**OPINION 6** 

FINDING FAULT WITH THE

WORLD 8

FBI PROBING TRUMP CAMPAIGN

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

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RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

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WE DIDN'T EVEN **GET DESIRED** COACH: ASHWINI

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# CBI TO PROBE KOLKATA'S BESTIAL RAPE AND MURDER CASE

In a verdict welcomed by the medical fraternity which was fearing destruction of evidence by the State police in the brutal rape and murder of a resident doctor of RG Kar Medical College Hospital, in the medical college's seminar hall, the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered a courtmonitored probe by the CBI into the crime.

Ironically, R G Kar Medical Hospital was considered till a few years ago the best medical college in eastern India.

The Bench of Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharya, hearing five public interest litigations (PIL) and a private plea, in its order directed the Kolkata Police to immediately hand over the case diary to the CBI official present in the

Other related documents are to be handed over to the Central agency by 10 am on

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had on Monday set the State police a deadline till Sunday to crack the case failing which, she warned, she would consider transferring the case to the Central agency. The agitators demanding justice for the 31-year-old victim, however, took the Chief Minister's decision with a pinch of salt wondering whether she was giving the

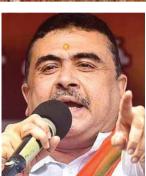


police some extra bit of time to tamper with or destroy

They also questioned her move to transfer Sandip Ghosh the principal of the RG Kar Medical College to the NRS Medical College.

"While passing the order, the was particularly perturbed at the facts that the college authorities did not lodge any FIR and tried to let the crime pass as a suicide case whereas the police registered an unnatural death (UD) case,

..."there was clearly something in it and some people (the authorities) were trying to protect which could not escape the High Court justices' notice," Kaustav Bagchi, a BJP leader and a lawyer who is also one of the petitioners said.



The post-graduate student who was sleeping inside the seminar hall at the medical college after completing 36hours of work was on Friday morning found dead with her body in a semi-nude condition setting off massive protests by doctors across the State. Later,

resident doctors in several cities in other States, too, joined the agitation for bringing the culprit/culprits to

Apparently, in a damage control exercise, the Kolkata Police immediately set up a special investigation team, and arrested one Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer. However, the resident doctors said there were other insiders with high connections involved in the

They also attacked the principal for calling him the fountainhead of "everything that is bad and deplorable in the college".

The court on its part wondered why the Health Department transferred Ghosh to the NRS Medical

resigning from his post intense public outcry. The judges directed the Health Department to force the principal to go on long leave which he did by the end of the day.

The medical students across the State, including those of the RGKMCH, however, said they were not immediately calling off the 'cease work' stir and would take a decision only after a general body meeting. Welcoming the court order, Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari said his "next step would be to demand the resignation of the Health Minister Mamata who is also

the Chief Minister." He said, "The BJP MLAs will start a dharna at the State Assembly from tomorrow seeking her resignation... because she had gone to the victim's house not to express her sympathy but to 'manage' her family... this Ghosh who is a real racketeer and is close to Dr SP Das, the family physician of the Chief Minister, and so he does whatever he wants... the principal and the TMC students union have held the college to ransom... the situation is almost the same in other medical colleges of the State... these are a den of corruption and everyone knows where the money goes... so Mamata gave the principal a reward posting him elsewhere after he



Junior doctors take part in protest at the Rani Chennamma Circle against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in



Doctors and medical students protest against the sexual assault and killing of a Kolkata based post-graduate trainee PTI doctor, at Nair Hospital in Mumbai, on Tuesday

# National Fury: How we treat our women, our saviours, a Doctor!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n **NEW DELHI** 

 $M_{
m working}^{
m edical}$  services such as Departments (OPDs) and non-emergency surgeries at Government hospitals across the country, including the national Capital, continued to paralysed Tuesday as the resident doctors' agitation against the rape-murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata.

On Tuesday, more resident doctors joined the strike led the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA).

The incident has sparked widespread protests, with over three lakh junior doctors and healthcare them against holding any

concern over their safety. Amid the strike led by the FORDA, which said "the strike will not be lifted until justice is done and our demands are met", the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the West Bengal Government and the State's police chief in the matter.

workers expressing deep

The commission on Tuesday said it has sought the reports from these authorities in two weeks.

However, acting tough, as the Delhi AIIMS' Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) continued their indefinite strike on Tuesday the hospital administration warned demonstration around the hospital campus stating it was in violation of High Court directions and amounts to contempt of

The administration issued an office memorandum drawing the attention of all resident doctors to the "Code of Conduct' as laid down by the High Court. It further stated that the violation of the High Court individual/students/employ ees/group of employees, students/Resident Doctors/Associations/ Unions etc will be in contravention of the directions of High Court and make them liable for disciplinary actions and

also for contempt of court.



## **KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

Deemed to be University (Declared U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India



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**KIIT** Jumps to

**Position in Universities** Rankings 2024



Young University Rankings 2024 World Rank: 168 India Rank: 10



**Impact Rankings 2024** 

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This is a significant achievement, especially considering that KIIT, as an institute, is only 27 years old and 20 years as a university. What makes this even more remarkable is that Medical and Law Schools of KIIT, which were established in 2007, have been ranked 25th and 11th, respectively.

• KIIT is only 27 years old as an institute (1997 – 2024) and 20 years old as a university.

KIIT does not have any institute/university in the name of "Kalinga" anywhere else in the country and globe.

# SCB doctor 'rapes' 2 patients in campus

Later admitted to ICU after being 'thrashed' by victims' kin

PNS CUTTACK A doctor of the SCB Medi-

cal College Hospital here has been accused of raping two patients. The shocking incident has sent shockwaves in the city at a time when doctors in different parts of the

country are staging protests, demanding security for them at the workplace following the rape and murder of a lady doctor in Kolkata.

As per reports, the accused doctor of the cardiology department of the SCB hospital is now undergoing treatment in an ICU after he was allegedly thrashed by the family members of the rape victims after the incident came to

Sources said the doctor raped the victims who had come for ECG on August 11. The Mangalabag Police has started an investigation into the matter.

Additional DCP Anil Mishra said, "A case has been registered. As it is a sensitive case, it will not be appropriate to share details as the matter is being investigated. The statements of the victims will be recorded as per the existing

Deputy Chief Minister

Pravati Parida on Tuesday said

a Standard Operating Proce-

dure (SOP) for the Subhadra

Yojana would be released soon

after seeking necessary feed-

backs from people, intellectu-

There should not be any

als and other stakeholders.

provisions. Only after conducting further probes, appropriate action will be taken in connection with the case if the allegations are found to be

According to Mishra, the incident took place in the SCB campus. There are also reports of the doctor being thrashed following the allegations. A case would be registered if the concerned doctor complains,

# 'Amend Varsity Act 2020 at par with UGC norms'

Dharmendra writes to CM Majhi

SUDARSHAN CHHOTORAY **BHUBANESWAR** 

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to rectify discrepancies in the Odisha University (Amendment) Act 2020 as per the legal and reguUniversity Grants Commission (UGC).

In a letter, Pradhan pointed out that the former BJD government had amended the University of Odisha (Amendment) Act, 1989 for political reasons, which brought extensive changes in the original

The changes brought in the law created conflict in provisions of the UGC Act. These the interests of the educational institutions and their autonomy. There were serious discrepancies found in the said Act in selection process of Vice-Chancellors, appoint-

ment of teachers, etc. The Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act 2020 not only ignored UGC guidelines but also undermined and violated the judicial directives laid down by the Supreme Court in different periods. Pradhan highlighted that the

amended Act has given maximum access to Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and bureaucracy to nominate members to the highest decision-making body Syndicate of the universities. It is high time the present government should make necessary amendments to the Act to restore confidence among the academic fraternity and people at large.

### **In Balangir**

### Sarpanch gives feast to escape no-trust motion

Video viral PNS BALANGIR

 ${f A}$  video of a Sarpanch in Balangir district throwing a feast and bowing before the ward members to escape from the no-confidence motion against him has surfaced on social media platforms.

The Sarpanch was identified as Doladhar Bag, who has been elected as a public representafrom Badabanki panchayat under Turekela

As per reports, Bag heard

that the ward members of the against him.

Disturbed over the development, he hosted a feast and bowed before all the ward members on August 11 to save himself from moving the noconfidence motion.

According to Bag, some ward members asked him for money. However, he expressed his inability to give them money. He treated them with a feast instead and the matter was resolved.

panchayat are planning to move a no-confidence motion

speculation till the release of SOP as the entire applying process would be very simple and nobody would have to go anywhere or queue up before any place, said Parida

"This is people's govern-

**AKSHAY ROUT** JAJPUR



ment. Hence, to bring a transformation in the lives of common people and women, the government had earlier directed to collect feedbacks

from all stakeholders and we expect that the report will be received by Collectors by August 14. Once the feedbacks come from the grassroots level, discussions will be held on feasibility and there would be a modification in the SOP," she

The SOP is ready, but there is a need for people's audit. Subhadra Yojana was in the BJP manifesto and opinion of people is important. After taking suggestions from intellectuals, the SOP would be modified and released, she said.

The process is underway in

Jajpur received Rs 14.82 cr under MPLADS

10 clusters, including in the districts of Angul, Baleswar, Khordha, Koraput, Puri, Sambalpur, Balangir, Cuttack and Ganjam, she said.

"There can be multiple beneficiaries from a single household, but which household will be eligible will be specified clearly in the SOP. Our focus will be on making the application process simple and hasslefree. We are trying to ensure that there are no errors and other issues ahead of its rollout by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, Parida added.

**BRAHMAPUR**  ${f A}$  one-day national semi-

60 papers pre-

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA

sented

nar on "Viksit Bharat 2047: Implications of Union Budget and Odisha State Budget 2024" was jointly organised by the PG Department of Economics and PG Department of Commerce, Berhampur University, here on Saturday. Vice Chancellor Prof

Geetanjali Dash, former Finance Minister Panchanan Kanungo and other dignitaries inaugurated the seminar. The welcome address was delivered by Prof Sudhakar Patra, conference convener and Head of the Department of Economics. Organising secretary Dr Mrutyunjay Swain, Professor and Head of the Department of Economics addressed the delegates and

introduced the guests and

Budget, Odisha Budget themes of the seminar.

BU holds talk on Union

Many eminent speakers

and guests including the Patron Prof Sukanta Kumar Tripathy, Chairman, PG Council; Prof Dash, the chief patron and Vice Chancellor of the university addressed the delegates. Prof Prafulla Dhal, Member Board of Director, Jagadguru Kripalu University, Odisha graced the event as the guest of honour, while Kanungo, former Finance Minister, addressed the delegates as the chief guest of the function. Sakti Ranjan Dash, Coordinator of the Department of Commerce offered

the vote of thanks. More than 60 paper contributors along with distinguished dignitaries, guests, research scholars and over 100 PG students from different PG Departments attended the seminar. The seminar consisted of two technical sessions and one panel discussion on the theme.

The Commissionerate police seized a quintal of ganja and arrested two persons following a raid near the Kharavel Park under the Khandagiri police station in the city on Monday night.

The ganja was being transported to Bhadrak from Kandhamal in a four-wheeler when police intercepted the vehicle. During a search, 101 kg of the contraband was seized, said Commissioner of Police Sanjeeb Panda.

The arrested were identified as Sanjib Kumar Sethi alias

Muna (34) of Khajuripada and Badal Mahakud (26) of Dumburiguda in Kandhamal district.

This year so far, the Commissionerate police have seized 1.65 tonnes of ganja in a special drive against the contraband. We have registered 42 cases and arrested 76 persons in this connection. The drive will continue in the twin city," Panda said.

Vihar police arrested three persons from the Rail Vihar square area and seized 1.12 grams of brown sugar from their pos-

Questions raised on huge fund allocation

▲n a significant revelation, it has been ascertained that Jajpur district received a whopping Rs 14.82 crore granted by 11 Rajya Sabha members of Odisha from the MP Local Area Development Scheme In another case, the Maitri (MPLADS) during 2019-

> The matter has come to light after BJD's Mamata Mohanta

**B'deshi infiltration spectre** 

resigned from the Rajya Sabha. Following the development, apprehensions have been raised on how the former ruling party was using MPLADS funds and how it was allegedly gifted to appease BJD's organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das, who is the former MLA of Jajpur. Moreover, a question has

been raised on why the lion's share of MPLADS was provided to Jajpur while the border and underdeveloped parts of the State are suffering from several problems. Was it due

Earlier, former Rajya Sabha member Mamata Mohanta had clarified that the main reason behind the conflict between her and Pranab Prakash Das was over MPLADS funds. As per reports, as many as 11 Rajya Sabha members have provided Rs 14, 82, 50,000 to Jajpur district in 141 projects during the last five years.

to the pressure or obedience?

While N Bhaskar Rao has provided MPLADS fund of Rs 33 lakh, Amar Patnaik has provided Rs 45 lakh to Jajpur. Sasmit Patra has provided Rs 5.25 crore to the district.

Besides, Mamata Mohanta provided Rs 1 crore. While Narendra Swain has provided Rs 28 lakh, Prasanna Acharya has provided Rs 50 lakh. Manas Ranjan Mangaraj has provided Rs 30 lakh and Muzibulla Khan Rs 39 lakh. Sujit Kumar has provided Rs 31 lakh and Sulata Deo Rs 5.99 crore. Subash Singh has provided Rs 35 lakh.

However, no reaction was received from Pranab Prakash Das in this connection.

### **Delayed for years** Dy CM, Culture Min review Kordha Paika Memorial project tion here that the Union

Make spot visit PNS BHUBANESWAR

Why are projects in the Khordha district getting delayed despite the sanction of funds? Such question has now prompted Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Higher Education and Culture Department Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, MLA and other officials to visit various sites to assess the situa-

tion on ground zero. A delegation led by Deputy CM Parida visited the Barunei Pitha and Paika Rebellion memorial project sites recently. Former President of India Ramnath Kovind had laid the foundation stone for the Paika Memorial project way back in 2019. Similarly, the delegation also visited the Khordha fort and Atri hot spring.

It is pertinent to men-

Ministry of Culture has sanctioned Rs 100 crore and another Rs 100 crore by the Indian Oil Corporation for the Paika Memorial project. Deputy CM Parida said,

"The delay in execution of projects was reviewed. The matter will be taken up at the Secretary-level meeting. The Tourism Department and Indian Oil Foundation will prepare a DPR and the entire projects will be speeded up. We have visited several projects which are interlinked and there are plans to develop some of them into a tourism corridor.'

Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said, "In the Budget, the CM has announced a corpus fund of Rs 200 crore for the Culture Department and Paika Rebellion Memorial is a component of it."

### Ex-Chief Engineer Mishra arrested

10 flats, 2.5 kg gold, Mercedes car among assets

CUTTACK

he Vigilance police on Tuesday arrested Tara Prasad Mishra, former Chief Engineer of Roads and Buildings (Civil) after registering a disproportionate assets case

The development came a day after simultaneous raids conducted on the properties linked to Mishra in Bhubaneswar and several other places in the State.

against him.

The Vigilance sleuths were stunned to find that Mishra was in possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of crores of rupees including 10 high-value flats Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda, seven plots in prime areas of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Jatni. Besides, 2.555 kg of gold, 370 gram of diamond jewellery, deposits of over Rs 2.70 crore, cash of Rs 6 lakh,

As many as nine teams of the anti-graft agency conducted the searches on Mishra's

two luxurious cars including a

Mercedes Benz and Kia Seltos

were detected during the raids.

properties. The assets' valuation might increase as two more bank lockers of Mishra were yet to be opened. Besides, his investSecurity beefed up along coast in B'swar, Bhadrak Eastern Range DIG reviews situation

BALESWAR

As a possible threat is looming large pertaining to Bangladeshi infiltration to Odisha via sea route due to the political unrest in Bangladesh, several steps have been taken to enhance coastal security in Baleswar and Bhadrak districts, stated DIG-cum-in-charge IG of Police(Eastern Range) Dr Satyajit Naik.

The police department un-

der the Eastern Police Range has increased patrolling and intelligence collection in collaboration with coastal security stakeholders. Whereas Sagar Mitras and police officers have been deployed at fishing harbours, verification of crew members and tenants has been started at fishing harbours and also at mid sea, besides regular checks in hotels, lodgings, and shelters.

Besides this, security has been beefed up at vital installations in Baleswar and Bhadrak districts round the clock. Patrolling at bus stands and rail-

way stations was carried out; besides verifications of new constructions and industrial installations along with searches at religious places were on.

As the State has one of the largest coastlines, stretching over 480 km along the Bay of Bengal and laying vulnerable, the coastal districts of Odisha, especially the police Eastern Range, are more prone to attacks from the sea as it houses some important defence establishments of the country. The defence units include Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Proof and Experi-

mental Establishment (PXE) and Military Engineering Services (MES) at Chandipur and Defence Radar Centres at Dhamra. So to strengthen the security in water routes, steps

have been taken in this regard. "I have visited Marine police stations of Baleswar range like Kasafal, Bahabalpur and Dhamra etc and reviewed the security measures which aim to strengthen coastal security, prevent suspicious activities and maintain communal harmony in the region," added DIG-cum-in-charge IG of Police(Eastern Range) Naik.

# B'desh: Odia youth recalls harrowing experiences

ments were also being probed.

After managing to return home BHUBANESWAR

Amidst escalating unrest in Bangladesh, Indian citizens

residing in the neighbouring

country for different purposes have begun returning home. Odia youth Sai Durlabha Mishra, who was working in a company in Bangladesh, has managed to return home. Mishra, a 33-year-old resident of Dharakote in Ganjam dis-

"Things that are being heard about the ongoing unrest in

trict, has shared his harrowing

experiences after reaching

Bangladesh are true. The situation in Bangladesh is dire. There is violence. People are being attacked with machetes and sticks. They are being beaten and robbed indiscriminately. Shops and homes are

being set on fire and destroyed. Fortunately, I managed to return home safely," said Mishra. started in "Unrest Bangladesh on July 17. Internet was stopped and television channels are not reporting any local news. Some employees of our company along with me locked us in a room.

We were not coming outside

due to fear of violence. We had

stocked some food items. However, we run out of those after 15 days," he said.

"The Indian High Commissioner issued a high alert. We were warned not to venture outside. There was huge support from the Indian High Commissioner to deal with visa issues and return to India. Many Indians have returned home safely. Others are expected to return within the next 15 days. I will keep a close watch on the situation in Bangladesh. If the situation improves there, I will consider returning to my job following a discussion with my family members," he added.

### Baliguda wonder kid makes it to Book of Records For having sharp memory

**PNS** BHUBANESWAR

Remembering and naming all the alphabets, animals and numbers can be a tough affair for most nursery kids. However, a 3-year-old from Baliguda in Kandhamal district has been blessed with a sharp memory for which he has now entered the India Book of Records 2024.

Meet Gokul Pokhraj Padhy who can easily name the capitals, general knowledge questions, historical places, computers and others which can be hard for children of his age to remember. Be it the name



of India's capital or national sports or animals, Gokul can answer such questions very easily. Similarly, important historical heritage sites, good habits, organs of body and others, the wonder kid has mesmerised everybody with his unique talent.

What Gokul can identify and name? 33 parts of body, 12 festivals, 23 vehicles, 19 parts of computer, 17 domestic animals, 16 aquatic animals, 16 historical monuments, 16 professionals, 6 seasons, 7 religions, 8 good habits, 6 nursery rhymes, letters of English alphabets with 26 associated words, 15 GK questions at the age of 3.3 years. Gokul's father Shiv Prasad Padhy said, "I and my wife are both Government servants. We are not able to give much time to him because of our busy schedule. It is only his mother who has been preparing him. My son wants to become a doctor."

Gokul's mother Minati Swain said, "I am very proud of my son. All this started when my son started to repeat the mantras which I used to chant during prayers. I realised that my son had a good memory and started to use it in academics. I tried to show things and my son remembered everything. Then we applied for the Record Book and he was preparing for the last one year.'

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# Liquor 'on' shops, bars operating beyond time limits

Excise Dept directs for action PNS BHUBANESWAR

he Excise Department has directed all the OICs, Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents of the Excise station in the capital city to keep a watch on the IMFL 'on' shops running illegally beyond the stipulated time by engaging of women and advertising on social media.

The Superintendent of Bhubaneswar District Excise office issued a letter in this regard on Monday.

