to identify and prosecute the attackers and send a strong message to such anti-Indian elements.

A team of the NIA had visited San Francisco in August 2023 to probe the incidents of attacks on the consulate. As part of its investigation, the NIA has crowdsourced information to identify and collect information about USbased entities and individuals involved in these



violent incidents.

On July 2, India's consulate in San Francisco came under an attack from Khalistan supporters who tried to set the diplomatic facility on fire. Tha attack came following the killing of sepa-ratist Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

On March 19, a group of pro-Khalistan pro-testers attacked and damaged the Indian Consulate in San Francisco. Raising pro-Khalistan slogans, the protesters broke open the makeshift security barriers raised by the local police and installed two so-called Khalistani flags inside the Consulate premises. Two consulate personnel soon removed these flags



money 09

Markets gain in highly volatile trade Rupee volatility low: RBI Guv Das said, adding that it will be supporting growth as

PTI MUMBAI

quity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty eked out mar-ginal gains to settle in the positive zone after a highly volatile trade on Wednesday, helped by buying in index majors Infosys, ITC and Reliance Industries.

However, foreign fund out-flows from the equity market restricted the upmove in stocks, traders said.

In a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 92.47 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 66,023.24. During the day, it fell to a low of 65,664.85 and touched a high of 66,063.43.

The Nifty edged higher by 28.45 points or 0.14 per cent to 19,811.85.

"Investors are following glob-al markets, which are mostly sluggish with a mixed bias. Due to lack of fresh positive triggers, investors are trading cautiously and taking selective bets," Prashanth Tapse, Research Analyst, Sr VP Research, Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Among the Sensex firms, Infosys, NTPC, Power Grid, Titan, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Baiai Finserv, Reliance Industries and UltraTech Cement were the biggest gainers.

In contrast, IndusInd Bank,

SBI's unsecured

lending to see

moderation:



sures are "sustainable".

ritory on Tuesday.

lower than 16-18 per cent

expected in the current fiscal, as

unsecured retail loans, the fastest

macro and micro factors.

Sriram Krishnan, Chief

their visibility through the list-

panies from various sectors list-

ed and total funds raised on the

platform till date is over Rs 7,800

crore. The market capitalisation

of these companies has crossed

nies listed from West Bengal on

the platform with collectively

fund mobilisation of over Rs 224

The platform has 16 compa-

Rs 94,000 crore.

lower.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the major laggards. In the broader market, the

BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.33 per cent, while smallcap index declined 0.63 per cent. Among the indices, power jumped 1.41 per cent, auto

climbed 0.64 per cent, teck (0.52 per cent), FMCG (0.34 per cent), capital goods (0.38 per cent) and oil & gas (0.36 per cent).

Commodities, financial services, industrials, telecommunication and bankex were among the laggards.

Underlining that the banking system continues to be resilient and there is no immediate cause of worry for the system, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday advised lenders to be more cautious and spot any trend of risk building early.

PTI NEW DELHI

"While banks and NBFCs from the day's correction and ended with mild gain. On the are showing good performance now, sustaining it requires conother hand, the broad market certed efforts. In good times like witnessed some profit-booking these, banks and NBFCs need to as investors' focus shifted to the reflect and introspect as to where potential risks could posprimary market, marked by a set of IPOs scheduled for this week. sibly originate," he said. "However, the undercurrent is

At a time when the system is positive, with a cooling of inflation and an easing US bond yield reporting robust credit growth, Das asked lenders to avoid any supporting a short- to medium-term rally," said Vinod Nair, form of "exuberance" in their Head of Research at Geojit business and to ensure that sec-Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent toral and sub-sectoral expo-

crude declined 0.46 per cent to In Asian markets, Seoul and USD 82.07 a barrel.

Tokyo settled in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 455.59 crore on Tuesday, Europan markets were trading mostly with gains. The US markets ended in negative teraccording to exchange data. The BSE benchmark climbed

275.62 points or 0.42 per cent to "Despite the US Fed adopting settle at 65,930.77 on Tuesday. The Nifty went up by 89.40 a cautious stance in its minutes and refraining from indicating a rate cut, the market recovered points or 0.45 per cent to 19,783.40.

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the rupee has witnessed "low volatility" and orderly movements as compared to its peers. Speaking at the annual

FIBAC event, Das said household inflation expectations are becoming more anchored, but added that headline inflation is vulnerable to recurring and overlapping food price shocks. It can be noted that the

rupee closed at an all-time low of 83.35 against

the dollar on Monday, but gained some lost ground in Tuesday's trade.

"On the exchange rate front, the Indian rupee (INR) has exhibited low volatility and orderly

movements relative to peers despite elevated US treasury yields and a strong US dollar," Das said. He said this is courtesy the strength of the underlying macro-fundamentals of our economy

and the reassuring forex buffers. In the last three or four days, the US DXY (dollar index) has slightly softened and treasury yields in the US have also softened.

Crediting RBI's rate hikes, liquidity tightening moves and supply-side measures undertaken by the government for the headline consumer price inflation cooling off to 4.9 per cent in October, Das stressed that the RBI is "completely focused" on getting the headline inflation down to 4 per cent.

The monetary policy will be "watchful" about the emerging trends and "actively disinflationary",

RUPEE vs DOLLAR (Inverted Scale) "Provisional 83.09 (+24p) 83.28 (+10p) 83.23 (-14p) 83.26 83.31" 83.38 (-3p) (-12p) 15 16 17 20 21 NOV GRAPHICS

text to say that just like Arjuna focusing on the bird's eye while calculating the ripples and sound in the room, the central bank also takes into account various other aspects.

well.

said

He said the softening in

the core inflation gives

the RBI the conviction

that "monetary policy

seems to be working". The headline inflation

can come under pressure because of "overlapping

and continuing shocks from food inflation", Das

He also reiterated the

Arjuna analogy to speak about the resolute focus of

the central bank on infla-

tion, and also borrowed

from the 'Swayamvar'

scene in the mythological

Meanwhile, he said household inflation expectations are becoming more anchored and cited recent surveys by the Reserve Bank which illustrate this

Das, who has been at the helm since 2019, said he has focused on communication to set the expectations of households and ensured that the central bank reaches the last person.

He said the world is grappling with an unend-ing stream of challenges like volatile commodities, uncertainty around monetary policies, geopolitical events and climate shocks since 2020, making it a "complicated and deadly mix of challenges'

He also pitched for reforms in agri marketing and connected value chains for sustained high

asset sales.

IT refund faster now: CII survey

PTI NEW DELHI

As many as 89 per cent of individuals and 88 per cent of firms are of the view that there has been a greater reduc-tion in waiting time to get an income tax refund in the last five years between 2018-2023, a CII survey has said.

The CII Income Tax Refund Survey presented to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also found that 75.5 per cent of the individuals and 22.4 per cent of the firm-level respondents did not pay TDS over and above their estimated tax liability. The survey respondents (84 per cent of individuals and 77 per cent of firms) also felt the process of checking refund status was now smooth.

"The extensive measures, which have been introduced by the government in the recent years to streamline, simplify and automate the taxation regime have borne rich dividends as is evident from the upbeat survey results on assessing speed and efficiency of income tax refunds conducted by CII," the industry body's President R Dinesh said.

A staggering 87 per cent of the individuals and 89 per cent of firms feel that the process of claiming income tax refund is convenient, the survey said.

"The significant reduction in waiting time to get an income tax refund over the last 5 years by both individuals and firms, is encouraging as it reflects the government's unrelenting efforts to make the process of getting income tax refunds simple and efficient over the years," CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said.

'Unsecured loans is now the third largest segment in the NBFC AUM pie. And this seg-ment is likely to see a modera-The survey was conducted in October 2023 among 3,531 respondents, out of which 56.4 tion in growth due to the reguper cent were individuals and latory measures which affect 43.6 per cent were firms/enterprises/organisations. The survey was conducted at the pan-India level, wherein the maximum participation was steered from the major states.

Automation and simplification in the ITR refund process have raised the trust factor among the taxpayers towards the I-Tax department, the surextent of their reliance on bank vey said.

funding. **Mercedes ties** assessment of GST to take time: Official up with **IISc** PTI NEW DELHI

for research

NBFCs to see 16-18% assets growth in FY24: CRISIL the secured asset classes where

sures are targeted at unsecured retail loans and do not impact

Both segments are expected to report steady growth. In the home loan segment,

growth of 12-14 per cent next fiscal will be driven by HFCs' focus on affordable home loans (ticket sizes of less than Rs 25 lakh), while vehicle finance is expected to grow 18-19 per cent this fiscal and sustain 17-18

Gandhar Refinery IPO subscribed 5.52 times PTI 📕 NEW DELHI crore from anchor investors.

