



No end in sight to travails of Nagorno-Karabakh

Big cleanliness campaign by Ganga Vichar Manch Prayagraj on...

Children reached Badarka from Kakori with tricolor urn...

Air Force must reform, else it'll turn irrelevant: IAF Chief



PRAYAGRAJ: The Indian Air Force (IAF) must innovate in the face of emerging challenges and adopt cutting-edge technology to always remain future-ready, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Sunday.

In an address to air warriors at Prayagraj on the occasion of

Air Force Day, the IAF Chief said, "We must reform or become a relic. Innovation must become a part of our DNA, enabling us to easily adapt to emerging threats and challenges."

Listing the targets, he said the IAF must strive to be a leader in technology and innovation,

and that there was need to invest in state-of-the-art research, development and acquisition to achieve technological superiority. "There is need for us to candidly assess ourselves and address any inhibitions to change. Joint planning and integrated application of combat power will

be necessary for future wars. We must transform, else we will become irrelevant," he said.

The IAF Chief said there was a need to understand the nuances of evolving air power, set the pace to preserve peace and if and when necessary, fight and win wars.

The theme for this year's Air Force Day was 'IAF-Air Power Beyond Boundaries'. Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said this aptly reflected the inherent global reach of air power and how it would prove decisive in future conflicts. "Air Force operations extend worldwide, providing

rapid mobility and global reach. This allows a nation to project air power beyond boundaries in the form of rapid deployment and peacekeeping missions," he said.

"By the time we complete 100 years in 2032, the vision, as laid down in our doctrine, is to be an

agile and adaptable Air Force that provides decisive aerospace power in furtherance of our national interests," he said.

In this complex and dynamic strategic environment, refining the force's strategy, building robust all-round capabilities and more importantly, developing a

flexible mindset to prosecute future wars would prove decisive, the IAF Chief said. "In our quest for becoming an air and space force, we must recognise the importance of the space domain and continue developing our space capabilities," said Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari.

Congress Working Committee meets today, caste census, polls on agenda

New Delhi (Agency): The reconstituted Congress Working Committee will meet in the national capital for the first time on Monday, with caste census, its implications, election strategy and management expected to dominate the discussions.

The Congress' firm backing to caste census needs to be discussed in the highest party forum, sources say. Only recently a regular CWC member, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, had warned against Rahul Gandhi's "jitni aabadi utna haq" slogan as majoritarian, though he had

deleted his post on X after being told off by the party.

Within the Congress, some leaders feel the caste census narrative needs to be pitched right, in order to counter PM Narendra Modi's attack that the Congress was trying to divide the Hindus and was taking an anti-minority position through the caste census.

A discussion on the election strategy, seat-sharing commitments under the newly built INDIA bloc and election management is also expected to take place. Sources said the Con-

gress was severely lagging on poll management whereas the BJP was an election machine.

"The Udaipur Chintan Shivir declaration of the Congress had in May 2022 announced the decision to establish an election management department. It is nowhere in sight. We have to urgently consider putting it in place to fight the BJP effectively," a source said. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will chair the CWC meeting with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Vadra and other senior leaders in attendance.

Uttarakhand: More than 7 feared dead as landslide hits car in Pithoragarh

Pithoragarh (Agency): More than seven people are feared dead after their vehicle was hit by a landslide here on Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred at Thakti on the Kailash Mansarovar road in Dharchula subdivision, they said. Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Dharchula, Divesh Shashni said the vehicle coming from Bundi met with the accident around 2 pm. He said the car was buried under the rubble of the landslide. More than seven people are said to have been in the vehicle at the time, Shashni said, quoting eyewitnesses.

India, UK to hold FTA talks despite Hardeep Singh Nijjar irritant

NEW DELHI (UNI): In a signal that other G7 countries are not inclined to emulate fellow member Canada's example of severing trade talks following the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a 30-member delegation from the UK has arrived and will begin the 14th next round of talks for an FTA from Monday. Canada has



broken off talks on a precursor pact to a FTA after its PM Justin Trudeau alleged a potential Indian link in the murder of Nijjar.

Although UK PM Rishi Sunak and Trudeau had spoken last week to discuss the Nijjar row with the former reaffirming the UK's position that all countries should respect sovereignty and the rule of law, there are no signs that London wishes to escalate the issue beyond making this point.

Flash flood: ITBP rescues 56 people in North Sikkim's Chungthang, search continues for 81 missing

Gangtok (Agency): Fifty-six people were rescued in North Sikkim's Chungthang, one of the worst affected areas in the flash flood, the ITBP said on Sunday. Among those rescued were 52 men and four women, it said. "In another rescue operation, 56 civilians (52 Male & 4 Female) were successfully rescued via the ropeway made by the ITBP Rescue Team in Chungthang, North Sikkim," it tweeted. The search for the 81 people who went missing in the flash flood continued. So far, 30 bodies have been found, officials said.

The flash flood triggered by a cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday affected 41,870 people in four districts of the Himalayan state, with Mangan bearing the brunt of the calamity as a population of around 30,300 was hit by the disaster, according to the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA). The other three affected districts are Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi. Nineteen of the deaths were reported from Pakyong, six from Gangtok district, four from Mangan, and one from Namchi, the SSDMA said. Special radar, drones and Army dogs have been deployed for the search operations, officials said. So far, 2,563 people have been rescued from different areas and 6,875 people have taken shelter in 30 relief camps set up across the state, most of which have been cut off from the rest of the country.

The deluge also damaged more than 1,320



houses and washed away 13 bridges in the four districts of the picturesque Himalayan state.

More than 3,000 tourists stranded in Lachen and Lachung in Mangan district are safe, officials said.

In Guwahati, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa said on Sunday that an Indian Army personnel of Assam, who went missing following the flash flood, has been confirmed dead.

"A tragic loss for Assam as it loses a braveheart in Mitul Kalita of Indian Army, from

45th Shri Yogi Adityanath
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

INDIA CARPET EXPO

Inauguration of
INDIA CARPET EXPO
&
Launch Of An All New Kaleen Label
On Monday, 9th October, 2023 At 11.00 A.M.
by
Shri Yogi Adityanath
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
at
Carpet Expo Mart, Carpet City, Bhadohi U. P.