"Allegations have been received that some of IMFL "on" shops in Bhubaneswar excise district are remaining open beyond stipulated hours permissible, play music by engag-



social media thereby causing nuisance to the local residents. Therefore, you are instructed to organise check all IMFL "on" shops who are playing music by engaging women and advertising in social media. The inspecting team must go through available CCTV footage to find out the violation of Excise Rules and Act. In case of violation from CCTV footage, SIR should be drawn," mentioned the letter.

beside or directly visible from NH/SH as per order of the Supreme Court," the letter further read

"Besides, it is seen that some

of excise shops which have been closed since long, but the signage board of those shops are still installed at the same premises. Those signage should he removed immediately, otherwise chances of illegal sale of liquor in that place cannot be ruled out. It is hereby directed to strictly ensure above guidelines and report compliance, if found any violation of above guide lines action should be taken as per provision of law. Both the Deputy Superintendent of Excise instructed to submit weekly report on checking /inspection/drawal of SIR to the undersigned for taking further course of action," it added.

### Ganjam braces up for filaria eradication by 2027



Drive kicked off on Aug 10 PNS BRAHMAPUR

he Health and Family Welfare Department has targeted to eradicate filaria from Ganjam district by 2027.

In this regard, a total of 30,5,689 people of the district have been targeted.

In a Press conference held at the City Hospital, Brahmapur, CDMO Dr Uma Shankar Mishra informed that a mass eradication drive has started from August 10. He advised all to be involved in

the programme. Additional District Medical Officer Dr Santosh Kumar Padhy, District Projects Officer of National Health Mission, Shyam Sunder Tripathi and Dr Nishit on behalf of WHO were present. They emphasized on the importance of mass eradication

Coordinator of District Vector Transmitted Disease Eradication Programme Dr Sujit Kumar Karji organised the Press meet, in which the aims, objectives and various plans and programmes of the district health administration were elaborately explained.

commodations. These indi-

viduals are reportedly using

tools such as knives and other

equipment typically associated

with the iron working trade

and many have left their fami-

lies behind to live in

The growing presence of

Bangladeshis in Brahmapur has

Brahmapur with friends.

ment in the field of disaster management, especially as India is a disaster-prone country. First woman Collector joins in Jajpur district campaign against filaria. Jajpur: 2017-batch IAS officer P Anvesha Reddy on Monday joined as the new, first woman Collector

**INBRIEF** 

IIT BBS signs MoU with IG Drones

Bhubaneswar: The IIT Bhubaneswar has signed an MoU with IG Drones, a leading drone tech and AI company, to establish an Advanced Drone Excellence Centre at the IIT Bhubaneswar

Pavan Kalyan. Before joining the office, Reddy visited the local Biraja Temple and offered prayer to the goddess from outside the shrine. She said she would give equal priority to the urban, rural and triba



#### of Jajpur district. He replaced Nikhil

Research and Entrepreneurship Park, focused on disaster man-

agement R&D. This collaboration marks a significant mile-

stone in advancing drone technology research and develop-



#### areas' development. 'Knowledge-Crawl-2024' held at ODM

Bhubaneswar: The annual exhibition 'Knowledge-Crawl-2024' was held at ODM Public School premises in Patia on Friday last. Founder of ODM Educational Institutions. Prof (Dr) Aseem Ranjan Parhi, Head, Department of English, Utkal



University, inaugurated the exhibition. Saroj Kumar Das, Vice-Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya-3 was a guest.

#### Sabhyata unveils 2nd store in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: Sabhyata, a leading premium ethnic wear brand, celebrated grand opening of its 123rd store and second loca-



tion in Bhubaneswar. The event was graced by the presence of city Mayor Sulochana Das. Sabhyata's new store in Bhubaneswar aims to cater to the city's dynamic fashion landscape.

#### Woman killed in crocodile attack in K'pada

Kendrapada: A 50-year-old woman of Alapuadiha village under the Pattamundai police station in Kendrapada district was killed in a crocodile attack on Monday. The deceased identified as Manjulata Bhanja had gone to the Brahmani river when the crocodile dragged her into the water body. Later, though some locals and Fire Service personnel launched a rescue operation, they failed to trace her. On Tuesday, the operation was started again and the victim's mutilated body

#### **ELECRAMA Roadshow in BBSR**

Bhubaneswar: The Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufac turers' Association (IEEMA) organised an eastern region preview of ELECRAMA in Bhubaneswar last week. The event brought together industry leaders, stakeholders and State



Government officials to discuss the new initiative. The ELECRMA Odisha Roadshow highlighted key initiatives in the State, including advancements in smart grid technology, renewable energy projects and sustainable manufacturing practices.

### Mistaken as B'deshi, pheriwalas targeted in State

After attack on Hindu temples, deities in Bangladesh RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

Pheriwalas, who hail from West Bengal and also local minority community members, are now facing the wrath of locals in several places of the district over last few of days as they were mistaken as Bangladesh nationals, following the unrest in the neighbouring country and spate of attacks on the Hindus in Bangladesh.

The locals have been assaulting the pheriwalas who are moving from village to village with their wares to sell them. At many places, the pheriwalas are being asked to show their Aadhaar cards and bike registration numbers. The pheriwalas who fail to produce are facing the wrath of the

After several Hindu temples were destroyed and Hindu idols, including Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Maa Subhadra were torched in trouble-torn Bangladesh, the Bengalispeaking Muslims selling different items by moving from one village to another have

In Kendrapada

KENDRAPADA

As many as 17 girl students

of the Chakradhar Govern-

ment High School in

Kendrapada district fell sick on

Monday during the prayer

The students were rushed to

the Aul Community Health

Centre and were discharged

come under target in Odisha. Basically, it has become a difficult task to identify the Bengali pheriwalas from West Bengal and Bangladesh pheriwalas due to the striking similarity in their physical appearance and mother tongue. As a result, those who have migrated from Murishidabad of West Bengal are now facing the wrath of the public indiscriminately.

Though the victims are pleading that they belong to India, but due to their dialect, they are mistaken as Bangladeshis and meted out harassments. Even they are forcibly driven out from the village with a warning. At some place, the victims were waylaid by the public and their goods were ransacked and bikes snatched away.

Meanwhile, the minority community members have demanded before the district administration and local police to take necessary steps against the perpetrators of violence against the innocent persons. When contacted, Kendrapada SP Siddharth Kataria appealed to the locals not to take law into their hands adding that necessary steps would be initiated to curb such incidents. Meanwhile, many pheriwalas have returned to their native areas.

after preliminary treatment.

Chakradhar High School

Head Master Biranchi Narayan

Mohapatra said the students

#### College and Hospital has 4 detained for drawn attention. Here, a group of 10 to 12 Bangladeshi families have been found living together, often renting ac-

B'deshis living in B'pur slum under scrutiny

suspicious activities even as local residents urge police to step up vigil RAJEÉV RATHAN

shop selling liquor by making

bar other than the approved

premises, floor, banquette like

in a additional bar, the same

should be closed immediately

and report compliance. All lic-

ensees of IMFL "OFF" & "on"

shops have installed hoardings

by displaying different liquor

brands in front of shops and

advertisement made through

social media by violating Sec-

tion-24 of Odisha Excise Act,

2008. No signage will be fixed

BRAHMAPUR

Amidst the ongoing unrest Bangladesh, Baidyanathpur police station in Brahmapur detained four suspicious youths on Monday, heightening local concerns about potential Bangladeshi infiltration in the area.

The development comes as the situation in Bangladesh continues to deteriorate, with the student movement gaining momentum and protest-



ers defying calls for peace from the interim government.

Notably, the local residents have expressed their concerns on the matter. They submitted a memorandum to the Brahmapur Superintendent of Police on Monday, calling for

monitoring Bangladeshis's living in Muslim community areas and conducting business in the

particular, Gajapatinagar area slum located near MKCG Medical

intensified suspicions among residents, who are urging the police to take immediate action. They demanded that the movements of these individuals be closely monitored and that they be evacuated if nec-

essary to ensure the safety and security of the city's residents.

### Marine police guard coast sans arms! Tantiapala marine police sta-

Even as possibility of infiltration high, given volatile political situation in Bangladesh RAJESH BEHERA KENDRAPADA

Look at the picture posted by Kendrapada police department on social media in which it was seen that the police personnel of three marine police stations of the district were engaged in patrolling the coast without possessing any arms. Their target is to thwart infiltration of Bangladeshis via the water route. Meanwhile, common people have dubbed it merely as an eye wash.

Intellectual masses came out with sharp criticism of police as leave alone sophisticated arms, even the personnel deployed for coastal security did



volumes about the arrangements of coastal security in the

The coastal districts of Odisha, especially the coastal Kendrapada district, are more prone to attacks from the sea as they house some important

establishments set up in the Odisha coast or try to intrude into the coastal pockets of Kendrapada district via some vulnerable points, it would be a cakewalk for them. It is because Kendrapada coast is not well protected; nor is it adtion and Talachua marine police stations, have been set up after the 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai, these police stations have not been provided with the required number of personnel. Tantiapala marine police station does not even have seaworthy vessels. The armed forces from Reserve police station used to come whenever any urgency came for coastal security.

When contacted, the SP, Kendrapada did not respond. However, Laxminarayan Tiwary, in-charge of Coastal Security -cum-DIB DSP informed that there are several sanctioned posts lying vacant in the three marine police stations. When asked if the marine police personnel are engaged without arms, Tiwary remained silent. He said it has

#### who fell sick complained of equately secured. defence establishments of the uneasiness, chest pain and dizbeen directed to the police percountry and world-class Though three marine police ziness. After getting informasonnel to check suspicious permonuments. If any terrorists stations, including Jamboo tion, a team from the Aul CHC sons and their activities both designs a plot to attack major marine police station, not possess lathis, which speaks reached the school and examin the mainland and also in sea ined the students. Later, 16 students were shifted to the CHC. Idea of Hindu Rashtra totally obnoxious

#### In Ganjam — Man alleges murder of his missing daughter

girl students fall sick

After recovery of skull, bones from forest

BRAHMAPUR

In a twist in the recovery of a skull and bones, suspected to be that of a human, from a forest near Brundabanpur village under Padmapur panchayat in Ganjam district, a man has claimed that the skeletal remains are of his daughter, who had been missing for long.

The man, identified as Sanatan Nayak, approached police and claimed that the recovered skull and bones are of his daughter, who has been

The bicycle recovered from where the skull and bones were found has been identified as

that of Sanatan's daughter, sources said.

Though the exact reason behind the death was yet to be ascertained, it was suspected that the girl might have been killed over witchcraft allega-Police sent the recovered

skull and bones to the MKCG Hospital for examination. An investigation into the incident was launched with the help of a scientific team. Police also took the help of a forensic team to unravel the mystery.

Notably, Sanatan's son had also gone missing on September 22, 2023. Later, his body was recovered from the nearby forest. Police had arrested two persons in this connection. The accused are now in jail. Subsequently, Sanatan's daughter went missing.

ome intellectuals, namely, Ujjala Panda (53), Digital Creator, native of Tihidi, Bhadrak, and Tapas Parida among others are deeply perturbed over the plight of the Hindus of Bangladesh where there has been a regime change with effect from August 5. These intellectuals are de-

manding that the Hindus of Bangladesh and other territories are unsafe. They should be brought back to India and India must be converted into a Hindu Rashtra to house all such Hindus.

Parida is saying that there about crore Rohingya Muslims in India. They must be expelled to Bangladesh and all Hindus in Bangladesh must be brought back to India. This



itself is inhuman. A family in any place of the world lives with a surrounding. Family members plant trees, build houses etc. They develop attachment to the soil whatever may be their religion. Human beings are not commodities or animals to be transported from one place to another. No family should ever be uprooted anywhere in the world.

narchical State in the name of Nepal on the map of the world. The monarchy could not continue. The Crown Prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah of the royal family was not allowed to have his love marriage. So he killed 11 of the royal family members including his parents on June 1, 2001 after getting terribly disappointed. The people of Nepal, as a reaction, did take steps to abolish monarchy and they got rid of the medieval idea of Hindu Rashtra on May 28, 2008. As a matter of fact, Nepal has become a secular federal parliamentary republic with mixed proportional representation since the year

India is a republic of huge diversities. Population-wise, it

is 280 times greater than New Zealand. People of different faiths live in India. In particular, there are about 21 crore Muslims here in India. If India would be made a Hindu Rashtra where will these Muslims go and stay? There would be terrible bloodshed all over India. This must not be forgotten by anybody, however enthusiastic he may be of the idea of Hindutva.

There are other minorities in India too. The Christian population in India is around 3 crore. Sikh population is around 2.6 crore. Besides, there are followers of Periyar, followers of Gora, and world famous atheists like Charles Bradlaugh and Bertrand Russell. The atheists would never agree to make India a Hindu Rashtra.

ment by Dr Dy Chandrachuda, Chief Justice of India. He said: India is having so much diversity that it is not possible even to have a Hindu village in India. So what to talk of having a Hindu Rashtra in India? The idea of Hindu Rashtra

is totally obnoxious. It goes against the Doctrine of Basic Structure of the Constitution of India that has been determined in the Kesavananda Bharati case that got initiated in 1970. Secularism, Federalism, Rule of Law are some of the basic principles of Indian polity. These principles can never ever be surrendered even if it is demanded by national political parties like the BJP.

The Indian Supreme Court has its supremacy with regard to its composition. The ob-

Commission (NJAC) Act of 2015 was declared null and void by the Supreme Court on October 16, 2015. Justices J S Khehar, Madan Lakur, Kurian Joseph and Adarsh Kumar Goel of the Supreme Court did pass the judgment declaring the Act as unconstitutional. They have fully shown that no Prime Minister, however popular he may be, can browbeat the Supreme Court of India. So, there is no question of India ever becoming a Hindu Rastra. Besides, all religions: Hin-

tional Judicial Appointment

on heaps of falsehoods. They will fade away in course of time

duism, Islam etc are standing

(The writer is general secretary, Freethought Party of

## BJP office-bearers meet to EAM for strong India-US ties | Some unable to digest launch membership drive

The BJP's national office-bearers are expected to meet on August 17 to finalise the launch of the party's membership drive, which will culminate with the election of a new party president.

Besides those holding an office in the BJP's organisational team at the national level, the meeting will also be attended by sate party presidents and general secretaries in charge of the party's organisation in different states.

There has long been a buzz that the ruling party may appoint a 'working president' before a president is formally elected as the membership drive required to be completed for the election to take place

may stretch over six months. With incumbent president J P Nadda joining the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government as a Cabinet minister, he is expected to be replaced as per the party's convention of 'one person one post'. However, unlike 2019, when Nadda had emerged as the obvious successor to Home Minister Amit Shah at the helm of the party after he did not join the Modi 2.0 Government, there is no



automatic alternative visible

Nadda was first appointed as working president in June 2019 before he was formally elected as president in January 2020. BJP's presidents have BJP's presidents have traditionally been elected with

As the BJP prepares for organisational polls, which cover the formation of new committees at booths, mandals, districts and states before the chosen delegates meet to elect its national president, the party has engaged in wide consultation Rashtriya the

Swayamsevak Sangh. Senior BJP leaders, including Shah and Nadda, besides Defence Minister Rajnath had met RSS functionaries, including its

general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, on Sunday.

Sources said the meeting at Singh's residence discussed the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh and the measures which can be taken to help them but added that the issues like the upcoming coordination meet of the Hindutva organisation in Kerala and political issues

also figured. BJP and RSS functionaries have engaged in talks in several states following the party's underwhelming performance in the Lok Sabha polls as it lost majority and indications emerged of the Hindutva organisation's reservations with the party's poll tactics.

The RSS, considered the ideological progenitor of the BJP, has generally had an important role in the choice for the party's president.

# to tide over global tension

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday here warned of a "very grim forecast" for the world in the next five years given tension in West Asia, Ukraine and Russia and in Southeast Asia. He also flagged economic challenges and the spectre of climate change. The possibility of such a

future "makes the case" for a stronger relationship between India and the United States, Jaishankar said as much, if not all, of the world waits on the outcome of November's US presidential election.

I am an optimistic person and generally tend to think of solutions to problems rather than the problems that come out of solutions. But I would say, with a great deal of sobriety, that we are going through an exceptionally difficult period," the external affairs minister said at an

... (and) I have a very grim forecast for the next five years... you see happening in the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Southeast and East Asia, and the continued impact of COVID, which those of us who have come out of it take for granted... but many have



not come out of it," Jaishankar

Elaborating upon the threats posed by military conflict to the world, he warned this would spill over into economic challenges, such as rising fuel and fertiliser prices precipitated last year due to Ukraine-Russia conflict.

The kind of economic challenges you see in the world... you see more and more countries struggling. Trade is getting difficult, there are forex shortages... so, you know, disruptions of various kinds," Jaishankar said, also referring to concerns over increased pirate attacks in the Red Sea by Iran-aligned Houthi militia targeting commercial ships in a 'show of solidarity' with Palestinians in facing Donald Trump.

What was happening in the Red Sea (and) climate events... are no longer just news... they have globally disruptive consequences and sometimes entire regions are basically made dysfunctional." "This makes the case for India-US ties... not just about treaties (but) much more..." he said. However, Jaishankar refused to get drawn into a discussion on the US election. "We don't comment on other countries' elections. The US will give its verdict (and) we have every confidence, based on the past 20 years, we can work with the President... whoever he or she will be." The 2024 US presidential election will see Vice President Kamala Harris

India's development, says VP Dhankhar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n **NEW DELHI** 

n an apparent swipe at the **↓**Opposition over demand for a JPC probe into Hindenburg Research's allegations, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said India is developing at a "nuclear speed" but some people want to "bring instability", and are taking randomly surfaced issues as authentic. The remarks came as the Opposition stepped up its attack on the Government over Hindenburg's allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch,

with the Congress warning of a nationwide stir if a JPC probe is not initiated. The BJP has dismissed the demand as a "sham" aimed at undermining the Indian

Dhankhar, who flagged off a 'Tiranga Bike Rally' from Bharat Mandapam, as part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, said in his address that "Fellow citizens, our pace of development is such that we are moving ahead at a nuclear speed. Some people are unable to digest it, they want to bring obstruction and instability". "They think that if India keeps moving at this place them it will definitely become a 'Vishwa Guru'. Those obstruction, such people take randomly surfaced issues as authentic," he said. "I caution the nation, I urge the citizens to be extremely alert at such forces, sinister forces, with pernicious designs. Their only motive to destabilise Bharat, so that our progress is impeded," the vice president

Dhankhar asserted that the Ghar Tiranga' campaign shows the country's commitment towards 'Viksit Bharat' and indicates that this century is "India's century"

The vice president said he had no doubt in his mind that today every Indian shall

campaign inspires Indians to unite to render ineffective the inimical forces, he said. "I appeal to all fellow citizens that in all conditions circumstances, and country's interest should be above the interests of an individual, politics and

Be united to defeat enemies of our nation who cannot stomach our unprecedented rise and development," Dhankhar said, adding, one should guide and handhold such people and their knowledge be augmented and they be introduced to the Indian culture.

The bike rally, which started from the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, ended at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, passing through India Gate.

The third edition of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is being celebrated from August 9 to 15 to mark the

78th Independence Day. 'We are no longer a nation with potential or a promise. We are a nation today on the rise as never before. Our rise is unstoppable. Our rise will make us a developed nation by 2047 when we celebrate the centenary of our Independence," the vice

president said. appeal to 'Bharatiya', you are an important stakeholder in this marathon march and this bike rally which I am privileged to flag is one of its parts. It will happen all over the country and this will gain momentum year by

year," he added. Dhankhar ended his speech by exhorting people to take said unfurl this flag with pride and resolve that its pride, prestige and glory shall keep increasing, and that the tricolour shall fly high in all situations. Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Mansukh Mandaviya were also present on the dais.

The campaign was started under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 2022

### BJP's Jagdambika to head JPC on Waqf Bill

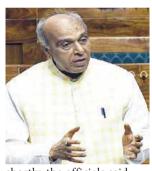
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n **NEW DELHI** 

Senior BJP Lok Sabha member Jagdambika Pal was on Tuesday named chairperson of the joint committee of Parliament, which will examine the contentious (Amendment) Bill.

A Lok Sabha notification said Speaker Om Birla appointed Pal as the head of the 31-member committee. Amid protests by the opposition in the Lok Sabha on its provisions, the government had decided to refer the bill to a joint committee of the two

The joint panel has 31 members -- 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha -- and will submit its report by the next session. Pradesh and is seen as a lawmaker who enjoys warm cross-party relations.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on Friday last adopted a motion moved by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who also holds the parliamentary affairs portfolio, naming the members to be part of the committee. A formal notification naming Pal as the chairperson of the joint committee is set to be issued



shortly, the officials said. In the Lower House, 12 members of the panel are from the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), including eight from the BJP, and nine from the opposition. In the Upper House, four are from the four from the opposition, one from the YSRCP, which has opposed the Bill, and one is a nominated member.

was introduced in fourth-term MP from Uttar the Lok Sabha on Thursday last and referred to a joint committee of Parliament after a heated debate, with the government asserting the proposed law did not intend to interfere with the functioning of mosques and the opposition calling it targeting of Muslims and an attack on the Constitution. The committee has been asked to submit its report to Lok Sabha by the last day of the first week of the next

## **Ensure level playing field during Assembly** elections, EC tells Haryana officials

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Election Commission The Election Common district district and officers and superintendents of police in Haryana to act with complete impartiality and ensure a level playing field for free and fair assembly elections. According to the draft electoral roll published on August 2, there were 2.01 crore electors — 1.06 crore male and 0.95 crore female - registered in the state. More than 4.52 lakh firsttime voters, 2.55 lakh voters above the age of 85 and 1.5 lakh persons with disabilities are registered to vote in the elections. More than 10,000 voters are older than 100.