The initial public offer of OFS include promoters -Gandhar Oil Refinery Ramesh Babulal Parekh,

Faceless scrutiny

Those offering shares in the

GST authorities may take time to introduce Kailash Parekh, and Gulal

NBFC AUM growth on both their asset and liability sides on three fronts," said Chhatwal. As per CRISIL Ratings' estimates, bank loan borrowing costs for NBFCs could increase 25-50 bps. However, its impact on the balance sheets of NBFCs will be lower and linked to the

per cent growth during 2024-25 on the back of solid underlying-

growing segment in the NBFC AUM pie so far, are likely to see a relatively slower growth as NBFCs recalibrate their strategies due to the recent regulatory measures issued by the Reserve Bank of India," it said. Going forward, diversification in product offerings and funding profile will be key constituents of their growth strategy, it added. The rating agency further said

cent growth next fiscal on the back of continued strong credit demand across retail loan segments, it said in a release. "Growth may be moderately

5

India's NBFC sector is expect-ed to record a moderate growth of 16-18 per cent in the current fiscal because of relatively slower expansion on unsecured retail loans due to the recent regulatory measures issued by the RBI, CRISIL Ratings said on Wednesday. Assets Under Management (AUM) of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are set to log a healthy 14-17 per

Chairman PTI MUMBAI

 $\mathbf{S}^{ ext{BI}}$ Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara on Wednesday said there will be "moderation" in the bank's unsecured lending portfolio following the Reserve Bank of India's tightening of norms. He said the impact of higher risk weights will have a 0.02-0.03 per cent impact on its net interest margins in the December quarter, but a better picture will emerge in the next quarter.

average as retail spends on homes, vehicles and consumer retail credit growth continues to

durables remain strong. And be driven by sound underlying backed by healthy balance "Private consumption is trendsheets, NBFCs have been agile ing well above the long-term to ride this retail credit-growth

wave," it said. Speaking at a webi-nar, CRISIL Ratings Managing Director Gurpreet Chhatwal said the recent regulatory mea-

"Importantly, the regulatory changes do not impact HFCs," he said. According to the agency, the two largest traditional segments of home loans and vehicle finance now comprise 25-27 per cent each of the NBFC AUM.

"Whatever we were doing, we will continue to do, but there will be a moderation," Khara told reporters on the sidelines of a FIBAC event here, when asked about the RBI's tightening of norms.

After asking lenders to be cautious, the RBI increased risk weights on unsecured lending for banks as well as non-banks earlier this month.

The RBI has asked lenders to allocate more funds against each risky loan that will result in higher buffers in case of any stress. The move also means personal loans and credit card borrowings will become dearer.

Khara said interest rates on such loans will also go up as the cost of funds goes up, pointing out that there will be a capital cost that will have to be borne by the bank because of the new norms.

About any possible change in risk perceptions, Khara said there will not be any change from a diligence perspective and that its norms were already "robust".

He said the bank's gross nonperforming assets from unsecured loans portfolio stands at 0.70 per cent.

Earlier this month, Khara said the bank is not concerned with its unsecured loan portfolio and attributed the strong performance of the portfolio to its strategy of lending to salary account customers or those working for well-rated corporates.

ding on Wednesday, ending the trade

The Initial Public Offer (IPO) received bids for 3,13,20,310 shares

against 1,44,13,188 shares on offer,

according to data available with the

The part for Retail Individual

Investors (RIIs) attracted 2.86 times subscription while the quota for non-

with 2.17 times subscription.

PTI NEW DELHI

NSE.



PTI NEW DELHI

provide an opportunity to show-The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Wednesday said it case their business to a larger set of investors through NSE Emerge platform," Rajesh has collaborated with the West Bengal government to spread Pandey, Principal Secretary, MSME and Textiles Department awareness amongst MSMEs in the state regarding fundraising through IPO mechanism using to West Bengal government, the bourse's SME platform. said.

As part of the pact, NSE with the support of West Bengal

government will conduct awareness drives through seminars, MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)camps, efficient manner and increase knowledge sessions, road shows, ing on the stock exchange. Currently, NSE's SME Emerge platform has 396 comworkshops to guide corporates across the state for fundraising

on its SME platform, Emerge, and handhold companies in the listing process, the bourse said in a statement.

"Today at the Bengal Global Business Summit, we have signed a MoU with the NSE to encourage and support the MSMEs of our state to pursue the capital market for growth opportunities. fund n "Listing on the capital market crore.

within hours of opening for bidding on Wednesday and later ended with 5.52 times subscription.

ndia) got fully subscribed

The Rs 500.69 crore IPO received bids for 11,72,85,168 shares against 2,12,43,940 shares on offer, translating into 5.52 times subscription, as per data available with the NSE. The portion for non-institu-

tional investors got subscribed 7.70 times while the category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) attracted 6.89 times subshall help them raise capital to fuel their growth story. This shall scription. The quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) received 1.35 times subscription.

The IPO is a fresh issue of up to Rs 302 crore and an offer for sale of up to 1,17,56,910 equity shares. The offer concludes on Friday. The price band for the IPO is Rs 160-169 a share.

Business Development Officer at Gandhar Oil Refinery NSE, said that the platform helps SMEs (Small and Medium (India) Ltd on Tuesday said it has raised a little over Rs 150 Enterprises) to raise capital in an

charge from borrowers.

Parekh - and other shareholders — Fleet Line Shipping Services LLC, Denver Bldg Mat & Décor TR LLC, and Green Desert Real Estate Brokers. Proceeds from the fresh issue component will be used for payment of debt, purchase of equipment and for civil work required for expan-

sion in the capacity of automo-tive oil at the Silvassa plant. In addition, the funds will be used for expanding capacity of petroleum jelly and accompanying cosmetic product division at the company's Taloja plant as well as expansion in capacity of white oils by installing blending tanks at the plant. Proceeds will also be

ital requirements. Wealth Nuvama Management (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities) and ICICI Securities are the managers to the offer.

used for funding working cap-

RBI cautions NBFC-MFIs on interest rates PTI MUMBAI event, Das said the microlend-

ing segment serves marginalised clientele and has emerged Stating that some Non Banking Finance Companyas an important financial con-Microfinance Institutions duit to foster financial inclusion. (NBFC-MFIs) are making wider

"Though the interest rates are net interest margins, RBI deregulated, certain NBFC-Governor Shaktikanta Das on MFIs appear to be enjoying rel-Wednesday asked entities to be atively higher net interest mar-"judicious" in using the flexibilgins. It is indeed for microfiity on the interest rates they nance lenders themselves to ensure that the flexibility provid-Speaking at the annual Fibac ed to them in setting interest

rates is used judiciously," he said. It can be noted that following the crisis in the microfinance segment in Andhra Pradesh

cesses.

that had also led to the creation of the NBFC-MFI segment, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had capped the maximum interest which lenders can charge at 24 per cent. The rate regime was deregulated it in 2021, making it possible for entities to charge as much as they want.

faceless scrutiny assessment of tax returns filed under Goods PTI NEW DELHI and Services Tax (GST), a senior

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India official said on Wednesday. The faceless assessment under which there is no physion Wednesday said it has cal interaction between the tax joined hands with the Indian officer and the assessee and no Institute of Science for physical submission of docuadvanced research collaboraments — was first introduced by tion with focus on electric the Income Tax department vehicles.

and later extended to Customs. The two partners have signed a Memorandum of "We may take some time to introduce faceless assessment in Understanding (MoU) for a GST. GST assessments are linked two-year association aimed at fostering joint research and promote collaborative innoto a particular jurisdictional officer or unit. Changing that may take some time. Some vation with a focus on Electric changes would also be required Vehicles (EV), Mercedes-Benz Research and Development at the policy level to make it effective," GST Network Vice India (MBRDI) said in a state-President (Services) Jagmal ment. "Collaborations that help Singh said at a Ficci event here. bridge the gap between indus-Introduced on July 1, 2017, try and academia can enable the scientific research commuindirect tax reform GST has subsumed 17 local levies, including nity to offer cutting-edge innoexcise duty, service tax, VAT and vation that meets the evolving demands of the industry and customers," MBRDI Managing Director and CEO Manu Saale

said.

the best of Indian engineering research to the global stage, Saale said.

The partnership will focus on driving engineering trans-formation and pursuing longterm research-oriented pro jects. Both organisations will leverage each other's existing capabilities, including infrastructure and academic programmes, the company added.

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Director Govindan Rangarajan said the collaboration with MBRDI for research and innovation in the area of sustainable mobility and EVs not only promotes energy independence but also creates economic opportunities.

"The partnership reinforces our commitment to strengthen industry-academia engagements that can make a significant impact in the coming years," Rangarajan added.

