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PM Modi apologises to his deity, Shivaji Maharaj



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde during laying of the foundation stone of Vadhvan Port and launching of development works, in Palghar district, on Friday

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an apparent bid to blunt the Opposition's full-fledged campaign against the BJP-led MahaYuti Government and the Centre over the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's imposing statue at Rajkot fort in Sindhudurg district ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday apologised to Chhatrapati Shivaji whom he described as not just "a revered king or great personality but a deity".

Speaking at a function after laying the foundation stone for ₹76,000 crore Vadhvan Port in

Maharashtra's Palghar district and kick-starting other developments, Modi recalled that the first thing he did after he was nominated by the BJP as the Prime Ministerial candidate in 2013, was to visit Raigad Fort to offer his prayers to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the latter's Samadhi. He said he was blessed with the same 'bhakti bhav' with which he revered his master and embarked on the new journey to serve the nation. Alluding to the collapse of a 35-tall statue at Malvan in Sindhudurg district, the Prime Minister tendered his humble apology to the legendary Maratha king by saying: "Shivaji Maharaj is not merely a name, a revered king

or a great personality but a deity". Indirectly hitting out at the leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of the Congress for showing disrespect towards freedom fighter Veer Savarkar, Modi said that his upbringing and his culture made him different from those "who intend to disrespect the great son of the land Veer Savarkar and trample the feeling of nationalism". In an unmistakable criticism of Rahul Gandhi ahead of the State Assembly polls, Modi said: "People of Maharashtra should remain wary of those who disrespect Veer Savarkar and feel no remorse for it". The Prime Minister said that his

reverence towards Chhatrapati Shivaji should be seen in the context of the fact that the first thing he did after visiting Maharashtra was to apologise to his deity Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He also sought forgiveness from all those who worship Shivaji Maharaj. Averring that his government had taken major steps for the growth of Maharashtra in the last 10 years as "a Viksit Maharashtra is the most crucial element of the resolution of a Viksit Bharat", Modi said that the state had the potential and resources to grow due to its coastal proximity, holding immense possibilities for the future. "The Vadhvan Port will be the

country's largest container port and will be counted among the world's deep water ports. It will become an epicenter of trade and industrial development for Maharashtra and India," the Prime Minister said. Being built at a cost of ₹76,000 crore, Vadhvan Port — located near Dahanu town in Palghar district — is expected to be one of India's largest deep-water ports and will provide direct connectivity to international shipping routes, reducing transit times and costs. Vadhvan Port aims to establish a world-class maritime gateway that will boost the country's trade and economic growth by catering to large container vessels, offering deeper drafts, and accommodating ultra-large cargo ships. Modi, who also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 218 fisheries projects worth around Rs 1,560 crore and launched Rs 360 crore National Roll Out of Vessel Communication and Support system, said there was a time when Bharat used to be counted among the most strong and prosperous nations due to its maritime capabilities. "People of Maharashtra are well-versed in this potential. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj took India's maritime capabilities to new heights with his policies and strong decisions for the development of the country," Modi said, adding that even the entire East India Company could not stand in front of Darya Sarang Kanhoji Yaganti.

Dialogue a bygone theme, EAM warns Pakistan of action

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday sent out a stern message to Pakistan declaring that the era of "uninterrupted dialogue" is over. He also warned that "actions have consequences" in an apparent reference to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Making these assertions at a book launch event here, he reaffirmed New Delhi's position that terror and talks cannot go together. The Minister's comments on dialogue with Pakistan came in the backdrop of elections in Jammu and Kashmir in less than 20 days. "The era of uninterrupted dialogue with Pakistan is over. Actions have consequences," Jaishankar said. "So far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, Article 370 is done with. So, the issue is what kind of relationship we can contemplate with Pakistan," Jaishankar said, making it clear that there would be no compromise on this matter. He also stressed that India would not remain passive in its dealings with Pakistan. "What I do want to say is that we are not passive, and whether events take a positive or a negative direction, either way, we will react," the Minister added. On a suggestion that India is content with the relationship to continue as it is, he said, "Maybe yes, maybe no... but what I do want to say is that we are not passive, and that whether events take a positive or negative direction... either way we will react." In his address, Jaishankar also said for any country in the world,



neighbours are "always a conundrum", and so are "major powers". Major powers will be a conundrum because they are major, because of the breadth of their interests. They will always have an agenda, which will overlap with us, but to differing degrees, also diverge, he said. In the case of China, you have a "double conundrum", because it's a neighbour and a major power. So, the challenges with China fits this double definition, he added. The book "Strategic Conundrum: Reshaping India's Foreign Policy" by former diplomat Rajiv Sikri talks about India's relationship with its neighbouring countries and the accompanying challenges. The Minister also said there is a debate in the neighbourhood about SAARC and BIMSTEC, and "all of you know the difference". That is a contrast which illustrates some of the challenges and opportunities of "regionalisation", he said.



Jagdish Tytler to be framed for 1984 riots and murders

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Holding that there was sufficient evidence to put him on trial, a Delhi Rouse Avenue Court on Friday ordered framing of charges for murder and other offences against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in a case related to alleged murder of three people in the North Delhi's Pul Bangash area, almost 40 years after the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Special CBI judge Rakesh Soyal said there was sufficient evidence against him to put him on trial. "Sufficient ground is there to proceed against the accused person," the Special CBI judge said, posting the matter for September 13 for formally framing the charges when Tytler would be asked if he would like to plead guilty or face trial. Tytler was discharged under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)'s Section 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapons) as the special judge Rakesh Soyal listed the matter for the next hearing on September 13. Welcoming the development, BJP national spokesperson RP Singh wrote on X, "Albeit delayed, it appears justice is being done." The case relates to the burning to death of Badal Singh, Sardar Thakur Singh, and Gurbachan Singh and setting ablaze Pul Bangash Gurudwara a day after the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination on November 1, 1984.

'Govt has failed in fulfilling pension promises'

Opposition walks out of Assembly
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Opposition BJD and Congress staged a noisy walkout from the Odisha Assembly on Friday, protesting against the BJP's alleged failure to fulfil its social security pension promises made in its election manifesto. During a discussion on the admissibility of an adjournment motion over the issue, the opposition members alleged that the government has

gone back on its commitments to the people after coming to power. They pointed out that the BJP had pledged in its manifesto to launch the Mukhyamantri Sahayata Yojana, offering a pension of Rs 3,000 per month to all elderly, differently-abled individuals, widows and destitute people in the State. Additionally, the BJP had promised a pension of Rs 3,500 per month for elderly individuals above 80 years and for the differently-abled with 80% disability.

Congress Legislature Party Leader Rama Chandra Kadam demanded that the government fulfil its electoral promises. Congress MLA Ashok Kumar Das criticised the exclusion of people above 80 years from the social security scheme. Dibya Shankar Mishra of the BJD called on the government to study the National Social Security Code and seek more Central assistance. He demanded a pension of Rs 3,000 per month for those above 60 years and Rs 3,500

per month for those above 80 years. Another BJD leader, Sarada Prasanna Jena, argued for relaxing the criteria for granting a Rs 3,500 monthly pension to differently-abled individuals from 80% disability to 40%. Responding to the debate, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Minister Nityananda Gond rejected the opposition's allegations, asserting that the government is providing social security to eligible beneficiaries and would soon fulfil

its promises. He noted that in the last financial year, 8,13,813 new beneficiaries were added to social security schemes and monthly assistance is being provided. For the current year, a budgetary allocation of Rs 5,269.39 crore under the Madhubabu Pension Yojana and Rs 2,560.69 crore under the National Social Assistance Scheme has been made, he said. Despite this, the BJD and Congress members, expressing their dissatisfaction over the minister's response, staged the walkout.

In Baleswar, Crorepati Junior Asst in Vig net



PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Vigilance police on Friday conducted raids at multiple locations linked to Pradeep Kumar Das, Junior Assistant, office of the District Education Officer (DEO), Baleswar, on the allegation of amassing properties disproportionate to his known sources of income. During house searches, so

far, the unearthed assets in the names of Das and his family members included a triple-storied building of 3,70 sqft at Angargadia in Baleswar town, a double-storied market complex comprising 20 shops of 4,000 sqft at Sergarh Bazaar in Baleswar worth over Rs 1 crore besides six high-value homestead plots in and around Baleswar town. The measurement and valuation of the aforesaid buildings and plots were being carried out by the Vigilance Technical Wing. Bank, insurance and postal deposits and other investments were also being ascertained.

'Industrialists to be third engine in Odisha's dev'

CM Majhi opens UCCIL conclave 'Resurgent Odisha'
LALIT MOHAN MISHRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

"Viksit Odisha" by 2036 shall become the top industrial hub of the country in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national development vision of a "Viksit Bharat". In this journey, industrialists shall become the third engine to the double-engine BJP government in the State. This was said by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi while inaugurating a three-day-long "Resurgent Odisha-2024" conclave organised by the Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Limited (UCCIL) in collaboration with the State MSME Department at the Janata Maidan here on Friday. Majhi assured all support to the investors and industrialists. He noted that his government is focusing not only on large-



scale industries but also on small and medium enterprises, including agro-based industries. He reaffirmed the Prime Minister's commitment to the "Purvoday" development where Odisha shall become the industrial leader in the country. He advised the industrialists to look after welfare of the locals who are mostly tribals and

poor and follow the Prime Minister's call of "Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas". Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo urged the industries to focus on value addition within the State to further accelerate the industrialisation process. He importantly requested industrialists to invest in the agriculture sector including manufac-

turing of agricultural implements. He said, "We should walk the talk, not talk the talk as done by the previous government." Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain shared about the upcoming "Utkarsh Odisha Investors' Summit", where the State Government aims to secure Rs 2.5 lakh crore in investments by 2029. He

emphasised on the Odisha Government's goal to increase its contribution to the country's export portfolio and eventually reach the third position by 2047. He also mentioned about the government's focus on attracting investments in green hydrogen, semi-conductors, and IT sectors. He assured that the government's policies shall be updated for easy

industrialisation. Kolkata-based China's Consul General Xu Wei highlighted Odisha's rapid growth and its rich mineral resources and emphasised on the importance of strengthening trade ties between India and China, particularly with the eastern States of India. Industries Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma said the State Government is giving importance to employment-oriented industrialisation. UCCIL president Dr Brahma Mishra announced that a whitepaper would be prepared and presented to the State Government for consideration. Among others, NALCO CMD Sridhar Patra, Rourkela Steel Plant Director Atanu Bhowmik, WELSPUN president Chintan Thakkar, Aditya Birla Group president Ardhendu Mohapatra, Resurgent Odisha 2024 chairman Prabodh Mohanty and MCL Director (Finance) Ajit Kumar Behura and former Rourkela Steel Plant MD Sanak Mishra, among others, participated in the inaugural event.

Extremely heavy rains predicted in State

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The low-pressure area over west-central and adjoining north west Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha moved west-northwestwards and became well-marked over the same region, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday. As per the IMD, the system is likely to move further west-northwestwards towards north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts and intensify into a depression over west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal during the next 36 hours. The IMD issued a heavy rainfall warning for some districts in Odisha. A Red warning for extremely heavy rainfall for some districts has also been issued by the weather office.

BJP gov't discontinues Nua-O' scholarship SNEH holds workshop on 'Restorative Justice'

New scheme for needy students in offing; Min

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Mohan Majhi government has discontinued the Nutana Unnata Abhilasha (NUA) Odisha (Nua-O') scholarship, the financial assistance scheme for UG and PG students introduced by the previous BJD regime earlier this year.

This was informed by Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj in the State Assembly on Friday in reply to a question by MLA Chakramani Kanhar.

Suraj said there is no budgetary provision for 'Nua-O' from this year. "The State Government is preparing a new scheme, Financial Assistance to UG & PG Students, from this year to help students de-



prived of higher studies," he said. The minister further said the 'Mukhya Mantri Medhahi Chhatra Protshahana' scheme encompasses various scholarships, including e-Medhabruti, Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Bhasabrutti Scholarship and Gopabandhu Sikhya Sahayata scheme. The e-Medhabruti scheme offers scholarships for undergraduate (UG) merit,

postgraduate (PG) merit and technical and professional merit to help financially poor and meritorious students, he added.

In February, former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had launched the Nua-O Scholarship for students in higher education institutions under the administrative control of the Higher Education Department.

Under this initiative, UG and PG students were to receive an annual scholarship of Rs 9,000 (boys) and Rs 10,000 (girls). Similarly, SC and ST students and children of construction workers were to receive Rs 10,000 (boys) and Rs 11,000 (girls) annually. An outlay of Rs 3,701.08 crore over a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28 was made.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A workshop was organised by the Society for Nature, Education, and Health (SNEH) on "Humanising Justice through Restorative Justice" here. The experts on the occasion discussed at length on various aspects of Bharatiya Naya Sanhita (BNS) especially on community policing besides, promoting community involvement where both victim and offender get a chance to resolve amicably the 'offences' of the non-violent nature.



The programme was inaugurated by ACP (Communication) Sarat Chandra Sahu, in the presence of former Superintendent of Police, Sitaram Satpathy, SNEH president Subarna Ghosh, judicial expert Dr Bijoy Chandra Mohapatra, former Commissioner for the Persons with Disabilities,

Kasturi Mohapatra, Odisha Human Rights Protection Council general secretary and senior lawyer Naresh Chandra Jena, besides activist Subas Chandra Panda. The workshop was attended by members of civil society, advocates, social workers, members of the Judiciary, educationists, human rights activists and journalists.

SNEH project coordinator Dibakar Mahali spoke on the ongoing interventions in the Salia Sahi slum and presented the principles and components of restorative justice. He said that SNEH is actively lobbying

for a Restorative Justice Bench in local police stations.

The program, supported by the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Kolkata, aimed to raise awareness among civil society members about the principles and benefits of Restorative Justice.

Hygienic wholesale fish market in B'swar



PM lays stone in virtual mode

SIBDAS KUNDU ■ BALESWAR
Foundation-stone for a unique flagship project of Odisha, a hygienic wholesale fish market with an estimated cost of about Rs 80 crore at Baharda under Basta block in Baleswar district, was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in virtual mode on Friday.

Odisha Minister of Fisheries Gokulananda Mallick and local MP Pratap Sarangi, among others, were present.

They said fish traders are now mainly depending upon the wholesale fish market located at Digha in West Bengal and facing difficulties in selling their produce at a reasonable price.

So, the Government of Odisha has decided to establish a wholesale hygienic fish

market to facilitate trading of marine, brackish and inland fish in a single window to promote export potentialities. Baharda, beside NH-60, is a most suitable venue for it because of good road and rail connectivity.

The project, designed for 2,500 tonnes, is to be completed within two years (by June 24, 2026). A Central share of Rs 7.50 crore and a State share of Rs 5 crore have been released so far. The project is to be implemented by the State Government.

The Government of India has accorded administrative approval for the project under its Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampad Yojana (PMMSY). Its estimated cost is Rs 78.25 crore with Central share of Rs 30 crore and State share of Rs 48.25 crore. More than 1 lakh people will be benefited directly and indirectly by the project.

Talks on BioE3 Policy held at ILS

Policy a game-changer for eco, jobs, environ sustainability

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) Bhubaneswar organised a talk on 'India's BioE3 Policy' with student of the institute to discuss about the policy and its upcoming features.

In a pivotal development for the biotechnology sector, the Union Cabinet has endorsed the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy.

With the support and vision of the Department of Biotechno-



logy, the initiative is set to drive high-performance bio-manufacturing nationwide.

In the meeting, ILS Director Dr Debasis Dash said the BioE3 policy is a welcome initiative with far-reaching and futuristic implications.

The policy would drive significant growth and innovation, creating long-term ben-

efits for the economy, job creation and environmental sustainability and aims to foster innovation in crucial sectors, generate job opportunities and enhance sustainability, he added.

He emphasised that the ILS would follow a structured approach to implement the goals of the BioE3 policy to mitigate national and global challenges, specifically in the area of health sciences.

Through its research leads, the ILS has been contributing to various pertinent questions in health sciences. This policy would further help the institute to take its research leads to the next level inching closer to translation and benefiting the society, he added.

The BioE3 policy is set to reshape India's development strategy by integrating biotechnology across economic, employment and environmental dimensions. As India advances with the BioE3 policy, it is poised to establish a more resilient and prosperous future.

In city Bike-lifting racket busted; 31 vehicles seized

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Commissionerate police on Friday busted a motorbike-lifting racket by arrested six persons in this connection. Two receivers were also held for buying stolen two-wheelers.

Acting on inputs, the Badagada police raided a place and arrested the six accused. The cops seized as many as 31 stolen bikes from them.

After lifting the bikes, the miscreants were hiding in places in the Konark area in Puri district. Later, they sold the vehicles away.

Commissioner of Police

Sanjeev Panda said, "The members of the gang were lifting bikes mostly from the court area, in front of Utkal Galleria mall and the daily market near Ravi Talkies.

"They mainly picked up Hero motorcycles as the handle lock of these bikes was easy to break for them. They would have master keys. The bikes left in the parking with only handle lock were sitting duck for the racket," he said.

"To avoid arrest, one of the accused would habitually take shelter in a de-addiction centre for some time and then become active once again," he added.

In Koraput Fire mishap at SNCU in med college

All children, pregnant women safe

PNS ■ KORAPUT
A fire was reported at the Shahid Laxman Naik Medical College Hospital (MCH) in Koraput on Friday. The fire broke out in the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) in the Maternal and Child Care wing.

The fire was suspected to have started from an electric short circuit. Fortunately, nobody was injured in the incident as the hospital staffs and security personnel immediately evacuated the children and pregnant women as soon as the spotted sparks in the electrical board in the room.



There were 42 infants in the ward when the mishap took place. The newborns along with pregnant women were later evacuated to a safe location in the hospital.

Fire Service personnel rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police officials and Sub-Collector Benudhar Sabar also reached the spot to supervise the evacuation operation and ensured safety and security of the children.

However, it is alleged that the hospital lacked adequate fire safety measures.

Demolition of illegal buildings Will affected people get compensation?

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
After Housing and Urban Development Minister Krishna Mohapatra has informed the State Assembly that orders have been issued for demolition of 191 apartments under the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Thursday clarified that the civic body is yet to receive any government order in this regard.

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das told the media, "BMC is yet to receive any demolition order from the government. However, we will move forward after getting the official instructions."

The Mayor said, "We are



unclear whether the government will provide compensation to the people living in the illegal apartments or they will be shifted to some other places or what action would be taken against the illegal constructions."

She further said that everything would be clear once the BMC receives the SOP from the government. "However, we will try not to put the common people in trouble," she added.

Notably, 491 cases have been registered in connection with illegal apartments and other structures and constructions under the BDA. Out of this, demolition orders have been issued in 191 cases while 63 cases have been dropped and 237 cases are under trial.

Besides, 1,444 cases have been registered against illegal constructions and apartments under the BMC limits. Of this, 451 cases have been disposed of while 993 are under trial.

State to support the boy for med education

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi felicitated Mangala Muduli, a Bonda tribe student of Badbel village under Khairput block of Malkangari district, who has been considered eligible by NIT-2024 for MBBS course at the Brahmapur MKCG Medical College.

The function was held at the Lok Seva Bhawan here on Thursday. The CM also presented a laptop to Mangala and wished him a bright fu-

ture. "To be the first doctor of the Bonda Community, study well, be a good doctor and serve the people of your area," Majhi told Mangala.

The CM further said financial hardships give way to strong willpower. Mangala Muduli is a shining example of this. All kinds of support would be provided by the State Government so that Mangala continues the medical education course.

Notably, Mangala's parents work as daily labourers in agricultural farms. After passing HSC and Plus 2 Science examinations, he aspired to become a doctor and serve the people of his area.

Strengthening emergency care system AIIMS-BBS, ICMR, State Gov't hold meet

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and ICMR in collaboration with Government of Odisha organised a District Level Stakeholder-cum-Consultation Meeting on August 23 for strengthening of Emergency Care System (INDIA-EMS) in India.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched a National Health Research Priority Project to develop an emergency care system in five districts, (Puri in Odisha, Ludhiana in Punjab, Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh, Vadodara in Gujarat and Pondicherry). The project aims



to create a High-Quality Patient-Centric Integrated Model for Emergency Care in Puri by improving logistics, enhancing healthcare provider skills, and incorporating IT and AI-based tools.

Key focus areas include ambulance service improve-

ments, community training, and addressing seven major emergencies such as heart attack, stroke, trauma, snake bite, poisoning, respiratory, neonatal, and maternal emergencies. The model will be implemented in collaboration with the Government of

Odisha by a research team led by Dr Arvind Kumar Singh, Additional Professor, AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

Dr Rupabhanu Mishra, CDM and PHO, Puri was the chief guest of the stakeholder cum consultation meeting. He emphasised on collabora-

tion and integration with other departments and highlighted key areas like transportation, ALS ambulance. Prof Dr Sabita Mohapatra suggested implementing ICMR's Standard Treatment Workflow to reduce emergency burdens and increase awareness through IEC materials. Prof Dr Kaushik Mishra talked about the challenges and solutions in India's emergency care system focusing on manpower shortages, emergency burden in India, leading causes of death and best possible solutions.

Dr Binod Bihari Rath and Dr Pabitra Mohan Mallick said there is a need to develop an exemplary emergency services model

that could be implemented both nationally and globally. Dr Binod Kumar Patro gave an overview of the INDIAEMS Project. Dr Arvind Kumar Singh emphasized on increasing community demand for emergency care and meeting the demand by increasing the supply side.

All the Superintendents, Medical Officer In-charges (MOICs), staff members from NHM shared their thoughts on improving emergency services by increasing awareness, enhancing the ALS ambulance service and implementing Early Goal-Directed Therapy (EGDT). The project will be implemented from September onwards.

Missing minor girl found dead in Baleswar

Rape, murder suspected; accused detained

SIBDAS KUNDU ■ BALESWAR
The body of a nine-year-old girl, who had gone missing three days ago, was found in an abandoned house in Remuna of Baleswar district on Friday. Alerted by the foul smell coming out from the deserted building, locals informed po-

lice, following which cops rushed to the scene and seized the body. Police suspected the body to be of the girl who was reported as missing by her family. The girl's family members later reached the crime scene and identified the body. "Ravi Singh had called the kid saying he would buy her snacks and took her away, but she never returned. We were searching for her everywhere, but we could not find her.

Now, we got to know about all this through police," said a relative of the deceased. The family has also alleged that the girl was raped and then murdered. Police have detained the person, who is suspected to be the main accused. "Baleswar SP Sagarika Nath and the Remuna IIC arrived on the spot. We guarded the crime scene for the entire night. Further investigations are being carried out under the supervision of the Nilgiri

SDPO and a forensic team. The accused Ravi was found to be in an intoxicated state," said police. "We have apprehended the accused and questioned him further. After interrogation, he will be produced before court. Initial investigation indicated that the accused killed the girl by hitting her with a stone, but we are waiting for the post-mortem report which will reveal if the minor was raped," said the Nilgiri SDPO.

Minor rape: JSpur youth gets 10 yrs in jail

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR
The Fast Track Court [FTC] Judge, Jagatsinghpur sentenced an accused person to 10 years imprisonment and pay a fine of Rs 20,000 convicting him in a minor girl rape case, on Thursday. The accused was identified as Mantu Majhi, a resident of Bagadia village near Paradip. He had maintained a relationship with a minor girl who was later discovered 3 months' pregnant. As a result, the victim's family approached the accused's family about the incident. Strangely, the accused's family refuted the allegation and instead, threatened the victim's parents of dire consequences if they did not desist from levelling the allegation. Finally, the victims' family lodged an FIR at Abhyachandpur police station on March 9, 2017, narrating the incident. After performing legal procedures, the police arrested the accused and filed a charge sheet against him in the Fast Track Court Jagatsinghpur. Taking cogent evidence and relying on depositions given by about 16 witnesses produced by the prosecution, the court pronounced the accused guilty and awarded the punishment.

IN BRIEF

PPA bags 'Major Port of the Year-Non Containerised Cargo' award

Paradip: The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has been conferred with the 'Major Port of the Year-Non Containerised Cargo' award at the 14th All India Maritime and Logistics Award 2024 ceremony held recently in JW Marriott, Mumbai. The award was presented by the Chairman of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and the Consul General of Israel. Ramakanta Sahoo, Chief Manager (BDTP), received the award. PPA Chairman PL Haranadh said this notable award would inspire and motivate the Team PPA further to bring more laurels in coming times.



SBI launches plantation drive in Paradip
Jagatsinghpur: The State Bank of India (SBI) IOCL refinery branch near Paradip organized a plantation drive at Rangiyagada School on Thursday coinciding with Union and State Gov-



ernments' programme 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam.' Speaking at the event, SBI Branch Manager Tandraipali Nayak termed the initiative as corroborating a tribute to biological mothers and a commitment to the Mother of Earth for environmental conservation. The school administration and villagers expressed happiness over the SBI drive to plant saplings around the school campus and adjacent areas.

Woman, son feted for bravery in rescuing 3 from drowning



By CM Majhi
PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

Jayanti Mallick (50) and her son Rudra Prasad (12) of Nimpur village in Pattamundai block bagged the prestigious Biju Patnaik Bravery Award-2023 on Thursday for saving three persons from drowning in the Brahmani river on March 2.

Both the mother and son received the award along with cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each and silver plaques from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, while celebrating the National Sports Day in Bhubaneswar, stated District Sports Officer Lokanath Panigrahi. The duo's courageous act and presence of mind saved three persons' lives.

According to official sources, as many as six painters were engaged in Rajnagar block's Madanpur to paint walls for a cement company. They were returning from Rajnagar after completing their works to Cuttack when they went to take bath in the Brahmani river at Nimapur river ghat. While they were taking bath, Ajit Kumar and Javed were swept away by river current. While the co-workers of the duo made an attempt to rescue them, they too drowned. Jayanti and Rudra, who were taking bath on the river ghat, managed to save the life of three persons, following Jayanti Mallick gave her saree to her son Rudra to use it to rescue the drowning persons.

BeMC issues show-cause in canal drowning case

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAMAPUR

The tragic drowning of 10-year-old Sairam Patra in the open canal has prompted swift action from the Brahmapur Municipal Corporation (BeMC). Following a review by Ganjam district Collector Dibyajyoti Parida, a show cause notice has been issued to Assistant Engineer Mithilesh Rath for his failure to implement necessary safety measures around the canal. On June 24, instructions were given to construct and install warning signs around the open drain to prevent accidents. However, these direc-

tives were not carried out, resulting in the death of the minor. Mithilesh Rath has been ordered to respond to the show cause notice within 48 hours.

In response to the incident, the district Collector convened a meeting in Brahmapur on Wednesday, where he emphasized the need for accountability. In the presence of Corporation Commissioner Bhabani Prasad Mishra, senior and junior engineers gathered to assess the situation. Information was collected about the incident, and responsibilities were assigned to the concerned Wards to ensure such negligence does not occur again.

The BeMC had earlier issued a show cause notice to Mithilesh Rath, following the incident on the 13th of the previous month. Mithilesh Rath, who was an Assistant Executive Engineer at the time, was also implicated in the case. The State Government has already taken immediate steps in the aftermath of the incident, similar to their previous intervention in the death of a student in the open drain in Bhubaneswar. The Government had acted after a letter was sent to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, drawing attention to the issue.

Meanwhile, senior lawyer Manoj Patnaik has questioned whether further action will be taken against the engineer and other staff, criticizing the authorities for their silence and lack of immediate action. In the tragic incident, the State Government has provided Rs 4 lakh as financial assistance to the family of the deceased. BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra Dallei said that 293 places in the city have been identified as being at risk, and arrangements have been made to place information boards and pamphlets in those areas to prevent future tragedies.

In Bargarh 2 hardcore women Maoists surrender

PNS ■ BARGARH

Two hardcore women Maoists, Puja Tati (35) and Saita Padam (31), surrendered before the Odisha Police in Bargarh district on Friday. Puja alias Paro of Bijapur district in Chhatisgarh was the platoon commander of Bargarh local organising squad (LOC) while Saitu alias Raghu was heading the Balangir LOC and is a native of Sukma district.

The two had bounty of Rs 4 lakh and Rs 3 lakh on their heads and were actively trying to expand the Maoist activities in Bargarh and Balangir districts. The duo surrendered before Northern Range IGP Himanshu Lal in the presence of Bargarh SP Prahalad Meena. "The surrender of the two Maoist cadres is a severe jolt for Leftwing extremism in the Gandhamardan area," Lal said.

They surrendered after realising that the outfit has lost its ideological commitment and instead of working for poor and toiling class, it was indulging in criminal activities like extortion, attack on innocent civilians and security forces. They also revealed that the Chhatisgarh cadres, particularly the women, were being subjected to continuous physical, psychological and sexual harassment in the outfit. They would be rehabilitated as per the existing Surrender and Rehabilitation programme of the government. "We appeal to the Maoists to shun violence, join the mainstream and live a decent life. The Odisha Government is determined to root out Maoist menace from the State and more aggressive action will be taken against the Maoists in the coming days," the IGP added.

Inflated bills Farmers dump 3K meters before Tata Power office

PNS ■ BARGARH

Hundreds of farmers in Bargarh took to the streets to protest against Tata Power, accusing the company of unethical practices regarding smart meters. Led by Saheed Madho Singh Regional Farmers' Organisation, they dumped around 3,000 smart meters outside the company's office, alleging inflated and unfair electricity bills. Farmer leader Ramesh Mahapatra highlighted additional grievances including low voltage and frequent power cuts. The protesting farmers alleged that while the smart meters installed at different houses are showing bills of around Rs 1,000, smart meters installed at farmlands are showing bills of around Rs 3,000 per month which is not acceptable. They also raised their voices against frequent low voltage and power cut issues in their areas.



Various farmer organisations have warned that they will intensify their protests further if their issues are not addressed immediately. "Not only farmers but regular household consumers are also being deceived by the company. We are against the installation of smart meters as we believe they are faulty and we are being wrongly charged.

Around 3,000 meters were dumped at the office today. We will intensify our protest in coming days if our issues will not be addressed shortly," said farmer leader and member of Sanjukta Krushak Sangathan, Ramesh Mahapatra. "Earlier we used to pay a minimal amount of electric bill. However, after the installation of smart meters, the farmers have to pay around Rs 40,000 electric bill per year. There is also addition of penalty to the bill. Under the circumstances, how a farmer will sustain? The smart meters should not be installed as it is showing huge amount of bill," he added.

However, no comments could be obtained from Tata Power officials over the allegations.

MLA Nayak raises Santali edu issue in Assly

Also, football academy in Rairangpur
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

During the first session of the 17th Legislative Assembly, Rairangpur MLA Jalen Nayak raised three questions in the House. These questions were directed to the Minister of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes Development, Minorities and Backward Classes and focused on granting linguistic minority status to the Santali language, provision of Santali education in schools and hostels, recruitment of Santali teachers, and implementation of the report submitted by a Government-appointed expert committee on the development and promotion of Santali education in schools. In response, Minister Nityananda Gond stated that granting linguistic minority status to the Santali language is under consideration. Currently, seven Santali multilingual teachers have been ap-

pointed, and the State Government has proposed the appointment of an additional 26 Santali teachers to the Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission. In a related unstarred question, MLA Nayak also addressed the Sports and Youth Services Minister Surjyabanshi Suraj regarding the establishment of a football academy in Rairangpur of Mayurbhanj district, and the steps taken to provide proper training to aspiring football players. In response,

it was revealed that the construction of a sports complex in Rairangpur, with a sanctioned budget of Rs 30, 03, 43,300, under the Khelo India initiative, is currently underway. The sports complex will include a FIFA-standard natural football turf with LED lighting, two tennis courts, a synthetic athletic track, and other facilities. The Government plans to implement necessary measures to provide proper training to aspiring football players at the complex.

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Rs 70 cr allocated for Rayagada Rly Dvn

Tender invited for office construction
BADAL TAH ■ RAYAGADA

The East Coast Railway (ECOR) has issued a tender for the construction of the Rayagada Railway Division, marking a crucial development in regional infrastructure. The project follows the recent announcement by the Minister of Railways, who allocated Rs 70 crore to establish the new division. The allocation to the State was informed to Nabarangpur MP Balabhadra Majhi, who met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi. "I thank the Railway Minister for addressing the much-awaited and public-centric Rayagada Railway Division issue. We have had thorough discussions with the Minister and I am pleased to announce that most of the formalities for the formation of the Rayagada Division is going to be completed. The work will be started soon once the tenders are in

place," Majhi said in a statement. Vaishnaw revealed the budgetary provision and confirmed that the design phase was nearing completion. The project is set to commence shortly. The scope of the tender includes the construction of the Divisional Railway Manager's (DRM) Office, staff quarters and various ancillary facilities. The new division will be situated along about 125 acres across six strategic locations near the Rayagada Railway Station along NH-326. The DRM of-

place," Majhi said in a statement. Vaishnaw revealed the budgetary provision and confirmed that the design phase was nearing completion. The project is set to commence shortly. The scope of the tender includes the construction of the Divisional Railway Manager's (DRM) Office, staff quarters and various ancillary facilities. The new division will be situated along about 125 acres across six strategic locations near the Rayagada Railway Station along NH-326. The DRM of-

ice itself will occupy about 14 acres and will feature state-of-the-art amenities including water bodies, a walking track, a parking area and a driver's rest room, etc. The ECOR zone presently has three divisions at Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair. The new Rayagada division will be created by bifurcating Waltair. Rayagada public also have applauded Rail Ministry's announcement regarding the much awaited Therubali-Gunupur railway line.

Guru Padma's birthplace is Odisha: Researcher

PNS ■ NALANDA

Parbir Kumar Patnaik, a prominent Odisha researcher, strongly refuted the fallacy spread by some Western researchers that the birth place of 8th century Guru Padmasambhava, recognised as the second Buddha in the world, is located in the Swat Valley of Pakistan, in a conference held in Nalanda. Bihar Governor Rajendra Erekar inaugurated the two-day conference organized by the International Buddhist Mahasanga and Navanalanda Mahavihar to discuss the life and philosophy of Guru Padmasambhava on August 28. Many researchers and scholars of Buddhism from different parts of the world were present in the conference. In the first session of the conference, researcher Patnaik presented a claim in favour of Odisha regarding Uddiyani Pith, the birthplace of Guru Padmasambhava. In the ses-



These places are located in present day Sambalpur and Subarnapur districts. He also said that the holy relics of Gurupadmasambhava are preserved in Madhavpur Mahavihar in Udayagiri, Odisha. In the conference, Anita Sabat, Prakash Chandra Nayak and Sunil Patnaik from Odisha were also present. Recently, the discussion about this matter has become more widespread after the publication of the almost 500-page authentic book 'Uddiyani Guru Padmasambhava - The Second Buddha' written in English by researcher Patnaik.

Probe by DEO Kendrapada 'Pakistan Zindabad slogan by students given whimsically'

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

District Education Officer (DEO) Kendrapada Pradeep Nag visited the Tyndakura-based Fazle Haque Government High School under Kudanagari police limit to conduct an inquiry on the alleged matter of two minority community students, studying in class 9th, giving "Pakistan Zindabad" slogan on the Independence Day celebration in the school on August 15. According to DEO Nag, he took the teachers, students, including the two accused students and their guardians on board and found that the accused students gave the anti-national slogan out of fun and without any ulterior motive. The accused students' mothers came to the school after their fathers were not available at their houses who are working outside the country. They, along with the accused students, apologised for what happened on the day. They also assured the school authority and DEO of not repeating the act and gave undertaking in this regard, stated Nag.

It did not come from any angle that the accused students had any ill intention or they wanted to disrespect the tricolour or anybody provoked them to give anti-national and provocative slogan," said Nag, who added that the accused felt ashamed of their misconduct in front of the DEO and uttered "Bharat Mata ki Jay" and "Vande Mataram" slogans.

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Mamata a liar, says BJP

Has done nothing to protect women in West Bengal: Malviya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday slammed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee calling her a “liar” and asked her to explain why she has not done anything to ensure implementation of existing “stringent” rules and regulations to protect women in her state.

This came after Mamata wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reiterating her request for stringent central legislation and exemplary punishment on heinous crimes like rape and murder.

She also sought mandatory provision for time-bound disposal of cases of rape/rape and murder. “It is incumbent on Mamata to explain why the West Bengal Government hasn't done anything for implementing the stringent rules and regulations, which exist for protecting women and girls,” BJP co-in-charge for West Bengal Amit Malviya said in a social media post. “Stop writing letters. Answer the questions. You are accountable,” he said.