Underscoring its focus on an inducement-iree the commission directed the enforcement agencies to work in a coordinated manner to curb the inflow of illicit liquor, cash and drugs. The directions were issued by an Election Commission (EC) team led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

The team is on a two-day visit of Haryana to review poll preparedness for assembly elections, likely to be held later this year. The term of the 90member Haryana Assembly is due to expire on November 3.



commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, arrived in Chandigarh on Monday. During the visit, the team met representatives of national and state parties such as AAP, BJP, CPI (M), Congress, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP). The political parties raised severai issues, including conduct of free and fair elections with strict action against the misuse of machinery, government deployment of adequate forces in sensitive polling stations, and requests to reduce the distance between polling stations and improve facilities for the elderly and women

Concerns were also raised about the inaccessibility of election observers for timely grievance redressal, a release said. The EC assured the

parties' representatives that it had taken cognisance of their suggestions and concerns and said it was committed to conducting free, fair, participative, inclusive, peaceful and inducement-free Regarding the parties' concerns

over the misuse of government machinery when the Model Code of Conduct is in place, the EC directed the district superintendents of police and the state administration to act with complete impartiality.

The district election officers were specifically told to be equally accessible to all political parties and ensure prompt resolution of their complaints and grievances, apart from through periodic meetings, the release said. They were also asked to ensure assured minimum facilities, including ramps, wheelchairs and volunteers, for the elderly and persons with disabilities at all polling stations.

All polling stations will be on the ground floor and within two kilometres of the residences of voters," the statement said.

Observers will be accessible to all parties and voters during the election period and their information made

public by the district election officers. Directions were also issued to monitor social media for fake news. On Tuesday, the team held a

review meeting with nearly 20 central and state enforcement agencies, including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Reserve Bank of India, Haryana Police, Income Tax and the Enforcement Directorate. The EC conveyed its zero-

tolerance policy towards the use of money power in the elections, it said. Cohort-wise route maps were identified to keep a strict vigil on movement, stockpiling and distribution of any kind of inducements, it added. The EC also ordered that strict action be taken against liquor and arug kingpins in the state The agencies were asked to

share intelligence, work in a coordinated manner and introduce round-the-clock CCTV monitoring at critical check posts along interstate borders. The agencies concerned were also asked to monitor for unscheduled chartered flights and helipads for any movement of goods.

According to an official, 20,629 polling stations would be set up for the elections, an increase of 817 from the 2019 elections.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n

#### resolve to subdue forces and it has grown into a inimical to the country. people's Shekhawat said. Akhilesh, Rahul's rise Hindenburg: Cong to hold nationwide protest,

### India, Australia discuss counter-terrorism challenges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Tndia and Australia here Lexchanged views on the domestic, regional and global terrorism threat assessment and discussed counterterrorism challenges related to the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists. The two sides also discussed misuse of internet terrorist purposes, radicalisation and terror financing, and the nexus between organised crime and terrorism, among other

Giving details, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the 14th meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter- Terrorism was held on Monday.

K D Dewal, Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism at the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and Richard Feakes, Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, led the respective delegations of experts to discuss the global counter terrorism challenges and the ongoing counter-terrorism



countries.

India and Australia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasised the need for strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner. They also condemned Both sides also discussed cooperation in regional, global multilateral fora such as UN, GCTF, FATF, ARF, IORA and with QUAD partners to

combat global terrorism. The ongoing co-operation in counter terrorism is an important element of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic

Australia Maritime Security Dialogue was held on Tuesday in Canberra, MEA informed. The Indian delegation was led by Muanpuii Saiawi, Joint Secretary, Disarmament and International Security Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and the Australian delegation was led by Sarah Storey, First Assistant Secretary, South Asia and Central Asia Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Bernard Philip, First Assistant Bernard Secretary, Internacy Department International Defence.

The two sides conferred on ways to sustain a safe and secure maritime environment conducive for inclusive growth and global well being. They exchanged views on interest, including the maritime

various topics of mutual security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, maritime domain awareness, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) coordination, regional and multilateral engagements and sustainable use of marine resources.

## emboldens criminals in UP, claims BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

BJP on Tuesday I alleged that the recent rise in the political strength of 'do ladke', a reference to Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, has resulted in getting Uttar emboldened Pradesh.

spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi accused the Samajwadi Party of sheltering criminals, and targeted the party over the arrest of two persons allegedly associated with it on the charges of rape and attempt to rape.

Not only the SP has been "cover fire" to criminals but the members of the Opposition INDIA Bloc are helping each other defend criminal elements of their alliance partners as well, he told reporters.

'Those associated with two boys have been committing crimes. The audacity of criminals has been rising since the

increase in the strength of

these two boys," he said in an reference apparent Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav. It is in the DNA of the Samajwadi Party to stand with criminals, he said, in a swipe at the regional party's demand for the DNA testing to prove the guilt of the accused in one of the cases. The BJP leader also targeted West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her stand that she will transfer the case of rape and murder of a doctor in a governmentrun hospital in Kolkata to the CBI if the local police did not solve the case till Sunday.

Is so much time being given so that the case can be manipulated, he asked, demanding an immediate transfer of the investigation

Questioning the "silence" of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra over these crimes, he said INDIA bloc parties are covering up "mutual criminal elements" in their alliance.

Mallikarjun Kharge on leader Rahul Tuesday said the party's focus is on the pressing issues of "unbridled unemployment" "uncontrolled inflation", and it would design a national campaign around these problems and go to people. Amid the row over the Hindenburg allegations, the Congress also announced that it will hold a nationwide agitation on August 22 demanding SEBI Chief Madhabi Puri Buch's

resignation and a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the Adani issue. Kharge's remarks on his party's focus came as he chaired a meeting of the party's general secretaries, state unit chiefs and AICC state in-charges to discuss organisational matters and various issues of national

preparedness. Kharge also said the "shocking revelations of a nexus" between the SEBI and Adani needs a thorough investigation. "The money of

importance for election



small investors in the stock market can't be jeopardised. The Modi government must immediately resignation of the SEBI chairperson and constitute a JPC in this regard," the Congress chief said.

He claimed attack on the Constitution unabated under the Modiled NDA government. He also said caste census is a demand of people.

The Congress president said the party will continue its fight for demanding legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price of crop. The Agnipath scheme must

be scrapped, he said.

"The pressing issues of unbridled unemployment and uncontrolled inflation and depletion of household savings are our focus. The

government over the issue of railway safety saying "train derailments have become a Climate-related disasters and collapsing infrastructure are also a cause of concern, the senior leader said.

poor and middle class have

been betrayed," he said. He

attacked

would design a national campaign around these issues and go to the people." regards nationwide agitation on the Hindenburg report, Congress made the announcement after Kharge held a meeting with all general secretaries, state unit chiefs and AICC state incharges here as the party gets battle-ready upcoming round of assembly organisational matters and various issues of national importance for election preparedness.

Briefing reporters on the meeting, Venugopal said it was unanimously decided at the meeting that the party will hold a nationwide agitation on August 22, demanding the SEBI chief's resignation and a JPC probe into Adani issue.

## **Landslides in Kerala indicate climate** change cannot be ignored, says UDF

The Congress-led UDF Opposition on Tuesday said the recent landslides in Wayanad and Kozhikode districts of Kerala indicate that climate change can be that climate change can no longer be ignored, and suggested the implementation of an early warning system to mitigate the impact of natural disasters in the future.

The recommendations were made along with the suggestions given to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for the rehabilitation of victims of the landslides-hit areas in Wayanad and Vilangad village in Kozhikode, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the State Assembly V D Satheesan said. The LoP said the opposition has been saying since 2021 that climate change cannot be ignored and that it has to be addressed. "The opposition has now suggested carrying out scientific testing, mapping of disaster prone areas and setting up early warning systems. "For that, scientific institutions meteorological departments

Cochin University should work in concert," he said while speaking to reporters here after submitting the proposals to the CM. Satheesan said that when claims of Kerala being a "knowledge society" are made periodically, then all the scientific knowledge available in the world should be used to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. He said that Kerala has faced several natural disasters in the past and, therefore, going forward, any developmental work should take climate change also into account. The opposition leader further said that the UDF also suggested that the

government consider framing

a law for the rehabilitation of

victims of natural disasters. Satheesan, who submitted the proposals in person to the CM, said that he received a Regarding the rehabilitation of the victims, he said that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has already promised to build 100 houses and the state government has assured that it would hold talks with the opposition as soon as land for the project is found. Satheesan said the opposition suggested that while building the houses, a township model, facilitating community living, should be adopted, instead of simply building houses so that all the building homes, so that all the persons can live

together. He said that the

tailored to the needs of each affected family as they were all affected in different ways. "In some cases, children were orphaned, in others only elderly members of the family survived and in some, the earning members died. So, the packages have to be different in each case. We hope the state government will consider the suggestion seriously," he said. He said that the opposition also sought a separate rehabilitation package for Vilangad as officially there were 24 landslides in the village that caused widespread damage to property, which included homes, farmland, roads and even bridges. Satheesan said that the other suggestions given by the opposition include a complete waiver of loans taken by those who lost everything in the landslides in Wayanad and Vilangad as the people no longer have the means to repay their debts. He said that CM Vijayan agreed to look into the matter

recommended making micro-

level rehabilitation packages

### Schools shut as rain wreaks havoc in Rajasthan, CM conducts aerial survey

Schools were shut in several Rajasthan districts on Tuesday as heavy rainfall continued to batter parts of the state where 22 people died in rain-related incidents in two days. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma conducted an aerial survey of rain-hit areas in Dausa, Karauli and Bharatpur districts while BJP leader Kirodi Lal Meena took part in a field survey and met officials in Dausa.

Meena recently resigned from the Cabinet and is not taking part in official meetings.

A warning for heavy to very heavy rainfall is in place for Tuesday and Wednesday in the Bharatpur, Ajmer, Jaipur and Kota divisions. In some areas of eastern Rajasthan, moderate to heavy rain may occur on Thursday and

For Tuesday, a 'red' warning is in place for Baran, Bundi, Kota and Tonk districts and an 'orange' alert for Bharatpur, Dausa, Dholpur, Jaipur and Karauli.

The administration has declared holidays in schools in these districts.

In the 24 hours ended at 8:30 am on Tuesday, Mahua in Dausa recorded the highest

rainfall at 163 mm, the Met centre in Jaipur said.

Nainwa in Bundi recorded 161 mm rainfall, Jaipur 152 mm and Madhorajpura in Jaipur 136 mm -- all in the category of very heavy rain. Torrential rain during the past couple of days has caused waterlogging in several districts, with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams rescuing more than 100 people from affected areas. The continuous heavy rain has led to flood-like conditions in Karauli district

and nearby areas where overflowing dams and rivers have disrupted daily life. At least 22 people have died in rain-related incidents in

Rajasthan since August 11. Sharma conducted a field

Monday and issued necessary directions to officials.

On Tuesday, he conducted an aerial survey in rain-hit Dausa, Karauli and Bharatpur districts, an official said.

BJP MLA Meena conducted a field visit in Dausa amid the flood-like situation in some areas of eastern Rajasthan and shared photos on social

"Held a review meeting to deal with the current situation after heavy rainfall and discussions were held with all the subdivision-level officers in the Mahwa Panchayat Samiti auditorium and directions were given to take necessary steps to help the affected people. All possible help will be provided to the affected people," he said in a

#### Five killed as car falls into canal in Bihar



Five persons, all of them residents of Patna, were on Tuesday killed in Aurangabad district of Bihar where their car fell into a canal, a police officer said.

According to Kumar Rishiraj, Sub Divisional Police Officer, Daudnagar, the accident took place in the morning close to Chaman Bigha village falling in Aurangabad district.

Bodies of all five occupants have been exhumed. The owner of the vehicle has been traced with the help of the number plate. We have learnt that all the deceased were residents of Rajiv Nagar locality in the state capital",

said Rishiraj.
"The deceased had gone to offer prayers at a shrine in the adjoining Rohtas district. While returning, the driver lost control of the car which crashed into the canal", added

### BJP's TN ally Devanathan held on fraud charges

of central and state

governments and institutions

of international standard like

PTI n CHENNAI

TDevanathan Yadav, who unsuccessfully contested on a BJP ticket from Sivaganga Lok Sabha constituency, was arrested on charge of cheating depositors of a non-banking financial institution here, police said on Tuesday.

He was arrested by a team of officials from the Economic Offences wing in Tiruchirappalli and later brought to Chennai for questioning. The arrest followed protests and also complaints from several aggrieved investors who claimed that a financial institution that Yadav headed Mylapore Hindu Saswat Nidhi Limited -- cheated them with the promise of an attractive higher rate of Devanathan Yadav, who runs political outfit Indhiya Makkal Kalvi Munnetra Kazhagam, allied with the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll and was fielded from Sivaganga constituency. Reacting to the arrest, Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai

said his party was committed to ensuring justice for the investors of the Mylapore Saswat "The Tamil Nadu government

should conduct a thorough investigation and confirm this to all investors," he said in a post on social media platform "At the same time, if this is

one of the attempts to threaten the NDA parties for pointing out the law and order and administrative the government, then I strongly condemn it," Annamalai

## CM directs to restore damaged crest gate of Tungabhadra reservoir in 3-4 days

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said he has asked officials and experts to fix within three to four days the damaged crest gate of Tungabhadra reservoir so that water from expected rains can be stored.

After inspecting the dam, he also assured that there is no need for farmers to worry. confident Tungabhadra dam will be filled once again and I will come to offer 'Bagina' (traditional thanksgiving to the river). No politics on this One of the crest gates (19th

gate) of the Tungabhadra reservoir in Koppal district was washed away after its chain link snapped on Friday midnight, following which the downstream areas were put on alert, as a huge quantity of water was being water

we were releasing through ten gates, which



19th gate got washed away chain link snapped...We have consulted dam safety experts and the repair works are on. Based on the advice of experts, the Tungabhadra Board will take appropriate decisions,"

He assured that there won't be any problem for farmers in the three states Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh included the 19th gate. The Telangana, who have sown we want to complete the work time in the 19th gate."

crops, as water is flowing through all the canals and there will be any damage to crops. "There is no need for "...From August 17-18 there

are expectations of above normal rains. I have asked experts to complete the work in three to four days, so that we can store the water from the expected rains, as we need 90 tmcit of water for standing and crops. The government is at it, has happened for the first

at the earliest and want to ensure that farmers don't face any trouble. It is our responsibility," he added. The dam is managed by the Tungabhadra Board with representatives from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana government

representatives being its members; the Central Water Commission (CWC) appointee is the Chairman. Andhra Pradesh Minister of Finance Payyavula Keshav, Minister for Water Resources Nimmala Development Ramanaidu, also MPs and

legislators from that state

were present during the Chief Minister's visit and his interaction with media. Noting that the dam construction work began in 1948 and got completed in 1953, and from 1954 water is being released to canals, the Chief Minister said, "the dam is aged about 70 years. So far there was no chain link snap in this dam's 33

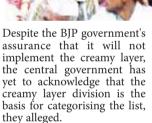
### Adivasi-Dalit groups call for hartal in Kerala over SC quota verdict

PTI n KOTTAYAM (KERALA)

Various Adivasi-Dalit organisations on Tuesday Adivasi-Dalit called for a state-wide hartal in Kerala on August 21, to protest the recent Supreme Court verdict on the subcategorisation of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as granted under the Constitution.

In a joint statement signed by leaders of various Adivasi-Dalit organisations, it was alleged that the verdict aimed to divide the SC/ST list on a caste basis and introduce a 'creamy layer' within SC/ST categories.

They said the hartal will exempt Wayanad district due to the recent natural disasters. The outfits announced that the state-wide hartal is part of the Bharat Bandh called by Bhim Army and various Dalit-Bahujan movements. The primary demand is for Parliament to pass legislation overturning tne Supreme Court verdict, according to



Earlier this month, a sevenjudge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud ruled in a 6:1 majority judgment that state governments were permitted to sub-classify communities within the SC list based on empirical data.

Supreme Court judge Justice B R Gavai had said that States must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even among the Scheduled by B R Ambedkar.

Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) and deny them the benefit of reservation. Justice Gavai penned a judgment in which the top court by a majority verdict said the states are empowered to make sub-classifications of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for granting quotas within the reserved category to uplift those who belong to the more underprivileged

The Union Cabinet has asserted that there was no provision for a creamy layer in the reservation for SCs and STs in the Constitution given

## Janmashtami to be celebrated in Mathura-Vrindavan amid high security

PTI n MATHURA (UP)

The Hindu noise Chief Mathura and Vrindavan in The Hindu holy cities of Uttar Pradesh are set to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna over two days, with extensive security arrangements being put in place, officials, saints and temple authorities said on According

preparation are underway to celebrate the 5251st birth anniversary of Lord Krishna on a grand scale across Braj. The festival will be celebrated at the Shri Krishna Janmasthan in Mathura and other prominent temples on

the midnight of August 26, while the Banke Bihari Temple in Vrindavan will observe Janmashtami on the night of August 27. Thus allowing devotees to enjoy the festivities on both days. Every year, the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna is

celebrated on the midnight of Ashtami, the eighth day of the dark fortnight of Bhadrapada

The following day, Nandotsav, a celebration marking the joy on Lord Krishna's birth, is observed in temples, where sweets are distributed, and traditional songs are sung. Saints indicated that this year, the celebration of Lord



Krishna's birth will take place in all temples and households across Braj on the midnight of

Devotees will observe a fast during the day, and at midnight, they will celebrate

appearance of Lord Krishna, symbolised breaking a cucumber, and offer 'panjiri' made of coriander as an offering to conclude the fast.

celebrated on August 27 instead of August 26, as per the temple's tradition, which follows the lunar calendar based on the sunrise on a particular date.

Munish Sharma, the manager of the Banke Bihari Temple, said that all festivals and rituals in the temple are carried out according to the 'panchang' (Hindu calendar) prepared by the temple's priests at the beginning of the year. This year, as the sunrise of Ashtami falls on August 27, the temple will celebrate Janmashtami on that day. The special 'Mangala Aarti' (a

will be conducted at 2 am, Sharma said.

Prahlad Ballabh Goswami, an expert on the history of the Banke Bihari Temple, stated that the usual prayers and rituals will be conducted at the scheduled time on August 27. This will be followed by the 'mahabhishek' (grand bathing ceremony) of the deity at midnight, which will not be open to the general public. The 'Mangala Aarti' will be held at around 2 am and the temple will remain open until 5 am for devotees, he said.

Kapil Sharma, the secretary of Shri Krishna Janmasthan Nyas, said the Janmashtami

August 26 in the sanctum sanctorum, Thakur Keshav Dev, and Bhagwat Bhavan at the Shri Krishna Janmasthan.

Similarly, Rakesh Tiwari, the Public Relations Officer of Dwark adhishTemple, confirmed that Janmashtami will also be celebrated on August 26, following the temple's tradition and

calendar.

In other temples of Vrindavan, including Radharaman Lal, ISKCON's Shri Krishna Balram Temple and the Prem Mandir, the Janmashtami festival will also

### Rajasthan man held for tying wife to motorcycle, dragging her around village

PTI n JAIPUR

woman in Rajasthan's ANagaur district was allegedly thrashed by her alcoholic husband, tied to a motorcycle and dragged around their village, police said on Tuesday.

A video purporting to show the woman tied to the motorcycle and dragged behind it was circulated on social media, following which her husband was arrested.

Panchaudi police station sub-inspector Surendra Kumar said the alleged incident occurred nearly a month ago in the Naharsinghpura village. Premaram Meghwal (32)

allegedly thrashed his wife before tying her to his motorcycle and dragging her behind it, he said. A video of the incident

surfaced online on Monday, following which the police probed into the matter and arrested the accused.