As part of the partnership, Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) will manage IISc's interactions with the industry and facilitate access to IISc's knowledge base and resources.

BUSINESS BRIEF

BSES TRAINING CENTRE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

NEW DELHI: BSES is not just providing reliable electricity but also powering the dreams of the youth. As part of these efforts, the discom has launched a specialised vocational training centre for visually impaired youngsters between the ages of 16-35 in Najafgarh.

MOU FOR DISCOM SKILLING

"We are excited at the possi-

bilities of working closely with the Indian Institute of Science

and look forward to bringing

NOIDA: Sector Skill Council and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd signed an MoU for facilitating and working together for Skilling & Learning Development initiatives for distribution sector.

HAVELLS STORE IN GURGAON

GURGAON: Havells India Limited announced the grand opening of its flagship store in the heart of Gurgaon, located on the bustling Golf Course Road.

HEALTHCARE COLLABORATION

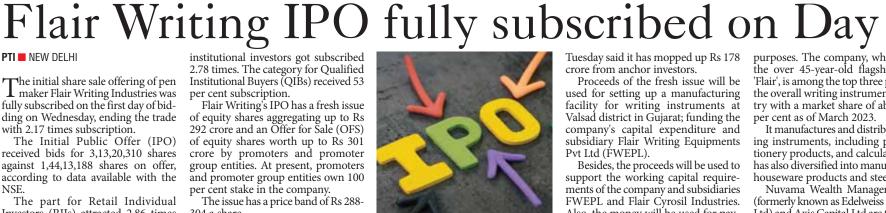
NEW DELHI: Molnlycke Healthcare India has found 'Largest Sacrum Shaped Bandage' in collaboration with the Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records. Completed recently, the bandage includes messages on pressure ulcer prevention from around 3184 healthcare professionals across India. The collaboration with Molnlycke Healthcare India represents a pivotal step towards equipping their staff with the latest advancements in pressure ulcer prevention, thereby elevating the quality of care provided.

institutional investors got subscribed 2.78 times. The category for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) received 53 $T^{he\ initial\ share\ sale\ offering\ of\ pen}_{maker\ Flair\ Writing\ Industries\ was}$ fully subscribed on the first day of bidper cent subscription.

Flair Writing's IPO has a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 292 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of equity shares worth up to Rs 301 crore by promoters and promoter group entities. At present, promoters and promoter group entities own 100

per cent stake in the company. The issue has a price band of Rs 288-304 a share.

Flair Writing Industries Ltd on



Tuesday said it has mopped up Rs 178 crore from anchor investors.

Proceeds of the fresh issue will be used for setting up a manufacturing facility for writing instruments at Valsad district in Gujarat; funding the company's capital expenditure and subsidiary Flair Writing Equipments Pvt Ltd (FWEPL).

Besides, the proceeds will be used to support the working capital requirements of the company and subsidiaries FWEPL and Flair Cyrosil Industries. Also, the money will be used for payment of the loan and general corporate

purposes. The company, which owns the over 45-year-old flagship brand 'Flair', is among the top three players in the overall writing instruments industry with a market share of about nine per cent as of March 2023.

It manufactures and distributes writing instruments, including pens, sta-tionery products, and calculators, and has also diversified into manufacturing houseware products and steel bottles. Nuvama Wealth Management Ltd

(formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Ltd) and Axis Capital Ltd are the bookrunning lead managers to the IPO.



world 10

Guterres welcomes Israel-Hamas agreement to release hostages

PTI UNITED NATIONS

U^N Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday welcomed the agreement reached by Israel and Hamas to release hostages in Gaza, describing it as an "important step in the right direction" but said that much more needs to be done.

Israel and Hamas agreed on Wednesday to a temporary four-day ceasefire to allow the release of 50 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza in exchange for 150 Palestinian detainees and the entry of humanitarian aid into the besieged territory. The deal, once implement-

ed at 10 am onwards on Thursday, will be the first major diplomatic breakthrough and pause in fighting since the war began after Hamas attacked Israel on October 7.

In a statement issued here, Guterres welcomed the agreement reached by Israel and Hamas, with the mediation of Qatar supported by Egypt and the UN chief said.

Palestinians evacuate survivors of the Israeli bombing in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Wednesday.

the United States. 'This is an important step in the right direction, but much more needs to be done,"

"The United Nations will mobilise all its capacities to support the implementation of the agreement and maximize

humanitarian situation in Gaza," Guterres added. UN Special Coordinator

for the Middle East Peace its positive impact on the Process Tor Wennesland also

welcomed the announcements of a deal to secure the release of hostages abducted by Hamas and others during the "horrific" attacks on October

Wennesland welcomed the announcement of the 4-day humanitarian pause in Gaza, saying this pause must be used to its fullest extent to facilitate the release of hostages and alleviate the dire needs of Palestinians in Gaza.

He stressed that all parties must live up to their respon-sibilities to uphold this important agreement.

"This is an important step, but more must be done and I will continue all efforts to bring the suffering to an end," he said.

Wennesland further underlined that it is critical that "we see safe access and a AP/PTI continuous flow of humanitarian aid to all those in need."

He voiced appreciation for the efforts of the Governments of Egypt, Qatar, and the United States for facilitating the agreement.

Alvi sparks controversy by proposing one-state solution' to Palestine issue

PTI ISLAMABAD

 $P^{akistan\ President\ Arif\ Alvi}_{has\ stirred\ a\ controversy\ by}$ proposing a "one-state solu-tion" to the Palestine problem in a significant departure from established policy, prompting the caretaker government to distance itself from the remarks and calls for his resignation.

the original press release quot-ed Alvi as telling the Palestinian president. The presidential office made waves on Friday by advocating for a "one-state solution" to the Palestine issue. nels ran the president's statement, which was also released However, Alvi's office retract-Press of Pakistan. ed the statement within a few hours, marking an abrupt about-face in the official position. The presidency initially released a statement attributing to President Alvi the suggestion of a "one-state solution" during a telephonic conversa-

tion with Palestinian counter-part Mahmoud Abbas. Alvi's proposal of a "one-state solution" to the Palestine prob-"If the two-state solution

was not acceptable to Israel,

then the one-state solution

was the only way where Jews, Muslims and [a] good percent-

age of Christians could live to

exercise equal political rights,"

Almost all news TV chan-

lem as not being in line with the country's principled and historic stance on the issue.

He was speaking on the floor of the Senate when Pakistan Peoples Party senator Raza Rabbani asked for an explanation from him over the controversial press release. The foreign minister said

the Presidency had not sought input from his ministry before issuing the press release, adding that he was not aware of the context in which the president had suggested the

3 die after

rips through

landslide

Jilani said that soon after issued a new one, which omitted any mention of the controthe release of the president's statement, his ministry had to issue a clarification, stating Pakistan's official position on the Palestine issue.

by the state-run Associated The Presidency later one-state solution". retracted the press release and

versial proposal. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Tuesday termed President Arif

South Korea partially suspends inter-Korean pact

AP SEOUL

South Korea decided to par-tially suspend an inter-Korean agreement and restart front-line aerial surveillance of North Korea, hours after the North claimed to have put its first military spy satellite into orbit in violation of U.N. resolutions, officials in Seoul said. The South Korean

announcement — which will likely infuriate North Korea — came as the North's neighbours are trying to confirm whether the launch on Tuesday evening was successful and the satellite can perform reconnaissance functions.