In her letter, Mamata said she was yet to receive a reply from the Prime Minister on the issue that she had flagged in her previous letter to him. The Chief Minister, however, said she received a communication from the Union Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister Annapurna Devi. Maintaining that the letter by the WCD Minister “barely attends the gravity of the issue” raised by her, Banerjee wrote, “The seriousness of the subject and its relevance to the society have not been adequately appreciated while



sending out this generic reply,” Banerjee, in her letter to the Prime Minister, mentioned that 88 fast-track special courts and 62 POCSO-designated courts are already functioning in West Bengal on State funding. Reacting sharply, Malviya said, “Mamata is a liar.” “Annapurna Devi, Union Minister of Women and Child Development, responded to West Bengal Chief Minister on August 25, 2024. In her letter, in point 4, she (the WCD Minister) specifically mentions West Bengal Government not

setting up even a single fast track Court for addressing rape and POCSO related cases,” the BJP Leader said. He also posted on social media a copy of the WCD Minister's letter to the West Bengal Chief Minister. Malviya said as many as seven cases of rape, mostly of minors, and in some cases murders too have been reported in West Bengal in the last 48 hours. “But in the last 48 hours, Mamata has been engaged in every deplorable act — that a civilised Chief Minister would be ashamed of — from issuing open letters to clarifications, from threatening and abusing doctors to inciting nationwide arson,” he said in another social media post. He called Mamata a “failed Home and Health Minister” of the State and alleged that she is preoccupied with suppressing evidences of her corruption and incompetence in the RG Kar Hospital rape-and-murder case. “But, enough is enough. The awakened conscience of Bengal now calls for accountability,” the BJP leader added.



PM Modi to visit Brunei, Singapore in September: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Brunei and Singapore in the first week of September, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday. The Prime Minister will travel to Brunei on September 3-4, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced at his media briefing. This will be the first bilateral visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Brunei, he said. This visit will also mark 40 years of the establishment of the diplomatic ties between India and Brunei, Jaiswal said. From there, Prime Minister Modi is slated to visit Singapore on September 4-5 at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart, the MEA said.

JPC hears views of Muslim organisations on Waqf Bill

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee met here for the second time on Friday to hear the views of Muslim bodies on the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill which seeks to reform the registration process for Waqf properties through a centralised portal. During the day-long meeting, the panel headed by BJP's Jagdambika Pal will hear the views of stakeholders, including the All India Sunni Jamiyatul Ulama, Mumbai, and Delhi-based Indian Muslims for Civil Rights (IMCR).

The Bill is the first major initiative of the BJP-led NDA Government aimed at reforming the registration process for Waqf properties. Besides this, establishing a Central Waqf Council alongside State Waqf Boards with representation to Muslim women and non-Muslim representatives are also among the proposed reforms. A contentious provision of the Bill is the proposal to designate the district collector as the primary authority in determining whether a property is classified as Waqf or Government land. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8 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 a targeting of Muslims and an attack on the Constitution. In its marathon first meeting earlier this month, opposition MPs flagged objections over a host of provisions as the Union Minority Affairs Ministry made a presentation in the proposed law. Sources said BJP members in the meeting lauded the proposed amendments, including the provisions which seek to empower women. Meanwhile, the Joint Committee on Friday sought suggestions from stakeholders, experts and other institutions on the proposed law. The Bill seeks to reforming the registration process for Waqf properties through a centralised portal. According to a statement issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the committee led by BJP's Jagdambika Pal has

asked for “views/suggestions from the public in general and NGOs, experts, stakeholders and institutions in particular” considering the “wider implications” of the Bill. People have been asked to share their suggestions in writing in the next 15 days. The memoranda and suggestions submitted to the committee would form part of the records of the Committee and would be treated as “confidential”, it said. Those who wish to appear before the committee, besides submitting views in writing, have been asked to specifically indicate so in their correspondence. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8 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 a targeting of Muslims and an attack on the Constitution.



Sharad rejects proposal to step up security at his Delhi house

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Nationalist Congress Party-SP (NCP-SP) chief Sharad Pawar, accorded Z-plus protective cover recently, is learnt to have turned down certain measures suggested by security agencies. The Centre accorded him the Z-plus cover of the Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF) VIP security wing after a threat assessment review by central agencies. However, Pawar is learnt to have conveyed to them that he has not been told why his security is being beefed up. The 83-year-old former Maharashtra Chief Minister is learnt to have rejected the proposals to deploy additional security personnel inside his house in the national Capital, change the vehicle he uses to travel within the city and that he be escorted by two security personnel inside his vehicle. Pawar was also amenable to increasing the height of the boundary walls of his house in Delhi as part of the enhanced security measures. The former Defence Minister is learnt to have conveyed this to the representatives of security agencies the CRPF and the Delhi Police at a meeting here on Friday. Besides them, representatives of the Delhi Fire Service, the Central Public Works Department, the New Delhi Municipal Council and the Union Home Ministry were also part of the meeting. Sources had said after the assessment recommended a strong security cover for Pawar, the Union Home Ministry asked the CRPF to give him Z-plus protection.

Graduation degree must for pharmacist position within CGHS

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

To elevate professional standards for pharmacists in the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and address the sector's longstanding demands, the Modi Government has implemented new recruitment rules mandating a graduation degree as the minimum educational qualification for pharmacist positions within CGHS. A notification in this regard was issued by the Union Health Ministry recently. Till now, the qualification required for the pharmacists post in CGHS was a 12th class pass with science subjects (Physics, Chemistry, and Biology) and a Diploma in

Pharmacy from a recognized institution. Additionally, the age limit for candidates applying for the post has been increased from 25 to 27 years, according to a recent notification from the Union Health Ministry. This adjustment is intended to provide a broader age range for potential candidates, making the recruitment process more inclusive. Baldev Kumar, a senior pharmacist and central council member of the Pharmacy Council of India, welcomed the new RR, noting that they represent a significant shift in qualification requirements and age limits. He highlighted that candidates holding a



Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) degree from a recognized Central or State Government university or institute are now also eligible for pharmacist positions in CGHS. This inclusion acknowledges advanced qualifications and may attract highly skilled professionals. Vikas Jain, General Secretary of the All India CGHS Employees Association, echoed similar sentiments.

He stated that the direct impact of this change will be on the CGHS department. With the new rules, only graduate and experienced pharmacists will be eligible for positions. He called the decision a significant victory for the pharmacist community, which has long sought more respectable positions and salary scales commensurate with their qualifications and experience. While the qualification requirement has been increased, the salary scale remains unchanged. However, Jain pinned hopes that a future pay commission may revise the salary scale to align with the new qualifications, leading to

potential salary improvements. Overall, these new rules are a positive development for the pharmacist community, aligning job qualifications with industry standards and potentially enhancing the professional status of pharmacists in the CGHS, said the pharmacists. CGHS facilities providing a range of healthcare services, including outpatient and inpatient care, diagnostics, and medicines are utilized by central Government Employees, pensioners, Central Government Autonomous Bodies, Central Government Undertaking Employees and Certain State Government Employees.

Five billion people globally consume less iodine, vitamin E, calcium: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A recent study published in The Lancet Global Health journal has revealed people across all age groups in India and globally, both men and women, are consuming inadequate amounts of micronutrients critical for health, including iron, calcium and folate. The study is the first to provide estimates of insufficient consumption of 15 micronutrients across 185 countries, taken through diets without the use of supplements, according to an international team, including researchers from Harvard University, US. The findings suggested that around the world, almost 70 per cent, or over five billion, people do not consume enough iodine, vitamin E, and calcium. The researchers also found that within a country and an age group, more women were consuming inadequate amounts of iodine, vitamin B12 and iron, compared to men, whereas more men were consuming inadequate amounts of magnesium, vitamin B6, zinc and vitamin C, compared to women. In India, while more women consumed insufficient

amounts of iodine, compared to men, more men consumed inadequate amounts of zinc and magnesium, compared to women, the team found. While analyses over the past 10 years have looked at micronutrient deficiencies, the researchers said large data gaps remain for many micronutrients and population groups. In the study, the authors used publicly available data from the Global Dietary Database to estimate the prevalence of insufficient nutrient intakes for 99.3 per cent of the global population. Men and women aged 10-30 years were most prone to low-levels of calcium intake, especially in South Asia, Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the team pointed out. The authors said the findings could be used by public health professionals to target populations in need of dietary interventions. They added that since they did not account for intake of fortified foods or supplements, the results could possibly be an overestimate for some key nutrients in particular locations where people consume high amounts of fortified foods and supplements.

Joint Commanders' meet to begin soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The first Joint Commanders' Conference (JCC) is set to take place at the Headquarters Central Command, Lucknow from September 4, 5. Themed 'Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat: Transforming the Armed Forces', the conference will be attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and will serve as the pivotal platform for undertaking internal process reforms' within the armed forces, Defence Ministry said here on Friday. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan will inaugurate the convocation on September four, which brings together the apex level hierarchy from the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The two-day deliberations

will focus on analysing the impact of regional and global geo-political disruptions and the commensurate demands that are likely to be placed upon the reforms being undertaken by the armed forces. Preparing for Future Wars, Jointness and Integration among the constituent services and technology absorption, riding on the Government's 'Atmanirbharta' initiative to achieve self-reliance in Defence, will be areas receiving prime emphasis. The JCC is planned to be developed as a crucial forum for exchange of ideas, strategies and best practices among India's top military leadership, reinforcing the country's commitment to a strong and safer future and achieving strategic autonomy in defence.

SC terms recovery agent firm as 'group of goons'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Termining a recovery agent firm of a bank as a “group of goons” who did not return the vehicle seized from a man despite one time settlement of the loan amount, the Supreme Court has directed the West Bengal Police to file charge sheet against the company within two months. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan, which directed for payment of compensation to one Debasish Bosu Roy Chowdhury who took a loan of Rs 15.15 lakh for purchasing a bus for plying in Kolkata, directed Bank of India to recover the amount from the recovery agent. “Given the observations made by the High Court and the plea taken by the petitioners, we find that respondent No. 4, a recovery agent, in actuality appears to be a group of goons, who use their muscle power to harass loanees on behalf of the petitioner-bank,” the bench said in its recent order. It noted an FIR was lodged against the recovery agent firm M/s City Investigation and Detective for failing to return the vehicle in proper condition and said, “The Commissioner of Police of the concerned area is directed to ensure that investigation of FIR dated July 5, 2023, registered at Police Station Sodepur in West Bengal, under Sections 406, 420 and 471 of the IPC, is taken to its logical conclusion without any delay, and charge sheet is filed within a period of two months.” The recovery agent firm, however, later returned the vehicle but in a damaged condition, with chassis and engine numbers changed. “The petitioner-bank shall be entitled to recover the compensation amount paid to



respondent No. 1 (Chowdhury) from respondent No. 4 (recovery agent firm), or any other person found to be responsible for the damage caused to the vehicle,” the bench said. It directed that thereafter, the trial Court would take cognisance of the charge sheet and proceed in accordance with law. The bench further directed, “If there is any license/authority letter granted by a competent authority to respondent No. 4 to act as recovery agent, the petitioner-bank is directed to make a separate complaint to that authority, regarding cancellation of such permission/authority letter.” The top Court refused to interfere with the Calcutta High Court order of May 16 by which the bank was asked to pay Chowdhury Rs 5 lakh interim compensation for its conduct in not returning the vehicle to him. The High Court had granted liberty to the loanee to approach the civil Court for higher compensation. Chowdhury had approached the bank for a loan of Rs 15.15 and upon satisfaction of the bank's conditions, his loan was sanctioned and to be repaid along with interest in 84 equated monthly installments of Rs 26,502 commencing from December 2014. The vehicle (bus) in question was hypothecated to the bank. It was contended by the bank

that from January 2018, Chowdhury started defaulting in payment of monthly instalment and his account was declared a Non-Performing Asset (NPA) on May 31, 2018. The outstanding amount of loan as on date of NPA stood at Rs 10.23 lakh. The top Court noted that the bank hired the services of M/s City Investigation and Detective, the so-called recovery agent, who was aided by the Government authorities in seizing Chowdhury's vehicle for and on behalf of the bank. The bank claimed in the High Court that the market value of the vehicle as on July 31, 2019 was only Rs 2.37 lakh and the distress sale value was only Rs 1.66 lakh. In March 2021, Chowdhury approached the bank for One-Time Settlement (OTS) of Rs 1.8 lakh towards the entire outstanding. The bank agreed to the proposal to accept the OTS offer though it was only 17.75 per cent of the outstanding dues. “For reasons best known to the officers of the bank, a one-time settlement (OTS) was executed between the bank and respondent No. 1 (loanee) for a paltry sum of Rs 1,80,000. The said amount was admittedly deposited by respondent No. 1 (loanee) with the Bank,” the top court noted in its order. It said the vehicle, however, was not released to the loanee, even though the bank was bound to do so, having accepted the OTS. “After great efforts, the vehicle/bus was recovered, but by that time its chassis number and engine number were changed and some of the spare parts were also removed. Also, the vehicle was not in working condition,” the bench noted.

Women doctors feel insecure on night shifts, some carry weapons: IMA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A study by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has highlighted alarming safety concerns among doctors, with a significant number, particularly women, reporting feelings of extreme insecurity during night shifts so much so that some have begun carrying weapons for self-defence. This comprehensive survey, involving 3,885 respondents across 22 States, was conducted in the wake of the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. It said about one-third of respondents felt “unsafe” (24.1 per cent) or “very unsafe” (11.4 per cent)

during night shifts. Around 45 per cent of doctors reported not having access to a duty room during night shifts. Those with duty rooms generally felt safer. However, many duty rooms were overcrowded, lacked privacy, and had inadequate facilities, such as missing locks and no attached bathrooms. There were infrastructure issues also. Duty rooms were often located far from patient care areas (53 per cent), and one-third lacked attached bathrooms, requiring doctors to venture outside late at night. The study has recommended enhanced Security, improved infrastructure and legislative measures. These suggestions come amid the Union Health



Ministry's directives to the States urging them to increase the number of trained security personnel, install CCTV cameras, improve lighting, and implement alarm systems. It has also asked to ensure duty rooms are secure and equipped with basic amenities, and address overcrowding and privacy issues. Some doctors reported carrying weapons for self-

defense due to unsafe conditions. Issues like verbal and physical threats from patients under the influence, and inappropriate contact in crowded emergency rooms were noted. The study highlights the urgent need for policy changes to enhance security and infrastructure in healthcare settings. Dr. Siddharth Tara, Convener of the Progressive Medicos and Scientists Forum, emphasised the urgent need for the survey, highlighting that the Indian healthcare system relies heavily on women, including ASHA workers, female nurses, and doctors. He asserted that these professionals deserve to work with dignity and called for the National Medical

Commission to derecognise medical colleges that fail to ensure the safety of their trainee doctors, citing a lack of administrative accountability. Dr. Shweta Sharma, a psychologist and head of Mansa Global Foundation, described the IMA survey as revealing and critical. She underscored the severe mental trauma experienced by female doctors following the tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. Noting that similar incidents have been reported in the media, she stressed the need for an urgent and comprehensive safety network to ensure doctors can perform their duties without fear or undue pressure. Ends

Manipur can't be broken: CM Biren

Won't allow separate administration for Kukis, says CM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has emphatically rejected the demand by Kuki groups for a separate administration...



Manipur society like never before, has, however, expressed his support for a special development package for the state's hilly region where Kukis live.

Talks only on our terms, says Kuki leader on Manipur CM appointing emissary for talks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Talks, if any, will only be held on their terms and only with the Centre, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum, an umbrella organisation of Kuki bodies, said on Friday...



The state along community lines have claimed more than 200 lives and displaced thousands of families.

Rain abates in Gujarat but several towns remain flooded

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Even as rains abated in most parts of Gujarat on Friday morning, several towns and villages witnessed water logging due to swollen rivers, officials said.



the Vishwamitri river, is slowly limping back to normalcy as water has receded in most parts of the city, the city civic authorities stated in a release.

Bihar to construct more barrages on rivers to mitigate flood problem

PTI ■ PATNA

The Bihar government is planning to construct barrages on several rivers in six districts in the northern part of the state bordering Nepal to mitigate the recurring flood problem.



barrages on Gandak at Areraj in East Champaran, on Masan in West Champaran, Bagmati at Dheng in Sitamarhi, on Kamala at Jainagar in Madhubani, on Kosi at Dakmara in Supaul and on Mahananda at Taiyabpur in Kishanganj, said the minister.

Nepal. "It was during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government when India and Nepal agreed to build high-level dams on river Kosi, Bagmati and Kamala in Nepal and set up a joint project office at Biratnagar (in that country) to prepare the related DPRs in 2004," he said.

I am inseparable from Modi, for as long as he is PM: Chirag

PTI ■ PATNA

Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Friday rejected rumours of a rift between his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and the BJP, asserting that he views himself as "inseparable" from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



reflected the government's stand. A case in point is sending the Wakf Bill to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

alliance with BJP in Bihar and at the Centre. So, we will abide by coalition dharma at national level and in my home state.

Police probe into attack on family by BSF personnel completed: DyCM



PTI ■ SHILLONG

Meghalaya Police have completed investigation into the alleged attack on a family including a minor girl by three BSF personnel in East Jaintia Hills district earlier this year.

Hema Panel report: Outrage grows in Kerala as Opposition accuses Govt of shielding accused

PTI ■ KOCHI / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Protests raged in Kerala on Friday as outrage grew over shocking accounts from several female actors in the Malayalam film industry about sexual abuse, with the Leader of the Opposition, V D Satheesan, accusing the CPI(M)-led government of shielding the culprits...



He claimed that even Left leaders who have called for action against the accused, such as CPI(M)'s Brinda Karat and CPI's Binoy Viswam, are being intimidated by the party's "power group."

Akal Takht declares Sukhbir Badal 'tankhaiya' for 'religious misconduct'

PTI ■ AMRITSAR

The Akal Takht on Friday declared Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal 'tankhaiya' -- guilty of religious misconduct-- for the "mistakes" committed by his party and the party's government from 2007 to 2017.



A day before the meeting of five Sikh head priests, Badal had appointed senior leader Balwinder Singh Bhundar as the party's working president.

Earlier this month, the Akal Takht Secretariat in Amritsar had released a copy of the three-page letter that Badal submitted to Giani Raghbir Singh, the Akal Takht Jathedar on the rebel leaders' accusations, on July 24.