The woman is currently living with her relatives. She did not report the matter to the police. The accused was arrested on

Monday for disturbing the

peace, the police said. Ĥis neighbours Meghwal was an alcoholic and regularly thrashed his wife. He did not let her talk to anyone in the village either, the police

#### Kerala HC rejects plea against release of Justice Hema committee report August 6. Parayil, a film committee was formed after

PTI n KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on I Tuesday dismissed a plea challenging Commission's Information order directing the release of Justice K Hema Committee report which studied the issues faced by women in the Malayalam film

Justice V G Arun directed that the report be published within one week. The court dismissed the order saying that the petitioner -- Sajimon Parayil -was not an aggrieved party, his lawyer Saiby Jose Kidangoor said. The detailed order is not yet available. The court had on July 24 stayed release of the report for a week and the interim order was extended from time to time. The interim

order was last extended on

producer, had challenged the information commission's July 5 order directing the State Public Information Officer to reasonably disseminate the information in the report while ensuring that it does not compromise the privacy of individuals.

"While providing attested copies of the Justice K Hema Committee report, the SPIO should ensure that the materials do not lead to the identification of individuals referenced in the said report or compromise their privacy," it

Commissioner, in his order, however, had asked the SPIO not to disclose the details of paragraph 96 contained on page 49 and paragraphs 165 to 196 from pages 81 to 100. The the 2017 actress assault case involving actor Dileep to study issues of sexual harassment and gender inequality in Malayalam cinema.

Even though the report was filed in 2019, the government is yet to release the details as it was suspected to contain sensitive information.

The actress-victim who has worked in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam films was allegedly abducted and molested in her car for two hours by some of the accused, who had forced their way into the vehicle on the night of February 17, 2017 and later escaped in a busy

The entire act was filmed by some of the accused to blackmail There are 10 accused in the

### Bihar stampede: Police arrest flower vendor

PTI n JEHANABAD (BIHAR)

The police on Tuesday 1 arrested a flower vendor in connection with a stampede that left seven people dead and 16 others injured at Baba Siddheshwar Nath Temple in Bihar's Jehanabad district, an officer

Preliminary investigation revealed that the stampede happened following a clash between flower vendors and a few Kanwarias near the temple on Baravar hills in Makhdumpur block, District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey

This is the first arrest in connection with the incident and the police are searching for two or three other flower vendors who are absconding,



premises has now been made a vendor-free zone," the DM The arrest was made after

analysing CCTV footage and recording the statement of those present there at the time of the incident, Pandey said. Seven people, including six women, were killed and 16 others injured in a stampede at the temple in the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. A large number of devotees had assembled at the temple to offer water to the deity on

Monday in Shravan, a holy

month for Hindus.

The police also decided to deploy 100 more security personnel along the route the Kanwarias take and near the temple premises. "Besides, a temporary medical facility is also being opened near Makhdumpur in case of any

untoward incident. It will start functioning from today," said the DM. Meanwhile, a video clip of the incident surfaced on social media on Tuesday showing how the stampede took place. It is seen in the video clip that

devotees were struggling to come out of a narrow lane packed with devotees.

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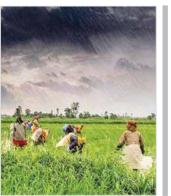
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

#### Sunshine after the storm

Indian agriculture set to benefit from good monsoon and PM Modi's release of climate-resistant seeds

■ ndia's agricultural sector, the cornerstone of its economy, is set to benefit from a double dose of positive news this monsoon season. With forecasts predicting a normal to above-normal monsoon and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement of 109 climate-resistant seed varieties, the outlook for the country's farmers is brighter than ever. These developments not only promise a significant boost for agriculture but also hold the potential to ease inflationary pressures—a key concern for both policymakers and the general public. A favorable monsoon is expected to drive agricultural growth in India, with a report from India Ratings predicting a 4.3% increase in FY25, up from 1.4% in FY24. The monsoon plays a critical role in sustaining food supply, which in turn satisfies consumer demand and helps stabilise food prices. Additionally, a good monsoon increases rural incomes, which can stimulate demand for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). Monsoon rains are vital for Indian agriculture, particularly for the



kharif crop season, which includes staples like rice, maize, and pulses. With nearly 60 per cent of India's farmland being rain-fed, a good monsoon often translates to a successful harvest. This year's normal to above-average rainfall has raised hopes for a bumper crop season. A successful monsoon reduces the need for costly irrigation solutions, helping farmers save on input costs. As a result, rural incomes are expected to rise, driving consumer demand in villages and small towns, which are vital engines of the country's economic growth.

Against this promising backdrop, Prime Minister Modi's release of 109 climate-resistant seed varieties marks.

a significant step towards securing India's agricultural future. These seeds have been specially developed to withstand the growing challenges posed by climate change, including erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and rising temperatures. By enhancing crop resilience, these seeds aim to ensure stable yields even in adverse weather conditions. The introduction of these seeds is a forward-looking initiative that aligns with the government's broader agricultural strategy, which emphasises sustainability and self-reliance. These seeds are expected to reduce crop losses due to unpredictable weather, providing farmers with a safety net and helping to stabilise food production. This could lead to a more consistent food supply. In recent years, inflation, particularly driven by volatile food prices, has been a persistent concern for the Indian economy. A good monsoon and the adoption of climate-resistant seeds could bring much-needed relief to consumers, especially those in lower-income brackets who are most affected by rising food costs. During his second term, Prime Minister Modi had promised to double farmers' incomes a goal that was challenging to achieve at the time. However, that target now seems within reach. The combination of good rainfall and resilient seed varieties could be the key to realising that vision and securing a prosperous future for Indian agriculture.



NCC cadets during full dress rehearsal for the 78th Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort, in New Delhi

# Finding fault with the US for internal failures.



The narrative of an 'American hand' in political unrest in South Asia sells, even as the root cause of instability often lie with its own politicians

he United States of America did not have a significant role in the run-up to the independence of the Indian subcontinent from the British Raj. Indeed, the Gadar Party started as a San Francisco-based anticolonial organization, as did the New York-based India Home Rule League founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, but the Government of the USA had remained largely oblivious of the subcontinental developments. It was only in the post-World War 2 tensions between the competing 'blocs', when the Cold War started in earnest, that the USA went into overdrive to control the subcontinental narrative. To further its interest, the USA had backed military dictators in Pakistan, and undemocratic monarchies in Afghanistan and Nepal, while remaining decidedly hostile

towards India. Washington DC tellingly overlooked the genocidal conduct of the Pakistani Generals in what later became, Bangladesh. Americans were instrumental in harnessing toxic religiosity by creating the Afghan mujahedeen, the curse of which continues to this date. Pakistan was a 'Major Non-NATO Ally' and did most of its bidding in the region. The end of the Cold War with the implosion of the Soviet Union in the early 90s coincided with the rise of China as the new principal enemy. This led to a recalibration of allies and enemies, which eventually warranted a more pro-India outlook from Washington DC, even though an unnatural alliance with Pakistan persisted owing to the necessities of Afghanistan and tackling religio-

For a variety of reasons, including the continuing 'War on Terror' in Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Iran, to now the latest Israel-Palestine War, perceptions of America within the Ummah (Islamic World), made it naturally unsavoury. This often makes the USA the prime suspect for anything that went wrong in Tehran, Kabul, Damascus, Islamabad to even Dhaka. Invariably the Americans are seen to be partaking in Samuel P Pakistani 'establishment' tak-



DC because they know that

such a spiel feeds into the pop-

ular and basic instincts of

their citizenry.

In Pakistan, amidst the turf wars between the Military 'establishment' and Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaaf government, the wily Imran Khan dialled up a phoney 'cypher' controversy entailing a foreign power i.e., the USA. This move sought to conflate two enemies (one already imagined i.e., USA, and the other requiring some context i.e. Pakistani Military) to apportion a disproportionate role for the Americans, as it was safe and popular to do so. The Americans have historically had a say in Pakistani affairs, but the ouster of Imran Khan had more to do with the



WHILE IT IS TRUE

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HASINA HAD ADOPTED A **BELLIGERENT** STANCE AND EVEN **COSIED UP TO ITS** NEMESIS THAT IS, CHINA, BY **ACCEPTING** BEIJING'S **OVERTURES** -**BANGLADESH WAS** NOT CHINA'S BUNNY IN THE SAME WAY AS PAKISTAN IS, NOR WAS IT POISED TO **GO THAT WAY** 

ing the initiative with Americans agreeing to the same, as opposed to the other

Today, realising his folly of hav-ing overplayed the America-hand storyline, Imran Khan has deftly redirected the attack onto his local political rivals as opposed to the Americans or even the Pakistani 'establishment, as done earlier. Now, after the self-created tinderbox-like situation and the subsequent implosion, Bangladesh's former Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina is

believed to have drummed up the US hand in the recent coup. While it is true that Dhaka under Hasina had adopted a belligerent stance and even cosied up to its nemesis i.e., China, by accepting Beijing's overtures -Bangladesh was not China's bunny in the same way as Pakistan is, nor was it poised to go that way, either. It is true Hasina had declined the American request for a Military base in its Saint Martin Islands, but that was more out of good sense given the societal sentiments that prevailed and good local pol-

The only thing that riled out Hasina was the routine concerns expressed by the USA that Hasina was increasingly undemocratic, intolerant and authoritarian (which she was) - but other than these concerns, both Hasina and the

Americans had a common enemy in religious-extremist forces that threatened the interests of both sides. Hasina also amplified her American rhetoric as it was without any accompanying risks and could endear her to Bangladeshi society, as the Ummah has been wounded by emotions of the Palestine war, and the tacit role of the USA. Hasina's purported accusation of the USA plotting regime change in Bangladesh (in her undelivered speech) needs to be read contextually. His supposed stance that she'd be in power if she had given away, "Saint Martin and Bay of Bengal", is more theatrical than factual as

Bangladeshis (especially

youth) had genuinely tired of

If anything, the forces that have come to power reflect the sort of spirit and religious tenor that militates against American preferences. Hasina's exit has more to do with her hubris and excesses than with America working overtime to dislodge her. America is just a convenient (though often justified) enemy in Islamic countries and those who are inelegantly bumped out resort to blaming the USA hand on the rebound e.g., Pakistan earlier, Bangladesh now.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

## The quest for real freedom in a divided society



Real liberation comes from transcending divisions and recognising our spiritual identity, a path that leads to peace, harmony, and tranquility

decades after we attained independence from the British, we are still enslaved- trapped in the bondage of caste, creed, religion, regionalism etal. This has created deep fissures in society, destroying the democratic fabric of amity, harmony and peaceful co-existence. All this is there because as individuals, society and a nation, we have not attained real or to say ultimate freedom that promotes peace, harmony and happiness.

What is real or ultimate freedom? It is a state of not being enslaved to physical senses, to mind and its desires. It means breaking free from toxic thoughts and the vices associated with it. We need freedom from prejudices of caste, creed and religion, greed and selfishness, anger and animosity, hate and hostil-

But then why are we failing to achieve real freedom and how can we attain it? Real freedom is eluding us because we are facing an identity crisis. We don't know our real identity.

beings (having soul-based identity) in body form. But we make a fallacy of treating ourselves as a body and this unreal world as the real

The basic nature of our material existence is bondage and when we act upon the material desires of the mind and senses, we often take to unwise and unholy acts which lead to our sorrows and sufferings. Because of duality, we tend to discriminate against fellow beings and this dis-

crimination takes the form of hatred, animosity and hostility, even leading to violence and bloodshed. Liberation of the soul or spiritual freedom is the ultimate freedom.

The devotees belonging to the Nirankari Mission observe the 15th of August as 'Mukti Parv Diwas' to signify the liberation of the soul. To attain this ultimate liberation, we have to come out of the contaminated state of our consciousness and position ourselves in a pure state of

our consciousness. Even Bhagavad Gita says that being situated in such a position, one is never shak-en even amid the greatest difficulty and it is actual freedom from all miseries arising from material con-

We can certainly attain ultimate liberation through self-liberation by way of self realization that we are a pure and noble soul- a constituent of God. We can lead such an aware life constantly by strengthening our spiritual dimension through God's remembrance and the company of saintly persons. Lord Jesus set people free from bondage to live in the freedom that only comes from

We shall be able to attain real freedom by living an enlightened life in the spirit of oneness (Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam) with the Creator and His creation, in turn turning this world into a happy, harmonious and peaceful place to live.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)

#### **MOTHERS HAVE BIG HEART**

Madam — In the world of sports, where records are measured in meters and seconds, Nadeem's Olympic gold throw of 92.97 meters and Neeraj's silver throw of 89.45 meters are remarkable feats. Yet, they pale in comparison to the "universal affection javelin throw" of infinite meters launched by their mothers. The media captured a heartwarming moment as both mothers wished their sons not just victory and medals, but everlasting friendship and affection.

Indeed, the true champions here are the mothers of Nadeem and Neeraj, whose boundless care and love transcend international borders, setting a new record for the longest "affectionate and harmonious javelin throw" of infinite meters. Kudos to these incredible women for their unparalleled contribution to the spirit of sportsmanship and humanity.

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secundrabad

#### **ADDRESS ATTACK ON MINORITIES**

The ongoing attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh are deeply concerning. Despite Hindu support for the movement against the Sheikh Hasina government, the new regime has failed to protect them. Alarmingly, Indian opposition parties, vocal about minority rights in India, have remained silent on this

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, leading the interim government, has appealed for calm but to little effect. The anti-quota protests in Bangladesh, which led to the fall of the Hasina government, have now targeted Hindus, even though their involvement was primarily against the previous government. The situation worsened with the forced resignation of Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan. Bangladesh remains an Islamic country, and protection for minorities is limited compared to India. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's offer to shelter "anyone" in distress is problematic, as it could enable more Bangladeshi

infiltration into India, exacerbating the

### **Medics need support**



dhe removal of the City Police Commissioner and the Medical Superintendent cum VP of RG

Kar Medical College Hospital in Calcutta, following the horrific rape demographic challenges in states like

Assam and West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee's silence on the attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh is trouoling, especially as her actions seem to prioritise vote-bank politics over national security and humanitarian concerns. The government must act fast as things

are very fluid in Bangladesh K V Seetharamaiah Bengaluru

**LESSONS FROM WAYANAD** Madam — The recent landslides and floods in Wayanad, Kerala, have drawn global attention, reminding us of the ongoing vulnerability of our planet to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods.Our Earth has always been a haven of beauty and abundance, providing a diverse range of species and natural resources like majestic mountains and expansive oceans. For millennia, Mother Nature has been humanity's nurturing cradle. I recall the massive floods of the early 1990s, which devastated regions in Tamil Nadu, including Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, and

and murder of a 31-year-old medical professional on the hospital grounds,

will not alone bring justice to this case. The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) has demanded a CBI inquiry and calls for decisive The frequency of such atrocities

against doctors across the country, compounded by inadequate protection from many state authorities, is undeniable. The reluctance of junior doctors to speak out due to fear has led to even greater tragedies over the years. If this situation persists, it will severely impact medical care for millions of impoverished patients and place the medical profession in a critical condi-

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Tirunelveli. It is crucial for all Asian countries, especially those in the Himalayan region, to implement proactive measures such as adopting advanced technologies and large-scale afforestation to mitigate

the effects of natural disasters. These events underscore the urgent need to harmonise human activities with the Earth's natural systems. Overexploitation of resources has pushed our planet to its limits, disrupting its balance. To address this, it is essential to regulate high-rise construction in earthquake-prone areas and shift focus from building concrete jungles to fostering green, sustainable landscapes. Regions like Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Marthandam, Nagercoil, and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu serve as examples of how humans and nature can coexist harmoniously. By prioritising reforestation and sustainable land use, we can build a resilient future.

P Senthil Saravana Durai | Mumbai

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### **FIRST COLUMN**

### FROM RIFTS TO RESOLUTION

It is very important to recognise that the world shall change when I change



BY RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

e all know that conflicts are a part of our everyday life and they form in our close relations, at a societal level & on an international level. Very often we see conflicts leading to aggression, hostility and war. However, conflicts can also be a stepping stone leading to change and wisdom; if we learn to handle them constructively. Since relationship conflicts are inevitable, learning to deal with them healthily is extremely crucial because when a conflict is mismanaged, it can harm the relationship. But when handled respectfully and positively, it provides an opportunity for growth, ultimately strengthening the bond between two people

Any kind of conflict has two dimensions, internal and external. Internal conflicts arise when the mind and intellect are moving in opposite directions and external conflicts are caused when people or situations confront us and we are not sure how to cope with them. Some people view conflicts as an opportunity for a change and some see it as a natural global phenomenon. But others feel that conflicts are avoidable through better communication but they are frightened of the process. Due to this fear, they hold themselves back and content themselves by making a peace contract or a deal. However, such solutions are very temporary and can be seen as a band-aid solution, which might be effective for the short term only. We all know that conflicts ought to be resolved by use of intellect or reasoning because when conflicts are allowed to develop unhindered without intervention or when the parties involved fuel the



We may seek advice from an experienced person, however, the sense

# Rupee's fall against dollar is a wake-up call for India



As the rupee weakens and inflation rises, strategic economic reforms to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependency are urgently needed

he rupee hit a record low against the US dollar on August 5th and was trading at 84.09 per dollar. This is the biggest fall ever seen in the rupee and the rupee has reached its alltime low. If the currency of any country is stronger than other currencies, then the country is considered strong. In this globalized world, the value of every country's currency against the US dollar not only impacts the economy of that country but also affects the prices of many things in

Rupee has Fallen 20 Times since Independence: The rupee has fallen almost 20 times since independence; in 1948, 1 dollar was equal to 4 rupees. At that time there was no debt in the country, then when the first five-year plan was implemented in 1951, the government started taking loans from foreign countries and then the value of the rupee also started decreasing continuously.
The continuous outflow of foreign funds

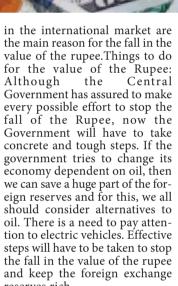
from financial markets and crude oil has increased pressure on the rupee. The economy around the world has seen two major shocks - the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine, Israel conflict. India is also not untouched by this. Today, the condition of currencies in major markets around the world is weak.

**Dollar as King:** According to the International Standard Organization list, there are a total of 180 currencies around the world, but among them, the American currency 'Dollar' has become a global currency. The price of most of the things exported is paid in dollars. Today the dollar is involved in 80 percent of the world's trade. The US dollar has the status of a global currency, which is why the value of the rupee against the dollar shows whether the Indian currency is strong or weak

The falling value of the Rupee affects Common People: When the rupee becomes cheaper against the dollar, it has a direct impact on the economy.

The falling value of the rupee brings inflation. Rising prices could accelerate inflation, which is already high. In such a situation, everything from the life of the common man to businessmen and government will be affected by the value of the rupee. The decline in global activity, investors' decision to invest money in sate global markets and increasing tension in global politics are among the main reasons behind the fall of the rupee. Even if we do not take seriously the fall and rise of a few paise in the rupee, they have a big impact on our lives.

The fall in the rupee has a direct impact on the country's economy, due to which import of petroleum products will become expensive and freight transportation will become expensive. This will have a direct impact on the inflation of every essential item. There is a sudden increase in all loans taken in foreign currency and the interest paid on them. Studying abroad will also be expensive. Why the Rupee is falling: The value of the rupee completely depends on its demand and supply and import and export also have a direct impact. A country that imports more than it exports has GROSS DOMESTIC a higher demand for dollars. Like India imports more than it exports. India is one of the major importers of crude oil and imports about 80 per cent of the oil, undoubtedly the rising prices of crude oil



reserves rich. Government Steps: The government is indeed striving to create a competitive, dynamic environment to provide sustained economic growth and enhance its relevance in international trade, PM Gati Shakti, National Single Window Clearance, GIS-mapped Land Bank, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) etc. The manufacturing sector is expected to ben-TRILLION efit from the implementation of Harmonized System products recent policies like the PLI ECONOMY BY recent policies like the PLI scheme. Its results are also visible in some areas, the development of coronavirus vaccines by Indian companies is a vivid example of indigenous talent. India has rapidly made its place in the Ease of Doing Business index released by the World Bank. India's EDB rank was 134th in the year 2014, whereas in the year 2023, it has become 63rd. India is ranked 40th in the Global Competitiveness Report Index published by the Genevabased World Economic Forum, where it was ranked 60th in 2014. But all these reforms in the ranks have also failed to revive the manufacturing sector and provide the desired support to the Make in India campaign.

