

# Manhunt for foreign terrorists

### MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

joint team of security forces continued to hunt down the group of foreign terrorists for the second day in succession in the Ahlan Gagar-Mandu forest area of Anantnag district to avenge the supreme sacrifice of their fellow soldiers.

Two soldiers sacrificed their lives in the firefight on Saturday while one critically injured civilian succumbed to his injuries during treatment on Sunday.

Despite carrying out massive searches, at an altitude of over 10,000 feet, the security forces could not track down the footprints of a group of battlehardened Pakistani terrorists. It is also suspected the foreign

terrorists may have once again breached the tight cordon taking advantage of the thick foliage and inclement weather conditions prevailing in the area.

The soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice have been identified as Hav Dipak Kumar Yadav and L/Nk Praveen Sharma.

In a post on X, the Indian Army spokesman said, the Indian Army offers deepest condolences and stands firm with the bereaved families in this hour of grief.

"General Upendra Dwivedi COAS and All Ranks of the Indian Army salute the supreme Sacrifice of Bravehearts Hav Dipak Kumar

Sharma, who laid down their lives in the line of duty, in Anantnag, J&K". upper reaches. Meanwhile, Inspector General (IG) of Kashmir VK Birdi who visited the encounter site told reporters on Sunday that the operation that began a day ago is underway in the upper reaches of Gagar-Mandu area security of Kokernag in Jammu and



Security personnel during an encounter with terrorists at Ahlan Gagar-Mandu forest area, in Anantnag district of South Kashmir, on Sunday

had

and

is

Yadav & L/Nk Praveen "Security forces information regarding the movement of terrorists in the A search operation was being conducted in the Gagar-Mandu area. Security forces spotted the movement of terrorists and there was an exchange of fire between the forces terrorists...Operation underway...," IG Birdi told Kashmir's Anantnag district.

reporters He said the civilian killed in the encounter has been identified as Abdul Rashid Dar.

Giving details of the current operation, a Srinagar-based defence spokesperson said that on August 5, it was confirmed through human and electronic means that terrorists responsible for atrocities in the Doda region in July have

The Rashtriya Rifles and the Jammu and Kashmir Police have relentlessly tracked these terrorists and precise terrorists and precise operations were launched on the night of August 9 and 10 in the mountains in the east of Kapran where these terrorists were reportedly holed up.

sneaked across the Kishtwar range into the Kapran-Garol area in south Kashmir.

## Kolkata doctor rape-murder: **Shocking details surface**

### SAUGAR SENGUPTA 📕 KOLKATA

The murdered lady doctor from a North Kolkata medical college was subjected horrific brutalities, to according to preliminary postmortem and inquest reports. Referred to as "Abhaya" by her colleagues, the victim suffered ten grievous injuries, evoking memories of the decade-old Nirbhaya case in Delhi, say fellow doctors at RG Kar Medical College, where she was pursuing her postgraduate studies in chest medicine.

"The autopsy report is chilling," said a fellow doctor, who is participating in the State-wide indefinite cease-work by medical staff.

"She had a finger, collarbone, and pelvic bone broken. She was bleeding from her eyes, lips, abdomen, and private parts. Tufts of her hair had been torn out, and a clip was attached to her private parts," said the doctor.

Police sources revealed that the brutal attack took place within 30 to 35 minutes. The panel of doctors who conducted the postmortem suggested that she might have been raped after being killed, as it would have been nearly impossible for one person to inflict such extensive injuries in such a short time, said the police.

Family sources shared that the victim was scheduled to get married next year. A colleague from the same college,

**Bangladesh interim Govt warns media over fake news** 



Junior doctors and medical students stage a protest against the sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor in RG Kar Medical College & Hospital, in Kolkata, on Sundav

## Another lady doc threatened

PNS KOLKATA

The Bengal Police on Sunday arrested another civic volunteer for threatening a woman doctor at Bhatar State General Hospital in East Burdwan district with 'RG Kar-like consequences'. According to the lady doctor, the man, identified as Susanta Roy, threatened her after a heated altercation, warning, "You'll face an RG Kar-like consequence for your conduct... Do you even know what happened to the doctor there?'

extreme pain before her death, as a healthy person of her age would not have succumbed quickly. "The post-mortem reports are not fully out so that we can understand whether it was a gangrape or an act of an individual beast," she said.

requesting anonymity, said the

young doctor likely endured

Sanjay Das - a civic volunteer from the unarmed wing of Bengal Police, which operates on a daily wage basis – was arrested on Saturday in connection with the heinous crime. Reports indicated that Das confessed to the act, even pleading with his interrogators to hang him swiftly, a desperate request that has sparked suspicion among civil society members. Many are now questioning whether Das is being used as a scapegoat to shield others involved in the crime.

## **Delhi rain fury claims** lives of two teens SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW

DELHI

The rain in the national Capital on Sunday, while offering relief from the oppressive heat, also brought chaos, with traffic snarls, orging and





## PTI NEW DELHI

 $B^{angladesh's}_{\rm Government \ on \ Sunday}$ issued a stern warning to media organisations, stating that they will be shut down if they publish or broadcast false or misleading news, in a move aimed at curbing the spread of misinformation.

### Central Police Hospital He warned that the media outlets would face closure if they provided misleading news, the Dhaka Tribune

newspaper reported. Refaat Meanwhile Syed Ahmed was sworn in as Bangladesh's new chief justice on Sunday, a day after Obaidul Hassan stepped on the top

five days after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime amid massive street protests

Criticising the media for not presenting the truth, Hossain said, "A country deteriorates when the media fails to report honestly," and argued that had the media accurately reported events, the current situation involving the police 1ave been 'The media often ignores the truth...There is a lack of substantive discussion on talk shows, and the media fails to provide accurate information," he said.



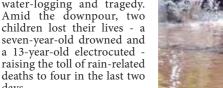
## **Former External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh** passes away PNS NEW DELHI

 $F^{
m ormer\ External\ Affairs}_{
m Minister\ K\ Natwar\ Singh}$ passed away on Saturday night after a prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 93. He breathed his last at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram near Delhi, where he had been admitted for the past couple of weeks, they said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday condoled the passing away of Natwar Singh, and said he made rich contributions to the world of diplomacy and foreign policy. In a social media post, Modi said, "Pained by the passing away of Shri Natwar Singh Ji. He made rich contributions to the world of diplomacy and foreign policy.

"He was also known for his intellect as well as prolific writing. My thoughts are with his family and admirers in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," the prime minister said. Singh was born in 1931 in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. He was a career diplomat, who brought a wealth of experience in diplomacy to his political career and a prolific author on subjects ranging from the life of a maharaja to nuances of foreign affairs

During his distinguished career, he wore many hats, and for his service to the nation, the former external affairs minister was Padma awarded the Bhushan in 1984.



days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for the city.

In Delhi's Rohini Sector 20, a seven-year-old boy named Tarun drowned in a waterlogged park on Saturday evening around 6:30 pm while playing there. In another incident in the Ranhola area of outer Delhi, a 13-year-old boy lost his life after being electrocuted when he came into contact

with an iron pole supplying electricity to a gaushala (cowshed) while playing cricket in Kotla Vihar Phase-2. Meanwhile, the teen's mother Anita Devi has demanded

strict action against the 'gaushala' (cowshed) and the Power Department. flight Disruptions to



Photo: Ranjan Dimri

also operations were witnessed at Delhi airport on Sunday due to the bad weather.

Delhiites who stepped out to enjoy their weekend were met with massive disappointment as their journey to hangout destinations turned into nightmares, with roads inundated and many people struggling to push their vehicles through knee-deep water.

Many candidates who went out to write their NEET-PG 2024 examinations also faced difficulties reaching their centres due to waterlogged roads.

media does not uphold the truth," the interim government's Home Affairs Adviser, Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, said during his visit to injured policemen at Rajarbagh

when

nation falters

following an ultimatum by the protesters demanding a revamp of the judiciary. Hassan and five other judges of the apex Appellate Division on Saturday tendered their resignation,

## Hindenburg: Sebi chief, husband refute charges

PTI NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband on Saturday denied allegations levelled against them by short seller Hindenburg as baseless and asserted that their finances are an open book. In a statement, Madhabi Puri Buch and Dhaval Buch also said it is unfortunate that Hindenburg Research against whom Sebi has taken an Enforcement action and issued a show cause notice has chosen

character to attempt assassination in response to the

US short-seller same. Hindenburg Research alleged that Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puro Buch and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money siphoning scandal. In a blogpost, Hindenburg said

18 months since its damning report on Adani, "SEBI has shown a surprising lack of interest in Adani's alleged undisclosed web of Mauritius and offshore shell entities."



Bangladeshi Army and navy officials stand guard in front of the Supreme Court area in Dhaka, Bangladesh

## **Har Ghar Tiranga**



People wave the Indian national flags at Mubarak Mandi palace ahead of the Independence Day, in Jammu, on Sunday

# Mullaperiyar Dam: A deluge waiting to engulf Kerala

## KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Nose on the heels of the landslides and deluge in Wayanad that claimed more than 400 lives and devoured 300 houses, a disaster of higher magnitude is all set to befall on the State of Kerala. The Mullaperiyar dam built

across River Periyar and dating back to 130 years is on the verge of collapse and this will wipe out the entire population in five districts of the State. Though the dam is situated in Kerala, the entire water in the catchment area is drawn by Tamil Nadu which shouts from all rooftops that Mullaperiyar dam is safe. But experts in dam construction and safety disagree.

Though Tungabhadra dam is in Karnataka, the news that one of its gates getting washed in the deluge that would occur

away because of the snapping of the chain link by the floodwaters has jolted people in five districts of Kerala. Tungabhadra dam built in 1953 and Mullaperiyar in Kerala, built 130 years ago have a lot of similarities. Both are built with a combination of surki, mortar, mud and limestone making them the last surviving non-cement dams in India.

Mullaperiyar The dam, constructed across River Perivar in Kerala with the sole purpose of providing drinking and irrigation water to the four districts in Tamil Nadu has become a modern day water bomb. People living in the districts of Idukki, of Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha,Kottayam and Ernakulam would be drowned



Search and rescue operation underway at a landslide-hit area in Wayanad district Sundav

once the dam collapses. It can happen any time now because the dam has outlived its utility," said P C George, a seven-time MLA of the State who is waging a battle with the authorities to construct a new

dam. George, in his 35-yearlong service as a law maker and chairman of the petition committee of the legislative Assembly had submitted three comprehensive reports to the "But authorities. the

PTI

governments of the day did not vulnerable to high intensity take any action on these reports," George told The passes through the reservoir," take any action on these reports," George told The Pioneer in the aftermath of Wayanad tragedy. He said the impact of the collapse of Mullaperiyar Dam would be similar to the repercussions of1,000 Wayanad landslides. The old and children do not sleep well even for a single day as they fear that the dam would down any time. It is atop the Western Ghats and you cannot imagine the intensity of the water bursting out of the dam. There will not be any time for evacuation and rescue missions," he said. Mullaperiyar Dam is 53.67 metre tall and 365.85 metre long.

The active capacity of the dam s10.56 thousand million cubic feet (TMC ft). Geologists have cautioned us that the dam is

the dam has called for the said PNS Namboodiri, former revenue official in Kottayam district. While the Tamil Nadu government scoffed at reports about a possible collapse of the dam, it went many steps ahead in opposing the Indian Nutrino Observatory at Madurai under the pretext that the fault line passes through the area earmarked for the proposed project. But the fault line is dangerously close to the Mullaperiyar dam. Seismic experts and geologists have warned that the dam made of surki and mortar has outlived its utility and should be decommissioned at the

earliest. Dr A K Gosain of IIT Delhi who had led a team of experts to study the safety aspects of

construction of a new dam in 2011 itself. "I don't say that Mullaperiyar will collapse tomorrow. But the dam is not safe from the point of view of a hydrologist," he had told this newspaper. More than 40 lakh people in the five districts mentioned above would perish once Mullaperiyar collapses. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin's act of donating Rs five crore towards the Chief Minister's disaster relief fund is being seen in Kerala as a ploy to buy silence from the State The 8100 acre land on which

PTI

the dam has been built belongs to Kerala and the dam was constructed with money given by the State of Travancore. Tamil Nadu is like having the cake and eating it too," said George.

Government.

the strong water current for

approximately 200 meters

Bhagwant Mann expressed pro-

found grief over the tragic

event. He announced a finan-

cial aid of Rs four lakh to the

families of the deceased and

directed the administration to

accelerate relief measures. The

Chief Minister extended his

condolences to the affected

families and emphasized the

need for enhanced safety mea-

sures and disaster preparedness. Himachal Pradesh Chief

Minister Sukhvinder Singh

Sukhu also conveyed his heart-

felt condolences and assured

that the State Government

would provide full support to

the bereaved families. He com-

mended the efforts of the local

authorities and rescue teams

who have been working under

challenging conditions to assist

those affected by the disaster.

stands in solidarity with the

affected families during this

time of distress. I assure that all

possible assistance will be pro-

vided to them by the State

Government and District

Administration of Una has

"The State Government

Punjab Chief Minister

downstream.

## **Heavy Rains Lash Punjab: 8 districts** submerged, lives lost, cities waterlogged

#### PNS CHANDIGARH

 $P_{grappling}^{\text{unjab}}$  on Sunday was found for a deluge of heavy rainfall that has led to widespread waterlogging, flooding, and significant disruptions across the State. The relentless downpour, which began early Sunday morning, has submerged eight districts, causing severe hardships while also bringing some respite from the oppressive heat that had gripped the region for weeks.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for 12 districts, including Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr, and Ludhiana, warning of continued heavy rainfall.

The impact has been devastating in some areas, with Hoshiarpur witnessing the tragic loss of nine lives. A group of 12 people, traveling in an Innova car, was swept away by the strong current while attempting to cross a swollen river. The bodies of the victims have been recovered, but two people remain missing, and the driver, who survived, is being treated at a local hospital. All the victims were residents of Himachal Pradesh, on their way to attend a wedding in Nawanshahr.

The heavy rains have also resulted in severe waterlogging in various cities, turning streets into rivers and disrupting daily life. In Ludhiana, several markets were inundated with up to three feet of water, forcing shopkeepers to shutter their businesses. The situation in Jalandhar was equally dire, where heavy rains over just two hours caused widespread flooding, exposing the inefficiencies of the city's drainage system. Many homes were inundated, and residents were left battling rising water levels.

Mohali, too, faced significant challenges as the deluge caused water to enter homes in Phase XI, exacerbated by overflowing sewage systems. The situation became so dire that residents blocked the road from the airport to Chandigarh in protest, demanding immediate action from authorities. Police were dispatched to the scene to manage the situation, but the residents vowed not to move until their grievances were addressed.