South Korea's military said it assessed that the North Korean spy satellite had entered orbit as the North claimed. But it said it needs more time to verify whether it works. Earlier, the Pentagon said it was assessing the success of the launch, while Japan stated there had been no confirmation of the North's report on the satellite entering orbit. North Korea's state media

UK finance min 'Barring of several nuclear inspectors tables Sunak's



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watches conditions of a satellite at a satellite control center in Pyongyang, North Korea, Wednesday a fter North Korea's space agency said its new ?ÄúChollima-1?Äù carrier rocket accurately placed the Malligyong-1 satellite into orbit on Tuesday night.

claimed the spy satellite trans-Despite questions about the mitted imagery showing space views of key military sites in the launch, the United States and its allies strongly condemned it. US Pacific territory of Guam. They believe it was meant to It didn't publicize the photos, improve the country's missile technology as well as establish and many experts remain skeptical about whether the North a space-based surveillance sys-Korean satellite is advanced tem North Korea says it has enough to conduct meaningful military reconnaissance. sovereign, legitimate rights to launch spy satellites to cope with what it calls intensifying U.S.-led threats. But UN Security Council resolutions prohibit any satellite liftoffs by North Korea, viewing them as

North Korea, viewing them as covers for testing its long-range missile technology. Heo Tae-keun, South Korea's deputy minister of national defense policy, told a televised briefing that the North's latest satellite launch was not only a clear violation was not only a clear violation of the U.N. resolutions but also "a grave provocation that threatens our national securi-

Heo said South Korea decided to respond by partially suspending the 2018 inter-Korean agreement Wednesday and resuming aerial surveillance activities at the border. He added that South Korea will "promptly and strongly punish" North Korea if it uses the South Korean step as a pretext to launch another provocation. The 2018 agreement, struck during a short-lived era of reconciliation between the rival Koreas, created buffer

and no-fly zones along the countries' heavily fortified border. Under the deal, the Koreas were required to halt front-line aerial reconnaissance and livefire exercises. They also removed some of their guard posts and land mines at border

areas. The deal invited withering conservative criticism in South Korea with critics saying it significantly restricted the operation of the country's aerial surveillance assets, which are much more superior to North Korea's. They also accused the deal of heavily benefiting North Korea, because it only called for mutual reductions of conventional military strength while leaving the North's growing nuclear arsenal intact. South Korea has no

nuclear weapons. The brief Korean rapprochement period evaporated soon after the collapse of broader nuclear diplomacy between North Korea and the US in 2019. North Korea has since ramped up missile tests to modernize its weapons arsenal,

US and Philippines conduct joint air, sea patrols in SCS AP BANGKOK

The United States and the Philippines are conducting joint air and maritime patrols in the South China Sea, which come as the two countries

step up cooperation in the face of growingly aggressive Chinese activity in the area. The Philippine Air Force

said on Wednesday its aircraft had taken part in joint patrols the day before in the vicinity of Batanes, the northernmost province of the Philippines, which is only about 200 kilo-meters (125 miles) from

The patrols run through Thursday and also include both the US and Philippine navies. They come only days after Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called the situation in the South China Sea increasingly "dire" as China seeks to assert its presence in an area where multiple nations have competing territorial claims.

Asked about the patrols, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said position had heen made clear to both the Philippines and the US. The Philippines-US joint patrol drill must not undermine China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," she said. The US 7th Fleet said the patrols were part of routine American interaction with its allies and partners in "preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region". China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own waters, which has led to disputes not only with the Philippines but also with Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei. These claims have long been regarded as potential flashpoints in the region, and have fuelled US-China rivalry. Earlier this month a Chinese coast guard ship blast-ed a Philippine supply ship with a water cannon in disputed waters, and last month a Chinese coast guard ship and better counter China. an accompanying vessel

Alaska Juneau (Alaska) (AP): Three people were killed and three were missing after a landslide barrelled down a heavily forest-ed, rain-soaked mountainside and smashed into homes in a remote fishing community in southeast Alaska. The slide — estimated to be 450 feet (137 metres) wide

 occurred at about 9 pm on Monday during a significant rammed a Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat near a contested shoal, according to Philippine

Speaking on Sunday in Honolulu, Marcos said China has been showing interest in atolls and shoals that are "closer and closer" to the coast of the Philippines, with the nearest atoll about 60 nautical miles (111 kilometers) away. Unfortunately, I cannot report that the situation is improving," Marcos said. "The situation has become more dire than it was before?

In announcing the start of the joint patrols, Marcos said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that they were "testament to our commitment to olster the interoperability of our military forces". "Through collaborative efforts, we aim to enhance regional security and foster a seamless partnership with the United States in safeguarding our shared interests," e wrote. Under Marcos, who was elected last year, the Philippines has been deepening its relationship with the US in a shift from his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, who had been closer to China and Russia. In February, Marcos pproved an expansion of the s military presence in the Philippines to add four new bases from five existing sites under a 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the longtime treaty allies. The move, which Marcos said would boost the Philippines' coastal defence, dovetails with the Biden administration's efforts to strengthen an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to

Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as its own.

rain and windstorm near Wrangell, an island community of 2,000 people some 155 miles (250 kilometers) south of the state capital of Juneau. Rescue crews found the body of a girl in an initial search and late Tuesday the bodies of two adults were found by a drone operator. Searchers used a cadaver-sniffing dog and heatsensing drones to search for two children and one adult unaccounted for after the disaster, while the Coast Guard and other vessels looked along a waterfront littered with rocks,

trees and mud. Alaska State Troopers spokesperson Austin McDaniel said a woman who had been on the upper floor of a home was rescued. She was in good conlition and receiv care. One of the three homes that was struck was unoccupied, McDaniel said. "Our community is resilient," Wrangell interim borough manager Mason Villarma told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "And it always comes together for tragedies like this. We're broken, but resilient and determined to find everybody that's missing."

officials

tax cuts in Autumn Budget

London (PTI): Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt tabled the Autumn Statement budget in the House of Commons on Wednesday with a series of tax cuts for employees and businesses as had been indicated by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak earlier in the week.

Labelling his budget as an "Autumn Statement for Growth", Hunt said his measures would reward hard work with lower taxes because the Sunak-led government had hit its target to halve inflation by the end of this year.

He also announced increases in the state pension by 8.5 per cent from April 2024 and Universal Credit social benefits by 6.7 per cent.

"If we want people to get up early in the morning, if we want people to work nights, if we want an economy where people go the extra mile and work hard then we need to recognise that their hard work benefits all of us," said Hunt.

"Our choice is not big gov ernment, high spending and high tax because we know that leads to less growth, not more. Instead, we reduce debt, cut taxes and reward work. We deliver world-class education. We build domestic sustainable energy and we back British business," he said.

In a boost to employee wages, the finance minister told Parliament that the main 12 per cent National Insurance (NI) tax rate would fall to 10 per cent from January 6, 2024, saving those on an average annual salary of 35,000 pounds over 450 pounds a year. He also abolished NI pay-

ments for the self-employed, known as Class 2 National Insurance, saving that category of workers a significant annual sum.

Hunt also announced tough new measures for job seekers, saying those who fail

by Iran is 'serious blow' to monitoring'

AP VIENNA

The head of the International Atomic concerned one-third of the core group of the agency's Energy Agency said Wednesday that Iran's decision Energy most experienced inspectors designated for Iran. in September to bar several This is completely experienced U.N. inspectors uncalled for, this is completefrom monitoring the country's illogical," he said. nuclear program constituted "a

Grossi said that he hoped very serious blow" to the to "reverse" Iran's decision and that he is having "a conversa-tion" about the issue with agency's ability to do its job "to the best possible level."IAEA Director-General Rafael Mohammad Eslami, the head Mariano Grossi said that while of Iran's civilian nuclear prothe UN nuclear watchdog congram, The comments come tinued to perform its monitorafter a confidential IAEA ing work, Iran had targeted report last week said that Iran inspectors "who have a lot of continues to bar several of the experience, particularly in watchdog's inspectors from monitoring the country's enrichment and other capacities.""It takes a long time to prepare inspectors who have nuclear program, and that Tehran has further increased its stockpile of near weapons-

the necessary amount of expe-rience, skills and ability to perform their work," Grossi grade uranium. The IAEA said that told reporters on the first day according to its assessment, as of Oct. 28, Iran has an estimatof a regular meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors in ed 128.3 kilograms (282.9 Vienna. While refusing to get pounds) of uranium enriched

up to 60% purity, which repreinto specific numbers or names, Grossi said that the ban sents an increase of 6.7 kilograms since its September report.

Iran has long denied ever seeking nuclear weapons and continues to insist that its nuclear program is entirely for peaceful purposes, such as for use in medicine, agriculture, industry and science.

But the IAEA's directorgeneral has warned Tehran has enough enriched uranium for "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to build them. The 128.3 kilograms enriched up to 60% fissile purity are more than three times the approximately 42 kilograms of urani-um enriched up to 60% that the IAEA defines as sufficient material to fuel one atomic weapon once refined further. Uranium enriched at 60%

purity is just a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.In September, Iran informed Grossi of its decision to bar several inspec-

tors from monitoring the country's nuclear program. Iran's Foreign Ministry linked the move to what it said was an attempt by the United States and three European countries to misuse the IAEA "for their

own political purposes." The US and the three European countries had criticized Iran in September in a joint statement, calling on Tehran to step up cooperation with the agency.

In a second confidential report last week, the IAEA said that no progress has been made on its request that Iran explain the origin and current location of man-made uranium particles found at two locations that Tehran has failed to declare as potential nuclear

sites. The report also says that there is no progress thus far in getting more monitoring equipment, including cameras, reinstalled that had been removed by Iran in June 2022.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy issued disaster declaration for Wrangell, saying he and his wife were heartbroken and praying for all those affected.

The landslide left a scar of barren earth from near the top of the mountain down to the ocean. A wide swath of evergreen trees were ripped out of the ground and a highway was buried by debris, cutting off access and power to approximately 75 homes. Troopers said a large-scale search and rescue mission wasn't initially possible because the site was unstable and hazardous.