**Big Time for Make in India:** The government will have to move strategically towards controlling imports and increasing exports. This is the time to effectively

implement the 'Make in India' program which even after nine years is far behind in its effective contribution. Despite being the fifth largest economy, India contributes barely 1.6% to world exports. A primary objective of the campaign was to increase the share of the manufacturing sector in the Indian GDP to 25 per cent by 2022 although it has remained between 14 to 16 per cent in the last 9 years. During the coronavirus pandem-

ic, there was publicity that the companies leaving China were going to come to India, however, most of these companies have shifted their base to Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand etc. and only a few have come to India. Every year crores of laptops, desktops and servers are sold in India, in which motherboards memory models and chips are being imported. We are dependent on other countries for these compo-

Even today, most of the items are not being produced but are being assembled. There is no justification for the import of (HS-84, nuclear reactors, boilers, mechanical equipment and their parts), and HS-85 (electrical machinery) as most of these items can be produced locally. PLI schemes should be extended to MSMEs and emerging indus-

tries to increase exports. The 15 per cent corporate tax rate for new investment in manufacturing should be extended to all industries including the service sector. The expansion and use of new-age technology applications such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine Learning (ML) require tax incentives on capital or operational expenditure. The government should reduce the logistics cost to 6-8% of the GDP which is currently 14%, the good thing is that recently at the G-20 summit, there has been talk of setting up an economic corridor at the international level. The manufacturing industry in

India remains flawed due to the poor infrastructure of the counry. Compared to China, which spends 20% of its GDP on infrastructure development, our country spends only 3%. Way Forward: At a time when the value of the rupee has crossed Rs 84 per US dollar, the role of 'Make in India' becomes very important. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), India may face a shortage of about 29 million skilled workers by 2030. The economy needs more than policy window dressing to increase manufacturing activity. We need to understand that just passing bills and organizing investor conferences will not be enough to promote industrializa-

strained by large amounts of paperwork, be it labour, land or environmental clearances, stringent regulations and policy. Taxation and customs policies are complex to such an extent that it is cheaper to import things like medical equipment rather than manufacture the equipment domestically. India can make itself the next 'global factory' in the future, which is already fed up with China and is looking for alternative manufacturing hubs. There is a need to free the manufacturing sector from cumbersome rules.

The manufacturing sector is con-

Certainly, the fall of the rupee against the dollar can be controlled through such effective steps. Also, if we start using indigenous goods then the cost of importing foreign goods will be saved. For India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, we need to export at least \$2.5 trillion worth of goods and services, as exports currently contribute about 25% to the total gross domestic product (GDP). India has no time to rest. We have come a long way, but the journey is not

(The writer is an associate professor at JNU, New Delhi; views



**USING** 

**INDIGENOUS** GOODS THEN THE COST OF **IMPORTING** FOREIGN GOODS WILL BE SAVED. FOR INDIA TO BECOME A \$5 2025, WE NEED TO EXPORT AT **LEAST \$2.5** TRILLION WORTH OF GOODS AND SERVICES, AS **EXPORTS CURRENTLY** CONTRIBUTE ABOUT 25% TO THE TOTAL

**PRODUCT** 

The strength of sisterhood: How women's circles empower and change lives

measures are designed to enhance financial stability and provide economic opportunities for women, particularly in rural areas. The goal is to transform women into "Lakhpati Didis," or those with an annual income exceeding INR 1,00,000, while also encouraging sustainable livelihoods and

improved living standards. The emphasis on SHGs highlights the importance of collective unity and mutual support among women. These groups not only provide economic benefits but also foster a strong network of women who support each other's growth and success. By encouraging more women to

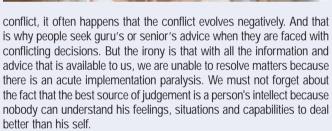
engage in such supportive environments, we can pave the way for greater economic prosperity and gender equality.

Sheryl Sandberg, former COO of Meta Platforms, emphasizes the power of women supporting women in her book, \*Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead\*. She dispels the myth that women don't support each other, arguing that collaboration among women is key to achieving remarkable success. Successful women often have the backing of other women who help them reach

their goals. To overcome systemic discrimination and internalized biases, women must challenge the societal pressures that pit them against each other. By rejecting stereotypes and fostering genuine support, women can create spaces where they feel safe to express themselves, show vulnerability, and receive the support they need.

Ultimately, female friendships and communal support not only inspire personal and spiritual growth but also enhance collective strength and performance. Women's circles provide a crucial platform for sharing energy, ideas, and support, enabling women to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to their communities. (The author is a writer,

social worker, culture enthusiast, and former UN employee; views are personal)



of joy or security that we feel on hearing good advice is only temporary because it is not real. Just like the feeling of joy derived from thinking of eating something delicious is unreal, real joy comes only after eating the thing. We too have to undergo an experience to make it real. Remember! conflict triggers strong emotions and can lead to hurt feelings, disappointment, and discomfort. When handled in an unhealthy manner, it can cause irreparable rifts, resentments, and break-ups. But when it is resolved healthily, it increases our understanding of one another, builds trust, and strengthens our relationship bonds. A growing body of research has shown spirituality as a great antidote for all kinds of conflicts. Spirituality is like the medicine that heals the root of the disease and not just the symptoms. It is the only means that gives us complete solutions to conflicts. From a spiritual perspective, the most powerful value needed for conflict resolution is 'respect'. This is because most of the people don't wish to negotiate when they have material power. Therefore, there's an urgent need for those to realize and respect their inner powers. Similarly, faith is also a very important element in conflict resolution, it is the key to mutual understanding. For global conflicts, the solution lies with the leadership. The leaders can bring about the muchneeded change and make it trickle down the societies. Leaders of today must remember that any kind of change can be termed 'real' only when it affects the grassroots. It is thus very important to recognize that the world shall change when I change. Hence, people should not wait to be told that they need to change, instead, they should realise it themselves. (The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are

#### Women groups foster empowerment, drive economic progress, and challenge societal stereotypes, proving that together, women can achieve anything umans are inherently social beings, and women, in particular, thrive on social connections. This insight struck me during a recent celebration of Hariyali Teej, a Hindu festival dedicated to women. On

this day, women don tradi-

tional attire, enjoy special

foods, and revel in music,

reflecting the profound sig-

nificance of women's gather-

ings in our cultural history.

Hariyali Teej exemplifies the

value our ancestors placed on

women's circles. These gath-

erings not only provide joy

but also reinforce the unique

strength women possess. This power is deeply rooted in

their ability to manage and

share energy, which flourish-

es through communal inter-

actions. Women need to con-

nect with their feminine essence and the best way to nurture this strength is by bonding with other women. Such connections are crucial for self-discovery and empowerment.

The concept of Shine Theory, coined by journalist Ann Friedman and businesswoman Aminatou Sow, encapsulates this idea: exceptional women support each other to shine even brighter.

passed wisdom and experience through communal practices, whether through household chores or cultural rituals. For example, tradi-tional activities like grinding spices together in Indian families or crafting quilts in Alice Walker's \*The Color Purple\* symbolize unity and shared

Everyday interactions among women not only ease the burden of tasks but also preserve cultural traditions and create a space for emotional exchange. These interactions form a vessel of healing and transformation, extending beyond personal growth to effecting positive change in their communities.

In modern settings, such as neighborhood gatherings or

Historically, women have workplace environments, the same principles apply. Despite the often harsh competitive dynamics driven by stereotypes, supportive women's circles offer a vital source of relief and rejuvenation. Unfortunately, societal narratives and media perpetuate the myth that women are inherently competitive and unsupportive of one another. This stereotype undermines the historical practices of women uplifting each other and fosters unhealthy rivalry. Recent initiatives aim to counteract these negative dynamics by promoting women's economic empowerment. The Union Budget for 2024-25 proposes establishing working women hostels and supporting women-led selfhelp groups (SHGs). These

## Iran rejects European leaders' call to refrain from retaliation

AP n JUERUSALEM

**▼**ran rejected a call Tuesday by Lthree European countries urging it to refrain from any retaliatory attacks that would further escalate regional tensions. Iran calls it an "excessive request." The leaders of Britain, France

and Germany in a joint statement Monday asked Iran and its allies to refrain from retaliation for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last month. Iran has blamed Israel.

The European leaders also endorsed the latest push by mediators Qatar, Egypt and the United States to broker an agreement to end the Israel-Hamas war. Talks are expected to resume Thursday. And they called for the return of scores of hostages held by Hamas and the "unfettered" delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Mediators have spent months trying to get the sides to agree to a three-phase plan in which Hamas would release the remaining hostages captured in its October 7 attack in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, and Israel would withdraw from Gaza.

After more than 10 months of fighting, the Palestinian death toll is nearing 40,000 in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry

Meanwhile, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site Tuesday, in a pilgrimage seen by Muslims as provocative as regional tensions soar.

Tensions over the compound have fueled rounds of violence before. Ben-Gvir, an ultranationalist settler leader, last visited the compound in July, which the Palestinian Foreign Ministry condemned as a "provocative intrusion" that endangered the fragile status quo regarding the Jerusalem compound. Ben-Gvir visited the flashpoint



marked Tisha B'Av, a day of mourning commemorating the destruction of the biblical Temples. Jews revere the site as the Temple Mount, believed to be the location of the First and Second Temples, and it is a holy site for Muslims as Haram al-Sharif or the Noble Sanctuary. The visit elicited a rebuke from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said prayers there were a "deviation" from decades-old understandings at

the site that prohibit Jewish worship there. In video released by his office, Ben-Gvir was seen strolling through the compound singing, "The people of Israel live!" while accompanied by dozens of supporters. One supporter yelled a Jewish prayer, which is not permitted under the longstanding arrangement in place at the site meant to ease regional tensions. Ben-Gvir has said he is changing the policy and, despite previous assurances to the contrary by Netanyahu, he repeated the

stance Tuesday, adding that

"very large progress" had been

made to allow Jewish prayer at

the site. Netanyahu said there

was no change to the policy.

Israeli strikes kill at least 16

raeli strikes in Gaza killed at least 16 Palestinians, including four women and seven children, and orphaned another four children, Palestinian medical officials said Tuesday.

Ten people were killed in a strike late Monday on a house near the southern city of Khan Younis, where Israel ordered mass evacuations in recent days, saying it must act against Palestinian mil-

Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were brought, said another four children, including a 3-month-old infant, were wounded. The infant's parents and their other five children were among

The parents of the other three wounded children were also killed according to the hospital'sz list of casualties. An Associated Press journalist counted the bodies

A separate strike near Deir al-Balah in central Gaza killed a woman and her twin babies, who were four days old, and their grandmother. Another strike in central Gaza killed a man and

An Associated Press reporter counted the bodies at the nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital and spoke to the father of the twins who had planned to register their birth on Tuesday. Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their

deaths on Hamas because its fighters operate in residential areas. The military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often



Hindus in Bangladesh hold a rally condemning violence against them and other religious groups in in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on

## 'Resignations of B'desh officials are legal'

The head of Bangladesh's interim government, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, says the high-profile resignations of authorities close to ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina are legal after student leaders who organised protests against Hasina's government issued ultimatums for them to quit.

"Legally ... all the steps were taken," Yunus, 83, told a group of journalists Sunday night. The country's chief justice, five justices and central bank governor have all resigned in the past few days, part of a dramatic transformation after weeks of protests against a quota system for government jobs turned into a mass upris-

Hasina resigned and fled to India last week.

Yunus said a key priority of the interim government is to restore the independence of chief justice Obaidul Hassan ʻjust a hangman".

Syed Refaat Ahmed was appointed the new chief justice on Sunday after his name was proposed by student leaders of the protests. Students vow to cleanse the

political system of Hasina's rule, which they have denounced as autocratic. More than 300 people, including students and police officers, were killed in the weeks of violence.

Yunus took over on Thursday after student leaders reached out. He said the students told him he was the only one they could trust.

He said he accepted "because these are the guys who broke the local government," describing it as a "student-led revolution".

'It's not my dream, it's their dream. So I'm kind of helping them to make it come true,

The interim government is expected to announce a new election, but it is not clear when it will be held.

Yunus had been a longtime critic of Hasina and her gov-An economist and banker by

profession and known as the banker to the poorest of the poor," he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for pioneering the use of micro-credit to help impoverished people, particularly women. Yunus ran into trouble with Hasina in 2008, when her administration launched a series of investigations into him and his Grameen Bank. He was put on trial in 2013 on charges of receiving money without government permission, including his Nobel Prize and royalties from

Yunus has denied the allegations, and his supporters say he was targeted because of his frosty relations with Hasina.

### Khaleda Zia's BNP to hold sit-in across Bangladesh

PTI n DHAKA

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party of former prime minister Khaleda Zia will hold sit-in programmes in front of its party offices across the country on Wednesday and Thursɗay, demanding a trial be conducted against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina

for "genocide". Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the programme on Tuesday and said that a prayer session will be held to commemorate Khaleda Zia's 79th birthday on Friday and to pray for those killed in the protest, The Dhaka Tribune reported.

Special prayers have been arranged in Hindu temples and other places of worship, the report said.

Rizvi urged all leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations to participate in these programmes. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-

An interim government was formed after the fall of the Hasina-led government, and its Chief Adviser, 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors last week.

On Monday, seven political parties, including the Awami League's arch-rival BNP, met Yunus separately and said the interim government could take the time necessary to create a conducive environment for holding free and fair elections, The Daily Star newspa-

### Family calls for transparency after heatstroke death of Baltimore trash collector

**PTI** n BALTIMORE

The family of a Baltimore man who died of heatstroke while collecting trash for the city's public works agency is demanding increased transparency from local officials following his death.

ference Monday and called on the Baltimore City Council to conduct a series of investigative hearings and shed light on how the otherwise healthy Ronald Silver II succumbed to heat-related illness at work. "Ronnie Silver's death is an absolutely preventable tragedy.

It should never have happened," said Thiru Vignarajah, an attorney representing the family. "And it was only because of a failure to respect the basic dignity and humanity of a trashman that this family had to hold funeral services for Ronnie Silver II on Friday." A copy of Silver's offer letter

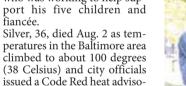
the Baltimore Department of Public Works shows he started the job last fall and was making about \$18 an hour. Vignarajah said the letter

was a source of pride for Silver, who was working to help sup-port his five children and

climbed to about 100 degrees (38 Celsius) and city officials issued a Code Red heat adviso-Locai media outlets repor ed that Silver rang the doorbell of a northeast Baltimore resident that afternoon asking for help. The person who answered the door called 911 on his

Department of Public Works officials have declined to answer questions about the events leading up to Silver's death, including whether supervisors were notified about his condition earlier in the

Critics say it was a tragic result of longstanding problems within the agency, including an abusive culture perpetuated by supervisors and a lack of concern for basic health and safety measures. Earlier this summer, the city's inspector general released a report saying that some agency employees —



including at the solid waste yard where Silver reported to work — didn't have adequate access to water, ice, air conditioning and fans to help them complete their trash cleanup routes in intense summer heat. In response to those findings, agency leaders promised to address the issue by properly maintaining ice machines, repairing broken air conditioners in their trash trucks, handing out Gatorade and giving employees an alternative to their traditional uniforms on

other changes. The agency also announced last week that it would provide employees with mandatory

days,

heat safety training, including recognizing the signs and symptoms of heat stroke and related illnesses.

Vignarajah called those efforts 'a day late and a dollar short.' He said the Silver family hopes their loss will be a catalyst for change and "the reason that this never happens again," especially as record-shattering heat waves are becoming increasingly common worldwide.

'We will not let the world forget Ronald Silver II," his aunt Renee Meredith said during the news conference. "Ronnie, we miss you and love you. And by the time we're done, every worker will be safer because of the mark you have left.

## Greece on high alert as wildfire rages on

**AP n** ATHENS

A major wildfire has raged out of control in the northern suburbs of Athens, triggering evacuations of several areas as swirling winds hampered the efforts of hundreds of firefighters and dozens of waterdropping planes.

The massive, fast-moving blaze on Monday sent flames to heights of over 25 metres (80 teet) as Greece sought assis tance from other countries, activating Europe's mutual civil protection mechanism.

The fire began Sunday afternoon about 35 kilometres (22 miles) northeast of Athens, burning several homes and businesses and sending a blanket of smoke and ash over the city centre. Power cuts hit parts of the Greek capital and affected traffic lights at major central junctions. Authorities said 15 people were injured, mostly due to smoke inhalation, as the blaze reached outlying sections of a suburb about 15 kilometres (9 miles) from the city centre. Greece's National Observatory said late Monday that satellite images show the blaze has affected about 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres). France would provide a heli-

copter, Italy two water-dropping planes and the Czech Republic 75 firefighters and 25 vehicles, officials said, while Serbia and Romania were also readying aid. Neighbouring Turkey's Foreign Ministry said the country would dispatch two firefighting planes and a helicopter, while Spain was also finalising reinforcements to send to Ğreece.

The wildfire raced through pine forests left tinder-dry by repeated heat waves this summer. June and July were the hottest months ever recorded in Greece, which also recorded its warmest winter ever. An early start of the fire season this year has strained Greece's firefighting force.

"Firefighters have been working at full tilt for months," said Nikos Lavranos, head of Greece's main firefighters union. "They are exhausted." Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said Monday it was "an exceptionally dangerous fire, which we have been fighting for more than 20 hours under dramatic circumstances". Some

areas that were burning on a mountain northeast of Athens were particularly hard to reach, he added.

Three hospitals, including a children's hospital, two monasteries and a children's home were evacuated on Monday afternoon. Cellphones in the area got at least 30 push alerts

warning people to flee. 'The wind would go in one direction and then in the other," said Spyros Gorilas, a resident of the area of Dioni who hosed down his house with water to

campaign spokesperson Steven

## Harris more incompetent than Biden, Trump tells Musk

PTI n WASHINGTON

 $D_{\text{nominee Kamala Harris}}^{\text{emocratic presidential}}$ is a "third-rate phoney candidate" and "more incompetent" than her boss President Joe Biden, her Republican rival in the November election, Donald Trump, has said. In a much-anticipated audioonly interview with billionaire tech magnate Elon Musk on Monday on his social media platform X which was delayed by more than 40 minutes due to technical difficulties, the 78-year-old former president said, "She is a radical left lunatic," as he alleged that "she wants to be more Trump than Trump". Launching a scathing attack on the 59-year-old US Vice President, Trump described Harris as a "third-rate phoney candidate." He reiterated his allegation that Biden being replaced by Harris as a presidential candidate of the

Democratic party was a coup.

Musk agreed with the former

president and said, "Her

She (Harris) had three and a

half years, and by the way, they have another five months that they can do something. But they won't do anything. It's all talk," Trump "She's incompetent, and he

(Biden) is incompetent. And frankly, I think that she's more incompetent than he is, and that's saying something because he's not too good," he said. Trump would face Harris in the general elections on November 5.

He accused Harris of having failed miserably on border security as hundreds and thousands of people entered the country illegally.

Asserting that he is in favour of legal immigration, Trump said it is illegal immigration that he is against.

"She is such a liar," Trump alleged on X, previously known as Twitter, on the day when he returned to the social media platform.

Over a million people listened to the much-awaited

which started more than 40 minutes late because of tech-

There appears to be a massive DDOS ( distributed denial-of-service) attack on K. Working on shutting it down. Worst case, we will proceed with a smaller number of live listeners and post the conversation later," Musk said in a post on X.

During the interview, both Musk and Trump agreed that the crime rate has increased in the US because of the open border policy of the Biden-Harris Administration. We're gonna have the largest deportation in the history of this country. And we have no choice," said the former pres-

ident. Responding to a question from Musk, Trump also slammed Biden's foreign policy and applauded Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

I got along well with them," he said, claiming there would

the president of the United

Meanwhile, Musk stressed that people respond to strength and not weakness and said, "We have some really bad people... we have some really bad people, and I say they are more dangerous than Russia and China."

The biggest threat, he said, is not climate change but nuclear warming. The conversation between

Trump and Musk started with the failed assassination attempt on the former president in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13. "It's very much, I say, an act

of God. It's a miracle that it happened," Trump said. Commenting on the country's economy, he said the US

is having the worst inflation in 100 years. Trump accused the Biden-Harris administration of the worsening of the US economy. We need to reduce our gov-

ernment spending. ... We need, like a government effi-

ciency commission," Musk

Trump also told Musk, the 53-year-old CEO of Tesla, that he was an "interesting character".

During the conversation, Trump described China as a primary competitor in Artificial Intelligence and announced that he would close down the Department of Education and move them to the states. In this, he said he would need Musk's help. Trump, who has 88.8 million followers on X, had 10 posts on the social media platform, each of which has been viewed millions of times. Some of his posts had 34 mil-

lion impressions. His first post, "Are you better off now than you were when I was president? Our economy is shattered. Our border has been erased. We're a nation in decline. Make the American Dream AFFORD-ABLE again. Make America SAFE again. Make America GREAT Again!" had 25 million impressions.

## FBI probing Trump campaign charge of hacking by Iran

**AP n** WASHINGTON

The FBI is investigating allega I tions that sensitive documents from Donald Trump's presidential campaign were stolen in a cyber intrusion, as well as attempts to gain access to Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign, days after the Trump campaign declared it had been hacked by Iran.

The FBI released a brief statement on the Trump matter reading, "We can confirm the FBI is investigating this matter".

The Trump campaign provided no specific evidence of Iran's involvement, but the claim came shortly after Microsoft issued a report detailing foreign agents' attempts to interfere in the US election in 2024. The report cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spear-phishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a Two people familiar with the

matter said the Biden-Harris campaign was also targeted in the suspected Iranian cyber intrusion that is under FBI investigation. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the details of the investigation. Politico reported Saturday that it

began receiving emails on July 22 from an anonymous account. The source — an AOL email account identified only as "Robert" — passed along what appeared to be a research dossier the campaign had apparently done on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Ohio Sen. D Vance. The document was dated February 23, almost five months before Trump selected Vance as his running mate.

These documents were obtained illegally" and "intended to interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our Democratic process," Trump

Cheung said. At least three staffers in the Biden-Harris campaign were targeted with phishing emails, but investigators have uncovered no evidence the attempt was successful, one of the people said. The attempts came before President Joe Biden dropped out of the race. The FBI began investigating that cyber incident in June and intelligence officials believe Iran was behind the attempts, that person said. Officials have also been in touch with tech companies in recent months about the possibility that people linked to the Trump and Biden-Harris campaigns were being targeted through email. Harris' campaign said in a statement, "Our campaign vigilantly monitors and protects against cyber threats, and we are not aware of any security breaches of our systems." It declined to address whether it had identified any state-based intrusion

## Pak ruling coalition hails ex-ISI chief's impending court-martial

Pakistan's ruling coalition has hailed the arrest of former ISI chief Lt Gen (retd.) Faiz Hameed in connection with a housing scheme scandal but jailed former premier Imran Khan's party decided to stay neutral and termed it the army's "internal matter".

Hameed served as the director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) from 2019 to 2021, when Khan was prime minister and was accused of meddling in political affairs at

According to the army, he was arrested on Monday by military authorities and court martial proceedings were initiated against him under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act for alleged misuse of authority. His arrest followed a probe into complaints against him by the owner of Top City Housing Society over an alleged raid at

Asserting that the military's

mer premier Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, said the army is a disciplined and organised institution with its own procedures for dealing with both serving and retired officers, the Dawn newspaper reported.

However, members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), including Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Senator Afnan, Rana Sanaullah as well as Pakistan People Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira, were more open in their views on the move, with Tarar calling it a "right decision".

"Action against Faiz Hameed would have been taken on the basis of investigation," the min-Pointing out that only a brief

announcement had been made by the military spokesman about the ex-ISÍ DG, Senator Siddiqui said, "When investigation will go forward, his control the judiciary as well.



(Hameed's) political meddling will also be proved."

Siddique quoted PTI founder Khan as saying that Hameed had supported his party inside Parliament by getting legislation passed and meeting the required number of members in the National Assembly. He said Hameed also remained

involved in the general elections by backing the PTI. The senator said the former ISI chief had controlled the media and politicians and tried to Senior PML-N leader Sanaullah alleged that Hameed was involved in "political meddling" and on his instruction the Faizabad sit-in was staged by a religious group, choking the main arteries of the federal capital for weeks. Sanaullah said action against

him was taken in the light of the Supreme Court's order in the private housing scheme, Top City, whose owner filed a petition in the apex court last vear, accusing Hameed of misusing his authority. The owner stated in the petition that on May 12, 2017, at

the behest of Gen Hameed, ISI officials raided the top city office and his house and seized valuables, including gold, diamonds and money. Hailing the military's internal accountability system, PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said an inquiry had confirmed

He was delivering a statement on behalf of the G4 countries -Brazil, Germany, Japan and India
— at the UNSC High-Level multiple violations by Hameed that prompted the initiation of Debate on 'Maintenance of disciplinary proceedings under International Peace and Security: Addressing the Historical

said on Monday.

PTI n UNITED NATIONS

reform of the UN Security

Acouncil that does not

address the lack of representa-

tion, particularly in the perma-

nent category, would only "exac-

erbate" the current imbalances in

its composition and render it "ill-

equipped" to address current

global challenges, India has said

"Recent global geopolitical events

have clearly shown that the UN

Security Council is unable to

deliver on its primary responsi-

bilities to safeguard internation-

al peace and security when the

world needs it the most," Chargé

d'Affaires and Deputy Permanent

Representative of Índia to the

UN Ambassador R Ravindra

on behalf of the G4 countries.

Injustice and enhancing Africa's effective representation in the

Without reforms, UNSC 'ill-equipped' to

address global challenges: G4 nations

The realities of 1945, when the Council was established, have long been superseded by current geopolitical realities, with the need for change being felt across the board, Ravindra said ahead of next month's annual high-level UN General Assembly session which world leaders will attend. He noted that for the G4, the primary reason for the underperformance of the critical UN Security Council remains the non-representation of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the under-representation of Asia Pacific in the permanent category.

'It is the G4's firm belief, shared we believe by Africa and other groups, that any reform of the Council that does not address the lack of representation, particularly in the permanent category, would only exacerbate the current imbalances in the Council's composition and render it ill-

Philippines protests Chinese

equipped to address today's international challenges," he said. The 15-nation UNSC comprises five permanent, veto-wielding members - China, France,

Russia, the UK and the US —

and 10 non-permanent members, without veto powers, who are elected for two-year terms. Underlining that the G4 has "walked the talk" when it comes to correcting historical injustices done to Africa, Ravindra said the group's model of UNSC reforms has clearly proposed that the Security Council membership increase from the current 15 to 25-26 by adding six permanent and four or five non-permanent

members. Among the six new permanent members, two each are proposed to be from African States and Asia Pacific states, one from Latin American and Caribbean states, and one from West European and Other States. "On rights and privileges asso-

ciated with permanent memberships, such as the veto, we also support the Common African Position that as long as it exists, it should be available to all permanent members, both new and old alike," Ravindra said. Ravindra said that the G4 is convinced that African representation in permanent and non-permanent categories will be an indispensable part of UNSC reform for a more representative

and effective Council. The group believes it is "inconceivable" that Africa, which constitutes over 70 per cent of the UNSC's agenda items under discussion, does not get a permanent voice at the horse-shoe

'We as G4 continue to support fully these legitimate demands and aspirations from the people of Africa," he said, adding that the group's relationship with Africa is anchored in trust and mutual respect, and is focused on ensuring that Africa finds its "rightful" place in a new age of reformed multilat-

### Pak's anti-terrorism court rejects bail plea of Bushra Bibi in 12 cases

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has rejected the bail application of Bushra Bibi, the wife of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, in 12 cases related to the May 9 violence of last year which erupted when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder was arrested in an alleged corruption case.

Anti-terrorism court (ATC) Rawalpindi Judge Malik Ejaz Asif on Monday after hearing the plea of Bushra Bibi, 49, said that a thorough investigation was required in her case and subsequently dismissed the bail appli-

The judge also ordered that the investigation in her case should be completed in seven days. Bibi was seeking bail in FIRs registered in various police stations in Rawalpindi.

the court along with dozens of other accused who have been named as suspects in the May 9 violence that left more than 100 people dead. The violence started after the

Khan and Bushra were present in

Pakistan Rangers arrested Khan inside the premises of the Islamabad High Court in a cor-

The PTI supporters allegedly targeted civil and military instal-



lations, including the residence of the Pakistan Army's IV Corps Commander in Lahore and the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, across the country following Khan's arrest.

The court later adjourned the hearing of the May 9 cases until

Meanwhile, Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Minagul Hassan Aurangzeb referred to the IHC Chief Justice a petition seeking details of the cases against the wife of the former prime minister. The court also asked the superintendent of Adiala Jail to decide on the complaints of Bibi against the administration strictly following the jail manual.

Khan, 71, has been imprisoned at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for more than a year now upon his conviction in multiple cases. Bushra is also jailed along with

Khan faces several cases and has been convicted in a few. Though the former-cricketer-turnedpolitician had secured bail or his conviction was set aside, he has not been released.

Talking to journalists in Adiala jail while appearing for a hearing in a case of alleged corruption last week, Khan warned that the incumbent government led by Shehbaz Sharif would not last for more than two months.

During his conversation with the media, he also referred to the comments he made earlier regarding the May 9 riots. He said that a wrong perception was created and that he had sought an unconditional apology. He also clarified that he would

apologise if the PTI activists were found involved in the violent protests. He said that his party wanted justice in the May 9 events, elaborating on his offer to initiate dialogue, and adding that he made the offer to hold talks only for the sake of the

"I will not strike any deal no matter how many cases they register against us," he said, adding that a deal is sought by those who had committed any wrongdoing. He also clarified that he has not received any offer for negotiations

### Teenager stabs 5 in Turkiye, held by cops

the Pakistan Army Act.

AP n ANKARA

A teenager wearing a helmet and bulletproof vest randomly stabbed five people at an open-air cafe in northwest Turkiye before being detained by police, officials and media reports said Tuesday.

The 18-year-old, identified as Arda K., broadcast Monday's knife attack on social media through a camera attached to his vest, HaberTurk television reported. The victims were people relaxing after prayers at a mosque in Eskisehir, some 230 kilometres west of the capital, Ankara.

The teenager was detained following a police chase, according to the Eskisehir governor's

The five wounded individuals were hospitalised and two of them were in serious condition, according to the state-run Anadolu Ägency. The assailant was also carrying an ax but did not appear to have used it. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya

said an investigation had begun, while HaberTurk and other media reported the assailant is believed to have been influenced by a video flares in path of patrol plane AP n MANILA

The Philippine government ▲ said Tuesday it has filed a diplomatic protest against Beijing after Chinese jets flew dangerously close and fired a volley of flares in the path of a Philippine air force patrol plane over a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

The Chinese air force jets' hostile actions against the Philippine military's NC-212i light transport plane Thursday over the Scarborough Shoal was the first such aerial encounter since high-seas hostilities between Beijing and Manila in the busy seaway started to flare last year.

Philippine military chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. did not report any injuries or damage but condemned the Chinese actions, which he said could have had tragic consequences.

with our aircraft, these could have been blown into the propeller or the intake or burned our plane," Brawner told reporters. "It was very danger-

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Teresita Daza said without elaborating that a diplomatic protest has been

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

No. EM/PED/TECH-30/2023/269

Date: 09/08/2024

Name of the work: Supply, Installation

and Commissioning of 23 Nos. High

Mast Lighting Tower inside the Port

prohibited area. Estimated cost:

Rs.2.91.96.112/-. Last date & time of

submission of bid: dt.30/08/2024 up to

18:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), PED-I

Assistant Registrar (General

Dated: 13-08-2024

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsa

https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

PPA/PR/28/2024-2025

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences

Faridkot pn. 01689-256282, 256286

Corrigendum

In continuation to advertisement no. BFU-24/17 published in leading news-

paper on 20/07/2024 to the recruitment of Joint Director (UCER)-01, Security Officer-01, Librarian Gr-I-01, Assistant Controller (F&A)-01, In-charge Centra

Registration Department-01, Medical Record Officer-02, Technical Supervisor (Blood Bank)-01, Radiology Supervisor-01 and Biochemist-03 under Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. The portal was not

started due to administrative reason. Now, the revised date of online applica-tion form is w.e.f 14/08/2024 to 03/09/2024.

Ferms and conditions will remain same as per advertisement No. BFU-24/17

nil/12/210/2023/36625 Dated CHD :- 8/13/2024

nventory turnover ratio (In times)

Operating margin (In %)

Tender Notice Reference No.GNDU/Gen/56-68/2024
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:

Allotment of Canteens

Allotment of Shops

Closing Date & Time: 23-08-2024 at 5:00 P.M.

or details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

NA/12/24732/2023/36618 Dated CHD :- 8/13/2024

e-Tender Call Notice No.

EM/PED-21/2024

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said over the weekend that the actions by the Chinese air force jets were

"unjustified, illegal and reck-

"We call on the government of the People's Republic of China to cease all forms of provocative and hazardous

acts that could undermine the safety of Filipino military and civilian personnel in the waters or in the skies, destabilise regional peace, and erode the trust and confidence of the international community in the PRC," a Philippine government task force overseeing the South

China Sea said Monday.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot Ph. 01689-256282, 256286

Vacancies
Online applications are invited w.e.f. 14-08-2024 to 03-09-2024 from eligible candidates through University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in to the recruitment of Casualty Medical Officer (EMO)-05 & Lady Medical Officer-01 at constituent colleges/ institutes of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Guru Gobind Singh Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot). For Application form, fee, detail of posts/ updates/ other terms & conditions, visi

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences,

#### Faridkot ADMISSION NOTICE -M.Sc. (Anatomy), M.Sc. (Physiology), M.Sc. (Blochemistry), Session 2024

Online Applications are invited available on University website for admissi-

to M.Sc. in Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry Courses from 16.08.2024 to 31.08.2024 alongwith requisite fee through University Payment Gateway. Counseling will be held on 04.09.2023 (11:00P M) in Senate Hall, BFUHS Faridkot. The selected candidates shall pay the tuition fee on the spot at the counseling venue in the shape of Bank Demand Draft in favor of Registrar BFUHS, payable in Faridkot.

ADMISSION NOTICE for Post Basic Diploma in Oncology Nursing, and Neonatal Nursing-2024

Online applications are invited w.e.f 14.08.2024 to 24.08.2024 for admission to Post Basic Diploma in Oncology Nursing and Neonatal Nursing courses at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Sangrur and University College of Nursing, Faridkot alongwith requisite fee through University Payment Gateway. Physical Counseling will be held on 02.09.2024 (12:00 noon) at University of College of Nursing, Faridkot. The selected candidates shall pay the tuition fee on the spot at the counseling venue in the shape of Bank Demand Draft in

favor of Registrar, BFUHS, payable in Faridkot. Admission Notice for PMNET (M.Sc.Nursing) Courses, session

Online applications are invited for admission in all the Govt./ University. Private colleges of Punjab through website w.e.f 14.08.2024 to 20.08.2024. The PMNET-2024 Computer Based Entrance Test for admission to M.Sc Nursing course will be conducted on 02-09-2024. The date of counseling shall be notified on University website

Note:- Any Notification/Corrigendum/Amendment by Govt. of Punjab will be followed. For al schedule/online counseling/details & updates visit us at: www.bfuhs.ac.ln regularly.

nil/12/212/2023/36628 Dated CHD :- 8/13/2024

31.91

### Yemen's Houthis seize **UNHR office in Sanaa**

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m emen's}$  Houthi rebels stormed the headquarters of the United Nations' Human Rights Office in the capital, Sanaa, seizing documents, furniture and vehicles, a senior UN official said The seizure was the latest move in a

crackdown by the Houthis on people

working with the UN, aid agencies and foreign embassies. The crackdown comes as the Iranian-backed rebels have been targeting shipping throughout the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The rebels took over the UN Human Rights Office's premises in Sanaa on

August 3, after forcing UN Yemeni workers to hand over belongings, including documents, furniture and vehicles, UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk said in a statement. "Ansar Allah forces must leave the

premises and return all assets and belongings immediately," Turk said, using the official name of the Houthis. A spokesman for the Houthis didn't return phone calls and messages request-

The UN's Human Rights Office said it had suspended the office's operations in Sanaa and other Yemeni areas controlled by the Houthis following the June crackdown campaign. But it still operates in the parts of Yemen controlled by the internationally recognized government. In June, the Houthis detained more than 60 people working with the UN and other NGOs, according to the UN Human Rights Office. Among the detainees were six workers with the Human Rights Office, who joined two of their colleagues detained by the Houthis in November 2021 and August 2023, it said. Days after the arrest campaign, the rebels said they had arrested members of what they called an 'American-Israeli spy network." The Houthis issued what they purport-

ed to be videotaped confessions by 10 Yemenis, several of whom said they were recruited by the US Embassy in Yemen. The UN Human Rights Office said one of its staffers who was detained earlier appeared in a video in which he was forced to confess to allegations, including of espionage, the office said. The Houthis' claims could not be independently verified.

ship in the Red Sea was targeted in a third A ship in the Keu Sea was tangeted and attack suspected to have been carried out by Yemen's Houthi rebels Tuesday in their campaign of assaults over the Israel-Hamas

The attacks come as the rebels' main sponsor, Iran, weighs possible retaliation against Israel over the assassination of Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh in July, which has renewed fears of a wider regional war in the Middle

Already, the Houthi assaults have disrupted the USD 1 trillion annual flow of goods through the maritime route crucial to trade among Asia, Europe and the Middle East, while also sparking the most intense combat

The ship was first attacked around 115 kilo meters (70 miles) south of the Houthi-held port city of Hodeida, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. An explosive was detonated near the ship, then a small vessel "acting suspiciously" flashed a light near the ship and came close, actions that were followed by a second blast,

### Houthi rebels target ship in Red Sea again

AP n DUBAI

for the US Navy since World War II.

## US-backed Syrian fighters kill 18 pro-govt gunmen in rare attack

AP n QAMISHLI

US-backed Syrian fighters carried out a rare attack in eastern Syria, striking at three posts manned by pro-government gunmen and claiming that they killed 18 of them in a major escalation near the border with Iraq.

The renewed clashes in Syria's eastern oil-rich province of Deir el-Zour on Monday came amid high tensions in the region following last month's killings of a top commander of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group in Beirut and the political leader of the Palestinian Hamas group in Iran. Israel was blamed for both attacks, and Iran and Hezbollah have vowed

The Syrian government, which is backed by Russia and Iran, has vowed for years to liberate eastern Syria from US forces who have been deployed in the area since 2015 to help fight the Islamic State group.

Monday's attack by members of the Arab-led Deir el-Zour attacked the area where the

Military Council — part of the US-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces came days after clashes and shelling between the SDF and pro-government gunmen left more than a dozen people

The Deir el-Zour Military Council said the new attack was in retaliation for government forces' shelling the villages of Dahla and Jdaidet Bakkara last week that left at least 11 civilThe Britain-based Syrian

Observatory for Human Ŕights, an opposition war monitor, said nine pro-government fighters were killed in the attack. The clashes in eastern Syria are the worst in nearly a year.

Since 2017, the east bank of the Euphrates river in Deir el-Zour has been controlled by the SDF and the area is where hundreds of US troops are based. The river's west bank has been controlled by Syrian government forces and Iran-backed fighters.

#### **Tapir Constructions Limited** (CIN: U70200DL2014PLC267441) Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024

Registra

(₹ in Millions Quarter Previous year Quarter ended 30 June 2023 30 June 2024 31 March 2024 (Unaudited) Total Income from Operations (71.5)Net (Loss) / Profit for the period (before Tax. Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) Net (Loss) / Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (7.3)(71.5)Net (Loss) / Profit for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (22.8)(71.5)Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] (72.0)(22.8)Paid up Equity Share Capital Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) (2,117.5)Securities Premium Account Net Worth (2,139.8) (2,052.2)(2,117.0)Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt 3.349.3 3.540.5 Outstanding redemption preference share (1.70)(1.63)(1.70)Earnings per Share (EPS) (Face value Per Share ₹10 each) (1,430.52) Capital Redemption Reserve Debenture Redemption Reserve Debt Service Coverage Ratio (0.35)(0.05)(0.06)Interest Service Coverage Ratio (0.19)(0.35)Current ratio (In times) 0.72 0.92 Total debts to total assets 0.71 0.73 0.71 Long term debt to working capital (In times) (0.71)(3.79)Bad debt to account receivable ratio (In %) Debtor turnover ratio (In times)

Net profit margin (In %) 1. The above results have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors ('the Board') at its meeting held on 13 August 2024.

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52(8), read with 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://equinoxindia.com/tcl/) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com)

Registered Office: Office no 202, 2nd Floor, A-18 Rama House, Middle Circle, For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Connaught Place , New Delhi- 110 001. Abhishek Rajninath Surve Date : 13 August, 2024

# Sitharaman: Govt needs money to meet challenges, fund R&D

PTI n BHOPAL

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday justified the present taxation regime, saying that the country needs resources to meet the challenges facing the nation and also to fund research and development

Sitharaman was addressing the 11th convocation of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Bhopal.

While appealing to the scientist community to do more research on the storage renewable Sitharaman said the world has promised a lot of money towards transitioning from fossil fuel to renewable energy but that money is yet

"But India didn't wait. The promises given in Paris (Paris Agreement) were fulfilled with our own money. There



are times when being the "I seek a very learned crowd finance minister, it doesn't before me graduates, PhD holders, to understand India's give me motivation when I have to answer people about challenges. I have taken the why our taxes are like this? example of renewable energy, Why can't we even be lower global energy as one of those than this? I wish I can bring it sustainable sources of energy down to almost nil. But for a growing country like India's challenges are severe and challenges will have to be India," she said. While urging scientists to the finance come up with innovations, she said that India is moving

She said the government has heavily invested in scientific

somewhere else. Sitharaman also

scientists to develop batteries for the storage of the renewable energy as transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy has to be sustainable.

"The government is just not

talking. It is putting money in R&D (research and development).. Money that is earned out of taxation. That's my job so I will tell you that. My job is to generate revenue but not troubling people, I will assure that. But, even with that money comes because we also need to fund research," Sitharaman said while seeking a reply from the gathering that should there be more money for research? Madhya Pradesh Minister Mohan Yadav,

Bhopal's Lok Sabha MP Alok

Sharma and other dignitaries

were present during the

### Sensex tumbles nearly 700 points amid broad-based selloff

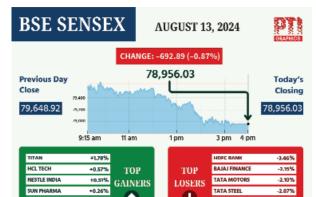
PTI n MUMBAI

 $E_{\text{Sensex}}^{\text{quity}} \ \, \stackrel{\text{benchmark}}{\text{tumbled nearly 700}} \, \, \text{BSE}$ points to sink below the 79,000 level on Tuesday, extending its losses for the second straight day due to selling pressure in HDFC Bank, SBI and ITC amid fresh foreign capital outflows.

Besides, deep losses in commodity, banking and financial stocks and concerns over stretched valuation contributed to the steep market decline, analysts said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 692.89 points or 0.87 per cent to settle at 78,956.03. During the day, it tanked 759.54 points or 0.95 per cent to 78,889.38. The NSE Nifty slumped 208 points or 0.85 per cent to 24,139. A total of 2,676 stocks declined while 1,266 advanced and 84 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"The domestic market plunged into red terrain in the latter half, amidst mixed global sentiments. Recent IIP data indicates a lacklustre growth in major manufacturing sector. Persistent selling by FIIs and elevated valuations are



further contributing to the decline. "All sectors, especially banking, metal were in red, while HDFC Bank declined due to lower-than-expected passive fund inflows in the recent MSCI index rejig," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research,

From the 30 Sensex firms, HDFC Bank declined over 3 per cent. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Tata Motors, Power Grid and JSW Steel were the other

Geojit Financial Services.

In contrast, Titan, HCL Tech, Nestle, Sun Pharma, Reliance and Mahindra & Mahindra were the gainers. firms,

Vodafone Idea and Oil India, would be included in the MSCI India Index effective August 30, 2024, as per the latest index review by MSCI.

Dixon Technologies (India), Oil India, Oracle Financial Services Software, Prestige Estates Projects, Rail Vikas Nigam, Vodafone Idea and Zydus Lifesciences are the additions to the MSCI India Index, according to an announcement

### EEPC, ISSDA join hands to boost MSME exports

PTI n KOLKATA

The Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) and the Indian Stainless Development Association (ISSDA) on Tuesday signed an MoU to promote exports by MSME members.

The two organisations will collaborate to identify potential export products and organise trade exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, and economic summits, an EEPC statement said.

The agreement also aims to facilitate the exchange of trade information and encourage through joint ventures and technical collaborations.

The MoU was signed by Director Adhip Mitra and ISSDA's Executive Director Rohit President Krishnamurti and other EEPC India's senior officials were

## Rupee settles flat at 83.97 against US dollar

The rupee witnessed range-bound trading and settled for the day on a flat note at 83.97 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, as weak domestic markets and a surge in crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiments.

Forex traders said risk aversion in the global markets amid heightened geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel and Iran also dented sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit traded in a tight range as it opened at 83.95 and finally settled at 83.97 (provisional) against the American currency, unchanged from its previous

On Monday, the rupee settled for the day lower by 2 paise at 83.97 against the American

The local unit had slumped 37 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.09 against the US dollar on August 5

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on risk aversion in the global markets amid heightened

geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel and Iran. Rising crude oil prices and weak domestic markets may also weigh on the domestic currency," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. However, mixed-to-weak US dollar amid dovish comments from Fed speakers may support the rupee at lower levels. Investors may remain cautious

ahead of the US CPI, retail sales and consumer confidence data from the US this week, said Choudhary, adding that USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 83.75 to

Meanwhile, the dollar index, wnich gauges the greenbacks strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent higher at 103.19. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.27 per cent to USD 82.08 per barrel.

from fossil fuel to renewable

energy at its own strength as

the country cannot afford to

macroeconomic front, the net direct tax collection in the country grew 22.48 per cent to about Rs 6.93 lakh crore as of August 11 of this fiscal. The retail inflation eased to

3.54 per cent with food prices falling after a good monsoon. It was the lowest in last 5 years and has dipped below RBIs targeted rate of 4 per cent.

However, India's industrial production slowed to a fivemonth low of 4.2 per cent in June 2024, mainly due to poor manufacturing sector, though power and mining sectors continue to perform well, as per official data released on Monday.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 692.89 points, or 0.87 per cent, to 78,956.03 points. The Nifty fell 208.00 points, or 0.85 per cent, to 24,139.00 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 4,680.51 crore, according to

### Vodafone Idea, Oil India, five others to be included in MSCI India Index

PTI n NEW DELHI

Seven firms, including Vodafone Idea and Oil India, would be included in the MSCI India Index effective August 30, 2024, as per the latest index review by

Dixon Technologies (India), Oil India, Oracle Financial Services Software, Prestige Estates Projects, Rail Vikas Nigam, Vodafone Idea and Zvdus Lifesciences are the additions in the MSCI India Index, according to an announcement by index compiler MSCI.

The changes in constituents for the MSCI Global Standard Indexes will take place as of the close of August 30, 2024, as per the announcement.

Bandhan Bank would move out from the MSCI India Index, it announced.

Shares of Rail Vikas Nigam jumped 4.61 per cent, Dixon Technologies climbed 3.29 er cent, Oil India went up by 3.21 per cent, Oracle Financial Services Software (1.95 per cent) and Prestige Estates (1.46 per cent) on the



However, Vodafone Idea and Zydus Lifesciences were trading lower.

MSCI is a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the investment

MSCI Global the Smallcap Indices list, 27 firms will be included in the MSCI India Index. The additions include Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar, Bandhan Bank, Gulf Oil Lubricants India, Inox Wind Energy and TVS Supply Chain Solutions. Cochin Shipyard, Dixon

Technologies, Jaiprakash Media and two others would move out from the MSCI India Index from the Smallcap Indices list.

### India's smartphone market grows 3.2% with 39 million units shipment in Q2 entry-level (sub-USD100)

The Indian smartphone market grew 3.2 per cent with 39 million units shipment in the second quarter of 2024, market research firm International Data Corporation said on The market was led by

Chinese smartphone maker Vivo with a 16.5 per cent share in volume terms with its shipment growing by 6.7 per cent on a year-over-year (YoY) basis, it said. Apple led the super-premium

smartphones priced above Rs 67,000 apiece with an 83 per cent share followed by Samsung with a 16 per cent share. "Overall, Vivo continued to lead for the second consecutive quarter, with multiple launches across price segments through the Y series, mid-premium V series and flagship X Fold 3 Pro. Motorola registered the highest growth backed by product portfolio across price segments," the report

Kiaomi followed Vivo with 13.5 per cent market.

YoY basis, according to the

report. Apple stood at the sixth spot with a 6.7 per cent market share and a 24.2 per cent increase in shipment on a YoY basis. According

Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, the Indian smartphone market shipped 69 million smartphones in the first half of 2024. In the premium segment, the

price range above Rs 50,000 to Rs 67,000, Apple's share increased YoY to 61 per cent, while Samsung's increased to 24 per cent, from 21 per cent a year ago, the report said. premium

Samsung slipped to the third Rs 16,700 to USD 400 or Rs sport with a 12.9 per cent 33,500) is expected to see share as its shipment healthy growth, while the

will remain challenged at least this year despite efforts around launching affordable 5G smartphones. Also, the marketing around GenAI smartphones will be more pronounced, amid heavy activities around it," IDC, Associate Vice President, Devices Research, Navkendar Singh said. The biggest growth segment in the overall smartphone market was the entry-premium segment which counts devices priced in the range of Rs 16,000 to Rs 33,500.

segment's increased to 30 per cent from 22 per cent and registered the highest growth of 42 per cent on a YoY basis

According to the report, 27 million 5G smartphones were shipped in the quarter, and the share of 5G smartphone shipments increased to 77 per cent, up from 49 per cent in the yearago period, while 5G smartphone ASPs declined by 22 per cent YoY to USD 293 or about Rs 24,600.

Within 5G, shipments of the segment (USD200 or about mass budget segment priced

## TRAI directs telcos to disconnect unregistered telemarketers' lines over spam calls

PTI n NEW DELHI

Sector regulator TRAI on Tuesday directed telcos to disconnect all telecom resources of unregistered telemarketers found making spam calls, and to blacklist them for up to two years.

Further, TRAI has asked telcos to comply immediately with its latest directive and submit regular updates on action taken in this regard on a fortnightly basis.

Issuing its directive to telcos, TRAI said this "decisive action" is expected to significantly reduce spam calls and provide relief to consumers.

TRAI in a release said it has issued "directives to access providers to disconnect all telecom resources unregistered senders for making spam calls and to blacklist such senders under the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulations, 2018" regulations. Towards this, TRAI has

mandated all access service resources for providers to stop voice promotional calls whether pre-recorded or computer generated or otherwise from all unregistered senders or telemarketers (UTMs) using disconnected by the primary

bulk connections or other telecom resources.

.. All promotional voice calls the unregistered Senders/ Telemarketer (UTMs) using Telecom Resources (SIP/ PRI/ other telecom resources) stopped immediately," TRAI said.

any unregistered telemarketer or sender is found to be misusing telecom commercial voice calls in violation of the regulations resulting in complaints, all its telecom resources



telecom service provider for a period up to two years. Further, such unregistered

entities will be blacklisted for a period up to two years. "...Information regar

blacklisting of the sender shall be shared by the OAP (Originating Access Provider) with all other access providers on DLT platform, within 24 hours, who will, in turn, disconnect all the telecom resources given by them to that sender within the next 24 hours," TRAI said.

New telecom resources would not be allocated to them by any access provider during the period of blacklisting. "All the unregistered Senders/

Unregistered Telemarketers (UTMs) using SIP/PRI/ other telecom resources to make commercial voice calls to the

the DLT platform within one month of the issue of this direction and submit compliance report within seven days thereafter," TRAI

citizen shall be migrated to

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed all telcos to comply with its latest directive and submit regular updates on the actions taken on the first and sixteenth of every month.

The regulator has declared an all-out war against the rising menace of spam calls - last week TRAI had had warned that telcos will disconnect the telecom resources of entities that are found misusing bulk connections for making spam calls, and such entities would face blacklisting by all operators for up to two years. TRAI held a meeting with regulatory heads of all the Telecom Service Providers

last Thursday.

The meeting, Chaired by TRAI Chief, was attended by the Chief Regulatory Officers of Airtel, BSNL, Quadrant Televentures Limited (QTL), Reliance Jio, Tata Teleservices Limited, Vodafone Idea Limited and

#### Wipro top-level exits continue as CTO Subha Tatavarti steps down in April, following

Tn another high-level exit at IT Imajor Wipro, its Chief Technology Officer Subha Tatavarti has resigned to pursue opportunities outside the company.

Tatavarti joined Wipro in April 2021 as the technology head under the then-CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte. During her three-year stint, she led Wipro's initiatives introduced Wipro ai360.

"Subha Tatavarti, Technology Officer, resigned from the services of the Company opportunities outside Wipro," a regulatory filing said on

Before joining Wipro, she led different roles at Walmart and



PayPal, among others. She was recognised in "Top 100 Executive Women in Tech to Watch" earlier this year by the WomenTech Network.

"I am resigning from the post of CTO, Wipro, effective August 16th. Good luck with your journey," Tatavarti wrote in her resignation letter to Wipro CEO Srini Pallia.

This is the fourth top-level exit in the last 4 months after Pallia joined the Bengaluru-based Delaporte's resignation. The IT company saw Chief Delivery Officer Ajit Mahale, Chief Óperating Officer Amit Choudhary, and CEO of APMEA (Asia Pacific, India, Middle East & Africa) Anis Chenchah exiting in May 2024 again "to pursue opportunities outside Wipro". Most of these key departures

include executives, who joined Wipro when it was led by Delaporte. Wipro posted a 3.8 per cent fall to Rs 21,963.8 crore in its consolidated revenue from operations for the Juneended quarter. A 4.6 per cent year-on-year rise was seen in its consolidated net profit for the June quarter at Rs 3,003.2

### Gold jumps `500 to `72,850 per 10 g; silver remains flat PTI n NEW DELHI

Gold prices jumped Rs 500 to Rs 72,850 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid strong cues from the global market and a rise in domestic demand. In the previous session, the precious

settled at Rs 72,350 per 10 grams on However, silver prices remained flat at Rs 83,500 per kilogram on Tuesday, according to the All India Sarafa Ássociation.

metal of 99.9 per cent purity had

Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also rallied by Rs 500 to Rs 72,500 per 10 grams against the previous close. Traders attributed the rise in gold

prices to the rising demand from retail buyers as well as jewellers. In the overseas market, gold is trading at USD 2,502.70 per ounce, up by USD 1.30 per ounce.



"Gold's gains on Tuesday as demand for safe-haven assets continued to support the precious metal's rise. "Further, there were concerns that Iran could strike Israel as early as this week have raised the gold-safe haven premium," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

According to Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, Comex gold surged by 1.2 per cent to an all-time closing high of USD 2,504 per ounce on Monday, driven by escalating tensions in the Middle East, a decline in US Treasury yields, and expectations of the US Federal Reserve interest rate

However, silver was quoting lower at USD 27.81 per ounce in the international markets.

cuts at its September 18 meeting.

"Gold prices are seen consolidating previous session gains amid caution ahead of the important US inflation data that could set the tone for the Fed's policy meeting early next month," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research at JM Financial Services,

Also, the bullion remains supported by higher safe-haven bids amid signs of escalation in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Mer added.

As per Prathamesh Mallya, DVP-Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies at Angel One, traders are closely watching upcoming US producer and consumer price index data, which could provide further insights into the Fed's interest rate trajectory.

## HARMANPREET & CO HAVE STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LA GOLD: MIKE

fter winning successive bronze medals at the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, the Indian men's hockey team has shown their strong foundation and they have it in them to go for a gold in four years' time in Los Angeles, feels the world renowned explorer Mike Horn.

The Swiss motivational coach's intense three-day mental toughness boot camp in the Alps pushed Harmanpreet and Co to their limits, in adventure tasks that also helps in coming out of their comfort zones and also form strong bond.

"The bronze they won is a reflection of their dedication, and I believe they have set a strong foundation for future success, including the possibility of going for gold in the next Olympics," Horn told PTI in an

"The team's performance was exceptional, and they indeed came very close to clinching a gold medal. They showed remarkable skill, strategy, and mental toughness throughout the tournament.

"While they didn't secure the gold, the fact that they were so close is a testament to their hard work and determination.

"It's important to recognise that winning a medal, especially at the Olympics, is an immense achievement," added Horn, known for his work with MS Dhoni's 2011 World Cup-winning team, Kolkata Knight Riders in their 2014 IPL

India started their campaign with a rusty win over New Zealand before they gradually started to find

Their biggest win in the group stage came when they defeated Australia for the first time in 52 years.

Their true mental fortitude and team bonding came to fore when they defeated Great Britain in a shootout, despite being reduced to 10 players early in the second

"I followed their journey at Paris 2024 very closely, and I was genuinely impressed by their resilience and how they handled the pressure. They have so much to be proud of, and it was an honour to be a small part of their journey," said the 58-year-old said.

The bootcamp was packed with extreme adventures, from walking on Glacier 3000, the highest peak of the Alps, to sleeping on grass — an experience that India defender Amit Rohidas had described as extremely back-breaking.

"They came into the camp with an incredible mindset, ready to push themselves and grow as a team, recalled the 58-year-old.

'I would like to think that the bootcamp contributed in some way to the team's success, but the real credit goes to the players and their relentless hard work and dedication. The bootcamp was designed to

challenge them, and they responded brilliantly, but ultimately, it was their commitment and teamwork victory, and Germany's 2014 that shone through during the



Horn also had special words of praise for skipper Harmanpreet whom he described as "all time greats". Harmanpreet was the top-scorer of the Olympics with 10

What impresses me most about Harmanpreet is his ability to lead by

example. He's not just a great player but also someone who inspires his teammates to elevate their game.

"His leadership was crucial to the team's success, and he has undoubtedly cemented his place as one of the all-time greats in Indian hockey," Horn said. He also said it's "hard" to see that PR Sreejesh won't

be there at the goalpost.

"Even though this was his last appearance for Team India, he played with the passion and intensity that have defined his entire

"During the bootcamp, Sreejesh was a pillar of strength for the team

— his experience and leadership

were invaluable, and he set the tone for the younger players.

'Considering his contributions to Indian hockey, it's hard not to wish he would continue. However, if this is indeed his final chapter, he leaves behind a tremendous legacy that will inspire future generations of Horn also spoke about newly-appointed India cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir and recalled how he made the difference at KKR with his strategic acumen

and game-reading skills. Gambhir began his stint with a 3-0 thrashing of Sri Lanka in the T20Is, but suffered a 0-2 defeat in the

"Gambhir's transformation from a successful KKR captain to a titlewinning mentor has been remarkable. As a captain, Gambhir was known for his strategic acumen and ability to inspire his team. He led by example, showing immense dedication and resilience, which were key to KKR's successes.

'Transitioning to a mentor role, Gambhir continued to be a significant influence. His deep understanding of the game and experience in handling high-pressure situations provided invaluable guidance to the team. "He was able to connect with the

players on a personal level, offering insights and support that went beyond just technical advice. Working with Gautam was a special

experience. His passion for the game and commitment to excellence were truly inspiring. "He has a unique ability to read the

game and anticipate challenges, which made him an exceptional mentor. His presence and leadership helped foster a winning mentality within the team, proving that his contributions are vital whether on the field or off it," he signed off.



### Para shuttler Bhagat suspended for 18 months, to miss Paris Paralympics

Tokyo gold medallist para Bhagat told PTI. shuttler Pramod Bha will not be able to defend his title at the Paris Paralympics after he was handed a 18month suspension breaching BWF's anti-doping whereabout clause, leaving the Indian heartbroken.

The Badminton Federation can confirm India's Tokyo 2020 Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat has been suspended for a period of 18 months and will miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games," the governing body said in a statement on Tuesday.

"In 1 March 2024, the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division found Bhagat in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for committing whereabouts failures within 12

months." The 36-year-old, an SL3 athlete, said he is saddended by the decision and it was a

"It is an extremely hard decision for me. I respect WADA, I understand they are drawing a line for all players,

result of a technical glitch.

is not like there is any substance issue, it is a issue of whereabouts failure, which I missed the test twice as I was in a different place but I have all the proof of filing the third time. But they didn't accept my appeal.
"It is a big loss for me. I was

preparing for Paris, it is such a big thing for every athlete. I would have been a medallist. It heartbreaking," Bhagat

Bhagat had appealed this decision to the CAS Appeals Division but it was rejected

"On 29 July 2024, the CAS Appeals Division dismissed the Bhagat's appeal and confirmed the CAS Anti-Doping Division decision of 1 March 2024. His period of ineligibility is now in effect," the statement added.

His suspension is effective till September 1, 2025.

"My team and I have been proactive in appealing this decision, citing the technical issues that led to these failures. Unfortunately, despite our

but to ban someone for efforts, we have not been able technical reasons is not right," to resolve this matter before the upcoming games.

> We respect the decision of the authorities and will abide by it, but this has been a challenging and emotional time for me as an athlete who has always competed with integrity." Bhagat had won a gold medal

at the Tokyo Paralympics in men's singles SL3 category, beating Daniel Bethell of Great Britain in the final.

The 36-year-old Bihar-born shuttler had equalled the legendary Lin Dan of China by winning a fifth World Championships title in February last year at Pattaya, Thailand.

"It is extremely sad and unfortunate. He was a sure shot medal for India at the Paralympics but he is a fighter and I am sure he will come back stronger," Indian parabadminton head coach Gaurav Khanna told PTI.

Bhagat, who had contracted polio, resulting in a disability affecting his left leg at the age of five, is also a two-time Asian Games gold-medallist and is the current world No 3 in his



"I think we all work hard to win medals. future," Bhaker told PTI Videos. But if that happens (winning more than

"(I am) aiming to win many more Olympic medals for India," added that would be great. The aim is to work Bhaker, who returned to the country

Bhaker had the honour of being India's flagbearer alongside veteran hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh at the closing "Being the flag bearer was the opportunity of a lifetime, I am grateful that I got this opportunity and will cherish this for a lifetime," she said.
"I have a very friendly bond with Sreejesh bhaiya. I have known him

since I was a young kid. He is always very friendly, helpful and kind. He made it a lot easier for me in the closing

Bhaker had returned to India last week but had flown back to Paris for the closing ceremony were she was the joint-flagbearer.

She was accompanied at the Indira Gandhi International Airport by her coach Jaspal Rana and mother

"I am happy for her. I am happy for the players. When I went to Paris, I met the Hockey team, Aman Sehrawat, Neeraj Chopra. I just hope all these athletes keep winning medals and all the

mothers of this nation will be happy,"

## Alexei beats Andrey in straight sets to win National Bank Open men's singles title

AP n MONTREAL

Australia's Alexei Popyrin, the No. 62-ranked player in the world, defeated fifthseeded Andrey Rublev of Russia 6-2, 6-4 at the National Bank Open to win the biggest singles title of his career.

had paired with Sarabjot Singh.

individual medals at the Olympics.

2 individual medals at Olympics) then

Popyrin had two lower-level ATP Tour titles on his resume coming into a week in which he faced five top-20 players in a row - and defeated all of them.

First came No. 11 seed Ben Shelton in the second round, then No. 7 seed Grigor Dimitrov, a contest in which he saved three match points. In the quarterfinals came No. 4 seed Hubert Hurkacz, who was up a set and a break in the second before Popyrin came back to win 7-5 in the third

American Sebastian Korda, who won the tournament in Washington, nine-match winning streak, in the semifinals late Sunday

And finally Rublev, who was looking for his third career ATP Masters 1000 title, his first on hard courts. But he had no answers against a player with whom he often trains at their mutual home

base in Monte Carlo. "I played a really, really high level of tennis, which I believed that I could play my whole life. But to put it into five matches in a row against -I mean, six matches in a row against really high quality opponents is something else, Popyrin said.

Once it was over, Popyrin put his hands to his face and let the tears flow.

Popyrin won the first seven points of the match and from there, the hill was just too steep to climb for Rublev, who moves from No. 8 to No. 6 in the rankings with a week that included a win over world No.



Jannik Sinner. Popyrin will rise in the rankings from No. 62 to No.

"I wanted to put a statement continued from

As with Rubley, whose oncourt emotions have often held back his career progress, Popyrin had been known more for his temper on the

court than his game. On Monday night, he was cool, calm and collected. Rublev wasn't as serene. But

he's happy with his progress on that front. "Even today, because if we go back even one month ago - or

even compare my match against (Popyrin) at Monte Carlo (in April) when I was losing, I was behaving 10 times (worse) - and it was the first round," he said.

"Here, it was a final. Much more pressure. Yes, I still showed a bit emotions today, but compared to the matches when I was losing the same way, I think I did much better job. That's why I had a little chance in the second set, but it was just not my time, I

## USA gymnastics says arbitration panel won't reconsider decision

**AP n** WASHINGTON

USA Gymnastics officials say an arbitration panel won't reconsider a decision asking gymnast Jordan Chiles to return the bronze medal she was awarded in the floor exercise at the Paris Olympics. USA Gymnastics says it will continue efforts to let Chiles keep the medal.

"UŜA Gymnastics was notified by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday that their rules do not allow for an arbitral award to be reconsidered even when conclusive new evidence is presented," USA Gymnastics said in a statement.

"We are deeply disappointed by the notification and will continue to pursue every possible avenue and appeal process, including to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, to ensure the just scoring, placement, and medal award for Jordan." CAS voided an on-floor appeal

from Chiles' coach that vaulted her to third, saying the appeal came 4 seconds beyond the one-minute time limit for scoring inquiries.

USA Gymnastics disputed the timing, saying in a statement Sunday that the agency submitted video evidence to CAS that showed Team USA coach Cecile Landi first appealed 13 seconds before the



deadline. The dispute over such minute details sets up what could be a months- or years-long legal battle over the gymnastics scores.

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said Saturday night it would respect the court's decision and elevate Ana Barbosu of Romania to

third. The International Olympic Committee confirmed the ruling Sunday, announcing that it was reallocating the medal. CAS ruled Saturday that

Landi's inquiry to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the one-minute window. The CAS ad hoc committee wrote that Landi's inquiry came 1 minute, 4 seconds after Chiles' initial score was posted.

The IOC said in a statement it will be in touch with the USOPC regarding the return of Chiles' bronze and will work with the Romanian Olympic Committee to discuss a reallocation ceremony honoring Barbosu.

The appeal could go to Switzerland's highest court, the Swiss Tribunal, or the European Court of Human

Rebeca Andrade of Brazil won gold and Simone Biles of the U.

#### in Cincinnati Open qualifying **AP** n CINCINNATI Svajda of San Diego, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; and Aleksandar Kovacevic of New York got past

Nuno Borges and Magdalena Frech, the top men's and women's seeds in the Cincinnati Open, advanced with wins in the qualifying round.

Borges, from Portugal, beat Aleksandar Vukic of Australia, 7-6 (4), 6-1, and Frech, from Poland, beat 14th-seeded Jéssica Bouzas Maneiro of Spain, 6-1, 6-4.

Six Americans - three men and three women - advanced in the main draws. No. 5 seed Alex Michelsen of Aliso Viejo, Calif., defeated Mackenzie McDonald of Orlando, Fla., 6-3, 6-2; Brandon Holt of Rolling Hills, Calif., beat Zachary

Australia's Rinky Hijikata, 6-1, In the women's draw, 12th-

in the first game, and I think I

did that, which I think rattled

him a little bit, which was part

of the game plan. I just

Six Americans advance with wins

seeded Taylor Townsend of Smyrna, Ga. Beat No. 4 Katie Volynets of Walnut Creek, Calif., 6-0, 6-3; Robin Montgomery of Washington defeated No. 16 Martina Trevisan of Italy, 6-4, 6-4; and Ashlyn Krueger of Springfield, Mo., edged Japan's Naomi Osaka, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

For the men, Italy's Flavio Cobolli beat 10th-seeded Tommy Paul of Boca Raton, Fla., 6-2, 4-6, 7-5. No. 3 Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan and No. 11 Corentin Moutet of

women, No. 15 Harriet Dart of Great Britain, defeated No. 5 Elina Avanesyan of Armenia, 6-4, 6-1. No. 3 Lulu Sun of Australia's Lulu Sun, No. 10 Varvara Gracheva, and No. 13 Y.F. Wang of China also advanced. LOOKING AHEAD: The

France also advanced. For the

men's and women's main draw both resume tomorrow. Twelve Americans - 10 men and two women - will be on courts throughout the Lindner Family Tennis Center.

No. 12 seed Ben Shelton of Atlanta will take on Reilly Opelka of St. Joseph, Mich., in the afternoon. No. 11 Taylor Fritz of Rancho Palos Verdes,

# PONTING BACKS AUSTRALIA TO HAND INDIA 3-1 DEFEAT IN BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

Ricky Ponting believes Australia will have a "point to prove" after two straight Test series defeats at home against India and backed the Pat Cummins-led side to win the fivematch Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 come November-December.

India, who have returned victorious in both their previous Test assignments Down Under with identical margins of 2-1, will take on the world No.1 Australia in a five-Test series starting on November 22.

"It's going to be a competitive series. Australia has got a bit of a point to prove against India in Australia on the back of what happened the last the last two series here," Ponting told 'The ICC Review'. "We are back to (having) five Tests as well, which is the other really important thing about this series. It has only been four Tests the last couple of time. (To have) five Tests, everyone is really excited by that and I don't know if there'd be too

many drawn games. "I'm obviously going to tip Australia to win and I'm never going to tip against Australia. There will be a draw somewhere and there will be some bad weather somewhere, so I'm going to say 3-1 to Australia," he added. India and Australia have not played a

five-Test series after their bilateral affairs came to be known as the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Before that, in 1991-92, India had toured



Australia for a five-Test series. Ponting backed India's left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed, whom he coached in the IPL at Delhi Capitals, to be a part of India's touring party. "Someone like Khaleel Ahmed, I

tour. He has just been over in Zimbabwe recently and played that (T20I) series over there, but a leftarmer would be ideal for them to have in their touring squad," Ponting said. The former Australia skipper hoped think, could find himself on the Test both teams will be deploying full-

fledged bowling attacks. "(Mohammed) Shami will be back fit by then, (Mohammed) Siraj we know will be there-abouts somewhere and obviously (Jasprit) Bumrah is going nowhere. Both teams are going to line up really, really strongly," he said.

between India and Australia is quite close to the Ashes rivalry against England.

"I was a part of it when that really started to grow, when the rivalry really started to grow, was it's right at the back end of my career," Ponting

"I've said for the last couple of years now, Australia have always had a fierce rivalry with England, obviously, and a very strong rivalry with South

"But I think India is now sitting right on the back of what an Ashes clash is like and probably overtaken the rivalry with South Africa.

Ponting said while Australia's squad looks more or less settled, it remains to be seen if Steve Smith would like to persist being at the opening slot.

'Australia will pretty much pick itself. Probably, the only one question there might be with Australia again, is if (Steve) Smith's the right man to be opening the batting," he said.

That would be the only query that I can see there. But that was all about obviously bringing Cameron Green back into the side.

'So I'll rephrase it, not whether Smith's the right man to open the batting but whether he thinks it's the right spot for him. Because if he doesn't think it's the right spot, then they'll make a change and get someone else back up there," Ponting

We didn't even get desired coach for Olympics: Ashwini

India aiming to win more than 25 medals



### Sri Lanka Cricket ropes in Ian Bell as batting coach ahead of away Test series vs England

Sri Lanka on Tuesday appointed Ian Bell as their batting coach ahead of their tour of England comprising three Tests.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on its website that Bell, who scored 7727 runs in 118 Tests, will start working with the national side later this week.

"He will start working with the team from August 16 and remain until the conclusion of the three-Test match series," SLC said.

SLC CEO Ashley de Silva expressed: "We appointed Ian to bring in a person with local knowledge to help the players with key insights on the

"Ian has a lot of experience playing in England, and we believe his inputs will help our team in this crucial tour. Sri Lanka's tour of England

begins with the first Test at Manchester from August 21-25. The second Test will be played at Lord's from August 29-September 2 while The Oval will host the third and final Test from September 6-

Meanwhile, England could be in a race against time with skipper Ben Stokes suffering a hamstring injury last Sunday while playing in The Hundred. Stokes sustained the injury while batting and was eventually helped off the field. He was taken for scans and was also seen walking with the help



### I will meet hockey team before Sept 10 to chalk out future plans: Sports Minister

meeting with the bronze medal winning Indian men's hockey team before September 10 to chalk out future plans in its endeavour to clinch the gold medal in 2028 Los Angeles Games.

Mandaviya on felicitated star custodian PR Sreejesh, defender Sanjay, Amit Rohidas and striker Abhishek after their return from Paris on Tuesday

performance from you guys, we didn't get the gold but we came very close to it and the way you guys inspired after the semifinal loss is commendable," Mandaviya

"It's been a wonderful

"But it's not the end of the road and I will sit with you by September 10 and churn out future course of action so that early.

we should return with nothing less than gold from Los Sports Minister Mansukh Angeles. I will seek your Opinion how to go about it and informed that he will hold a try to provide you all possible support government."

The minister also said he was satisfied with the performance of the Indian contingent even though they couldn't match last edition's result.

In Tokyo India won seven medals including a gold, but in Paris the country could manage just six medals -- five bronze medals and one silver. The Indians, however, missed out on seven medals, finishing fourth, a fact Mandaviya rued.

"In Tokyo, we won seven medals but in Paris we won six. But the fact is we missed out on seven more medals by finishing fourth, which is a worthy performance," he said. Mandaviya had earlier felicitated the others members of the hockey who returned

PTI n NEW DELHI

doubles badminton specialist Ashwini Ponnappa on Tuesday said she received little to no individual financial assistance from the sports ministry in the build up to Paris Olympics and even her request for a coach was turned down ahead of the just-concluded Games. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) had come out with a document, detailing the financial support provided to the Paris-bound Indian

It mentions that Ashwini was provided Rs 4,50,000 under TOPS and Rs 1,48,04,080 under Annual calender for Training and Competition (ACTC), which included the procurement of Game Ready recovery equipment, international competitions and sparring partner in the Tokyo cycle. T'm absolutely shocked.. I don't mind not getting money but telling the nation that I got money is ridiculous. I haven't received it. Like camp, then that 1.5 Crore is spent on all the campers," Ashwini told PTI.

"I don't have a specific coach. As for my personalised trainer, I'm paying for him myself. I'm not taking money from anyone. I've played on my own until November (2023). I was included as part of TOPS only after we qualified..."

Ashwini, 34, has been one of the top Indian doubles player begins were

Indian doubles player, having won a gold, a silver and a bronze in the Commonwealth Games 2010, 2014 and 2018 respectively.

She has also competed in the London and Rio Olympics with

Detailing the Rs 1.48 crore spending, a SAI source said: "The Rs 1.48 crore has been spent on her on travel, stay, food, competition fee, DA in all the competitions that she participated in as part of the Indian team in the Paris cycle.

"This money is given to BAI as part

Ashwini, who had paired with N Sikki Reddy till August, 2022, joined if you're talking about national hands with Tanisha Crasto in



December that year and started tournaments from January 2023.

A series of good performances helped them seal their Paris berth, after which the duo were included in the TOPS scheme in May this year. "The ministry has always supported me. I've been part of the team for years and I'm grateful for the support I've received," Ashwini said. "The last year I haven't been supported and it's ok. But you can't say I've been given Rs 1.5 crore, if it's over four years, fair enough. As I was TOPS when I was partnering

Playing her third Olympics, Ashwini was left in tears after she and her partner Tanisha couldn't win a single match to make an unceremonious exit from the group

"I haven't played well, irrespective of the coach not being there, I take responsibility for that. But you can't say I'm getting this amount when I haven't even got this amount," she

PTI n JAIPUR

India is hoping to win more than 25 medals from its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes at the upcoming Paris Paralympic Games beginning on August 28, the country's governing body chief Devendra Jhajharia said on Tuesday. Jhajharia, himself a double

gold medallist at the Paralympics, said the Indian contingent would look the carry the momentum of record-breaking performances in the 2021 Tokyo Paralympics and 2023 Hangzhou Asian Para Games. India had won 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics and a historic 111 medal at the Para Asian Games. "This is the biggest para

sent to the Paralympics. We are very confident about the overall performance and are sure to win more than 25 medals," Jhajharia said here at a event organised by the Paralympic Committee of

India is set to compete in 12 sports, including archery, athletics, badminton, athletics, canoeing, cycling, blind judo, powerlifting, rowing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and taekwondo. 'Most of our athletes are in

trained rigorously for this event. We expect outstanding results, particularly in badminton, archery, and shooting. They mix of experienced and excellent shape, having



proud," the PCI president The Indian team boasts of a

at Paris Paralympics: PCI chief Jhajharia young athletes athletes. Many of them are participating in their second or third

Paralympics. Amit Kumar Saroha, a seasoned athlete competing in his fourth Paralympics, will represent India in the F51 category discus throw. The 39-year-old Asian Para Games medallist is the oldest member of the contingent. On the other end of the

hands due to a medical condition that has afflicted her since birth. She recently made headlines by winning gold medals in individual compound and mixed team events in archery

athlete is 17-year-old archer

Sheetal Devi, who shoots

with her legs instead of her

at the 2023 Asian Para Games. Meanwhile, 100 Sports Management Private Limited been awarded the

exclusive broadcasting and digital media right for Paris Paralympics in India, according to a release.

Superintending Enginer

### Premier League will have different look when season starts Friday

The Premier League rarely stands still.

For the 2024-25 season starting on Friday, there are five newly hired managers, around \$1.6 billion worth of new players (and counting), new offside technology, updated financial regulations and a tweaked match schedule.

COACHING CHANGES: A quarter of the coaches will be taking charge of a Premier League game for the first time, with Liverpool (Arne Slot), Ipswich

Chelsea (Enzo Maresca) and Brighton (Fabian Hurzeler) all having new managers and both Southampton (Russell Martin) McKenna) gaining promotion with managers owning no topflight experience. Throw in Julen Lopetegui being the new guy at West Ham after 4 1/2 years of David Moyes at the helm and Steve Cooper replacing Maresca at Leicester, and the dugouts will look different this season. Most of the intrigue, however, will

implements at Liverpool after the team's nearly nine years with the popular Jurgen Klopp. Rock n' roll could turn into more control, with Slot preferring more of a possession

SLOWER MARKET: The Premier League's 20 clubs have spent as much on new players in this transfer window as those in Spain, Italy and Germany combined, according to transfermarkt.Com. So why does it feel such a slow summer of trading? Maybe because there have been no blockbuster deals, with the most expensive being striker Dominic Solanke moving to Tottenham from Bournemouth for 65 million pounds (\$83 million). However, lots of deals for between \$30-70 million quickly add up - and there are still three weeks left in the window, during which Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea are expected to weigh in. City (Savinho) and Arsenal (Riccardo Calafiori) have only



made one new signing so far and Liverpool hasn't made any. Come the end of transfer deadline day on Aug. 30, don't be surprised if Premier League clubs have spent way more than \$2 billion - even if most are balancing the books with sales because of the league's sterner financial rules.

SEMI-AUTOMATED OFFSIDES: Expect offside decisions to be reached much quicker in the Premier League this season. The competition is introducing semi-automated offside technology for the first time, with the new system set to be launched during the first half of the season. Multiple

movements and record data points on parts of the body that are relevant for an offside decision. Data is processed with artificial intelligence to create a 3D offside line that is alerted to the team of VAR officials. It is expected to take an average of around 30 seconds off the length of time it currently takes VAR officials to come to a decision manually. Semi-automated offsides were used at the 2022 World Cup and at the recent European Championship.
SPENDING RULES: Last

season in the Premier League was notable for some clubs, like Everton and Nottingham Forest, receiving points deductions for breaking the competition's profitability and sustainability regulations, which are now being more strictly applied. This coming season is the final year of those regulations, with two new forms of spending caps being trialed ahead of their introduction from the 2025-26

season. Teams in England's top

Cost Rules" system, which will limit spending on players to 85% of a club's soccer revenue and net profit or loss on player sales. A second system called "Top to Bottom Anchoring" limits - or anchors - spending to a multiple of the lowest combined prize money and cash from TV rights forecast to be earned by a team. The league said the systems aimed "improve and preserve clubs' financial sustainability and the competitive balance of the Premier League" as well as "promote aspiration of clubs. NO WINTER BREAK: The Premier League is renowned for being a relentless slog even more so this season. There's no winter break for clubs this time, with the season starting later, to give players more time to recover from international tournaments this summer, and therefore being squeezed. Last year, for

example, five games were held

each weekend over a two-week

period, giving teams at least one weekend off over January.

Name of Work

Bid Identification No. 03/ 2024-25 of S.E, S.I DIVISION NO-II, DEULI a "Construction of Internal Concrete Road with

drain from Hatapada to house of Sri Bhagabata Behera at village Belerisole Self-Rehabilitation Colony under Periphery Development Work." b. 'Construction of Internal Road from Dardiasol Anganwadi Centre to Kala Chhaka in Dardiasole Self-Rehabilitation Colony." c. \*Construction of Internal Roadfrom Keutunimar Main Road to Tanki Sahi Near House of Sri Bhagabata Behera in Keutunimari Selfa. Rs. 16.10 Lakh Estimated Cost for put to tender b. Rs. 35.96 Lakh c.Rs.10.57 Lakh,respectively a.Rs. 17.000/ 3 Bid Security/ E.M.D. b. Rs. 36,000/c. Rs. 11,000/-respectively 02(Two) Calendar Months 4 Period of Completion 1."C" Class and "B"Class for Sl. No.1) b Class of Contractor 2. "D" Class and "C" Class for SI. No. 1) a &1) c 6 Date & Time of availability of bid 16.08.2024 at 10:00 AM document in the portal Last date/time for receipt of bid in 27.08.2024 up to 5:00 PM the portal 28.08.2024 at 11:00 AM 8 Opening of Bid Name & Address of the O.I. T Superintending Engineer, Division No-II, Deuli

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

SUBARNAREKHA IRRIGATION DIVISION NO-II. AT/PO: -DEULI, DIST: -MAYURBHANJ PIN: -757021

Mail Id:-ee.sid2.deuli@gmail.com Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE