

‘World-class connectivity vital for UP’s trillion-dollar eco goal’

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LUCKNOW

DEVELOPING a world-class connectivity network is crucial for achieving Uttar Pradesh's goal of becoming a trillion-dollar economy, Chief Secretary S P Goyal said on Tuesday, calling for proactive resolution of bottlenecks to accelerate infrastructure projects. He made the remarks while inaugurating a day-long state-level workshop on "Accelerating Linear Infrastructure Projects: Good Practices and New Ideas" here.

“Development of a world-class connectivity network is extremely important in the direction of achieving the goal of making Uttar Pradesh a trillion-dollar economy. Roads, railways, expressways, industrial corridors, logistics hubs, airports and urban infrastructure are the backbone of the state’s economic development,” a statement quoted him as saying. He said adequate preparations relating to land availability, design, utility shifting and statutory approvals should be completed before construction begins to ensure timely completion of linear infrastructure projects.”

He stressed that large corridors and projects should be divided into systematic and manageable construction packages to enable effective monitoring at every level. “Monitoring of projects should not be limited to the overall level but should be done at the level of construction activities. This will clearly indicate the status of work at each location and where obstacles such as land, utilities, bridges, culverts, encroachments or environmental clearances exist,” he said. Goyal directed departments and officials to ensure timely removal of bottlenecks, particularly completing land acquisition within stipulated timelines. He said an effective interface management system should be developed, clearly recording the agency concerned, responsible officer, location, deadline and current status of every issue. “An effective interface management system is necessary because linear infrastructure projects involve multiple agencies, including PWD, NHAI, Railways, power, water, telecommunications, revenue, forest, police and urban local bodies.

Adequate preparations relating to land availability, design, utility shifting and statutory approvals should be completed before construction begins to ensure timely completion of linear infrastructure projects: Chief Secretary S P Goyal



‘Ramdrohi’ will create confusion over Sanatan glory, says Yogi

‘Ram Lalla’s manifestation in Ayodhya in 1949 involved a few people. Mahant Digvijay Nath Maharaj was there, along with Baba Abhiram Das and Mahant Ramchandra Das Paramhans. The strategy was formulated at the Devi Patan, Maa Pateshwari Dham in Balrampur’

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GORAKHPUR

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday invoked the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and accused “Ramdrohi” (those opposed to Lord Ram) of trying to create confusion over the “glory of Sanatan Dharma.” Addressing a programme organised at the Goraknath temple to mark the 57th death anniversary of Mahant Digvijay Nath, Adityanath also stressed the need for unity among followers of different sects and traditions of Sanatan Dharma. Recalling Digvijay Nath’s role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, Adityanath



noted, “He (Digvijay Nath) had said India’s Independence did not mean only political independence. It means complete independence, including cultural independence. Then if the work of the re-consecration of Somnath temple is taking place, this work should also take place in Ayodhya.” “Ram Lalla’s manifestation in Ayodhya in 1949 involved a few people. Mahant Digvijay Nath Maharaj was there, along with Baba Abhiram Das and Mahant Ramchandra Das Paramhans. The strategy was formulated at the Devi Patan, Maa Pateshwari Dham in Balrampur,” Adityanath said. The chief minister said a strategy was developed between Mahant Digvijay

UP HEADMASTER, AND WIFE HACKED TO DEATH

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SULTANPUR

A government school headmaster and his wife, who was the principal of a private school they owned in Sultanpur district, were allegedly hacked to death with an axe and a spade, police said on Tuesday. The couple were found dead at their private school in Kumbhi Dadiya village under the Kadipur Kotwali police station area. They lived on the school premises, police said. Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaiswal said it was not immediately clear whether the killings took place on Monday night or Tuesday morning. The incident came to light on Tuesday morning when school employees arrived and found the bodies lying in pools of blood, he said. The deceased have been identified as Mukesh Singh (45) and his wife Vinita (42), he said. According to preliminary police assessment, Vinita was attacked with an axe, spade and possibly other weapons inside a room in the school. Mukesh was also found dead about 150 metres away from her. An axe, spade and knife were recovered from the spot, they said. SP Jaiswal said the family members of the deceased have been informed. The bodies were being sent for post-mortem examination, and further legal action would be taken after the arrival of their relatives, he said. Kadipur Circle Officer Vinay Gautam and local police arrived at the spot and began an investigation. The couple is survived by a 20-year-old son, Abhyuday, who is studying at a university in Delhi. Mukesh established the private educational institution in Kumbhi Dadiya village in 2002 and had been living there with his wife, locals said.



Five of a family drown in river during religious ceremony in UP

FIVE members of a family including a 12-year-old boy drowned in the Sukhnai river during a religious ritual here on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place in Mauranipur area around 1 pm when the family members, attending a ‘shraddh’ ceremony, entered the river to perform some ritual. Some of them apparently strayed into deep waters and began drowning. Others family members rushed to their rescue, but were also swept into deep waters by the strong current, Mauranipur Circle Officer Ratnesh Kumar Singh said. The deceased were identified as Anoop Tiwari (40), his son Arpit (12), Abhinav (24), Shreyansh alias Kallu (22) and Chhote alias Pushkar (25), the officer said. “Five people drowned in the incident while other members of the family managed to come out safely,” Singh said.

16 trekkers stranded in high-altitude parts of Uttarkashi airlifted to safety

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DEHRADUN

SIXTEEN trekkers stranded due to inclement weather conditions were rescued from high-altitude Himalayan parts of Uttarakhand with the help of helicopters, officials said on Tuesday. Earlier on Monday, 40 people stranded at various locations had been safely evacuated, taking the number of such people rescued to 56. Eight trekkers and porters were evacuated from Kalindi Khal and

Mount Jogin each in Uttarkashi district on Tuesday morning as the weather cleared. Rain, snow and landslides have been reported in various parts of Uttarakhand. Vinod Kumar Suman, the state’s disaster management Secretary, said that reports of 136 stranded trekkers at various locations were received from across the state. SDRF personnel launched a rescue operation to evacuate trekkers from the snow-covered mountains. So far, 19 trekkers have been brought to the Harisil



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JAMMU

**Counterfeit currency racket busted in Jammu, 3 arrested**

POLICE on Tuesday busted a counterfeit currency racket and arrested three men who were allegedly printing fake currency notes at a rented accommodation here, an official said. Originally hailing from Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, the trio were arrested from Chowadhi area of Jammu along with low-quality counterfeit currency notes of Rs 100 denomination with a total face value of Rs 13,500, and a printing machine, a police spokesperson said. The arrested accused as Vijay Sahani of Siwan (Bihar), Indrajeet Kumar of Maharajpur, Jharkhand and Rahul Ahirwar of Khajrao, Madhya Pradesh who were currently living as tenants at

Preet Nagar, Digana, Trikuta Nagar and Marble Market areas of Jammu, respectively. On getting reliable information about suspected counterfeit currency-related activity from a rented premises at Chowadhi, a police team from Police Post Sainik Colony raided the premises and apprehended three persons, the spokesperson said. He said besides the low-quality counterfeit currency notes and a printing machine, the search party also seized paper cutter, ink bottles of different colours, one ‘toka’ (sharp edged weapon) and other material suspected to be connected with the activity. An FIR under relevant sections of BNS and Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Channi Himmat, and investigation has been taken up, the spokesperson said.

Omar mentors first-time MLA

CHIEF Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday schooled first-time BJP MLA Devyani Rana on Question Hour procedure in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the House’s youngest member raised an unrelated issue while asking supplementaries. Rana, daughter of Abdullah’s one-time close confidante who later joined the BJP, had asked a question on digitisation of land records in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister replied as per procedure. However, when Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather allowed Rana to ask a supplementary question, she sought to “advise” the government on how the Uttar Pradesh government was using women’s services to distribute electricity bills. As the Nagrota MLA went on with her suggestion, Abdullah intervened, saying Rana needed to learn the House’s proceedings. “The honourable is new here. May be her seniors need to teach her about the procedure of the House,” Abdullah said. The Speaker told Rana that she would have to confine her supplementary to the question she had listed for Question Hour.

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KANPUR

**Fatehpur LPG cylinder blast: Toll rises to 5**

THE death toll in the Fatehpur LPG cylinder blast incident rose to five after a 25-year-old man who had suffered severe burns died during treatment at Malwa Medical College early Tuesday, a senior police official said. The blast, which took place at a residence in Fatehpur’s Malwa town, brought down a two-storey building and damaged several neighbouring houses. Superintendent of Police (Fatehpur) Abhimanyu Manglik told PTI that preliminary probe indicates that the blast was caused by a leak in an LPG cylinder. Investigation also suggests that batteries used in a solar power system were kept inside the house, which exploded during the incident, intensifying its impact, the official added. The explosion occurred around 5 pm on Monday while meals were being prepared at the house of Suresh Gupta, a fruit and vegetable vendor. A suspected gas leak triggered a fire, leading to explosion of multiple LPG cylinders, according to preliminary findings. Seven people were rescued from the debris and taken to hospital. Four of them -- Kunal Gupta (18), Arpit Gupta (15), Ved Gupta (8) and Yash Gupta (4) -- died Monday, while Alok Gupta (25) succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday, the SP told PTI. Suresh Gupta (50) and his seven-year-old nephew Om were also injured. Their condition is stated to be stable, police said.

Ex-DGP O P Singh to steer Har’s new anti-drug body Sankalp

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CHANDIGARH

FORMER Haryana DGP O P Singh has been appointed chief executive officer of Sankalp, a new body chaired by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini that brings the state’s police, health, education, social justice and village institutions under one anti-drug plan. The SANKALP Society (Substance Abuse and Narcotics Knowledge, Awareness and Liberation

Substance Abuse and Narcotics Knowledge, Awareness and Liberation Programme was constituted to reduce first-time drug cases among young people and create drug-free villages

Programme) was constituted to reduce first-time drug cases among young people and create drug-free villages, through a notification published in the Haryana Government Gazette on Monday. Building on the state’s strongest enforcement year so far, the new body adds prevention, treatment and community action to that enforcement effort. Haryana registered a record 3,738 FIRs under



the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in 2025 and arrested 6,801 people. According to the notification, Sankalp, whose chairperson will be the chief minister, will coordinate 11 departments, including Home, Health,

School and Higher Education, and Sports and Youth Affairs. The administrative secretaries of these departments sit on the Society. Additional DGP, Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau (HSNCB), is its member secretary. The society’s first-year priorities are set out in the notification: decline in first-time NDPS registrations among persons under 25 years of age per lakh population in identified districts against a fixed 2025-26 baseline; de-addiction; certification of villages and urban wards as “SANKALP-Certified Nasha Mukti”. Progress on these goals will be the first item at every meeting of the society and will be included in its annual report to the Council of Ministers. The order calls for a “citizen-led movement” with leadership at the village, ward, school, college and workplace levels, involving youth clubs, local influencers, religious leaders and resident welfare bodies. Schools and colleges will add drug awareness, refusal skills and mental-health education to their curricula, the notification says. Panchayats and urban local bodies will receive toolkits, technical support and competitive incentives to earn drug-free certification. District NCORD committees, headed by deputy commissioners, will send monthly reports to a state dashboard.