King Charles III honours K-pop girl group during S Korean president's state visit

AP LONDON

King Charles III paid tribute to K-pop band Blackpink on Wednesday, giving them honorary gongs for their work fighting climate change by raising awareness among young people.

During a three-day state visit by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Charles made Jennie Kim, Jisoo Kim and Lalisa Manoban honorary Members of the Order of the British Empire in recognition

of the group's role as COP26 Advocates for the COP26 Summit in Glasgow 2021. Roseanne Park (Rosé) was

also honored, but since she has dual New Zealand citizenship, her MBE is substantive. In addition to being king of the to find work after 18 months of | United Kingdom, Charles is Palace. The awards are part of



head of state for 14 realms, including New Zealand, which retained the monarch as their sovereign after gaining inde-pendence from the former British Empire.

The honors were presented Wednesday morning in the 1844 Room at Buckingham

Britain's honors system, which recognizes outstanding service to the nation and the wider world. Non-UK citizens, and those who aren't members of the 14 realms, receive honorary versions of the awards.

Charles had lauded the Kpop girl group on Tuesday at a glittering banquet.

Sam Altman back as OpenAI CEO just days after being removed

AP SAN FRANCISCO

The ousted leader of ChatGPT-maker OpenAI is returning to the company that fired him late last week, culminating a days-long power strug-gle that shocked the tech industry and brought attention to the conflicts around how to safely build artificial intelligence.

San Francisco-based OpenAI said in a statement late Tuesday: "We have reached an agreement in principle for Sam Altman to return to OpenAI as CEO with a new initial board."

The board, which replaces the one that fired Altman on Friday, will be led by former Salesforce co-CEO Bret Taylor, who also chaired Twitter's board before its takeover by Elon Musk last year.



The other members will be former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and Quora CEO Adam D'Angelo.

OpenAI's previous board of directors, which included D'Angelo, had refused to give specific reasons for why it fired Altman, leading to a weekend of internal conflict at the com-

pany and growing outside pressure from the startup's investors.

The chaos also accentuated

the differences between Altman who's become the face of generative AI's rapid commercialisation since ChatGPT's arrival a year ago - and members of the company's board who have expressed deep reservations about the safety risks posed by AI as it gets more advanced.

Microsoft, which has invested billions of dollars in OpenAI and has rights to its current technology, quickly moved to hire Altman on Monday, as well as another cofounder and former president, Greg Brockman, who had quit in protest after Altman's removal. That emboldened a threatened exodus of nearly all of the startup's 770 employees who signed a letter calling for the board's resignation and Altman's return.

One of the four board members who participated in Altman's ouster, OpenAI cofounder and chief scientist Ilya Sutskever, later expressed regret and joined the call for the board's resignation. Microsoft in recent days had pledged to welcome all employees who wanted to follow Altman and Brockman to a new AI research unit at the software giant. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella also made clear in a series of interviews on Monday that he was still open to the possibility of Altman returning to ÓpenAI, so long as the startup's governance problems are solved.

sport 11



ARGENTINA BEAT BRAZIL 1-0 IN WORLD CUP QUALIFYING n't make much difference after

any fans came to the Maracana Stadium to watch Lionel Messi in his likely last match in Brazil, a superclasico in World Cup qual-

ifying against the hosts. Instead, they saw Nicolás Otamendi score the only goal in a 1-0 win for Argentina after a brawl between fans that delayed

the start of the game. The World Cup champions inflicted the first home defeat on Brazil ever in World Cup qual-ifying. It was Brazil's third consecutive loss in the round-robin tournament — another negative mark for new coach Fernando Diniz.

Messi left the pitch in the 78th minute amid a mixture of jeers and applause from Brazil fans. Dozens of children arrived at the Maracana wearing the shirts of Barcelona, the star's previous club, and Inter Miami.

The Argentine star wasn't able to end one of his last barriers in the sport at the Maracana, though, to score against the Brazilians in a World Cup qualifier.

Argentina will return home not only atop the South American qualifying standings but also having given its fans one more chance to celebrate a vicpeople due to the brawl. tory at the historic stadium in



Ángel di Maria scored the only goal in an empty Maracana to give his team the Copa America title. The violent pre-match incident, starting shortly after the national anthems, stalled the start for 27 minutes. Argentina, led by Messi, headed to the locker rooms for 22 minutes. At least one fan left the stadium bleeding from his head. Rio police said they had arrested eight

Rio de Janeiro. Two years ago, The aggression between fans was reflected on the field in the first 20 minutes of the encounter; the referee gave fouls against Brazil during that time. The tension eased and allowed Argentina to avoid direct confrontation.

Brazil wasted opportunities, with Raphinha's free kick in the 38th minute and Cristian Romero saving Argentina near the goal line six minutes later after a crossed shot by Gabriel

puram from May 12 to 15, acc-

Martinelli

Brazil suggested they would keep the pressure after the break. Rodrygo forced goalkeeper Dibu Martinez to a close-range save in the 54th.

But Argentina's goal in the 63rd with a header by Otamendi, who jumped above the Brazilian defenders to meet a corner kick, was one of the few chances the team created. Teenager Endrick, one of

of Copa America in the United Brazil's big hopes up front, did-States

Finland stuns defending champion Canada to reach Davis Cup semis

 ${
m F}^{
m eeling}$ at home, Finland upset defending champion Canada to reach the semifinals of the Davis Cup for the first time.

Otto Virtanen and Harri Heliovaara defeated Alexis Galarneau and Vasek Pospisil 7-5, 6-3 in the decisive doubles match to give the 14th-ranked Finns the victory over No. 1 Canada in the first of the quarterfinals in southern Spain.

Virtanen had kept Finland alive by defeating Gabriel Diallo 6-4, 7-5 in the second singles match after Milos Raonic had given Canada the first point with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Patrick Kaukovalta. Finland was backed by some 3,000 thousands

Finnish fans at the Martin Carpena arena in Malaga.

"We are not in Finland but we feel like we are in Finland," Virtanen said. "I love the pressure of playing in front of these fans, it just makes me play better every time, all the support I get. It means everything to play for my country. Today was amazing."Fuengirola, a town about 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of Malaga, is home to the sec-ond largest community of Finns outside Finland, and 14 busloads of fans made the trip. They joined more than 1,000 fans who came from Finland, according to local organizers.

Finland is the first Scandinavian nation to reach the Davis Cup semifinals since Sweden in 2007. Finland's best performances before this year were three appearances in the World Cup playoffs - the last in 2002. Canada won its first Davis Cup title last year, defeating Australia in the final in Malaga.

"This is why we play tennis," Heliovaara said. "Today was definitely one of the highest days of my career in terms of emotions. We knew beforehand there was going to be a big Finnish supporter group, but you never know how good it's going to feel until you actually experience that on court. The emotions are something that I can cherish for the rest of my life."

The No. 1 player for both countries were out



injured - Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime with a lower body issue and Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori with a shoulder ailment.

Raonic, the former No. 3 in the world, started with four aces and never allowed Kaukovalta to get into the opening match. The 32-year-old Raonic, who hadn't played for Canada in five years, lost just one point on serve in the opening set and three in the entire match.

Finland evened the tie when the 22-year-old Virtanen broke serve once in each set against Diallo. In the doubles, Finland broke serve to go up 5-3 in the second set and then closed out the match and tie. Heliovaara said he and Virtanen had never played practiced doubles together.

"We went through the signs and through the tactics just 15 minutes before the match," Heliovaara said. "But that's sometimes what works the best. Let it happen. No expectations. Just do your best. Be a good teammate. We did exactly that."

Australia will play the Czech Republic in another quarterfinal on Wednesday, with the winner taking on Finland. On Thursday, it will be Italy against the Netherlands and Great Britain against Novak Diokovic's Serbia.

The semifinals will be played both on Friday and Saturday, with the winner being crowned on Sunday



India win nine medals to top Asian Para Archery Championships

AP BANGKOK

World No. 5 Rakesh Kumar led the Indian challenge women's compound open team event when Sheetal and Jyoti hat-trick of gold as th contingent pipped heavyweights South Korea to top the medal standings with nine medals at the Asian Para Archery Championships here on Wednesday.

Swagumilang 154-149. India won a fourth gold in

Olympic Games. The Federation Cup will be followed by the National Inter State Senior Championships from June 27-30 in Panchkula

Six franchises spend ₹3.9 crore to select 145 players in UKK players draft PTI BHUBANESHWAR

Six franchises picked up 145 players from a pool of 290 exponents during the Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) Season 2 draft, held here on Wednesday.

On a day when the franchis-es spent Rs 3.9 crore, 18 players were retained, while 33 young-sters between 16 and 18 years of age were also picked. Mumbai Khiladis picked 16-

ording to the proposed domes-tic calendar prepared by the AFI. Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariyear-old Sunil Patra from Odisha, while 17-year-olds M Mugilan of Puducherry and Maharashtra's Ganesh Borkar walla said the national body has chalked out a tentative domestic calendar for next year keep-ing in mind the global compe-titions, including the Paris were drafted by Chennai Quick

Guns and Rajasthan Warriors

he went on in the 72nd.

In the 81st, midfielder

Joelinton, who had just stepped in as a substitute for Brazil, was

sent off after pushing Rodrigo de Paul. Brazil fans ended the

Paul. Brazil fans ended the match chanting "ole" for every touch of the Argentinians, while the visiting supporters waved their shirts as some of their play-ers celebrated on the pitch. Argentina leads the 10-team

South American qualifying competition with 15 points from six matches, followed by Uruguay on 13 and Colombia.

Uruguay on 13 and Colombia. Brazil could end the year in sixth position, with seven points. The 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada will include 48 teams, meaning direct entry for the top

six teams from South America.

The seventh-place team can

earn a berth in an intercontinen-

won 1-0 at Paraguay; Uruguay beat Bolivia 3-0 in Montevideo;

and Ecuador topped Chile 1-0.

playing at the time the Brazil vs.

rounds of South American qual-

ifying will take place in

September after the next edition

Argentina match ended.

Peru and Venezuela were still

The seventh and eighth

Also on Tuesday, Colombia

tal playoff.

respectively. Maharashtra's Mahesh Shinde became the first pick of ence.

were the other star players to be picked by Rajasthan Warriors, Telugu Yoddhas and Chennai Quick Guns, respectively. Gujarat Giants and Rajasthan

Lakshya, Srikanth

Warriors drafted 25 and 22

driving young Indian fans in Season 2. What makes it special is that 33 players in Season 2 will be between 16 and 18 years of age. With an average age of 22.5 years, Season 2 is poised to be faster_stronger_and_bolder" faster, stronger and bolder," UKK CEO and League Commissioner Tenzing Niyogi said in a statement.

warriors drafted 25 and 22 players respectively to com-plete their squads, while defend-ing champions Odisha Juggernauts too ensured a good balance of youth and experi-

"Ultimate Kho Kho will be to Costa Del Sol, the LET's

Aditi also to tee up PTI MARBELLA (SPAIN) Diksha Dagar will need to emerge victorious in the final leg of the Ladies European Tour (LET) here to become the first Indian to win the 2023 Race

Diksha aims for Race to

Costa del Sol title honours;

Order of Merit. Playing her fifth season on the LET, Diksha won the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open and put together a series of consistent performances to put herself in the frame for the big prize. The left-handed Indian star is

currently lying third behind Thailand's rookie Trichat Cheenglab and France's Celine Boutier on the LET's Order of Merit, Another Indian compet Swede's form has been building ing in the event, Aditi Ashok, is lying eighth on the Race to Costa throughout 2023 and her first victory on the Tour came in France in September. The LET Del Sol. She has played seven LET events this season, winning the opener in Kenya. winner has to win this week to There are six players who have a chance of reaching the top have a mathematical chance of spot. winning the prestigious title at the end of Sunday's play. They are Trichat, Boutier, Diksha, Johanna Gustavsson, Alexandra Försterling and Ana Peláez



also finished second in the LPGA's Rolex Player of the Year standings. If she wins this tournament, she'll win the Race to Costa del Sol.

Johanna, winner of the Lacoste Ladies Open de France, has had a consistent season. Th

the draft for the second successive season. The 28-year-old defender was drafted by Mumbai Khiladis, which also retained Gajanan Shengal and Sreejesh S after their impressive performances in the inaugural edition. Vijay Hajare, Adhithya Ganpule and Laxman Gawas

India bagged four gold, four silver and one bronze, while South Korea finished their campaign with five medals (3-1-1) to settle for the second spot.

Rakesh, the 38-year-old Hangzhou Para Asian Games silver medallist, produced a stunning final end to overcome a two-point midway deficit and clinch the men's compound open crown with a 145-144 win over Indonesia's Ken Swagumilang. Earlier, Rakesh partnered

Suraj Singh to win the men's compound open team gold with a 147-144 win over Chinese Taipei's Chung-Hung Wu and Chih-Chiang Chng.

He then won the mixed team gold with Sheetal Devi defeating Indonesia's Teodora Audi Ayudia Ferelly and Ken

thrashed Korea's Jin Young Jeong and Na Mi Choi 148-137 in a lopsided final.

India also returned with four silver medals. In the women's recurve open

team final, India lost to Indonesia in the tie-breaker 4-5. The men's recurve doubles team of Harvinder and Vivek Chikara then went down to South Korea 2-6 to settle for a

silver. The men's recurve W1 doubles team of Adil and Naveen lost to South Korea 122-137 to bag a third silver.

Sheetal Devi also had to set tle for a silver after being pipped by Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim in the shoot-off.

Both were tied at 142-142 after the regulation five ends and the shoot-off too produced a 10-all tie as Nur was adjudged winner with her arrow closer to the centre.

Sarita had earlier won a bronze in the women's individual compound category defeating teammate Jyoti.

"The domestic competition in Panchkula will act as a final selection for the Paris Olympic Games," Sumariwalla said in a

release. The Olympics are sched-uled to be held from July 26 till August 11.

The 2024 World Relays in Bahamas (May 4-5) will be another major international competition as it offers Paris Olympics qualification berths.

"We want our core group of athletes to peak at the right time and excel at the international level," Sumariwalla said.

The international calendar will commence with the Asian Indoor Championships in Tehran, Iran from February 21

to 23. Asian Games champion shotputter, Tajinderpal Singh Toor and long jumper Murali Sreeshankar will skip the World Indoor Championships sched-

uled to be held in March, to focus on their Olympic prepa-ration, even though the duo has qualified for the event.

PTI SHENZHEN Sen and Kidambi Srikanth

suffered contrasting losses to bow out of the China Masters badminton tournament - the season's last BWF Super 750 event — here on Wednesday.

World No. 17 Sen, who won the Canada Open this year, went down 19-21 18-21 to seventh-seeded Chinese Shi Yuqi, while world No. 24 Srikanth suffered a 15-21 21-14 13-21 loss to world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.

It was a third consecutive first-round exit on the World Tour for Srikanth, who has just four quarterfinal finishes to show this season.

Both Sen and Srikanth are fighting to be inside the top 16 by April 28 next year to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Young Indian Priyanshu Rajawat also bowed out after los-

China Masters 1056



ing 17-21 14-21 to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in 46 minutes.

Srikanth lagged behind in the opening game from the start as Vitidsarn grabbed an 11-6 advantage at the break. The Indian narrowed down the lead to 12-13 but the Thai moved

ahead to take the opening game. Srikanth soon regrouped and opened a slim 3-0 lead. Thereafter, there was a tight fight but the Indian managed to established a 13-10 advantage after the break and kept his dis-

tance to roar back into the contest. Vitidsarn stayed calm and broke off from 8-8 in the decider to stay ahead despite a spirited fight from Srikanth, who had made it 13-15 at one stage. But the Thai reeled off six points to seal the issue.

Asian Games bronze medallist HS Prannoy and men's doubles pair of Satwiksairai Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are still in the the fray and will play their respective secondround matches on Thursday.

Trivino. Trichat, who won the 2023 Big Green Egg Open, has a chance to follow in the footsteps country-mate and 2021 Race to Costa del Sol winner Atthava Thitikul this week as she is enjoying a 168.84 points lead going into the final leg. Trichat can become the sixth

player to win both the Race to Costa del Sol and 'Rookie of the Year' titles in the same season. Boutier has had an amazing season, which includes wins at

the Amundi Evian Championship and the Women's Scottish Open. She take the Race to Costa del Sol.

run-ins in the past.

though his contract, which was

to end after the Asian Cup is

over, was extended for another

Stimac also talked about the

"We still need to work a lot,

we still need many things to do

inside our house, inside our

family about everything that is

connected to football. Qatar

need for improvements in the

organisation and logistics in

two years until June 2026.

'Needs better system'

the national team set-up.

Germany's Alexandra, winner of the VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open and the Mallorca Ladies Golf Open, was a co-medallist at LET O-School in December last year and has had a steady rookie year on the Tour. She captured her first LET title in Switzerland in September and added another last week in

Mallorca to put herself in the frame for the Race to Costa del Sol and Rookie of the Year. Alexandra will have to win again this week to have a chance. Ana Peláez Trivino, who was second at the Joburg Ladies Open, Investec SA Women's Open and the Helsingborg Open, is still looking for her first win this season and a Trophy here could give her a chance to

We didn't get what we want, so don't ask about results in Asian Cup: Stimac

PTI BHUBANESWAR

Tndia head coach Igor Stimac said he would not consider the upcoming Asian Cup in Doha as an important tournament as the team is competing in the continental showpiece without proper national camp, com-ments which may ruffle the feathers of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

Stimac wanted at least four weeks of national camp ahead of the continent's premier competition which begins on January 12 but with the first phase of the Indian Super League (ISL) continuing till December 29, the clubs are unlikely to release their players for a long training camp. India face formidable

Australia on January 13 and Stimac is unlikely to get more than 10 days of training with all his national team players together. Uzbekistan and Svria are the other two teams in India's

wanted. I was very clear, you give me time and I might provide results for you. Without the time, do not ask about the results or anything like that. Just

I will go there (Doha) with pride to represent India with my boys. We are going to do everything but there is no time for us to work, 12-13 days is nothing to prepare," he said after India

forget it," Stimac said bluntly.

lost 0-3 to Qatar in a World Cup second round qualifiers match here. The top two teams from each of the six groups as well as the four best third-place sides will advance into the round of 16. Stimac mentioned that most of the countries will be coming for the Asian Cup well prepared with long camps.

"We are going to face Uzbekistan who will be preparing for six weeks. I don't consider Australia as a team which we can (beat), they are better than Qatar. They are out of our group. "We did not get what we

WORLD CUP QUALI-FIERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ASIAN CUP

As the national team is not getting enough time for Asian Cup preparation, Stimac said the continental showpiece is no longer a very important tournament for him.

"For us the most important thing is the World Cup qualifier. Knowing that we are not going to get enough time for the Asian Cup, I don't consider the Asian Cup as such an important tournament for us," said Stimac.

"I don't want to get my players injured there. That is all I am going to take care of. Because there are three games against such big opponents like Australia, Uzbekistan and Syria. We might do something well and we are definitely going to fight and do everything on the pitch. But I am not worried about that.

"I need to make sure that we get enough points in our group

in the World Cup qualifiers to whole year, on all selections, as make sure that we get five-six clear as that.

home games in the third round Organisation-wise, travel, and that will be huge for Indian logistics, food, sleep, rest, everyfootball for the future. So let us thing needs to get better and stop talking about the Asian that will help us in future. That is what I am looking for and Cup." Stimac's comments may not requesting for."

Despite the 0-3 drubbing at be taken kindly by the AIFF top brass with whom he has had the hands of Qatar, Stimac is happy about the performance of the team. He had said before the The Croatian was served show-cause notice earlier in match that Qatar were "out of the league" for India. the year for his public comments

"Overall, I am happy because the result (against Qatar) was not our priority. My priority as a coach was to get answers to some questions which were haunting me for some time," he said.

"We are not having any more games prior to the Australia match in the Asian Cup. I have my answers and this was a huge win out of this game. I have a clear picture, clarity of what needs to be done and who are the players who can go there.

spends more in one trip coming here than what we do in the

sport 12



India's young T20 stars face first real test vs Australia

PTI VISAKHAPATNAM

uryakumar Yadav will have S to suppress the massive disappointment of a World Cup final defeat somewhere in the deeper confines of his heart while leading a sprightly bunch of 'Gen-Next' stars against a strong Australian side in a five-match T20 International series, starting here on Thursday.

The scars of defeat are too deep and it would take time for those wounds to heal.

With just around 96 hours of turnaround time from World Cup to the next series, it hardly leaves 'SKY' with any chance of introspection as he gets ready to play his favourite format.

As the captain of the side, he will not only want to win the series but also check out some of the best young Indian exponents of the shortest format, who will be on trial for next year's ICC T20 World Cup in June and July in the Americas (West Indies and USA).

The young guns like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Tilak

Verma, Jitesh Sharma and not-

so-young Mukesh Kumar have all made their international debuts in past few months but their first real Test will be against a very strong Australian T20 side which will have some of their World Cup heroes like opener Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell, leg-spinner Adam Zampa and former skipper Steve Smith in its ranks. Then there are IPL performers like Marcus Stoinis, Nathan Ellis, Tim David to name a few and even the T20

side, without its premier pacers, bears a formidable look under Matthew Wade, who will be leading in the series.

With skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul not being considered for the shortest format since the 2022 T20 World Cup semi-final defeat, one will get a real idea about the bunch of players, earmarked by the national selectors for next year's mega event.

Rinku has been pretty impressive in his short India stint so far and ditto for Yashasvi, Tilak and Mukesh, while Jitesh, despite his

debut in Hangzhou, will have to wait for his turn for a longer rope in presence of Ishan Kishan.

Having played mediocre attacks of West Indies, Ireland and some of the 'B' grade sides at the Asian Games, it will be a trial by fire for these youngsters, who would like to make an impression in whatever chances they get during this series and two ensuing ones involving South Africa (away) and Afghanistan (home).

The Australian pace attack comprising Kane Richardson, Nathan Ellis, Sean Abbott and left-armer Jason Behrendorff, is way better in terms of quality compared to what they have faced till now in their very short but eventful T2OI careers. There are 11 T20 International games that India play before IPL, which will be a two-month affair before the 'Men in Blue' hit the T20 World Cup mode. Hence the next two months

will be very important for these youngsters as they would like to further consolidate their spots



for that World Cup. How interim coach VVS Laxman works around the batting order will be interesting as someone like Shubman Gill is bound to comeback for the series against South Africa and there would be too many options at the top order.

It is expected that Ruturaj Gaikwad and one among either Jaiswal or Ishan Kishan will be opening the batting, keeping the right-left combination in mind. Surya, who is the designated

vice-captain when Hardik Pandya is there to lead the side, will bat at No. 3 or 4, depending on whether the team management decides to play both Jaiswal and Kishan. Unlike the ODI team, the

T20I side has a bevy of left-handers, in fact seven of them -Jaiswal, Kishan, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh along with all-rounders Axar Patel, Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar. It is understood that T20 team's think-tank is looking at Rinku and Jitesh as the two des-

ignated finishers, one of whom

and this is our 'Captain' coming

back home in a different avatar

"He was sorely missed and

as a "mentor".

is likely to get a slot. However the biggest test of this series will be the bowlers. Ravi Bishnoi will get a number of games as selectors want to look beyond Yuzvendra Chahal while Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar and Arshdeep Singh will be rotated during the series.

Axar Patel, having recovered from hamstring injury, is expect-ed to play all five games in the series. SQUAD:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vc), Ishan Kishan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Shivam Dubey, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar, Shrevas Iyer (last two matches only)

Australia: Matthew Wade (c), Aaron Hardie, Jason Behrendorff, Sean Abbott, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Kane Richard son, Adam Zampa.



Rohit unlikely to play T20Is in near future

PTI NEW DELHI

India's ODI and Test captain Rohit Sharma is unlikely to play T20 Internationals anvmore and had discussed his future in the shortest format before the start of the 50-over World Cup, according to

sources in the BCCI. Rohit hasn't played game in the shortest format since India's T20 World Cup semi-final exit in November 2022. Hardik Pandya has mostlv led the Indian team in T20Is since then.

conditions of anonymity. After Rohit, India have four

BUMRAH, SHAMI TO BE ROTATED DURING ENG-LAND TESTS: If all goes well, openers - Shubman Gill, India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will spearhead the attack in two-Test series in Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ishan Kishan and Ruturaj Gaikwad — and all of them are proven IPL per-South Africa with Mohammed

If the younger crop does not Shami and Mohammed Siraj. perform, the selectors or the However with five Tests in BCCI brass might just ask five weeks against England Rohit to reconsider his current scheduled early next year, the

Back home: Gambhir returns to Kolkata Knight Riders as 'mentor'

PTI KOLKATA

Gautam Gambhir was on Wednesday named the 'mentor' of Kolkata Knight Riders, an IPL franchise that he had led to title victories in 2012 and 2014.

Gambhir, the hero of India's T20 and 50-over World Cup wins, had led Shah Rukh Khanowned-KKR from 2011 to 2017 before parting ways. For the past two seasons, he was at the helm of Lucknow Super Giants as their 'mentor.

Lucknow qualified for playoffs in both seasons but were unable to go the distance which prompted the franchise to bring in former Australia opener and T20 World Cup winning coach Justin Langer as their Head coach Once the Sanjiv Goenka-

PTI VISAKHAPATNAM

Right-arm seamer Mukesh Kumar, who made his international debut across all formats earlier this year during the West Indies tour, has set his sights on a long stint with the Indian team starting with the upcoming T20I series against Australia.