Despite the havoc caused by the rains, the downpour did provide some much-needed relief from the intense heat that had been plaguing the region. Temperatures dropped significantly, offering cooler climes However, the overall rainfall this monsoon season has been deficient, with Punjab experiencing a 23 percent shortfall in

## Rains lashed many parts of Hry, Gurugram residents face waterlogging, traffic woes

the pioneer

CHANDIGARH | MONDAY | AUGUST 12. 2024

Chandigarh/Gurugram: Rains lashed many parts of Haryana on Sunday, bringing respite from humid weather con-ditions. As per Met official, Ambala recorded 83.8 mm of rainfall, Karnal 36.8 mm, Sirsa 20 mm and Hisar 6 mm. Chandigarh, the common capital of the Punjab and Harvana received 28.8 mm of rainfall. Continuous rainfall for a few hours resulted in significant waterlogging, with key roundabouts in sectors 34, 20, 27/28 and 35 as well as areas like Manimajra, Khuda Ali Sher, Khuda Lahora and Maloya becoming inundated. On Sunday, Chandigarh recorded a minimum temperature of 25.3 degrees Celsius, while the maximum temperature on Saturday was around 34 degrees.

Moreover, Heavy rains in Gurugram led to severe inundation, particularly in residential areas, and traffic jams across the city. A heavy spell of monsoon rain turned major roads of the city into streams on Sunday, and waterlogging was reported in several areas. As per the data from the District Administration, Gurugram city recorded 53 mm of rain till 8.30 am. The data also showed that Wazirabad saw the maximum rainfall of 64 mm.

Waterlogging was reported in several areas, including Sector 30, 31, 40, 45, 47, 51, 22, 23, 4, 5, 12, 13 48, Police line, Bus Stand Road, Sheetla Mata Road, Narsinghpur service road, Hero Honda Chowk, Basai Chowk, Khandsa, Sanjay Gram Road, Sohna Road and Subhash Chowk. The heavy waterlogging caused major traffic snarls in these areas.

Sectors 7, 6, 29, 39, 38, Palam Vihar, Sheetla Colony and Rajiv Nagar also had flooded streets. The waterlogging impacted the Gurugram-Delhi Expressway and several subways, making travelling a nightmare for commuters. The pedestrians had to wade through knee-deep water in many places.

The overnight heavy rainfall wreaked havoc across Gurugram and exposed the tall claims of the city adminis-tration. On July 2, the District Administration appointed 14 officers and an Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) as nodal officers to ensure early draining out of the water in case of flooding at 112 locations. But the decision has not yielded any result as shown by the latest deluge.

"A total of 1,000 plus traffic personnel have been deployed at major junctions for traffic operations. We also coordinated with the civic authorities to drain out the water for smooth traffic movement," said Virender Vij, DCP (traffic).

rainfall for August so far. From devastation and the longer-August 1 to the morning of term challenges of managing its August 11, the state received water resources effectively. 51.7 mm of rain, compared to **Respite From Heat** the long period average of 67.1

mm for this time. Heavy rains swept through The current wet spell is Punjab and Haryana on Sunday, offering a welcome respite from the sweltering expected to ease by Monday, but the damage has already been done. The rains have heat that had gripped the somewhat alleviated the rainregion for weeks. The deluge brought a significant drop in fall deficiency in the region and temperatures, cooling the area have boosted water levels in by two to six degrees below the crucial reservoirs, which had been significantly below norseasonal average, according to meteorological reports. Key cities such as Chandigarh, Mohali, Ludhiana, mal. Yet, the aftermath of the heavy rains - flooded homes, disrupted lives, and the loss of Patiala, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, loved ones — serves as a stark reminder of the power of Rupnagar, and Ambala were among the hardest hit. The intense rainfall resulted in nature and the urgent need for

structure to cope with such widespread waterlogging across extreme weather events. various locations, including As the state begins the Yamunanagar, Ambala, Ludhiana, and Mohali, causing recovery process, the Punjab Government is urging resiconsiderable disruption. In Chandigarh, the rainfall dents, especially those in lowlying areas, to remain vigilant totaled 129.7 mm, while other and heed any further warnings notable measurements included Rupnagar with 64 mm, from authorities. The full xtent of th be assessed, but it is clear that Ludhiana with 57 mm. In 1375.45 feet on the same date this bout of heavy rainfall has Haryana, Ambala recorded 82 left a lasting impact on Punjab, mm, followed closely by both in terms of immediate Gurugram with 77 mm.

better preparedness and infra-

## Heavy Rains Ravage Himachal, Causing Severe Disruption, Flooding

Shimla: Heavy rains have wreaked havoc across Himachal Pradesh, transforming serene landscapes into disaster zones with landslides and flooding. The relentless downpours have disrupted daily life, leaving essential services in disarray and causing widespread damage. Authorities report that 288 roads have been rendered impassable, cutting off connections on five national highways, severely impacting connectivity and isolating communities. Additionally, 458 power transformers are down, plunging many areas into darkness; while 67 water supply schemes have been knocked offline leaving residents without clean water.

The Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for the region, predicting severe weather with thunderstorms and heavy rain until August 16. The warnings extend across several districts, including Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, and Sirmaur, where flooding and landslides pose ongoing risks. In Nahan, the relentless rain has led to a sudden surge in water levels, flooding neighborhoods and threatening homes. Despite the severity of the downpours, around 40 homes in Rakkar Colony narrowly avoided severe damage due to the swift intervention of local authorities.

The situation in Kangra has been particularly dire, with Shimla-Mataur four-lane road collapsing in multiple places and several under-construction bridges on the National Highway are now on the verge of failure. The SDM office in Jaisinghpur is now submerged, and overflowing rivers have turned the area into a waterlogged expanse.

Despite an ongoing orange alert, Shimla and other regions like Dharamshala, Bilaspur, and Hamirpur experienced persistent light rain through Saturday night. The downpours caused significant disruptions, with Amarpur in Nahan seeing rainwater invade homes and businesses, and fertile land in the Kundiya Panchayat area being washed away. Heavy rainfall also struck Nahan, Dhaula Kuan, Jubbarhatti, and Paonta Sahib, while Sirmaur faced flooding that damaged a factory in Satiwala, ruining cement bags. The NH 707 Paonta-Shillai National Highway remains obstructed near Chilun due to debris accumulation.

In the Parwanoo-Solan region, falling rocks have posed severe hazards to travelers. A notable incident involved a bus skidding at Tambumod while avoiding a biker, though all passengers escaped without injury.

Temperature readings on Saturday varied across the State, with Una at 34°C, Bilaspur and Chamba at 33°C, Hamirpur at 31°C, Kangra at 29°C, Mandi and Dharamshala at 27°C, Nahan at 28°C, Solan at 25°C, Kalpa at 26°C, and Shimla at a cooler 21°C.

A severe cloudburst in Khab, Kinnaur, has dangerously swollen the Baspa River, prompting authorities to issue a yellow alert for the next six days. The region continues to grapple with torrential rains and widespread flooding, underscoring the severe impact of the ongoing weather conditions. Local authorities have advised residents to remain cautious and avoid travel unless necessary.

### Rain Boosts Dams' **Reservoir Levels**

Heavy rains have been a double-edged sword for the reservoirs in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, offering both relief and challenges. The recent downpours have contributed to a rise in water levels in some areas but have highlighted significant defi-

ciencies in others. In Himachal Pradesh, the Pong Dam on the Beas River has seen an improvement due to continuous rainfall. However, the water level remains 46 feet below the danger mark, with the current level compared to

## Nine Dead, Two Missing After Vehicle Swept Away by Flooded Rivulet in Punjab PNS 🔳 HOSHIARPUR the vehicle was swept away by

Adevastating incident unfolded in Hoshiarpur on Sunday when heavy rains caused the Jaijon Choe rivulet to overflow, sweeping away a vehicle and claiming nine lives. The tragedy struck when a family of 11, traveling from Dehra in Himachal Pradesh's Una district to Mehrowal vil-lage in Punjab for a wedding, encountered the perilous conditions of the swollen rivulet.

The SUV, carrying the family and their driver, attempted to cross the Jaijon Choe despite warnings from local residents about the dangerous water levels and strong currents. Eyewitnesses reported that the locals urged the driver to avoid crossing, but their warnings were ignored. As the vehicle entered the fast-moving waters, it was quickly overwhelmed and carried approximately 200 meters downstream.

Local rescue efforts managed to save one occupant, Deepak Bhatia, who was taken to the Government Dispensary in Jaijon for medical treatment. However, the floodwaters claimed the lives of nine individuals, including Surjit Bhatia, his wife Paramjit Kaur, his brother Saroop Chand, sis-

ter-in-law Binder, Shinno, and her daughters Bhavna and Anu, along with the driver, Bindu.

Hoshiarpur Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal reported that the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been deployed to assist in the ongoing rescue and search operations for the two missing persons. Senior Superintendent of Police Surendra Lamba confirmed that the bodies of the deceased have been recovered, and efforts are underway to locate the remaining individuals. "Nine bodies, including those of five females, have been recovered from the rivulet. Efforts were on to trace the two

missing persons," he said. The family members of the deceased have told the police that there were twelve people in the sports utility vehicle (SUV).

There were about five vehicles and an earth moving machine on the other side of the Jaijon Choe towards Himachal Pradesh, waiting for the water to subside. The occupants of these vehicles asked the driver to stop, but the driver proceeded, leading to the tragic incident, Lamba said. Deputy Superintendent of Police Jagir Singh stated that

been directed in this regard," he

Hry Govt opens colleges every 20-km for girls' education: CM Saini

support the project to ensure its

by the Jat Kalyan Sabha in

Gurugram, the Chief Minister

said: "Our society has a long-

standing culture of generously

donating to social causes,

whenever any noble cause is

initiated." On the occasion,

Saini laid the foundation stone

for the Jat Kalyan Sabha build-

ing, and congratulated the Sabha stating that the building

will serve all communities of

Talking about the forth-coming 78th Independence

day, he urged the citizens to participate in 'Har Ghar

Tiranga' campaign actively. "The long struggle of our free-

dom fighters endured to secure

the freedom we enjoy today. It

is our collective responsibility

to make this campaign a suc-

cess. We should all actively par-

ticipate in this campaign to

strengthen the idea of 'Ek

In another event organized

swift completion.

## PNS CHANDIGARH

tating that new initiatives are Obeing taken to provide quality education in the State, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday said that now, a college is established within every 20 kilometres, providing relief to the state's girls who no longer need to travel long distances for higher education.

Saini said this while addressing a public gathering after laying the foundation stone for Maharani Padmavati Girls College, which is being constructed by Sri Sitaram Ji Seva Samiti in Palwal. Besides, the Chief Minister also inaugurated an indoor stadium at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Stadium in Palwal, built at a cost of approximately Rs 14 crores.

Praising the glorious his-tory of Maharani Padmavati, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the students of this College would also imbibe good values. He announced a grant of Rs 31 lakhs for the

added. Expressing his concern assuring that the State Government would continue to

over the decreasing greenery and rising temperatures, Saini stated that Prime Minister Modi has envisioned "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" during the monsoon season to combat air pollution. He appealed to the citizens to participate in this campaign and take a pledge to plant and nurture trees at our homes, nearby parks, or along roadsides. The Forest Department will provide saplings for this purpose.

The Chief Minister said that under the leadership of PM Modi, both the central government and the state government, termed as the "doubleengine government", have driven rapid development in mission mode over the past 10 years. Today, every district in the State is connected by national highways. In the case of Gurugram, one can reach Mumbai in 14 hours and Katra in 6 to 7 hours. He also mentioned several steps taken by the government for the welfare of farmers.

Agniveers to Get

College's construction from Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," he his discretionary fund, while

nm, and

last year. Despite the inflow of 1,03,824 cubic feet per second, and an outflow of 55 cubic feet

Pradesh remain 15 percent below normal, while Punjab's lone reservoir is facing a critical shortfall of 70 percent.

per second, the dam's water

levels are still significantly

below expected norms. The

Bhakra Dam on the Sutlej,

meanwhile, is experiencing

lower storage levels at 46 per-

more severe. The Thein Dam on the Ravi River is at just 19

percent of its total capacity, a

stark contrast to the 64 percent

average for this time of year.

This current storage level is 70

percent below normal, under-

scoring the severe impact of

inadequate rainfall on the

The combined water levels

region's water resources.

In Puniab, the situation is

cent of its 10-year average.

## Hockey Players Return to Hero's Welcome after Paris Olympics Bronze

### PNS MAMRITSAR

The streets of Amritsar erupted in celebration on Sunday morning as members of the Indian hockey team, fresh from their bronze medal win at the 2024 Paris Olympics, touched down at Guru Ram Das Jee International Airport. Despite the pouring rain, a large crowd of enthusiastic fans, family members, and political figures turned out to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to the team.

Among the returning heroes were 10 players from Punjab who played a crucial role in securing the bronze medal, marking the team's second consecutive Olympic medal in hockey. The players included Captain Harmanpreet Singh, vice-captain Hardik Singh, and fellow team members Manpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Sukhjit Singh, Gurjant Singh, Shamsher Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, and Jugraj Singh. They were joined by their coach and families for the grand reception. The arrival scene was a vibrant display of traditional Punjabi fervor. The players were greeted with the beats of dhols, festive garlands, and a host of floral tributes from the crowd. Key political figures such as local MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Punjab Cabinet Ministers Harbhajan Singh ETO and Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, and former hockey



team captain and Congress MLA Pargat Singh were on hand to honour the players' achievements. A special highlight of the day was the visit to the Golden Temple, where the team paid their respects and sought blessings. SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami presented the players with a model of Sachkhand Harmandar Sahib, religious texts,

and 'siropas' - traditional robes of honour. Dhami praised the team for their achievement and expressed pride in full representation of Punjab's talent on the national stage. He urged the youth of Punjab to draw inspiration from the players' success and pursue sports actively.

Team Captain Harmanpreet

Singh conveyed his gratitude and support for the team. ETO and joy at the reception, emphaemphasized the need for better sizing the significance of the sports infrastructure and Golden Temple visit. He promised to work on creating a acknowledged that the team's sucstate-of-the-art hockey stadium cess was a result of collective in Amritsar. Pargat Singh, himself an Olympian, highlighted the importance of encouraging youth effort and divine blessings, and expressed hope for even greater

future achievements. Former captain Manpreet Singh reflected on the journey, recalling a vow made before the tournament to offer prayers at the Golden Temple if the team won a medal. He spoke of the grow-ing support for hockey in Punjab and the strength of the commu-nity's love for the sport.