Incidents related to the theft of a 'bir' (copy) of the Guru Ganth Sahib, putting up of handwritten sacrilegious posters and torn pages of the holy book found scattered at Bargari had taken place in Faridkot in 2015 when the Shiromani Akali Dal was in power.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

The dark side

Sexual exploitation in the Kerala film industry revealed by the Hema Committee report sends shockwaves across the country

It is a "me too" moment of the Kerala film industry. The image of the Kerala film industry has touched the rock bottom after Hema committee has reported rampant sexual abuse, lack of basic amenities for women and more. It is all the more shocking as it is happening in the state which has given the most progressive films to the country. The Kerala film industry, known for producing some of India's most critically acclaimed and beloved films, is now under the shadow of a severe crisis. A landmark report from the Hema Committee has exposed the deep-rooted gender issues and sexual exploitation that plague this vibrant film hub, revealing a shocking underbelly that contradicts the industry's artistic achievements. The 290-page report, prepared by a three-member panel headed by retired Kerala High Court Justice K. Hema, offers a scathing indictment of the Malayalam-language film industry. It paints a grim picture of a workplace where sexual harassment is rampant and systemic, and where a "mafia of powerful men" wields control, leaving women vulnerable to exploitation. The Hema Committee was established by the Kerala government in 2017, in the aftermath of a high-profile case that sent shockwaves through the industry.

The Hema Committee's findings have laid bare the systemic problems that have long been ignored or downplayed. The report uncovers a litany of abuses, from the lack of basic amenities like toilets and changing rooms for junior artists to the frequent demands for sexual favors by powerful men in the industry. It describes the harrowing experiences of women who have been forced to endure long hours without access to toilets, leading to severe health issues. The panel also found that sexual harassment is not only widespread but often goes unchecked and unreported due to the fear of retaliation. As expected, the Kerala film fraternity has vehemently denied all the allegations. Despite the damning findings, the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), a prominent industry body, has denied the accusations. The organization's general secretary, Siddique, dismissed the claims, stating that conditions for women on film sets have improved in recent years and that the industry is not controlled by a small group of powerful men. However, the report's release has sparked widespread outrage, with activists and opposition leaders demanding immediate action against those implicated. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has vowed to take action if any woman who testified before the committee comes forward to file a complaint. As the industry grapples with these revelations, there is hope that this moment of reckoning will lead to lasting change. The Kerala film industry has long been celebrated for its artistic achievements; now, it must also become a beacon of respect, safety, and dignity for all who work within it.

PICTALK



Aukhra Nimbarka Peeth Mahanta Asthal, a 250-year-old Mutt in East Bardhaman

Environment: A casualty of overtourism



KOTA SRIRAJ

The future of India's tourism sector depends on a delicate balance between ecological integrity and economic growth, but it needs to be addressed now

Recently the Mayor of the picturesque Santorini Island in Greece had to declare an emergency as 17000 tourists descended on the island in one day. The beleaguered residents of the island were advised to stay indoors as swarms of tourists took over the hapless location putting immense stress on infrastructure, accommodation and the local environment including the verdant beaches. This has triggered protests by the locals who took out rallies holding placards that read "no more mass tourism."

Overtourism is characterised by increased pollution and strain on resources like water and energy in a destination that is overwhelmed by an excessive number of tourists, to a point where it negatively affects the local environment, biodiversity, and infrastructure. The telling impact of overtourism is evident in India too. Every year the popular hill stations of north India such as Kullu, Manali and Mussoorie witness serpentine tourist traffic jams that extend over many kilometres to gain entry to these towns.

Thanks to this excess footfall the average ambient temperatures have gone up in many of the Himalayan tourist hot spots. The rising temperatures in these locations have in turn altered the weather patterns. Over the last two decades, the Indian Himalayan region has experienced a consistent decline in snowfall days, severely affecting destinations such as Gulmarg and Auli, which have seen a decrease in skiing tourists and shorter seasons, resulting in lower revenue and local economic strain. Even far-flung religious destinations such as Joshimath have not been immune to this heavy tourism torture with over 10 crore people visiting this revered Himalayan town every year resulting in ecological issues such as land subsidence and crumbling biodiversity. Down south popular tourist states such as Kerala are experiencing the painful consequences of rampant tourism. The above-normal rainfall combined with indiscriminate human activity in the form of



tourism resulted in a change in land use patterns in the plantation areas across Kerala. The God's Own Country became a victim of human greed as over-tourism led to increased demand for hotels, restaurants and related businesses. Consequently, indiscriminate building activity on hillsides, exploitation of land and deforestation took place leading to irreversible damage to the environment besides terrain instability issues. The recent tragedy in Wayanad is an unfortunate example that consumed 500 lives and left 400 people injured besides causing immense loss of property. The unfortunate impact of tourism is accurately captured by the findings of the French start-up Murmuration specialising in monitoring the environmental impact of tourism using satellite data. The firm has stated that 80% of tourists visit just 10% of the world's tourist spots leading to bigger crowds in fewer locations. If this trend continues, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) estimates that by 2030, the number of worldwide tourists, which peaked at 1.5 billion in 2019, will reach 1.8 billion. Furthermore, by 2030 the transport-related carbon emissions from tourism are expected to grow by 25% from 2016 levels. Some countries like Australia have taken



THANKS TO THIS EXCESS FOOTFALL THE AVERAGE AMBIENT TEMPERATURES HAVE GONE UP IN MANY OF THE HIMALAYAN TOURIST HOT SPOTS. THE RISING TEMPERATURES IN THESE LOCATIONS HAVE IN TURN ALTERED THE WEATHER PATTERNS

broad steps to address the issue. The Australian eco-certification programme for instance promotes minimal environmental impact tourism, which helps tourists make responsible travel choices. South Africa on the other hand supports ethical tourism through its fair-trade tourism certification, which ensures fair wages and working conditions in tourism enterprises. Closer home, Bhutan has adopted a "high value, low volume" policy, which serves a dual purpose and involves a daily fee paid by tourists, which helps fund local community services and limits tourist numbers to prevent over-tourism. However, India has unique problems and needs more specific and aggressive measures to rein in the issue of overtourism. The beginning point can be the tourism supply chain sector comprising travel companies, cruise companies, ticketing firms and package tour providers. These entities must bear a fair share of responsibility for ensuring a balanced tourist traffic flow across the destinations in India. This can be done by abstaining from overselling usual tourist destinations and redirecting travellers to other locations. This will prevent overcrowding of a few traditional tourist hot spots and bring

down environmental stress. The tourism ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of environment working in tandem can employ innovative initiatives to protect the ecology and biodiversity of popular tourist destinations. This partnership can start by first regulating the tour and ticketing companies. This can be ended by registering each tourist operator and weeding out illegal entities. The dual ministry partnership can usher in a new era of environmentally conscious tourism. As a part of this, both the ministries can provide unique and non-transferable registration IDs to tourism companies and then periodic workshops can be held for these bonafide members to sensitise them about ecology, biodiversity and climate change issues. As a part of this partnership, the ministries can also develop algorithm-based software for the tourism sector companies that helps in automatically limiting the tourist flow to popular destinations by limiting hotel and transport availability after a certain quota of tourists are accommodated. This can go a long way in reducing the tourist burden on the environment in these destinations. (The author is a policy analyst. The views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAN GENDER JUSTICE BE ENSURED

Madam — With the revelations of the Hema Committee, the masks of many prominent figures in the Malayalam film industry are falling apart. This is a good start. But are such degradations only in Malayalam cinema? Is this not the case in Kollywood and Bollywood? Aren't ordinary women more or less humiliated in many public places except in the government sector? Isn't this the reason for the age-old awareness of the society towards gender justice? How do organized religions treat their women? Do women have their own voice? After the Hema Committee's revelations, will the beleaguered creeps examine the condition of the women around them? It is not rituals and prayers that children should be taught from an early age. Rather, the ability to react like the heroine in Jaya Jaya Jaya jayaha should be developed. Only then will society, the society's copies and remakes of cinema and its workers, especially actresses, be saved. Which party will take the initiative? Which religion will come forward? **Unnikrishnan Mangalasseril | Malappuram**

ARE DOCTORS' PORTESTS PEACEFUL?

Madam — This is in response to the news report titled "Doctors on strike refuse to listen to Mamata" (August 29). Junior Doctors of government medical colleges of West Bengal, who are on cease-work for around 3 weeks, have not only condemned the violence and mayhem unleashed by a political outfit in the guise of "students" on the 27th day of August in Kolkata; but also gone to the hilarious extent of terming their own "protests" as "peaceful"! While goons and lumpens are directly tormenting the innocents through muscle-flexing and physical assaults resulting in wounds of the victims; the Doctors are tormenting the innocent vulnerable patients, suffering from "wounds" in heart lungs kidney brain liver stomach eyes through the "non-violent" path of refusal of medical

Let us have eco-friendly festivals



India is a country where festivals are celebrated with immense joy and enthusiasm. However, these celebrations also bring forth significant challenges. Every year, Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated with great fervor, and this year will be no different, with festivities reaching new heights. But alongside the excitement, one of the most pressing challenges we face is environmental health.

Our past experiences have shown that festivals often lead to severe water pollution, particularly due to the disposal of idols and ritual remains. These materials, often containing silicon dioxide and sodium carbonate, are harmful to aquatic life, leading to their deaths and causing significant water contamination. This, in turn, affects the quality of life, disrupts food chains, and threatens the balance of our ecosystems. To address this issue, people across the country must adopt the practice of making idols from clay and soil. This eco-friendly approach could be a significant asset in preserving environmental health. With many species of flora and fauna already endangered or on the brink of extinction, it is crucial to embrace new, innovative methods to celebrate festivals. By doing so, we can protect life on Earth while maintaining the same energy and enthusiasm in our celebrations.

Sarthakj Sharma | Ujjain

treatment!

Less said about the worst woes of patients, rushing from towns and villages several hundred kilometers away, suffering from cancer or requiring dialysis and operations the better! Yes, unlike the muscle-flexing stone-hurling violent goons, the "protests" by the "sacrosanct" Doctors are "peaceful" indeed **Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata**

BENGAL GOING DOWN THE HILL

Madam — To the one of the kind gesture, recently the Indian Air Force launched the comic book to inspire youngster for joining Air Force. So far, joining the air force is been a sort of privilege for the men and women. But after the case of Agniveer is trolled so much politically by the opposition parties and there were rumours of dismantling this particular scheme, one established in the governance, the craze of joining force got a little hurt. Although patriotism is always a biggest inspiration for all the young people to

serve their motherland with utmost honesty and integrity. But the novel idea of comic book to share the valour and patriotism of our exuberant commanders and officers. The nation is safe on the clutches of brave hands, we hope that more and more valour loving people come from the society to serve the nation's cause. In conclusion, while the Agniveer scheme has faced political scrutiny, the spirit of patriotism remains a driving force for many young people eager to serve their motherland. By showcasing the courage and dedication of our commanders and officers, this novel approach helps reignite the passion for joining the Air Force. The nation's safety lies in the hands of these brave individuals, and we hope to see more valiant citizens stepping forward to serve the nation with honor and integrity.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Automation vs authenticity: Can AI replace the writer's soul?

Will the essence of storytelling — the reflection of genuine human experience — be lost in the rise of machine-generated content?

Way back in the early 2000s, when I started writing my debut novel, it seemed like a daunting task that would take an entire lifetime to complete. Driven purely by my literary instincts and an eagerness to create something authentic, I took four years to finish the story and become an author. To be an author in those days meant a lot. Not many people ventured to do it given the time and effort that one had invested in the process. Cut to the new times, and becoming an author is as easy as blowing bubbles, thanks to the emergence of AI.

Someone I know recently said that they have a target of publishing 10 books this year, and I wasn't surprised. But can AI-assisted writing be a patch on creative writing that comes from the inner realms of a writer filled with genuine emotions and subjective thought? As a creative writing coach for children, I have often wondered if children will ever need to learn to write in future, and if even readers will stop caring if a piece of writing has come from AI's backyard or the annals of original human contempla-



tion and creativity. I have floated this question to people and the responses have been divided. Some believe that in a world that is pressed for time, the source of thought is not as important as the thought itself. If served in an easily digestible manner, it doesn't matter where it comes from — man or machine. While this view has resulted in the spawning of authors around the world, what remains a cardinal truth is that a story or a piece of writing can be resonant with readers only when it is generated in human consciousness. The chief purpose of art and literature is to be able to strike a chord with readers and not to just disseminate information. The reader is

looking for a part of herself in the stories, a reflection of common human experiences and the books they read to be echo chambers of their own lives in parts or whole. Authentic storytelling brings with it a chunk of the writer's soul and it seeks to merge with the soul of the readers. Anything that is generated by a vast reservoir of ready-made ideas will be too perfect to evoke responses. Students may be able to produce perfect sentences and passages that will answer a question, but they will not reflect the personality and character of the writer.

What makes a genuine piece of writing enduring and endearing is the voice of the writer and their ability to draw on personal experiences, intuition and a strong need to connect with the audience. No matter how the concepts are laid out in an artificial piece of story, they will be less distinctive and more formulaic and impersonal. Maybe, our hustling world needs only quick fixes, and as we discover newer methods to replicate human thought, our spirit will also capitulate and settle for

the synthetic form of writing. It's again about what the audience chooses that will determine the future of creativity. If AI can satiate the population, then why would original writers spend time and energy on creating something from the core of their hearts? It is a scary outlook to hold, as a writer and creative writing coach. While a part of me still refuses to believe the doomsday scenario, I am still betting on ethical and moral considerations to deter people from going all out and claiming themselves to be authors and writers without much intellectual investment. I am under no illusion that writing will remain sacrosanct as it used to be. It will soon become generic and predictable. Or maybe, going forward, AI will be able to generate stylised texts that mimic the voice of a particular writer and erase the distinction between the real and the unreal. It's a scary and depressive scenario, but one that we, as authentic writers, must brace ourselves for. (The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai; views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR



FIRST COLUMN

RELATIONSHIPS AND SPIRITUALITY

We must learn to see others as souls like ourselves, worthy of respect and understanding



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Yes, spirituality can help in maintaining good relationships. I will cite several examples, where solutions are available in spirituality. Beginning with the common fault of seeing fault in others, don't we have faults? Therefore, others must have too. How should we deal with this problem? Lord Krishna guides in the Bhagavad-Geeta, "We should not cause confusion in the minds of ignorant persons, rather should pacify." (3.26) Let us assume that our assessment of other person is right. Then, accept it and somehow manage the situation. We should be able to do so if we indeed are wise. Another common flaw is to get angry with someone and maintain anger. What benefit is there in doing so? All we will do is to cause harm to ourselves. The Geeta illuminates, "From anger, foolishness results; from foolishness, bewilderment results; from bewilderment, loss of intelligence occurs; and by the loss of intelligence, a person is doomed." (2.63) This sequence is repeated in the lives of all those who harbour anger. How does spirituality help? Forgive and be done with it. What benefit will be derived by harbouring anger? Rather one can be a happy person. (5.23) Thoughts of illicit acts are another common problem. Who can claim that he or she doesn't get them: The only exceptions are highly advanced devotees like Swami Vivekananda. What is the spiritual solution? Lord Krishna has drawn the line when He stated, "I am passion in beings, according to religious principles." (7.11) Otherwise, get ready to burn as warned in this verse, "By this insatiable fire in the form of lust, which is the eternal enemy of a knowledgeable person knowledge is covered." (3.39) Close relationships



like marriage require special attention. In spiritual terms, we are packages with both good and bad. Our natures are parts of these. When we are born we bring them into our present lives. These are parts of our fate and don't change much in our lifetime, mainly the major factors. This is the solution for marriage partners. We must accept them as they are. Disliking would not help; acceptance will, as long as there is no violation of dharma like maintaining illicit relationships. From the Geeta we learn that even a man of knowledge endeavours according to his nature; persons follow nature. What will repression do? (3.33) God can help if we are determined, but it is a very slow process. Another major deterrent to good relationships is a clash of egos. Everyone is trying to prove his or her superiority, whereas there is only one superior, i.e. God. We are all small, ignorant and quite helpless really. This is what ego means. Sooner we give up the false sense of superiority and become humble better we will be served. Humility is a great quality to achieve relationships. One will begin appreciating instead, which endears us to one and all. One will have no dearth of friends, which all egoists lack. Just like everyone has faults, everyone has some good qualities also. Look for them and you will find plenty. Make a habit of thanking whenever some favour is done to us; this habit entitles us to more favours. Lord Krishna has asked us to see all others as souls just like us. (5.18) There must be basic regard for all human beings. We are judgemental, and, unfortunately, suffer due to our very limited knowledge. How much do we know about anything in its totality – the Big Picture? Only God knows. Therefore, our expectations are very high from others and, inevitably, very little from ourselves. If we are not so judgemental our relations with others will be conducive to dealing. We will appreciate that the circumstances of others may not be so favourable to them. We will be better served in dealing with others if we embrace spirituality. We will not step in the three doors to hell, which are lust, anger and greed. And if we can control our hateful tendencies, we will endear ourselves to others greatly. (The writer is a spiritual teacher, views expressed are personal)

The crisis of residential colonies in Punjab



SUKHDEV SINGH

Despite repeated efforts to curb unauthorised development, the reality remains stark: unauthorised colonies have proliferated, and buyers still face numerous hurdles



In its meeting held on August 14, 2024, the Punjab cabinet decided to remove the requirement of PUDA NOC for the sale of plots in the unapproved residential colonies. But the stated objective "to save the buyers from their struggle for basic civic amenities in these colonies" is the same as used by the successive governments amending the PAPR Act 1995 from time to time while its hollowness is so obvious in the reality on the ground. Every time the law has been amended to make some of its provisions more stringent against the colonisers, it has served them more. For example, the PAPR Act 1995 was amended in 2014 to deal with the promoters or estate agents registered under the act but failing to comply with its provisions. The amendment changed the punishment of imprisonment from up to three years to a minimum of three years extendable to seven years with a fine from ten thousand to a minimum of Rupees two lac extending to Rupees five lac. But it made the law ineffectual on the offending colonizers in the past. The cycle of stricter punishment and waiver of the offences in the past has been on since 1995 in the name of saving buyers from cheating and deceit. The notifications, issued in the years 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2022, amending or adding to the law(s) of PAPRA instantiate the continuity in relief to the colonizers in the name of providing relief to the people. The successive governments have been approving the schemes of instituting the need for a 'no objection certificate' NOC by paying some fee as development charges that the individual plot holders are circumstantially compelled to pay but the real estate agents remain immune to it waiting for the next the cut-off date for the waiver. Given the increased demand for housing and the unregulated activities of "some private colonisers" working with the sole "motive of profits" disregarding "the interests and rights of buyers of plots and flats", the stated objective for repealing the Punjab Regulation of



THE PAPR ACT 1995 WAS AMENDED IN 2014 TO DEAL WITH THE PROMOTERS OR ESTATE AGENTS REGISTERED UNDER THE ACT BUT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH ITS PROVISIONS

colonies Act, 1975 and the legislating Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act (PAPRA) 1995 was "to check, control and regulate effectively the activities of such private colonisers and protect the interest of the consumers". The situation originated from the unpreparedness of the government to meet the rising need for housing and post-1990 privatisation policy without any regulating mechanisms. In hindsight, the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act 1995 was legislated and the Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority (PUDA) was established to register private colonizers and issue licenses to develop the housing colonies on the agricultural or other land after seeking change in land use (CLU) and approved plans as per rules in PAPR Act 1995. With a huge financial burden on salaries and infrastructure PUDA and its subsequent regional authorities were tasked to enforce 'obligations on promoters and estate agents' to create all civic amenities within a specified timeframe requiring them to hand over the colony to the respective urban local body after NOCs from all the concerned departments. The stated objective of the act (PAPAR) and the authority (PUDA) since then has been to check the growth of unauthorised colonies and enforce the development in the authorised colonies as per rules. But unfortunately, it has miserably failed in its two-pronged objective: since 1995 the number of unauthorised colonies has risen to more than 15000 while the number of authorised colonies in comparison is much less.