New-look India will clash against Australia in a five-match T20I series starting on Thursday here, which will give both these rivals a good run in the format given that the next T20 World Cup is about seven months pace trio will be rotated during away. The 30-year-old Mukesh is determined to make the opportunity count as he looks to build on his success earned in the domestic circuit and the Indian Premier League, which led to his national call-up. "I want to regularly play for my country, that will be my first achievement. I want to continue focusing on the processes. I am seeing the results of sticking to them, so, I want to keep focusing and moving forward," he told Jio Cinema.

owned franchise roped in Langer, Gambhir's exit was always on the cards.

A lengthy meeting between Gambhir and Shah Rukh at Bollywood superstar's Mumbai home had created a lot of buzz but both LSG and Gambhir had vehemently denied his exit.

Venky Mysore, the all-powerful CEO of KKR, announced that Gambhir will join hands with head coach Chandrakant Pandit. "I am not an emotional person and not many things move me. But this is different. This is back to where it all started. Today, there is a lump in my throat and fire in my heart as I think about slipping into that purple and gold jersey once again," Gambhir was quoted as saying in a press note, issued by

franchise. "I am not only coming back



to KKR but I am coming back always been part of the family to the 'City of Joy'. I am back. I am hungry. I am number 23. Ami KKR," the former India opener said KKR's principal owner Shah

Seamer Mukesh Kumar eyeing

a long run with Indian team

now we all look forward to Rukh Khan said: "Gautam has Chandu Sir and Gautam in

instilling the never-say-die spir-it and of sportsmanship they stand for, in creating magic with Team KKR."

One thing about Gambhir, who is also an elected Member of Parliament, is that he likes to have his own team and full control over the proceedings and he is always ready to bear the brunt of consequences.

With Gambhir's re-entry to his 'spiritual home', it will be interesting to see the scope and domain for former Mumbai allrounder Abhishek Nayar, who had a big say in strategic matters related to team selection and combination.

Gambhir has always been the 'Captain' of the ship as principal owner said in his statement, and KKR fans would hope for a turnaround after a few indifferent seasons.

seen on TV. "When I first saw my India teammates, my mind stopped functioning briefly. I thought these were the players I watched on TV till yesterday and today I was getting a chance to warm up and share the dressing room with them," he said.

tion produces "toughest match-es" and help the Indian players prepare well. "IPL produces the Virat (Kohli) bhai told me I was bowling well. Rohit toughest matches. All teams are (Sharma) bhai, too, came and filled with international players spoke to me when the practice and that too, they are amongst matches were going on and the best. To play on this stage is gave suggestions. 'he recalled really very tough and a very good experience for me," Mukesh said. Having shared the dressing room with senior The road to the national team was a tough one for Mukesh. "My family would stay in Kolkata but I wouldn't stay India pacer Ishant Sharma, there. I would keep travelling to Mukesh recognises the support play tennis ball cricket which the lanky pacer has provided to him. "As far as the role of Ishant would fetch me about Rs 500 per match," he said. bhaiya (Sharma) is concerned, "Suddenly, there was a phase he supported me a lot. He when my father insisted that I explained my role in the team should stay with the family. I was very clearly, so I just wanted to looking for a job and my father be honest with what I was expected to do," he said. asked me to look out for cricketing opportunities in Kolkata. Mukesh made his debut in I got a chance to play in the First Test cricket first and his first Division after giving trials." "We games in ODI and T20Is foldid not have that much money for me to purchase a full kit. I lowed soon and the Bengal seamer says it was a humbling used to bat also earlier, but I experience sharing the dressing room with players he had only shifted focus to bowling because of the lack of money," he added.

The 36-year-old India skipper has played 148 T20Is scoring 3853 runs at a strike-rate of nearly 140 with four hundreds.

"It is not a new development. Rohit hasn't played any T20Is in past one year as the focus was on ODI World Cup. He had extensive discussions with chairman of selectors Aiit Agarkar in this regard. He has himself volunteered to stay away from T20Is. It has completely been Rohit's call," a senior BCCI source told PTI on

stand. It is understandable that at

formers.

this stage of his career, Rohit would like to manage his workload and ensure that he remains mostly injury free for the remainder of his career. It will be impossible to play

three formats and IPL each year and with seven Test to be played between December 2023 to March 2024, the Indian skipper's focus will be mostly on red-ball cricket.

He still has a realistic chance of leading India to another World Test Championship (WTC) final in 2025 and his own form in traditional format has been superb since he started opening for India in 2019.

the series. After his long injuryforced break from competitive cricket due to lower back stress fracture, there were question marks over Bumrah's ability to play red ball cricket but those in the know of things said that the Gujarat man is ready for his comeback

"Bumrah is fighting fit and results were there for everyone to see. He is back at his peak fitness and is itching to play the Test matches. With Bumrah and Shami, you need to use them based on what is the priority format at a given time. Bumrah will certainly play T20 World Cup if all goes well," the BCCI source added.

Mukesh, who plays for the Delhi Capitals in the IPL, believes that the T20 competi-



PTI KARACHI

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf faces the risk of being downgraded in his central contract and could also be denied permission to play the Big Bash League after opting out of next month's three-match Test considered for the Tests in series in Australia.

Rauf, whose contract carries a monthly retainer of over 4 million Pakistani rupees, is among six players who were handed 'Category B' contracts before the World Cup bound-team's departure to India in September.

The 'Category A' has only three players including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Afridi.

A reliable source said that some senior officials in the Pakistan Cricket Board were unhappy at the attitude of Haris and also over the statements made by his Lahore Qalandars coach Aqib Javed, who defended the express pace bowler.

Pakistan's new chief selector Wahab Riaz hit out at Haris on Monday for first agreeing to be

Haris Rauf's PCB contract could be revised RR trade Padikkal after refusing to play Tests in Australia

Australia before making himself unavailable two days later citing workload and fitness concerns.

Wahab, himself a fast bowler who appeared in three World Cups, made it clear that being a centrally contracted player, Haris should have been available for the Test series.

"I and the Director of Pakistan team, Muhammad Hafeez, we went and spoke to him in detail and told him that both the captain and coach wanted him (Haris) to play in Australia as he was an impact bowler and we assured him he would not bowl more then 10-12 overs in a day in Australia," Wahab had said at his press conference while announcing the squad for Australia.

"We also spoke to the team physio and trainer and they



said Haris had no fitness issues and there would be no problem with him in Australia," Wahab said.

Hours later sources quoting Haris in the Pakistan media said he had never made himself available for the Tests and had told the selectors he wanted to focus on white ball cricket and manage his workload.

But the source said that the very fact that Haris didn't come out with a denial directly had convinced the senior board officials he was playing games with the board and selectors.

"There has been discussion that if Haris is only focussed on white ball cricket then the central contact given to him also needs to be reviewed since he was placed in category B which carries a monthly retainer of over 4 million rupees plus

enhanced match fees, bonuses and a share in the PCB's share of ICC revenues.

"Those players were given top two categories who were considered all format players," the source said.

He said it could be expected that the board might either ask Haris for his final decision on red ball cricket and revise his contract and the player also has the option of going freelance and returning the central con-tract to the board like other international players including Trent Bolt, Jason Roy etc.

"A NOC for playing in the Big Bash could also be withheld by the board," the source added.

The source said that both Hafeez and Wahab had conveved their disappointment over Haris' attitude to the PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf.

for LSG's Avesh ahead of 2024 IPL

PTI NEW DELHI

India fast bowler Avesh Khan has been traded to Rajasthan Royals (RR) from Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), who has acquired the services of toporder left-handed batter Devdutt Padikkal in a direct swap ahead of next year's Indian Premier League. Ávesh, who is part of the India squad for the T20I series against Australia beginning in Visakhapatnam on Thursday,

runs. has 55 wickets from 47 IPL

matches so far. Avesh was purchased by LSG 2022 mega auction for Rs 10 crore. The right-arm pacer, who represented LSG in 22 matches and picked up 26 wickets, was traded to RR for his existing fee. Padikkal, on the other hand,

was bought by RR for Rs 7.75 crore. Both the players were retained by the respective franchises this year. Padikkal too head to LSG

from RR for his existing fee. The left-handed batter has 57 IPL matches under his belt, scoring 1521 runs with the help of a hundred and nine half-centuries. He represented RR in as many as 28 matches, scoring 637

> Meanwhile, out-of-form middle-order batters Sarfaraz Khan and Manish Pandey have been released by Delhi Capitals. Sarfaraz was bought for Rs 20 lakh while Pandey received a cool Rs 2.40 crore from the franchise. Thus DC has freed an additional Rs 2.60 crore for the auction.

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