CEPC
CARPET EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
(Setup by Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India)

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Under the Aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Govt. of India

[CarpetExportPromotionCouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/CarpetExportPromotionCouncil/)
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Poor state of colleges

Kupvi college results should be a lesson for HP

THIS is what happens when a government college is opened in a hurry, without the requisite infrastructure and staff, in a bid to reap electoral dividends: with hardly any classes conducted, the students’ precious year is wasted as 90 per cent of them flunk the exams. Then Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur had announced the opening of the college in Kupvi, a remote subdivision in Shimla, in November 2021, with the first session beginning in July 2022, keeping in mind the Assembly polls that were held later that year. Betraying apathy, the college is still functioning from a private building since its site is yet to be finalised, even as the second batch of students is in.

In the first session, 70 students joined BA-I, but no teacher was appointed. This job was left to the Parent-Teacher Association, which could arrange only two private teachers for a brief period. Not surprisingly, the combined strength of BA first and second-year students has dwindled sharply and it is likely to drop further with 63 of the 70 BA-I students failing to clear the exams, though now they have three teachers (the strength is still inadequate).

This situation is symptomatic of the poor state of higher education in Himachal Pradesh. Last year, when the state took the lead in announcing the adoption of the New Education Policy-2020, most teachers were sceptical of the government’s ability to do justice to the ambitious programme. They had claimed that the majority of the colleges in the state were running without a principal and there was a shortfall of at least 1,500 teachers. In this scenario, it is doubtful if the NEP-2020, which envisages a multiple choice-based system, learning in local languages, skill development and flexible entry and exit options, can be implemented in letter and spirit.

Rajouri firing

It’s vital to prevent fratricidal flare-up

SIX months after an Army jawan shot dead four of his colleagues at the Bathinda military station, a Major opened fire and threw grenades inside a camp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, injuring three officers. The accused started firing on his colleagues during a shooting practice session and then took shelter in the unit’s armoury, from where he lobbed grenades before he was overpowered. The incident is a grim reminder of the simmering tensions in the armed forces that lead to fratricidal or suicidal reactions.

Even as a Court of Inquiry has been ordered, the Army needs to delve deep into the aggravating circumstances in such cases. In the Bathinda incident, the accused gunner had claimed that he was a victim of sodomy and had gunned down the alleged perpetrators to avenge the atrocity committed against him. In July last year, two Army personnel were killed and two others were injured in fratricidal firing after an altercation at an Army camp at Surankote in the border district of Poonch in J&K.

Such incidents, which have a detrimental effect on the morale of the armed forces, should not be kept hidden under a cloak of secrecy. The authorities’ reluctance to provide precise information often leads to unwarranted speculation. Bringing out the truth is a prerequisite for course correction. Also, there is a dire need to improve the grievance redressal mechanism and take pre-emptive steps to avert a flare-up. Soldiers work under gruelling conditions, especially those posted in border areas. Acute stress makes them vulnerable physically as well as mentally. The focus should be on addressing their requirements in a time-bound manner and encouraging them to seek psychiatric help or therapy when confronted with mental health issues. When it comes to the Army, an unstable soldier is an unacceptable teammate.

No end in sight to travails of Nagorno-Karabakh

The clashes started when Azeri forces launched an all-out offensive against Nagorno-Karabakh after tormenting the local population with a blockade of food and medicines.

VAPPALABALACHANDRAN

LAST week saw an abrupt end to a bitter, centuries-old land dispute, which also caused several wars. It virtually erased from the global map a small nation which had declared itself a republic after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. What was disquieting was the disinterest of major nations in these tragic developments.

Nagorno-Karabakh, or the Republic of Artsakh, is a disputed Christian-majority territory wedged between Armenia, an ancient Christian nation, and the predominantly Muslim (Shia) Azerbaijan in the Southern Caucasus region. It traces its history to the fifth century BCE. The area’s name originated from three languages: ‘Nagorno’ is from Russian, meaning a mountainous terrain; ‘Kara’ is black in Turkish; and ‘Bakh’ in Persian means garden (bag). Artsakh, which means ‘wood’, is the ancient Armenian name for this area. Its population in 2020 was 1,40,000.

In the past, this area was a battleground for the Russian, Ottoman and Persian empires. Persian emperor Nadir Shah, the ‘butcher’ of Delhi in 1739, captured it from the Ottomans in 1735. After his assassination in 1747, his empire split into different Khanates. Karabakh was ruled by a Turkish commander under Iran’s titular control. In 1813, Iran transferred Karabakh to Tsar Alexander I after the 1804-13 Russo-Persian war.

After the Soviet Union was formed, Josef Stalin placed the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region (oblast) with an ethnic Armenian majority within the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan due to his suspicion that the latter was getting closer to Turkey.

That did not prevent Azerbaijan from subjecting Artsakh to ethno-religious discrimination to eliminate its Armenian Christian majority and replace it with Azerbaijani Muslim settlers. In 1991, Nagorno-Karabakh formed a new republic when the Soviet Union disintegrated and opened its Washington DC office as the “office of the land of Artsakh”.

Azerbaijan did not accept this and Armenian-Azeri clashes ensued. The first Karabakh war (1992-94) resulted in Azeris fleeing from Armenian-controlled territories and Armenians escaping from Azeri-dominated areas. In 1992, the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) set up the OSCE-Minsk Group, co-chaired by France, Russia and the US, to restore peace. A ceasefire was achieved in 1994 on Russian initiative, leaving the area under Armenian control; this facilitated a referendum in 2017, when Nagorno-Karabakh decided to proclaim itself as the Republic of



Artsakh.

Bitter fighting erupted in 2020 during the second Karabakh war, in which 3,000 Azerbaijani and 4,000 Armenian soldiers were killed. A Russian-brokered peace followed. Armenia agreed to return all occupied territories around Nagorno-Karabakh enclave which it had captured from Azerbaijan.

Even this did not restore peace. Clashes that broke out on September 12, 2022, resulted in the deaths of 100 Armenians and 70 Azerbaijani soldiers. Again, a temporary ceasefire was achieved by Russia, which was already busy with the Ukraine war since February 24 last year. However, this time, Turkey was found to have aided Azerbaijan, which provoked Nancy Pelosi, then Speaker of the US House of Representatives, to travel all the way to Armenia along with US Congressmen on September 19, 2022, and accuse Azerbaijan of being the aggressor.

The 2022 Nagorno-Karabakh war highlighted competing interests of various countries, like we have seen during the Russia-Ukraine war. Though Russia is a military ally of Armenia, it is also a major exporter of arms to Azerbaijan along with Turkey, a NATO member. Also, Azerbaijan is a major exporter of oil and gas to Europe, “where many countries are struggling with supply disruptions due to the war in Ukraine and are trying to reduce their reli-

ance on Russian energy,” as the US National Public Radio put it on September 19, 2022.

The present clashes started on September 19 this year when Azeri forces launched an all-out offensive against Nagorno-Karabakh after tormenting the local population with a blockade of food and medicines. This was to suppress what they called Armenian ‘terrorist’ activities by way of planting landmines which had killed Azeri civilians and police officers. Azerbaijan claimed to have informed Russian peacekeeping forces in advance, but this was denied by Russia, which said the information came only a few minutes before the attack.

A ceasefire initiated by Russia was effective from September 20 on the condition that Nagorno-Karabakh would disarm its forces and hold talks to ‘reintegrate’ the territory with Azerbaijan. What created panic was the Azeri stipulation that the individuals listed by its government should be handed over to them for trial as ‘war criminals’. The exodus started on September 21. By October 2, more than 1 lakh people had fled the Artsakh region. Its capital, Stepanakert, which had a population of 50,000, looks like a ghost city. On September 28, Artsakh President Samvel Shahramanyan had signed a decree that all state institutions of the Artsakh republic would be dissolved by January 1, 2024. Armenia was upset with Russia for letting down Artsakh people when they had all the while considered Moscow as a key ally and security guarantor. They had expected it to protect the status quo and prevent Azerbaijan from gobbling up that area. On October 3, Armenian Parliament voted to join the International Criminal Court; this annoyed Moscow as it would mean agreeing to arrest President Vladimir Putin for alleged war crimes.

However, what was not expected was Israel’s continued help to Azerbaijan. In 2020, Armenia withdrew its Ambassador in protest against Israeli supply of weapons to Azerbaijan. Israel considers Azerbaijan as a strategic ally, a critical source of oil and gas, a good market for its weapons and also to keep a watch on Iran.

Jerusalem Post (September 30) and AP News (October 5) reported airlifting of Israeli weapons. Arman Akopian, Armenian Ambassador to Israel, was quoted as saying: “For us, it is a major concern that Israeli weapons have been firing at our people.” He described what was happening as ‘ethnic cleansing’. People whose forefathers have lived there for 3,000 years are abandoning their spiritual and national heritage.

YOU CAN WIN OVER ASTHMA

SK JINDAL

AKSHAY (14) had been having repeated attacks of breathlessness, bouts of severe cough and wheezing, waking up at night or early morning almost every day. This would happen every year during the change of season. My diagnosis of ‘bronchial asthma’ came as a shock to his mother. I explained that it is a kind of respiratory allergy that commonly starts during childhood. Like any other allergy, asthma is an abnormal reaction to an inhaled environmental antigen. It is different from common cold, usually a viral infection, with symptoms such as cough, fever and nasal congestion.

I told her that asthma is not a stigma and many asthmatics,

even sportspersons, have excelled in their careers, proving that this respiratory condition can never be a hindrance in leading a normal life. Akshay was feeling well by the evening, and his mother was much relieved.

Asthma is an allergic disease which is partly hereditary and partly environmental in origin. It is neither auto-immune, nor infectious. It is a chronic respiratory condition that causes inflammation and tightening of the muscles around the small airways in the lungs, leading to narrow air passages. This makes the airways produce extra mucus, causing difficulty in breathing. The symptoms include cough, wheezing, shortness of breath and tightness in the chest.

Asthma is more common in children but can affect individuals of any age. India has an estimated 3.43 crore asthma patients. Every year, 1.98 lakh Indians die of asthma. Over the last few decades, both the incidence and severity of asthma have increased. This can be partly attributed to the increasing levels of air pollution.

Characteristically, asthma can lead to:

Acute episodes of cough, breathlessness and wheezing, more frequently at night or in the early hours of morning. Sleep is frequently disturbed.

In more severe forms, the patient may remain symptomatic continuously for several weeks or months.

Asthma gets worse during the months of seasonal change, generally attributed to the heavy load of pollens and dust in the air, along with changes in environmental temperature and humidity. Almost three out of four patients start with the symptoms following an episode of common cold, or a viral infection of the upper respiratory tract.

Typically, the patient starts with fever, running nose, sneezing and sore throat, followed by asthma symptoms. Persistence of symptoms for more than a few days or presence of wheezing, chest congestion, heaviness and breathlessness should warrant immediate medical intervention.

Asthma symptoms are sometimes confused with chronic bronchitis due to similarity in nature — cough, often called smoker’s cough, coughing up mucus, wheezing, chest discomfort, etc. A progressive condition, bronchitis is usually seen in the elderly, among smokers, and is continuous, with more of sputum production (for at least three months a year, for two years in a row). On the other hand, asthma is usually reversible and treatable even though it may require regular treatment.

Asthma patients may develop worsening or additional symptoms on exposure to a trigger. Some triggers include dust mites in hot and humid conditions, exposure to smoke from

combustion, strong perfumes, air pollution, fur or feathers from pets, fumes and paints. An acute attack can sometimes be serious. Family education and doctor-guided self-management are important.

While there is no cure for this life-long condition, asthma can be effectively controlled with inhaled medications and avoidance of exposure to triggers. Regular cleaning of beddings, pillows and their exposure to sunlight reduce the burden of mites. Educate yourself with asthma-management plans in discussion with your doctor. One must not allow asthma to control one’s life. Live a normal and active life with appropriate disease management.

Political hypocrisy vs social idealism

RAJESH RAMACHANDRAN

JITNI abadi utna haq is the Congress’ new war cry. Why this sudden change of mind? Why this new slogan for a party that historically distorted the concept of representational politics by offering maximum seats at the high table to the upper castes, particularly Brahmins? Surely, it has to be granted that after nine years, the Opposition is getting its act together by first forming the INDIA bloc and then unveiling its grand idea. The Opposition that has been floundering with just the anti-Modi tirade and accusations of crony capitalism favouring Adani as its staple has now found a magnificent mojo — caste census.

The headline-stealing raids and arrests of journalists, a news portal promoter, an Opposition MP and others are all alleged to be signs of desperation of the Union Government that is buying time to respond to the Bihar caste survey, whose findings were released on Gandhi Jayanti. Whether the government is jittery or not, the survey is definitely a new attempt by the Opposition to grab the political initiative and set an agenda for the 2024 polls, forcing the BJP to either acquiesce or respond. But will it work? Is it enough to stop the Modi juggernaut and defeat him?

The old Bihari prescription of the identity drug to treat electoral deficiencies worked 30 years ago because the feudal edifices in the Gangetic plains were still intact and the Congress leadership was a mere extension of this feudal overlordship. It was a historical necessity to break the feudal order that had destroyed the socio-economic potential of the largest number of Indian citizens, reducing them to subhuman poverty and making them pedal rickshaws in Delhi or toil in Punjab’s fields or Gujarat’s factories. But that was 30 years ago. Brahmins have stopped ruling the Gangetic plains since then.

And it was a mere extrapolation of a social change that had already occurred in South India: the transfer of power from the empowered to the less privileged but dominant castes. The major difference in the southern and northern experiments has been the emergence of the numerically superior Yadav caste as the primary beneficiary of social change in Bihar and Uttar



Pradesh. In the South, a party or an organisation became the vehicle of the social change empowering numerically dominant castes, but also allowing those from marginal castes to ride the anti-upper caste or, to be more specific, anti-Brahmin wave. Now, in Tamil Nadu, the anti-Brahmin rant helps the first family of Dravidian politics hold on to positions of power

without actually representing a numerically superior group.

The caste wheel, obviously, cannot be reinvented minus honest spokes of representation. In fact, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s grand idea will fail in Bihar itself on the touchstone of representation. According to his own survey, Nitish’s caste Kurmi is just 2.87 per cent of the state’s population. So, if one goes by the jitni abadi utna haq principle, only a Yadav should be the CM of Bihar, for Yadavs account for the largest slice of 14.26 per cent of the population. So, Tejashwi Yadav should immediately be promoted to CM and Nitish does not even qualify to be Deputy CM because other castes have a greater share in the population. Now, if the electorate is divided not just among jatis, which could be fractious, but along caste groups — like general category, backward caste, extremely backward caste, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe — Nitish again does not qualify because he does not belong to the largest group: extremely backward caste.

Political hypocrisy cannot prop up social idealism. The caste survey will work as a political tool only if on its basis Nitish resigns and hands over the reins of his government to a member of an extremely backward caste or a Yadav. You cannot simply commission a caste survey and then not act on it while in power. This dilemma will haunt every single backward-caste leader in India who is crying hoarse for a national caste census. For instance, Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin will have to abdicate in favour of a Vanniyar or a Thevar or a Gounder or any other numerically strong group for his caste

push to sound credible. If your own community is as numerically insignificant as Brahmins, the caste census won’t be an effective anti-Brahminical propaganda tool.

Purely on the relative strength of the caste of birth, Nitish’s right to become CM of Bihar is less than that of a Brahmin (3.65 per cent) or a Rajput (3.45 per cent). And this gets worse in the case of the Congress. If the Congress seeks to pursue the abadi-haq slogan, it will have to first abandon the Gandhi family, which really does not represent any caste other than cosmopolitan India. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is from a scheduled caste and not from the numerically more superior OBC grouping. The most visible face of the party, Jairam Ramesh, is a Brahmin and hence disqualified, and so are all the important general secretaries and the treasurer of the party. Backward caste politics can have two objectives — to grab power for the single largest caste group, or to attack the BJP as a symbol of Brahminical hegemony of the old feudal order. And both have run their course. For one, the OBC politics has become family enterprises in Bihar, UP, Tamil Nadu and elsewhere and is no longer considered emancipatory; and more importantly, the Sangh Parivar has owned up social engineering as an electoral ploy more assiduously than the Congress or the Left, crafting its own OBC leadership with Modi as a better example than anything that the Opposition can offer. Modi’s community, the oil-pressing Teli, is almost as big as Nitish’s own caste even in Bihar. Those who conjured up the moth-eaten Bihari formula should at least have remembered the Punjab experiment that failed. Charanjit Singh Channi represented the single largest caste grouping and yet lost the elections from both seats he contested; for, the people wanted change and not caste. When served with dollops of double standards, identity politics reeks of regressive opportunism.

Big cleanliness campaign by Ganga Vichar Manch Prayagraj on the auspicious occasion of Air Force Day

RAKESH SHARMA

Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: Under the direction of Anamika Choudhary State Convenor Kashi region GVM NMCG jal Shakti mantralay at Dashashwamedh Ghat, Rasulabad Ghat, Arail Ghat and Chhatnag Ghat, a cleanliness campaign was conducted simultaneously at all the important ghats of Prayagraj. At Dashashwamedh Ghat, Anamika Choudhary herself along with her officials conducted a cleanliness campaign and made the bathers coming for Tarpan during Pitru Paksha aware about not washing clothes in the Ganga, not immersing

old garlands, flowers and photographs in the Ganga. He said that today people are coming to Prayagraj from far and wide, in such a situation our responsibility has increased to keep Prayagraj clean, especially in the coastal areas of Ganga. Anamika Choudhary distributed Ganga Ki Baat comics with Namami Gange Chachi Choudhary to the children of Namami Gange cultural program at Radha Krishna Temple Daraganj. The children looked very happy to see Chacha Chaudhary and Sabu in their new avatar. Yoga Guru Acharya Kaushal Kishore Mishra made all the officials



aware about Yogasana and made them take cleanliness pledge. Neha Keshari, Team Leader Dinesh Srivastava and Acharya Kaushal Kishore, Munni Pandey, Damini Pandey, Savita Singh, Vijay Keshari, Shiva Tripathi Former Councilor, Pradeep Shukla Advocate, Prabhat Srivastava Advocate, Ramji Sharma Advocate, Rajendra Jaishwal, Arun Bhatnagar, Ravi Nishad, Journalists Annu Nishad, RP Dubey, Bhim Singh, Vijay Sinha, Ashutosh Srivastava, Ishwar Chandra Kesharwani, Major Sunil Nishad etc. made sailors, pilgrim priests and barbers aware about cleanliness.

'International Carpet Fair' begins, foreign buyers will admire the magic of carpet weavers' fingers

The four-day 45th 'Carpet Expo' will run till October 11, more than 500 importers from around 60 countries will participate

The stall of handmade carpets of district jail prisoners is the center of attraction, 272 exporters have put up an exhibition

Chief Minister will participate in the fair today, expectations of business worth more than Rs 500 crore

ADITYA TIWARI

Bhadohi, Sanyam Bharat: The four-day international 'India Carpet Expo Fair' started on Sunday from October 8 in Bhadohi, UP, famous on the global stage for carpets. This is the second carpet expo to be organized at the Expo Mart in Bhadohi, while it is the 45th carpet fair of India. With the inauguration, foreign carpet buyers have also started arriving. 272 exporters have set up stalls of their carpet products in the carpet fair. At the same time, 450 foreign buyers and representatives of 250 foreign buyers from about 60 countries will participate. The stall of carpets handmade by the prisoners of the district jail will be the center of attraction in the fair. Exporters expect trade worth more than Rs 500 crore through the fair. CM Yogi and government ministers etc. will also participate in the program on October 09, their visit is also proposed. For which extensive preparations have been made. The government machinery is on full alert, extensive security arrangements have been made. The intelligence department is also fully alert regarding the arrival of foreign guests and VVIPs. Earlier recently, top officials including the Minister in-charge had inspected the Expo Mart and also held a CEPC meeting. Minister of State Danish Azad Ansari and

District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi said that no stone has been left unturned in the preparation and arrangements of the international level fair. So that the carpet business can get more recognition.

Carpet is the cultural heritage of Bhadohi, about 40 percent of the country's production is

Hand Knotted Carpet is not only the traditional carpet industry of Bhadohi, but it is also the cultural heritage of this place. Carpet business has been going on in carpet city Bhadohi for centuries. Which is exported to countries around the world including America, Europe, Germany, France. At the same time, this traditional product of Bhadohi is also spreading its shine in the new Parliament House Central Vista being built in Delhi. Bhadohi carpet was also visible in Yashobhoomi Mandapam. Bhadohi alone produces 35 to 40 percent of the country's production. Carpet is also included in the 'One District One Product Scheme'.

700 buyers from about 60 countries will participate in the carpet fair

About 700 buyers and importer representatives from about 60 countries are to participate in the Expo Mart, which will run from October 8 to 11. Apart



from this, about 272 carpet exporters will set up stalls and showcase their products in the fair. Carpet exporters of the district believe that if four-six importers like their samples, it will help in gaining momentum in the business. Some unique sampling has been done to impress the buyers.

Chief Minister of the state will also participate, will communicate with exporters, importers and weavers

Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) administrative

committee member Firoz Waziri said invitation letters for the carpet expo had already been sent. Some exporters had recently met the CM along with MLA Aurai and invited him, on which he has also given assurance. About which exporters are excited. The DM and the minister in charge said that CM Bhadohi is coming to the handicraft fair. He will also give gifts to carpet traders, weavers and Bhadohi residents.

There is also an exhibition of handmade carpets of prisoner weavers of District Jail Gyanpur

In the carpet city, prisoners are also working as carpet weavers. Their craftsmanship has reached Japan, England and the US through three carpet exporters. DM said that more than 60 prisoners are weaving carpets in Gyanpur jail also. So that their workmanship can get more recognition, a stall of District Jail Carpet has also been set up.

Small and medium entrepreneurs have great hopes, Expo fair can prove to be a milestone

The Carpet Export Promotion Council was busy preparing in

full swing for the four-day India Carpet Expo in Bhadohi. India Carpet Expo-23 can prove to be a profitable platform for the struggling small and medium carpet entrepreneurs. Exporters, who are deprived of participation in the international carpet fairs organized in Delhi and other big cities due to high expenses, have booked stalls in the carpet fair to be held in Bhadohi from October 8. People believe that the future of the carpet industry of Bhadohi area depends on this expo fair. In such a situation, if

business is not done as per expectation, then a large number of people will not be able to participate in the next expo. Organizer Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) had claimed to generate Rs 400-500 crore business in the first carpet expo held in October last year, but no positive impact was seen on the Bhadohi market. One year has passed and today the situation is such that a large number of people are without work.

Expo Mart is built at a cost of Rs 200 crores

A mart has been constructed on 7.5 acres of land at a cost of Rs 200 crore in Carpet City located in Bhadohi. It is one of India's state-of-the-art projects for the carpet sector. Carpet Expo Mart is solar powered as well as green mart, which has 94 permanent shops apart from two halls of 7 thousand square meters. There are all other facilities of international standard here. For now, it remains to be seen whether this time's expo proves to be a milestone for carpet traders or not. Because behind them there is also a large section of weavers, whose livelihood depends on this business.

Bhadohi carpet is spreading its beauty in the new Parliament House, Bhadohi carpet is also spreading its beauty in

Yashobhoomi Mandapam

Bhadohi, once separated from Banaras district, is famous for carpet production. The magic of the fingers of the weavers here is leaving its mark in foreign countries, while the handmade colorful carpet here is also adding to the beauty of the newly constructed Parliament House of the country which was inaugurated on 28 May 2023. Bhadohi's OBT company had prepared about 300 pieces of carpets on order and sent them to be installed in the central vista of the New Parliament Building. At the same time, the Yashobhoomi Mandapam of the G20 Summit also had a carpet carved with threads by the weavers of Bhadohi.

Tight security arrangements in view of VVIP arrival

In view of the foreign guests and VVIP movement, utmost care has been taken regarding the security arrangements. Extensive arrangements have been made regarding security. There is police presence everywhere. Intelligence, LIU and Special Branch are keeping an eye. On Sunday (October 8), ADG Jain Varanasi Ramkumar and DIG RP Singh, District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi, Superintendent of Police Dr. Meenakshi Katkayan held a police briefing meeting.

As per the intention of the government, in view of quick disposal and action on public complaints, "Complete Solution Day" was organized in all the tehsils of the district

BHADOHI, Sanyam Bharat: Vindhayachal Divisional Commissioner Dr. Muthukumar Swami B. in Bhadohi, Gyanpur, 07 October 2023. And Deputy Inspector General of Police R.P. Singh, Tehsil Gyanpur District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi, Superintendent of Police Dr. Meenakshi Katkayan, Tehsil Aurai Deputy District Magistrate Akash Kumar and other officers at-

the Women Welfare Department, Mission Shakti, Revenue Department. Help desks were set up for awareness. The District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police inspected the camp set up in Tehsil Gyanpur and the Divisional Commissioner and DIG in Tehsil Bhadohi inspected the camp set up in Tehsil Gyanpur and took information about the schemes and facilities

ity manner within the stipulated time limit.

On this occasion, Vindhayachal Divisional Commissioner Dr. Muthukumar Swami B. said that Deputy District Magistrate, Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar should ensure quality and timely disposal of the pending cases of their respective courts. He said that common people and farmers come from

tion. He directed all the department heads to implement the innovation work being done in the country and the state. Do it. On the Complete Solution Day of Tehsil Gyanpur, the District Magistrate directed all the heads of departments that if the complaints of some complainants are related to inter-departmental matters, all the concerned departments should ensure 100 percent disposal through mutual coordination and cooperation. Instructed to prepare a departmental action plan and make efforts to fulfill it.

Superintendent of Police Dr. Meenakshi Katkayan said that in revenue related cases, a joint team of law enforcement officers, accountants and police directed for on-site inspection and verification and disposal within a week. The joint team went to the spot, took evidence from both the parties and witnesses, prepared a spot note and got it signed. He directed all the Tehsildars to make a list of the cases or disputes that are coming up again and again and ensure that the cases are resolved by working with the police. On the Complete Solution Day, the above mentioned officers in all three tehsils promptly resolved the problems of some complainants and directed the concerned officers to resolve the remaining ones.

ADG Zone Varanasi and Deputy Inspector General of Police conducted on-site inspection in view of the preparations for India Carpet Expo and VVIP arrival

After inspecting the helipad site, ADG and Deputy Inspector General of Police gave safety instructions



Bhadohi Sanyam Bharat: ADG Zone Varanasi Ramkumar and Deputy Inspector General of Police RP Singh along with District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi and Superintendent of Police Dr. Meenakshi Katkayan took over all information while observing the preparations for the Carpet Expo Mart/Carpet Fair and the arrangements made in view of the arrival of VVIP and informed

the concerned. Giving direction, instructions were given to complete all the arrangements. ADG Zone Varanasi Ramkumar and Deputy Inspector General of Police RP Singh, District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi and Superintendent of Police Dr. Meenakshi Katkayan explained the main points to make the Expo Mart/Carpet Fair a success to the police officers/police per-

sonnel coming from other districts. ADG Zone Varanasi and DIG inspected the helipad being built for the arrival of the Chief Minister and instructed them to remain alert by completing all the necessary arrangements.

He visited the road and instructed the concerned to clean it and sprinkle lime. He inspected the preparations being done for the India Carpet Expo/Carpet Fair

to be held at Carpet Expo Mart from 08 to 11 October and all the points necessary in view of the arrival of VVIP and talked to the officials of Expo Mart. He inspected the Expo Mart and gave necessary directions to the Expo Mart officials to make this event a success. He expected cooperation from all concerned authorities to build the global image of the International Carpet Fair.



tended the Total Solution Day and resolved the problems of the complainants by seriously listening to them. Various camps were set up in all the tehsils as per the instructions of the District Magistrate - Child Development Nutrition Department, Ayushman Golden Card, Family Planning, Old Age Pension by the Social Welfare Department, various schemes for the upliftment of women and girls by

provided by them to the beneficiaries. The complainants in Tehsil Bhadohi, related to various departments, informed about their problems before the Divisional Commissioner. Out of which, Divisional Commissioner and District Magistrate disposed off some of the applications on the spot and directed the officers of the concerned department to dispose of the remaining applications in a qual-

remote areas for the hearing of the cases with great hope that their cases should be disposed of soon. He said that in compliance with the instructions of the Chief Secretary through video conferencing, illegal occupation of public lands will be stopped. It should be ensured that it is removed soon and all the officers/employees of Bhadohi should work on the policy of zero tolerance towards corrup-

Children reached Badarka from Kakori with tricolor urn and paid homage to the birthplace of “Amar Shaheed Chandra Shekhar Azad”

Police couple took poor children on a tour to Unnao

Unique initiative of a police couple who is awakening patriotism among children through educational tour

Unnao, Sanyam Bharat: With the aim of inculcating patriotism among the children and conducting an educational and historical tour, the police couple Anoop Mishra Apoorva (Sub Inspector) and his wife Reena Pandey Mishra (Sub Inspector), posted at the Unnao Police Control Room, in collaboration with Bal Chaupal. Taking a unique initiative, Tricolor Kalash Yatra was organized from Kakori (Lucknow) to Badarka (Unnao). The children were welcomed by the police couple at Nawabganj, then a 10-member excursion group of children along with them reached village Badarka, where remembering the great hero of the freedom struggle “Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad”, the children garlanded the statue of Azad ji built at the memorial. Paid tribute and paid homage to the sacred soil of the birthplace. The children also saw the house where Azad ji was born and his mother used to live. Tried paying tribute to Azad's mother's statue by garlanding it. Purvi, Vibha, Prashant, Shubh, Vishal, Anuj, Priyanshu, Aryan, Adarsh ??etc. were included in the educational tour group under the leadership of Preeti Trivedi, head teacher of upper primary school, Banshi Garhi Kakori block.

Let us tell you that for the

last 25 years, starting from a village in Kakori, the police couple,

highly appreciated by the residents of Badarka. SI Anoop

the bright future of the children. Their main objective is. During



Anoop Mishra Apoorva (Sub Inspector) and his wife, have been helping the needy children in every possible way with selfless service to advance the poor children in the field of education. The initiative of Reena Pandey Mishra (Sub Inspector) was

Mishra told that poor and needy children have been included in this journey, they have to be given information about the heritage by taking them on a tour of the historical birthplace and also to advance in the field of education and science, and to improve

this program, Shaheed Chandra Shekhar Azad Memorial Trust Committee's Rajan Shukla and Rajesh Shukla (General Secretary), Preeti Trivedi (Head Teacher of Upper Primary School Banshi Garhi Kakori Block), District Keshari Kallu Pehalwan (Om

Prakash Dixit), Bal Chaupal guardian police couple Anup Mishra was honored by Apoorva and his wife Reena Pandey Mishra. The program was presided over by Shiv Prakash Awasthi (former head Badarka). Anurag Awasthi (former councilor and district vice president BJP), Aanchal Awasthi, Aviral Awasthi etc. were present. Children were welcomed and felicitated under the leadership of Shivam Tiwari Azad. The yatra was given a grand welcome at Sajni Mod under the leadership of journalist Anurag Trivedi. The children participating in the yatra were shown important places like Mata Kusehari Devi Temple, Bird Sanctuary (Kushumbhi, Nawabganj), Maharishi Valmiki Ashram, Birthplace of Luv Kush, Janaki Kund (Pariyar), Baba Tika Das Hanuman Temple (Makhi), Mansha Devi Temple (Safipur) etc. Was taken to sightseeing places and given information related to historical and mythological heritage there. On reaching the last stop of the Yatra, Safipur town, the children and members participating in the Tiranga Kalash Yatra were welcomed and bid farewell by social worker Vikram Singh Thakur (Member - Telecom Advisory Committee, Unnao, Government of India).

Dr. Ruchika Singh has been affiliated to the prestigious Indian Knowledge Tradition Division of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: Indian Knowledge Tradition Division is working to restore the Indian Knowledge Tradition through research, workshops, seminars and courses to restore the scientific aspect of the Indian Knowledge Tradition in prestigious institutions like IITs, Central Institutes, Universities and Schools across the country. Dr. Ruchika Singh, assistant teacher of the Geography Department of Allahabad University, has been nominated for the important work being done.



4 Nepalese students injured, 11 missing in Israel after Hamas attack: Foreign Minister Saud

KATHMANDU: Four Nepalese students studying in Israel have been injured and 11 are still missing after Hamas militants attacked a farm, Foreign Minister N P Saud said on Sunday.

The minister said casualties are feared among the missing students studying in the southern part of Israel.

Israel witnessed a surprise and unprecedented attack by the Hamas group, which rules the Gaza Strip, in its southern parts on Saturday morning.

At least 600 people, including soldiers, have been killed and more than 1,900 injured in Israel—the deadliest day for the country in at least 50 years.

In the Gaza Strip, there are nearly 300 deaths and about 1,500 wounded in Israel's

counterattack, media reports said on Sunday.

“Contact could not be established with 11 Nepalese students and heavy casualties among them are feared,” Foreign Minister Saud said. “We are trying to ascertain the exact number of casualties,” he added.

There were 17 Nepalese students in Kibbutz Alumim in southern Israel, under the learn and earn programme. Out of 17, two managed to escape safely and four of them sustained injuries, according to Foreign Ministry sources.

The injured Nepalese students are undergoing treatment in a hospital, the sources added.

There are currently 4,500 Nepalese working as caregivers and 265 Nepalese

students currently working in various agricultural firms under the learn and earn scheme.

The Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned the attack in Israel by the Hamas group. The Nepal government has taken the incident seriously, the ministry said in a statement.

The Government of Nepal has formed a mechanism headed by Saud aimed at rescuing Nepali citizens currently in Israel, according to the ministry.

“The mechanism will continuously monitor the situation, evaluate the conditions faced by Nepali citizens, make necessary decisions regarding rescue operations, and coordinate and cooperate for the same effectively,” Saud told the Parliament on Sunday.

California governor vetoes anti-caste discrimination bill, terms it ‘unnecessary’

WASHINGTON (Agency): California Governor Gavin Newsom has vetoed a landmark anti-caste discrimination bill recently passed by the state assembly, terming it “unnecessary” and underlining that laws to ban caste-based discrimination already exist in the US state.

The governor's move has been welcomed by a large segment of the Indian-American community who were opposing the bill based on the same argument.

“In California, we believe everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, no matter who they are, where they come from, who they love, or where they live,” Newsom said in a statement on Saturday.

“That is why California already prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, colour, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other characteristics, and state law specifies that these civil rights protections shall be liberally construed. Because discrimination based on caste is already prohibited under these existing categories, this bill is unnecessary,” he said. For this reason, Newsom asserted that he “cannot sign” the bill, known as “SB403”, which was recently passed by a large majority by both the House of Representatives and Senate of the California State Assembly.

California would have been the first US state to formally ban discrimination on the basis of caste if the Governor had signed the bill. The bill was introduced in March by Democratic state Senator Aisha Wahab, the first Muslim and Afghan American elected to the California Legislature.

The bill defines “ancestry” for purposes of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Unruh Act, and the Education Code to include “caste” and other dimensions of ancestry.

The opponents of the bill described it as historic and said that such a move by the Governor has prevented the efforts of many to target the South Asian community and the Hindus in the state.

Reacting to the development, CasteFiles, an educational platform which challenges false caste and race narratives in media, described the move as a historic decision.

“Governor Newsom has taken a stance to veto SB403 - an attempt to sully the Civil Rights Act by adding discriminatory notes to it with the highly contentious term ‘CASTE’,” Newsom has recognised the pain and fight of the South Asian micro minority. Democracy wins today in America - the Vox populi that fought to be heard amidst the deafening roar of fake caste narratives,” it said.

Samir Kalra, managing director of the Hindu American Foundation, said, “With the stroke of his pen, Governor Newsom has averted a civil rights and constitutional disaster that would have put a target on hundreds of thousands of Californians simply because of their ethnicity or their religious identity, as well as create a slippery slope of facially discriminatory laws.” Leading Democrat Ajay Bhutoria, in a statement, expressed his gratitude to Newsom for vetoing the bill and described it as a “momentous development”.

During a recent engagement at a Democratic National Committee (DNC) event in Chicago, Bhutoria from California and Rakesh Kapur from Boston urged the governor to veto the bill.

Vetoing the SB403 Caste Bill was the right course of action, elucidating the detrimental impacts it could have on the community, they told the governor in Chicago last month.

“This legislation was undeniably redundant and unnecessary, and I am pleased that our discussions in Chicago bore fruit. The veto of this bill is a testament to the power of constructive dialogue and collaboration,” Bhutoria said in a statement.

“This is a culmination of the efforts of the entire #HinduAmerican community,

and the hundreds of organisations, temples, businesses, and allies that fought against #profiling. We rose above the lies, the insinuations, and the wild accusations - and we prevailed.” Coalition of Hindus of North America said.

“It was an effort that saw hundreds of volunteers turn out in person, dozens of organisations, and thousands of California residents who wrote, called, and texted their lawmakers. Proof that if we unite and take action, nothing is impossible,” CoHNA said.

Khanderao Kand from the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora (FIIDS) thanked Newsom for “this historic and correct” decision.

“I reject all and any form of discrimination, however as the governor said California law already covers all discriminations, moreover, this bill would have caused facial and ethnic profiling leading to difficulty for industries, particularly the tech industry to operate,” he said.

The recently formed Americans for Hindus said the bill was not facially neutral.

“It relied on misleading narratives, strawman arguments, and a questionable survey that actively encouraged falsification of data,” it said, thanking the governor for vetoing the bill.

In a statement, Deelip Mhaske, president of the Foun-

dation for Human Horizon and prominent Ambedkarite, said while the governor ideologically supported the bill, he was against anything that would further divide the Indian-American community or promote negative sentiments towards India.

“Consequently, he vetoed the bill, not because he opposed the legislation per se, but due to concerns over divisive groups hijacking the movement,” he said.

According to Mhaske, after the bill was passed by the California Assembly, several organisations supporting the bill initiated a hunger strike, prompting an investigation into the participants, especially Equality Lab.

“Concerns were raised that some groups were using the bill as a means to promote financial interests, as well as fostering divisive anti-India and anti-Hindu sentiments within the Indian community in America,” he said, welcoming the decision of the governor to veto the bill.

Vaishali V, president of the Ambedkar-Phule Network of American Dalits and Bahujans, congratulated Newsom for seeing through the flaws in the bill and how it would adversely impact people from South Asia, including the marginalised communities.

“As California's Governor has rightly pointed out,

California's law on civil rights already covers all instances of discrimination. We believe that this bill was brought with the sole intention of stereotyping Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Muslims and other communities from South Asia.

“While we welcome the veto, we know that nothing can bring back the life of our leader Milind Makwana who was the voice marginalised and at the forefront of the struggle against SB-403. Nothing can heal the loss and the trauma that this bill has caused to the families of the marginalised communities,” Vaishali said.

Expressing profound relief and gratitude following the governor's decision to veto bill SB403, Hindu Parents said this significant decision stands as a beacon against prejudice, discrimination, and misinformation about Hinduism and its followers in California.

“With this development, our children can look forward to a future where they are not subject to undue stereotyping and profiling based on perceptions. This ensures they can practise their faith peacefully, with pride, and without the looming shadows of colonial-era stereotypes and prejudice,” Hindu Parents said.

“While we celebrate this victory, we recognise there's more work ahead. The portrayal of

Hinduism and Hindu-Americans, especially in educational materials, remains a concern. It is our hope that the state of California will address these systemic biases and stereotypes in our textbooks. True reconciliation can be achieved when education reflects the rich diversity and historical contributions of Hinduism,” said the organisation representing Hindu Parents.

“Standing against all forms of hatred, bullying, and discrimination is our collective responsibility,” it said. Eminent Indian American Yogi Chug said Governor Newsom's veto of SB403 demonstrates the outcome of a protracted and long effort by the Indian-American community to advocate for the limitations of the original bill as authored.

“One must applaud the relentless effort of so many community members who diligently made the case for ensuring that no one is singled out or profiled as it iterated through various versions in the California legislature,” he said.

“The key is to ensure that the Indian-American community continues to remain engaged and recognise that they have the potential to be a responsible and meaningful voice in the American political process. Equally important is to focus on this ongoing political journey with the utmost humility and purpose,” Chug said.

Afghanistan earthquake: Death toll rises to 2,000; 6 villages destroyed, hundreds of civilians buried under debris

ISLAMABAD : Death toll from strong earthquakes that shook western Afghanistan rises to 2,000, said a Taliban spokesman, in one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades. A powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake followed by strong aftershocks killed dozens of people in western Afghanistan on Saturday, the country's national disaster authority said. Abdul Wahid Rayan, spokesman of the Ministry of Information and Culture, said the death toll from the earthquake in Herat is higher originally reported. About six villages have been destroyed, and hundreds of civilians have been buried under the debris, he said while calling for urgent help. The

United Nations gave a preliminary figure of 320 dead, but later said the figure was still being verified. Local authorities gave an estimate of 100 people killed and 500 injured, according to the same update from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The update also said 465 houses had been reported destroyed and a further 135 were damaged.

“Partners and local authorities anticipate the number of casualties to increase as search and rescue efforts continue amid reports that some people may be trapped under collapsed buildings,” the UN said.

Disaster authority spokesperson Mohammad Abdullah Jan said four villages in the

Zenda Jan district in Herat province bore the brunt of the quake and aftershocks.

The United States Geological Survey said the quake's epicenter was about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Herat city. It was followed by three very strong aftershocks, measuring magnitude 6.3, 5.9 and 5.5, as well as lesser shocks.

At least five strong tremors struck the city around noon, Herat city resident Abdul Shakor Samadi said.

“All people are out of their homes,” Samadi said. “Houses, offices and shops are all empty and there are fears of more earthquakes. My family and I were inside our home, I felt the quake.” His family began shout-

ing and ran outside, afraid to return indoors.

The World Health Organisation in Afghanistan



said it dispatched 12 ambulance cars to Zenda Jan to evacuate casualties to hospitals. “As

deaths, casualties from the earthquake continue to be reported, teams are in hospitals assisting treatment of wounded



& assessing additional needs,” the UN agency said on X, formerly known as Twitter. “WHO-

supported ambulances are transporting those affected, most of them women and children.” Telephone connections went down in Herat, making it hard to get details from affected areas. Videos on social media showed hundreds of people in the streets outside their homes and offices in Herat city. Herat province borders Iran. The quake also was felt in the nearby Afghan provinces of Farah and Badghis, according to local media reports. Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban-appointed deputy prime minister for economic affairs, expressed his condolences to

the dead and injured in Herat and Badghis. The Taliban urged local organizations to reach earthquake-hit areas as soon as possible to help take the injured to hospital, provide shelter for the homeless, and deliver food to survivors. They said security agencies should use all their resources and facilities to rescue people trapped under debris. “We ask our wealthy compatriots to give any possible cooperation and help to our afflicted brothers,” the Taliban said on X. In June 2022, a powerful earthquake struck a rugged, mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan, flattening stone and mud-brick homes. The quake killed at least 1,000 people and injuring about 1,500.

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