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SC takes cognisance of Kolkata rape horror

RAJESH KUMAR/SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has taken suo-motu cognisance of the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The case is set to be heard by a bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud on Tuesday.

According to the cause list for August 20, uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench headed by CJI Chandrachud is scheduled to hear a matter titled 'In Re: Alleged rape and murder incident of a trainee doctor in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata, and related issues'. The Supreme Court's intervention comes in the wake of mounting public pressure and allegations of mishandling by State authorities.

Earlier two lawyers practising in the Supreme Court —Ujjawal Gaur and Rohit Pandey, penned a letter to the CJI on Thursday, urging him to take immediate action in the case.

In their letter, the advocates emphasised the urgent need for the highest court in the country to step in, given the gravity and seriousness of the incident.

"The nation looks to the judiciary as the ultimate guardian of justice, the last



Members of various Resident Doctors' Associations protest during a candle march against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, at Connaught Place, in New Delhi, on Sunday Ranjani Dimri

refuge for those whose cries have been silenced by brutality.

"The victim in this case, a young doctor whose life was dedicated to serving others, deserves nothing less than the full measure of justice that our legal system can provide. Her death must not be in vain, it must galvanise

us to act, to ensure that no other woman suffers such a fate," stated the letter.

"The time has come for the judiciary to send a clear and resounding message that such heinous crimes will not be tolerated, that the sanctity of life and the dignity of women must be fiercely protected by the full

might of the law," it said.

The Calcutta High Court recently transferred the probe from the Kolkata Police to the CBI.

The case has raised serious concerns about the safety of medical professionals in India, particularly women, who are often left vulnerable in their workplaces.

CBI closes in on crucial evidence in murder case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The call detail records of Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, along with the personal diary of the slain lady doctor, could hold crucial clues to unraveling the mystery behind her rape and murder, according to some Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials.

During his interrogation, Ghosh has not been forthcoming about his phone call activities before and after the murder, prompting the CBI to seek the details from service providers, sources said.

Ghosh, who has already been grilled by the CBI for more than 28 hours over two consecutive days, also failed to provide explanations for the torn pages from the victim's diary, which were previously recovered by the police.

The victim's family members have expressed their suspicions about certain individuals, noting that she had mentioned her

reluctance to perform night shifts at the hospital.

"Clearly, she was under pressure for some reason or was privy to something she should not have known," one family member speculated, questioning why the victim would tear out 4-5 pages from her personal diary.

On Sunday, the CBI summoned several security staff members and a subaltern police officer for questioning. However, investigators have yet to determine why hospital authorities delayed informing the police by two hours after discovering the body or why students and staff were instructed not to go to the third floor, where the seminar room — and the victim's body — was found early on the morning of August 9.

The officials also have asked the former principal of the college as to why the common wall between the bathroom and the seminar hall was pulled down after the incident and why the washbasins and such other things were replaced in a hurry.



Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren speaks with the media upon his arrival at Delhi airport on Sunday PTI

All does not seem well with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

All is not well within the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) as the state approaches its upcoming Assembly polls. Senior JMM leader and former Chief Minister Champai Soren, popularly known as the "Jharkhand Tiger," has sparked speculation about his possible defection to the BJP.

Adding fuel to the rumours, Soren recently removed JMM's name from his X (formerly Twitter) profile and said he is considering three options: retiring from politics, starting a new party, or joining another party. Notably, his X profile now only describes him as the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, with no reference to the JMM. This development comes less than two months after Soren

handed over the reins of Jharkhand to his successor, Hemant Soren.

In a strong indication that he may quit the party, Champai penned an emotional letter on X detailing the "insults and contempt" he has had to bear recently at the hands of his own partymen that eventually forced him to look for an "alternative path." "After so much insult and contempt, I was forced to look for an alternative path," he said.

"With a heavy heart, I said in the same meeting of the legislative party that — "A new chapter of my life is going to start from today." I had three options: First, to retire from politics, second, to form my own separate organisation and third, if I find a companion on this path, then to travel further with him," Champai wrote on his social media post.



10 killed, 27 hurt in UP road tragedy

PNS ■ BULANDSHAHR (UP)

Ten people were killed and 27 injured when a pickup van collided head-on with a private bus in the Salempur area here on Sunday, officials said.

The accident occurred on the Budaun-Meerut State highway, around 14 kilometres from the district headquarters. The traffic on the road was briefly affected due to the incident.

According to locals, the pickup van was coming from Ghaziabad when it collided with the bus.

"Ten people were killed and 27 were injured in the accident. The injured have been sent to different hospitals," District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh told reporters.

The deceased were identified as Mukut Singh (45), Deen Nath (45), Brijesh (18), Babu Singh (19), Shishupal (27), Girraj Singh (26), Sugarpal (35) and Omkar (30). Two of the deceased are yet to be identified, he said.

Nine of the injured are undergoing treatment at a private hospital. The condition of four of the injured was serious and they were referred to the Meerut Medical College. The remaining injured people have been admitted to the district hospital, Singh said.

The DM said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the incident and directed him and other officials to ensure that the injured get the best medical treatment. He said fitness documents of both vehicles were updated.

Bitter Football Foes of Bengal unite against rape horror

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after the Kolkata Police cancelled the highly anticipated Derby Match between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal FC — citing a shortage of manpower and concerns about potential disturbances due to ongoing protests over the doctor's rape and murder — more than 10,000 supporters from the three clubs took to the street of Kolkata to demand justice.

This unity was unprecedented, as for years, the fans of Mohun Bagan Club, East Bengal Club, and Mohammedan Sporting Club have been fierce rivals in Kolkata's football scene.

These three century-old giants, whose supporters have a long history of street clashes



and even fatalities due to their intense rivalries, found common ground in their shared call for justice for the slain doctor.

The fans, defying prohibitory orders under Section 163 (formerly Section 144, CrPC) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, gathered at

the iconic Salt Lake Stadium to voice their outrage over the brutal crime.

The victim's semi-nude body had been found inside the hospital on the morning of August 9. Dramatic scenes unfolded in front of the stadium, where police struggled to disperse the

football fans, resorting to lathi charges as the supporters chanted, "Lobster and Hilsa unite at the death of our own sister."

The chant symbolised the unlikely unity between Mohun Bagan supporters (represented by Lobster, associated with western Bengal) and East Bengal supporters (represented by Hilsa, symbolising those who migrated from East Bengal), highlighting the cultural divide that the tragedy bridged.

Mohun Bagan, known as the National Club of India, was founded on August 15, 1889. Mohammedan Sporting Club followed in 1891, and East Bengal Club was established in 1920.

Continued on Page 2

Child Rights head red flags radical curriculum of Bihar madrasas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairman Priyank Kanoongo on Sunday expressed concerns over the "radical" curriculum being taught in Government-funded madrasas in Bihar and the enrollment of Hindu children in such institutions.

Also, he questioned the involvement of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in designing this curriculum, calling it the "height of appeasement" by both UNICEF and the Bihar Madrasa Board.

Kanoongo urged the United Nations to investigate these activities and called for the dissolution of the Madrasa Board.

In a recent post on the microblogging platform X, he highlighted that textbooks like Talimul Islam used in these madrasas label non-Islamic individuals as "kafir" (infidels).

He noted with alarm that Hindu children are reportedly enrolled in these madrasas, though the Bihar Government has yet to provide official figures.

Regarding the transfer of



Hindu children from madrasas to regular schools, Kanoongo said the Bihar Madrasa Board claimed the curriculum was prepared by UNICEF India. In his post, Kanoongo criticised UNICEF's job to create a radical curriculum using money received as donations and grants from governments, under the guise of child protection." A response from UNICEF on this matter is still awaited. Kanoongo also revealed that many of the textbooks used in these madrasas are

published in Pakistan and that research on their content is ongoing. He said, "A madrasa is not a place for basic education of children in any form; children should study in regular schools, and Hindu children should not be in madrasas at all."

Kanoongo emphasised that the use of funds for activities beyond the scope of the Right to Education (RTE) Act violates both the Indian Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). He demanded that the United Nations and its agencies in India conduct a thorough investigation into these activities.

Sriram's IAS coaching centre penalised

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a 3 lakh penalty on coaching institute Sriram's IAS for publishing misleading advertisements and violating consumer rights.

The misleading advertisement was related to its claims regarding UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022. In a

statement, the CCPA said because of the violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the CCPA, headed by Chief Commissioner, Nidhi Khare, and Commissioner, Anupam Mishra, has issued an order against Sriram's IAS for misleading advertisement regarding UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022. Coaching institutes and online edtech platforms use

pictures and names of some successful candidates to influence prospective aspirants (consumers), without disclosing the courses opted by such candidates and length of the course so attended.

According to an official statement, the CCPA has imposed a "penalty of 3 lakh for misleading advertisement on Sriram's IAS".

This Rakhi, markets to cross all bandhan with record sales

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

As people prepare to celebrate Raksha Bandhan on Monday, sales across the country are expected to surpass 12,000 crore, marking a 2,000 crore increase from last year.

This year, Rakhi sales are expected to generate over 12,000 crore in revenue nationwide, with markets experiencing a surge in demand for "Made in India" Rakhis.

Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) national general secretary and Chandni Chowk BJP MP, Praveen Khandelwal, said the demand for Rakhis has surged in recent days, with sales setting new records in 2023.

"It is expected that this year, the business during the Rakhi festival will reach 12,000 crore, compared to last year's trade of approximately

10,000 crore. In 2022, the business was around 7,000 crore, in 2021 it was 6,000 crore, in 2020 it was 5,000 crore, in 2019 it was 3,500 crore, and in 2018 it was 3,000 crore," he said.

Buyers who previously purchased cheaper Chinese Rakhis are now turning to local made Rakhis. These include Khadi Rakhis from Nagpur, Seed Rakhis from Jaipur, Sanganer Art Rakhis from Jaipur, Seng Rakhis from Pune, Woolen Rakhis from Satna in Madhya Pradesh, Bamboo Rakhis made from tribal materials, Tea Leaf Rakhis from Assam, Jute Rakhis from Kolkata, Silk Rakhis from Mumbai, Date Rakhis from Kerala, Pearl Rakhis from Kanpur, Madhubani and Maithili Art Rakhis from Bihar, Soft Stone Rakhis from Pondicherry, and Flower Rakhis from Bangalore.

CAIT's national president BC

Bhartia said a unique aspect of this year's festival is the wide variety of Rakhis made from famous products of various cities across the country. Additionally, there is a high demand for Rakhis that showcase

national pride, such as Tricolour Rakhis, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Rakhis, and Bharat Mata Rakhis. Designer and silver Rakhis are also selling well in the market.

He said from Raksha Bandhan on

August 19 until the festival period concludes with Tulsi Vivah on November 15, festive sales in the country's markets are expected to surpass 4 lakh crore, predominantly through the sale of Indian-origin goods.

This festive series begins with Raksha Bandhan and continues through Janmashtami, the 10-day Ganesh Utsav, Navratris, Durga Puja, Dussehra, Karva Chauth, Dhanteras, Diwali, Govardhan Puja, Bhai Dooj, Chhath Puja, and other festivals, culminating with Tulsi Vivah. During this time, the business community is fully prepared to meet consumer demands, with traders across all States stocking up adequately on Indian products.

For the past four years, CAIT has successfully promoted a campaign encouraging the purchase of Indian

products and the boycott of Chinese goods, especially during festivals. While Chinese products used to dominate the market due to their lower prices, indigenous Rakhis have been the sole focus for several years. This year, too, there was neither demand for nor presence of Chinese Rakhis in the market.

The chairman of CAIT's Vedic Committee and Vedic scholar from Ujjain, Acharya Durgesh Tare, said on August 19, there is a 'Bhadra' period lasting until 1:30 pm, during which no auspicious activities should be performed. As a result, the sacred festival of Raksha Bandhan will be celebrated across the country starting from 1:31 pm onwards.

CAIT has issued this advisory to all trader organisations across the country, recommending that all traders celebrate Raksha Bandhan during the auspicious time.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

With Behnas blessings, we will propel our state to the top: CM

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that with the blessings of sisters, Madhya Pradesh has risen to become the number one state in the country. He emphasized that the love of sisters on Raksha Bandhan is the greatest blessing. Yadav shared these sentiments while interacting with the sisters at the Ladli Behna Raksha Bandhan programme, which was held today at Raghunandan Garden Panwasa, Suman Garden, and Shivanjali Garden in Ujjain.



He noted that the world is now looking towards India and its rich culture. Dr. Yadav emphasized that the government should remain socially conscious and in tune with society's needs. He also mentioned that, in celebration of Raksha

Bandhan, the government has deposited an additional Rs 250 as a shagun, along with the monthly amount of Rs 1250, into the accounts of 1 crore 29 lakh Ladli Behnas in the state. The Chief Minister assured that the government will continue to fulfill public expectations.

He added that the entire city of Ujjain is filled with joy today, on Raksha Bandhan, and expressed pride in belonging to Ujjain, the city of Lord Mahakal. At the outset, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav along with the guests launched the programme by lighting the lamp and also performed kanya puja. The sisters presented a big Rakhi to Chief Minister Dr. Yadav as a symbol and also tied Rakhi on his wrist. The Chief Minister in turn presented gifts to all the sisters. He also rocked the swing for them and welcomed them by showering flowers. District in-charge Minister Gautam Tetwal, MP Firoziya, Rajya Sabha MP Umeshnathji and MLA Jain

congratulated them on Raksha Bandhan. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also planted saplings at the venue under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. On this occasion, Mayor Mukesh Tatwal, MLA Anil Jain Kaluhera, Satish Malviya, Jitendra Pandya, Tejbahadur Singh Chauhan, Municipal Corporation Chairman Kalavati Yadav, Vivek Joshi, Bahadur Singh Bormundla, Jagdish Aggarwal, Shyam Bansal, Divisional Commissioner Sanjay Gupta, IG Santosh Kumar Singh, Collector Neeraj Kumar Singh, SP Pradeep Sharma and other officers, public representatives, corporators, distinguished citizens, journalists and a large number of Ladli Behnas were present.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during Rakshabandhan festival celebration programme in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. Pioneer photo

Surgery of Recurrent Sacrococcygeal Teratoma at AIIMS

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A male patient, 24 years old, has been suffering from discharge from the lower back side near the joint of both hips for the last year. He visited AIIMS Bhopal with his parents four months ago in surgical oncology OPD, and after a thorough investigation, he was found to have growth in the sacral area. He had given a history of surgery for the same problem ten years ago somewhere in our hospital in Madhya Pradesh, but he developed the same problem in the last four months. Again, after understanding the nature of the disease, Dr. Neelsh Shrivastava, assistant professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology, decided to proceed with the excision of the tumour. The patient's surgery was

challenging given the difficulty as it was near the nerves, which generally control the bladder and bowel functions as well as the sexual functions. A team was made with the collaboration of surgical oncology, plastic surgery, and neurosurgery; Dr. Harish Kumar, assistant professor of anaesthesia, took the lead for anaesthesia and surgery was carried out by the team, including Dr. Neelsh Shrivastava from surgical oncology and Dr. Sumit Raj from neurosurgery, for primary resection of the tumour and preservation of necessary nerves, reconstruction part was dealt with by plastic surgery by Dr. Deepak Krishna. The patient was doing well post-surgery and planned for discharge on day 13; there was no postoperative

complication in the form of nerve damage, which can affect the general routine of the patient, like urination, defecation, etc. The patient is now stable and has been discharged in stable condition. This is to notify you that this case is unique, as in recurrent cases, there is a high chance of getting nerve injuries to the area where the tumour was, and if it happens, the patient will experience dysfunction of bladder and bowel habits. That the Department of Surgical Oncology is doing such complicated cases on a routine basis. This is an example of complicated care provided by teamwork for challenging cases in AIIMS Bhopal. AIIMS Director Prof. Dr. Ajay Singh has congratulated the medical team for this achievement.

CM's efforts enhance the grandeur of Lord Mahakaleshwar's procession

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the final Monday of the auspicious month of Shrawana, the grand procession of Lord Mahakaleshwar will unfold with full protocol and splendour. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will be a part of this sacred journey. This year's Sawan has seen an extraordinary charm in the procession of Lord Mahakaleshwar, with each event standing out in its own unique way. Dr. Yadav's innovative efforts to enhance the grandeur of the procession have drawn an increasing number of devotees, not only from within the state but also from across the nation and abroad. The highlight of this final procession will be the magnificent display by the CRPF and Army bands. This day also coincides with the sig-

nificant Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan. Additionally, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, will join in the divine visit to Lord Mahakaleshwar on this special Monday. Since Mohan Yadav assumed the role of Chief Minister, the grandeur of Lord Mahakaleshwar's procession has reached new heights. The procession now begins with a magnificent performance by the grand police band, followed by a world record-breaking Damru ensemble—a truly unique initiative. To further enhance the splendour of the procession, tribal dance groups from various regions of the state have been included for the first time through the Tribal Folk Art and Language Development Academy of Madhya Pradesh

Sanskriti Parishad. This addition has not only elevated the grandeur of the Sawan processions but also significantly increased their appeal. The performances captivated the audience. Additionally, for the first time, mobile chariots were introduced, allowing devotees to smoothly view Lord Mahakal through large screens, adding another layer of devotion and accessibility to the event. On the initiative of the CM Yadav, the police band performed in the procession for the first time. In a special initiative by Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, the second procession of Lord Mahakaleshwar featured a remarkable performance by 350 police personnel, who played melodious tunes of Shiva Bhajans such as 'Namah Shivaya Om Namah

Shivaya," "Har-Har Shambhu Deva Mahadeva," "Mere Ghar Ram Aaye Hai," "Deva Ho Deva Ganapati Deva," "Om Jai Shiv Omkara," and "Satyam Shivam Sundaram" through the Police Band. The Police Band also delivered a mesmerizing performance during the pooja at Ramghat, infusing the entire atmosphere with energy and devotion, and captivating the hearts of all the devotees present. Mass Damru playing became world record. The third Monday of Shrawan became historic for Ujjain. As per the wish of the Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, 1500 Damru players created a world record by playing Damru simultaneously on the Shaktipath of Mahakal Lok. Devotees of Baba Shri Mahakal participated in the ride with gaiety and enthusi-

asm and welcomed the Damru players. Damru, the favourite musical instrument of Lord Shiva, enthralled the devotees with a rhythmic and captivating performance by the Damru players. Lord Shiva was praised with the auspicious sound of Damru playing in the ride of Lord Shri Mahakaleshwar. During the fourth procession of Shri Mahakaleshwar Bhagwan, as per the directions of the Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, the Vedic mantras were recited by the Vedic scholars of three Vedic schools Maharshi Kanva Veda Vidyalaya, Mahamrityunjaya Veda Vidyalaya and Rishi Gurukul along with Shri Mahakaleshwar Vedic Training and Research Institute run by the Temple Management Committee from the Datta Akhara area.



Members of various cultural and social organisations stage a protest demanding justice for a woman trainee doctor who was on duty allegedly raped and murdered at Kolkatta's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, at Roshanpura square in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

Scrap dealer attempts suicide, SHO accused

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 48-year-old scrap dealer attempted suicide poisoning substance and a note alleging harassment by SHO Shahpura and his staff at the police station was found in his pocket. A scrap dealer identified as Rajkumar Duware tried to commit suicide by consuming poisonous substance. A note was found in his pocket. It was mentioned, 'TI sahab and his close policeman forcibly extorted Rs 40000. A case was also registered. They will be responsible for my death.' However, Rajkumar's condition is out of danger. Rajkumar Duware, a resident of village Amari, is a scrap dealer in Shakti Nagar. His son Akash Duware (22) is an MBA student. Akash said, 'I was at the shop on the morning of August 14. Shahpura police station police came at around 9 am. Two policemen who came on a

bike took him and told that the snake around the neck of a statue kept in a temple has been stolen. They have bought this stolen snake. Then he told them that his father runs the shop. He has no information about the incident. After making Akash sit in the police station, the police called his father and asked him to come to the police station. They threatened that their son will be sent to jail. This will ruin his future. Akash alleged that Rs 40000 were demanded from his father in exchange for saving him. The scared father gave the money to the policeman. The policeman told him to put the money in the all-out box kept in the police station. As soon as my father put the money in the box, the policeman took the box and left. After some time, they released him. Akash told that on the evening of August 14, police brought his father to the government Bolero shop. Before this, a call came from his father's number. He asked to turn off the CCTV installed in the

shop. After this, police came to the shop and video graphed the search. They returned with his father. Later, action was taken against him on the charge of buying stolen goods. He was released on bail from the police station. On August 16, Rajkumar reached home at around 6.30 pm. After a while, he suddenly fell unconscious on the sofa. His family members took him to a private hospital in Baghsewaniya. On checking his pockets in the hospital, a slip was found. In it, he wrote that 'TI sahab and his close policeman forcibly collected 40 thousand rupees. A case was also registered. They will be responsible for my death.' A slip has been found with Rajkumar. It mentions harassment by Shahpura TI. Shahpura police station TI Raghunath Singh said that Rajkumar was exerting pressure even during custody to avoid action. A snake stolen from a temple has been recovered from his shop.

UNICEF commends CM Bhopal: UNICEF has praised Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's efforts to improve the health of adolescent girls in Madhya Pradesh. In a post on X, UNICEF commended the Chief Minister's Sanitation and Hygiene Scheme, describing it as a unique initiative aimed at enhancing the well-being of adolescent girls. Notably, on August 11, during the Samvad and Samman program for girl students held in Bhopal, Yadav transferred Rs 57 crore 18 lakh to the accounts of 19 lakh girl students under the Sanitation and Hygiene Scheme of the Samagra Shiksha program. Under the Sanitation and Hygiene Scheme, funds have been allocated for providing sanitary napkins to girl students in classes 7 to 12. The scheme also educates students in schools and colleges about the importance of cleanliness and personal hygiene. It is implemented as part of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan of the School Education Department.

Nawab Colony residents attack BMC employees over petty dispute

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Locals attacked employees of Bhopal Municipal Corporation team in Nawab Colony on Sunday over a dispute of removing the garbage collection vehicle. The team had gone for door-to-door garbage collection, the driver and two other sanitation workers were also assaulted in the attack. Nishatpura police have registered a case against the accused. Due to the assault, the employee sustained injuries in ribs and neck. The driver of the door-to-door garbage collection vehicle, Aman, had gone to Nawab Colony on Sunday with his companions Meenabai and Rajesh. This area comes in Zone-17. The accused person identified as Hajjala alias Irshad brutally beat up driver Aman for not removing the vehicle. Due to this, he became unconscious. Companions Meenabai and Rajesh were also beaten up. Driver Aman was immediately admitted to

The driver of the door-to-door garbage collection vehicle, Aman, had gone to Nawab Colony on Sunday with his companions Meenabai and Rajesh, when dispute occurred

Promise Hospital where he was told to have fractures in the neck and ribs. After the assault on the employee, the door-to-door garbage collection vehicles were stopped. All the drivers and employees of Madhya Pradesh Government Driver Mechanical Employees Union warned that they would not work until a case was registered against the accused. After this, the police also took immediate action and registered a case against the accused. After the case was registered, the employees returned to work.

CM greets sisters on Raksha Bandhan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has extended greetings on the festival of Raksha Bandhan. He said that Raksha Bandhan is the biggest festival of sisters. It is a celebration of mutual love, trust, devotion, faith, dedication, and harmony between brothers and sisters. This festival is also a unique festival of empowerment of the entire society, family coordination, and the eternal love between brothers and sisters. As a part of the celebration of Raksha Bandhan and Sawan festival, the state government has deposited Rs 250 along with Rs 1250 as shagun in the accounts of sisters under the Ladli Behna Yojana on August 10. In a program held simultaneously at 25 thousand places in the state, Rs 1897 crore was transferred to the accounts of 1 crore 29 lakh Ladli Behnas doubling the joy and enthusiasm of the sisters. Chief Minister Yadav said that the state government is committed to the socio-economic empowerment, dignity, and safety of women. He prayed to Baba Mahakal to grant joy and happiness to all sisters and families.

Three vehicle lifters nabbed, 29 two-wheelers seized from them

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Crime Branch Bhopal has arrested the vehicle lifters who used to sell stolen vehicles in rural areas, 29 two wheelers worth Rs 17.45 lakh have been seized from the possession of the three arrested accused. The three accused used to do recce of the dhabas, farms and houses in deserted areas in the outskirts of Bhopal. They used to steal vehicles and run away as soon as they got a chance at night. The accused have been arrested on the information regarding the method of selling stolen vehicles in rural areas. DCP Crime Akhil Patel said that the accused Sonu Rai Singh, Goharganj, Vinod Rai and Monu Rai resident of Bari were detained on Saturday night from Thandi Sadak near Jhareshwar Bank. Information was received from the informer that the three were selling bikes at low prices. When the papers of the vehicle were asked from the accused, they misled. On strict interrogation,

The three accused used to do recce of the dhabas, farms and houses in deserted areas in the outskirts of Bhopal

the vehicle was stolen. During interrogation, the accused told the police that they used to do recce of dhabas, farm houses and farms in the outskirts of Bhopal during the day. They used to steal these vehicles at night. They used to sell these stolen vehicles to the villagers of Raisen and Vidisha districts at low prices. The accused said that generally police do less checking in rural areas. Villagers used to travel mostly in the fields, houses and villages. Due to which there is less fear of vehicles getting caught. Police have seized 29 two wheelers on the information given by the accused.



Women buying Rakhis on the eve of Rakshabandhan festival in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

I am Chief Servant and not Chief Minister: CM Yadav

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed that he sees himself not as the Chief Minister, but as the chief servant of the Ladli Behnas. He praised sisters for their role in enriching families and symbolizing prosperity, stating that their well-being contributes to the family's overall success. He emphasized that if the Ladli Behnas of

Madhya Pradesh thrive, the state will also enjoy economic prosperity. Yadav participated in the Ladli Behna Rakshabandhan festival held at the Hotel Solitaire complex in Ujjain. During the event, the Ladli Behnas tied him Rakhi and he responded by showering them with flowers. Yadav extended his warm greetings on the Rakshabandhan festi-

tival, which signifies the profound love and unbreakable bond between brothers and sisters. He expressed his gratitude for the blessings and trust bestowed upon him by the Ladli Behnas of the state, acknowledging that it is their support and blessings that drive the states continued progress.

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Shivraj takes out 20-km Tiranga yatra in his constituency

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday took out a 20-km Tiranga Yatra from Ladkui to Bhaironda with more than 10,000 farmers from Ichhawar of Vidisha Lok Sabha constituency. Chouhan addressed the public meeting after performing Bhoomi Pujan and inauguration of various development works in Bhaironda. Shivraj Singh also interacted with the students of CM Rise School and inaugurated a school bus. In Bhaironda, Laadli sisters celebrated Rakshabandhan by tying Rakhi on the wrist of their brother Shivraj and blessed him. During this, Chouhan said that there can be no relationship more sacred than the relationship of brother and sis-

ter in the world. I will continue to work day and night for the development and welfare of sisters till my last breath. The Union Minister said that you have showered love, I have the same feeling in my heart that uncle is also an ocean of love, love for brothers, love for sisters and love for nephews and nieces. We are not ministers so that we get filled with arrogance by sitting on the post. We are in office so that we can serve you. My people are God for me. Chouhan said that farming is the backbone of the economy and farmers are its soul, I love the soul more than my heart. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, we will leave no stone unturned in farmer welfare. Prime Minister has said from the ramparts of Red Fort that I will work three times harder to make India developed. Chouhan said that I will also

leave no stone unturned in agriculture, farmer welfare and rural development. It is our resolve to develop farming and villages. Chouhan said that after Ladli Behna, our next destination is Lakhpatti Didi Abhiyan. Every sister has to be included in the Lakhpatti Club. Lakhpatti Didi means the annual income of sisters should be more than 1 lakh rupees. Prime Minister Modi's resolve is to make 3 crore sisters lakhpatis. He further said that on August 25, Prime Minister is going to Jalgaon in Maharashtra. A big program of Lakhpatti Didi is being organized here. In which Prime Minister Modi will distribute Lakhpatti certificates to 11 lakh sisters. Chouhan said that, by organizing a program for sisters, so many works have to be done through Ajevika Mission that the income of sis-

ters keeps increasing, sisters do not remain helpless, there are no tears in eyes, smiles come on faces and sons and daughters keep moving forward, this is the mission of my life. Chouhan participated in the massive tree plantation program organized by Karunadham Ashram in Bhopal on Sunday and planted saplings. During this, Chouhan said that, when you do some work every day in life, it becomes a sadhana. Any sacred work that is useful for others is a sadhana, it is a penance. Tree plantation is also a penance and today even the Prime Minister called for "one tree in the name of mother", only then the earth will be saved and hence no other work can be more sacred than this. Tree plantation is a very sacred work, this earth is not only for ourselves but also for the coming generations. In the desire for

material progress, we exploited it and that is why we are facing problems like climate change and global warming. That is why I felt that I will plant a tree every day. We release carbon dioxide and trees give us oxygen. So make arrangements for as much as we need to live. The Union Minister on Sunday participated in the Tiranga Yatra here and interacted with the people. During his visit, people welcomed Shivraj in every village. Wherever Shivraj's convoy passed, sisters tied rakhi to Shivraj and blessed him. Youngsters showered flowers on him and elders blessed him by placing their hands on his head. Nephews and nieces expressed their happiness by hugging their uncle. During this, Chouhan said that such a flood of love of sisters surged in the village that I cannot describe it.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan during Kisan Tiranga Yatra, in Bherunda, Sehore district Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. Pioneer photo



BJP MP from Bhopal Alok Sharma during Rakshabandhan festival celebrations, in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

e-Filing and Scanning centre inaugurated at MP High Court

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a significant step towards digitization and modernization of the Judiciary, e-Filing & Scanning centre was inaugurated at High Court of Madhya Pradesh today. Hon'ble Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Madhya Pradesh inaugurated e-Filing & Scanning centre in presence of Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh and office bearers of various Bar Associations of High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur. This facility will enable the Advocates, litigants-in-person to file fresh cases as well as applications, replies, rejoinder, documents, vakalatnama etc. in the pending cases from e-Filing centre. The e-Filing centre consists of all the facilities, which are required to file a case online. Special facil-

ity like a support person or facilitator and scanners are also provided in the centre. Proper sitting arrangement has been done and e-Filing centre is fully Air-Conditioned. Quick Response (Q.R.) code has been provided for financial transaction for speedy e-Filing. Special incentives have been given to Advocates, litigants regarding e-Filing of a case, if the case is filed by e-Filing module then it will be listed urgently on 3rd working day from the date of filing subject to no default and in case of defaults from the date of removal of defaults. The e-Filing centre will enhance e-Filing in the High Court and will also reduce public exchequer money, which was spend earlier in scanning or digitizing the cases. It will also reduce physical paperwork and it is an environment-friendly initiative.

Act swiftly in Kolkata rape case: Harbhajan to WB Governor, CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former cricketer and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Harbhajan Singh has written to West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, urging them to "act swiftly and decisively" in the rape-murder case of a Kolkata doctor. "With deep anguish over the delay in justice to the Kolkata rape and murder victim, the incident which has shaken the conscience of all of us, I have penned a heartfelt plea to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. @MamataOfficial Ji and Hon'ble @BengalGovernor urging them to act swiftly and decisively," Singh said in a post on X. The safety and dignity of women are non-negotiable, he said, adding the perpetrators of this heinous crime must face the full might of

the law, and the punishment must be exemplary. "Only then can we begin to restore faith in our system and ensure that such a tragedy never occurs again and we create a society where every woman feels safe and protected. We must ask ourselves 'if not now, when? I feel the time for action is now,'" he said in the letter. The former India cricketer also shared a copy of the letter, which he addressed "to the Government of West Bengal, CBI and Citizens of India" on X. "I demand justice for the victim. I demand a safer society. I demand positive change. And I stand with the doctors in their fight for justice," he said. "I urge the government of West Bengal and the investigating agency, CBI, to take immediate and decisive action to ensure that the perpetrators of this vile act are brought to justice swift-

ly," Singh wrote in the letter. "Why the government of West Bengal only? Such incidents are reported from different parts of the country and have become regular columns on newspapers and TV programmes," Singh wrote. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took over the investigation into the alleged rape and murder of the woman doctor at the state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in the West Bengal capital. Singh said the governments must implement comprehensive measures to prevent such occurrences in the future. "This includes strengthening security protocols within hospitals, providing adequate support to victims of violence, and creating a safer working environment for all healthcare professionals," he said. Singh also supported the

protesting doctors who have been on strike demanding a safe working environment. "The medical community is already working in challenging conditions. With such incidents, how can we expect them to perform their duties with dedication when their own safety is so gravely compromised?" he said. Singh pointed out that after more than a week of the incident, "We are yet to see any concrete action which has led the doctors and the medical community to protest on roads." "Their protests are understood and I wholeheartedly support the medical community in their fight for their cause of justice," he said. The body of the post-graduate trainee doctor was found in a seminar room at the medical college on August 9. Police arrested a civic volunteer the next day in this connection.

MCG launches special campaign to repair city roads damaged during rains



Gurugram: To make the city roads and streets pothole-free, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has kicked off a special campaign to repair the roads damaged during the rainy season. The MCG officials said, under the campaign, the target has been set to make all the roads and streets under the civic body jurisdiction pothole-free in the next 3 days. On the instructions of MCG chief Dr Narhari Singh Bangar, the campaign was intensified by forming ward-wise dedicated teams from Sunday. Following the directions, the engineering branch of the MCG started the work of filling the potholes on the roads on Sunday by forming 35 dedicated teams under the leadership of junior engineers in all 35 MCG wards. "The teams have adequate manpower, material and machinery. These teams will ensure that the potholes on the roads are filled and the broken covers and nets of sewerage manholes are also repaired during the campaign," Bangar said. The Commissioner also asserted that all four zone Joint Commissioners will inspect the work of making the roads pothole-free in their respective zones and will ensure that the work is completed based on the priorities mentioned by the former councillors, representatives of the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) and other eminent citizens of the respective wards. The Chief Engineer, Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineer will also visit their respective areas. Zone-wise Joint Commissioners have been made nodal officers for this work. Meanwhile, as the assembly elections are around the corner here in Gurugram, the residents of various residential societies of Sector 81 launched a 'no road-no vote' protest over the poor condition of roads in their area. The residents of more than seven societies, including Bestech Parkview Ananda, DLF Ultima and Sare Home, warned of boycotting the upcoming Assembly elections if their demands were not met.

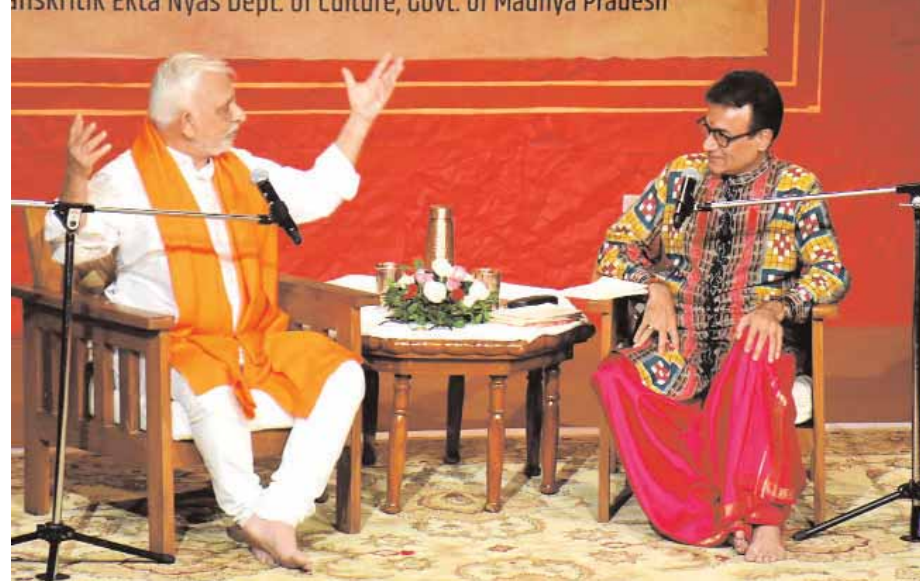
Outsiders need to give info to police compulsorily

Bhopal: Amid increasing number of theft and burglaries police have taken a big step regarding the safety of the citizens of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Bhopal Police has issued guidelines for people coming from other districts. Under the new guidelines, it is mandatory for all those who have come to live in Bhopal from outside to share their information. Under this, from tenants to servants working in houses and students coming from outside will have to give their information. Bhopal Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra implemented Section 163 of the new law Indian Civil Security Code 2023. Along with this, instructions were also given to

strictly follow this order. Bhopal Police has taken this decision in view of the increasing incidents of robbery and theft in the city. The Police Commissioner has asked to strictly follow the new order. He said that all the people who live on rent in the city, staying in hotels, hostels or have come from outside in any manner. It is necessary to give information to all of them. If you do not do this, the police can take legal action against you. The purpose of this order is to control the increasing crime incidents in the city. Also, suspicious activities can be monitored. The Police Commissioner said that Bhopal city is sensitive for many reasons. There are many important people and places

with special security. Whose security is very important. Therefore, the police must have information about all the people who come to Bhopal temporarily. For the security of these areas, it is necessary for them to know about the new people who have come to Bhopal. If you stay in a hotel, lodge, dharamshala, resort or guest house during your visit to Bhopal, then you will also have to give your information to the managers there. If a landlord rents out his house or any part of it, then he will have to fill the information of the tenant or paying guest in a prescribed form and submit it to the local police station or Madhya Pradesh Police Citizen Portal within a week.

Sanskritik Ekta Nyas Dept. of Culture, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh



Founder of The Satsang Foundation Padma Bhushan Sri M and actor Nitish Bhardwaj during Shankar Symposium under Ekam Parv, at Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

Delhi HC comes to rescue of constable

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has come to the rescue of a Delhi Police constable candidate who was rejected on account of a "faded tattoo" on his right arm, and ordered the authorities to allow him to join the force. The high court, which noted that the candidate has already undergone a surgery for the removal of the tattoo, asked him to appear before it and physically saw his right forearm. "We have physically seen the right forearm of the respondent (candidate) and from the naked eye, the tattoo is not even visible. The same has been shown to the counsel for the petitioners (authorities) and the officials who are present in court to assist the counsel. "According to us, there is no clear visible tattoo on the forearm of the respondent. However, in

place of the tattoo there is visible very dim scar. Sometimes such types of scars are natural and therefore, the candidates cannot be rejected on that ground," Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Girish Kathpalia said in an order passed on July 24. The high court dismissed a plea by the Staff Selection Commission challenging an order of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) by which the candidate was granted relief. "It is also not the case of the petitioners that all the vacancies are already filled up since the basic training of the second batch has commenced from July 1, 2024. Accordingly, the petitioners are directed to allow the respondent to join the second batch for training within a week from the receipt of this order," it said.

With sisters support, MP is poised to reach new development heights: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that with the support of sisters, the state will reach new heights of development. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India is swiftly advancing towards becoming the third-largest economy globally. Prime Minister Modi has championed the empowerment of women, including the continued provision of 50 percent reservation for women in Panchayat and local body elections, ensuring the presence of strong female leaders. Dr. Yadav also emphasized his commitment to leaving no stone unturned in the develop-

ment of Ujjain. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the Ladli Behna Rakshabandhan programme in the Lekoda village of Ujjain. In the programme, the sisters tied Raksha Sutra on the wrist of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav. The sisters blessed Chief Minister Dr. Yadav by presenting him with a huge Rakhi. The Chief Minister gave away gifts to all the sisters. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav inaugurated the programme with Kanya Pujan and lit the lamp. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav announced that the Madhya Pradesh government is committed to enhancing the lives of sisters. In addition to the monthly deposit of Rs 1250 into the Ladli Behnas'

accounts, an extra Rs 250 was transferred as a Rakshabandhan gift. At the event, all the sisters raised their hands to confirm that the amount had been credited to their accounts. The Ladli Behnas showed their appreciation by holding placards that read "Mere Pyare Bhaiya Likhi" during the programme. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav emphasized that our villages truly exemplify the value of relationships. The tradition of the Teej festival remains vibrant in these communities, teaching the world how to honor and respect our sisters. He noted that family traditions bring us divine blessings through our parents and sisters, making the seemingly

impossible achievable. Dr. Yadav also highlighted that while nations around the world are named after their fathers, our country reveres Bharat Mata and Mother Earth, showcasing the profound essence of Maatru Sanskriti. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, while mentioning the importance of Avantika city, said that Avantika city exists in every era, which never ends. It was in Sandipani Ashram of Ujjain that Lord Krishna and Balram came to acquire education 5 thousand years ago. He said that the tradition of Teej festivals in India is wonderful. The state government will celebrate all the festivals with enthusiasm by uniting the society. The festival of

Janmashtami will be celebrated with great enthusiasm in the entire state. The grandeur and joy of Baba Mahakal ki Sawari is continuously increasing through activities like presentations of tribal artists and police bands, damru, etc. On the day of Rakshabandhan, a performance will be given by the CRPF band in the Baba Mahakal ki Sawari. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav inaugurated the fitness center of Avantika Mahavidyalaya and also planted saplings on the college campus under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign. Minister-in-charge Gautam Tetwal said that Rakshabandhan programs are being organized at vari-

ous places in Ujjain. Thousands of sisters have blessed their dear brother Chief Minister Dr. Yadav by tying the Raksha Sutra. I am overwhelmed. I will try my best to live up to the expectations of the people of Ujjain. On this occasion, MP Anil Firojia, Rajya Sabha MP Balayogi Umeshnath Ji Maharaj, MLA Anil Jain Kaluhera, MLA Satish Malviya, MLA Jitendra Pandya, District Panchayat President Kamla Kunwar, Mayor Ujjain Mukesh Tatwal, Municipal Corporation Chairman Kalavati Yadav, Vivek Joshi, Bahadur Singh Bormundla, public representatives, officials, and a large number of Ladli Behnas were present.

Minor girl sexually assaulted, blackmailed

Bhopal: Misrod police have booked a youth for sexually assaulting and blackmailing 17-year-old girl; search for the accused has been started. A shocking incident has been reported in the Misrod area of the state capital. The incident of raping a 17-year-old girl by barging into her house on Friday has created a sensation in the area. The accused minor first made friends with her and then started blackmailing her. On this matter, the police said that the accused used to threaten to share obscene videos of the minor girl if she did not have physical relations with him. For the last several months, he was pressurizing her to rape her by threatening. The scared girl kept quiet at first, but fed up with the constant harassment, she finally gathered courage and told her parents about her ordeal. The police said that the 17-year-old victim is a student of class 11th. She said that the accused minor boy had befriended her on Instagram this year. Both of them started chatting with each other and the girl gave the accused information about her family. She said that she has three sisters. Her father is ill. When he came to know that the girl and her sisters remain alone for several days when their father is hospitalized, the accused boy started pressuring her to meet him. In February, he got an opportunity and reached the student's house at around 1 am in the absence of the victim's parents and raped her. When she protested, the accused threatened her that he had recorded her video on his smartphone.

Docs' protest: Provide 2-hourly updates, MHA directs States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has asked all State police forces to provide it situation reports every two hours in the wake of protests by doctors, nursing staff and others against the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. In a communication to the State police forces, the Home Ministry said that the law and order situation of all States should be monitored in view of the protests.

"Henceforth, a continuous two-hourly law and order situation report in this regard may kindly be sent to the MHA control room (New Delhi) by Fax/ Email/ WhatsApp from 1600 hours today," the communication sent on Friday said. The Home Ministry also provided the State Police forces the Fax and WhatsApp numbers and the Email ID where the two-hourly situation report



can be sent. On August 9, a postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty at the State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. A civic volunteer of Kolkata Police was arrested in connection with the crime the next day. The Calcutta High Court handed over the case to the CBI on Tuesday. A group of people entered the premises of the hospital shortly after Wednesday midnight

during protests by women against the rape-murder incident and vandalised portions of the medical facility. Doctors and other medical staff have been protesting in different parts of the country affecting the functioning of health facilities. They are pressing for a central law to check violence against healthcare personnel, declaring hospitals safe zones with mandatory security entitlements among other demands.

70 Padma Awardee docs seek PM help in stopping violence against caregivers

ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

Following the tragic rape and murder of a trainee medico at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College, a group of 70 Padma Awardee doctors has urgently appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for immediate action to tackle escalating violence against healthcare professionals.

"We... write to you with deep concern and profound anguish regarding the horrific events that recently occurred at R G Kar Medical College in Kolkata. As the head of our nation, we implore your immediate and personal intervention to address this alarming situation. "Such acts of brutality shake the very foundations of service by medical professionals and highlight the urgent need to address violence, particularly against women, girls, and health care professionals," said the letter. The signatories to the letter include Dr Harsh Mahajan, Dr Anoop Misra, Dr AK Grover, Dr Mohsin Wali, Dr Ambrish Mithal, Dr. Pradeep Chowbey, Dr Anil Kohli, Dr Ashok Seth,

Dr Balram Bhargava, Dr Mahesh Verma, Dr Mahipal Sachdev, Dr PK Julka, Dr Raman Kapur, Dr Randeep Guleria, Dr SK Sarin, Dr Upendra Kaul, Dr Yash Gulati, Dr Arvinder Singh Soin, Dr D S Rana, Dr Jagdish Prasad and Dr Jeevan S Titiyal among others. "As recipients of one of the nation's prestigious civilian honours, we feel a deep responsibility to speak out and demand timely action and appropriate changes," the letter stated as they called for immediate and decisive action to address the growing violence against healthcare professionals, particularly emphasising the need for stronger measures to protect the safety dignity of those working in the medical field. Demanding the harshest possible punishment for violence against healthcare workers and calling for the central and state governments to quickly enact and implement a separate law for the protection of healthcare workers, they also drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the proposed bill,

"The Prevention of Violence Against Doctors, Medical Professionals and Medical Institutions Bill." It has been ready since 2019 but not yet been tabled in Parliament. "We strongly believe that an ordinance to this effect can be brought immediately, and the bill should be passed post-haste so that all those working in healthcare delivery systems in the country can work without fear, in service of suffering patients," the letter stated. Such cases should be resolved swiftly by the judiciary, with offences categorised as non-bailable, the doctors added "We should not allow such acts to become normal or forgotten. "Let this tragedy serve as a catalyst for real, lasting change. We owe it to the late Nirbhaya, and to all victims of sexual violence, and to future generations to create a society where such horrors are unthinkable. We earnestly appeal to you through this letter to safeguard the medical profession against physical assaults and defacement of the dignity and respect of all healthcare workers," they said.

Modi congratulates Thailand's new PM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Paetongtarn Shinawatra on becoming Thailand's Prime Minister and said he looks forward to working with her to further strengthen the ties between the two countries. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of former Leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's Prime Minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement on Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court

order that removed her predecessor. "Congratulations @ingshin on your election as the Prime Minister of Thailand. Best wishes for a very successful tenure," Modi said in a post on X. "Look forward to working with you to further strengthen the bilateral ties between India and Thailand that are based on the strong foundations of civilisational, cultural and people to people connect," he said. Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra.

Prevent commercialisation of organ donation: Dhankhar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Vice President Dhankhar on Sunday expressed deep concern over the growing commercialisation of organ donation, advocating that it should be driven by altruism rather than financial gain. Speaking at an event organised by Jain Social Groups (JSG) Central Sansthan, Jaipur, and Dadhichi Deh Dan Samiti, Delhi, Dhankhar emphasised the need to preserve the noble nature of organ donation and prevent it from becoming a commercial enterprise that exploits vulnerable individuals. "We cannot allow organ donation to be an exploitation field of the vulnerable for wily elements," Dhankhar stated. He urged citizens to embrace organ donation as a mission aligned with the tradition of serving humanity, highlighting the theme of World Organ Donation Day, "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today." Doctors in the sector pointed out that while India faces a significant challenge in addressing the gap between the demand for organs and their availability, the cadaver organ donation rate has remained critically low at less than one donor per million people per year. The advocated the need for hospitals to promptly identify and certify brain deaths to facilitate timely organ donation. Dr. Praveen Gupta, Principal Director & Chief of Neurology at Fortis Hospital, emphasised the importance of swift iden-

tification and certification of brain death, which is legally recognised as death in India. "Timely identification of brain death is crucial for organ donation, ensuring that organs remain viable for transplantation and increasing the chances of successful transplants," he said. Dr. Ravi Bansal, Senior Consultant in Nephrology at PSRI Hospital, Delhi, too delved on the similar lines, highlighting that the kidney transplants have profound impact on patients with renal failure, noting that kidneys can be donated by family members or from brain death donors. He stressed that kidney donation does not affect the life of the donor. Dr. Ankur Garg, Director & HOD of HPB Surgery and Liver Transplant at SHALBY Sanar International Hospitals, Gurugram, lamented the scarcity of donated organs and the delays in transplants. He pointed out that advanced procedures like ABO-Incompatible organ transplants underscore the importance of organ donation, even when donor-recipient compatibility is a challenge. Union Health Secretary, Apurva Chandra too had recently underpinned the need to enhance awareness about organ donation and stressed that "to ensure that there is no organ wastage, we must strengthen our system. When we receive any brain-dead person, the time is less and we have to harvest the organs in 12 hours and the transplant has to happen within a short window."

Nepal FM Deuba to hold talks with EAM in India



PTI n NEW DELHI

Nepal's Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba will be a five-day visit to India beginning Sunday with an aim to explore ways to further expand bilateral ties, officials said. Deuba is scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday, they said. The Nepalese Foreign Minister's visit comes a week after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri travelled to

Kathmandu. Nepal is an important neighbour for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship between the two sides. The country shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services.

Air India cabin crew assaulted at London hotel

PTI n NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

A female cabin crew member of Air India was allegedly assaulted by an intruder at a London hotel earlier this week, according to sources. The airline is pursuing the matter with the local police. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said it was "deeply anguished by an unlawful incident of intrusion at a hotel, operated by a major international chain, that affected one of our crew members". Sources in the know said a homeless man barged into the room at the hotel where the female cabin crew was staying and assaulted her. As she shouted, others staying nearby came and rescued her and the person was caught, they added. One of the sources said the cabin crew was allegedly sexually assaulted at the hotel while two other sources claimed it was a physical assault. The incident happened at a star hotel near the London Heathrow airport. The cabin crew member has returned to India and is undergoing counselling, the sources added.



After the incident came to light, airline employees took to the airline's internal communication platform to complain about safety issues. One of them claimed hotel staff was unavailable at night and that there is no control over access to the premises, one of the sources said. The airline in the statement said it is pro-

viding all possible support to the colleague and their broader team, including professional counselling. "Air India is also working with the local police to pursue the matter to the fullest extent of the law, and with the hotel management to ensure such incidents are not repeated. We request that the privacy of those involved is respected," it said.

Lateral entry anti-national step, move to deprive SC, STs, OBCs of quota: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday termed as an "anti-national step" the Government's move of recruiting public servants through lateral entry, alleging that the reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs is being "openly snatched away" by such an action. The former Congress President also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "attacking the Constitution by recruiting public servants through the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh instead of the Union Public Service Commission". Rahul's attack came after it emerged that 45 specialists would soon join key posts of Joint Secretaries, directors and Deputy Secretaries in different Central Ministries. Usually, such posts are manned by the officers of all-India services the Indian Administrative



Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS) and Group A services, among others. "Reservation of SC, ST and OBC classes is being openly snatched away by recruiting through lateral entry on important posts in various ministries of the Central Government," Rahul said in a post in Hindi on X. "I have always said that the

underprivileged are not represented in all the country's top posts, including the top bureaucracy. Instead of improving it, they are being pushed further away from the top posts through lateral entry," he said. "This is a robbery of the rights of talented youth preparing for UPSC and an attack on the concept of social justice including reservation for the underpriv-

ileged," he alleged. The SEBI is a vivid example of what representatives of a few corporates will do by sitting on decisive government posts, where for the first time a person from the private sector was made the chairperson, Rahul G said in an apparent reference to the conflicts of interest allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch. The INDIA bloc will strongly oppose this "anti-national step" that hurts both the administrative structure and social justice, Rahul said. "Privatisation of the IAS is Modi's guarantee for ending reservation," he said. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Saturday advertised 45 posts - 10 of joint secretaries and 35 of directors/deputy secretaries to be filled through the lateral entry mode on a contract basis. It is the biggest tranche of lateral recruitment being undertaken by the Centre, an official said.

SC to hear Kavitha's bail pleas in excise policy scam case



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday BRS Leader K Kavitha's pleas seeking bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The apex court had on August 12 sought responses from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Kavitha's pleas challenging the Delhi High Court's July 1 verdict denying her bail in these cases. As per the cause list of August 20 uploaded on the top court website, a bench of Justices BR Gavi and KV Viswanathan is slated to hear her pleas. During the arguments on August 12, Kavitha's counsel had sought bail contending that she has been in custody for around five months and the charge sheet and prosecution complaints have already been filed by the CBI and the ED respectively. A prosecution complaint is the ED's equivalent of a charge sheet. Her lawyer had referred to the apex court's verdicts on the pleas filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party Leader Manish Sisodia. The top court had earlier granted interim bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to the alleged scam. Sisodia was granted bail in both the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The High Court had on July 1 dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both the cases, saying she was

prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. The CBI and the ED have lodged separate cases pertaining to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and implementation of the policy. The ED arrested Kavitha (46) from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15. The CBI arrested her on April 11 in connection with the corruption case linked to the alleged scam. Kavitha has denied the allegations. While dismissing her bail pleas, the High Court had said no case for grant of regular bail was made for now as the investigation is at a crucial stage. It had rejected her plea for relief on the grounds of being a woman, saying as a well-educated person and a former MP, she cannot be equated to a vulnerable female, and the court cannot lose sight of the "serious allegations" against her. In the High Court, Kavitha had challenged the May 6 order of a trial court which had dismissed her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case as well as the ED's money-laundering case. Before the High Court in the ED case, the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Leader, daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu, had said she had "nothing to do" with the excise policy and there was a criminal conspiracy against her "orchestrated by the ruling party at the Centre with the active connivance of the ED".

Project aims to regulate micro, nano-plastics in food products

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

With microplastic pollution becoming a significant concern in food, the country's top food regulator has initiated a groundbreaking project aiming to develop and validate methods for detecting micro and nano-plastics in food products and to evaluate their prevalence and exposure levels across the country. Launched in March, the primary objective of the project "Micro-and Nano-Plastics as Emerging Food Contaminants: Establishing Validated Methodologies and Understanding the Prevalence in Different Food Matrices," include developing standard protocols for micro/nano-plastic analysis, conducting intra- and inter-laboratory comparisons, and generating critical



data on microplastic exposure levels among consumers. Anything smaller than 1 micrometer is a nanoplastic that must be measured in billionths of a meter. An official from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that the study is being implemented in collaboration with leading

research institutions across the country, including the CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (Lucknow), ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (Kochi), and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (Pilani). In a recent report, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlighted the pres-

ence of microplastics in common food items such as sugar and salt. While the report underscores the global prevalence of microplastics, it also emphasises the need for more robust data to fully understand the implications for human health and safety, particularly in the Indian context.

Yet another recent study conducted by Toxics Link, an environmental research and advocacy organisation, claims to have found that all Indian salt and sugar brands contain microplastics. The highest concentration of microplastics was found in a branded iodised packaged salt sample. The study report "Microplastics in Salt and Sugar" was released recently. Similarly, according to a study published in the Environmental Pollution journal, microplastics particles which have been found in almost all the body parts of humans have now reached the fats and lungs of two-thirds of marine mammals. Similarly, a February 2024 study has revealed that ninety percent of animal and vegetable protein samples tested positive for microplastics,

teeny polymer fragments that can range from less than 0.2 inch (5 millimeters) down to 1/25,000th of an inch (1 micrometer). An official from the FSSAI said that while global studies have highlighted the presence of microplastics in various foods, it is imperative to generate reliable data specific to India. This project will help understand the extent of microplastic contamination in Indian food and guide the formulation of effective regulations and safety standards to protect public health. The findings from this project will not only inform regulatory actions but also contribute to the global understanding of microplastic contamination, making Indian research an integral part of the global effort to combat this environmental challenge.

Refugees denied citizenship rights due to appeasement policy of Cong-led Govts: Shah

PTI n AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said a large number of refugees were denied citizenship rights in the country due to the appeasement policy of past governments led by the Congress and its allies. Addressing a gathering in Ahmedabad after handing over citizenship certificates to 188 Hindu refugees in Gujarat, Shah said the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) is about giving rights and justice to lakhs of refugees. He also assured Muslims that there is no provision in the CAA to take away anyone's citizenship, as it is about granting citizenship. "Because of the policy of appeasement of past governments headed by the Congress and its allies, those who came to the country seeking refuge did not get (citizenship) rights and justice from 1947 to 2014," Shah said.

"They (refugees) were not just tortured in neighbouring countries for being Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh, but also in our country as lakhs



and crores of people longed for justice for three generations," he said. Past governments allowed crores of intruders into the country and made them citizens illegally, but they denied citizenship to those who followed the law and applied for the same by saying there was no legal provision for it, Shah said.

"From this forum I would like to ask those who ran past governments as to what was the fault of the people, who came here to save their sisters and daughters and their properties, that they could not become citizens of this country," Shah asked. Asserting that law is for the public and not the other way round, Shah said

the BJP had promised in 2014 that it would bring in CAA after coming to power and it was done in 2019, which gave justice to crores of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs. "After the law was passed, everyone was misled that this would cause injustice to Muslims and they would lose their citizenship. Today, I want to make it clear again to the Muslim community that there is no provision in this law to take away anyone's citizenship. This law works to grant citizenship," the Union minister said. However, even today certain state governments are misleading people, he said.

"The absence of such a law granting citizenship ensured people of our country

remained destitute in our own country. What can be a bigger misfortune and irony than this? It could not happen due to the policy of appeasement for so many years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to bring the law in 2019, and I had the privilege of passing the law in Parliament," Shah said. He said Bangladesh had 27 per cent Hindus at the time of partition, but today they are just 9 per cent as they have been subjected to forced religious conversion.

"Where have the rest gone? They were either subjected to forced religious conversion, or ran here seeking refuge. Don't they have the right to live as per their religion? If they can't live with respect in the neighbouring country and seek refuge in our country, what should we do? We cannot sit as silent spectators. This is the Narendra Modi government, you will get justice," he asserted. He told refugees from all over the country to apply for citizenship without hesitation as this will not affect their job or their properties since they will be granted citizenship with retrospective effect.

Ladki Bahin scheme aid will increase if sisters give us strength: Shinde



PTI n SATARA

The financial aid under the Ladki Bahin Yojana will increase if "beloved sisters give us strength", Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Sunday.

Under the scheme, women with an annual family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh are given Rs 1,500 as monthly financial aid. "My government will not stop at Rs 1500. If you give us strength, the money will increase," Shinde said at the launch of the scheme in Satara, his statement an apparent call for support in the Maharashtra assembly polls that are likely to be held

in October-November. A sum of Rs 3000 crore has been disbursed to one crore eligible women so far and Rs 35,000 crore has been earmarked for the year, Shinde said.

The CM said the Ladki Bahin Yojana and the move to give three free cylinders were attempts to make women

"atmanirbhar" (self-reliant) and not election gimmicks. "However, evil step brothers are maligning these schemes," he said in a swipe at the opposition parties.

Those born with silver spoons in their mouths will not understand the importance and value of Rs 1,500, Shinde asserted.

Scrap registration cutoff date for Ladki Bahin scheme, says Prithviraj

PTI n MUMBAI

Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan has demanded that the cut off time to register for the Maharashtra government's Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana be waived off to enable all eligible women to avail financial assistance. The August 31 cut off date should be scrapped and the scheme should be implemented as a social security right, Chavan said in a letter to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Due to technical glitches, the server

of the official portal is non functional most of the time, while in several instances women do not get the registration OTP for nearly six hours, he said.

Women are worried they will not be able to register themselves for the scheme in time, Chavan said in the letter. He said the registration limit was July 15 earlier and this was extended to August 31 after he made such a demand during the monsoon session, adding the age limit was increased from 60 to 65 years following his initiative.

Tripura BJP demands Mamata's resignation over doctor rape-murder

PTI n AGARTALA

Tripura BJP unit on Sunday demanded the resignation of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee owning moral responsibility for the rape and murder of a doctor at Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The body of the post-graduate trainee doctor was found in a seminar room at Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

"We want Mamata di to resign owning moral responsibility for the shocking incident in Kolkata", former union minister and BJP state core committee member Pratima Bhoumik said during a press conference.

"Many evidence was wiped out by vandalization at Kar Medical College and Hospital...", she said.

Taking a dig at the INDIA bloc, the former union minister said anti-BJP party leaders were observing mysterious silence on the horror incident at the Kolkata medical college.

Modi terms Karunanidhi as towering figure

PTI n CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed late DMK President and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M Karunanidhi as a "towering figure" in Indian politics, literature and society.

The late leader's efforts to promote the Tamil language and culture are still remembered by the people, Modi said in a message to Karunanidhi's son and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

Stalin shared on his 'X' handle, Modi's message for the release of a commemorative coin on the occasion of Karunanidhi's centenary on Sunday by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The CM thanked Modi.

"I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. @narendramodi avl. For his kind wishes and support for the grand success of the Muthamizh Arignar Kalaigarn Centenary Commemorative Coin release ceremony," Stalin said.

In his message, the PM said Karunanidhi was a towering figure in Indian politics, literature and society.

"He was always passionate about the development of Tamil Nadu, as well as national progress."



"As a political leader, Thiru Kalaigarn Karunanidhi ji left an indelible mark on our country's history as a Chief Minister who was elected by the people multiple times over the span of decades, underlining his deep understanding of society, policy and politics," the PM added.

The DMK stalwart was a multi-talented personality with a "prolific pen."

The release of the coin honours the memory of Karunanidhi, as well as the ideals he stood for and it will serve as a reminder of his legacy and enduring impact of his work, Modi added.

"As we march ahead confidently towards building a developed India by 2047, the vision and thoughts of leaders like Thiru Kalaigarn Karunanidhi ji will continue to shape the nation's journey," Modi said and wished the coin release ceremony be a "huge success."

Demand for Puducherry Statehood echoes in House

PTI n PUDUCHERRY

Long-pending demand, the plea for statehood to this union territory echoed once again in the state Assembly earlier this week, when the House passed a unanimous resolution expressing its sentiments with the Centre on the matter.

The territorial Assembly had in the past adopted resolutions on 15 occasions seeking statehood. The election manifestos of all political parties released during the run up to either Assembly or Lok Sabha polls all along had been insisting they would strive hard for ensuring statehood to Puducherry, a coastal town located about 170 km from Chennai.

Puducherry and its outlying regions of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam located as enclaves either in Tamilnadu, Kerala or Andhra Pradesh had been together as a union territory since their merger with the Indian Union through a referendum in 1954.

It has been the contention of the parties coming to power that the lack of full-fledged powers to the elected government at had been a major handicap. They state that even to introduce a Bill in the territorial Assembly, the consent of the Centre is necessary. The House had adopted a resolution on August 14 on the statehood issue, with all parties backing the motion.

Chief Minister N Rangasamy,



who heads the AINRC-BJP coalition government here, has been pressing the plea for statehood as he is of the view that in the present constitutional status of Puducherry being a Union Territory, the decisions of the elected government could not be implemented expeditiously as several hurdles have to be overcome.

He had recently said that "the only solution for all the difficulties the territorial government is facing is conferment of statehood on Puducherry."

Former Puducherry Chief Minister and senior Congress leader V Narayanasamy told PTI that statehood was "absolutely" necessary and reaffirmed his party's support for the cause.

He said there was no room for any apprehension that the UT's financial position would be strained in the event of being granted statehood.

"The Centre's share for the budget of Puducherry and the State's contributions would be copiously available. There

should be prudence in planning and spending of money," he said.

The State government should ensure firm realization of taxes by Departments of Electricity and Commercial Taxes. These two, besides the Registration Department are the main sources of revenue for the government. The government should exercise utmost caution in realizing the dues from big power consumers and those paying commercial tax, he said.

Want of statehood had been standing in the way of government not being able to implement its decisions, members belonging to both the ruling and opposition blocks point out more often than not.

The territorial Assembly had in the past adopted resolutions on 15 occasions to seek statehood.

It is also the grievance of the territorial government that Puducherry has not been presently accommodated in the Central Finance commission. The devolution

of central funds would be more if Puducherry is included in the Commission. Frequent tussles between the elected government and the then Lt Governor Kiran Bedi during the previous Congress regime headed by Narayanasamy had affected the decision-making of the elected government.

Whenever differences of opinion cropped up between the two constitutional authorities in the past, the matter used to be referred to the Union Home Ministry for its opinion.

For instance, when a question arose whether the free rice scheme be implemented either by supplying rice to the ration card holders through fair price shops as decided by the elected Congress government or people be paid in cash equivalent to the quantum of rice through their bank accounts as was insisted by the then LG Bedi, it was referred to the Union Home Ministry for its decision. Bedi had the last laugh.

Recently, the incumbent government had decided to supply free rice through ration shops. This was approved in-principle in June this year by the then Lt Governor C P Radhakrishnan.

It is the contention of the opposition parties that now that the Union Territory has the Bhartiya Janata party (BJP) as a part of the AINRC coalition ministry, there would be no difficulty in getting statehood.

Kolkata rape-murder: Health services in Goa Hospital remain crippled

PTI n PANAJI

Health services at the state-run Goa Medical College and Hospital remained affected for the third consecutive day on Sunday, with resident doctors resolving against withdrawing the indefinite strike, which began Friday, till the Calcutta High Court delivers verdict in the rape-murder case.

Earlier in the day, private medical practitioners who observed a 24-hour strike called off their protest at 6 AM, said Indian Medical Association's Goa unit president Sandesh Chodankar.

Healthcare services at the Goa Medical College and Hospital, one of the oldest medical colleges, remained crippled for the third consecutive day due to the strike by senior and junior resident doctors under the aegis of the Goa Association of Resident Doctors (GARD).

Doctors demonstrated outside GMCH Complex in Bambolim demanding justice for the junior trainee doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9, triggering nationwide outrage.

The GARD stated on Sunday the strike would continue till



the Calcutta High Court delivers its verdict in the rape and murder case.

Doctors claimed emergency services in GMCH remain uninterrupted.

State Health Minister Vishwajit Rane Sunday stated the government was implementing crucial changes at GMCH, including installing security cameras and revising laws, to ensure foolproof safety of doctors.

"I strongly condemn the recent horrific incident in West Bengal involving the heinous crime against an innocent doctor. My heartfelt condolences go to the victim's family. This tragedy highlights the urgent need for enhanced safety measures for healthcare workers," Rane stated in a video statement.

He demanded swift and strict action against the perpetrators responsible for the Kolkata incident.

3 assault woman doctor at Maha hospital, 2 detained

PTI n MUMBAI

Police have booked three persons, including two women, and detained two of them after a female doctor was allegedly assaulted at civic-run Sion hospital here in the early hours of Sunday, an official said.

The accused allegedly targeted the doctor when she was cleaning blood from the ear of a man at the casualty ward of the facility, officially known as Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital and Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College.

The man screamed at the female doctor, triggering an argument, said the official from Sion police station.

Of those who had come with the patient, two women and a man assaulted the female doctor, prompting the hospital staff to seek police intervention, the official said.

Police registered a case against the three alleged attackers under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Maharashtra Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Institutions



(Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act.

Two of the three accused have been detained, the official said.

In a statement concerning the incident, Sion hospital said, "There has been an incidence of violence in Sion hospital that occurred early this morning involving one of the on-call residents in the ward. A group of 5-6 intoxicated patient attendants threatened and attempted to physically assault her. She also sustained

injuries while defending herself." Terming the assault "alarming", the statement said their doctors' safety is "non-negotiable".

"This situation requires immediate attention and the implementation of strict security measures in all hospitals," it added.

The assault comes amid a nationwide uproar over the safety of doctors in the wake of the rape-murder of a junior trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

4 people get 7-year in jail for assaulting woman in Thane

PTI n THANE

A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced four persons to seven years simple imprisonment for assaulting a woman in 2018 when she went to a factory to seek repayment of money lent to its owner by her late husband.

Additional Sessions Judge G G Bhansali, in the order passed on August 9, discharged the factory owner from the case due to insufficient evidence against him. The four other factory workers were pronounced guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons) and also fined Rs 2,000 each.

A copy of the order was made available on Sunday.

Additional Public Prosecutor Rakhi V Pande told the court that the victim, Savitri Singh (58), was assaulted by some workers at a factory for making Ganapati idols in Naupada area of Thane allegedly at the behest

of its owner on April 22, 2018, when she went there to ask for the repayment of Rs 2.5 lakh he had borrowed from her late husband.

She was kicked and attacked with fibre sticks, causing serious injuries including a fracture to her left leg.

A total of eight witnesses were examined during the trial, Pande said.

In his order, the judge said, "The prosecution has proved beyond all reasonable doubt that the accused brutally assaulted victim Savitri Singh, who sustained bleeding and fracture injuries classified as grievous. Therefore, it is proven beyond all reasonable doubt that the accused are liable for punishment for these offences. The convicted persons are Yogesh alias Babaji Khingiri Goswami (51), Manoj Shankarali Punjani (56), Dashrath Narayan Madav (55) and Rameshchandra Sherbahadur Giri (46).

The fifth accused was discharged from the case for want of sufficient evidence to prove his involvement in the assault.

In six months, half BJP leaders in K'taka will be in jail or run for bail: Priyank

PTI n BENGALURU

Karnataka Minister KPriyank Kharge on Sunday said half of the BJP leaders in the state will either be in jail or running for bail in the next six months as the Congress government will get to the bottom of the corruption cases of the previous BJP government.

Reacting to Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot granting permission to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the site allotment scam in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), he said the Congress did not go for a witch-hunt because its first priority was good governance.

"As a government our first priority is to deliver an efficient governance, not witch-hunt. But yes, having said that, there are a lot of discrepancies in the previous government," Kharge told reporters here.

There are more than 35 cases against BJP leaders and in three to four cases, an interim report has been submitted, the Minister said, adding that



the state government has constituted a Special Investigation Team of the Criminal Investigation Department.

"We are looking at these cases closely. We will get to the bottom of those cases. It takes time. There was extreme corruption in the previous government. We are working on it. And let me assure you again that in the next six months half of the BJP leaders will be running for bail or will be in jail," he added.

The Minister said there are

umpteen cases where the role of the Governor has been debated, which has been set in stone and will be put forth before the court.

To a question, Kharge said there is no way BJP leaders can take the case against Siddaramaiah to the logical end because they do not have any evidence.

"The only thing they can do is they can keep the case alive by using the Central Bureau of Investigation, Income Tax, Enforcement Directorate, and the Governor himself," he added.

Blaming Gehlot for the political turmoil in the state, Kharge alleged that the Governor was a puppet and not a constitutional head of Karnataka.

"Unfortunately the position (of Governor) has been compromised and he is behaving like a BJP Karyakarta," Kharge alleged.

Replying to a question, he charged that the BJP never came to power through people's mandate but stole it. That was the only way BJP could come to power in Karnataka or elsewhere.



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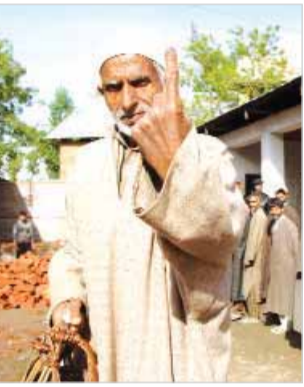
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Moment of truth

Elections to take place in Jammu and Kashmir after 10 years; first time after abrogation of Article 370

For the first time in a decade, elections are set to be held in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. After a long wait the elections have been announced for Jammu and Kashmir; the first since 2014, will take place in three phases on September 18, September 25, and October 1, with the results set to be declared on October 4. The region has been under President's Rule since 2018. This election marks significant progress in meeting the Supreme Court's directive that democracy be reinstated in Jammu and the Kashmir Valley by September 30. Last month in Srinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had confirmed the upcoming election. This is particularly significant as it follows the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two separate union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh — in August 2019, when Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which provided special status to the region, was abrogated by the Indian Government. The last elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in 2014, before the abrogation of



Article 370 and the dissolution of the state's legislative assembly in 2018. Since the 2019 political reorganization, Jammu and Kashmir has been under central administration. The impending elections will not only address the demand for local governance but will also test the popularity of the government's policies and decision in the region.

With new electoral boundaries drawn post-delimitation, the political map of Jammu and Kashmir has changed. This could impact electoral outcomes, shifting the balance of power between regional parties like the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and national parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). These elections could set the stage for fresh political alliances and realignments, potentially altering the political dynamics between the Kashmir and Jammu regions. The region's security situation will play a major role in the lead-up to and during the elections. The success of the elections will depend on maintaining peace and ensuring free and fair polling. Indeed, it would be quite a challenge to have peaceful elections, given the recent terrorist attacks in Jammu. Both domestic and international observers will be watching closely to assess the level of participation, especially in the Kashmir Valley. A high voter turnout could bolster the Indian government's stance that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that democratic processes are functioning. On the other hand, a low turnout, especially in the valley, could suggest a disconnect between the people and the political establishment, complicating efforts to resolve tensions in the region. Elections are likely to impact the region's economy in a positive way. The new government will need to address unemployment, revive the tourism sector, and bring much-needed investments. A successful election could restore a sense of democratic normalcy but the task is daunting. A successful election, no matter who wins, will surely align J&K with the country's mainstream political landscape.

PICTALK



Women devotees carry holy water in the 'Kalash Yatra' in Jaipur

Lessons from the Wayanad tragedy



ATUL SEHGAL

To prevent future catastrophes, we must reassess our approach to urban planning and disaster management, ensuring that development is aligned with sustainable practices

The Wayanad tragedy—serious lessons for the future. The incident and news of the very recent Wayanad landslide tragedy seems to be passé. No one is talking about it now when the media headlines are being hogged by the fresh and more serious episode—of rape, mob violence and anarchy in Kolkata, WB. This does not suggest that we begin taking a lighter look at the long-term serious administrative steps required to forestall incidents of landslides occurring more due to misgovernance than climate change. More of such incidents are waiting to happen if we do not take urgent, timely steps. It is with great shock that we heard the tragic death of more than 400 persons in the landslides in Wayanad, Kerala and of another 250-plus persons who were reportedly injured or missing. The two large landslides that hit Mundakkai and Chooralmala in Wayanad in the early hours of July 30, resulted in wide destruction, several fatalities, and serious injuries to hundreds. While incidents of natural disasters are episodes apparently beyond the control of humans, there is much humans can do to prevent them and minimize the damage wrought by them after they occur. It is remarkable that just about a week before this tragedy the state government in Kerala was warned by the Union Home Ministry about the possibility of a catastrophe based on the feedback provided by an NDRF team deputed to assess the susceptible site. This is a sad and sobering reflection on the ham-fisted administrative machinery of the state government in India. The frequent incidents of collapse of buildings and bridges in our country have a direct and crying connection with unauthorised, faulty building construction in violation of prescribed safety norms of the government. This illegal construction takes place right under the nose of regulatory agencies of the government. Corrupt government officials allow unauthorised construction and things appear normal till some major mishap occurs, capturing news head-



lines all over. The sadder part of the story is that state governments are inadequately equipped for disaster management. Invariably, central assistance is sought and the army has to come to the rescue of the hapless, distressed citizens. The case of landslides and the damage caused by them is not much different from that of buildings and bridges collapsing elsewhere. It would be in the fitness of things to systematically list out the reasons and preventive remedies for such catastrophic landslide events in our country. **Heavy torrential rains:** Heavy torrential rains are not the core causal factors. They are only the triggering factors behind such landslides. Further, to say that the intensity and frequency of rainfall in any region or area is purely subject to uncertainties of nature is not quite correct. Our living paradigms do influence rainfall patterns in various geographical areas. Climate change is the result of faulty living paradigms. There are things we can do to prevent interruption of normal rainfall patterns. Ancient scientific literature of India can provide useful guidance in this regard. **Wrong building construction practices:** Our building construction and water management practices are not perfect. Our deficient under-



HEAVY TORRENTIAL RAINS ARE NOT THE CORE CAUSAL FACTORS. THEY ARE ONLY THE TRIGGERING FACTORS BEHIND SUCH LANDSLIDES

standing and practices based thereon regarding the earth's geographical interiors puts us in a vulnerable position. Cracking and crumbling mountains are a direct outcome of these practices. In this regard, one has to merely cast a look at medieval time buildings that stand intact after hundreds of years while also maintaining the integrity of their surrounding hilly sites. Ancient and medieval buildings were built with stones. Modern buildings use RCC with heavy foundations that damage the host sites. We need to learn and adopt some of our ancient building techniques which gave stronger, environment friendly and more durable structures. **Unauthorised mining:** Unauthorised mining activities in contravention of set safety regulations cause tremendous harm to the terrains, making them vulnerable to landslides. Strong deterrent and punitive legal measures are the need of the hour. **Local violation of established building safety norms:** As stated above, corruption in municipalities and local government bodies accounts for many cases of unauthorised building construction in flagrant violation of safety norms. Violation of safety norms should be strictly penalised. **Deforestation:** Deforestation

in hilly areas for indiscriminate construction— either of residential buildings or commercial buildings bridges highways or flyovers is a big factor in the wearing of underground natural plates that support hills and mountains. The adverse effects of deforestation may not be evident immediately. But long term, they show themselves in the form of natural disturbances leading to earthquakes and climate change. This phenomenon needs to be studied at the institutional level, and supported by the government. We should not always depend on foreign agency research results. We have the capability and wherewithal to carry out research and devise remedial measures in the form of specific afforestation measures in identified regions. **Inept state government machinery:** As indicated above, our state government agencies are neglectful, inefficient, callous and corrupt. What is the reason? Proper systems do not exist that will ensure the identification and penalization of the guilty in such matters. Slow and tardy judicial proceedings in an unsound judicial system only serve to encourage the inefficiency and the corrupt. (The author is a management consultant based in New Delhi; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAMATA SHOULD STEP DOWN

Madam — Barring the emergency cases, number of State hospitals including private institutions have boycotted their OP (Out Patient) services to show their solidarity for the victim on the brutal rape and murder at RG Kar hospital Calcutta. The CM of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee must be crest fallen and should have taken up the moral responsibility and have resigned by now for this gruesome murder and rape of the intern doctor at RG Kar hospital. Who can understand better the pains of a woman other than a woman who's heading the State? Her party in power by taking out a rally when she herself is the Chief Minister, Home Minister and Health Minister is the height of a mockery when she failed in all the three counts even in maintaining the basic law and order in the state. The Calcutta High Court has lost its faith in the West Bengal government while shocked to observe the vandalism played upon post the incident at the hospital premises. Mamata can't have any defence and the enquiry by CBI is not the end of the case to bring real culprits to books. WB needs a disinfectant to clean the hospital as well as the minds of the team Mamata on the whole to ensure safety of the people is causing a greater concern.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

CM SIDDARAMAIAH IN TROUBLE

Madam— The Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is poised to face prosecution in connection with the MUDA land scam case. The approval for legal action has been granted by Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, following a private complaint. The allegations centre around the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) and claims of malpractices surrounding land allotments. It is alleged that Parvathi Siddaramaiah, the wife of CM benefited from irregularities when MUDA acquired her 3-

Elections in J&K after 10 years



The Supreme Court's order had been implemented meticulously by the election commission and election had been declared and have been welcomed by all including the radicals which is a momentous moment for citizens of the state and it will pave the way for the return of democracy to the Valley however complex a process it might prove to be.

Due to the elections in the state people will get the chance to elect the popular government in the state and people will have direct say in the government which is the representative way and the Indian way of upholding democratic values. It is the right step forward irrespective of what the changed status has meant in the last five years after

The arguments can be endless over the propriety of going back on a historical commitment, but there is no denying that democracy is now slated to return to a more egalitarian region, even if it has been divided into two UTs of J&K and Ladakh. Long-term stability and prosperity of the region can be assured if a popular government is in charge and works for the development of the people.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

PARIS PARALYMPICS

Madam — In a warm send off ceremony of the athletes for Paris Paralympics 2024. India is sending its largest-ever contingent for the Paris Paralympic Games as 84 athletes will look to leave no stone unturned in their quest for glory in the French capital. Those 84 athletes will be taking part in 12 sports archery, athletics, badminton, canoeing, cycling, blind judo and powerlifting among others. The para-athletes have a remarkable ability to overcome obstacles and turn challenges into opportunities. They have shown remarkable determination and perseverance in their preparation and hopes were made of getting the highest ever medal in the game. We wish them the very best and are sure they will inspire millions back home with their performances and medal tally. Hope this time, each and every athlete will perform well.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Tackling the water management crisis amidst rapid development

India needs to build a resilient water ecosystem that supports our growing urban needs and contributes towards the holistic vision of Viksit Bharat

India's urban landscape has undergone a tremendous transformation since independence, evolving from traditional townships into thriving metropolises that drive the nation's economic and cultural growth. The Government of India's ambition for a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and their efforts have provided the necessary impetus for this sector. The Union Budget 2024-25 reflects this commitment with an allocation of Rs 11.11 lakh crore in capital expenditure and an emphasis on water supply, sewage treatment, and solid waste management projects in collaboration with state governments, multilateral development banks, and research institutions. Our cities, bustling with life and opportunities, stand as testaments to our collective aspirations and endeavours. Yet, beneath this vibrant facade lies a critical challenge that demands urgent attention and innovative solutions: water and wastewater management. **The Past & the Present Status of Wastewater Management in India:** India's rapid urbanisation has



brought with it significant challenges in managing water resources. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) (data for 2020-21), India's urban centres generate around 72,368 million litres of sewage per day, but the treatment capacity is only 31,841 million litres per day. This gap leads to untreated wastewater being discharged into our rivers and lakes, contributing to pollution and posing severe health risks. The Government has initiated several programs like the Namami Gange Programme, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and the Smart Cities Mission to address these issues. These initiatives aim to enhance the sewage treatment infrastructure, promote sustainable urban development, and ensure clean

water availability. However, over the years, the path to achieving these goals has encountered numerous challenges, from inadequate infrastructure to the absence of innovation, funding constraints and lack of relevant stakeholder partnership. The gloom has taken a shift in the recent past with relevant stakeholders like youth from the communities, government, and private players all stepping up, discussing viable solutions, promoting innovation and emphasising the need to present sustainable solutions against water & wastewater challenges. **Sustainable Management of Water in India:** In India, the future of water hinges on our ability to adopt the circular model, offering a holistic and integrated approach towards water management. Unlike the traditional linear approach, a circular economy emphasises reducing waste, reusing resources, and recycling materials to create a closed-loop system. In the context of water management, this means treating wastewater to high standards and reusing it for various purposes, such as industrial

processes, agricultural irrigation, and landscape maintenance. Thus, significantly reducing the demand for freshwater resources and ensuring treated water gets reintegrated into the supply cycle. **A Blend of Factors to Achieve Water Management** The nation's urban development cannot be chalked down and implemented by a single entity especially for a country like ours with a huge geographic scale. **Learnings and the Road Ahead:** Despite the global threat that water presents, every nation adapts to an approach more suited to its people and developmental needs. The urban development has picked up momentum in recent decades. We need to balance development ambitions and ensure the essentials. A practical way to fix that is by building a resilient water ecosystem that supports our growing urban needs and contributes towards the holistic vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. (The writer is the CEO of Suez India; views are personal)



RASMI RANJAN RAY



FIRST COLUMN

THE ART OF OFFICE FRIENDSHIP

Be clear about where to draw the line, respect others' time, workload and personal space



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

In today's fast-paced corporate climate, the line that traditionally defines coworker and friend is becoming increasingly blurred. With the amount of time spent at work nowadays, professional connections are no longer optional, but rather required. At the same time, these interactions necessitate skill, awareness, and a healthy dosage of emotional intelligence. Imagine this: You're out for coffee with your work BFF, laughing about last night's reality TV drama, when your boss walks in. Do you switch to shop chat or keep the banter going? It's a circumstance that demonstrates the narrow line that must be walked in business friendships. What's the key? Mastering the art of context change.

Professionalism does not need you to transform into a robot from 9 to 5. It's knowing when and how to crack a joke, as well as when to go serious. For lunch breaks, a friendship's dimmer switch is extremely bright and vivid, slightly dim for group projects, and extremely professional during business meetings. Remember the phrase "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas"? Consider that in your workplace friendships. All those meaningful chats over after-work drinks? Not a water cooler material. Closed-door conversations and revelations made outside of the office should be treated as classified material. That's because your ability to maintain secrets may make or destroy your working relationships, and even your career.

Effective communication is crucial in all relationships, but business connections have a unique twist. As much as you want to keep communication open, you must also respect privacy. It's a difficult balance of being



there for the work friend without intruding into areas they're not ready to discuss. The benefits of working friendships include the ability to accept and provide honest feedback. However, if constructive criticism is not handled correctly, it may quickly turn into a friendship minefield. Wrap that severe love with genuine support. Remember that your goal is for both of you to succeed, not to win a point-scoring contest. Arguments will inevitably occur, even among the best of colleagues. Your adept handling of these hiccups in the path is an undeniable sign of friendship. Address disagreements directly on, but with sensitivity and professionalism; see it as a means to strengthen your partnership, not a friendship-ending disaster.

It's acceptable to get along better with some people than others, but try to avoid forming restricted groups. Instead, be the friend who draws everyone together. Consider inclusive team activities to help break down departmental barriers. Who knows, you might meet your next work bestie in accounting! We all have terrible days, but repeatedly unloading personal problems to your coworkers will put even the strongest relationships under strain. Consider the emotional strain you're putting on others. Sometimes a simple "I'm having a rough day" may suffice—save the deep dives for proper times and locations. The key to a working friendship is setting clear boundaries. Some suggestions include being clear about where to draw the line regarding each other's time, workload, space, or personal difficulties. Consider setting boundaries to be like a guardrail, keeping your friendship on track but not a wall. Finally, be sure to appreciate your victories, big and small. That fast high-five you received for acing that presentation, or the team lunch for sealing a major deal? Those boost office morale. These moments of shared joy are the glue that holds workplace friendships together. Lastly, success in business friendships requires establishing a balance between professionalism and personal connection. Hit the sweet spot, and you may find enthusiasm in your professional life while also developing potential lasting relationships outside of the confines of your current position. Go ahead, take the first step towards making your cubicle neighbour a true friend!

(The author is a freelance writer; views are personal)

Responsible tourism: Our promise to future generations



DIVYA BHATIA

The future of tourism hinges on responsible travel, where both travelers and industry stakeholders play a crucial role in preserving our heritage for future generations

Visit Agra, and you'll witness a heart-wrenching sight: graffiti marring the walls of its iconic monuments. Lovers etching their names into the Taj Mahal—a monument of love—are tarnishing the legacy of love with their reckless behavior. This is just one example of irresponsible tourism. From defacing historic sites to littering, damaging environments, and polluting water bodies, such behavior is widespread.

To counteract these issues, embracing responsible tourism is now essential. The tourism industry, one of the largest and fastest-growing sectors globally, holds vast potential for economic growth. Yet, this rapid expansion often brings environmental and social challenges. Over-tourism can damage natural habitats, exhaust local resources, and erode cultural traditions. Sustainable tourism aims to address these challenges by promoting responsible travel that supports local communities and preserves the environment.

Tourism's environmental footprint is broad, affecting ecosystems, biodiversity, pollution, and resource use. Popular destinations often see spikes in waste, water shortages, and habitat destruction due to tourist influxes. The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, for instance, is under threat from both climate change and tourism, highlighting the need for immediate conservation efforts. This underscores the significance of sustainable tourism practices that emphasise environmental care.

Governments are key players in driving sustainable tourism, establishing policies and frameworks that encourage eco-friendly practices. Australia, known for its diverse landscapes and rich biodiversity, has long understood this necessity. Nishant Kashikar, Country Manager for India & Gulf at Tourism Australia, explains the country's dedication to sustainable tourism: "Australia's culture, landscape, and wildlife form the heart of our tourism industry. We have a duty to manage them wisely." Through collaborations with tourism operators, Australia focuses on restorative and regenerative travel, especially at renowned sites like the Great Barrier Reef. Despite progress, challenges persist in conveying the importance of sustainable travel to markets prioritizing value and experience.

Kashikar further states the steps taken to protect natural treasures: "Our operators provide eco-friendly accommodations and low-impact activities that complement conservation efforts at the reef. Initiatives such as carbon-neutral menus and zero-waste hotels are raising the bar in hospitality." He acknowledges ongoing challenges, stating, "Effectively communicating the value of sustainable tourism to markets like India, which are driven by value and experience, requires a tailored approach."

Moscow, a city famous for its historical and cultural richness, is also leading the way in sustainable tourism efforts. Evgeny Kozlov, Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, highlights the city's environmental transformation: "Around 50% of Moscow is made up of green zones. Over the past decade, we have rejuvenated 900 parks and green spaces, as well as revitalized 40 embankments. This transformation not only beautifies the city but also offers unique opportunities for eco-friendly tourism."

Kozlov stresses the importance of building an urban ecosystem accessible to everyone, with incentives for investors in sustainable tourism infrastructure.



THE ECO-FRIENDLY TOURISM IS NOT JUST A TREND BUT A NECESSITY. THEIR INITIATIVES ARE PAVING THE WAY FOR A FUTURE WHERE RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL IS THE NORM, AND TRAVELERS PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PRESERVING THE PLANET

Madhya Pradesh is becoming a leader in responsible tourism by blending community development with environmental preservation. Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, outlines the state's dual focus: "Madhya Pradesh is dedicated to both its people and its landscapes. Our Responsible Tourism initiative seeks to uplift local communities while preserving the state's natural beauty and cultural history." The promotion of rural homestays and support for local artisans drive economic development with minimal environmental impact.

He adds, "By promoting local craftsmanship and sustainable building practices, we ensure tourism development benefits both communities and the environment. Programs like Safe Tourism Destinations for Women and Responsible Souvenirs further strengthen this mission." Airlines and hotels are at the forefront of sustainable tourism efforts, addressing their significant environmental impact. As air travel continues to grow, the aviation sector's role in global greenhouse gas emissions has come under scrutiny. The hospitality industry is also increasingly adopting eco-friendly practices that aim to balance guest experiences with environmental responsibility.

Akash Garg, CMD of Moksha Himalaya Spa Resort, acknowledges that transitioning to sustainable practices requires an upfront investment. However, he emphasizes that these costs are outweighed by long-term savings. "Initially, there are costs that a property has to bear when implementing sustainable practices. However, these investments often lead to long-term benefits and savings," says Garg. The resort's efforts include reducing single-use plastics and creating an onsite bottling plant, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability. Moreover, the resort engages with the local community, with 80% of its workforce from Himachal Pradesh, and promotes regional cultural experiences for guests. At the Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort, Mano Gunasekera,

General Manager, speaks about the broader impact of sustainability within Marriott International. The company is deeply committed to global best practices. "Marriott International, is focused strongly on best sustainability practices. At times such initiatives come with a cost, however with the proposition of there being a greater impact on the environment," says Gunasekera. The resort supports responsible tourism through projects like turtle conservation and encouraging guests to adopt eco-friendly habits, such as reusing linens and reducing water consumption. These initiatives align with Marriott's Serve360 program, which aims to lower energy usage and promote environmentally conscious products.

Anirban Sarkar, General Manager of Radisson Blu Greater Noida, underscores the importance of sustainability in shaping the hotel's long-term vision. Radisson Blu has set an ambitious target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, far ahead of many global initiatives. Sarkar believes that promoting sustainability and responsible business practices strengthens the brand's reputation and builds local support.

"Focus towards Sustainability and Responsible Business practices actually strengthens the brand and shows the brand in a positive light," he explains. Vietnam's leading carrier Vietjet is also making strides toward sustainability. The airline's efforts have earned it recognition in categories like "Outstanding Sustainable Transport." By investing in a modern fleet that reduces fuel consumption by up to 20%, Vietjet is helping lower emissions. Additionally, the airline has transitioned to using eco-friendly materials, such as recyclable packaging, and is researching sustainable aviation fuel with a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Sri Lankan Airlines is also taking a more gradual approach, integrating sustainability into its services through eco-friendly amenities in Business Class. The airline has introduced pillow and headrest covers made from recycled PET plastic, reducing its plastic footprint.

These efforts are part of broader initiatives, including the use of sustainable carpets onboard.

In the online travel space, Rikant Pittie, Co-Founder of Ease My Trip, highlights the company's role in promoting sustainability by working with local authorities to improve eco-friendly facilities. Ease My Trip has also launched educational campaigns to encourage travelers to choose green accommodations and reduce waste. "We tackle the lack of sufficient infrastructure by collaborating with local authorities to enhance eco-friendly facilities," says Pittie. For Manoj Kumar Tiwari, General Manager of Regency Holidays, promoting sustainable tourism is less of a challenge and more of an opportunity to educate guests. "Educating the guests to align them with our brand ethos to promote luxury sustainably is the key," Tiwari explains.

Daniel D'Souza, President and Country Head of Holidays at SOTC Travel, notes the increasing demand for sustainable travel, particularly after the pandemic. He observes a shift in travelers' preferences toward authentic, eco-friendly experiences. "Sustainable travel has gained momentum, with MICE groups increasingly emphasizing sustainable practices and unconventional accommodations," he says.

Trishal Rao, Chief Sales Officer at SKIL Travel, sees the challenges of promoting sustainable tourism as opportunities for innovation. SKIL Travel has incorporated electric vehicles into its fleet and is implementing eco-friendly technologies throughout its services. The eco-friendly tourism is not just a trend but a necessity. Their initiatives are paving the way for a future where responsible travel is the norm, and travelers play an active role in preserving the planet. As Evgeny Kozlov succinctly states, "We must build a tourism industry based on sustainable development principles to ensure that future generations can enjoy our world responsibly."

(The author is a travel writer and influences, she works with travel industry as a mentor; views are personal)

Protecting our healers: Urgent action needed to end violence against healthcare providers

The recent assault on medics underscores the urgent need for legal protections and enhanced security measures to ensure their safety

The recent barbaric act of violence, rape, and murder against a resident lady doctor in Kolkata has sent shockwaves across the nation. This incident, coupled with the growing number of attacks on medical professionals, calls for an urgent need for a safe operating environment for those who dedicate their lives to saving others.



B K JHA

The entire country is deeply saddened by these events, and there is a collective call for the government and law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety and security of healthcare workers. This is not just about protecting individuals; it is about safeguarding the sanctity of a profession that stands at the forefront of human survival.

Healthcare professionals work tirelessly, often under immense pressure, to deliver care and save lives. Yet, reports of doctors being manhandled, threatened, and even killed are, unfortunately, not uncommon. Doctors are taught to prioritize the ABCs—Airway, Breathing, and Circulation—when a patient is in their care. Their primary focus is always on saving lives, regardless of

the circumstances. However, when medical professionals are themselves under threat, their ability to perform these critical tasks is compromised. The environment in which they operate must be one of safety and respect, allowing them to carry out their duties without fear of violence.

The issue of violence against healthcare workers is not unique to India; it is a global problem. However, many countries have implemented robust measures to protect their medical professionals, setting examples that India could follow. For instance, in the United Kingdom, the National Health Service (NHS) has a zero-tolerance policy towards violence against its staff. This policy is supported by a dedicated

security team that works closely with law enforcement to ensure that any incidents are dealt with swiftly and effectively. Additionally, the NHS has implemented a comprehensive reporting system that allows healthcare workers to report any form of abuse or violence, ensuring that these incidents are documented and addressed. In the United States, several states have enacted laws that classify assaults on healthcare workers as felonies, carrying heavier penalties than those for assaults on other individuals.

This legal framework acts as a strong deterrent against violence, sending a clear message that attacks on medical professionals will not be tolerated. In Australia, hospitals



have introduced a range of safety measures, including the use of security personnel, panic buttons in consultation rooms, and mandatory training for staff on how to de-escalate potentially violent situations. India must urgently adopt similar measures to protect its healthcare workers. The government and relevant

authorities need to implement stringent actions that will create a safer environment for doctors and other medical professionals. First and foremost, the government should enact laws that classify any form of violence against healthcare professionals as a serious criminal offence, with severe

penalties for those found guilty. This legal framework should be supported by swift and decisive action from law enforcement agencies to ensure that justice is served promptly. In addition to legal protections, hospitals, especially those in high-risk areas, should be equipped with comprehensive security measures. These could include the deployment of trained security personnel, the installation of panic buttons, surveillance cameras, and secure entry points to prevent unauthorised access. Such measures would go a long way in deterring potential threats and ensuring that medical professionals can work without fear. Moreover, healthcare workers should receive mandatory training on how

to handle violent situations. This training should cover de-escalation techniques, self-defence, and the proper use of security measures available to them. The safety and security of healthcare professionals are non-negotiable. Those who dedicate their lives to saving others deserve to work in an environment free from fear and violence. The government, law enforcement agencies, and society at large must come together to ensure that the medical fraternity is protected and respected. It is time to take decisive action to safeguard those who save lives, ensuring that healthcare professionals can continue their noble work without fear. *(The author is a senior journalist. Views expressed are personal)*

Israel strikes Gaza as Blinken arrives for ceasefire talks

AP n DEIR-AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed 24 people overnight and into Sunday, including a woman and her six children, local health officials said, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken headed to the region to try to seal a cease-fire deal after months of negotiations. The US and fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar said they were closing in on a deal after two days of talks in Doha, with American and Israeli officials expressing cautious optimism. But Hamas has signalled resistance to what it says are new demands by Israel, and the long-running talks have repeatedly stalled. The evolving proposal calls for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all hostages abducted during its October 7 attack, which triggered the deadliest war fought between Israelis and Palestinians. In exchange, Israel would withdraw its forces from Gaza and release Palestinian prisoners.



The mediators hope to end a war that has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, displaced the vast majority of the territory's 2.3 million residents and caused a humanitarian catastrophe. Experts have warned of famine and the outbreak of diseases like polio. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the October 7 attack and abducted around

250. Of those, some 110 are still believed to be inside Gaza, with Israeli authorities saying around a third are deceased. More than 100 hostages were released in November during a weeklong cease-fire. Quadruplets among six children killed in Gaza The latest Israeli bombardment included a strike early Sunday on a home in the central town of Deir al-Balah that killed a woman and her six children,

according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. An Associated Press reporter at the hospital counted the bodies. Mohammed Awad Khatab, the children's grandfather, said his daughter, a schoolteacher, was with her husband and their six children when their house was struck. He said the children ranged in age from 18 months to 15 years, and included quadruplets. He said the father was hospitalized after the strike. "The six children have become body parts. They were placed in a single bag," he told reporters outside the hospital. "What did they do? Did they kill any of the Jews? ... Will this provide security to Israel?" A strike in the northern town of Jabaliya hit two apartments in a residential building, killing two men, a woman and her daughter, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Another two strikes in central Gaza killed nine people, according to Al-Awda Hospital. Late Saturday, a strike near the southern city of

Khan Younis killed four people from the same family, including two women, according to Nasser Hospital. Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militant group conceals fighters, weapons, tunnels and rockets in residential areas. But the monthlong Israeli bombardment has wiped out entire extended families and orphaned thousands of children. Israel says 'cautious optimism' about cease-fire talks The mediators have spent months trying to halt the fighting, efforts that gained new urgency after the targeted killing of two top militants last month, both attributed to Israel, brought vows of revenge from Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah, raising fears of an all-out war across the Middle East. An American official said Friday that mediators were implementing preparations for implementing the latest cease-fire proposal, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's office expressed "cautious optimism" a deal could be reached. An Israeli delegation is set to travel to Cairo on Sunday for further talks, and Blinken is expected to meet with Netanyahu on Monday. Hamas has cast doubt on whether an agreement is near, saying the latest proposal diverged significantly from a previous iteration they had accepted in principle. Hamas has rejected Israel's demands for a lasting military presence along the Gaza-Egypt border and a line bisecting Gaza where Israeli forces would search Palestinians returning to their homes. Israel says both are needed to prevent militants from rearming and returning to the north. Israel showed flexibility on retreating from the border corridor, and a meeting between Egyptian and Israeli military officials was scheduled for next week to agree on a withdrawal mechanism, according to two Egyptian officials, who spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the private negotiations. Blast wounds peacekeepers in Lebanon In Lebanon, meanwhile, three UN peacekeepers were lightly wounded when an explosion struck their vehicle near the southern village of Yarin. The peacekeeping mission, known as UNIFIL, said the incident is under investigation and did not provide further details. Hezbollah began launching near-daily drone and rocket attacks along the border after the outbreak of the war in Gaza, drawing Israeli retaliation in a cycle of violence that has steadily escalated. UNIFIL says around a dozen peacekeepers have been wounded since the strikes and counter-strikes began. In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which has also seen a surge of violence since the start of the war in Gaza, gunmen marched in a funeral procession for two Hamas commanders killed in an Israeli airstrike in Jenin the day before.

UK orders 'rapid analytical sprint' to clamp down on extremism

London (PTI): The UK government has ordered a so-called "rapid analytical sprint" to map and monitor extremism trends as part of a review to clamp down on radicalisation, hateful beliefs and violence against women and girls. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper told 'The Sunday Telegraph' that she has ordered the review into the government's counter-extremism strategy amid fears that extremist ideologies online and on the streets of the country have been on the rise. It comes in the wake of a series of violent clashes involving far-right extremists across Britain following the fatal stabbing of three young girls in Southport, north-west England. "Action against extremism has been badly hollowed out in recent years, just when it should have been needed most," Cooper is quoted by the newspaper as saying. "That's why I have directed the Home Office to conduct a rapid analytical sprint on extremism, to map and monitor extremist trends, to understand the evidence about what works to disrupt and divert people away from extremist views, and to identify any gaps in existing policy which need to be addressed to crack down on those pushing harmful and hateful beliefs and violence. That work will underpin a new strategic approach to countering extremism from government, working closely with communities to build consensus and impetus for our plans," she said. The review is said to be looking at the rise of both Islamist and far-right extremism in the UK, as well as wider ideological trends, including extreme misogyny or beliefs that fit into broader categories like fixation on violence. Officials will examine emerging ideologies which are gaining momentum and will assess any gaps in the current system which leave the country "exposed" to threats that promote violence or undermine democracy. "For too long, governments have failed to address the rise in extremism, both online and on our streets, and we've seen the number of young people radicalised online grow.

Shinawatra becomes Thailand's prime minister after royal signoff

AP n BANGKOK

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's prime minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed her predecessor. She replaces another leader from the same Pheu Thai Party, at the head of a coalition that includes military parties associated with the coup that deposed the party's last government. Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her billionaire father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra. Both were removed from office and forced into exile in coups, although Thaksin returned to Thailand last year as Pheu Thai formed a government. She received the letter of appointment in a ceremony at the party's headquarters in Bangkok, attended by senior members of parties in the governing coalition and her father, who has no formal role but is



widely seen de facto leader of Pheu Thai. The father and daughter arrived in the same car, holding hands as they walked in together with beaming smiles. Paetongtarn thanked the king, the Thai people and lawmakers, saying she will perform her duties "with an open mind," and will "make every square inch of Thailand a space that allows Thai people to dare to dream, dare to create and dare to dictate their own future. Paetongtarn became Prime Minister days after the Constitutional Court removed Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, after less than a year in office. The court found him guilty of a serious ethical

breach for appointing a Cabinet minister who had been jailed for contempt of court after an alleged attempt to bribe a judge. Paetongtarn is also Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt, and the country's youngest leader at 37. Pheu Thai is the latest in a string of populist parties affiliated with Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 military coup, which triggered nearly two decades of deep political divisions that pitted a mostly poor, rural majority in the north that supported Thaksin against royalists, the military and their urban backers. Parties linked to Thaksin won the most seats in every national election from 2001 until 2023, when it lost to the more progressive Move Forward Party. Pheu Thai was able to form a government after Move Forward was blocked by the military-appointed Senate, partnering with former rivals in what was widely interpreted as a political bargain with the conservative establishment to stop Move Forward from forming a government.

Donald Trump claims he's better looking than Kamala Harris

PTI n WASHINGTON

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has launched fresh personal attacks against his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, disparaging her physical appearance and insisting that he was "much better looking than her." The former president made the comments at a rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday while referencing a recent Time Magazine cover that features Vice President Harris. "I'm much better looking than her," Trump, 78, declared after criticising Time Magazine's illustrator for being "too generous" with a portrait of Harris, 59. This isn't the first time he's brought up the topic, which also came up at previous rallies. "Time Magazine doesn't have a picture of her. They have this unbelievable artist drawing her," he said. "They took a lot of pictures that didn't work out so they hired a sketch artist." Trump spoke for nearly two hours quickly hitting on Vice President Harris' economic



policy rollout before going off script and calling himself "better looking". The Hill reported. The attack line from Trump was one of many against Harris and her Democratic allies at Saturday's rally. Trump last week said he was "entitled" to personally attack Harris because he doesn't "have a lot of respect for her," as he dismissed calls from allies to refocus his campaign on policy issues in his bid to reclaim the White House on November 5. Trump during Saturday's

rally in Pennsylvania also attacked President Joe Biden for dropping out of the presidential race. Pennsylvania is set to play a deciding role in November's election with its 19 Electoral College votes up for grabs. Trump narrowly flipped the state in 2016, but then narrowly lost it to Biden in 2020. "What happened to Biden? I was running against Biden and now I'm running against someone else," Trump said. "I said, who am I running against, Harris? I said, 'Who the hell is Harris?'" Trump also took several jabs at Harris' economic plan that she debuted on Friday. "Yesterday, Kamala laid out her so-called economic plan. She says she's going to lower the cost of food and housing starting on day one. But day one for Kamala was three and a half years ago," Trump said. Trump, however, insisted he could bring prices down, without providing additional specifics other than the general push for expanding US oil production. "After causing catastrophic

inflation, Comrade Kamala announced that she wants to institute socialist price controls," Trump said. Ahead of the Democratic National Convention beginning on Monday, Trump questioned why Harris is going, claiming that she never earned any votes as a presidential candidate. Trump continued to claim Harris "stole" President Biden's presidential bid, saying Biden is "angry" and that he "hates" Harris, ABC News reported. "Joe Biden hates her. This was an overthrow of a president. This was an overthrow," Trump said. Trump said he looked forward to debating Harris on September 10, claiming, "She'll be easier." Trump has struggled to deliver a consistent message targeting Harris, even as Republicans argue they have a strong case against her on the economy and immigration. While the former president has at times focused on the issues, has mocked Harris' laugh and her intelligence.

S'pore grants citizenship to 177 people

Singapore (PTI): Singapore Sunday welcomed 177 new citizens, including Sudhan Vincent from Tamil Nadu, encouraging them to contribute to the city state's common causes and help the nation to function as a "viable society". "We all have different talents and different interests. Find something meaningful to you, purposeful to you and use it for the greater good. Then you contribute to our community," Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper. Sudhan was among 177 new Singapore citizens who received their citizenship certificates at the annual National Citizenship Ceremony held by the People's Association at the Singapore Institute of Management Performing Arts Theatre, a state-supported institution. According to the latest statistics, around 23,500 new citizenships were granted in 2023.

Experts say famine looming in 4 Yemeni districts as hunger surges among children

AP n CAIRO

Famine is looming in four Yemeni districts after instances of hunger have rapidly surged among children in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, a report by international experts said. All 117 districts in government-controlled areas are expected to suffer from "serious" levels of acute malnutrition. Among them, the four districts — Mawza and Mocha in Taiz province, and Hays and Khawkah in Hodeida province — are projected to slip into famine between July and October this year, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC. The report reflects the worsening food insecurity in the poorest Arab nation that plunged into civil war in 2014, when Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels took control of the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, forcing the government to flee to the south,



then to Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015, backed at the time by the U.S., in an effort to restore the internationally recognized government to power. The war has killed more than 150,000 people including civilians and combatants, and in recent years deteriorated largely into a stalemate and caused one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

About half of the country's population — or 18.2 million people — are in need of humanitarian aid this year, according to the United Nations. The number of acutely malnourished children has increased by 34% compared to last year, the report said. They include more than 18,500 children under 5 who are projected to be severely malnourished by the end of this year, it said.

Additionally, the report found about 223,000 pregnant and lactating women are expected to be malnourished in 2024. "The report confirms an alarming trend of acute malnutrition for children in southern Yemen," said the UNICEF representative to Yemen, Peter Hawkins. "To protect the most vulnerable women, girls and boys, an investment in and scale-up of prevention and treatment efforts are more critical than ever." The report attributed the sharp rise of malnutrition to the combined effects of cholera and measles outbreaks, high food insecurity, limited access to safe drinking water, economic decline and inadequate humanitarian aid — all are direct and indirect results of the decade-old war. The IPC is a global partnership of 15 U.N. agencies and humanitarian organizations working in Yemen and funded by the European Union, the U.S. and the U.K.

Harris and Walz to campaign by bus in Pennsylvania

AP n WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and running mate Tim Walz will campaign by bus in southwestern Pennsylvania on Sunday, hoping to ride the wave of enthusiasm her candidacy has brought to the presidential race to their party's nominating convention in Chicago this week. Vice President Harris and Walz, the governor of Minnesota, will be joined by their spouses, Doug Emhoff and Gwen Walz, as they get on and off the bus in the Pittsburgh area to glad-hand with voters. Harris and Emhoff were scheduled to deliver remarks at an event in the borough of Rochester, in Beaver County, which Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, won in 2020, though he lost the general election to Democrat Joe Biden. Southwestern Pennsylvania is a critical part of a key battleground state that has long commanded the attention of presi-

dential candidates. The state voted for the Republican presidential candidate in 2016 and for the Democratic candidate in 2020. Both Harris and Trump are vying to see who can put Pennsylvania in their column on Nov. 5. Most polls, including the New York Times/Siena College poll and Fox News, find Harris and Trump locked in a tight race statewide. Trump held a rally Saturday in Wilkes-Barre in the northeastern part of the state, following his earlier rallies in July in Harrisburg and Butler, where he survived an assassination attempt. The bus tour will be Harris' eighth trip to Pennsylvania this year, and her second this month. The vice president's Aug. 6 announcement that Walz would be her running mate came hours before their first joint appearance as a ticket later that day in Philadelphia. "This is a state that traditionally has been super important but southwestern Pennsylvania has been really kind of the battleground part of the battleground state," said

Kristin Kanthak, associate professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh. Allegheny County, which includes Pittsburgh, is a diverse county with urban, suburban and rural areas, and a lot of people who haven't decided how they will vote, she said. "It makes sense to come here and ask for votes because there are votes up for grabs here," Kanthak said of Harris. "It's not just about turning out your base. It's about having an opportunity to speak to truly undecided voters." In the 2020 race, Biden won Allegheny County with 60% of the vote, while Trump won neighboring Beaver County, which includes Rochester, with about 58% of the vote. After Trump's surprise win in the state in 2016, Biden flipped Pennsylvania in 2020 — and, in so doing, won the White House — in part by running up his vote totals in heavily Democratic Pittsburgh, the state's second-largest city and the county seat of Allegheny County.

Earth ends 13-month streak of record heat

AP n WASHINGTON

From June 2023 until June 2024, air and ocean surface water temperatures averaged a quarter of a degree Celsius higher than records set only a few years previously. Air temperatures in July 2024 were slightly cooler than the previous July (0.04°C, the narrowest of margins) according to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service. July 2023 was in turn 0.28°C warmer than the previous record-hot July in 2019, so the remarkable jump in temperature during the past year has yet to ease off completely. The warmest global air temperature recorded was in December 2023, at 1.78°C

above the pre-industrial average temperature for December — and 0.31°C warmer than the previous record. Global warming has consistently toppled records for warm global average temperatures in recent decades, but breaking them by as much as a quarter of a degree for several months is not common. The end of this streak does not diminish the mounting threat of climate change. So what caused these record temperatures? Several factors came together, but the biggest and most important is climate change, largely caused by burning fossil fuels. Temperatures typical of Earth 150 years ago are used for

comparison to measure modern global warming. The reference period, 1850-1900, was before most greenhouse gases associated with global industrialisation — which increase the heat present in Earth's ocean and atmosphere — had been emitted. July 2024 was 1.48°C warmer than a typical pre-industrial July, of which about 1.3°C is attributable to the general trend of global warming over the intervening decades. This trend will continue to raise temperatures until humanity stabilises the climate by keeping fossil fuels in the ground where they belong. But global warming doesn't happen in a smooth progression. Like UK house prices,

the general trend is up, but there are ups and downs along the way. Behind much of the ups and downs is the El Niño phenomenon. An El Niño event is a reorganisation of the water across the vast reaches of the Pacific Ocean. El Niño is so important to the workings of worldwide weather as it increases the temperature of the air on average across all of Earth's surface, not only over the Pacific. Between El Niño events, conditions may be neutral or in an opposite state called La Niña that tends to cool global temperatures. The oscillation between these extremes is irregular, and El Niño conditions tend to recur after three to seven years.

Indian-origin couple, daughter killed in US car crash; teenage son sole survivor

PTI n HOUSTON

In a tragic incident, an Indian-origin couple and their teenage daughter were killed in a road accident while driving here to college in the US state of Texas, leaving behind their 14-year-old son as the lone survivor. Arvind Mani (45), his wife Pradeepa Arvind (40) and their 17-year-old daughter Andril Arvind, who all were from Leander, were killed in the car crash on Wednesday near Lampasas County in Texas, the Austin American Statesman reported. Their only surviving immediate family member, son Adirvan (14), was not in the vehicle with them. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, a 2004 Cadillac CTS driven by 31-year-old Jacinto Gudino Duran, of Copperas Cove, was heading southbound on US Route 281

at the same time a 2024 Kia Telluride, operated by Mani, was heading northbound. Evidence at the scene showed the right rear tyre of the Cadillac had a blowout, crash investigators were quoted as saying by FOX10TV.com. Witnesses claimed the vehicle passed them at a high speed before the collision. The Texas Department of Public Safety said the blowout caused the driver of the Cadillac to lose control and cross over to the northbound lane into the Kia's path. The Kia crashed into the passenger side of Cadillac, causing extensive damage to both vehicles, officials said. "It is one of the worst crashes I have seen in 26 years because of the magnitude of the damage and amount of people lost," said Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Bryan Washko.

Twenty-three-year-old Yosulu Gasman Martinez-Lopez, of Copperas Cove, was identified as a passenger in the Cadillac. There were two passengers in the Kia at the time, named Pradeepa and Andril. All five people in both vehicles were pronounced dead at the scene. Mani and his wife were driving their daughter to college in North Texas and had left their son behind because he started school that day, Washko said. Andril graduated from Rouse High School and was going to attend the University of Dallas, where she planned to study computer science, according to the GoFundMe set up for her brother. The Rouse High School family is deeply saddened to share the loss of one of our very own Raiders from the Class of 2024, Andril Arvind," said a letter sent to parents from the school's principal.

Hasina destroyed every institution: Yunus

PTI n DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus on Sunday accused deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina of destroying every institution of the country in her efforts to stay in power as he promised to hold a free, fair and participatory election as soon as his government completes the "mandate" of carrying out "vital reforms."

Hasina, 76, resigned and fled to India on August 5 following a massive protest by students against a controversial quota system in government jobs. After Hasina's ouster, 84-year-old Yunus took oath as the Chief Adviser of the interim government on August 8.

"In their efforts to stay in power, Sheikh Hasina's dictatorship destroyed every institution of the country. The judiciary was broken. Democratic rights were suppressed through a brutal decade-and-a-half-long crackdown," United News of Bangladesh quoted Yunus as saying through his Press Secretary Shaiful Alam. His comments came as he briefed diplomats stationed in Dhaka for the first time since the interim government's

inception. Yunus said he took over a country which was in many ways a complete mess. He emphasises on required reforms in the Election Commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces and media. The chief adviser said elections were rigged blatantly and generations of young people grew up without exercising their voting rights. "Banks were robbed with full political patronisation. And the state coffer was plundered by abusing power," Yunus said, adding that they will also make sincere efforts to promote national reconciliation. Yunus said they will undertake robust and far-reaching economic reforms to restore macroeconomic stability and sustained growth, with priority attached to good governance and combating corruption and mismanagement. He said the top priority of the interim government would be to bring the law and order situation under control. "We will be close to normalcy within a short period, with the unwavering support of our people and patriotic armed forces," Yunus said.

The police force has also resumed its operations. The armed forces will continue to serve in aid of civil power as long as the situation warrants. "Our government remains pledge-bound to ensure the safety and security of all religious and ethnic groups," he said. Bangladesh saw a spike in violence against members of Hindu communities following the fall of the Hasina-led government. Yunus said the interim government will hold a "free, fair participatory" election as soon as it completes the "mandate" to carry out "vital reforms." He said they have also made it a priority to ensure justice and accountability for all the killings and violence committed during the recent mass uprising. He said they will uphold and promote all their international legal obligations, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. "Our government will adhere to all international, regional and bilateral instruments it is a party to. Bangladesh shall continue to remain an active proponent of multilateralism, with the UN at the core," Yunus said.

Sheikh Hasina sued in 'mass murder' case

Dhaka (PTI): An application was filed with a court in Bangladesh on Sunday to register a case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 33 others, accusing them of carrying out a mass murder by indiscriminately firing on a rally organised in 2013 by Hafazat-e-Islam here. Babul Sardar Chakhari, chairman of the Bangladesh People's Party (BPP), applied to the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Zaki-Al-Farabi, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. The application accused them of the "mass murder" during the rally at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel on May 5, 2013. The court recorded the plaintiff's statement and said it would pass an order on the issue later. With this, 76-year-old Hasina, who resigned from the premiership and fled to India on August 5 following a mass uprising, now faces 11 cases, including eight for murder, one for abduction, and two for committing crimes against humanity and genocide in Bangladesh. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government, taking the death toll to more than 600.

Ukrainian troops stike two key bridges in Russia

AP n KYIV

Ukraine has destroyed a key bridge in Russia's Kursk region and struck a second one nearby, less than two weeks into its stunning cross-border incursion, disrupting Russian supply routes and possibly signaling that its troops are planning to dig in. Russia's pro-Kremlin military bloggers have acknowledged that the destruction of the first bridge, which spanned the Seim River near the town of Glushkovo, will impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces repelling Ukraine's incursion, although Moscow could still use pontoons and smaller bridges in the area. Ukraine's air force chief, Lt. Mykola Oleshchuk, on Friday released a video of a Ukrainian airstrike that split the bridge in two. Less than two days later, Ukrainian troops hit a second bridge in Russia, according to Oleshchuk and the Russian regional governor, Alexei Smirnov. As of Sunday morning, there were no official reports on where exactly the second bridge attack took place. Russian Telegram channels claimed that a second bridge over the Seim, in the village of Zvanoe, had been struck. According to Russia's Mash news site, the attacks left the area with just one intact bridge. The Associated Press could not immediately verify these claims — but if confirmed, the Ukrainian strikes would further complicate Moscow's attempts to replenish its forces in Kursk and evacuate civilians. Glushkovo lies some 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) north of the Ukrainian border, and approximately 16 kilometers (10 miles) northwest of the main battle zone in Kursk. Zvanoe is located a further 8 kilometers (5 miles) northeast. Ukraine may try to hold ground seized in Russia's Kursk Kyiv has been tight-lipped about the planned scope and goals of its lightning push into Russia, the largest attack on the



Ukrainian servicemen ride atop on a tank after returning from Russia near the Russian-Ukrainian border in Sumy region, Ukraine, on Saturday, August 17, 2024. AP/PTI

country since World War II, which took the Kremlin by surprise and saw scores of villages and hundreds of prisoners fall into Ukrainian hands. The Ukrainians drove deep into the Kursk region in several directions, facing little resistance and sowing chaos and panic. Ukraine's Commander in Chief, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy claimed last week that his forces had advanced across 1,000 square kilometers (390 square miles) of the Kursk region, although it was not possible to independently verify what exactly Ukrainian forces effectively control. But the strikes on bridges, apparently aimed to stymie a Russian counterpush in Kursk, could mean that Kyiv intends to seek a foothold in the region — or at least signal to Moscow that it plans to do so. Analysts say that although Ukraine could try to consolidate its gains within Russia, it would be a risky maneuver given Kyiv's limited resources, because supply lines extending deep into Kursk would be vulnerable to Russian strikes. The incursion has already

boosted Ukraine's morale, sapped by a failed counteroffensive last summer and months of grinding Russian gains in the eastern Donbas region, and proven its ability to seize initiative. It has resembled Ukraine's lightning operation from September 2022, led by Syrskiy, in which its forces reclaimed control of the northeastern Kharkiv region after taking advantage of Russian manpower shortages and a lack of field fortifications. Zelenskyy seeks permission to strike deeper into Russia. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy late on Saturday urged Kyiv's allies to lift the remaining restrictions on using Western weapons to strike targets deeper in Russia, including in Kursk, saying that his troops could deprive Moscow "of any ability to advance and cause destruction" if granted sufficient long-range capabilities. "It is crucial that our partners remove barriers that hinder us from weakening Russian positions in the way this war demands. ... The bravery of our soldiers and the resilience of our

combat brigades compensate for the lack of essential decisions from our partners," Zelenskyy said in a post on the social platform X. Russia's Foreign Ministry and pro-Kremlin bloggers have alleged that U.S.-made HIMARS launchers have been used to destroy bridges on the Seim. These claims could not be independently verified. Ukraine's leaders have repeatedly sought authorization for long-range strikes on Russian air bases and other infrastructure used to pummel Ukraine's energy facilities and other civilian targets, including with retrofitted Soviet-era "glide bombs" that have laid waste to the country's industrial east in recent months. Moscow also appears to have dialed up attacks on Kyiv, targeting it with ballistic missiles for a third time this month early on Sunday, according to the head of the municipal military administration. Serhii Popko said in a Telegram post that the "almost identical" August strikes on the capital "most likely used" KN-23 missiles supplied by North Korea.

Educational institutes in B'desh reopen

PTI n DHAKA

Bangladesh on Sunday reopened all educational institutions, including universities, secondary schools and colleges, across the country after more than a month of closure due to violence centring the student-led protests that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The educational institutions in Bangladesh were closed indefinitely on July 17 to ensure the safety of students in the wake of clashes that erupted during the recent movement demanding reform of the job quota system.

The Ministry of Education on Thursday issued a directive to reopen the institutions under its jurisdiction. All the educational institutions reopened on Sunday, after a month of closure. According to Somy Television, a Bengali news channel based in Dhaka, "All concerned have been asked to take necessary steps to resume academic activities in all the educational institutions from August 18 following the instruction of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus," a notification signed by deputy secretary Mosammat Rahima Akhtar, said on August 15. In the morning, school stu-

dents in uniform were seen going to their institutions, many accompanied by guardians, the Daily Star reported. Many points of Dhaka city are witnessing severe traffic congestion due to the reopening of educational institutions. The working week is from Sunday to Thursday in Bangladesh. Initially, classes were scheduled to resume on August 4 in all government primary schools, except in the 12 city corporations and Narsingdi municipality, but this was also postponed. Meanwhile, the postponed

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations will be resumed from September 11. According to the revised routine, the exams will be completed on October 23. Classes at public universities have been suspended since July 1 when teachers went on strike in protest of a new pension scheme. After the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, the educational institutions were declared open on August 7, but the academic activities could not be resumed fully due to the low attendance of students.

Sri Lanka President calls for deepening ties with India

PTI n COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has emphasised the importance of strengthening economic cooperation and regional integration with Japan to India, with a special focus on deepening ties with New Delhi, as his country seeks to emerge from bankruptcy. Wickremesinghe's comments came as he was virtually addressing the Head of State Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit, held under the theme "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future" from the north-central town of Anuradhapura yesterday. The conference, chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, brought together heads of state from various countries. Reflecting on Indo-Sri Lankan relations, the President emphasised the "vision" statement shared between the two nations, which celebrates their historical cooperation and lays the foundation for future collaboration. He expressed optimism that this vision will lead to stronger integration between Sri Lanka and India across various sectors. President Wickremesinghe highlighted Sri Lanka's strategic commitment to expanding economic partnerships across Asia, particularly through the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The President noted that as the Bay of Bengal region emerges as a hub of economic growth, the significance of BIMSTEC continues to rise. Sri Lanka, as a member, seeks closer economic integration with India and is exploring economic cooperation agreements extending from Japan to India, his office said in a statement. President Wickremesinghe also expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and the people of India for their support during Sri Lanka's recent economic crisis. The President acknowledged that India's assistance played a vital role in helping Sri Lanka

navigate the challenges of the past two years and emerge from bankruptcy. "Sri Lanka thanks India for hosting the third virtual seminar on Voices of the Global South. This series enables us to engage with each other to understand our different viewpoints while also helping us arrive at a common stance on many issues confronting the South," he said. "We have reached a point where the West can no longer dominate global leadership and, furthermore, has become part of the problem. Ukraine and Gaza are prime examples, which I will not address as they have already been discussed by previous speakers. In this context, we must appreciate India's efforts to strengthen the Global South". Deliberating on the economic crisis, Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka had reached agreements with the Official Creditor Countries, the Export-Import Bank of China, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank to emerge from bankruptcy. "At this stage, I must acknowledge the generosity of Prime Minister Modi and India, whose contributions made it possible for us to survive the two years of bankruptcy, which imposed a heavy burden on our people. The Vision Statement agreed upon by both our countries outlines the path for closer relations, emphasizing our 2,000-year history of cooperation. This will ultimately lead to deeper integration between our nations across many sectors", Sri Lanka will be finalising the Comprehensive Economic and Technological Agreement with India, he said. "We will also inaugurate connectivity in power, transport, and land, and we will focus on the development of Trincomalee Harbour, among other projects we have agreed upon. These efforts will help us upgrade our knowledge and technology, enabling us to move towards a digital economy. I must express my gratitude to India for the assistance it has provided."

Ex-spy chief was part of ploy to spread unrest: Govt

PTI n ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government has accused jailed former premier Imran Khan of masterminding a political conspiracy, along with a former ISI chief and others, to sow anarchy and disharmony in the country, according to media reports. Information Minister Attaullah Tarar claimed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder was spreading unrest across the country and former ISI chief Lt-Gen (retd.) Faiz Hameed was part of the conspiracy, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. Hameed, who served as director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) from 2019 to

2021 when Khan was the prime minister, was arrested following action in the complaint of a private property developer over alleged misuse of official authority. Later, several others, including three retired military officers, were also arrested in connection with the court martial of Hameed. Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Tarar hinted that the ambit of the probe against Lt Gen (retd.) Hameed and his other "co-conspirators" would be widened in days to come, Dawn newspaper reported. Tarar said that in the wake of Hameed's arrest, the army conducted transparent investigations as they have their mech-

anism of internal accountability. Referring to the arrests, the information minister claimed that Khan had conspired with these people to spread anarchy in the country. "This was a political alliance, led by the PTI founder, which was linked with Gen Faiz and other accomplices," he said, adding that the ambit of the investigation would widen. "No matter if someone is Saqib or Nisar, things will proceed transparently," he said, referring to former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, who the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party accuses of propping up the PTI regime and targeting their political opponents. Tarar alleged that evidence was

surfacing, which showed that Khan was "in contact" with these conspirators — at the time of the vote of no-confidence, and even after his incarceration — and his messaging continued back and forth with this "unholy political alliance". He stressed that other institutions should also practice the same self-accountability that the army had demonstrated. The information minister stressed that other institutions should also practice the same self-accountability that the army had demonstrated. Meanwhile, just days after distancing himself from the former spymaster, facing court-martial proceedings, Khan seemed to endorse claims that he and the

retired general were close. Khan, hinting that the former spymaster and he were close, said Hameed's transfer to the Peshawar corps was part of the conspiracy hatched against the PTI government, Dawn News reported. Khan claimed that this was done by former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa at the behest of Nawaz Sharif. Lt Gen (retd.) Hameed, considered extremely powerful when he headed the spy agency, was appointed to the coveted post when then ISI chief and current Army chief Lt Gen Asim Munir was prematurely removed from the post. It was reported then that then prime minister Imran Khan was not happy with Munir.

Later, the army decided to replace Hameed, a move vehemently opposed by Khan and it is believed that it was the beginning of the souring of his ties with the powerful military. Hameed took premature retirement in November 2022, four months before his retirement date after the current army chief took over. He was considered close to then Army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa. The post of ISI chief is considered one of the most important in the Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 76-plus years of existence and has hitherto wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy.

Int'l poll observers arrive in Lanka to monitor president election

Colombo (PTI): A group of election observers from the European Union and the Commonwealth have arrived in Sri Lanka to monitor the September 21 presidential election, Election Commission officials said on Sunday. They are here at the invitation of Sri Lanka's Election Commission. The EU has previously done election monitoring in Sri Lanka six times with the last being at the presidential election of 2019. "The deployment of the Election Observation Mission in Sri Lanka this year confirms our long-standing commitment to supporting credible, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections in the country," the head of the observer group said in a statement on Saturday. "The forthcoming presidential election will give a new impetus to democracy following the 2022 political and economic crisis. This election is important for Sri Lanka to continue making progress on its path of reforms and lasting recovery, in full respect of democratic values," the head of the observer group was quoted as saying.

Visit by Vietnam's new leader to China reflects key relationship

AP n BEIJING

Vietnam's new leader To Lam is making China the destination for his first overseas visit, signalling the continuing importance the Southeast Asian country places on its giant neighbour even as it strengthens ties with the United States and others. Lam stepped off a Vietnam Airlines plane on an overcast Sunday morning in Guangzhou, a major manufacturing and export hub near Hong Kong, China's state media reported. He later flew to Beijing, where he will meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping. His three-day visit comes about two weeks after Lam was confirmed as general secretary of Vietnam's Communist Party, the country's top political position. He succeeded Nguyen Phu Trong, who died last month after 13 years as leader. Lam also has held the largely ceremonial title of the nation's president since May. The new leader is expected to continue his predecessor's strategy of balancing ties with China, the United States, Russia and others, Yu Xiangdong, the director of

the Institute for Vietnam Studies at China's Zhengzhou University, wrote Saturday in the state-run Global Times newspaper. "The fact that Lam chose China as his first overseas visit destination since taking office is a sign that Vietnam attaches great importance to its relations with China," Yu said in an opinion piece. "But at the same time, judging from experience, the country is not by any means going to give the US the cold shoulder." Vietnam upgraded its ties with the United States and Japan last year to a comprehensive strategic partnership, the country's highest designation for a diplomatic relationship. Relations with China and India also have been given the same designation. The United States and its ally Japan have been developing closer ties with Vietnam's communist government — America's former foe in the Vietnam War — as they seek partners in a growing economic and strategic rivalry with China. When Xi visited Vietnam in December, the two countries announced they would build "a shared future that carries

strategic significance". The agreement, which Chinese state media has described as an elevation of ties, was seen as a concession by Vietnam, which had resisted using that wording in the past. Russian President Vladimir Putin met Lam in Vietnam in June after visiting North Korea on a rare overseas trip for the Russian leader, who has been ostracised by many countries because of the 2022 invasion and still-ongoing war in Ukraine. Lam's agenda in Guangzhou included visiting sites in the southern China city where Vietnam's former communist leader Ho Chi Minh spent time, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said. Ho, the founder and first president of communist Vietnam, was in southern China in the 1920s and again in the 1930s as part of the Soviet Union's efforts to expand communism globally. Though they have long ties as one-party communist states, Vietnam and China have sparred repeatedly over territory that both claim in the South China Sea. China also briefly invaded parts of northern Vietnam in 1979.

Fire erupts on former Soviet aircraft carrier



Beijing (PTI): A fire broke out on a retired aircraft carrier during the dismantling and refitting of the vessel along the Yangtze River in east China's Jiangsu Province. The incident took place on Friday afternoon along the river in an industrial zone south of the Nantong city. No casualties have been reported and flames have been largely extinguished on Saturday. An investigation into the cause of the fire is underway, local authorities were quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The aircraft carrier, named Minsk, was in 2016 moved to Nantong, where it is expected to form part of a planned aircraft carrier theme park. 'Minsk' had previously been moored in the city of Shenzhen

in south China's Guangdong Province for several years. After its retirement in 1995, the aircraft carrier was sold to a company in the Republic of Korea before being resold to a Chinese company, which transformed it into part of a military theme park in Shenzhen. Earlier the Nantong industrial zone said it would start renovations on the vessel in March with the goal of opening a national defence centre based on the carrier by October 1. China currently has two aircraft carriers, Liaoning, which was a refit of the Soviet-era ship, and Shandong, which is an indigenous built 2nd aircraft carrier commissioned in 2019. China's third aircraft carrier Fujian is currently undergoing trials.

Stock markets to take cues from global trends, FII trading activity: Analysts

PTI NEW DELHI
 With the earnings season drawing to a close, stock markets will take cues from global trends and foreign investors' trading activity this week, analysts said. The US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes will be the major highlight this week, experts said.
 "This week, there are fewer cues on the macro and micro fronts, as

the Q1 earnings season has concluded. However, important global economic data, such as Japan's inflation numbers and the minutes from the US FOMC meeting, will be closely watched. The uncertain geopolitical situation remains the primary near-term risk for the market," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.
 Traders will also closely monitor institutional flows and crude oil



price movement, he added. Easing fears of a recession in the US triggered a global market rally on Friday.
 "Positive US economic data like cooling inflation and robust retail sales numbers shrugged off recession fears while talks of a rate cut by the US Fed as early as next month fuelled a mega rally across global equities, including India," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 1,330.96 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 80,436.84 on Friday, marking its best single-day gain in more than two months. The NSE Nifty surged 397.40 points or 1.65 per cent to close at a two-week high of 24,541.15.
 "The outlook for the market will be guided by the FOMC meeting minutes, US existing home sales and new home sales data," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master

Capital Services Ltd, said. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 730.93 points or 0.91 per cent, the Nifty climbed 173.65 points or 0.71 per cent. Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said, all eyes this week will be on US Fed meeting minutes.
 "Overall we expect the market to consolidate in a broader range and take cues from global factors," Khemka added.

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE (APPENDIX - IV A) (RULE 8(6))
 Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd. Corporate Office at Hinduja Housing Finance Limited, 167-169, 2nd Floor, Anna Salai, Saidapet, Chennai, 600015 and Branch Office at: Hinduja Housing Finance Limited- 101-B, Business Park, NRK Near Mangal City, Vijay Nagar Indore - 450210. Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer of Ankit Patil had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.bankauctions.com

Borrower (s) / Co-Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount Bid Increase Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Symbolic Possession	Reserved Price (in Rs.)		Date of Inspection of Property
				Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Time of Auction	
Loan Account No. MP/IDR/MCHL/A000000015 Mr. Ajay Yadav (Borrower) Mrs. Champa Bai (CoBorrower 1) Mr. Vijay Yadav (CoBorrower 2) Mr. Bhagwan Yadav (CoBorrower 3)	20/11/2023 Rs. 16,89,106 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh and Eighty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Six Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Plot No.60, Ward No.12, Serial No.351, LIG-1, Vishwa Bank Paryojna Bawadiya, Dewas Measuring 968.40 Sq.ft.	14/03/2024	Rs. 22,20,000 (Twenty Two Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) Rs. 2,22,000/- (Rupees Two Lacs Twenty Two Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/IDR/MCHL/A000000002 All Legal Heirs of Mr. Mahesh Goswami S/o Narayan Giri (Borrower) Mr. LILA BAI W/o Mahesh Goswami (Co Borrower)	23/01/2024 Rs. 10,41,788.00/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Eight Only) Rs. 10,000/-	House/Plot no 65, Bahubali Nagar on Survey No. 309, Gram Nainod, INDORE, Madhya Pradesh, India 452001, Measuring 800 Sq.ft.	15/04/2024	Rs. 32,80,000 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh and Eighty Thousand Rupees Only) Rs. 3,28,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/HBD/HOSH/A000000058 Mr. OM PRAKASH JATH (Borrower) Mr. RAJANI GODARA (Co Borrower1)	23/01/2024 Rs. 782378/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Eight Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Property Situated at :- Arazi Khasra no. 52/1 Part of land no. 13, Mouja Devalab, RNM/Vikash Khand/Janpad panchayat- Harda, Tehsil- Handiya, District- Harda MP. Devalab Ward no. 4, Ahead of Govt. Primary School, Harda, Madhya Pradesh, 461331., Measuring 158 sq.mtr or 1700.08 Sq.ft.	19/06/2024	Rs. 21,80,000 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty Thousand Only) Rs. 2,18,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighteen Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/INE/IDCT/A000000078 & MP/INE/IDCT/A000000539 Mr. Pankaj Choudhary (Borrower) Mrs. Ratna Choudhary (Co Borrower1) Mrs. Poonam Choudhary (Co Borrower2)	23/01/2024 Rs.18,89,151/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty One Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Plot No. 88/2, of Plot (House No. 270), Mahavar nagar Colony (Gali), Annpurna Road, Indore, Tehsil and Dist. Indore (M.P) Total area 750 sq.ft.	15/04/2024	Rs. 44,45,000 (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Forty Five Thousand Only) Rs. 4,44,500/- (Rupees Four Lakh Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/KHA/KHWA/A000000019 Mr. Prakash BHERWANI (Borrower) Mrs. Varsha BHERWANI (Co Borrower1) Mr. MOHAN LAL BHERWANI (Co Borrower2)	02/02/2024 Rs. 24,49,268 (Twenty Four Lakh Four Nine Thousand and Two Hundred and Sixty Eight Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Plot/House No. 230, Plan Layout No. 60, Sheet No. 08, Rameshwar Puram Colony, Khandwa Measuring 912 Sq.ft.	18/07/2024	Rs. 31,30,000/- (Thirty One Lakh Thirty Thousand Only) Rs. 3,13,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Thirteen Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/INE/IDCT/A0000000737 1. Mr. Premnarayan Ahirwar S/o Shri Ghanshyam Das Ahirwar (Borrower) 2. Mrs. KAVITA AHIRWAR W/O PREM NARAYAN AHIRWAR (Co Borrower1)	27/12/2023 Rs. 10,52,467 (Rupees Ten Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Seven Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Plot No.36-A, Ward No.8, Sector-B Chhatra Chaya Colony Village Pithampur, Dist. Dhar, Urban, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, India - 454775 Measuring -450 Sq.ft	26/03/2024	Rs. 13,50,000 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) Rs. 1,35,000 (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/INE/IDCT/A000000482 1) Mr. RAKESH NAGAR (Borrower) 2) Mrs. RAJBALA NAGAR (Co Borrower 1) 3) Mr. ANKIT NAGAR (Co Borrower 2)	02/02/2024 Rs.34,30,103 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Thirty Thousand and Three Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Survey No.8/2, Survey No.8/1/2, Patwari Halka No. 47(Saral No.851), Punaji Nagar, Village Medkikhakad, Tehsil & Distt. Dewas Madhya Pradesh 455001, Admeasuring Area 4500 Sq. Ft.	17/04/2024	Rs. 31,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lacs Only) Rs. 3,10,000 (Rupees Three Lakh Ten Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/INE/IDCT/A000000399 1) Mr. SHRAVAN SINGH MANAWAT (BORROWER) 2) Mrs. GODAVARI MANAWAT (Co Borrower)	30/11/2022 Rs. 30,45,932/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Forty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Two Only) Rs. 10,000/-	PLOT/HOUSE No. 5, KUSUM VATIKA Near to Vaishnav Vihar, Chota Bangarda, SCHEME NO 51 INDORE, Urban, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India - 452006 Madhya Pradesh Admeasuring Area 577.5 Sq. Ft.	25/07/2024	Rs. 22,40,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two lakh Forty Thousand Only) Rs. 2,24,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/INE/IDCT/A000000293 & CO/CP/CPOF/A000000376 1. Mr. SATPREET SINGH BAVEJA (Borrower) 2. Mrs. MONALI DHAKITE (Co Borrower)	16/02/2024 Rs. 36,03,605 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh and Three Thousand and Six Hundred Five Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Plot no 22 and 23 Sant Nagar Chhoti Patti, Gram Pipiyarao Indore, Madhya Pradesh - 452001, Sant Nagar, Near Gurudwara, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, 452001 Measuring 900 Sq.ft.	07/05/2024	Rs. 45,20,000/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) Rs. 4,52,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/HBD/HOSH/A000000036 Mr. SANJU VISHNOI (Borrower) Mr. ARJILA VISHNOI (Co Borrower)	08/04/2024 Rs. 870056/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Thousand Fifty Six Only) Rs. 10,000/-	Property Situated at :- Khasra No.103, PH No.21, Plot No.108, Mouja Neemgaon, Tehsil Handiya, Dist. Harda, M.P. 461331., Measuring Total 260 Sq.mt. RCC 92.93Sq.mt	19/06/2024	Rs. 18,80,000 (Eighteen Lakh Eighty Thousand Only) Rs. 1,88,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	
Loan Account No. MP/KHA/KHWA/A000000007 & CO/CP/CPOF/A000000724 Mr. SHWETA JAISWAL (Borrower) Mr. VEDANT JAISWAL (Co Borrower)	22/02/2024 Rs. 34,31,865 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh and Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Five Only) Rs. 10,000/-	House on Khasra No 64/1, Nilkantheshwar Ward 04, Gopilal Joshi Marg, Khandwa, MP, Nilkantheshwar Chowk, Near BSNL Office, Madhya Pradesh, 450001, Measuring 1740 Sq.ft.	07/05/2024	Rs. 48,10,000 (Forty Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Only) Rs. 4,81,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty One Thousand Only)	20.08.2024 - 22.09.2024 between 11 AM to 2 PM 18.09.2024 between 10 AM to 5PM. 23.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.	

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTION SALE:- 1. The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities. 2. Particulars of the property / assets (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extent & dimensions may differ. 3. E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries (due diligence about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims) / dues affecting the property before submission of bid/s. 4. Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website www.bankauctions.com. Or Auction provided by the service provider M/S C1 India Private Limited, who shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform. 5. The bidders may participate in e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor / service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash own, power failure etc. 6. For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider M/S C1 India Pvt Ltd., Plot No- 68, 3rd floor Sector 44 Gurgaon Haryana - 122003 (Contact no. 7291981124, 25, 26) Support Email - Support@bankauctions.com, Mr. Mithesh Kumar, Mob. +91 70808 04466. Email: up@c1india.com 7. For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at <https://www.bankauctions.com> well in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider. 8. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE (as mentioned above) shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favor of "HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD." on or before 18-September-2024. 9. The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available on www.bankauctions.com) along with the Demand Draft remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorized Officer Ankit Patil Regional Office HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD., 101-B, NRK Business Park, 1st Floor, Vijay Nagar, Indore - 452010 Mob No. 77230 55195 latest by 03:00 PM on 18-September-2024. The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale (as mentioned above) for property of "Borrower". 10. After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorized Officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited to enable them to allow only those bidders to participate in the online inter-se bidding / auction proceedings at the date and time mentioned in E-Auction Sale Notice. 11. Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e-auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension. 12. Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given to bidder will be deemed to have been made by him alone. 13. Immediately upon closure of E-Auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall confirm the final amount of bid quoted by him BY E-Mail both to the Authorized Officer, Ankit Patil Regional Office HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD., 101-B, NRK Business Park, 1st Floor, Vijay Nagar, Indore - 452010 Mob No. 77230 55195 and the Service Provider for getting declared as successful bidder in the E-Auction Sale proceedings. 14. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD) on the same day of the sale, being knocked down in his favour and balance 75% of bid amount within 15 days from the date of sale by DD/Pay order/NEFT/RTGS/Chq favouring HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD. 15. In case of default in payment of above stipulated amounts by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid (including EMD) will be forfeited and the proceeds will be again put to sale. 16. At the request of the successful bidder, the Authorized Officer in his absolute discretion may grant further time in writing, for depositing the balance of the bid amount. 17. The Successful Bidder shall pay 1% of Sale price towards TDS (out of Sale proceeds) and submit TDS certificate to the Authorized officer and the deposit the entire amount of sale price (after deduction of 1% towards TDS), adjusting the EMD within 15 working days of the acceptance of the offer by the authorized officer, or within such other extended time as deemed fit by the Authorized Officer, failing which the earnest deposit will be forfeited. 18. Municipal / Panchayat Taxes, Electricity dues (if any) and any other authorities dues (if any) shall be paid by the successful bidder before issuance of the sale certificate. Bids shall be made taking into consideration of all the statutory dues pertaining to the property. 19. Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorized Officer in favour of the successful bidder only upon deposit of entire purchase price / bid amount and furnishing the necessary proof in respect of payment of all taxes / charges. 20. Applicable legal charges for conveyance, stamp duty, registration charges and other incidental charges shall be borne by the auction purchaser. 21. The Authorized officer may postpone / cancel the E-Auction Sale proceedings without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case the E-Auction Sale scheduled is postponed to a later date by more than 30 days from the scheduled date of sale, it will be displayed on the website of the service provider. 22. The decision of the Authorized Officer is final, binding and unquestionable. 23. All bidders who submitted the bids, shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the E-Auction Sale and be bound by them. 24. For further details and queries, contact Authorized Officer, Mr. Vaibhav Shrivastava, Mo. No. 7987998003, Mr. Rajesh Chokolia Mo. No. 84355 71111, Ankit Patil - 77230 55195, Govind Chouhan- 89628 16436. 25. This publication is also 30 (Thirty) days' notice to the Borrower / Mortgagee / Guarantors of the above said loan account pursuant to rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, about holding of auction sale on the above-mentioned date / place.

Special Instructions / Caution: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD. nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place- Indore Date- 19.08.2024

Authorized Officer

India's holding of American securities hits high of USD 241.9 bn in June

PTI NEW DELHI
 India's holding of US Government securities touched a high of USD 241.9 billion in June as the country continued to increase its exposure for the third straight month.



Japan was the top holder with securities worth over USD 1.11 trillion followed by China at the second spot with a holding valued at USD 780.2 billion in June, according to the latest data released by the US Treasury Department.
 At the third place was the United Kingdom with an exposure of USD 741.5 billion ahead of Luxembourg at the fourth position with a holding to the tune of USD 384.2 billion.
 Among the countries and jurisdictions, India was at the 12th place owning American government securities worth USD 241.9 billion in June, higher than USD 237.8 billion value recorded in May.
 As per the data, India's holding is the highest in the last one year and it was at USD 237.8 billion in May 2024. In April this year, it touched USD 233.5 billion declining from USD 240.6 billion in March.
 In June last year, the exposure was at USD 235.4 billion. Other countries/ jurisdictions among the top 10 holders were Canada at

the fifth spot with a holding of USD 374.8 billion, followed by Cayman Islands (USD 319.4 billion), Belgium (USD 318 billion), Ireland (USD 308 billion), France (USD 307.2 billion) and Switzerland (USD 287.1 billion). At the 11th position was Taiwan with an exposure of USD 265.9 billion.
 The global economy is witnessing uncertain times amid high inflation, geopolitical tensions and other challenges. There is an uneven growth pattern and in the June quarter, the real GDP in the United States expanded at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent, higher than 1.4 per cent seen in the first three months of 2024.
 In its World Economic Outlook Update issued in July, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the global economy is in a sticky spot and projected a growth of 3.2 per cent for this year.

India will need around 1 lakh company secretaries by 2030: ICSI

PTI NEW DELHI
 India will need around 1 lakh company secretaries by 2030 amid rising economic growth and increasing focus on good governance, according to the company secretaries' apex body ICSI. Currently, there are more than 73,000 company secretaries and out of the total, around 12,000 are practising company secretaries.
 Company secretaries play a key role in the corporate governance framework in ensuring compliance of companies with various statutory requirements. Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) President B Narasimhan said there has been a paradigm shift in the way the country's economy is perceived today and company secretaries have essentially become a significant linchpin in making

India one of the most preferred investment destinations of the world.
 India will need around 1 lakh company secretaries by 2030, he told PTI during a recent interaction.
 On an average, the ICSI gives membership to over 2,500 people every year. Going by projections, India is expected to become a USD 7 trillion economy by 2030.
 "It is eminently possible for the Indian economy to grow in the coming years at a rate above 7 per cent on the strength of the financial sector and other recent and future structural reforms... Under a reasonable set of assumptions with respect to the inflation differentials and the exchange rate, India can aspire to become a USD 7 trillion economy in the next six to seven years (by 2030)," a finance ministry report said in January this year.

Next round of India-Aus FTA talks from today

PTI NEW DELHI
 Chief negotiators of India and Australia will begin the next round of talks for the comprehensive free trade agreement from tomorrow in Sydney, where both sides are likely to close negotiations on several chapters of the pact, an official said.
 Both countries have already implemented an interim pact and are in discussions to expand its scope under the CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement). The interim pact - Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) - came into force in December 2022. The tenth round of negotiations is scheduled from August 19-22 in Sydney.

"Out of the total 19 areas of the agreement, we have completed our discussions on four chapters, and we are in very advanced stages in a few others. We hope that in this round, we should be able to close altogether, maybe more than 10 chapters," the commerce ministry official said. In this round, the official said that both countries are likely to get into market access discussions in goods and services.
 The ECTA provides duty-free access to Indian exporters of over 6,000 broad sectors, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery in the Australian market. Under the pact, Australia has offered zero-duty access to India for about 96.4 per cent of exports.



GOITRE TREATMENT KEY INDICATIONS AND OPTIONS



DR SUNIL CHUMBER
Professor and Head

In this concluding part of the series on Multinodular Goitre (MNG), ARCHANA JYOTI speaks with DR SUNIL CHUMBER and his team from the Department of Surgical Discipline at AIIMS, Delhi about critical factors for intervention and available management strategies

TREATMENT INDICATIONS AND OPTIONS

MNG is essentially a non-cancerous enlargement of the thyroid. Not all people with this condition will need treatment and your doctor will advise you with a treatment plan based on certain indications which are described below.

INDICATIONS

Patients with hyperthyroidism: All MNG patients who also have hyperthyroidism (increased thyroid hormones) on blood tests will need some form of treatment. **Patients without hyperthyroidism:** Goitre causing compressive symptoms such as difficulty in breathing, difficulty in swallowing, cough, difficulty sleeping, etc. needs to be treated. Also, if your doctor suspects thyroid cancer based on size/rate of growth/ scans or needle test, he will advise urgent treatment. Lastly, patients may choose to receive treatment for MNG due to cosmetic reasons.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

Surgical treatment: The surgeon removes the whole or a part of the thyroid gland. This is the treatment of choice in patients with compressive symptoms, suspicion of thyroid cancer, and large goitre. A lifelong thyroid hormone



DR REVA SHANKAR SAHU
(Senior Resident)

supplementation is needed when the entire thyroid gland is removed. **Medical treatment:** All patients with hyperthyroidism are started on "antithyroid medications" like carbimazole, and methimazole till hormone levels become normal, after which surgery can be done. However, if patients who do not want surgery or are not fit to undergo surgery, they can be kept on these medicines for a long time as an alternative but is not very effective in decreasing the size of the goitre. **Radioiodine treatment:** "Radioactive iodine" is a solution containing 131I which is given to patients either as an oral liquid to drink or as a capsule. It gets taken up by the thyroid alone and destroys it from within in a few weeks. It is recommended by doctors as an alternative to surgery in



DR AMOL SOOD
(Junior Resident)

patients who are unfit or unwilling to undergo surgery. Pregnant ladies and lactating mothers have to be very careful and inform your doctor immediately as this method is not safe for them. **Ablative procedures:** These are ultrasound-guided procedures that involve injection of medical alcohol or the use of radiofrequency (RFA) or laser to destroy diseased thyroid tissue. These procedures are relatively new and not readily available. **Annual surveillance:** For people with goitre but no other symptoms, not having hyperthyroidism, and not being suspicious of cancer, annual surveillance is an option. For this, the doctor conducts a yearly checkup, checks thyroid function test, and neck ultrasound. If an indication for treatment arises or the patient desires, appropriate treatment is provided.

OPERATIONS IN MNG

Indications for surgery in LMNG are local compressive symptoms (difficulty in swallowing and shortness of breath), suspicious malignancy features on imaging, large substernal development, drug-resistant hyperthyroidism, and cosmetic concerns. If MNG is limited to one lobe of the thyroid, the standard surgical procedure is a hemithyroidectomy where only the lobe with nodule(s) is removed and the other half thyroid is left intact. In these cases, it is crucial to assess the other lobe not being removed, for any involvement through an ultrasound scan before surgery, and feeling with hands during the surgery that it does not have any nodules. Two main categories of surgeries can be performed for MNG cases involving both lobes. First category is more limited and includes "bilateral subtotal thyroidectomy" where both lobes of the thyroid are removed but small pieces of normal thyroid from both are left behind. This method will be performed by your surgeon



DR YASHWANT RATHORE
(Associate Professor)

to decrease the risks associated with the other procedures, such as injury to nerve and parathyroid gland. The second type includes total and near-total thyroidectomy, which tends to be a more aggressive approach. In these again both the lobes of thyroid are removed, but minimal-to-no thyroid is left behind. This group of surgery is recommended to reduce the need for repeat operation which might be required to remove the left-behind thyroid if the disease appears again or if carcinoma is found in the removed thyroid. As these procedures are known to have higher risks of injury, only



DR NEELAM
(Senior Resident)

specialized doctors in these procedures perform them at adequately equipped centers. All surgeries on the thyroid have some degree of risk of damage to important structures in the neck like the nerve that controls our voice, the parathyroid gland which controls calcium levels in the body, or even the food pipe and the airway especially if the thyroid has become very large and both side surgeries have to be done. Also if both thyroid lobes are removed you will require taking thyroxine hormone supplements lifelong and based on Thyroid Function Tests reports doses will be adjusted by your doctor.

CONCLUSION

MNG is a widely occurring disease of thyroid gland where small nodules form inside the thyroid causing it to become bigger and produce problems of cosmesis, difficulty in

breathing, eating, and sleeping. Not having enough Iodine in food is an important cause of this problem, but due to government efforts of iodisation of salt, the large

goitres seen before the 90s have largely come down. The nodules are mostly non-cancerous but anytime any such enlargement is seen in front of your neck, you should contact a nearby doctor.

Mediterranean diet and nature's healing power are key to lower stress and better mental health. THE PIONEER reports on two insightful studies

Mediterranean Diet Linked to Lower Stress Levels

Feeling stressed? Adopting a Mediterranean diet could be beneficial, according to recent research. A study by Binghamton University, State University of New York, compared the Mediterranean diet to the traditional Western diet to explore their effects on stress levels. The Mediterranean diet, known for its emphasis on fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, and healthy fats like extra virgin olive oil, may help reduce stress and mental distress. Lina Begdache, Associate Professor of Health and Wellness Studies, noted that the study, published in Nutrition and Health, found that this diet lowers mental distress and improves perceptions of stress. In contrast, the Western diet, which is high in processed foods and low-quality carbohydrates, is linked to increased stress and mental distress. Research has shown it to contribute to the globally rising risk of non-communicable diseases like obesity, diabetes, hypertension and cancers. The research, involving over

1,500 participants, used machine learning to analyze survey data and found that the Mediterranean diet is associated with lower levels of stress and mental distress. In addition to mental health benefits, the Mediterranean diet has been shown to support overall health. A recent study published in Heart highlighted its benefits in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and death, especially among women, by nearly 25%. The findings suggest that incorporating more Mediterranean diet components could be a simple yet effective way to manage stress and improve overall health. A recent study, published in the journal Heart, too showed the association between a Mediterranean diet and incident risk of cardiovascular disease CVD and death. Focusing especially on women, the study showed that a Mediterranean diet can boost your heart health and lower the risk of heart disease and death by nearly 25 per cent.



Spending 10 Min in Nature can Boost Mental Health

We recognize that nature plays a crucial role in human health, yet behavioral health and healthcare providers frequently overlook its potential as an intervention. But now a new study published in the peer-reviewed journal Ecopyschology, has revealed that spending time in nature—even as little as 10 minutes—can yield short-term benefits for adults with mental illness. "We know nature plays an important role in human health, but behavioral health and health care providers often neglect to think about it as an intervention," said Joanna Bettmann, a professor at the University of Utah College of Social Work and lead author of the study. "We set out to distill some evidence-based guidance for those providers." The amount of time study participants spent in nature varied from study to study; some participants spent as little as 10 minutes in a city park, while others spent multiple days in immersive wilderness experiences. We



found that "ten minutes in urban nature is far less intimidating, expensive, and time-consuming for people who do not have the time, resources, interest, community support or equipment to venture into the wilderness for days or weeks," wrote the authors. The analysis also indicated that water-based outdoor spaces—rivers, lakes, oceans—and camping, farming, and gardening activities had the greatest positive effect. Urban nature, mountains, and forests also offered significant effects. "All of these different types of outdoor spaces delivered positive results, which underscores the importance of preserving green spaces in our natural and built environments," said Bettmann.

Ayurvedic Medicines Accelerate Bone Fracture Healing

Rich in essential nutrients, many ayurvedic medicines like Hadjod, Aama haldi, and Lakshadhi guggul can significantly speed up bone fracture recovery and improve bone quality, offering an effective complement to conventional treatments, says DR RP PARASHAR

The healing process of bone fractures is crucial for effective treatment and rehabilitation. It is a complex, highly regulated series of events that involves a variety of cellular activities, molecular signals, and mechanical factors. Fractures may be Simple (closed) when the bone breaks but does not penetrate the skin or Compound (open) when the bone breaks and penetrates through the skin, increasing the risk of infection. Comminuted fractures occur when the bone is shattered into multiple pieces. Greenstick fractures occur mostly in children when the bone bends and cracks. Stress fractures are small cracks in the bone caused by repetitive forces or overuse. Bone healing is a dynamic process that typically occurs in four overlapping stages: hematoma formation, inflammatory phase, reparative phase, and remodeling phase. Hematoma formation starts

immediately after a fracture occurs, blood vessels within the bone and surrounding tissues are damaged, leading to the formation of a hematoma (a localized collection of blood). This hematoma serves as a scaffold for the influx of inflammatory cells and provides a provisional matrix for the next stages of healing. Inflammatory phase begins within hours of the fracture and can last for several days. During this phase, the body's immune response is activated, and various inflammatory cells such as macrophages, neutrophils, and lymphocytes migrate to the fracture site. These cells help remove debris and release cytokines and growth factors that promote healing. The inflammatory phase is essential for initiating the healing process and setting the stage for the formation of new bone tissue. Reparative phase is characterized by the formation of a soft callus, which eventually transitions



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into a hard callus. Within a few days to weeks after the fracture, fibroblasts, chondroblasts, and osteoblasts migrate to the fracture site. These cells produce collagen and other extracellular matrix components, forming a soft callus made of fibrous tissue and cartilage. This soft callus bridges the fracture gap and provides initial stability. Over the next few weeks to months, the soft callus is gradually replaced by a hard callus composed of woven bone. Osteoblasts play a key role in this process by laying

down new bone tissue. The hard callus increases the mechanical stability of the fracture site and is a crucial step toward complete bone healing. The final phase of bone healing is the remodeling phase, which can last for several months to years. During this phase, the hard callus is remodeled into mature lamellar bone, restoring the bone's original structure and mechanical properties. The bone gradually regains its normal shape, strength, and function. Several factors can influence the rate and quality of bone healing. These factors can be broadly categorized into biological, mechanical, and systemic factors. Biological Factors are age, blood supply to the fractured bone delivering oxygen, nutrients, and cells to the fracture site. The intrinsic quality of the bone, influenced by factors such as bone density and microarchitecture, affects



healing. Conditions like osteoporosis can compromise bone healing. Mechanical factors include the mechanical stability of the fracture, proper

alignment and stabilization of the fracture through immobilization or surgical fixation promote callus formation and bone repair. Systemic factors include adequate intake of nutrients, particularly calcium, vitamin D, proteins, etc. Hormones such as parathyroid hormone, growth hormone, and sex hormones play a significant role in bone metabolism and healing. There are a number of Ayurvedic medicines which are quite effective in each and every phase of bone healing.

These medicines escalate the healing process and can be used alone or in combination with other allopathic medicines. Some of the medicines include Hadjod, Aama haldi, Lakshadhi guggul, Shatavari, Ashwagandha, etc Botanical name of Asthishrinkhala or Hadjod is Cissus quadrangularis which reduces swelling, relieves pain, treats allied illnesses associated with fracture and aids in healing fracture. The herb contains high levels of calcium, phosphorus & vitamin D and is nowadays being used in many combinations of allopathic medicine also. Lakshadhi guggul is a combination of laksha (Laccifer lacca), Asthishrinkhala (Cissus quadrangularis) Arjun bark (Terminalia arjuna), Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera) Nagbala (Grewia hirsuta) and Guggul, which is a gum resin obtained from a variety of plants including species Commiphora wightii, C. gileadensis, C. mukul,

Boswellia serrata, B. sacra, etc. The combination is a rich source of calcium, vitamins & antioxidants which is known to fasten the healing process in bone fracture, low bone density, and pain in joints. It's quite effective in osteoporosis also. Aama haldi (Curcuma amada) is another herb having antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and rejuvenative properties. Shatavari (Asparagus racemosus) is highly rich in antioxidants and acts as a rejuvenator and strength provider in bone healing. These medicines not only shorten the recovery time but also aid in the quality healing of the bones. With appropriate care and intervention, most fractures can heal effectively, allowing patients to regain full function and return to their normal activities by the use of Ayurvedic medicines.

(The author is Chief Medical Officer (Ayurveda), Municipal Corporation of Delhi)



मध्यप्रदेश मना रहा है बहनों के सशक्तिकरण और सम्मान का उत्सव



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

रक्षाबंधन के पावन पर्व पर
हर बहन को सुरव, समृद्धि और आत्मसम्मान से
परिपूर्ण जीवन की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं
- भैया मोहन यादव
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश



मैं पूरा सावन महीना बहनों को समर्पित कर रहा हूँ। जब से सावन शुरू हुआ रोज राखी मन रही है। बहन सच्चे अर्थों में मां-बाप के बाद उनकी कमी की पूर्ति करने के बराबर प्रेम करती है। आज के दिन आपका भाई मोहन यादव आपके सुख-सम्मान और स्वावलंबन के संकल्प को साकार करने का वचन देता है।

महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण को नयी दिशा

- 1.29 करोड़ लाइली बहनों को रक्षाबंधन पर्व पर प्रतिमाह ₹1250 के अतिरिक्त ₹250 का विशेष उपहार, अब तक ₹22 हजार करोड़ की सहायता
- मध्यप्रदेश स्टार्ट-अप नीति-2022 में महिला स्टार्ट-अप को 3 प्रतिशत की अतिरिक्त छूट
- डीपीआईआईटी से मान्यता प्राप्त 4400 स्टार्ट-अप में से 46 प्रतिशत महिलाओं द्वारा स्थापित
- एमएसएमई के माध्यम से 14 हजार से अधिक महिलाएं उद्योग एवं स्वरोजगार से जुड़ीं
- 5 लाख स्व-सहायता समूहों के माध्यम से 62 लाख ग्रामीण बहनें हुईं आत्मनिर्भर
- महिला के नाम संपत्ति किये जाने पर पंजीयन शुल्क में 2 प्रतिशत की छूट
- पीएम आवास योजना में आवास पर मालिकाना हक महिलाओं के नाम
- गैस सिलेंडर रीफिल योजना में उज्ज्वला और लाइली बहनों को मिल रहा ₹450 में सस्ता गैस सिलेंडर
- मुख्यमंत्री लाइली लक्ष्मी योजना में मिल रहा 81 लाख लाइली बेटियों को लाभ
- महिलाओं की सुरक्षा सहायता के लिए हेल्पलाइन नम्बर-पुलिस सहायता 100, वन स्टॉप सेंटर (सखी) 181 एवं सायबर क्राइम 193 उपलब्ध

#मोहन_भैया_का_राखी_उत्सव



मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव से जुड़ने के लिए स्कैन करें।

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