Yet in the authorised colonies, the enforcement of time-bound assured development is too weak to act for anyone as a motivation to build houses there. The colonisers have sold all the plots in the name of legal colonies plotting a chunk of land on its sidelines without necessary approvals and without developing the approved section to the standards of seeking NOCs from the concerned departments to hand over the colonies to the local body; the irony is that the development authorities prefer not to take any suo moto notice of it. Neither the developer nor any government agency including PUDA undertakes the development responsibility although the rules prescribe stringent action against the coloniser and for PUDA to undertake development by confiscating the mortgaged properties and bank guarantees etc. But PUDA continues to grant extensions year after year while the plot buyer is not able to build the house on the 'legal' plot in a 'legal' colony because the PSPCL does not provide a power supply connection in the absence of NOC. The officials appointed in PUDA and urban local body (ULB) to enforce and ensure time-bound development in the legal colonies by the licensed private developer finish off by saying that the public facilities in an authorised colony are the responsibility of the colonizer who doesn't give a damn to this responsibility because he understands that the enforcement agencies enforce the law not on those who approach the law not on those who violate the law. The plot buyers feel legally duped. The unauthorised colonies without change in land use or any

approved plan continued to mushroom where the colonisers created very little infrastructure and sold the plots leaving the plot holders to act as the vote bank approaching the political class for relief. Hence the need for NOCs and their waiver becomes a game of politics rather than a policy. Now that the cycle is complete by the Punjab cabinet decision to waive off the need for NOCs in the unauthorised colonies while the cabinet itself had legislated for the NOCs. It doesn't matter to the common man which cabinet it was or is; what matters to them is a legal and easy-to-build house policy for them. Therefore while the government notifies the waiver of NOCs in the unauthorised colonies, it should direct PUDA to confiscate mortgaged properties and bank guarantees to develop all more-than-ten-years colonies and ensure time-bound development of electricity LD systems, sewerage, water supply and roads before selling any plot in the authorised colonies to encourage the planned and legal development and strictly control the unauthorised development in future rather than approve policies to legalise the illegal. The onus for ensured development should be on the regulator rather than on the buyer of a plot. Let the 2024 notification waiving off the condition of NOCs by the buyers be the last one! Let the common man experience the fundamental right to live a respectable life! (The writer is a retired professor from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and a Member, of the Governing Council, INTACH; views are personal)

Seizing the opportunity in global defence supply gaps

With its growing defence manufacturing capabilities and strategic partnerships, India has the unique opportunity to address the emerging gaps in global defence supplies

The global defence landscape is rapidly evolving, marked by escalating geopolitical conflicts and the increasingly strategic use of denial tactics to restrict access to critical military hardware and technology. Many nations, including India's key strategic partners, are facing unprecedented challenges as essential defence stockpiles deplete, and sophisticated war machines become obsolete or vulnerable to new forms of subversion. In response, major defence suppliers, particularly those in first-world countries, are prioritizing the preservation of their stockpiles over external sales. Amid these challenges, a critical opportunity emerges for India. By adopting a strategically designed approach to filling these gaps and enhanc-



PADMALOCHAN DASH

ing its strategic influence and partnerships, India can play a significant role in addressing the emerging deficits in the global defence supply chain. **Vulnerabilities in the Global Defense Supply Chain:** The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with ongoing conflicts in regions like Ukraine, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific, has exposed the fragility of global defence supply chains. As India seeks to posi-

tion itself as a reliable and diversified supplier of defence equipment, it is imperative to act promptly. Scaling these capabilities and implementing robust, resilient policies rooted in long-term strategic objectives is critical for India to emerge as a prominent player in the global defence marketplace. **Strengthening Strategic Alliances:** India has bolstered its defence partnerships with major global powers, including the United States, Russia, France, and Israel. However, these alliances must evolve beyond transactional arrangements into enduring, reciprocal relationships. For India, every transaction or partnership should be leveraged to bolster the country's ability to produce surpluses

and emerge as a key provider for other nations' defence needs. These strategic alliances should not only enhance India's position as a global player but also provide it with a sustainable competitive edge in the global defence market. **Advancing Indigenous Production Capacity:** India has made considerable strides in Indigenous defence production, exemplified by achievements such as the Arjun main battle tank, BrahMos missile, and Tejas fighter jet. However, these successes must evolve to meet the increasing demands of the global defence market. To strengthen its position as a world-class defence producer, India must expand its production capabilities into areas such as military-class UAVs, advanced missile defence sys-



tems, and cutting-edge cyber defence technologies. Additionally, integrating advanced maritime reconnaissance aircraft, anti-submarine warfare systems, and comprehensive surveillance infrastructure into its production portfolio is essential. India's Indigenous defence production capacity must be enhanced to meet international benchmarks, positioning the country as a dominant

player in filling global defence requirements. **Enhancing Strategic-Critical Manufacturing Projects** India's ambitions to become a leading, self-sufficient defence producer are underscored by initiatives like "Make in India" and Atmanirbhar Bharat. However, the true measure of success will be how well these products align with international demands and address the expanding gaps in the global defence supply chain. India must swiftly adapt to global requirements, ensuring that its products are compatible with international platforms and standards. To achieve this, the country's policies must prioritize attracting investments in advanced manufacturing infrastructure, supporting defence production

systems, and upgrading critical production expertise. Additionally, enforcing rigorous quality control and fostering an innovation-driven, high-quality production foundation is essential to meeting global defence demands. **Diversification and Global Competitiveness:** Diversification within India's defence sector are vital for achieving global competitiveness. A diversified manufacturing base that strategically incorporates public sector units with private enterprises must be developed to create a more adaptable and responsive supply chain. As India aims to become a major defence supplier, success will depend on developing a sustainable innovation ecosystem that produces tangible

outcomes. **Path Forward:** India as a Leading Defense Supplier India's ambition to emerge as a leading defence supplier demands decisive action and strategic focus. To realize this vision, India must enhance its export capabilities, target key markets, and align with international standards. Success in this arena depends on establishing a firm policy commitment to consistently deliver high-quality, adaptable, and precise defence products tailored to the needs of diverse conflicts, theatres, and warfare requirements. (The author is an ICSSR-Post Doctoral Fellow, School of National Security Studies, Central University of Gujarat. The views expressed are personal)

Aid group: Israeli missiles hit convoy to hospital in Gaza

AP ■ DUBAI

An Israeli missile hit a convoy carrying medical supplies and fuel to an Emirati hospital in the Gaza Strip, killing several people from a local transportation company, the American Near East Refugee Aid group said Friday. Israel claimed without immediate evidence that it opened fire after gunmen seized the convoy.

The strike killed several people employed by a transportation company that the aid group was using to bring supplies to the Emirati Red Crescent Hospital in Rafah, said Sandra Rasheed, Anera's director for the Palestinian territories.

The strike happened Thursday on the Salah al-Din Road in the Gaza Strip and hit the convoy's first vehicle.

"The convoy, which was coordinated by Anera and approved by Israeli authorities, included an Anera employee who was fortunately unharmed,"



Palestinian civil defense workers clear the rubble from a damaged house following an Israeli military operation in the West Bank refugee camp of Nur Shams, Tulkarem, Friday. AP/PTI

Rasheed said in a statement. "Despite this devastating incident, our understanding is that the remaining vehicles in the convoy were able to continue and successfully deliver the aid to the hospital. We are urgently seeking further details about what happened."

Anera planned to release more information later Friday. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment Friday from The Associated Press. However, Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee posted to the social

platform X that "gunmen seized a car at the head of the convoy (a jeep) and began driving." After the seizure operation and after confirming the possibility of attacking the militants' vehicle alone, the raid was carried out, as the rest of the convoy vehicles were not harmed and reached their target according to the plan, Adraee wrote. "The operation to target the militants removed the risk of seizing the humanitarian convoy," he added. "The presence of armed men inside a humanitarian convoy in an uncoordinated manner makes it difficult to secure the convoys and their staff and harms the humanitarian effort." The United Arab Emirates, which reached a diplomatic recognition deal with Israel in 2020 and has been providing aid to Gaza since the Israel-Hamas war began, did not immediately acknowledge the attack. Israeli forces have opened fire on other aid convoys in the Gaza Strip.

Houthi video shows Yemeni rebels planted bombs on tanker now threatening Red Sea oil spill

AP ■ DUBAI

Yemen's Houthi rebels released footage on Thursday showing their fighters boarded and placed explosives on a Greek-flagged tanker, setting off blasts that put the Red Sea at risk of a major oil spill. The vessel was abandoned earlier, after the Houthis repeatedly attacked it. In the video, the Iran-backed Houthis chant their motto as the bombs detonated aboard the oil tanker Sounion: "God is the greatest; death to America; death to Israel; curse the Jews; victory to Islam." The blasts capped the most-serious attack in weeks by the Houthis in their campaign disrupting the \$1 trillion in goods that pass through the Red Sea each year over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, as well as halting some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and Yemen. The Sounion carried some 1 million barrels of oil when the Houthis initially attacked it on Aug 21 with small arms fire, projectiles and a drone boat. A French destroy-

er operating as part of the European Union's Operation Aspidres rescued the Sounion's crew of 25 Filipinos and Russians, as well as four private security personnel, after they abandoned the vessel and took them to nearby Djibouti. The footage released Thursday shows masked Houthi fighters carrying Kalashnikov-style rifles boarding the Sounion after it was abandoned. The bridge appeared ransacked. Fighters then rigged explosives over hatches on its deck leading to the oil tankers below. At least six simultaneous blasts could be seen in the footage. The footage, as well as comments by the Houthi's mysterious leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi, confirmed an earlier analysis by The Associated Press that the Houthis boarded and planted explosives on the Sounion. The Houthi-controlled SABA news agency described al-Houthi as saying the Sounion attack shows America "is lying in its claims regarding any deterrence of Yemeni operations supporting Palestine." "The effec-

tiveness of our operations and their control of the situation is acknowledged by the enemies," al-Houthi said. Western countries and the United Nations have warned any oil spill from the Sounion could devastate the coral reefs and wildlife around the Red Sea. However, the EU's naval force in the region says it has yet to see any oil spill from the Sounion. Operation Aspidres "is preparing to facilitate any courses of action, in coordination with European authorities and neighbouring countries, to avert a catastrophic environmental crisis," the EU mission said. "Together, we can protect the environment and maintain stability in the region." UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric commended the efforts by the international community and the UN special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, "to secure the immediate access to the vessel and avert an environmental catastrophe". The Houthis have agreed to allow the operation to proceed safely, he said. Dujarric did not offer any indication when it might start

but added that the reports that "the salvage operations for the tanker can proceed with tugboats and rescue ships to access the incident area" are encouraging. On Wednesday, the Houthis suggested they may allow the Sounion to be salvaged, though the rebels already once blocked crews trying to reach the abandoned vessel, the US military said. The US State Department declined to directly comment on the video Thursday. It referred to earlier remarks in which spokesperson Matthew Miller warned "the Houthis continued attacks threaten to spill a million barrels of oil into the Red Sea, an amount four times the size of the Exxon Valdez disaster" in 1989 off Alaska. This isn't the first time the Houthis have used the threat of an oil spill to their advantage. It took years of negotiations before the rebels allowed the UN in 2023 to remove 1 million barrels from the oil tanker Safer off the coast of Yemen, which had been used as a floating storage and offloading facility.

Germany deports 28 Afghan nationals to their homeland

AP ■ BERLIN

Germany deported Afghan nationals to their homeland on Friday for the first time since August 2021, when the Taliban returned to power. Government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit described the 28 Afghan nationals as convicted criminals but did not immediately respond to a request for comment to clarify their offenses. Interior Minister Nancy Faeser called the move a security issue for Germany. Germany does not have diplomatic relations with the Taliban, requiring the government to work through other channels. It's unlikely that Friday's actions will lead to a wider thawing of relations between Germany and the Taliban, especially after last week's issuing of the first set of laws to prevent vice and promote virtue in Afghanistan. They include a requirement for a woman to

conceal her face, body and voice outside the home. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock has slammed the morality laws in posts on X.

While Hebestreit said the deportations have been in the works for months, they occurred a week after a deadly knife attack in the town of Solingen in which the suspect is a Syrian citizen who had applied for asylum in Germany. The suspect was supposed to be deported to Bulgaria last year but reportedly disappeared for a time and avoided deportation. He was ordered held Sunday on suspicion of murder and membership in a terrorist organization pending further investigation and a possible indictment.

The Islamic State militant group claimed responsibility for last Friday's attack, without providing evidence. The extremist group said in its news site that the attacker tar-

getted Christians and that he carried out the assaults "to avenge Muslims in Palestine and everywhere." The claim couldn't be independently verified.

There has also been debate over immigration ahead of regional elections Sunday in Germany's Saxony and Thuringia regions where anti-immigration parties such as the populist Alternative for Germany are expected to do well. In June, Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed that the country would start deporting criminals from Afghanistan and Syria again after a knife attack by an Afghan immigrant left one police officer dead and four more people injured.

Faeser on Thursday announced a plan to tighten knife laws, according to German news agency dpa. Along with other officials in the governing coalition, she also pledged during a news conference to make deportations easier.

'America ready to turn page on Trump'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The American people are ready to "turn the page" on Donald Trump, Kamala Harris has said, asserting that her Republican challenger is pushing an agenda which "divides" the country and "diminishes the character" of its people.

In her first major television interview of her presidential campaign, the 59-year-old US Vice President, who will face Trump in the November 5 elections, said the American people are ready for a "new way forward."

"I think sadly in the last decade, we have had in the former president someone who has really been pushing an agenda and an environment that is about diminishing the character and the strength of who we are as Americans — really dividing our nation," Harris, in a joint interview with her running mate Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, told CNN. "And I think people are ready to turn the page on that," Harris, the Democratic Party's candidate,

said. "The American people are ready for a new way forward. Our former president has pushed an agenda that diminishes the character and strength of who we are as Americans, and divides our nation. People are ready to turn the page," she said in a post on X, linking an interview snippet. Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, also refused to engage in Trump's identity politics during the interview. She eluded questions about Trump's claims over her racial identity, calling those a part of the "same old tired playbook". Last month, Trump questioned Harris' racial identity at the National Association of Black Journalists conference in Chicago, suggesting she had previously identified as South Asian but "happened to turn Black" for political purposes.

Her refusal to comment aligned with her campaign's strategy to avoid leaning into identity politics following Trump's remarks, CNN reported. Responding to a question about a previous debate on the

decriminalisation of US borders, she said, "I believe there should be consequence. We have laws that have to be followed and enforced that address and deal with people who cross our border illegally. And there should be consequence." Harris added that she is the "only person" in the presidential race who has "prosecuted transnational criminal organisations who traffic in guns, drugs, and human beings". "I'm the only person in this race who actually served a border state as attorney general to enforce our laws. And I would enforce our laws as president going forward. I recognise the problem," she said.

Calling the border issue a "very significant" immigration issue to the American people and the security of the US, she said a border security bill was crafted under the administration of her boss — incumbent President Joe Biden. She said that Trump killed the bill that would have put 1,500 additional agents at the border as it "would not have helped him

politically". Speaking about Biden, she said that serving with him for almost four years was "one of the greatest honours of my career". He has the intelligence, the commitment and the judgment — disposition that I think the American people rightly deserve in their president," she said. Last month, Biden dropped out of the presidential race, saying it was in "the best interest" of the Democratic Party and the country to withdraw from the race. He endorsed Harris to be the nominee of the party. Harris also said she would name a Republican to serve in her Cabinet if elected.

Kamala Harris responded to a question in her first in-depth interview when asked about her Republican rival Donald Trump's remarks questioning her race. Fifty-nine-year-old Harris, who is of Indian and African descent, is the Democratic Party candidate in the November 5 presidential election in which she will contest against Trump, 78. During the interview with CNN, the US Vice President

was asked to comment on Trump's remarks on her race. Harris brushed off the question and said Trump's remarks as an "old, tired playbook". "Trump has been making disparaging remarks about Harris during the campaign. His comments, especially at the National Association of Black Journalists convention where he appeared to question Harris' race, Trump had falsely claimed Harris had only emphasised her Asian-American heritage until recently when, he said, "she became a black person" for political gain.

"I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black and now, she wants to be known as Black. So, I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black?" Trump said at the time. Harris' mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was originally from India and her father, Donald Harris, is from Jamaica. Trump in the last few weeks has been personally attacking Harris despite calls from allies to refocus his campaign on policy issues.

Harris: Biden called to inform about decision to not seek re-election

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris has said President Joe Biden called her personally on a Sunday to inform her about his decision to not seek reelection, asserting that he was "very clear" about endorsing her instead. In the first major television interview of her presidential campaign on Thursday, the 59-year-old Vice President said she was with her family when she got the call from Biden, 81. Harris said that she was having bacon with her baby nieces when her phone rang. "And it was Joe Biden. And — and he told me what he had decided to do. And I asked him, 'Are you sure?' And he said, 'Yes.' And that's how I learned about it," she told CNN in a joint interview with her running mate Minnesota



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris poses for photos at a campaign rally in Savannah on Thursday. AP/PTI

Governor Tim Walz. Last month, Biden, 81, dropped out of the presidential race, saying it was in "the best interest" of the Democratic Party and the country to withdraw from the

race. Biden had a disastrous presidential debate against former president Donald Trump, who is the Republican presidential candidate. Responding to a question

about Biden endorsing her as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, Harris said, "He was very clear that he was gonna support me."

She added that her first thought at that moment was about Biden and not herself. Harris asserted that history will show several things about Biden's presidency. She said it would show how it was "transformative" about investing in America's infrastructure, new economics, new industries, and bringing its allies back together, among other things.

"And I think history is going to show not only has Joe Biden led an administration that has achieved those extraordinary successes, but the character of the man is one that he has been in his life and career, including as a president, quite selfless and puts the American people first," she said.

Trump asks federal court to intervene in hush money case in bid to toss conviction

AP ■ NEW YORK

Donald Trump asked a federal court late Thursday to intervene in his New York hush money criminal case, seeking a pathway to overturn his felony conviction and indefinitely delay his sentencing scheduled for next month. Lawyers for the former president and current Republican nominee asked the federal court in Manhattan to seize the case from the state court where it was brought and tried, arguing that the historic prosecution violated Trump's constitutional rights and ran afoul of the US Supreme Court's recent ruling on presidential immunity.

Trump's lawyers said moving the case to federal court following his May 30 conviction will give him an "unbiased forum, free from

local hostilities" to address those issues. If the case is moved to federal court, Trump lawyers wrote, they will then seek to have the verdict overturned and the case dismissed. If it remains in state court, with sentencing proceeding as scheduled, it could amount to election interference, they said. "The ongoing proceedings will continue to cause direct and irreparable harm to President Trump — the leading candidate in the 2024 Presidential election — and voters located far beyond Manhattan," Trump lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove wrote in a 64-page US District Court filing. Trump was convicted in state court in Manhattan of 34 counts of falsifying business records related to a payment to buy affair allegations that threatened to cloud his 2016 presidential run. Even if the

case isn't moved to federal court, the potential delay caused by litigation surrounding Trump's effort could give him a critical reprieve as he navigates the aftermath of his criminal conviction and the homestretch of his presidential campaign.

Separately, the state court judge who presided over the trial, Juan M Merchan, is weighing Trump's requests to postpone sentencing until after Election Day, Nov 5, and to overturn the verdict and dismiss the case in the wake of the Supreme Court's immunity decision. The high court's July 1 ruling reins in prosecutions of ex-presidents for official acts and restricts prosecutors in pointing to official acts as evidence that a president's unofficial actions were illegal. Trump's lawyers argue that in light of the ruling, jurors in the

hush money case should not have heard such evidence as former White House staffers describing how the then-president reacted to news coverage of the deal to pay hush money to porn actor Stormy Daniels.

Trump's lawyers had previously invoked presidential immunity in a failed bid last year to get the hush money case moved from state court to federal court. A federal judge rejected that request, clearing the way for Trump's historic trial in state court. US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein rejected Trump's claim that allegations in the hush money indictment involved official duties, writing in July 2023, "The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the matter was a purely a personal item of the president — a cover-up of an embarrassing event."

Taipei zoo's veteran giant panda celebrates her 20th birthday

AP ■ TAIPEI

With politics set aside, well-wishers gathered to wish the Taipei zoo's senior panda a happy 20th birthday. Visitors crowded around Yuanyuan's enclosure to take photos of her with a birthday cake in the shape of the number 20. Yuanyuan was born in China and arrived in 2008 with her partner Tuantuan. He died in 2022 at age 18 but not before fathering two female cubs, Yuanzai and Yuanbao, now 11 and 4 respectively and still living at the zoo.



to China, and Beijing bestows them as a sign of political amity. Yuanyuan and Tuantuan arrived in Taiwan during a period of relative calm between the sides, which split amid civil war in 1949. China claims the island its own territory, to be annexed by military force if necessary.

Faced with declining habitat and a notoriously low birthrate, giant panda populations have declined to around 1,900 in the mountains of western China, while 600 pandas live in zoos and breeding centres in China and around the world.

MCA-Nepal signs contract for cross-border power transmission line to India

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal on Friday signed a USD 12.36 million contract for a critical 18 km cross-border electricity transmission line, a crucial part of the broader Electricity Transmission Project that will deepen energy cooperation with India. Signed under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Nepal Compact, the 18 km transmission line project, with three sub-stations, will help Nepal achieve its domestic power goals and reinforce Nepal's position in the regional energy market, officials said.

"As MCA-Nepal marks the first anniversary of the Compact's Entry-Into-Force, this new milestone reflects the unwavering commitment from



all stakeholders to enhancing regional energy trade between Nepal and India," read a statement by the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Nepal. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Nepal Compact is jointly funded by the government of Nepal and

the US government. The MCC was created by the US Congress in January 2004 with strong bipartisan support. The contract, amounting to USD 12.36 million, has been awarded to Transrail Lighting Ltd, entrusted to construct the transmission line from the 400 kV New Butwal Substation in

Nawalparasi Bardaghat Susta West to the Nepal-India border, the MCA-Nepal said. The contract was inked by Khadga Bahadur Bisht, executive director of MCA-Nepal, and Amol Wankhede, representative of Transrail Lighting Ltd at the signing ceremony witnessed by the officials from the Ministry of Finance, National Electricity Authority (NEA), MCC and MCA-Nepal. "Along with the signing of the three substation contracts worth USD 126 million, this 18 km transmission line project is set to play an important role in helping Nepal make strides in achieving its domestic power goals and reinforcing Nepal's position in the regional energy market," Dr Ram Prasad Chimire, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, said.

Indian-origin woman in UK admits to killing daughter

London (PTI): A 33-year-old

Indian-origin woman on Friday admitted to the killing of her 10-year-old daughter, who was found dead at their home in a town in the West Midlands region of England earlier this year. Jaskirat Kaur, also known as Jasmine Kang, had been charged with the murder of Shay Kang on March 4 when West Midlands Police said the girl had been found with injuries at an address in the town of Rowley Regis and pronounced dead at the scene. Kaur has now told Court in a short hearing via video link from her prison that she pleads guilty to her daughter's manslaughter on the basis of diminished responsibility.

B'desh yearns for new political force amidst uncertainty

PTI ■ DHAKA

After Bangladesh's recent political upheaval following Sheikh Hasina's ouster, the deeply polarised country is yearning for a new political force to emerge beyond the traditional Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party binary that aims to create a discrimination-free and more inclusive society.

"We have seen the BNP, Awami League, and Jatiya Party come to power and fail us for decades. It is time for someone new to lead our country," says 60-year-old Ahmed, a rickshaw-puller in Dhaka, echoing a sentiment shared by many in present-day Bangladesh.

Under unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina, 76, resigned as prime minister and fled to India.

The interim government led by 84-year-old Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus aims to

reform Bangladesh's fractured institutions and restore public trust by ensuring a free and fair election, which, if successful, would mark a significant achievement in a nation with a history of electoral malpractice.

Yet, people are divided and yearning for a new political force, having experienced all the traditional parties.

While former prime minister Khalida Zia's BNP, long the main opposition party, is expected to participate, people have already tasted its governance in the early 1990s and 2000s, casting doubt on its ability to gain widespread public support.

The Jamaat-e-Islami, the largest Islamic party in the country, is also a contender after the ban on it was lifted this week, but it too was in power in the early 2000s alongside the BNP.

The Jatiya Party, which held power in the late 1980s, is

another player in the political arena and has gone through several splits in the last three decades.

Meanwhile, the Awami League, now a political pariah, with its leadership in hiding or exile, is uncertain whether it will be in a position to join the fray.

The possibility of new student parties emerging from the recent upheaval also looms large, potentially shifting the dynamics of the upcoming elections.

"We, too, had hit the streets by responding to the call by the students. The students and youth of the nation have given us new hope, and now they must not step back. They have already come up as a force to reckon with, and now they should come up with a full-fledged political party. The people of this country are fed up with mainstream political parties," said Masud Alam, a teacher.

Amid the growing speculation

about new political players, the role of the student movement remains a critical factor.

While many have suggested that the student-led Monsoon Revolution could lead to the formation of a new political outfit, student leaders have so far refuted such reports.

"We are not here to replicate the mistakes of the past; we want to hold those in power accountable, whoever they may be," Ayesha Siddiqui, a student activist, said.

However, with the political landscape in flux, some observers believe it's only a matter of time before the students channel their momentum into a more organised political form, potentially becoming a new force in Bangladesh's politics.

The recent student movement has left many veteran politicians wondering if a new era of political transformation in Bangladesh is on the horizon.

Gulam Sarwar Milon, the first

president of the Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chatra Dal—the student wing of the BNP—suggested that the successful movement could pave the way for a new generation of political leaders, potentially challenging the dominance of traditional parties like the BNP, Awami League, and Jatiya Party.

"This just may be the beginning of a new era of political transformation in Bangladesh, with students once again leading the way," Milon, who is presently co-chairman of the Jatiya Party (Raushan faction), told PTI. "The logical conclusion is that the students form a new political party. Although they have said they don't want to form any political party, you don't know what's in the future," he said.

Other political leaders seem to echo this sentiment. Senior BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury mentioned there is no issue if a new political outfit emerges, saying,

"That would only enhance the democratic system in the country. We are not like the Awami League, which doesn't believe in the democratic process. If the students want to join the political process, they are welcome to do it."

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami supremo Shafiqur Rahman also stated that his party has no objections to the formation of new political entities, emphasising that everybody deserves free and fair elections.

"There have been no elections in Bangladesh since 2014. All the elections were fraudulent and did not reflect the people's mandate. We want people to participate in the elections and choose their own representatives democratically," he said.

Echoing these sentiments, G M Quader, the chairman of the Jatiya Party, emphasised that student movements, untainted by narrow political agendas, have played a transformative role in shaping

Bangladesh's political landscape. "Students have a unique advantage because they are trusted by the people," he remarked.

"We have witnessed once again how ordinary citizens have rallied behind them, showing unwavering support and solidarity during the recent protests. Now if they want to form a political party and contest elections, they are free to do it," he said.

Kajal Debnath, a leader of the Hindu minority community and a praesidium member of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, believes that there is significant potential for a new political force to emerge, and that "the students who spearheaded the anti-discrimination protests could indeed usher in a more inclusive and discrimination-free society in Bangladesh."

The student movements in Bangladesh have

always played a critical role in shaping the country's history, from the 1952 Language Movement to the Liberation War of 1971 and beyond.

However, the recent Monsoon Revolution is being hailed as something different—an unprecedented scale of mass mobilization that has the potential to change the course of Bangladesh's future.

Political analysts, however, feel that supporting students during mass movements and electing them as their representatives are not the same.

"It remains to be seen whether new coalitions, arising from the unorganised power of students and citizens, will lead to the formation of a new political party or a reformation of existing structures and bring about a change in the mindset of the mainstream political parties," Zillur Rehman, executive director of the Centre for Governance Studies, a think tank in Bangladesh, said.

Kremlin not worried about Putin visit to Mongolia

AP ■ MOSCOW

The Kremlin says it has "no worries" about President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to Mongolia, a country that is a member of the International Criminal Court, which last year issued a warrant for his arrest.

The visit, scheduled for September 3, will be Putin's first trip to an ICC member state since the warrant was issued in March 2023 over suspected war crimes in Ukraine.

Under the court's founding treaty, the Rome Statute, ICC members are bound to detain suspects for whom an arrest warrant has been issued by the court if they set foot on their soil. But the court doesn't have any enforcement mechanism.

In a famous case, then-Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir wasn't arrested in 2015 when he visited South Africa, which is a member of the court, sparking angry condemnation by rights activists and the country's main opposition party.

Putin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, who previously stressed that Russia doesn't recognize the jurisdiction of the ICC, told reporters during his daily conference call Friday that the Kremlin has "no worries" about the upcoming trip: "We have a wonderful dialogue with our friends from Mongolia," he said.

According to a statement released by the Kremlin on Thursday, Putin will travel to Mongolia at the invitation of President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh "to participate in the ceremonial events dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the joint victory of the Soviet and Mongolian armed forces over the Japanese militarists on the Khalkhin Gol River".

Putin will also hold talks with Khurelsukh and other top



Mongolian officials, the statement said. The ICC has accused Putin of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine, where Moscow has fought a devastating war for the last 2½ years.

It was the first time the global court has issued a warrant against a leader of one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The ICC said in a statement that Putin "is allegedly responsible for the war crime of unlawful deportation of (children) and that of unlawful transfer of (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation".

The court also indicted Putin's children's rights envoy, Maria Lvova-Belova, on the same charges, and later issued arrest warrants for former Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and chief of the general staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov on the charges of war crimes and the crime against humanity of inhumane acts.

Russia isn't a member of the court, doesn't recognise its jurisdiction and refuses to hand

Japan def ministry seeks record budget

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Defence Ministry on Friday sought a record 8.5 trillion yen (USD 59 billion) budget for the next year to fortify its deterrence on southwestern islands against China's increasing threat, while focusing on unmanned weapons and AI to make up for the declining number of servicemembers as a result of the country's shrinking population.

The ministry's request for 2025 marks the third year of Japan's rapid five-year military buildup plan under the government's ongoing security strategy.

Japan aims to spend 43 trillion yen (USD 297 billion) through 2027 to double its annual military spending to around 10 trillion yen, making it the world's third-largest military spender after the United States and China.

The budget request was approved at the Defence Ministry meeting Friday ahead of a submission to the Finance Ministry for negotiations through December.

Japan has been rapidly building up the defense of the southwestern region in recent years amid China's growing military threats and tension in the regional seas.

China has escalated clashes with the Philippine coast guards in disputed waters in the South China Sea and sent a fleet of coast guard boats to routinely violate territorial waters around Japanese-controlled disputed islands in the East China Sea that Beijing also claims.

A hefty 970 billion yen (USD 6.7 billion) of the budget request for 2025 covers the cost of bolstering strike-back capability with the development and purchases of long-range missiles and equipment for their launch, including from an Aegis-class destroyer. About one-third of it goes to a satellite constellation aimed at bolstering the capability to detect missile-related activity, as North Korea, China and Russia develop hypersonic missiles that are harder to detect and track.

While pushing military buildup, Japan must deal with a shrinking troop size and is focusing on developing and buying more drones for surveillance and combat, requesting 103 billion yen (USD 710 million). It also seeks 314 billion yen (USD 2.17 billion) to build three new multi-purpose compact destroyers that require 90

crewmembers, less than half the crew size currently needed.

Japanese defence officials say combat drones are "game changers" that can be on hours-long missions and lower human losses in combat and consider it a main pillar of Japan's ongoing military buildup.

The unmanned weapons can also help a country struggling with its aging and shrinking population.

Japan has been struggling to fulfill SDF troop levels at 247,000 people.

The Self-Defence Force has faced difficulty attracting young applicants in recent years and fulfilled only half of its recruiting target of 19,598 last year, making it the lowest in the 70 years of SDF history.

Last year, 6,258 mid-career personnel left, the highest number in 30 years.

"Due to declining child births and working age population, it is inevitable that Japan will face a society of serious labour shortage," the ministry said in an interim report on human resources, also released Friday. "We need to build an organisation that can fight in new ways while strengthening defence

power." Shrinking younger population and private companies that offer better salaries and benefits make "the environment surrounding recruiting servicemembers the worst since the end of World War II," the ministry report said.

It requested 18 billion yen (USD 124 million) to introduce an AI surveillance system at 40 SDF bases across Japan, aiming to free up 1,000 service personnel. It is also asking 4.3 billion (USD 29.7 million) for automated supply storage for launch in 2027 in Okinawa.

In the interim report released Friday, the ministry called for reforms to improve salary, working environment, more training and learning opportunities, as well as support for working mothers to lure more women.

The ministry has been hit by a series of revelations of sexual assaults, harassment and abuse of power in recent years. Its internal investigation last year criticized cover-up attempts and a lack of sense of responsibility among supervisors.

It came under fire in July over the leak of classified information and corruption scandals.

Pak PM speaks to Yunus

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday spoke to Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus during which the two leaders agreed to work closely for the progress and prosperity of the people of both countries.

During the telephone conversation, they further agreed that "greater regional cooperation could play a vital role in uplifting the lives of the people of South Asia," according to an official statement here.

Sharif's telephone call to Yunus marks the first high-level direct contact.

Colombo Security Conclave signs Charter and MoU for Secretariat



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval (file pic) and the representatives of the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka signed the Charter and an MoU for the establishment of the Colombo Security Conclave Secretariat

PTI ■ COLOMBO

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the representatives of the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka on Friday signed the Charter and an MoU for the establishment of the Colombo Security Conclave Secretariat here to promote regional security by addressing transnational threats and challenges of common concern to the member states. The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) brings together National Security Advisors (NSA) and Deputy NSAs from India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius. It deals with maritime security, counter-terrorism and cyber security with India bringing to the fore its own strategic concerns in the Indian Ocean and promotes regional security by addressing transnational threats and challenges of common concern to the Member States.

"NSA Ajit Doval KC joined reps from Maldives, Mauritius & Sri Lanka in signing the Charter & MoU for the establishment of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Secretariat today. A key platform to enhance regional security cooperation, the signing marks a milestone in the CSC roadmap," the Indian High Commission here said in a post on X along with photos from

the signing ceremony. A Colombo Security Conclave joint press release said the Member States of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) "signed the Charter and the MoU for the Establishment of the CSC Secretariat on 30 August 2024."

The Signing Ceremony was hosted in Colombo by the Government of Sri Lanka, it said. Doval; Ibrahim Lt Col (Retd) Latheef, DC, NSA of Maldives; Haymondoyal Dillum, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius to Sri Lanka, and Sagala Ratnayake, National Security Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka, signed the documents on behalf of the respective Member States.

The event concluded with a discussion among heads of delegation on the next steps and the future activities of the Conclave. There are five pillars of cooperation under the CSC namely Maritime Safety and Security; Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation; Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime; Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology; and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, the joint press release said. Bangladesh and the Seychelles have observer status at the Conclave.

Ukraine says US experts helping figure out why F-16 crashed in Russia war

AP ■ KYIV

US experts have joined a Ukrainian investigation into why an F-16 warplane that Ukraine received from its Western partners crashed earlier this week during a Russian bombardment, the country's air force commander said on Friday.

Commander Mykola Oleshchuk said on Telegram that "a detailed analysis is already being conducted" into why the fighter jet went down on Monday, when Russia launched a major missile and drone barrage at Ukraine.

"We must carefully understand what happened, what the circumstances are, and whose responsibility it is," Oleshchuk wrote in the post.

The crash was the first reported loss of an F-16 in Ukraine, where they arrived at the end of last month. At least six of the warplanes are believed to have been delivered by European countries.

Military analysts say the planes won't be a game-changer in the war, given Russia's massive air force and sophisticated air defence systems. But Ukrainian officials welcomed the supersonic jets, which can carry modern weapons used by



for those responsible for the error. Oleshchuk accused Bezuhla of defaming the air force and discrediting US arms manufacturers, adding that he hoped she would face legal consequences for her claims.

The air force didn't directly deny that the F-16 was hit by a Patriot missile. The Institute for the Study of War said it was to be expected that Ukraine would lose some Western-provided military equipment in the fighting. But the Washington-based think tank added that "any loss among Ukraine's already limited allotment of Western-provided F-16s and trained pilots will have an outsized impact on Ukraine's ability to operate F-16s in the near term as part of its combined air defense umbrella or in an air-to-ground support role."

Overnight, Russia fired 18 Shahed drones and one ballistic missile at Ukraine, the air force said. It said 12 drones were destroyed, with four more going down before reaching their target. The attack killed one woman and started a fire in Sumy, the capital of the region of the same name that borders Russia's Kursk region, the regional administration said.

verka
Har Din Da, Har Din Da

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66

Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop

e-Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Head office, Chandigarh Hiring of milkpowder plant having conversion capacity in the range of 2.00 to 4.00 LLPD for conversion of liquid milk into extra grade SMP and WMP for Verka Dairies.	Annual
2.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Hiring of Agency for packaging of Dahi pouch/ Cups/Matkas, Lassi pouches, Kheer cups, Ghee, Paneer and Yoghurt, Packaging and recombination of White Butter and Reconstitution of SMP.	As per day to day requirement of Market
3.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy Hiring of insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk products in Bathinda Milkshed area.	One year with extension upto one year
4.	For Verka Sangrur Dairy a) Refrigeration Machinery Scrap. b) MS Scrap. c) Ammonia Compressor 7x7. d) Ammonia Compressor 9x9. e) Copper Wire Scrap f) Outsourcing activities i.e. packing of products, loading/unloading etc.	25 Ton 05 Ton 01 Ton 01 Ton 300 kg Annual
5.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy Hiring of:- i. Toyota Innova Crysta without driver for minimum running of 2000 kms per month on lump sum basis. ii. Deep Freezer (cold store) for storing White Butter Approx 2000 MT including storage, loading/ unloading at cold store and transportation charges(to and fro) of White Butter per M.T per month. iii. Road Milk Tankers for transportation of milk all over Punjab, Chandigarh, U.P. Delhi & Haryana. iv. Insulated Road Milk tankers for Transportation of milk from BMC/McC etc. v. Vehicles (Tempo) for Cattle feed/ Milk products / Technical services. vi. Vehicles (Tempo) for transportation of Milk through cans. vii. Passenger Car (Swift Dzire, Toyota Etios or Equivalent) and Jeep Camper Type.	01 complete job Annual 04 No's 45 No's 07 No's 40 No's Cars 18 No's & Camper 01 No's
6.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy a) Operation repair & maintenance of pouch packing machines (milk, lassi and Dahi), online coding machines photocell sensors and crate washers. b) Hiring of:- i. Insulated Vehicle for city supply. ii. Car (Dzire or Its equivalent). iii. Diesel Car (5 seater Bolero camper or its equivalent). iv. Milk powder plant having conversion LPD for conversion of liquid milk into standard grade SMP for Verka Gurdaspur Dairy. c) Advertisement Material backlit glow Sign Board, double sided glow sign board, non lit flex board, flex change, flex banner, wall painting/shop painting, vehicle painting, umbrella, A-Type standing flex board and vinyl stickers. d) Allotment of Milk booth (Civil Hospital Pathankot, Civil Hospital Batala, Civil Hospital Gurdaspur, Kotli Surat Mahli and Sardar Beant Singh State University).	30000 ltr to 50000 ltr per day 02 years 01 No. 01 No. 50000 ltr to 100000 ltr per day 01 year 02 years
7.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy a) Lifting/Sale of paneer whey from Verka Jalandhar Dairy. b) Hiring of vehicles for transportation of Panjiri to C.D.P.O.'s of Punjab and other milk products to Punjab and other states. c) Advertisement Material flex board, flex banner, star flex banner, vinyl board, glow sign board, gum sheets stickers, pamphlets, danglers, sun board, wall painting, vehicle painting, standies, canopies.	Annual Annual Annual
8.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) Hiring of:- i. Powder plant for conversion of skimmed milk into SMP. ii. Deep Freezer (cold store) for storage of white Butter at -18°c or below. iii. Godown for storage of Skimmed Milk Powder.	09 Months 01 No. 01 No.
9.	For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy Allotment of Milk booth:- i. Municipal Corporation office, Hoshiarpur. ii. Udarn Singh Park, Hoshiarpur.	03 years 03 years
10.	For Verka CFP, Bhatiani (Khanna) Hiring of Five-Seater AC car model less than 7 year old.	02 No's
11.	For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana Hiring of 5-Seater Bolero camper (AC) - 01 no's & Passenger Vehicle Bolero/ swift Dzire/ Etios (Platinum) or equivalent (AC)-2 no's along with drivers.	03 No's

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)
NA/12/25078/2023/37148 Dated CHD :- 8/30/2024

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time high during early trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit their new all-time high levels during early trade on Friday, amid the ongoing bullish rally in domestic stocks, tracking firm trends in Asian markets and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 502.42 points to hit a fresh all-time high of 82,637.03 in early trade. The NSE Nifty surged 105.7 points to hit a new record peak of 25,257.65.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, Titan, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Power Grid, Asian Paints and HCL Technologies were the biggest gainers. Tata Motors and Sun Pharma were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading with gains. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 3,259.56 crore on Thursday, according



to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors also bought equities worth Rs 2,690.85 crore.

"Continuation of accumulation of quality largecaps by the DIIs (Domestic Institutional Investors) and HNIs and the FIIs reducing their selling significantly and buying on certain days have contributed to the resilience of the

market," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.23 per cent to USD 80.12 a barrel. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, key catalysts for markets rally include substantial FII buying, positive global cues, and

upbeat US GDP data. The BSE benchmark jumped 349.05 points or 0.43 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,134.61 on Thursday, extending its winning momentum to the eighth day in a row. Rallying for the 11th straight session, the Nifty surged 99.60 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 25,151.95.

Mahindra Group, Sentries sign MoU to explore development of anti-drone solutions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra Group and Israel's Sentries Ltd on Friday said they have signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities for developing and providing 'differentiated anti-drone solutions' in India.

The solutions will cover civilian and military applications, the two companies said in a joint statement. The MoU relates to the 'anti-drone systems' technology space and will focus on the Transfer of Technology (TOT) and manufacturing of radio frequency-based counter-drone solutions under the government of India's 'Make in India' initiative, it added. The 'differentiated anti-drone solution' is an autonomous and integrated system with a command and control (C2) module, and enables detection, tracking, identification and mitigation of incoming drones. "We believe that this MoU with Sentries would enable the group to explore opportunities in the anti-drone space and set the stage for cutting-edge technological offerings with global partners for a full suite of anti-drone



solutions across applications in the future," said Vinod Sahay, Mahindra President, Aerospace & Defence Sector and Member of Group Executive Board. Sentries CEO Yoav Zaltzman said the strategic partnership with Mahindra would provide a cutting-edge multi-layer CUAS (Counter Unmanned Aircraft System) solution, made in India, that can be used to protect military bases, military forces and borders

against the threat of friendly and hostile drones. "India is a very important market for us and I am confident that together with industry leaders like Mahindra we will create the best CUAS solution for India," he added. The differentiated anti-drone solution can monitor drone flight paths, and identify their specific models, unique serial numbers, and their IDs. This capability allows for precise differentiation between

solutions across applications in the future," said Vinod Sahay, Mahindra President, Aerospace & Defence Sector and Member of Group Executive Board. Sentries CEO Yoav Zaltzman said the strategic partnership with Mahindra would provide a cutting-edge multi-layer CUAS (Counter Unmanned Aircraft System) solution, made in India, that can be used to protect military bases, military forces and borders against the threat of friendly and hostile drones. "India is a very important market for us and I am confident that together with industry leaders like Mahindra we will create the best CUAS solution for India," he added. The differentiated anti-drone solution can monitor drone flight paths, and identify their specific models, unique serial numbers, and their IDs. This capability allows for precise differentiation between

Rupee rises seven paise against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rupee appreciated 7 paise to 83.82 against the US dollar in morning trade on Friday, supported by significant foreign fund inflows and a positive trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said a rise in global risk sentiments supported the rupee, while recovery in the US dollar and month-end dollar demand from importers and oil marketing companies (OMCs) weighed on investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.83, then gained ground to touch 83.82, registering a rise of 7 paise from its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee appreciated 8 paise to close at 83.89 against the American



currency. According to forex traders, MSCI rebalancing flows could take the rupee higher.

"Some appreciation in the rupee appears likely, with anticipated MSCI inflows of around USD 3 billion. The rupee is likely to trade within a range of 83.75 to 83.90, while in the medium-term, a range of 83.60 to 84.05 is

anticipated, with a bias towards the upside," CR Forex Advisors MD-Amit Pabari said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.03 per cent to 101.37 points. Brent crude, the international benchmark, gained 0.29 per cent to USD 80.17 per barrel

in futures trade. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 227.63 points, or 0.28 per cent, to 82,362.24 points, while the Nifty was up 65.70 points, or 0.26 per cent, to 25,217.65 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Thursday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 3,259.56 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, Moody's Ratings on Thursday raised India's GDP growth forecast for 2024 and 2025 calendar year to 7.2 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, on strong broad-based growth.

CAG signs MoU with General Court of Audit, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed a pact with the General Court of Audit, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to strengthen cooperation and exchange of expertise between the two nations in the field of public sector auditing.

The area of cooperation encompasses conducting joint training programmes on topics related to financial, performance and compliance audits and exchange of audit manuals and audit methodologies, the CAG said.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday in Riyadh. "Our commitment to a strong bilateral relationship is a witness to the shared values and objectives of our institutions and will serve to reinforce bonds between our SAIs and our nations," CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said.



The CAG stated that the support and cooperation between the two SAIs will energise their capacity development initiatives and encourage exchange of knowledge and information between the two Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). Hussam Abdulmohsen Alangari, President, General Court of Audit, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, highlighted the importance of the agreement in enhancing the cooperation in areas of competence of two SAIs to enhance and improve their respective external audit practices.



SpiceJet shares slump as DGCA places carrier under enhanced surveillance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of SpiceJet on Friday morning tumbled over 6 per cent after aviation watchdog DGCA decided to place the crisis-hit firm under enhanced surveillance.

The stock tanked 6.38 per cent to Rs 62 on the BSE after a weak beginning. DGCA on Thursday decided to place SpiceJet under enhanced surveillance that will entail increased spot checks and night surveillance to ensure safety of the airline's operations.

Based on reports of cancellation of flights and financial stress being experienced by SpiceJet, DGCA said it conducted a special audit of the airline's engineering facilities

on August 7 and 8 and certain deficiencies were found during the audit.

"In light of the past record and the special audit carried out in August 2024, SpiceJet has once again been placed under enhanced surveillance with immediate effect." This would entail an increase in the number of spot checks/night surveillance with a view to ensure safety of operations," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a release on Thursday.

In 2023 also, the regulator had placed SpiceJet under enhanced surveillance. The no-frills carrier has been grappling with multiple headwinds, including financial and legal woes, and is also in the process of raising funds.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BHUBANESWAR (R&B) DIVISION NO III
BHUBANESWAR
bbsrrandb03@yahoo.com
No - 4895 Date - 28.08.2024
Government of Odisha "e"-Procurement Notice No (09) of 2024-25
Bid Identification No - C.C. (R&B) 03

1	Name of the Work	Building E.I. Work
2	Total No of works	2nos. work
3	Estimated Cost	i)Rs. 30,67,270.00, ii) Rs. 17,81,200.00
4	Class of Contractor	Sl. No 1-"MV" & "HT" Class Contractor & Sl No 2 Authorized OEM / Manufacturer
5	Period of Completion	3 (Three) Calendar Months
6	Type of Tender	Single Cover System (Online)
7	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 02/09/2024 at 1.00 P.M. to 12/09/2024 upto 5.00P.M.
8	Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids in the Portal	12/09/2024, upto 5.00 P.M.
9	Name & Address of the Officer inviting Bid	Er. Gayatri Patel, Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No III, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tenders.orsissa.gov.in>
N.B: Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above

Superintending Engineer
BBSR (R&B) Division No.III, BBSR
OIPR-34089/11/0007/2425

ORISSA SPONGE IRON AND STEEL LIMITED
(Formerly Orissa Sponge Iron Limited)
(An ISO 9001 & 14001 Certified Company)
CIN: L27102OR1979PLC000819
Regd. Office: OSIL House, Gangadhar Meher Marg, Kili Bhubaneswar - 751024
Corporate Office: A-201, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi - 110 020
Site: P.O. Palaspanga, Dist. Keonjhar - 758 031, Odisha
E-Mail: corporate@orissasponge.com, Website: www.orissasponge.com, Tel: +91 11-43742000

NOTICE OF CONVENING 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THROUGH VIDEO-CONFERENCE/OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL
Notice is hereby given that the 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited (the "Company") will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 03:00 PM (IST) through Video-Conferencing/Other Audio-Visual Means (VC/OAVM) without physical presence of the members at the venue, in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act") and the Rules made thereunder read with General Circular Nos. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020 and 9/2023 dated 25th September, 2023 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and with SEBI Circular dated 7th October, 2023 which also allows listed entities to send their Annual Report in electronic mode (collectively referred to as Circulars) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, to transact the business set out in Notice convening 44th AGM. The venue of the said meeting shall be deemed to be the Registered Office of the Company at OSIL House, Gangadhar Meher Marg, Kili Bhubaneswar - 751024.

The Members can attend and participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM only. Detailed instructions for joining the AGM will be provided in the Notice of AGM. Members attending the AGM through VC/OAVM will be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act. The Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2023-24 will be sent only by electronic mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Registrar & Share Transfer Agents (RTA)/Depository Participants (DPs). The Company will send a physical copy of the AGM Notice along with the Annual Report to those members who request for the same mentioning their Folio No./ DP ID & Client ID.

Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Monday, 23rd September, 2024 to Saturday, 28th September, 2024 for the purpose of Annual General Meeting. Members may also note that the Company will be availing e-voting services of National Securities Depository Limited to enable its Members to cast their vote on resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM. The Company has fixed Saturday, 21st September, 2024 as the "cut-off date" for determining the eligibility of the members to vote by remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM. Members may note that the remote e-voting period shall commence on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 from 9:00 A.M. (IST) and on Friday, September 27, 2024 at 05:00 P.M. (IST).

Members who have not registered their e-mail addresses with the Company/RTA are requested to follow the process mentioned below and register their email addresses not later than, Saturday, September 21, 2024 so as to receive electronically (a) Notice of AGM and Annual Report (b) Login ID & Password for Remote E-voting.

Member of registering/updating email address:

- In case shares are held in physical mode please provide Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self-attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self-attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to RTA at compliance@skylinera.com.
- In case shares are held in demat mode, please provide DPID-CLID (16 digit DPID + CLID or 16 digit beneficiary ID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to your depository participant or to compliance@skylinera.com.
- Alternatively, shareholder/members may send a request to evoting@nsdl.com for procuring user id and password for e-voting by providing above mentioned documents.
- In terms of SEBI circular dated December 9, 2020 on e-Voting facility provided by Listed Companies, Individual shareholders holding securities in demat mode are allowed to vote through their demat account maintained with Depositories and Depository Participants. Shareholders are required to update their mobile number and email ID correctly in their demat account in order to access e-Voting facility.
- The Shareholders who have not register their email id may register the same by sending email to the Company at corporate@orissasponge.com or RTA at compliance@skylinera.com or with their Depository Participant in case shares held in demat.

The Company is providing the facility to the Members to exercise their right to vote by electronic means (i.e., remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM) on the resolutions set out in the Notice of 44th AGM. The instructions for joining the AGM through VC/OAVM and the process of e-voting (including the manner in which Members holding shares in physical form or who have not registered their e-mail address can cast their vote through e-voting), will form part of the Notice of 44th AGM. Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in AGM Notice and in particular, instructions for joining the AGM and manner of casting votes through e-voting. Members can join and participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility only. Notice convening the 44th AGM and Annual Report for FY 2023-24 will also be available on the website of the Company at www.orissasponge.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com in due course.

The above information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the members of the Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circulars issued from time to time.

For Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited
Sd/-
Suraj Thakur
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place : New Delhi
Date : August 30, 2024

SEBI amends rules to regulate unregistered financial influencers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets watchdog Sebi has amended norms in a bid to regulate unregistered financial influencers or finfluencers amid growing concerns about potential risk associated with such unregistered persons.

In three separate notifications, the regulator has restricted associations between its regulated entities and unregistered individuals. This came after the board of Sebi approved a proposal in this regard last month. As per the notifications, the persons regulated by Sebi and the agents of such persons will not have any association like any transaction involving money, referral of a client, interaction of information technology systems with any other person who, directly or indirectly, provides advice, recommendation or makes explicit claim of return.

"No person regulated by the Board (Sebi) or the agent of such a person shall have any direct or indirect association, with another person who provides advice or any recommendation, directly or indirectly, in respect of or related to a security or securities, unless the person is registered with or otherwise permitted by the Board to provide such advice or recommendation; or makes any claim, of returns or performance expressly or impliedly, in respect of or related to a security or securities, unless the person has been permitted by the Board to make such a claim,"



the regulator said. By requiring finfluencers to register with Sebi and adhere to specific guidelines, the regulator is setting a standard for accountability and expertise in the sector, market experts said. The move would ensure that mutual fund houses, research analysts, registered investment advisors and stock brokers do not partner with finfluencers. On the other hand, a small window has been provided for investor education from such partnership. This is subject to a condition that these finfluencers do not provide any recommendation or claim any return or

performance. This came amid growing concern over the potential risks associated with unregulated finfluencers who might offer biased or misleading advice. They usually work on a commission-based model. Finfluencers have significantly impacted their followers' financial decisions in the last few years and thus Sebi's regulatory framework can make them accountable and responsible for the advice they provide. To give this effect, Sebi has amended norms governing depository participants, intermediaries and Securities Contracts.

IN BRIEF

NBCC SELLS COMMERCIAL SPACE WORTH ₹14,800 CRORE APPROX
NEW DELHI: NBCC (India) Limited announces the remarkable achievement of selling 100% of the office space inventory at World Trade Center (WTC) Naurajo Nagar, New Delhi and 100% retail and commercial space at Downtown Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi.

REC DPCL HANDS OVER BHADLA-III
NEW DELHI: REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (REC DPCL), handed over a project specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle), viz, Bhadla-III Power Transmission Limited to M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) on 28th August 2024 at Gurugram.

7TH INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO
NEW DELHI: Union Minister of AYUSH Pratap Rao Jadhav Inaugurates the Three-Day 7th International Health and Wellness Expo at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.

DR. PONGURU NARAYANA ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER
ANDHRA PRADESH: Dr. G. Viswanathan - Hon'ble Chancellor along with Shri Sankar Viswanathan - Vice president VIT University have called Dr. Ponguru Narayana on his appointment as Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development - Government of Andhra Pradesh

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY ORGANISED EXPERT TALK
AMRITSAR: Department of Education of Guru Nanak Dev University organized an expert talk to explore the universe and to develop the scientific temper and attitude among the teacher educators of the department under the guidance of Prof (Dr) Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University.

1ST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCED MATERIALS
AMRAVATI: The inauguration of first edition of International Symposium on Current Trends in Advanced Materials (CTAM-24) was held at VIT-AP Campus. The 6-day symposium is being organized in association with American Chemical Society.



MAGICAL SPELL OF AN UTTARAKHANDI RASOIYA

We metropolitan dwellers are forever starved of authentic regional cuisines across India's traditionally rich and diverse home kitchens. **SHOBORI GANGULI** had the fortune of feasting on one such regal platter wafting from the heart of Uttarakhand in Delhi



Tamra, at Shangri La Eros, New Delhi, had a monsoon delight on offer this month with a pop-up of some truly earthy, hearty and soulful Uttarakhandi cuisine handcrafted by the extremely gifted Dehradun based Chef Yojana Khanduri Chaudhary. Those familiar with the flora and fauna of this northern Himalayan region would clearly know of the robust aromas of a pahadi kitchen and some of its most mouth-watering dishes to be savoured on a rain-drenched August afternoon. Here, I will pause to underline that Chef Pin is God's gift to those who worship and crave for, authentic Indian regional cuisines, far away from the butter chicken and paneer tikka fare that parades under the "Indian cuisine" banner in restaurants across metropolises. A unique and innovative platform across Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, Chef Pin is an app which offers diners local, authentic and home-cooked meals from hundreds of talented home chefs. Apart from opening up these secret kitchens to urban diners at their homes, the pop-ups organised by Chef Pin at leading hotels allow these chefs to showcase their unique culinary flair to a much larger audience. So this month it was Chef Yojana, a textile designer by training, her passion for food having taken her on a parallel route of creativity: Cooking. Her dedication to cooking, imprinted with her signature flourish on time-held traditional recipes of the Himalayan landscape, gave us a truly delectable meal. This infectious bubbly Chef has made a commendable effort to act as a bridge to bring the raw, earthy robust spices, herbs, vegetables and seeds sourced from the



heart of Uttarakhand to the uninitiated urban metro dweller. I was indeed fortunate to savour the innovative fusion of aromatic spices, fresh ingredients and traditional cooking techniques masterfully curated by Chef Yojana. Her passion for authenticity and originality, deeply inspired by her Himalayan roots, to cater to the urban palate is nothing short of a marvel.



This young Chef put out quite a royal feast, her signature creations infusing each preparation with the warmth of a pahadi rasoilya. She was kind enough to detail all the ingredients she had sourced from her home town to give the Delhi diner some authentic flavours, like Jakhiya, Bhang beej, Bhang jeera, Phara, Jhangora (millet), Mandua (Ragi millet), Lal Bhaat, (red rice), Chemi (pahadi rajma) and gehet (horsegram). Chef Yojana is



passionate about roasting and hand grinding her masalas on a sil batta (stone mortar and pestle). Rare to see such enthusiasm for tradition in today's generation of professionals. With everything in place, I set out on a heart-warming culinary journey through Patudi, a mini Dal Cheela, the absolutely irresistible and aromatic Bhaang Sookha Chicken. With Lal Bhaat as a companion, Chef Yojana walked me through with chicken cooked in arbi leaves (colocassia). Her Shikar Mutton was the show stopper of the whole spread with its smoky flavours lifting the rich gravy to an unbeatable level. There was palak hari bhujji (Spinach) and Urad ki Kichdi. All accompanied by side dishes like Bhang ki Chutney, Kheere ka Raithu, Naal Badi ka Saag and Mooli Thechwa. Chef Yojana concluded the fare with her signature take on traditional Uttarakhandi sweets like Jhangore Ki Kheer and Mandve Ka Halwa, descending straight from the serene landscapes of the Himalayas into the heart of Delhi. Hope these roving chefs continue to visit us with their art and craft of cooking!

Sushi Samurais, Dim Sum Warriors

China Bistro in Delhi recently observed its first anniversary with the launch of Chopstick Chronicles. **SHOBORI GANGULI** participated in this celebration of Asia's ancient culinary heritage set against the backdrop of a contemporary Bistro

Tucked away in a quieter corner of the bustling Select City Walk mall in Delhi, China Bistro with its calming ivory hued décor and Pan Asian culinary spread is the perfect place for a relaxed and quiet lunch or dinner with friends and family. Since its inception in 2012 in Mumbai, it now has outlets across India and the UAE. In the NCR, Delhi is the Bistro's first chapter, August 21 marking its first anniversary. To commemorate the event, China Bistro launched Chopstick Chronicles, a festival of sushi and dumplings, crafted and curated by Chef Lee Khan as he unveiled Asia's centuries-old imperial culinary treasure trove for its patrons. Each bite proved to be a passport to divine dining, transporting one to a world of traditional Asian cuisine artistically painted on a rich canvas of culture and tradition. As pointed out by Rajib Mazumder, Corporate Chef at Foodlink F&B Holdings India Pvt Ltd, "Chopstick Chronicles goes beyond the plate, exploring the cultural significance of chopsticks and the dynamic duos of Asia's sushi and dim



sum." Indeed, the sushi rolls were a work of art and the dim sum folds displayed brilliant craftsmanship. Drawing inspiration from global gastronomic innovations, the spread brought Japan, Tibet and China to the table. The result: Simply awesome.



One started out with the Lasha Luxury Dumpling, a Tibetan masterpiece which had juicy, aromatic chicken dumplings wrapped in lotus flour dough. Legend has it that these dumplings had to be bathed in a rich, piping hot chicken broth served right at the table. The experience was as magical as the dish itself. This was followed by the Dynamite Prawn Maki, a creation of Chef Chiro



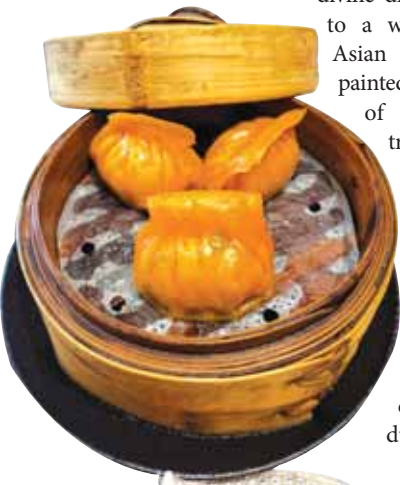
from Vancouver, crispy prawn tempura, crunchy nori, and sweet sushi rice. The freshness and texture of the prawns really stood out. Next on offer was the Wasabi Firecracker Prawns - crispy tempura coated prawns tossed in a spicy wasabi sauce, inspired by Chef Jack's offering at his seafood restaurant from his coastal hometown. Sitting in the heart of Delhi, savouring this delicacy was pure pleasure.

I was then thrown open to the Dim Sum Dare. This dish had four juicy chicken dim sums wrapped in carrot lotus flour and served with chicken broth. The dare was that these had to be consumed with four deadly chili dips, Sesame Sauce, Roasted Pepper Sauce, Sichuan Pepper Sauce, Bhut Jolokia Sauce. I guess my Bengali genes helped me simply cruise through this spice challenge. I also tried Chef Takashi's exquisite and signature Enoki Truffle Crunch, crispy tempura Enoki mushrooms wrapped in creamy truffle mayo in a delectable sushi roll. They say, one evening in a tranquil forest, Chef Takashi discovered a hidden truffle patch. He then used his discovery to create a creamy truffle mayo teaming it with crispy Enoki mushrooms to create a revolutionary sushi roll. This modern innovation of a traditional Japanese cuisine went on to become a legend. Of course, I washed all this down with a chilled glass of Kogarashi, a combination of ginger and lime and some cool crispy cucumber flavour. A splash of non-alcoholic ginger beer gave the beverage a fizzy, spicy finish. China Bistro is highly recommended if you crave for authentic Pan Asian cuisine.

FACTFILE

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Contact No: 022 4942 2323

Address: China Bistro- S-03, Second Floor, Nexus Select City Walk, New Delhi



NITESH SEALS SEMIFINAL SPOT; MANASI, MANOJ OUT



India's Nitesh Kumar dished out a superlative performance, thrashing China's Yang Jianyuan in straight games in his second men's singles SL3 group A match to qualify for the semifinals in para badminton competition at Paris Paralympics on Friday.

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ବାଲୁଆ ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅନଳ ପରିଷଦ ଚରମରୁ ସମସ୍ତ କନସାଇଡେଣ୍ସାସ୍ ଓ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ନିୟମ ଭାବେ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରାଯାଇଛି ଓ ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ହୋଇଛି। ଆମ ସମସ୍ତ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ପରିଷଦର ପୌରାଣିକ, ଉଚ୍ଚ ଓ ନିମ୍ନସ୍ତରୀୟ ସଭା, ଆବେଦନ ପାଇଁ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ସମସ୍ତ ସୂଚନା ଉପରେ ଆଧାର ପାଇଁ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛୁ।

AFFIDAVIT By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Phulbani. I Namrata Dash aged 27 yrs D/O lata Shiba Datta Dash and late Ranjita Patra, resident of Masterpada, Totasahi, PO/PS Phulbani, Dist. Kandhmal. That name of my mother was Ranjita Patra written in her Adhar card No- 965323097929 and SBI Phulbani main branch /A/C No- 20254223916 . That name of my mother was written as Aparna Devi in the pension book of my father PPO No.D/471/99. That Ranjita Patra and Aparna Devi is one and same person. This is to get family pension.

ସରକାରୀକୃତ ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ବିକସ-୨୦୨୪ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅନଳ ପରିଷଦ, ଆଠଗଡ଼ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ଦ୍ୱାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି। ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ଗୁଣଗୁଣ: ୧. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଚିନ୍ତା ହେଉଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି।

ବେଞ୍ଚାପତ୍ର ପୌରପାଳିକା, ବେଞ୍ଚାପତ୍ର ପ୍ରସାଧାୟିକାଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ଆମର ସମସ୍ତ ସୂଚନା ଓ ସୂଚନା ଉପରେ ଆଧାର ପାଇଁ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛୁ। ୧। ଏ ଗୋଟିଏ ପୌରପାଳିକା ପାଇଁ Smart Park ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ସହଯୋଗ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ସୂଚନା ଉପରେ ଆଧାର ପାଇଁ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛୁ।

କୋଟପାଟ ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ନିବେଦନ ୧. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଗୃହ ଚିକିତ୍ସା, ଉପଚାର ଓ ଲାଭାଣ୍ଡାରୀ ଯିବା ଆସିବା ପାଇଁ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ହେବ। ୨. ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଉପାଦାନ ଯଥା ଭାବେ, ବାଲି, ଗୋଟି ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ରାସ୍ତା କଡ଼ରେ ଜମା କରାଯାଇ ନାହିଁ। ୩. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଘରର ଅଧିକାରୀ ଆବେଦନାକୁ ପରିଷଦର କର୍ତ୍ତା ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ପଠାଯାଉଛି। ୪. ପଲିଥିନ୍ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବା ବର୍ଜନ କରାଯାଉଛି। ୫. ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗତ ଓ ସାଧାରଣ ଶୈଳୀକରଣ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରାଯାଉଛି। ୬. ରାସ୍ତା ଉପରେ ଦୋକାନ ବଜାର ଖୋଲି ରାସ୍ତା ଅବରୋଧ କରାଯାଇ ନାହିଁ।

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ଚମ୍ପୁଆ ସରକାରୀକୃତ ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ବିକସ- ୩୧ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୨୦୨୪ ପାଇଁ ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ହୋଇଛି। ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ସୂଚନା ଉପରେ ଆଧାର ପାଇଁ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛୁ। ୧. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଗୃହ ଚିକିତ୍ସା, ଉପଚାର ଓ ଲାଭାଣ୍ଡାରୀ ଯିବା ଆସିବା ପାଇଁ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ହେବ। ୨. ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଉପାଦାନ ଯଥା ଭାବେ, ବାଲି, ଗୋଟି ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ରାସ୍ତା କଡ଼ରେ ଜମା କରାଯାଇ ନାହିଁ।

ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, କୋରାପୁଟ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଭାବେ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରାଯାଇଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି। ୧. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଚିନ୍ତା ହେଉଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି।

AFFIDAVIT By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public ,Phulbani । Namrata Dash aged 27 yrs D/O late Shiba Datta Dash and late Ranjita Dash, resident of Masterpada, Totasahi, PO/PS Phubani, Dist Kandhmal. That I am the grand daughter of late Shanti Devi W/O late Sachida Nanda Dash having adhar No 387108998828 who is also mother of my late father Shiba Datta Dash S/O late Sachidananda Dash. Shanty Devi died on 29-10-2023. In my previous legal heir certificate issued by Tahasilidar Birdi ,Dist Jagatsinghpur the name of my grand mother was wrongly entered as Santilata Dash. Again another legal heir certificate was issued by Tahalsidar ,Birdi excluding name of my grand mother .That Shantilata Dash and shanti Devi is one and same person. This is to get family pension as unmarried daughter of late Shiba Datta Dash No. 14578120NK. Sd/- Namrata Dash

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ହତ୍ରପୁର ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ପ୍ରମୋଦ କୁମାର ପାଠୀ, ଓ.ରା.ସେ. ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଏମ୍.ସତ୍ୟୋଷା, ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଏମ୍.ଶଙ୍କର ରାଓ, ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ, ଉପାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ, ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, କୋଟପାଟ

ପୌରପରିଷଦ ପାଠକାଳୟମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ନିଗମ ଭାବେ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରାଯାଇଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି। ୧. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଚିନ୍ତା ହେଉଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି।

“ସୁସ୍ଥ ସୁନାବେଡ଼ା ସୁସ୍ଥ ସୁନାବେଡ଼ା” ପୌର ପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ସୁନାବେଡ଼ା ପବିତ୍ର ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଭାବେ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରାଯାଇଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି। ୧. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଚିନ୍ତା ହେଉଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି।

ବିକାଶପଥେ ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ନୟାଗଡ଼ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ବିକସ ୨୦୨୪ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ନୟାଗଡ଼ ସହରର ସମସ୍ତ ଗୁରୁଜନ, ମା'ମାଉସୀ ଓ ଭାଇ-ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦ୍ୱାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ନୟାଗଡ଼ର ଯେତେ ସବୁ ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ଯଥା ବିକାଶ ମୂଳକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହୋଇଛି ତାହାର ରକ୍ଷଣା-ବେକ୍ଷଣା ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର, ତେଣୁ ଆସନ୍ତୁ ! ନୟାଗଡ଼କୁ ଏକ ସୁସ୍ଥ ସରସ ସୁନ୍ଦର ସହର ଭାବେ ଗଢ଼ି ଚୋଳିବାକୁ ପ୍ରୟାସ କରିବା ।

ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ମହାନଗର ନିଗମ ସୁନ୍ଦର ସୁନ୍ଦର ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ସହର ପାଇଁ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି। ୧. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଚିନ୍ତା ହେଉଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି। ୨. ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଉପାଦାନ ଯଥା ଭାବେ, ବାଲି, ଗୋଟି ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ରାସ୍ତା କଡ଼ରେ ଜମା କରାଯାଇ ନାହିଁ।

ଜୟପୁର ପୌର ପାଳିକା, ଜୟପୁର MUNICIPAL OFFICE: JEYPORE Phone 06854- 231098 & 231214 uljeyapore@gmail.com ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ବିକସ-୨୦୨୪ ଜୟପୁର ପୌରପରିଷଦ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ୱାଗତ କରାଉଅଛି । ୧. ପୌରପରିଷଦର ସମସ୍ତ ଆପଣଙ୍କର, ଏହାର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଆପଣଙ୍କର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ । ୨. ସରକାରୀ କର୍ମିଣୀ ପୌରପରିଷଦର କର୍ମ କରବେଳେ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ଏବଂ ରାସ୍ତା ଅବରୋଧକରି କୌଣସି ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ନିର୍ବାହ ନାହିଁ ।

ରାୟଗଡ଼ା ପୌରପରିଷଦ ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ବିକସ ୨୦୨୪ ଅବସରରେ ସହରର ସମସ୍ତ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ଦ୍ୱାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି। ସହ ସହରର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତି ପଥରେ ଆଗେଇ ନେବାରେ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଅଛୁ । ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଚିନ୍ତା ହେଉଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି। ୧. ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଚିନ୍ତା ହେଉଛି ଯେପରିକି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସେବା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ, ତେଣୁ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଉଛି।