SANYAM BHARAT

PRAYAGRAJ

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Padhiye Dil Aur Shan Se....

NATION

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A setback, but not a

disaster in Maldives

EDIT

Meeting of Brahmin community organizations held

In the previous six years, our government has employed...

proved game changer", said

the Prime Minister recalling

how Khelo Gujarat changed

the sporting culture of the

state. He said about 125 ath-

letes of the Asiad contingent

are a find of Khelo India cam-

paign, of which more than 40

have won medals. "Success of

so many Khelo India athletes

shows the right direction of the



New Delhi (Agency): The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the contingent of Indian athletes who participated in the Asian Games 2022 at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi today. He also interacted with the athletes. India won 107 medals including 28 gold medals in the Asian Games 2022 making this the best performance in terms of the total number of medals won in the

continental multi-sport event. Addressing the contingent, the Prime Minister welcomed them on behalf of every citizen and congratulated them for their success. It is a pleasant coincidence, the Prime Minister recalled, that the inaugural edition of the Asian Games took place in this very stadium in 1951. The Prime Minister underlined that the courage and determination shown by the athletes have taken every nook and corner of the nation into a celebratory mood. Noting the labour put behind to achieve the target of 100 plus medals, the

Prime Minister emphasized that the entire nation is experiencing a feeling of pride. He also congratulated the coaches and trainers and praised the physios and officials for their contributions. The Prime Minister bowed before the parents of all athletes and highlighted the contributions and sacrifices made by the families. "From the training ground to the podium, the journey is impossible without the support of the parents", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said

"You have created history. Figures of this Asian Games are witness to India's success. This is the best performance of India in the Asian Games to date. It is a matter of personal satisfaction that we are moving in the right direction." He recalled the doubts at the time of pursuit of Corona vaccine and said that when we succeeded in saving lives and helping 250 countries, the same feeling of moving in the right direction was experi-

enced. Noting the highest-ever medal tally, the Prime Minister impressive performances and Khelo India schemes have mentioned the highest-ever medals in shooting, archery, squash, rowing, women's boxing and the first Gold Medal in Women's and Men's cricket events, squash mixed doubles. He also underlined the significance of gaining medals in few events after a long time for example women's shot put (72 years), 4×4100 meters (61 years), equestrian (41 years) and male badminton (40 years). "A wait of so many decades got over because of your efforts", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister noted expanding canvas as India won medals in almost all games in which it participated. At least 20 events were there where India never had a podium finish. "You not just opened an account but blazed a trail that will inspire a generation of youth. It will go beyond the Asian Games and will give new confidence in our march towards the Olympics.", he added.

The Prime Minister expressed great pride in the contributions made by the women athletes and said that it highlights the capabilities of India's daughters. He informed that out of all the medals won, more than half were bagged by female athletes and it was the women's cricket team that began the string of successes. He mentioned that most medals were won by women in Boxing. He also applauded the women's athletics team for their

said, "The daughters of India were not ready to settle for anything less than no. 1 in the track and field events", the Prime Minister said, "This is the spirit and power of new India." The Prime Minister underlined that the new India never stops quitting until the final whistle blows and the winners are decided. "The new India attempts to give its best campaign", he said. He in-

The Prime Minister noted expanding canvas as India won medals in almost all games in which it participated. At least 20 events were there where India never had a podium finish

every time", he said.

The Prime Minister said India never lacked talent and athletes did perform well in the past, however, due to many challenges, we lagged behind in terms of medals. He elaborated on the modernization and transformative efforts undertaken after 2014. He said that it is India's effort to provide the athletes with the best training facilities, to provide maximum national and international exposure to athletes, ensure transparency in selection and provide maximum opportunity to the talent from the rural areas. He informed that the sports budget has been enhanced three-fold as compared to 9 years ago. "Our TOPS and

formed that more than 3000 athletes are being trained under Khelo India. These players are getting scholarships of more than 6 lakh rupees each per annum. "Under this scheme, assistance worth about Rs 2.5 thousand crores has now been given to the athletes. I assure you that lack of money will never be a hindrance to your efforts. The government is going to spend Rs 3 thousand crore more for you and the sports in the next five years. Today, modern sports infrastructure is being built just for you in every corner of the country", Shri Modi added.

The Prime Minister expressed happiness about the presence of younger athletes among the medal winners. "This is the sign of a sporting nation. These new young winners will perform brilliantly for the country for a long time. The new thinking of young India is no longer satisfied with just good performance, rather it wants medals and wins" he said.

"For the nation, you are

the GOAT - Greatest of All Time", the Prime Minister said noting the common lingo amongst the young generations. He said that the passion, dedication and childhood stories of the athletes are an inspiration for everyone. Underlining the impact that athletes have on the young generations, the Prime Minister stressed making good use of this positive energy by connecting with more youth. Recalling his suggestion for the athletes to visit schools and interact with children, the Prime Minister insisted the athletes raise awareness among the youth about the evils of drugs and how they can ruin careers and lives. He pointed out that the nation is fighting a decisive war on drugs and asked the athletes to always speak up about the evils of drugs and harmful medications whenever they get an opportunity. He urged them to come forward to strengthen the war against drugs and take on the mission of a drug-free India.

I'm for caste census 100 pc; it's like 'X-Ray' that will help decide future course of action: Rahul

100 per cent" in support of a caste census, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has likened the exercise with an "X-Ray" and said it would give a clear picture of how many Dalits, tribals, OBCs and upper castes are there which in turn would

help in deciding the future course of action. Gandhi made the remarks

on September 23 during his interaction with the students of the Maharani College in Jaipur, a video of which was released on his social media platforms on Tuesday.

Gandhi was received by the college principal. After his interaction with the students, the party leader rode pillion on a two-wheeler driven by a girl student amid security on the road outside the college.

lege, Gandhi talked about a host of issues, including the education system and the need for

New Delhi (Agency): Asserting that he is empowering women in the country, according to

Asked about the caste census, Gandhi said, "The fact is that the lower caste communities, the OBCs, Dalits and tribals are not involved in the power structure. And no one knows how many OBCs are there, how many Dalits,

tribals ad upper castes are there." "When you get hurt, the first

thing that you get done is an X-Ray. Through an X-Ray we get to know if a bone is broken or not, where and how it is broken. So the caste census is an X-Ray which will tell us how many people are there, belonging to which community, what are

they doing, what is their role in the power structure," the former Congress chief said. "It is just to see what is the status, after that we have to decide this is the status and this is what we have to In his interaction with the girls at the coldo. I am for caste census, a 100 per cent," he said during the interaction at the college, according to the video released by the party.

Serious lapses by Oreva company led to Morbi bridge tragedy

SIT report in Gujarat High Court

Ahmedabad (Agency):: There were "serious operational" and technical lapses" on part of the Oreva company's management, which led to the collapse of a bridge in Gujarat's Morbi town last year, the Special Investigation Team said in its report submitted before the Gujarat High Court on Tuesday.

The lackadaisical approach on part of the management of Oreva company resulting in one of the most severe and tragic human calamities" cannot be countenanced, the SIT said.

"For this, prima facie, the whole management of the company, including its managing director and two managers appear to be responsible," it said.

The British-era suspension bridge on the Machchhu river

in Morbi collapsed on October Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and by various better steps had the at large, the Oreva company 30 last year, killing 135 people and injuring 56 others.

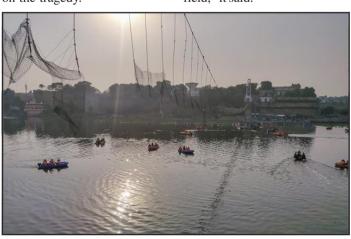
The Morbi Nagarpalika gave the repair work of the bridge to Oreva company, which assigned it to a "non-competent agency," and the work was carried out "without consulting technical experts," the SIT said.

It also found several design faults in the bridge post-renovation works, contributing to its collapse.

The tragedy was "a result of lapses at administrative level to follow due procedure as per government norms, and also due to technical incompetency to repair the bridge and test it before opening it to the public," the SIT said in its report submitted before a division bench of

which is hearing a suo motu PIL on the tragedy.

Justice Aniruddha P Mayee, company taken the help of a professional expert agency in the field," it said.



'Various steps taken in carrying out the repair works of the bridge could have been avoided ought to have obtained its fitness report and consulted the municipality on that behalf, the SIT said in the report presented by Advocate General Kamal Trivedi before the court.

After the contract between the Oreva Group and Morbi municipality was renewed regarding maintenance and operation of the bridge, the company failed to take technical opinion of an expert agency or consult the civic body before giving the contract to one Dev Prakash Solutions to carry out major repair works, it said.

No restrictions were placed on the number of persons accessing the bridge at a given point of time or on sale of tickets, it further said.

NewsClick row: Purkayastha, Chakravarty sent to 10-day judicial custody

New Delhi (Agency): A of (government's) Covid policy Delhi court on Tuesday sent to 10-day judicial custody NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and human resources department head Amit Chakravarty, arrested in a case lodged under anti-terror law UAPA over allegations that the news portal received money to spread pro-China propaganda.

The two were produced before Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur around 2:50 pm. The prosecution sought 10 days judicial custody for the duo, which was firmly opposed by Purkayastha's counsel, who asserted "prima facie" no case was made out against his client. "What terrorist act have I committed? How can I as a journalist commit such an act? What is the allegation in the FIR? That we have done critical reporting

and farmers protest. Is that terrorism?" the lawyer said. The counsel said if there was even an iota of doubt about their guilt, sending them to judicial custody will be a "travesty of justice".

The counsel Chakravarty argued he was not a journalist nor had he received any payment. "There is no such allegation that there is a map of India, published by newsclick, that shows India without Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh," he said. Countering the arguments, the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Atul Shrivastava said the case was at a stage when evidence was still being collected, and the prosecution has sought judicial custody for the accused in all "fairness". The Special Cell of Delhi Police had



arrested Purkayastha and Chakravarty on October 3. Police also sealed NewsClick's office in Delhi. According to the FIR, a large amount of funds to the news portal came from China to "disrupt the sovereignty of India" and cause disaffection against the country.

It also alleged Purkayastha conspired with a group --People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) -- to sabotage the electoral process during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Raids were conducted at 88 locations in Delhi and seven in other states on October 3 on the suspects named in the FIR and those that surfaced in the analysis of data, police said. Around 300 electronic gadgets were also seized from the offices of NewsClick and residences of the journalists who were examined.

Hamas launches fresh attack on Israel's Ashkelon city with rocket fire after warning residents to leave

Even after the completion of

the repairing work and before

opening the bridge to the public

New Delhi (Agency): Hamas is attacking the

civilians to leave within hours Ashkelon is around 15 km from Gaza. Hamas' armed wing spokesperson, Abu Ubaida, told residents of Israel's port of Ashkelon to leave the area by 5 pm (local time) without giving any further details The Guardian re-

ported. Hamas had threatened specifically to attack the Israeli city of Ashkelon in response to Israel's attacks on Gaza, the BBC reported. In a post on Telegram, Hamas said the residents of the city, just to the north of the Gaza Strip, have within hours to leave.

More than 1,000 people were killed in an at-Israeli city of Ashkelon with rocket fire, the me- tack by Hamas on Israel over the weekend, acdia reported. Earlier, the militant group warned cording to the Israeli Embassy in the US, CNN reported. The death toll

now stands at 1,008, with at least 3,418 injured, the embassy said on 'X'. The Israel Defence Forces has said it "cannot confirm or deny" these reports from the embassy. An IDF spokesperson told CNN that it is aware of over 900 deaths. More than 4,500 rockets have

already been fired from Gaza into Israel since Saturday, the Israeli military says. Two foreign workers have been killed and another seriously injured in a rocket attack in the Eskhol region that borders Gaza, Israel's emergency services have just said, the BBC reported.

Wake-up call

n the volatile landscape of the Israel-Palestine conflict, where tensions have persisted for decades, the weekend __pre-dawn assault by Hamas took many by surprise. It was a meticulously planned operation, a stark reminder that the dynamics of this protracted conflict are far from predictable. For years, the conflict has followed a grim and repetitive pattern. Rocket attacks, retaliatory airstrikes and a cycle of violence that seemed unending. However, the audacity of Saturday's assault shook Israel to its core.

This was not merely another flare-up but a well-orchestrated military operation that blindsided Israel. Hamas, the Palestinian group controlling Gaza which has been declared a terrorist organisation by many countries, gave in the recent past an impression of being focused on economic stability. Israel was led to believe that Hamas was war-weary.

Gazan workers. This strategic misdirection allowed Hamas to prepare for a massive operation while maintaining an image of reluctance to engage in another confrontation. This deception is reminiscent of the surprise attacks in 1973 when Egypt and Syria caught Israel off guard. In many ways, it was Israel's "9/11," a reference made by Major Nir Dinar, spokesperson



for the Israeli Defense Forces. What makes this assault noteworthy is that Hamas did not merely rely on conventional weaponry.

They employed a range of tactics, from rocket barrages to hang glider infiltra-

tions, bulldozers, and motorbikes. Their audacity extended to abducting hostages from within Israeli territory. The Israeli intelligence failure reflects a complacency that had crept in as a result of a relatively quiet period and an erroneous belief that Hamas had shifted its focus away from confrontation.

This lapse allowed Hamas to exploit vulnerabilities, resulting in a catastrophic breach. The question now is what lessons can be drawn from this incident? First, it underscores Israel's need for vigilance in intelligence gathering, regardless of apparent lulls in hostilities.

The region's history has shown that periods of calm can quickly transform into crises. Secondly, it emphasises the importance of adapting to evolving tactics. Hamas has demonstrated that it is a resilient and adaptable adversary, willing to employ unconventional methods to achieve its goals. This adaptability requires a corresponding flexibility in counter-terrorism strategies.

Lastly, the incident challenges regional and international stakeholders to re-evaluate their approach to the Israel- Palestine conflict. Efforts to promote peace and stability in the region should not be derailed by such attacks. Instead, they causes of the conflict and fostering dialogue between the parties involved. But in the maelstrom of reactions to the unprecedented attacks, certain facts must not be overlooked.

First, Hamas' military capabilities can no longer be overlooked. Second, the killings and abductions of civilians speak of brutality that has no place in military engagements. And finally, Israel must not seek only military solutions; in conjunction with its allies it must engage all those arraigned against it both militarily and diplomatically.

Biden's U-turn

n the face of growing immigration challenges and a border crisis that has strained American cities such as New York, President Joe Biden's decision to reverse his stance on the border wall and embrace measures previously championed by his predecessor, Donald Trump, is a step in the right direction. While it is important to acknowledge the complexities of the issue, it is equally important to recognise when a change in policy aligns with the realities on the ground. President Biden's initial campaign promise was a clear rejection of the border wall, a symbol of Mr Trump's divisive immigration policies. This pledge struck a chord with many Americans who yearned for a more compassionate approach.

However, as the surge in illegal border crossings reached alarming levels, the Biden administration was forced to confront the practical challenges of governing. The Rio Grande Valley, in particular, has seen over 2,45,000 illegal border crossings so far this year, a record high. These numbers cannot be ignored and the strain on cities like New York, where housing costs for new arrivals are projected to reach \$12 billion over the next three years, is undeniable. It is in this context that President Biden's reversal on the border wall should be viewed. Utilising funds allocated during the Trump administration for border wall construction may be seen as a practical move to address a pressing issue without adding additional financial burden.

This approach acknowledges that governing involves making tough decisions based on the situation at hand rather than adhering rigidly to campaign promises. The decision to waive federal laws and environmental regulations to expedite construction is undoubtedly controversial. However, it reflects the urgency of the situation and the need for immediate action to prevent unlawful entries into the United States. Striking a balance between environmental concerns and border security is a challenge, and in this case, the priority seems to be on addressing the immediate crisis.

Mr Trump's swift criticism of President Biden's reversal, attributing the crisis to the repeal of his strict border policies, underscores the political theatre surrounding the immigration issue. While Mr Trump's policies were indeed aimed at deterring illegal immigration, they often faced criticism for their harshness. It is essential to recognise that the immigration challenge cannot be reduced to a single administration's policies. It is a complex issue with multiple contributing factors. President Biden's border wall reversal should be viewed in the context of the emerging crisis and the weight being felt by cities that have seen an influx.

While campaign promises are important, they must sometimes yield to the realities of governance. Mr Biden would like to believe acknowledging the need for border security measures in response to a surge in illegal crossings is not an abandonment of principles but a recognition of the changing landscape. Ultimately, a balanced approach that addresses the root causes of migration and fosters cooperation with neighbouring countries is needed to effectively address this complex issue.

A setback, but not a disaster in Maldives

The election of pro-China Progressive Alliance candidate, Mohamed Muizzu, as President in Maldives led to a buzz that China is in and India is out of the island nation.

HARSHA KAKKAR

Mohamed Muizzu, as President in Maldives led to a buzz that China is in and India is out of the island nation. This is a replay of what transpired five years ago when Ibrahim Solih, who was pro-India defeated his pro-China rival and sitting president, Abdullah Yameen.

When Solih stood for elections in 2014, his promise to the So much so that it even provided economic incentives to people of Maldives was to repair ties with neighbours and adopt an 'India First' foreign policy. Muizzu fought his election on an 'India out' campaign.

Muizzu is an associate of former president Yameen Abdul Gayoom, who is currently undergoing a prison term of 11 years for corruption. The people of Maldives, a group of islands barely 70 nautical miles from Minicoy in Lakshadweep and around 300 nautical miles from India's west coast, located alongside major shipping routes, were made to believe that India is establishing a military base which could result in Maldives becoming an Indian

This dominated the campaign rather than other pressing issues including the economy, climate change etc., which were more important. The reality is that there are a few dozen Indian 'unarmed' troops locat- ed in Maldives to assist in operations of a Dornier aircraft and a few heli- copters gifted by the Indian government. What was, in addition, exploited was the agreement to 'develop, support, and maintain a Coast Guard harbour for Maldivian forces at Uthuru Thila Falhu.' This was sold to Maldivians as a permanent military base for India.

Another issue of contention was the construction of the National College of Policing and Enforcement. Rumours circulated that the construction was larger than required as it was meant to house Indians involved with the institute, thereby opening doors for pushing in immigrants.

In any small nation having a powerful neighbour, rumours on loss of sovereignty are always taken seriously. Yameen and his political associates also exploited religion, Maldives being a Muslim majority country, to push their anti-India agenda. The disrup- tion of the Yoga-day event last year is a case in point.

Maldives has to balance IndiaChina ties to gain the maximum from both nations. Yameen as the president promised to adopt an India first policy but implemented the reverse. His actions were reversed by Solih. Muizzu may have promised to should be redoubled, with a focus on addressing the root | evict Indian troops but their withdrawal could block the utilization of Indian air assets, which play a major role in disaster continue to impact the India-China- Maldives relationship.

The election of pro-China Progressive Alliance candidate, relief and casualty evacuation operations, in addition to monitoring the Maldives EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone).

> Their withdrawal will also impact the ongoing trilateral security cooperation of Male with Sri Lanka and India to protect its EEZ as also prevent piracy and illicit trafficking in its vicin-

No matter who is the President, India has always been the first to support Maldives, whenever it faced a crisis. It came to its aid in the coup attempt in 1988, was the first to respond from Pakistan and China, followed.



during the tsunami of 2004 and provided 30,000 measles vaccines to prevent a national outbreak in 2020. In 2014, under Yameen's presidency, Maldives faced its worst water crisis when fire erupted in its only water plant. It was Indian aircraft and naval ships which provided over 2,000 tonnes of water to Male. The Chinese response took several weeks. Indian supply of Covid vaccines enabled Maldives to vaccinate its tourism industry personnel enabling tourism to resume, safeguarding its economy. Indian tourists to Maldives are higher in numbers than from any other country.

When Yameen removed the Indi- an company GMR from constructing the Maldivian airport, his government was compelled to pay a sizeable compensation as per directions of a Singaporean arbitration court. Hence, Muizzu is unlikely to cancel any ongo-ing Indian projects. Maldivians are aware of the reality but politico-religious exploitation for power would

Maldivians rush to India for med-ical treatment as also for higher edu- cation. Hence, no matter what is the leaning of the president, India cannot be ignored. PM Modi was the first to congratulate Muizzu on his election. He tweeted, 'India remains commit- ted to strengthening the time-tested... bilateral relationship and enhancing our overall cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.' The message was clear. India is willing to work with any- one in Maldives. Other messages, including those

> The presence of Indian military personnel in Maldives is also a bar- gaining chip against China, hence despite all threats, removing them will have to be carefully considered. It would also antagonize other players in the region including France and the US. The US opened its embassy in the country in early September this year, based on Indian sugges-

> India will definitely find an increased Chinese presence in the country. It will have its work cut out to contain the Chinese influence on the island. It cannot afford a second Ham- bantota port in its vicinity. Any Chinese strategic gains will be exploited politically as was done in the last elections. Maldives elections are yet not over. Parliament elections are scheduled for April 2024 and city council elections thereafter. These will need to be observed.

> Muizzu has not specifically men- tioned being pro-China in any form however knowing the tilt of Yameen he is believed to be so, while claiming to be pro-Maldives. His campaign only mentioned want-

ing Indian armed forces out of Maldives, intending to exploit the fear of the big brother. These are early days yet. Which way would the tilt go is to be seen. China can never replace India in terms of proximity, commonness of culture or language. In case there is violence against Indians or Indian assets, support flowing from India could be stalled. Ties with India can never be replaced by China.

Historically, India managed to contain growing anti-India sentiment in Bangladesh during the premiership of Khalida Zia from 1991-96 and again from 2001-2006. It also managed to overcome multiple tenures of pro-China KP Sharma Oli in Nepal. It also endured the pro-China tilt of Mahinda Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka. Every time such a situation arises, India bides its time, continuing to provide support, employing its soft power and finally bouncing back, all the while keeping a close eye on developments, ensuring the situation does not cross a threshold. The same will be the case with Maldives.

WOESNEXTDOOR

The victory of Mohamed Muizza in the presidential election in Maldives aroused considerable interest as well as concern in India because of his avowed pro-China policy.

RAJARAM PANDA

The victory of Mohamed Muizza in the presidential election in Maldives aroused considerable interest as well as concern in India because of his avowed pro-China policy. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Muizza who defeated incumbent Ibrahim Solih and expressed India's commitment to strengthen the time-tested India-Maldives relationship and enhance overall cooperation in the Indian Ocean region, the whispers of discomfort could not be overlooked.

Muizzu's Progressive Allince coalition was backed by China, signalling that Beijing now shall feel emboldened to spread its wings further in India's South Asian neighbourhood.

It seems to be like a revolving door as five years ago pro- India Ibrahim Solih had defeat- ed Abdullah Yameen, whom Solih had put in jail on corruption charges.

Solih championed an India First policy during his tenure and shall remain as President until Muizzu's inauguration on 17 No-

Why does India attach so much interest on the developments in Maldives? In the geopolitical contestation, both India and China have vital interests for influence in this strategically located country.

While China sees Maldives as an important outpost to spread its sphere of influence, for India strengthening ties with Maldives by all means is because Maldives is literally located in its backyard and barely 70 nautical miles from Minicoy, an island in Lakshadweep and 300 nautical from India's west coast. It is also near the busy sea lanes through which commercial vessels ply the Indian Ocean.

Because of this, Maldives has attracted international attention as the importance of the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific region is realised now more than ever before. Over the years, India has invested heavily

to strengthen ties with Maldives to put it in a win-win situation. India has contributed to the economic development of Maldives through various developmental projects. Its \$500 million agreement for the Great Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) not only would boost Maldives' economic profile but would eclipse China's landmark Freedom Bridge an transform the local economy.

However, bilateral ties have to weather the storm of twin challenges: the major presence of Islamic radicalisation and China's increasing economic clout in the country. Muizzu's victory now puts India on notice as Maldives' policies are likely to see a major overhaul, many of which could be detrimental to India's interests.

India is now more appre- hensive of China's growing influence in the traditionally India- aligned Maldives. Muizzu ran his cam-

paign on the India Out slogan and accused his rival Solih of having

sacrificed the island nation's sovereignty to New Delhi. It is seen thus as a setback to India and a gain for China. Even India's significant financial support to another neighbouring nation, Sri Lanka, has not helped to stem China's spread of influence there. This needs review now, both in Sri Lanka and Maldives.

It is a fact that both India and China are jockeying for influence in the Indian Ocean. Political changes in these two neighbouring countries have therefore a strong bearing on how India chooses its

Maldives defence force. The opposition projected this as compromising the island state's sovereignty.

The Solih government entered into another deal with India in the interest of the island nation's security. This too was opposed by the opposition. Under the Uthuru Thilafalhu (UTF) agreement, India was committed to help and maintain a coast guard harbour and dockyard in Maldives and provide professional, logistic and technical help for 15 years to Maldives to build and run it.

The opposition interpreted the agreement in a manner that Solih-led Maldivian Democratic Party government had agreed

Indian military would be sta-tioned and Indian vessels and aircraft would have unrestricted access to the UTF. Solih was accused of selling the island nation to Big Brother India. Even before assuming office on 17 November, Muizzu secured Yemeen's transfer from jail to house arrest, thereby fulfilling his campaign promise.

The Solih government sen- tenced Yameen to a prison term for bribery and money laundering during his presidency from 2013 to 2018. The election result was virtually a referendum on which regional power ~ India or China ~ would have preponderant influence in the island nation.

Muizzu has promised to eject Indian troops from the Maldives and balance the country's trade relations, which, according to him, are heavily in India's favour. Muizzu argues that the citizens of the country are against any foreign military staying in Maldives.

This is a serious blow to India in the geopolitical rivalry with China in the Indian Ocean region.

After Muizzu announced that he would ask Indian military to leave once he takes office, India issued a clarification that its focus on Maldives was always been on

lenges and priorities in the region. This includes issues such as combating transnational crimes

capacity building and working together to address the shared chal-

and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. During Solih's five-year term, many Chinese projects under the

BRI were scrapped. The Free Trade Agreement between Maldives and China signed just before the 2018 elections was also scrapped. Muizzu is likely to revisit many of these. The India First policy of Solih is likely to be put to sleep or just remain on paper.

But international relations need not be seen always in terms of zero-sum games. Despite the fact that Muizzu is likely to lean more towards China, India is unlikely to be out from engaging with Maldives since it has invested heavily in the island nation.



It was expected that local issues of sustainable develo ment, a rising ocean bed and the economy would be the deter- mining factors in choosing a president in Maldives.

But all such considerations took the backseat during Solih's presidency as the opposition focused mainly on India's growing footprint. The India Out campaign gained currency quickly, leading to Solih's defeat. The India hate campaign gathered momentum when India at the request of Male had sent a Dornier aircraft to the

Under the agreement, India was to station 25 unarmed personnel to operate the aircraft and train Maldivian pilots and engineers to operate and maintain it.

The defence personnel were to be under the command of the

Meeting of Brahmin community organizations held

To submit memo to DM on behalf of Samyukta Brahmin Mahasabha in protest against continuous killings and exploitation of Brahmins

Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: Under the auspices of the Samyukta Brahmin Mahasabha, a mass meeting of Brahmin community organizations was held at Bhagwan Parshuram Akhara, Jhunsi. On October 12, a memorandum will be submitted to the District Magistrate on behalf of the Samyukta Brahmin Mahasabha in protest against the continuous killings of Brahmins and exploitation of Brahmins in the state. As per the previously announced program, a mass meeting of organizations of Brahmin community was held in Bhagwan Parshuram Akhara Jhunsi under the aegis of United Brahmin Mahasabha in conjunction with Chanakya Peethadhishwar Parashuramacharya Brahmarshi Sudarshan Sharan Ji Maharaj, founder Bhagwan Parshuram Akhara. The program was conducted by Pt. Shyam Surat Pandey, National President of Mahasabha. In the meeting, New Youth Brahmin Society, Secretary Brahmo Samaj Seva



World Brotherhood Brahmin Lavkesh Mishra, President,

Vijayanand Tiwari, General Samiti, Shri Kanyakubj Brah-

retary Sudhir Dwivedi, Jyoti Shankar Choubey Brahmo Samaj Seva Samiti, Shailendra Mishra Brahmin Parishad Uttar Pradesh, Kameshwar Prasad Mishra Brahmin Parishad Uttar Pradesh, Manish Kumar Tripathi, Ramakrishna Pandey, Ghanshyam Shukla, Satya Prakash Pandey, General Secretary World Brotherhood Brahmin Mahasabha and officials of many organizations were present. In the meeting, the office bearers of the United Brahmin Mahasabha Trust were unanimously elected and assigned the posts and further strategy was made. It was unanimously decided in the meeting that on October 12, on behalf of the United Brahmin Mahasabha, they will surround the District Magistrate and submit a memorandum against the continuous killings of Brahmins and exploitation of Brahmins in the state.

informed that as per the feed-

back received from the partici-

pating members and their inter-

min Mahasabha General Sec-

PRAYAGRAJ

29 bottles of illegal English liquor recovered under Operation Vigilant by RPF, Kanpur

Prayagraj Division, one of the busiest and most important divisions of Indian Railways and North Central Railways, has been making its special contribution as an important part. The Assistant Inspector Anjana, officers and employees of Deputy Assistant Inspector

Prayagraj Division are continuously making efforts to provide safe and timely train journey to the railway passengers. Prayagraj Division of North Central Railway is always ready to provide every possible help to its respected passengers. Railway Protection Force is always ready to help the passengers through various operations, missions and

other efforts. The basic objective of the Railway Protection Force is to provide assistance to passengers at any time and under any circumstances. 29 bottles of illegal English liquor were recovered under Operation Vigilant on 09.10.2023 by Railway Protection Force Post Kanpur Central.

Under the direction of Senior Divisional Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force/Prayagraj and B.P. Singh,

Kanpur, Sanyam Bharat: Inspector/Kanpur and Ajit bag was taken from the passen-Tiwari, Inspector Kanpur, on 09.10.2023 under Operation Vigilant, which is being run under the able direction of Assistant Inspector Sudhir Kumar Katiyar,

gers standing nearby, all the passengers expressed ignorance about the bag. When the bag was opened and checked by the Railway Protection Force, 30 bottles of English liquor were found inside the bag. Out of



Harishankar Tripathi, Railway Protection Force/Kanpur and Deputy Assistant Inspector Ajaypal Singh Crime Wing/RPF/ Kanpur, during joint patrolling and passenger security checking at Kanpur Central Station, a red safari on the side of the railing on the ramp in front of the stairs of platform no. 04/05 on Delhi & Foot Over Bridge. The trolley bag appeared to be in a ered was Rs. 1275/- and total

this, when information about the

ken, due to which the smell of liquor was coming. After that, after Asha Parihar, Inspector Excise Sector-5, Kanpur was present at Post Haja, a total of 29 sealed bottles of English liquor were handed over to the present officer and independent witness. The value of one bottle of the said English liquor recovsuspicious condition. Regarding cost of 29 bottles is reported to

When bombs fall on Gaza, the heart rejoices: Pawan Srivastava

Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: them hostage. It is an appropri-The incident of the anti-humanity terrorist organization Hamas having the audacity to show bullying towards Israel by firing thousands of unnecessary rockets at Israel and causing harm to



ers is considered cowardly. Ex- the Congress is a party that has | net Minister Rakesh pressing his reaction, Hindu always been with the enemies | Sachan, Minister Srivastava said that he appreciated Israel's prompt response in the same language and said that the terrorists of Hamas brutally murdered the innocent people and tortured them by holding

ate punishment. He further said that whenever Israel bombed, he felt happy. He praised the decision of India's famous Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which the Prime Minister pledged to completely destroy the terrorists by supporting Israel, which was in the G20 meeting. He did a commendable job by fully supporting it, which is in the interest of the entire world. He said that the Israeli government should introspect and introspect and work on the process of finding Vibhishana who is nurturing among them as well as Pawan. Srivastava strongly condemned the Congress Working Committee's support to the Islamic terrorists of Hamas and said that when has the character and face of the Congress beinnocent people and skyscrap- come a son, he further said that | Nath along with Cabi-India alliance was formed in 1977, it included those who are always involved in anti-national activities, the countrymen were | tional Fair. also advised to stay away from

Buyers register at India Carpet Expo Fair | Tribute meeting organized

Bhadohi, Sanyam Bharat: The 45th edition of India Carpet Expo organized by the Carpet Export Promotion Council at Carpet Expo Mart, Bhadohi at- Gaurang Rathi, Superintendent

tracted 248 foreign buyers and buyers from across the globe on the third day of the expo. An overwhelming response was received from 212 foreign buyer representatives, which mainly included countries like Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA. Chief Minister, Pradesh Yogi Aditya

Incharge Minister Danish Azad inaugurated the program by cutting the ribbon of the Interna-

In the successful organization of the International Carpet Fair, Commissioner Muthukumar Swami B, DIG Rakesh Prakash Singh, ADG Shri Ramkumar IPS, District Magistrate Bhadohi



Katyanan, ADM Shri Kuwar Birendra Maurya, Additional Superintendent of Police Rajesh Bharti and all the administrative officers are giving their full cooperation in the security ar-

Ravindra Jaiswal and District of Police Dr. Meenakshi action with the foreign buyers Ghulam Navi Bhatt, Sheikh Ashiq visiting the expo, the buyers were very happy and thanked them for providing such a platform of international standard.It The expo is organized under the

aegis of the Government of In-

of educational rehabilitation of

rangements of the fair. CEPC Addia, with an objective to focus ministrative Committee members on the highly labour-intensive | Sanyam Bharat: On Tuesday at to such a great personality, a Indian handmade carpet indus- | the residence of District Presisimple heart and a son of the soil try and provide direct or indirect employment to approximately 20 lakh workers/artisans

> especially women, associated with rural areas. With the participation of 272 exhibitors, India Carpet Expo is one of the largest handmade carpet fairs in Asia, providing a unique platform for buyers to source the best handmade carpets, rugs and | other floor coverings under one roof. CEPC administrative members Anil Kumar Singh, Suryamani Tiwari, Wasif Ansari, Aslam | Mehboob, Firoz Waziri, Imtiaz Ahmed, Rohit Gupta, Ram Maurya,

Ahmed, Mahavir Pratap Sharma, Bodhraj Malhotra, Vijendra Singh Jaglan. Everyone including Dr. Smita Nagarkati Executive Director Secretary was very happy with this expo.

queries raised by the partici-

RAM ANUJ DHAR DWIVEDI

Sonbhadra, Ghorawal, nates us. We pay our respects

dent Vyapar Sabha in Ghorawal.

who was always connected to



On the occasion of Netaji's death anniversary, a tribute meeting was called and flowers were paid. On this occasion, Netaji was discussed

The inspiration for socialism, advocate of justice and equality, every labourer, businessman, Dalit., the vocal voice of the deprived and exploited, whose Bhojwal and other Vyapar Sabha Ramdarsh Sharma, light of thoughts always illumi-worker leaders were present.

the land, respected Mulayam Singh Yadav, on his death anniversary. Dinesh Agrahari said that he will always follow the path shown by him. On this occasion, Arvind Omar, Nitin Modanwal, Wasis ji, Shyamnath, Prashant Kumar Shihi, Kishan Rawat, Ashish

Gathering of numismatists from India and abroad in Mumbai

RAJESH TIWARI

Mumbai, Sanyam Bharat: A currency exhibition program was organized by Mumbai Coin Society for numismatists from India and abroad in the World Trade Center in which Chhatriya Sonar from Prayagraj and patron of Prayagraj District/Metropolitan Industry Trade Board felicitated. While

business brothers of entire Prayagraj. Prayagraj District Metropolitan Industry Trade Board also honored Badri Prasad Verma on his arrival in Prayagraj. Under the leadership of Kshatriya Sonar Yuvak Samiti, Prayagraj Sarafa Mandal and Allahabad Bullion Asso-

ciation, a felicitation ceremony



honoring Badri Prasad Verma, former president of Youth Committee and patron of Prayagraj longs to the gold and silver

will be organized and those who expressed their happiness include Abhishek Kesharwani, Indresh Nath Verma, Sardar Charanjit Singh, Ashok Kumar Verma, Surendra Kumar Jaiswal, Vinay ji, Soni Vishal Verma, Somnath Goldman. Gaurav Karwaria, Jamal Khan, Rajendra Prasad Verma, Ankit Gupta, Rinku Verma, Shyam ji, Swarnkar, Girish Soni, Murari, Soni Umesh Verma, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vishal Pathak, Ashok Jain, Sonu Bhardwaj, Tarun Pratap Singh etc.

Minister Narendra Kashyap addressed workshop of Disabled Empowerment & Backward Class Welfare Officers

Lucknow, Sanyam Bharat: Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, work is being done to connect the disabled and backward class people with the mainstream of the society. Yogi government is raising the educational level of persons with disabilities and backward classes through various welfare schemes and connecting them with employment and self-employment. Officers and employees of the Disabled Empowerment and Backward Class Welfare Department should work to provide maximum benefits of departmental schemes to the eligible persons belonging to disabled and backward classes. State Minister of State for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Backward Class Welfare (Independent Charge) Narendra Kashyap said these things in the oneday departmental orientation workshop of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Backward Class Welfare officers in the auditorium of Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National

Rehabilitation University, Lucknow on Tuesday.

Minister Narendra Kashyap inaugurated the workshop by lighting the lamp. On this occasion, a welcome song was sung by visually

He asked the officers to work as a team. Work should be done to empower every member of the team. By working as a team, departmental schemes can be extended to eligible people on a large scale.

devotion and honesty. Organize programs in the districts and give certificates or checks to the beneficiaries of the schemes. Minister Narendra Kashyap said that the central and state govern-



Minister told the officials of both the departments who came to the workshop that the interests of the employees are being completely taken care of.

He said that the suggestions given in the workshop will be fully respected and adopted in the departmental interest. He asked the officers to perform their responsibilities with full

rightful rights to the disabled people. The responsibility of empowering the disabled is being fulfilled well by the state government. For the purpose

disabled people, the state government runs childhood day care centers in the form of pre-readiness schools, various categories of special schools for secondary level education, Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University (Lucknow), Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Disabled for higher education. Braille Press is being operated to publish books in Braille script for the education of visually impaired students of the University (Chitrakoot) and the state. He said that O Level and CCC computer courses are being conducted to make the youth of backward classes skilled. Through this, work is being done to connect students with employment by giving them computer training. A comprehensive survey of the hostels run under the Backward Classes Welfare Department should be conducted and repair work should be done.

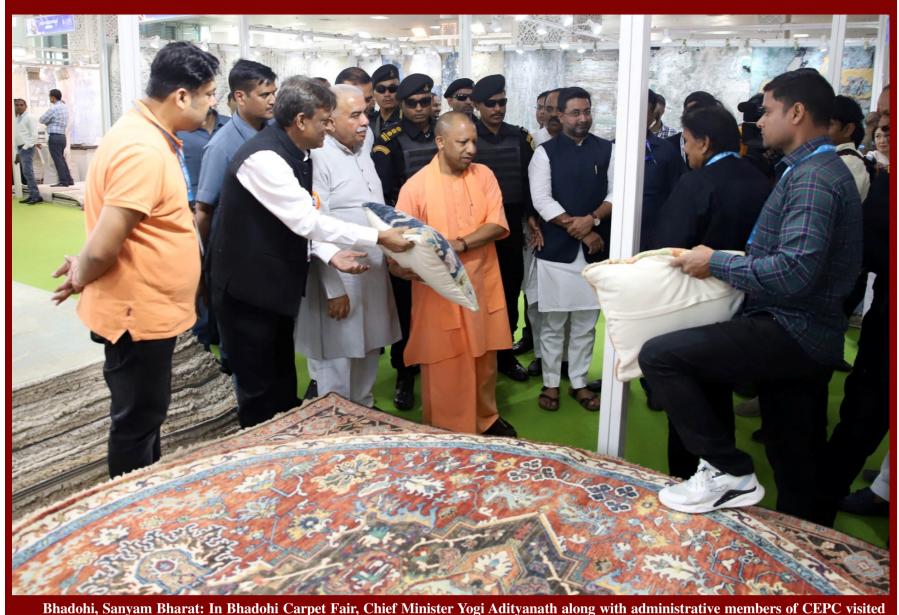
Principal Secretary Backward Class Welfare and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Chandra Sharma resolved various

pating officers. Special Secretary Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ajit Kumar, while informing about the various categories of disability, gave detailed information on the rights and provisions given in various sections of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for the practical difficulties faced by the persons with disabilities and the treatments and measures available for their resolution and improvement. discussed. Director, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Bhupendra S. Chaudhary and Director Backward Class Welfare Dr. Vandana Verma explained the departmental schemes in detail. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, Rana Krishna Pal Singh mentioned the facilities being provided to the disabled people in the university. In the workshop, a presentation was made on the topic of Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy 2020, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and employment opportu-

nities and possibilities.

District/Metropolitan Industry Trade Board, with the "Mudra Ratna" award for his significant contribution in the field of ancient currencies, industrialist Ajay Goyal ji and Mumbai Coinsociety President Kaizad Todiwala ji honored Angavastra. Patron/President Rajeev Krishna Srivastava and District President Anoop Verma said that this honor also be-

YOGI VISITS CARPET SHOPS



Bhadohi, Sanyam Bharat: In Bhadohi Carpet Fair, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with administrative members of CEPC visited the carpet shops and took information along with Bhadohi in-charge minister Danish Azad Ansari member Mahavir Sharma Rohit Gupta Imtiaz Ansari Shri Ram Maurya Darpan Baranwal Suryamani Tiwari Ejaz Ansari Wasif Ansari etc. administrative staff were present.

In the previous six years, our government has employed almost 6 lakh young people: UP CM Stated during a gathering at the Lok Bhavan

Lucknow (Agency): Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, announced on Tuesday that his administration had employed over six lakh young people in the previous six years. Adityanath stated during a gathering at the Lok Bhavan to present employment letters to 393 homoeopathic pharmacists, "No one can keep Uttar Pradesh 'bimaru' if these youngsters work together with full dedication and energy. We shall create UP a capable and successful state if we work together."

"Earlier it used to take oneand-half to two years for the announcement of results by the UP Public Service Commission, but now the UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission is giving results (of examinations) in six to nine months in a fair and transparent manner," said the chief minister of the state. Adityanath also stated Homeopathy for the first time, it some of the chosen pharmacists.

that the Global Inventors Summit was held in Uttar Pradesh in February 2023, and that the state has received investment bids worth Rs 38 lakh crore.

This would offer work for more than one crore young people, he said, adding that the state is already emerging as a hub for job creation. He stated that India has made tremendous development in the previous nine and a half years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. As a result, India has made significant strides in the field of traditional medicine. "Ayurveda has always played a role in our lives. Since ancient times, yoga has been tied with Indian tradition. In villages, people have used homeopathy in many forms. However, when the Ministry of AYUSH was founded by merging Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Siddha, and

gave the traditional medicine of India a new identity." In reference to the COVID-19 epidemic, Adityanath stated that Ayush Kadha assisted people through-

out the pandemic. He stated that the AYUSH University is being formed in the state so that degree and certificate courses in various AYUSH fields can begin. The UP chief minister stated that formerly, pharmacists selected for Ayurveda were not granted government positions, but that this has since changed. According to Adityanath, AYUSH has the greatest potential for health tourism in India. "The world is looking in this direction right now. As a result, it is our job to give those visiting for health tourism with an international-level atmosphere," he stated. The UP government stated in a statement that Adityanath also met with

Bikers shot & robbed a man in UP

Maharajganj (Agency): According to police, two men on a motorcycle were shot at and robbed of Rs 2 lakh on Brijmanganj Lehra road in Maharajganj district on Tuesday. The thieves, who were also on a motorbike, stole the two men's cash bag and sped away towards Brijmanganj, they said.

According to authorities, Abhimanyu Yadav, 21, was riding his motorbike when he was shot, while his companion Ram Ashish Sahni, 24, sat behind him. Yadav and his companion Sahni were driving through the Lehra Mandir forest when three males overtook them and signaled them to halt,

according to authorities. However, Yadav and Sahni continued driving because they were afraid of being robbed. When they did not stop, the bikers shot Yadav in the thigh, according to police.

Yadav was brought to Campierganj for treatment before being referred to Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College.

Glimpse of 'Shri Ram Temple and Chandrayaan Mission' seen on beautiful carpets

Carpet industry business in India worth Rs. 17k cr

Bhadohi, Sanyam Bharat: Product' has proved to be a boon The 45th International Carpet Fair is going on in Bhadohi in which handmade carpets are leaving the mark of their beauty and quality on the global stage. Bhadohi carpet belt has 60 percent share in the carpet industry business of Rs 17 thousand

for this industry. Bhadohi, Mirzapur and Varanasi are the hubs of carpet manufacturing. Especially the hand made carpet in Bhadohi has its own identity. Only Bhadohi carpets have been installed in the new Parliament House. Prime Minister Narendra

by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday. The Chief Minister himself has praised the carpets and handicrafts made by the inmates of the district jail of Bhadohi. Petloom carpet made from Bikaner's famous natural jute is the center of attraction at shop

The carpet fair was inaugurated

number 20 in the fair. The scene of Chandrayaan landing, India's great achievement in the field of pace, nas been engraved on the carpet scenery by skilled artisans with their skills. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also presented with a painting of the Shri Ram temple under construction in Ayodhya and a carpet the Chief

with Minister's image.

Prime Minister Modi's policies like 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local' - 'Local for Global' have proved effective in promoting the industry. The Prime Minister's visionary thinking of taking forward 'Make in India' with zero defect, zero effect is More than 450 foreign buyers from 68 countries arrive in the International Carpet Fair

carpet industry, the handicrafts- tries and more than 250 of their tober. To promote the cultural

proving better for the carpet inThis scheme was started in the carpet industry. A four-day Industry. With the availability of state in 2018. More than 450 fortechnology platforms for the eign buyers from about 68 counmen and artisans are seen mak-representatives are participating



ing their mark on the global stage. On the other hand, the policy of 'One District, One Produced' by the Yogi government of the state to encourage traditional products is proving to be a boon for the carpet industry and other industries of the state. in the four-day international carpet fair organized in Bhadohi. Which includes countries like USA, Australia, Europe, Belgium, Egypt, Germany, Italy. About 20 lakh weavers are getting direct or indirect employment in the Indian handmade heritage and weaving skills of handmade carpets, Carpet Export Promotion Coun-

ternational Carpet Fair is going

on in Bhadohi from 08 to 11 Oc-

District Administration organized this fair at Carpet Expo Mart, Carpet City Bhadohi. The 45th India Expo Mart is an international carpet fair. 260 stalls have been set up in the carpet fair. Many beautifully designed carpets have been

cil (CEPC) and

manufactured in the carpet fair. The government and exporters have high hopes from this fair organized in the holy land of Kashi and central part of Prayagraj. Certainly, the fair organized in Bhadohi will create history in the history of carpet fairs.

Darshita Rawat's rersearch will be presented at Manila, Philippines

Darshita Rawat is going to present her research in Manila, Philippines, a research

student of Dr. Kumud Dubey. Miss Darshita Rawat, who is a research student of Dr. Kumud Dubey, Scientist, Forest Research Centre, Prayagraj, (Uttar Pradesh), is going to present her research in Manila, Philippines Ashish Kumar Yadav and Dr. Kumud Dubey have been selected for fully funded

Rajasthan Rifle **Association coach** booked on rape charges

JAIPUR (Agency): According to authorities, a Rajasthan Rifle Association coach has been charged with raping and assaulting five female shooters over the previous several years. The FIR was filed on Sunday based on a complaint filed by the association's joint secretary on behalf of the victims.

According to the allegation, Shashikant Sharma raped two players and assaulted three others throughout the years. During the Green Cup event earlier this year in Italy, the coach reportedly forced one of the players to share a room with him, according to authorities.

Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: participation in the APAC Watershed Congress 2023 on the



theme "Nurturing Watersheds". The research is going to be presented in Manila, Philippines on October 22-23, 2023 by DENR (DENR) and Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI).



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Delhi excise policy case: Court extends AAP MP Sanjay Singh's ED custody till October 13

nesses shall be completed by

New Delhi (Agency): A sperevealed the role played by Singh cial court here on Tuesday extended till October 13 the ED custody of AAP leader Sanjay Singh, arrested in a money laundering case related to alleged irregularities in the scrapped Delhi excise policy. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) now has three more days to interrogate Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP, in custody.

crore in India. Under the gov-

ernment of Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath, due to schemes like

Vishwakarma Shram Samman in

Uttar Pradesh, the state's exports

program

and

have increased 250 times in just port Excellence' award in carpet

four years. Along with this, the exports. Chief Minister Yogi has

policy like 'One District, One also inaugurated 'Brand Carpet'.

Special Judge for ED cases MK Nagpal passed the order on an application moved by the anti-money laundering agency. The facts stated in the application filed by the ED and the case file produced before the court by the investigating officer reveal discovery of some fresh facts and recovery of some fresh digital evidence in a recent search conducted during the course of ongoing investigation, the judge noted.

He noted the ED's claim that the oral testimony of a witness

in grant of some liquor licences in Punjab. A close associate of the accused told a witness about Singh's alleged involvement in award of liquor licences in Delhi for monetary consideration, the judge noted while extending his remand.

Modi himself has praised the

handmade carpets of Bhadohi

and the amazing skill of the

weavers who make them. Due to

its excellent exports, Bhadohi

has received the 'Towns of Ex-

The judge, citing the ED's application, said Singh's associate has been summoned to join the investigation and both were required to be questioned with regard to the fresh evidence.

The court noted it is also being submitted that digital data of around 200 GB has been recovered during the course of fresh search which is yet to be analysed and the accused confronted with it.

"Therefore, in view of the above facts & circumstances and the submissions made, this court deems it necessary to extend the ED custody of accused

for a further period of 3 days and examination of relevant withe shall now be produced before this court from ED custody

on October 13," the judge said. However, the IO is being di-

rected to ensure that all digital data is analysed without any further delay and the above task of interrogation and confrontation of the accused and also the

then, the judge said.

He ordered that Singh's interrogation shall be conducted at a place having CCTV coverage and the ED will preserve the

footage. The ED's application prayed

for extension of Singh's custody,

which was to end on Tuesday, by 5 days, accusing him of noncooperation. Senior Advocate Rebecca John, who represented Singh, claimed the ED had no ground for seeking extension of the AAP leader's custody in the case which was based on shifting statements of co-accused Amit Arora.

"I (Singh) will not plead guilty to your fanciful allegations," she told the court.

At the end of the arguments on extension of custody, Singh claimed before the judge that the ED tried to whisk him away from its office with "ulterior motive." "After you granted remand (to ED) on the last date of hearing, at 10 at night, I was told that I was being taken somewhere else. I asked why didn't they inform the court. They (ED officials) said there was some issue of chemical pesticide. They said they have got phone calls from

go outside without the court's order. They asked me to give that in writing. "The next day they said the

same thing. They had some ulterior motive. I asked what happens if I am killed in an encounter, who will be responsible? They said they will be responsible. What's the point of responsibility when I am dead. Again and again, I asked for court's order," Singh told the

The judge asked the ED why it wanted a written statement from Singh about his reluctance to leave its office. The central agency rejected Singh's allegations of any wrongdoing.

"You should not take him away without the court's order," the judge said.

'Further, since the accused himself has also raised some concerns about his security in

people above. I told them I won't ED custody and hence, it is also being directed that the IO and other senior officers of the ED team investigating this case shall ensure the safety and security of accused in all respects, while he is in the ED custody in terms of this order of the court," the judge said in the order.

The court, meanwhile, directed Singh to not speak to media while being produced, saying it creates security problems. The judge also directed journalists not to ask him ques-

"It creates security problem," the judge said.

Addressing journalists on the court premises before production, Singh said, "Honest people are with us, dishonest with PM Modi." "Actions are being taken against those who are innocent and who are against them (BJP)," said Singh.