Punjab Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO and former Indian hockey captain Pargat Singh both expressed their admiration

to participate in sports and reduce drug abuse, proposing the introduction of more astroturfs across Punjab. As the celebration continued, the team's historic achievement was lauded as a testament to their skill, dedication, and the rich sporting culture of Puniab. The return of the hockey heroes not only marked a moment of pride for the state but also set the stage for future suc-Election Commission's visit

ECI to review preparations for Hry Assembly Elections today: CEO PNS CHANDIGARH

In view of the upcoming Haryana Assembly Elections, the Election Commission of India will be on a two-day visit to the state starting from Monday. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, and other officers of the Commission, will hold various meetings, said Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj

Agarwal on Sunday. He informed that on August 12, the Commission will review election preparations in a meeting with representatives of political parties, district election officers, and senior officers of Haryana.

On August 13, the Commission will give guidelines to enforcement agencies to enhance monitoring and vigilance across the State. Besides, the Commission will hold crucial meetings with the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, other Administrative Secretaries, and senior police officers to review other arrangements. He said that all preparations for the

have been completed.

society.

## RAJYA SABHA MP SANDHU MEETS GOVERNOR Kataria

Chandigarh: Rajya Sabha member Satnam Singh Sandhu on Sunday called on the Punjab Governor and UT-Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria to discuss various pertinent issues concerning Punjab, including pollution of state's water bodies and rivers (including Buddha Nullah), depleting water table graph, education sector, declining number of migratory birds and the degra-



dation of wetlands in Punjab and adjoining Rajasthan.

### PUNJAB SPEAKER CONDOLES DEMISE OF BHAI KHALSA

Chandigarh: Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan on Sunday expressed deep sorrow over the unfortu-nate demise of Bhai Paramjit Singh Khalsa, patron of the All India hate demise of Bhal Parality ough Khalsa, parton of the An India Sikh Students Federation. Paying tributes, Sandhwan described Bhai Khalsa as a dedicated champion of the panthic cause. Throughout his life, Bhai Khalsa tirelessly promoted the advancement and unity of the panth and his demise is deeply mourned as a profound loss to the Sikh community. The Speaker prayed to the almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and to provide strength to the family, he added.

## HOODA MEETS TRADERS; SAYS INSPECTOR RAJ WILL BE ABOLISHED AFTER CONG FORMS GOVT IN HRY

Panipat/Chandigarh: Addressing the traders during State-Level Traders Representative Maha Sammelan in Panipat, Haryana's former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday announced to end inspector raj and provide full security to traders when the Congress government is formed. "BJP is trying to attack Haryana's traders with a double blow. Inspector raj, which was abolished by Congress, has been re-established by BJP. Also, this Government has ruined the law and order and has made the traders an easy prey for the criminals." he alleged.

### HINDI POETRY BOOK 'UNS' UNVEILED IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

Chandigarh: Hindi poetry book 'Uns', written by city-based Nisha Luthra — a poet, theatre and film director, and also Founder-Director of The Narrators Performing Arts Society — was unveiled in multiple languages at Government Museum and Art Gallery's Auditorium, Sector-10, Chandigarh. Originally launched in 2022, 'Uns' has now been translated into Punjabi, Urdu, Assamese, English, and French.

### Priority in Employment: Haryana CM

Chandigarh: Haryana Government will provide employment opportunities to Agniveers on a priority basis after their service, said the Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini while addressing a gathering after flag-ging off Rewari Half Marathon from Rao Tularam Stadium in Rewari.

"Rewari district is the land of heroes, and our brave soldiers are standing bravely on the borders of the country," said Saini, while assuring that the agniveers will get priority in employment after their service. Saini said that marathons and Raahgiri programs are not only inspirational for social harmony but also for health improvement. Under the Haryana Uday Outreach Program, run by the State Government, such events are continuously being organized. The half marathon in Rewari, themed 'A Run For The Nation,' is dedicated to the glorious and inspiring life of great freedom fighter Rao Tularam and other

valiant martyrs. The Chief Minister said that unlike the old "Parchi-Karchi tradition", merit-based recruitments are being done in Haryana. He emphasized that the Haryana Government will continue to recruit for government jobs transparently based on merit, and urged the youth to focus only on their hard work, dedication, and preparation. "Due to transparent policies of the Haryana Government, the benefits are reaching the last person in soci-ety. Haryana Government is playing an active role in providing an empowering path to the youth and is contributing to the construction of a strong Haryana by providing a better educational environment," he said.

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cesses in Indian sports.

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# Haryana is now the unique State that guarantees purchase of all crops at MSP

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🊏 Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana 🎯 www.prharyana.gov.in 🚺 🖉 🖉 🖉 🖉 🖓 🖽 🖉 🎯 🥮 🖉 🌾 🖉 🎯 🦉 🖉 🖓 🖉 🖉 🖓 🖉 🖉 🖓 🖉 🖉



# **HP Govt to establish state-level drug** de-addiction, rehab center in Sirmour

### PNS SHIMLA

Taking a significant step in the fight against drug addiction, the Himachal Pradesh Government on Sunday announced the establishment of a State-Level Model Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Center at Kotla Barog in the Pachhad subdivision of Sirmour district.

The initiative is set to become a beacon of hope for individuals struggling with substance abuse, offering them a structured path to recovery and reintegration into the society. The proposed Center is not just a facility; it represents a comprehensive approach to addressing the state's growing drug abuse crisis, providing a wide range of services under

PNS CHANDIGARH

against

Education

Campaign'.

Communication

the

**¬**o intensify awareness and

Human

I promote safe practices

Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Sexually

Transmitted Infections (STIs),

one roof to help individuals the Chief Minister. overcome addiction and lead The proposed facility is

part of a comprehensive stratfulfilling lives. Chief Minister Sukhvinder egy to address the escalating Singh Sukhu underscored the drug abuse crisis in the state, which has seen a surge in the urgency and importance of this project, highlighting the use of synthetic substances across both rural and urban state's commitment to both prevention and rehabilitation. areas. The center will play a pivotal role in mitigating the 'Our youth are the future, and it is imperative that we protect severe health and social conthem from the dangers of drug sequences of this crisis by abuse. This Center will not only offering a wide range of serprevent more young people vices within a single, wellfrom falling prey to this menequipped complex. The Center will feature ace but also provide essential support to those who are accommodations that include already struggling with addicrooms and dormitories, along tion and are determined to with essential amenities such as

break free. The establishment toilets and dining areas. In of the State-Level Model Drug addition, it will provide recreanð ational spaces, a library, a mini Rehabilitation Center is a crugymnasium, and facilities for cial step in our broader stratesports, meditation, and yoga. gy to combat this crisis," said The Center will also focus on

skill development and vocational training, offering inhouse treatment and necessary services like food, clothing, and laundry. This holistic approach is designed to standardize treatment and rehabilitation services while providing critical support and recovery pathways for those affected by addiction.

With a capacity of 100 beds, equally divided between male and female patients, the Center aims to steer the state's youth away from drugs and towards making positive contributions to the society. The selected site for the facility covers 157 bighas and seven biswas, providing ample space for development.

Existing buildings on the site will be repurposed with minor repairs, and additional

infrastructure will be con structed as needed. The Public Works Department has been tasked with preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to move the project forward.

"The establishment of this Center underscores the government's dedication to tackling the drug abuse crisis and providing essential support for individuals in need of rehabilitation and societal reintegration," said the Chief Minister. "Once the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is finalized, the state government will allocate sufficient funds for the construction of the Model Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Center. Additionally, adequate staffing will be ensured for proper care

#### no. 4, near Railway Station, Ward no. 27, Ram Nagar, Kaithal, District Kaithal, Informs that a registry( Sale Deed) no.1929/1. Dt. 10-06-2014. in favour of my mother SAHBO DEVI, had lost on 05-07-2024

I, ANKUSH, Adhar no.

FIR

132280252401244 of which is

registered in City- Thana Kai-

thal. If anybody finds this

please Informs on my mobile

04-08-1942, Father of No.

6949931P Hav Jagannath

I enka Resident of At-Agrahat

Distt. Cuttack, Odisha, declare

by this affidavit No. CF IN-

OD10313136617589W, Dt. 22-

07-2024 that now onwords i

shall be known as Parikhita

Lenka, DOB 05-06-1949 for all

11-1943, Mother of No.

6949931P Hav Jagannath

Lenka Resident of At-Agrahat

Distt. Cuttack. Odisha, declare

by this affidavit No. CF IN-OD10313360392144W, Dt. 22-

07-2024 that now onwords i

shall be known as Basant

Lenka, DOB 01-06-1959 for all

I, Amrit Lal S/o Krishan I al

R/o H.No. 4977/3D/10 St.No. 3

Mohar Singh Nagar (Ludhiana)

declare that in my son Raghav

Malhotra education certificate

my name wrongly entered Amrit

Lal Malhotra and my wife name

wrongly entered Rajni Malhotra

But my correct name is Amrit Lal

and my wife correct name is

Rajni Bala. So amended my

name and my wife name in my

spouse of No. JC249634K.

Rank-NB/RIS, Name Sanjay

Singh Bhadoriya, presently re-

siding at Ward No. 09, Dharm

Nagar Bharoli Road, Bhind, Dis-

trict Bhind, State-Madhva Pra-

desh. Now at Unit : 15 ARMD

Regt., C/o. 56 APO declare that

Tehsil- Hardoi, District- Hardoi

State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-

241001, have changed my Son

name from Dipanshu Pal to

Deepanshu Pal Vide affidavit

Juna Sangana, Post- Nava

No.JC-303154W

I, Sunita legally wedded

son education certificate.

I, Basanti Lenka, DOB 07-

I, Parikshita Lenka, DOB

no

245442294541, S/o SUB-HASH, R/o H. No. 128/1, Gali

anywhere.

no. 9992204451

official purposes

official purposes

center's residents," concluded the Chief Minister

## Classifieds PUBLIC NOTICE I Kuldeep Kaur Bhangu I, Parmod Kumar Kochhe S/o Subhash Chander Kochhar

W/O Jagseer Singh Gill R/O H.No- 2079/5, Johlan Road, Raikot, Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Kaur Gill.

I, Gursewak Singh Natt S/o Hazara Singh R/o Vill: Arainmajra Po. Marauri Teh-Samana (Patiala) have changed my name to Gursewak Singh.

I, Monika D/o Sukhdev Singh and W/o Raj Kumar R/o VPO- Harse Mansar, Hoshiarpur,, Punjab - 144306, have changed my name to Monika Thakur.

I, Narinder Singh S/o Tehal Singh R/o Village Gurdaspur, Teh - Mukerian, Distt - Hoshiarpur, punjab - 144306, have changed my name to Narinder Singh Golee

I, Sushil Kumar S/o Ratan Lal Bansal R/o Village Kalayat, Tehsil Kalayat, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Sushil Kumar to Sushil Kumar Bansal. In future I will be known by the name of Sushil Kumar Bansal. All concerned please note.

I, Shivi Goel D/o Kamal Kishore R/o 690/23 gur mandi sonipat 131001 has changed my name to Shivi for all purposes

I Gyasuddin Ansari B/o Service No. 18020554P Rank SPR Name Samsuddin Ansari R/o Liladhar Chhapra, Lila Dhar Chhapra, Kushinagar, Uttar 274802.Have Pradesh changed DOB my is 05.03.2002.

I Kalamuddin Ansari B/o Service No. 18020554P Rank SPR Name Samsuddin Ansari R/o Liladhar Chhapra, Lila Dhar Chhapra, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh 274802. Have correct my DOB is 01.05.2005.

I Priyanka D/o Service No. JC 342481X Rank Sub Name Sri Deo Singh R/o House No. 308, Bhandra, Sri nagar, Distt. Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh, Pin 210433.have changed my DOB 25.04.2000 from 25.04.2001.

I Ghasita Ram S/o Pitamber Singh R/o 22B, Raja Park, Ambala Cantt. Have changed my Name from Ghasita Ram Pundeer To Ghasita Ram.

I Jasmine Ram Pundeer W/o Ghasita Ram R/o 22 B, Raja Park, Ambala Cantt. Have changed my Name from Jasmine Ram Pundeer To Jasmine Ghasita Ram

I Mansi Jagdish Wankhede is legally Wedded W/o Service No. 14657071N Rank Hav Name Wankhede J. H. of Unit 974 AD Regt WKSP C/o 56 APO, Ambala Cantt. Have changed my Name from Manshi Jagdish Wankhede To Mansi Jagdish Wankhede.

I Service No. JC 303632P Rank Sub (DVRMT) Bikarma Ditya Yadav Presently Residing at 146 LT AD Regt (SP) C/o 56 APO have changed my Daughter Name from Shashikala To

R/o 317, Near PPR Mall, Jalandhar Vihar, Jalandhar have changed the spelling of my name from Parmod Kumar Kochher to Parmodh Kumar Kochhar I, Asha Kochher W/o Sub-

hash Chander Kochhar R/o 317, Near PPR Mall, Jalandhar Vihar, Jalandhar have changed the spelling of my name from Asha Kochher to Asha Kochhar. I, Subhash Chander Koch-

her S/o Des Raj Kochhar R/o 317, Near PPR Mall, Jalandhar Vihar, Jalandhar have changed the spelling of my name from Subhash Chander Kochher to Subhash Chander Kochhar.

I, hitherto Known as Pinder S/o Kamaljit R/o Village Khothran, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar-144632, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pinder Banga.

I, Kanishik S/o Vivek Mahajan R/o H.No.B-11 80/1, Ward No.3, Mohalla Vaishno Mata Mandir, Po.Sujanpur, Tehsil and Distt. Pathankot have changed my name from Kanishik to Kanishk Mahajan.

I, Puneet Mehandru S/o Roshan Lal Mahindru R/o H.No.182, Mithapur Road, New Raja Garden, Jalandhar have changed my name from Puneet Mehandru to Puneet Mahindru.

I, Tajinder Kaur W/o Jasbir Singh Udasi R/o VPO. Pasla, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Tajinder Kaur to Tajinder Kaur Udasi, after marriage

I Vijeta D/O Shashi Bakshi R/O Mustafabad Tehsil Jagadhri Distt. Yamunanagar Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Vijeta To Vijeta Bakshi. In Future Known Me As Vijeta Bakshi

I, Vijay Kumar S/o Jagbir Singh R/o H.No. 1501 Sector-15 sonipat District Sonipat 131101. Have changed my son name Aryan to Aryan Kinha for all future purposes. Plz change my son name Aryan to Aryan

Kinha in School record. I, Rekha W/O Jonny Sharma R/O Village Lawana Sub-Tehsil Saraswati Nagar Distt. Yamunanagar Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Rekha To Rekha Devi.

I, DRASHNA DEVI wife of No 3194648K, Rank: Naik, Name: Anil Kumar (Retd) resident of VPO- Bagru Kalan, Teh-Safidon, Distt-Jind(Haryana)-126112 have changed my name from Drashna Devi to Darshana vide Affidavit dated 8 AUG, 2024 sworn in before Notary, safidon (Jind)

I. No 3194648K, Rank: Naik, Name: Anil Kumar (Retd) resident of VPO- Bagru Kalan, Teh- Safidon, Distt-Jind (Haryana)-126112 have changed name of my daughter from DEEPIKA to DIPIKA vide Affidavit dated 8 August 24 sworn in before Notary, Safidon (Jind) I, Suraj Kumar S/o Sh. Sukhdev Kumar R/o village Munak Sub Tehsil Balla Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Suraj to Suraj Kumar. In future I will be known and known

Chagti, addressing the decorated cycle, which effec-gathering, highlighted the tively conveyed the critical importance of healthy lifestyles, encouraging citizens to make tion. cycling a part of their daily routine. He also praised the Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society for its pivotal role in controlling the spread of

Chandigarh Administration, in collaboraing awareness about prevention tion with the Chandigarh State and modes of transmission. AIDS Control Society, on The rally saw enthusiastic Sunday launched a two-month participation from over 300 'Intensified Information, cyclists, representing a crosssection of the city's population, and (IEC) including women, children, and college students. The The campaign kicked off cyclists creatively adorned their with a vibrant 'Cyclothon', held bikes with the slogan 'Know at the scenic Sukhna Lake AIDS for No AIDS, urging the under the theme 'India Fights public to educate themselves HIV/AIDS and STIs'. The event about HIV/AIDS. Placards was inaugurated by the UT with informative messages

De-Addiction

Chd launches two-month campaign to

combat HIV/AIDS, STIs with cyclothon

messages about HIV preven-Adding to the event's impact, a mobile HIV Testing Van was stationed at Sukhna Lake, offering participants free voluntary HIV testing - aimed HIV/AIDS in the city and rais-

spread of the virus.

at encouraging early detection and treatment which is a crucial step in combating the Over the next eight weeks,

the campaign will feature a series of IEC activities, including folk performances, flash mobs, social media outreach, special interventions at government hospitals, and sensitization workshops. These initiatives are designed to strengthen Chandigarh's fight against HIV/AIDS and STIs, promoting awareness, reducing further reinforcing the cam-paign's objectives. A special prize was awarded for the beststigma, and encouraging citizens to access essential health services.

## Punjab VB arrests Fatehgarh Sahib DDPO for embezzlement of over Rs 40L PNS 🔳 CHANDIGARH Spokesperson further elab-

orated that the funds, intended Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) has arrested Fatehgarh for the development of the Amloh block and the gram Sahib's District Development panchayats, were wrongfully and Panchayat Officer (DDPO) diverted to private entities. This Kulwinder Singh Randhawa, gross misuse of public money, along with a private individual intended for community devel-Hanspal for allegedly embezopment, has raised concerns zling grants and funds amountabout the integrity and transing to Rs 40 lakhs (40,85,175), parency within the system. which were allocated to the Bureau, acting swiftly on Amloh block and various gram the evidence, arrested

Randhawa and Hanspal. Both official Vigilance's spokesperson said that an FIR, dated August 9, 2024, has been lodged under Sections 409 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 13 (1) read with 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act at the VB police station in Patiala range. The case names five individuals including the then BDPO of Amloh, Kulwinder Singh Randhawa, who is accused of

misappropriating government funds by illegally channeling them to private firms and an

> **PUBLIC NOTICE** I, Rajni W/o Sandeep R/o H.No. 285, Near Hanuman Mandir, Subhash Nagar, Hisar is the owner of one Plot No. 336, M.C.H. No. 1259/338, owner of one Plot No. 336, M.C.H. No. 1259/338, Block No. 21 constructed at Plot No 12 area measuring 200 sq.yards (30x60) vide sale deed no. 2999 dt. 12.06.2024. Regarding this above property the original sale deed no. 11935 dt. 11.01.2023 in favour of Aman Narwal S/o Daynand R/o H. No. A-76, Face-03, Near Children Park, Prakashpuri Mandir New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon has been lost & not traceable. The above said documents is not mortgaged anywhere in any bank. Now I, mortgaged traceable. The above salu accuments is nor mortgaged anywhere in any bank. Now I, mortgaged the above said property to Canara Bank, Red Sqr. Market Branch, Hisar for taking loan and if

## Vote for AAP to build new Hry: Sunita Kejriwal

were prominently displayed,

## PNS HISAR

Singh.

ccusing the BIP A Government in Haryana of "not undertaking any development work" in the last 10 years. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal on Sunday appealed to the people to vote for AAP in the upcoming State assembly polls

Health Secretary Ajay Chagti,

alongside the UT Director

Health Services Dr Suman

to build a "new Haryana". Kejriwal "Haryana ka laal", she Addressing the party rally at Hisar, she asked the people to press the button with the 'ihadu' (AAP's poll symbol) on election day to build a "new Haryana<sup>"</sup> while asserting that the AAP government in Delhi has "transformed" government schools and hospitals and made electricity free. Calling Arvind

said the Delhi Chief Minister was raised in Hisar. Assembly polls in Harvana are due later this year and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced that it will contest all the 90 seats in the state. The party has contested several polls in Harvana, but it has yet to taste electoral success in the state.

eneficiaries and rentertained at an

Naveen DANIC

Assistant Estate Office

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the notice of the general public that a political party is

Naguran Teshil Alewa Distt Jind

(Haryana) Pin code 126125 Nationa

Treasurer - Sandeep H.No. 701, Block

No. 76, Village Naguran Teshil Alewa Distt Jind (Haryana). Pin code

126125If any one has any objection to the registration of proposed name

of BHARAT PEACE FRONT the may

send their objection with reason

thereof, to the Secretary (Politica

Party), Election Commission of India Nirvanchan Sadan, Ashoka Road

New Delhi-110001 with in 30 days of

the publication of this notice.

rcising the powers

of The National Insurance Employee cooperative USET/C Society Ltd. chandigarh that election for the managing committee of the society will be held on Dt. 19.09.2024 at i.e National Insurance Co. Ltd. SCO 56 (First Floor) Madhya Marg, Sector 26, Chandigarh as under:-19.09.2024 Date of Nomination

ELECTION NOTICE

panchayats.

individual.

(10.00 am to 11.00 am) lling 20.09.2024 Date of Polling 20.05.20 (11.00 am to 3.30 pm) **Public Notice** Ramesh Chander S/o Dhian Chand R/o No.164/72, Ambedkar Nagar, Basti Nau, Iandhar Affirming that I have lost Sale

The detailed election programme is pasted on the notice board of the

individuals are set to be presented before a competent court on Monday. The investigation into the case is ongoing, with the Vigilance Bureau meticulously examining all the transactions and identifying other potential accomplices involved this embezzlement.

No IN-PB43094736883985W dated 05 Aug 2024 before notary public Pathankot I, Rathod Vijuben Kalubhai Mother of Rathod Sondabhai Kalubhai resident of Village-

then they can lo

I have changed my name of Su-The arrest of a high-ranknita to Sunita Devi . In the serv-

ing official like the DDPO is a clear message from the Punjab government that corruption will not be tolerated, and those who misuse public funds will be held accountable, said the spokesperson.

#### ice record of my spouse, my father's name is also wrongly as mentioned Surinder Singh Where as my father's correct name is Surendra Singh Please consider correct names for all future dealings Sub(OPR) Shishupal resident of Village- Rampur, Post- Turtipur

t is for the information of all members

## Dr. Vandana's Groundbreaking Research **Empowers Visually Impaired Community**

USP

Pioneering Scholar Develops Innovative Assistive Technologies, Breaking Barriers in Education Dr. Vandana, a trailblazing scholar and educator, has made a significant breakthrough in empowering the visually impaired community through her groundbreaking research. Her pioneering work in developing assistive technologies has opened up new avenues for inclusive education, enabling the visually impaired to access mathematical content with ease.



Dr. Vandana's remarkable journey began with her Ph.D. in "Visualization of Mathematical Symbols in Braille" from Chitkara University, Rajpura. Her dedication and passion for innovation have earned her a reputation as a leading expert in her field. With an impressive track record of 55 patents, 6 published books, and 9 research papers in reputed journals, Dr. Vandana continues to push the boundaries of assistive technology. Her work has far-reaching implications, enabling the visually impaired to access mathematical content and participate fully in education. As Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Swami Vivekanand Institute of Engineering and Technology, Banur, Dr. Vandana inspires and mentors the next generation of innovators and engineers. Her commitment to empowering the visually impaired community is a testament to her dedication and passion. Dr. Vandana's groundbreaking research is a shining example of innovation and inclusivity. Her work has the potential to transform the lives of millions, enabling the visually impaired to reach their full potential. As we celebrate her achievements on her birthday, we honor her tireless efforts to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

### PUNJAB & SIND BANK, ZONAL OFFICE: GURDAS-PUR ORGANIZED MOVE TO MARKET CAMPAIGN



Gurdaspur: Punjab & Sind Bank, Zonal Office, Gurdaspur organized Move to Market Campaign on 10.08.2024 through Walkthan in Gurdaspur to cover every single Showroom, shop and vendor in the vicinity under the leadership of Worthy Zonal Manager Sh. Rakesh Kumar Yadav (AGM)

Branch Managers along with their staff participated in the campaign and made the general public aware about various products and schemes of the Bank

Veed No. 2024-25/187/1/3775 dated 3/07/2024 on in my favour of the property ituated at Virdi Colony, Basti Guzan, Ja- andhar. I have lodged the online complaint	Society. All members are requested to participate in the above election. Sd/- (Secretary) Days of publication of this notice. Deponent						
G.D No. 032 dated 08/08/2024 at Police Sta- tion Basti Bawa Khel, Jalandhar. Though if any person find the same kindly return me on above noted address & contact me.	चुनाव प्रोग्राम चुनाव प्रोग्राम दि वर्मा सहकारी गृह निर्माण समिति लि0 हिसार । चुनाव तिथि 25,09,2024						
PUBLIC NOTICE Before Sh. NAVEEN DANICS, Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the powers of the Estate Officer, U.T. Chandigarh Subject:- Transfer of ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 637, Sector 33-B. Chandigarh (RPD-14484) to the extent of 100% share in the name of Smt. Jaswant Kaur on the basis of Court Decree/Compromise Deed/Family Settlement/Court Orders dated 15.02.1993. It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that as per record of this office Smt. Jaswant Kaur, Smt. Alka Jagpal, Ms. Sonia & Sh. Ravinder Singh Chandia 25% share each) are the owner of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 637, Sector 33-B. Chandigarh to the extent of 100% Share. Now, Smt. Jaswant Kaur has applied for the transfer of ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL Site No 637, Sector 33-B. Chandigath to the extent of 100% share on the basis of Court Decree/Compromise Deed/ Family Settlement / Court Orders dated 15.02.1993. If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said share in the said property, in favour of the above named applicants, then he/she/they may furnish the sair inting (supported with afficiant du'y atested by Magistrate/Notary) in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property withe mutated accordingli with en amo of above said	क्र0स0 विवरण		तिथि व समय	स्थान			
	01	वोटर लिस्ट की प्रदर्शनी ।	दिनांक 12,08,2024 से 14,08,2024 तक ।	<ol> <li>कार्यालय निरीक्षक सहकारी समितियां हिसार-1 2.कार्यालय सहयक रजिस्ट्रार सहकारी समितियां हिसार। 3.कार्यालय दि वर्मा सह, गृह निर्माण समिति रिरुहिसार। 4.कार्यालय उप-रजिस्ट्रार सहकारी समितियां, हिसार। 5.दि हिसार केंद्रेय साकसरी के कि हिसार महव आणवा, क्रिसार</li> </ol>			
	02	वोटर लिस्ट की आपतियों की सुनवाई उप नियम 4 नियम 35 के अधीन।	दिनांक 16.08.2024 को प्रात: 10.00 बजे से दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक				
	03	नामांकन पत्र दाखिल करने की तिथि	09.09,2024 प्रात: 10,00 बजे से 2:00 बजे तक।	कार्यालय सहायक रजिस्ट्रार , सहकारी समितियां , हिसार ।			
	04	नामांकन पत्रों की जांच पड़ताल की तिथि ।	10.09.2024 को प्रात: 10.00 बजे से दोपहर 01:00 बजे तक	उपरोक्त			
	05	वैध नामांकन पत्रों की सूची का प्रदर्शन	10.09.2024 को बाद दोपहर 2.00 बजे ।	उपरोक्त			
	06	नामंकन पत्रों की वापसी तिथि ।	13.09.2024 को प्रात: 10:00 बजे से दोपहर 02.00 बजे तक।				
	07	चुनाव चिन्ह अलाटमैंट की तिथि ।	13.09.2024 को बाद दोपहर 03: 00 बजे ।	उपरोक्त			
	08	चुनाव लड़ने वाले उम्मीदवारों की सुचि का प्रदर्शन	13.09.2024को बाद दोपहर 04:00 बजे।	उपरोक्त			
	09	चुनाव होने की तिथि यदि आवश्यक हुआ	दिनांक 25.09.2024 को प्रात: 08:00 बजे से सांय 4:00 बजे तक ।	सामुदायिक केन्द्र साकेत कॉलोनी आजाद नगर हिसार।			

हरियाणा एजुकेशन सोसाईटी, महम, रोहतक पंजीकरण संख्या HR-RTK-2014-00604/10-02-2014

चुनाव-कार्यक्रम निर्धारित (Schedule)

मैं रामेश्वर सैनी, चुनाव अधिकारी आगामी त्रिवार्षिक चुनाव कार्यक्रम की घोषणा करता हूँ कि समिति का चुना पाँच पदाधिकारियों प्रधान, महा-सचिव, उप-प्रधान, संयुक्त सचिव, कोषाध्यक्ष एवं दो कार्यकारिणी सदस्य का चनाव प्रक्रिया द्वारा सम्पन्न होगा। जो इस प्रकार से है:-

proposed to be registered by the चुनाव प्रक्रिया द्वारा सम्पन्न होगा। जो इस प्रकार से है:-						
name of BHARAT PEACE FRONT. The	क्रम॰ सं॰	प्रकिया	दिनांक	समय		
office of the party is located at	1.	मतदाता सूची प्रकाशन	21.08.2024	प्रातः 11.00 बजे		
Khewat No. 295, Khatauni No. 363 Vaka Mauja Saini Mohalla, Asand	2.	पूरक मतदाता सूची प्रकाशन	06.09.2024	प्रातः 11.00 बजे		
	3.	नामांकन पत्र दाखिल करना	09.09.2024	प्रातः 11.00 से 2.00 बजे तक		
listt Jind Pin Code - 126125 Haryana.	4.	नामांकन पत्रों की जांच	12.09.2024	प्रातः ११.०० वजे		
his party has submitted application the Election Commission of India.	5.	नामांकन पत्रों की सूची का प्रकाशन	12.09.2024	साय 01.00 बजे		
	6.	नामांकन वापिस लेना	13.09.2024	प्रातः 11.00 से 2.00 बजे तक		
olitical Party under section 29A of	7.	चुनाव प्रत्याशियों की सूची का प्रकाशन	14-09.2024	दोपहर बादः 3.00 बजे		
Representation of People Act,	8.	प्रत्याशियों को चुनाव चिन्हो का आवंटन	15-09.2024	प्रातः 11.00 से 2.00 बजे तक		
	9.	मतदान यदि आवश्यक हुआ	29-09.2024	प्रातः 10.00 से 2.00 बजे तक		
	10.	मतगणना व परिणाम	29-09.2024	मतदान समाप्ति के बाद		
	11.	विजेता प्रत्याशियों को प्रमाण पत्र	30-09.2024	प्रातः 11.00 बजे		
Distt Jind (Haryana) Pin code - 126113	नोटः-1. नामांकन शुल्क प्रधान पदं के लिए 3,100/- रूप्ये, महा सचिव, उप-प्रधान, संयुक्त सचिव एव					
1951 - Name/ Address of the office- bearers of the Party are as follows:- National President - Manjeet Arya, H.N. 290, Basti Pillu khera Mandi Old Anaj Mandi (Bhuran) Teshil Safidon	9. 10. 11.	मतदान यदि आवश्यक हुआ मतगणना व परिणाम विजेता प्रत्याशियों को प्रमाण पत्र	29-09.2024 29-09.2024 30-09.2024	प्रातः 10.00 से 2.00 बर मतदान समाप्ति के बाद प्रातः 11.00 बजे		

नोटः-1. नामांकन शुल्क प्रधान पदं के लिए 3,100/- रूप्ये, महा सचिव, उप-प्रधान, संयुक्त सचिव एवं National General Secretary - Joginder Singh, H.No. 37, Block No. 76 Village कोषाध्यक्ष के लिए रूप्ये 2.100/- एवं दो कार्यकारिणी सदस्य का शुल्क राशि 1,100/- नामांकन पत्र के साथ जमा करवानी होगी।

> 2. नामांकन शुल्क जो उम्मीदवार नामाकंन पत्र वापिस लेगा उसकी राशि वापिस कर दी जाएगी। . मतदाता सूची सोसाइटी के कार्यालय में उपलब्ध है तथा मतदाता सूची को गेट पर चस्पा कर दिया गयाहै। पूर्ण

तदाता सूची की प्रति रूप्ये 20/- अदायगी करके ले सकता हैं।

. मतदान वार्ड-2, पुराना हरियाणा हाई स्कुल, महम, रोहतक के प्रांगण में होगा

दिनांक : 11.08.2024

थान : महम, रोहतक

. मतदाता पहचान पत्र के लिए मूल पहचान पत्र (फोटोसहित) जिसमे आधार कार्ड/वोटर कार्ड/ड्राइविं लाइसेंस /बैंक पास बुक/पासपोर्ट/पैन कार्ड/सोसाइटी का वोटर कार्ड इनमे से किसी एक दस्तावेज को प्रस्तु करना होगा तथा वही मान्य होगा। पहचान पत्र के बगैर वोट/मत डालने का अधिकार नहीं होगा

. मतदान के पश्चात् वोट बराबर-बराबर आने पर टॉस के द्वारा फैसला करके परिणाम घोषित कियाजाऐगा

. किसी भी स्थिति में कोई विवाद होने पर चुनाव अधिकारी का निर्णय मान्य / अन्तिम होगा।

(रामेश्वर सैनी

चुनाव अधिकार

Sangana, Tehsil- Talajia, Disict- Bhavnagar, State- Gujarat, Jujarat, Pin-364140, have hanged my name from Vijuben Rathod Vijuben Kalubhai affidavit No.INide B44893292663361W dated 9 Aug 2024 before notary pub-Pathankot.

I, Kalubhai Ramajibhai Raod Father of Rathod Sondabai Kalubhai resident of Village una Sangana, Post- Nava angana, Tehsil-Talaia, Districthavnagar, State- Gujarat, Gu-Pin-364140. have irat. hanged my name from Rathod alubhai to Kalubhai Ramaiib ai Rathod Vide affidavit No.IN-B44892402090248W dated 9 Aug 2024 before notary pub-Pathankot

I, No.15784742F Hav (Oprator) Satyanarayana Challa of 02 Lt AD Regt (Comp) C/O 99 PO, have changed my Daugh er name from Challa Varshitha o Varshitha Challa Vide affidavit No.92AA. 587045 dated 10 July 2024 before notary public Vizianagaram (AP).

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Surjit Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/o Vpo. Mehtabkot Teh-Baba Bakala (Amritsar) have changed my name from Surjit Singh to Surjit is my given name and Singh is my surname.

I. Meen Kumar S/O Tirath Ram R/O #89, Mathura Colony, Near Rose Colony, Patiala Have Changed My Name From Meen Kumar Jaggi To Meen Kumar.

I, Karamjeet Singh S/o Gurnam Singh R/o Vill: Dharaur Po. Sahnewal (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Karamjit Singh to Karamjeet Singh.

I Rohit Kapoor S/o Juga Kishore R/o Vpo Tangra, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar I have changed my name from Rohit to Rohit Kapoor.

I, Rakesh Jain alias Rakesh Kumar S/o Ram Pal Jain R/o Wadhwa Street, Near Ghanta Ghar W.No.4 Giddarbaha-152101 Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib have declare that I am known by both the names.

Shashikala Yadav

I Kavita is legally Wedded Spouse of No. 15798428Y Rank Nk (DMT) Chandravir Singh, Presently Residing at B 219/220, Balaji Puram, Mathura, Aurangabad Khadar, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh 281006.have changed my Name from Kavita To Kumari Kavita.

I, Om Ji Thakur also known as Abhinay Thakur S/o Dev Raj R/o H.No. 8-E, Master Tara Singh Nagar Jalandhar have changed my name from Om Ji Thakur to Abhinay Thakur.

I, Kajalpreet Kaur W/o Ajay Kumar R/o Mohalla Dharamkot, Hoshiarpur Road, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Kajalpreet Kaur to Kaur Kajalpreet Surname as Kaur

I, Avtar Chand S/o Om Parkash R/o Vill. Nangal Colony, Po. Chachoki, Teh. Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab have changed my name from Avtar Chand to Chand Avtar Surname as Chand.

I, Ringkhangsri is legally spouse of Biplab Gayary presently residing at Vill .Uttar Burikhamar, Po. Suliakata, Panbari, Distt. Chirang, State Assam, PIN -783391 have changed my name from Ringkhangsri to Ringkhangshri Gayari vide Affidavit dated 09 Aug 2024 before Executive Magistrate Jalandhar, (PB).

I, Sunita Kumari W/o No 14618360M Hav (Retd) Satpal R/o VPO. Dhesian Kahna, Jalandhar have changed my name from Sunita to Sunita Kumari & DOB from 15 Aug 1976 to 17 Feb 1967.

I, Charanjeet Kaur W/o Ram Asra R/o Chak Raju Singh, Po. Sham Chaurasi, Distt. Hoshiarpur-144105, Punjab have changed my name Spelling to Charanjit Kaur.

I, Gayatri is Legally Wedded spouse of No. 6948103-X Rank NK Nipen Basumatari presently residing at 223 ABOD C/o 56 APO, Suranussi, Jalandhar have changed my name from Gayatri to Gayatri Basimatari.

Please Noted I Surender Singh S/o Lajja Ram R/o Village Toka, PO Rattewali, Tehsil, District Panchkula, Haryana, have changed my name from Surender Singh to Salinder Singh.

as Suraj Kumar. All Concern

I, Sukhdev Kumar S/o Sh. Jagdish Kumar R/o village Munak Sub Tehsil Balla Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Sukhdev to Sukhdev Kumar. In future, I should be known and known as Sukhdev Kumar, All Concern Please Noted

I, Rashpal Singh Alias Kirpal Singh S/o Banta Singh R/o Vill Ghanga Khurd Tehsil Jalalabad (W) Distt Fazilka have Changed my Name To Kirpal Singh

I Rajpreet Kaur W/O Amrik Singh R/O H No 120 Dharmshala Wali Gali Village Duhewala Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Rampreet Kaur.

I Surta Singh S/o Didar singh R/o Hari ke tehsil patti Distt Taran Tarn have changed my name from Surata Singh to Surta singh.

I, Seema D/o Bakshish Singh # 3155, sector 56, Chandigarh, have changed my name from Seema to Simran Kaur.

## Disclaimer

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## nation 05

# **UP bypolls: BSP to fight all 10 Assembly seats, announces Mayawati**

#### PTI LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Chief Mayawati on Sunday announced that her party will field candidates in all the 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh where bypolls are going to be held. The Election Commission is

yet to declare the schedule for the by-elections to Karhal, Milkipur, Katehari, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Meerapur, Phulpur, Majhawan and Sisamau assembly seats.

In a statement, released after a meeting of the BSP's state unit district chiefs, office bearers and functionaries, the party said Mayawati reviewed the preparations for the upcoming assembly bypolls. "Ten assembly constituencies have fallen vacant after the Lok Sabha elections. No offi-

date has been made so far but activities pertaining to this are increasing continuously, especially the ruling party, BJP, and its government have made it an issue of prestige, due to which the interest of the people in the bypolls has also increased," it said. "The BSP will field its candi-

date in all these assembly constituencies, where by-elections will take place, and will contest the bypolls with full might," the statement said. By-elections were necessitated for nine seats as the MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha. The Sisamau seat fell vacant due to the disqualification SP leader Irfan Solanki as MLA after he was sentenced to jail in a criminal case. Mounting an attack on the

cial announcement of the tremendous anger among the common public as the BJP government at the Centre and in the state has not only failed in stopping rising poverty, unemployment, price rise and backwardness but has also not paid enough attention towards this.

Hence, to divert the attention of the people from these issues, they are resorting to destructive bulldozer politics (vidhvansak bulldozer raainiti), and are continuously hatching conspiracies to create new casteist and communal violence or dispute," she said. \"In this sequence, a new law on religious conversion (has been brought), subclassification of people of the SC-ST society and the creamy layer are new attempts to divide them, denying caste census, government interfer-BJP, Mayawati said, "There is



ence in the operation of the mosques-madrasas and Waqf are being done," the BSP chief said While these are happening, the poor and the hardworking people are striving to

live with self-respect and earn livelihood, she said. She said now that people are not blindly believing the intention and policy of the government, the BSP must

continue its efforts to win the their trust through its policy and principle of "bahujan hitaaye, bahujan sukhaaye". Attacking the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government on the issue of law and order, Mayawati said that in this matter, the strictness of the government is more on paper and it is ineffective on the BJP people." Earlier on Sunday, Mayawati on X said that the Congress, which won Lok Sabha seats by promising to protect reservation, seems to be in favour of sub-classification within SCs and STs and is yet to raise its voice against the issue of exclusion of the creamy layer in these communities from the benefits of

quota. Ôn August 1, the Supreme Court held that states are constitutionally empowered

to make sub-classifications within scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and batted for the creamy layer to be excluded from reservation. "The national president of the Congress (Mallikarjun Kharge) said before disclosing the party's stand on sub-classification of SCs and STs, his party will consult NGOs and lawyers and others. This makes it clear that Congress is in favour of sub-classification," Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati said in a series of posts on X in Hindi. "The Congress has spoken in a vague manner about the

these seats in the name of saving the Constitution and reservation," she said.

Mayawati also said after the BSP's press conference on Saturday, "we got to know about the statement given by the Congress president, in which the credit for reservation has been given not to Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao ambedkar but to Pandit Nehru and Gandhiji, in which there is not even an iota of truth".

"Whereas in reality the entire credit for reservation goes to Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, whom the Congress conspired to prevent from entering the Constituent assembly and also defeated in the elections. He was also forced to resign from the post of Law Minister," Mayawati said.

## Kerala Minister breaks down while consoling kin of landslide victims

## PTI

WAYANAD (KERALA)

Kerala Forest Minister A K Saseendran broke down while consoling people looking for their missing family mem-bers days after the devastating landslides in Wayanad district. The minister, who visited the landslide-hit areas, spoke to a father and son who were seen searching at the spot where their house once stood Saseendran turned emotional while listening to the painful words and concerns of the hapless family and embraced the boy to console him.

The minister himself was inconsolable while sharing their plight to the media later. "I never thought in my life that I would have to see such a sight. What reply should I give them? There is no answer to their questions...," Saseendran told reporters.

He urged everyone to work in on July 30. On Saturday, Modi unison to rebuild the lives of visited the landslides-hit Wayanad district and assured

the victims. The minister also assured survivors that the that the central government entire state and the government would "spare no effort" in helpstood by them in their most ing Kerala in relief and rehadifficult time in life. bilitation while describing the An extensive search is contintragedy as "nature displaying its uing in landslide-hit Wayanad furious form." According to the to trace those who are still state government, the landmissing in the aftermath of the slides killed 229 people, while calamity that hit the hill district over 130 are still missing

Bihar: Tributes paid to Khudiram Bose at Muzaffarpur Central Jail

#### PTI MUZAFFARPUR/PATNA

Alarge number of people gathered outside the Muzaffarpur Central Jail on Sunday to pay tributes to freedom fighter Khudiram Bose, who was hanged in the prison on this day in 1908. Bose was the youngest freedom fighter to have been hanged during the British Raj

Bose was sentenced to death for the attempted assassination of a British judge, Magistrate Douglas Kingsford, the then magistrate of Muzaffarpur, by lobbing bombs at a carriage he and his associate Prafulla Chaki suspected the British judge was travelling in. The incident led to the death of two British women. Divisional Commissioner of

Tirhut Division, Mihir Kumar



Singh, Inspector General of Police Shivdeep Wamanrao Lande, District Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, Subrata Sen, and several people from Bose's ancestral village in Habibpur in Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal and hundreds of others took part in paying tributes to the freedom fighter. Officials also garlanded a statue of the freedom fighter at the Khudiram Bose Memorial in Company Bagh where Bose had executed the

daring act, along with Prafulla Chaki. Prafulla Chaki fatally shot himself before the arrest. Khudiram Bose was arrested and put on trial for the mur-

der of the two women and was sentenced to death. He became the youngest martyr in the history of the Indian independence movement. Meanwhile, Bihar Governor

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his deputy Samrat Choudhary and several other dignitaries paid homage to those who died while attempting to hoist the Indian tricolour near Patna Secretariat on this day during the Quit India Movement.

On August 11, 1942, during the Quit India movement, seven people were killed by British forces while they were hoisting the flag near Patna Secretariat.

of Spear Corps, Manipur conflict top priority commanding formations PTI DIMAPUR

Pendharkar takes charge

creamy layer issue. Despite it

having 99 MPs, no voice was

raised in Parliament till the

adjournment to nullify the

Supreme Court's decision,

whereas this party has won

ieutenant General Abhijit S Leutenant General Leury mand of the Indian Army's elite Spear Corps on Saturday, inheriting a significant chal-lenge in the form of the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur which has claimed more than 200 lives in the past year.

Lt General Pendharkar succeeds Lieutenant General Harjeet Singh Sahi, who moves to the Army War College in Mhow as its commandant. Commissioned into the Assam Regiment in 1990, Pendharkar has held a variety of command and staff positions through an illustrious career spanning over 34 years, serving in all types of terrain and operational environment, a defence official said.

> His experience includes counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and

Prior to taking over as the head of the Spear Corps, Pendharkar served as the Director General of the Territorial Army. He is a recip-ient of the Ati Vishisht Seva

along the Line of Control.

Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, and multiple commendation awards. Lt Gen Pendharkar has held important staff appointments at all levels including a tenure at Military Operations Directorate at Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army), the official said.

The Spear Corps, the largest in the Indian Army, is responsible for maintaining security in the majority of areas in the northeastern region including the state of Manipur where ethnic violence that first started in May 2023 has claimed more than 200 lives.

## Panic over fire rumour, 6 hospitalised after jumping from train in UP

## SHAHJAHANPUR/NEW DELHI

 $S^{\rm ix\ passengers\ were\ hospi-}_{\rm talised\ after\ they\ jumped\ out}$ of a moving train in panic near Uttar Pradesh's Bilpur on Sunday following rumours of a fire, Government Railway



were admitted to the Shahjahanpur Medical College the GRP official said. Khan said Anwari (26), Akhtar (45), Kuldeep (26), Ruby Lal (50), Shiv Sharan (40) and Chandrapal (35) were hospitalised.

The railway official had earliassengers puned the chain for an emergency stop and jumped out of the train in panic while it was still moving. Prima facie, it looks like some miscreants or unruly passenger operated a fire extinguisher which created an impression that a fire had broken out in the general coach of the moving Howrah-Amritsar Mail," he had said

## Northeast wing of federation of former servicemen in banking sector formed

## PTI GUWAHATI

To press for their legal rights and provide support to col-leagues across various sectors, the Northeast wing of a pan-India body of ex-servicemen working in the banking sector has been formed, a statement on Sunday This team is set to play a crucial role in advocating for their rights, improving working conditions and fostering a supportive community for the esteemed members, it said. Samrat Shome, secretary of the regional committee, said, "There are many unique problems faced by ex-servicemen, who are working in the banking sector post-retirement from active service. There are legal rights and benefits that must be



Kushal Kumar Das was named the president and Dipankar Bharali the treasurer of the Northeast committee, formed during a meeting of All India Ex-Serviceman Bank Employees Federation here on Saturday which was attended by the president and secor the tee Praveen Kumar Sharma and Suresh Kumar respectively. Among the initiatives to be undertaken by the committee are developing new programmes to support the professional and personal needs of the members.

Earlier, Northern Railway spokesperson Kultar Singh had said that "12 passengers have been injured" The incident took place in a

general coach of the Howrah-Amritsar Mail in the morning near Bilpur station, which falls under the Moradabad division, he said.

GRP station in-charge Rehan Khan told PTI that when the train reached Bilpur station in Bareilly, a rumour spread that

the train has caught fire. jumping from the moving Someone pulled the emertrain, he said. gency chain to stop the train and some passengers started Six passengers, including two women, were injured, and they

Singh had said that the Railway Protection Force (RPF) is investigating the case.

ensured to the ex-servicemen and we will work to ensure that our members get these.'

Citing an example, he said banks have a fixed quota for recruitment of ex-servicemen, but in many cases the vacancies are not filled as per the num-

The new regional wing will also organise workshops and seminars to promote continuous learning and career growth, the statement said.

## Tripura's connectivity project with Bangladesh may be delayed: Minister

## PTI RANCHI

Tripura's connectivity pro-ject with Bangladesh - the Agartala-Akhaura rail link and Maitree bridge - may be delayed due to the political turmoil and change in government in the neighbouring country, state Transport minister Sushanta Chowdhury said. An interim government under Muhammad Yunus was formed in the neighbouring country after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5 following widespread protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs. Chowdhury said most of the connectivity projects with Bangladesh were almost complete but now not sure when they will be started.

"All the connectivity projects with Bangladesh... We are not sure when these projects which were almost completed will see the light of the day. The Agartala-Chittagong flight was to be started soon, but it has become uncertain now. The same is the condition of the Agartala-Akhaura rail link, Maitree Bridge, etc. Let us wait and watch," the Tripura Transport minister told PTI. The 12.24-long Agartala-Akhaura rail link being built at

a total cost of Rs 972.52 crore start soon. is the first railway connectivi-However, representatives of ty between India's North-East the chamber of commerce and and Bangladesh to encourage trade between the two countries.

The general manager of the Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd (IRCON), Raman Singh Singla said the 5.46 km long railway track was completed on the Indian side.

A Railway Ministry official said 98 per cent work on the 6.78 km long track in Bangladesh was already completed and the project could see the light of the day any time, but with the political turmoil and change in government in the neighbouring country, the project may be delayed.

the Indian side was funded by the Ministry of DoNER and the Bangladesh side work was implemented by the Bangladesh Railway and fund-ed by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). This project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina on November 1 last year. The Maitree bridge was inau-

intelligentsia in Tripura are of the view that trade and internal politics cannot be mixed up because international trade is beneficial for both countries. Prof Asish Nath of the Department of Economic, Tripura University said, "We

should not always mix up internal politics with trade because it is beneficial for both countries. Sheikh Hasina resigned on Monday and the country witnessed unprecedented violence, but trade resumed on Thursday through land ports". Nath said all the Tripura-Bangladesh connectivity pro-

Chamber

of

jects would be started, but it The official said the work on might take some time. The President of the Export-Import Commerce, Tripura, Nitai Saha said, "Maybe the volume of trade through all the land ports including Agartala-Akhaura and Srimantapur Integrated Check posts have reduced, but it resumed within three-four days of fall of the Awami League government. I have no doubt that trade will start in full swing and all the

gurated long back and moveconnectivity projects will be ments of passenger and goodslaunched. Let us wait for some laden trucks was supposed to time.

TN Congress to hold tricolour marches, flays BJP for 'attempt to appropriate' national flag

## PTI CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President K Selvaperunthagai on Sunday tasked his party office-bearers with holding tricolour marches on two-wheelers and through padayatras and hit out at the BJP for what he described as an attempt to 'appropriate' the national flag by conducting Tiranga yatras. Selvaperunthagai said no force including the BJP can break the bond the Congress party has with the tricolour and everyone has a right to hoist the national flag on Independence day and celebrate. In a statement, the Congress party leader said the BJP is making attempts to appropriate the tricolour by holding tricolour rallies in states, which are not a usual practice, but based on PM Narendra Modi's recent appeal. From August 12 to 15, Selvaperunthagai said district Congress committee presidents should organise 'tricolour motorcycle rallies' in their respective district headquarter towns. In villages and talukas, padayatras should be conducted by holding the national flag. In such celebratory events,

the connect and bond the Congress party has with the national flag should be

explained to the people by tracing the freedom movement, the role played by Gandhiji and the party's pivotal role.

The TNCC leader alleged that the RSS, the parent organisation of the BJP had not hoisted the national flag for 52 years. Only on August 15, 1947 and on January 26, 1950 the national flag was hoisted at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, he said. After a gap of 52 years, the national flag was hoisted by the RSS only on January 26, 2001, Selvaperunthagai claimed. Therefore, the RSS boycotted and insulted the national flag and now the BJP is attempting to appropriate it and it is a 'conspiracy'.

On August 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked people to make "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign a memorable mass movement.

He also replaced his profile picture with the national flag and urged them to do the same. Following this, the BJP announced Tiranga yatras (Tricolour marches) from August 11 to 14.

## Villages in Vadodara alerted as Sardar Sarovar dam level rises

ber of jobs assured for them.

'We will take up such instances

and ensure our members are

The newly formed committee

will also provide support to ex-

servicemen engaged in other

sectors as well, Shome said.

not deprived," he said.

## PTI 📕 AHMEDABAD

The Vadodara administra-L tion on Sunday alerted 25 villages in the district after release of water from the Omkareshwar dam in Madhya Pradesh and heavy rains led to a rise in the Sardar Sarovar dam level in Gujarat's Narmada district.

> Residents of these villages have been asked not to venture near the Narmada river bed, officials said.

As the Sardar Sarovar dam level rose due to inflow following heavy rainfall in the catchment areas upstream and release of water from the Omkareshwar dam in neighbouring MP, authorities opened nine radial gates of the Gujarat-based reservoir by 1.50 metres, they said. The Sardar Sarovar dam recorded a level of 134.75 metres on Sunday morning as against the full reservoir level of 138.68 metres, an official from the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited said. The dam's water level rose by 3.5 metres in the last 24 hours, he said.

"A total of 1,35,000 cusecs (cubic foot per second) of water will be released in the Narmada river through the River Bed Power House (RBPH) that produces hydro-



electricity, and the opening of nine radial gates of the Sardar Sarovar dam," an official statement said.

Vadodara's in-charge collector Mamata Hirpara said authorities were maintaining a vigil and precautionary measures have been taken in 25 villages under Shinor, Dabhoi and Karajan talukas of the district. These villages are located along the Narmada river banks in Vadodara district, and local administration has been instructed to keep an eye on the situation and take precaution-

ary measures, she said. Keeping in mind the possibility of more water release from the Narmada dam upstream, the district administration has appealed to residents of the 25 villages not to venture near the river bed, the collector said. The district administration is taking all measures to avoid any accident or casualty in lowlying areas of the Sardar Sarovar dam, she added.

The Sardar Sarovar project is one of the largest water resources project in India covering four major states -Maharashtra, MP, Gujarat and Rajasthan

The dam's spillway discharging capacity (30.7 lakh cusecs) would be third highest in the world, as per the project website.Rains continued in parts of south and central Gujarat districts in the last 24 hours, with the state receiving 70.35 per cent of the annual average rainfall.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Catastrophe revisited**

Prime Minister Modi visits Wayanad, pledges full Central Government support for recovery efforts

rime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited Wayanad, Kerala, which was devastated by landslides that left more than 200 dead. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a review meeting after conducting an aerial and ground survey of the landslide-hit areas in Wayanad. Recalling the devastating 1979 Morbi dam disaster in Gujarat, Modi empathised with the affected residents, assuring them of full support from the central government. During his day-long visit to Wayanad, Modi surveyed the destruction caused by the July 30 landslides. Modi's visit included a trek through the severely impacted Chooralmala region, where he assessed the damage and interacted with rescue personnel, officials, and residents. He also visited a relief camp in Meppadi, offering comfort to survivors, including children who had lost family members. PM Modi emphasised the need for better preparedness and resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impact of such natural disasters in the future.



Wayanad is perhaps the worst hit as the incessant rains triggered landslides, damaging homes and infrastructure and causing extensive agricultural losses. The region's economy, heavily dependent on agriculture and tourism, has been severely impacted, with farmers facing significant losses and tourists staying away due to the adverse weather conditions. However, Wayanad is not the only place that has endured losses. This year's monsoon has brought unprecedented destruction across the country. From north to south, no region has been spared from the monsoon fury. The Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have also endured losses. Torrential rains,

landslides, and flash floods have resulted in significant loss of life and property. In Himachal Pradesh, an entire village was tragically wiped off due to a deluge after a cloudburst. The heavy rainfall has also caused rivers to overflow, leading to widespread flooding and disruption of daily life in the plains. Roads have been washed away, leaving many remote areas inaccessible, and thousands of people have been displaced from their homes. The increasing frequency and intensity of monsoon-related disasters in India can be attributed to a combination of factors, including climate change, deforestation, and unplanned urbanisation. India must continue to invest in and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy sources. International cooperation is also crucial in addressing the climate change. Besides, ensuring that development projects, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas like the Himalayas must be properly evaluated before being commissioned. This includes stricter regulations on construction and deforestation. In the given scenario what is of utmost importance is preparedness—strengthening disaster management capabilities at the local, state, and national levels. This includes improving early warning systems, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and conducting regular disaster preparedness drills.



# When heroes defy their legacies



SANTHOSH MATHEW

History is a tapestry of contradictions and ironies, offering few clear heroes or villains. Instead, it presents figures whose actions and legacies are deeply intriguing

istory, much like a tapestry, is interwoven with threads of contradiction, paradox, and irony. It refuses to offer a simplistic narrative of heroes and villains, instead presenting us with figures whose actions and legacies are often at odds. Even as we try to categorize these individuals within neat labels, the complexities of their lives and the contexts in which they lived often defy such easy classifications. In delving into these paradoxes, we uncover the profound dichotomies that have shaped our world. Here, we explore some of the most striking examples of such contradictions.

The Pulitzer Prize is one of the most prestigious awards in journalism, representing the pinnacle of recognition for investigative reporting, public service, and literary achievement.

It stands as a symbol of journalistic integrity and excellence. Yet, the man behind this esteemed award, Joseph Pulitzer, was a pioneer of "yellow journalism"-a style characterized by sensationalism, exaggeration, and a sometimes tenuous relationship with the truth. Pulitzer's newspapers, including the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the New York World, became synonymous with this sensationalist style, prioritising scandal, shock, and spectacle over factual reporting.

Pulitzer was, in many ways, a shrewd businessman who used his media empire to captivate, excite, and often inflame public opinion.Yet, despite his role in fostering yellow journalism, Pulitzer's legacy is paradoxically one of promoting journalistic excellence.

The award that bears his name has honoured countless journalists who have exposed corrup tion, championed the underdog, and stood as defenders of truth against tyranny. The irony is profound: a man who built his career on sensationalism is now celebrated as a patron of journalistic integrity. This duality high-lights the complexities of human nature and the ever-evolving landscape of media. The Nobel Prizes, particularly the Nobel can be found in the story of



Peace Prize, embody the highest aspirations of humanity. They honour individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the betterment of the world through science, literature, and the pursuit of peace. However, the man behind these prestigious awards, Alfred Nobel, accumulated his wealth from an invention that has caused immense destruction: dynamite.

Nobel's invention revolutionized construction and engineering, but it also became a powerful tool in warfare. The devastating impact of dynamite weighed heavily on Nobel's conscience.

It is said that his decision to establish the Nobel Prize was influenced by a premature obituary that labelled him "the merchant of death" after his invention became synonymous with violence and destruction.By creating the Nobel Prizes, particularly the Peace Prize, Nobel sought to reshape his legacy from one of destruction to one of hope and

progress. Yet, the contrast between his contribution to the proliferation of powerful weapons and his desire to reward peace-

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019. Abiy was recognized for his efforts in resolving the long-standing conflict with neighbouring Eritrea, earning international acclaim as a peacemaker. However, within two years of receiving the JINNAH'S prize, Abiy found himself leading his nation into a bru-PERSONAL tal civil war. The conflict in Ethiopia's LIFE WAS FAR Tigray region has been REMOVED marked by atrocities, displacement, and a humanitarian

FROM THE crisis of staggering proportions. STRICT RELIGIOUS United The States VALUES THAT Constitution and the Bill of Rights are celebrated as mon-WOULD LATER umental achievements in the history of human rights, COME TO enshrining the principles of freedom, equality, and justice. Thomas Jefferson, one of the **DEFINE THE COUNTRY HE** Founding Fathers and the principal author of the FOUNDED. Declaration of Independence, JINNAH WAS A played a crucial role in shaping these foundational docu-HIGHLY ments. Yet, Jefferson was also a slave owner who, during his WESTERNISED lifetime, owned over 600 INDIVIDUAL WHO enslaved people.

This glaring contradiction reminds us that even the between his public advocacy for liberty and his private practice of slavery has sparked intense debate among historians and scholars. Jefferson's writings espoused ideals of

freedom and human dignity, vet he continued to benefit from an institution that deprived others of these very rights.

Similarly, Muhammad Ali Jinnah is revered as the founding father of Pakistan, the world's first Islamic republic. He is celebrated for his role in establishing a nation for Muslims in the Indian subcontinent, based on the idea of Muslim nationalism.

However, Jinnah's personal life was far removed from the strict religious values that would later come to define the country he founded.Jinnah was a highly WesterniSed individual who enjoyed the finer things in life. He was known to smoke cigars, drink alcohol, and reportedly favoured pork-a practice contrary to Islamic teachings. His second wife, Maryam, was a Parsi, and his only daughter, Dina, married a Parsi as well, sparking considerable controversy given his public role as a Muslim leader. These episodes remind us that even the greatest leaders are not without their contradictions. In the end, history greatest of icons are not

THINGS IN LIFE

ENJOYED THE FINER

immune to contradictionis in their complexity that their true humanity shines through. (The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)

An elderly woman spins tricolour yarns ahead of the Independence Day in Nadia district

## A Heartfelt reflection on the changing face of Nainital



Over the decades, relentless deforestation and unchecked construction have turned Nainital's once verdant landscapes into tinderboxes

ummers were harsh this year. Fire rained from the Skies. Cities were burn-So were the ing. mountains.My first holiday to the mountains was in the summer of 1970. We boarded the train in the evening, excited about the trip.

The first glimpse of the distant mountains the next morning kept us awake for the remaining journey, as the faint outlines turned prominent.The bus ride from the railway station was equally exciting. Sometimes we travelled hugging the mountains, and at other times we looked down with fear, as the bus moved literally at the edge of the road.

After what felt like an impatiently long time, as we turned a bend, I gasped looking with awe at the majestic lake spread out before me. We had arrived at Nainital. I had fallen in love with the hills. I would return several times in the following years, till I realised that there were many other equally beautiful hills to explore. Things started changing fast. My first view in the summer of 1970 faded into a fond memory, which I would often draw upon to mourn a lost



time. I still remember very then for a better part of the vividly the green shades covyear.

was unaware of the ecologering the hills, even in the summers, much before the ical disaster that was in the onset of monsoons. There making at that stage in life. However, I could intuitively was not even a speck of brown visible beneath the sense that it was not somethick curtain of foliage. I also thing desirable. A few wilddo not remember the presfires in earlier years started increasing in numbers and ence of fans, coolers, refrigerators, much less air conditionintensity. It was easy to attribute these to the locals ers. The only cooling devices were the soft ice-cream setting off accidental fires. The high and mighty of the machines along the Mall road. land are seldom blamed. The subsequent visits were a stark contrast. We could see Wildfires in the mountains the rapid pace of deforestation are not new; but not to the and the mushrooming of extent that they now ravage. construction activities along A trickle in the previous centhe roads. There was a hazy tury is now a raging river. Fires in the Nainital region curtain of dust as dumpers carried their load from the alone engulfed vast tracts of innumerable quarries in the land even entering residential hills. Fans started making areas. Other mountains in the their entry in homes and north also faced the same fate. Even the plains are not

days in peak summers, and immune to the rapid march

hotels, initially only for a few

of unplanned urbanisation and the greed of the unscrupulous. I remember going to view Ram Lila wearing half-sleeved sweaters. We would wait with baited breaths for Diwali. However warm it was the previous day, we would invariably take out heavier woollens from Diwali. With time, winters started setting in later than we were used to.Our beautiful planet is nudging us with innumerable omens to wake up and look after her.

Hills are sinking under the heavy burden of unplanned construction of houses, hotels, and resorts. Sea levels are going up. Many coastal cities may submerge over the next few decades. Water tables are fast going down resulting in conflicts for drinking water.We need to act to live a better future for the coming generations. Let us remember British historian, explorer and activist Robert Swan, 'The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

### 

## **BAIL NOT JAIL SHOULD BE THE NORM**

Madam - Recently, while an assistant director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was swiftly remanded to CBI custody over a bribery charge involving Rs 20 lakhs from a Mumbai-based jeweler, the ongoing case of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia raises serious concerns. Despite being accused of money launder-ing in the Delhi excise policy scam, Sisodia has languished in jail for 17 months without any progress toward a trial, as observed by the Supreme Court.

The Court emphasised that personal liberty is paramount, and delaying bail without commencing the trial is unacceptable, leading to Sisodia's release on bail. This case highlights a troubling disparity in the justice system: while some accused individuals evade legal consequences due to the laxity of investigative agencies and courts, others, potentially innocent, remain imprisoned for years, leaving their families to suffer. As we have seen in numerous cases, delayed justice is effectively denied justice. A P Thiruvadi Chenai

### HATS OFF TO INDIAN OLYMPIC SQUAD

Madam- Hats off to the Indian Hockey team for regaining it's past international glory via winning a medal in the Paris -Olympics - 2024. Their defeating the great - proven - teams such as Australia and England elucidates their resolve, dedication, determination. It could not enter the final and had to settle for bronze (due to sheer bad luck of the day). This is the 13th Olympic medal for India in hockey (8 gold, 1silver, 4bronze).

Arman Sherawat's bronze in wrestling, cooled the hearts of Indians, which otherwise wallowed in pain over the disqualification of Vinesh Phogat, (the gold medal sure shot).

Hats off to the Indian magnificent 6, who won 5 bronze medals and 1 silver in the Paris Olympics - 2024. Also kudos to all the national and international participants of the prestigious grand gala Olympics (sports festival).

## A world in turmoil

ground in the conflict. Across Europe, a similar surge sees immigrants clashing with native populations. But the most alarming development this week has been the chaos and coup in our neighboring country-once a close friend and an Islamic nation that upheld peaceful coexistence among all religions, now plunged into turmoil. These are difficult times where unrests and upheavals have become order of the day.

Amidst this global unrest, our own opposition leaders are calling for insurrection, openly demanding the removal of our elected Prime Minister. These are the same voices that champion democracy and preach about love. Yet, we believe that Indians will never tread that destructive path. We stood strong during the Emergency, showing our love for the nation and our willingness to fight for it if necessary. **C K Subramaniam** | *Bengaluru* 

not just in sports but in every field. If the sports administration could not find a single alternative between Tokyo and Paris then it's an utter failure (sadly Vinesh Phogat's golden hope mar by 100 gram over weight) for the sports authority. Among Indians Neeraj Chopra is a champion player but what he failed to do is to up his game and cross 90m during the last four years. It is a classic case of a person sitting on his laurels and not pushing himself. Last 4 years he has not even crossed 90m marks once and the government has spent (Rs. 5,21,72,457 crore) so much money on him. One has to agree that 8th August was the Pakistani's day but fact is that Nadeem crossed 90m earlier and today in the crucial moment he did it twice while winning the gold. He had not even half the support that Neeraj got. India stands behind Pakistan in the medal tally at Olympics. What else, wondering, though t's sports!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**NEERAJ WINS SILVER** 

to note is that India is very poor in suc-

Kudos to Indian winners: 3 shooters: cession planning and finding alternatives,

he world seems to be in flames. In the UK. violent clashes between communities are intensifying, with immigrants gaining

Manu, Sarabjot, Swapnil Kusale, wrestler Aman Sehrawat and the hockey team for the 5 bronze medals, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra for the silver medal (for the athletic 89.45 m throw).

PV Srinivas Sreelekha |Secunderabad

Madam - India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinched a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, performing in front of an enthusiastic crowd at Stade de France. Neeraj's throw of 89.45m earned him second place on the podium. Although it was his best performance of the season, it wasn't enough to secure gold, which went to Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem with a throw of 92.97m, (will be hard to beat in the near future) setting a new Olympic record. It's a pity for 145 crore Indian that we have not won a single gold but we plan to hold the Olympics in India! It is quite evident that Neeraj Chopra has given his best (though too much pressure of expectations was put on the guy). But the most important thing

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# **FIRSTCOLUMN** HAVE A INTREPID AND ROBUST MINDSET

Through spiritual practices, one can find strength to continue the journey of life



## RAVI VALLURI

lways be associated with people who are good at heart. This is what Swami Vivekananda said.My mother shares her birthday with Swami Vivekananda who was born on 12th January 1863. Association, Sangha, and Satsang were her strong points. She nurtured strong bonds with all religious faiths and spiritually inclined people.She wanted to pursue medicine but life did not take that trajectory instead she became a qualified medical social worker. She used to tell patients and their children, 'Fear is only as deep as the mind allows.' Thus, patients afflicted with TB, but not bedridden, participated in the projects. This was what she called 'Diversionary Therapy'.

The TB Hospital became a unique template for the methods adopted by doctors, para-medic staff, social workers, government bodies and NGOs, all to contribute to the rehabilitation of the patients. Climate changes, civilizations collapse, governments change political affiliations alter and even the best possible model collapses. This is inevitable. As Buddha says, 'The only permanent thing in life is impermanence.' The lofty objectives were not approved by a new set of hospital administrators and the beacon of hope collapsed but she tried hard with a robust mindset. This was extremely traumatic for my mother and she became a patient of Paroxysmal Atrial Tachycardia (PAT). This is a type of arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat).

Paroxysmal means that the episode of arrhythmia originates and terminates abruptly. Atrial implies the arrhythmia starts with the atria or in the upper chambers of the heart. The tachycardia results in a signifi-



cant increase in the heartbeat per minute. It abnormally increases the pace, like in an athlete on a treadmill. PAT significantly increases the heartbeat of an adult from the normal 60 to 100 to 130 to 230 and among infants and children, it shoots up from 100 to 130 to 220 beats per minute.It is accompanied by sweating, dizziness, palpitations, angina and acute breathlessness.

Normally, a patient suffers from such a condition owing to emotional upheavals, physical exhaustion, deep anxiety, and consumption of caffeine or alcohol.I saw my mother suffering from this condition on several occasions and being admitted to the ICU. It was a distressing and disturbing sight. While it is not a life-threatening affliction, it certainly disorients the psychology and attitude of the patient. During her suffering, we saw her clutching onto her rosary as a lifesaver, while we prayed fervently for her recovery. She was administered medication but it worked only to an extent. The real help came in the form of a pentagon-shaped talisman. That is through Siddha Healing, Pranic Healing, the ten-day Vipassana Course and the Part 1 and Part 2 Art of Living courses. This is the unique, amazing and scientific power of the breath Breathing techniques, meditation, medication, and proper diet changed the trajectory of the life of the patient and brought back the mojo in her life. When you take a breath in, let it become your meditation that all the suffering of all the beings in the world is riding on that incoming breath and reaching your heart, and see a miracle happen,' says Osho. Till her final days, she continued with these practices. Senior citizens, those in pain and agony and even the able-bodied should undertake the courses mentioned.Swami Vivekananda took Yoga to America and spread the Ramakrishna Mission. He was the Arjuna of Shri Rama Krishna Paramhansa. My mother imbibed the trait of service to mankind by reading extensively about Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda and the Almighty God blessed her with an intrepid mind. (The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

# Populism will not let food subsidy reforms take off



analysis 07

Leakages can be curbed if the subsidy is given directly to the beneficiaries using 'direct benefit transfer' mode. The potential for reducing food subsidies is immense



n the full Budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23, 2024, the government has pegged the budget estimate (BE) food subsidy for FY 2024-25 at Rs 205,250 crore which is no different from the estimate given in the interim Budget. Though slightly lower than the revised estimate (RE) of Rs 211,394 crores for FY 2023-24, this is no consolation as invariably, the RE for any financial year turns out to be higher than the BE. For instance, while presenting the budget for FY 2023-24, Sitharaman kept the BE for food subsidy at Rs 197,000 crore. Against this, RE has turned out to be Rs 14,394 crore more. The moot point is that the expenditure incurred by the Central government during the last five years under this head has been consistently over Rs 200,000 crore mark every year 2020-21: Rs 529,000 crore; 2021-22: Rs 372,000 crore; 2022-23: Rs 287,000 crore; 2023-24: Rs 211,394 crores and 2024-25: Rs 205,250 crore (BE).

During 2024-25, food subsidy will account for 4.2 per cent of its budget (Rs 4820,000 crore), 5.5 per cent of its revenue expenditure (Rs 3709,000 crore) and consume near ly 8 per cent of its estimated net tax receipts (Rs 2583,000 crore). Reining in food subsidy is no less important than the goal it seeks to achieve namely providing 'food security'. The uncontrolled rise in the former leads to an unsustainable increase in fiscal deficit (excess of total receipts over total expenditure) which can injure the economy in multiple ways through high inflation, high interest rates, a slowdown in growth, fewer jobs, low incomes and so on. This, in turn, can lead to a demand for higher financial assistance including food subsidies from the government thereby exacerbating the vicious cycle. There exists a huge scope for reducing food subsidies. To assess this, at the outset, let us Under the see how it is administered. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the Centre asks the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmers at MSP (minimum support price) and organize its distribution to around 820 million people for free.



SUBSIDY IS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE GOAL IT SEEKS TO ACHIEVE NAMELY **PROVIDING 'FOOD** SECURITY'. THE UNCONTROLLED

The entire cost i.e. MSP paid to farmers plus handling and distribution cost (HDC) is reimbursed to the FCI/other state agencies as a subsidy. The money comes from the Union Budget's allocation for 'food subsidy'. While, the PMGKAY has been in force since January 1, 2023, before that, the Centre was giving food to 820 million persons (7 kg of cereals per person per month to 120 million poorest of the poor persons covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana or AAY families and five kg of cereals per person per month to the remaining 700 million) at a heavily subsidized price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). In addition, since April 2020, it has given 5 kg of food per person per month for "free" to all 820 million beneficiaries under PMGKAY to mitigate the conse-quences of Covid-19 pandemic. From January 1, 2023, it merged the

Further, during the last nine-anda-half years of the incumbent government, 250 million persons have come out of poverty (as per a recent report by Niti Aayog). These per-sons can be excluded from the list of beneficiaries.

Doing a back-of-the-envelope calculation, giving free food to a mil-lion persons entails a subsidy of Rs 200 crore per annum. Excluding 250 million will help save Rs 50,000 crore. The existing beneficiaries list of 820 million is based on 2011 Census estimates while the Supreme Court (SC) has directed that the Centre should take into account the population during 2021. On this basis, it needs to give free food to an additional 100 million.

That will cost Rs 20,000 crore. Even after providing for this, it will save Rs 30,000 crore annually. Second, why every beneficiary should get free food? The Shanta Kumar Committee had recommended that non-AAI persons should pay 50 per cent of the MSP. Other than AAY are 700 million persons. Minus 250 million (who shouldn't get a subsidy at all) and adding 100 million (as per SC order), we get 550 million. Making them pay 50 per cent of MSP or Rs 11.4 per kg (wheat), will save Rs 37,600 crore annually. Third, the NFSA legislation enacted in 2013 required beneficiaries to pay Rs  $2/3/\hat{1}$  per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals. It froze these rates for three years. Since 2016, there has been no legal bar on increasing the price. Yet, far from increasing, the Modi - government has reduced the price to zero. Are they all (read: 820 million persons) so poor that they can't pay even a fraction of the cost (in the case of wheat at Rs 2 per kg, it is 1/15th)? Even if you make them pay a notional Rs 1 per kg, this will yield savings of Rs 5000 crore per annum. Fourth, the initial idea under the

Scheme was that FCI et al would buy only the quantity needed for meeting beneficiaries' requirements under NFSA plus maintain some 'strategic' buffer to meet emergencies.

It was never meant to be an 'openended' procurement which it has become today. This has also contributed to the avoidable increase in subsidy besides stocking problems. Shunning 'open-ended' purchases can yield significant savings. Fifth, currently, FCI/state agencies are paid HDC on an 'actual' basis. This leads to payment for inefficiencies in the system and even cost padding.

The stories of loaders being paid hefty salaries by the FCI are still fresh in memory. A shift from 'actual' to reimbursement of cost to agencies on a 'normative' basis can save a lot of subsidy. Finally, the availability of a mammoth of around 60 million tons (the quantity distributed under the PMGKAY) in the supply chain with zero price tag is an open invitation to dubious operators to siphon off and sell in the open market raking in a moolah. The PDS scam in West Bengal involving the diversion of subsidized food grains worth tens of thousands of crore currently under investigation by the central agencies provides a classic example. This can be curbed if the subsidy is given directly to the beneficiaries using DBT (direct benefit transfer) mode. The potential for reducing food subsidies is immense. The government can go for any of the above measures or all of them depending on how much savings it targets. But, ALAS under the current political scenario, Modi won't dare to take even a baby step like charging a notional price of Rs 1 per kg.

free part of PMGKAY with the reg RISE IN THE ular food security schemes under NFSA FORMER LEADS

Now, food is available to all 820 mil-TO AN lion beneficiaries for free under the new incarnation of NFSA namely UNSUSTAINABLE the PMGKAY. This arrangement will continue for five years till the end of CY 2028 as per the **INCREASE IN** FISCAL DEFICIT announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November (EXCESS OF 2023. Avenues for saving in subsidyFirst, fundamentally, subsi-TOTAL RECEIPTS dized food is meant for the poor. **OVER TOTAL** The number of poor isn't more than 15 – 20 per cent of India's popula-**EXPENDITURE**) tion. Yet, the number of beneficiaries under the PMGKAY at 820 WHICH CAN million works out to nearly 59 per INJURE THE cent of the population. Even as per the Shanta Kumar Committee ECONOMY IN (2015), the number of people eligible for subsidized food under NFSA shouldn't be more than 40 MULTIPLE WAYS per cent. The excess of 19 per cent comes to around 270 million.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## Implications of upheaval in Bangladesh on its trade relations relations with India

The sudden turn of events have raised concerns about the potential impact on trade, economic stability, and the broader geopolitical dynamics of the region

imports

nince Sheikh Hasina assumed office as the OPrime Minister of Bangladesh in 2009, the country has been a key ally of India. Her leadership has seen significant progress in bilateral relations, with a focus on infrastructure, connectivity, and trade. However, the recent political crisis in Bangladesh has raised concerns about the

future of this partnership. On January 8, 2024, Sheikh Hasina declared that boosting the country's economy would be her top priority for the next five years. Yet, by August 2024, the nation was engulfed in violent demonstrations over a quota system for government positions, leading to a deepening domestic political crisis. As tensions escalated, Sheikh Hasina resigned and sought



ADITYA PRATAP SINGH

refuge in India, raising concerns about the stability of Bangladesh and its impact on Indo-Bangladesh relations. The Evolution of Indo-**Bangladesh Relations** Over the past decade, India

and Bangladesh have fostered strong economic ties, with infrastructure and connectivity projects playing a crucial role in strengthening their relationship. Since 2016, India has extended \$8 billion in saw a flourishing of com- year. Indian exporters have

credit to Bangladesh for the development of road, rail, shipping, and port infrastructure. The two nations have also engaged in various areas of commerce, including medical tourism, business expansion, and the international garment trade. Bangladesh, a major player in the global garment

ton imports from India. The textile and garment sectors account for 56% of Bangladesh's total exports to India, making it a vital trading partner in South Asia. In the financial year 2023-24, bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$13 billion, according to the Union Ministry of Commerce. The Impact on Trade Sheikh Hasina's leadership

merce between India and Bangladesh, leading to a significant trade surplus for India. However, the ongoing political turmoil in Bangladesh threatens to disrupt this economic partnership. The civil unrest and worsening economic situation have created security concerns that could impact industry, relies heavily on cot-Indian exports, commerce, and infrastructure projects in the neighboring nation. One of the major challenges will be on the bilateral trade front. After reaching \$12.21 billion in 2022-23, India's exports to Bangladesh dropped to \$11 billion in 2023-24. Similarly,

Bangladesh's

decreased from \$2 billion in

the previous year to \$1.84 bil-

lion in the most recent fiscal

voiced concerns about the situation in Bangladesh, fearing that the instability in the country will negatively affect commerce between the two nations. A significant scarcity of dollars

in Bangladesh, as noted by the think tank GTRI, has already curtailed the country's ability to import goods, particularly from India.

Uncertainty Surrounding the Free Trade Agreement

In October 2023, India and Bangladesh discussed the possibility of a free trade agree-ment (FTA) during a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade meeting in Dhaka. An FTA could streamline regulations, encourage investment and commerce, and potentially remove customs tariffs, boosting trade between the two countries. According to a 2012 World Bank working paper, a full-product FTA could enhance Bangladesh's exports to India by 182%, while a partial FTA might grow them by 134%. This would contribute to strengthening Bangladesh's trade transport infrastructure and commerce links, leading to a significant rise in exports. However, the current political crisis has cast doubt on the

future of the FTA proposals. Sheikh Hasina's exit might slow or pause this development, affecting the expansion of commerce and trade in new areas between the two nations.

### Challenges for the Textile and Garment Industry

The ongoing crisis in Bangladesh could also have a negative impact on other sec-tors, particularly the textile and garment industry. In the fiscal year 2021-2022, Bangladesh exported garments worth \$42.613 billion, solidifying its position as the second-largest apparel exporter globally. However, the recent incidents of factories being set on fire have raised concerns about the future of this industry. Many of these textile units are owned by traders associated with the

Awami League Party, making them particularly vulnerable in the current political climate. While India has the potential to step in and provide garments to developed economies, there are certain drawbacks to this shift. Bangladesh, as a Least Developed Country, benefits from zero-duty advantages, while Indian goods face tariff barriers. If borders remain closed and duty-free exportimport activities are suspended, there is a possibility of increased demand for Indian garments. However, it is still too early to make definitive predictions about the opportunities and gains that might arise from this situation. (The author is a PhD scholar at HBTU, Kanpur; views are personal)



## world 08

# **'Bringing eco on track priority'**

The top priority of Bangladesh's interim government is to bring the economy back on track and restore the people's trust in the banks, finance and planning adviser Salehuddin Ahmed has said. Former Bangladesh Bank gov ernor Ahmed was entrusted with the charge of the finance and planning ministries by interim leader Muhammad Yunus, who announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors on Friday. The interim government led by the 84-year-old Nobel laureate was formed after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5 following widespread protests against her government over a controversial quota system in iobs

Talking to reporters on Saturday for the first time after assuming office, Ahmed said the government's priority is to restore the trust of common people in the banks while resuming the operations of the central bank.

"Then we'll work on bringing reforms," state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) quoted him as saying.

"For various reasons, the coun-try's economy has slowed down. Our goal will be to revive the economy as quickly as possible. Once the economy comes to a standstill, it becomes quite difficult to restart it. We do not want it to come to a halt," he said.

"There are various problems in the economy. There are issues with the banking sector, inflation, and many other complexities. We will need to work on all fronts," the Dhaka Tribune newspaper quoted him as say-ing. Asserting that they have been given the responsibility during a "critical time" for the country, he said, "At this time, it's not just about law and order or security measures; opening banks, keeping ports operational-everything needs to be given equal importance." He added that it would not take much time to resume the basic operations of the banking sector. "Already the operations are there, but there were some

He said the interim govern-ment wants to establish an deviations at the middle of the operations...the operations



A student paints a new graffiti on a street wall at Dhaka University campus in Dhaka, Bangladesh

reported.

he said

adviser

have been avoided.

for

## B'desh interim govt warns media shutdown for misleading news lets would face closure if they

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Bangladesh's interim gov-ernment on Sunday issued a stern warning to media organisations, stating that they will be shut down if they publish or broadcast false or misleading news, in a move aimed at curbing the spread of misinformation.

"A nation falters when the media does not uphold the truth," the interim govern-ment's Home Affairs Adviser, Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, said during his visit to injured policemen at Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital. He warned that the media out-

were not at all derailed, rather slowed down a little bit. We'll enhance the pace," he said.

Telecommunications, and provided misleading news, Information Technology, said action will be taken against the Dhaka Tribune newspaper officials involved in the inter-Criticising the media for not net shutdown during the recent student protests. presenting the truth, Hossain said, "A country deteriorates Talking to journalists on the when the media fails to report first day of joining his office at honestly," and argued that had the Secretariat on Sunday, Nahid emphasised that those responsible for the internet the media accurately reported events, the current situation shutdown during the protests involving the police might will face consequences, the The media often ignores the Daily Star newspaper reporttruth...There is a lack of subed. He said access to the internet is a right and disrupting or shutting it down is a violation stantive discussion on talk shows, and the media fails to of human rights. Nahid assertprovide accurate information," ed that the indiscriminate Meanwhile, Nahid Islam, internet shutdowns will no Posts, longer be tolerated.

"equal and just-based society" Rouf Talukder tendered his and to ensure increasing resignation, citing personal incomes while reducing inflareasons. His resignation is part tion. On Friday, the governor of Bangladesh Bank Abdur of a broader wave of departures from various institutions of

the country following the recent fall of the Hasina-led government.

government. Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan also tendered his resignation, five days after the fall of Hasina's regime amid massive street protests and students marching towards the

apex court demanding a revamp of the judiciary. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on Monday, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-

The crisis in Bangladesh, which is a crucial market for Indian textiles, poses "significant concerns" for India's textile and apparel sector, according to the Confederation of Indian

Textile Industry. The textile industry body believes that any supply disrup-tion in Bangladesh will have an immediate impact on the supply chain, potentially affecting production schedules and delivery timelines of Indian firms

## Refaat Ahmed sworn in as B'desh new chief justice

### PTI 📕 DHAKA

Syed Refaat Ahmed was sworn in as Bangladesh's new chief justice on Sunday, a day after Obaidul Hassan stepped down as the top judge following an ultimatum by the protesters demanding a revamp of the judiciary.

Hassan and five other judges of the apex Appellate Division on Saturday tendered their resignation, five days after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime amid massive street protests.

His resignation came as pro testers of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement gathered at the apex court premises. The students had issued an ultimatum to him and the judges of the Appellate Division to resign by 1 pm

Ahmed took oath as the new chief justice during a ceremo-ny at the Darbar Hall of the president's official residence at around 12.45 pm local time, The Daily Star newspaper

President Shahabuddin on Saturday appointed Justice Ahmed as the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh.

Several top officials in Bangladesh, including Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Maksud Kamal and Bangla Academy Director General Professor Dr Md Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari, resigned from their posts in the wake of new protests by students and other demonstrators. Meanwhile, Dr Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar and Suprodip Chakma were sworn in on Sunday as the members of the council of advisers of Bangladesh's interim government led by Nobel laureate Prof

Dr Muhammad Yunus. President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath of office to Poddar and Chakma while Chief Adviser Dr Yunus witnessed the cere-mony at Darbar Hall of the presidential palace Bangabhaban' here, state-run BSS news agency reported.

## Schoolchildren in UK to be trained in spotting fake news

Mohammed

Prof

Shahabuddin administered the

oath to the chief justice. The

oath-taking ceremony was con-

ducted by Cabinet Secretary

Mahbub Hossain, the report

Adviser

Muhammad Yunus, who was sworn in on Thursday as the

head of an interim government

following the ouster of Hasina,

also attended the event.

reported.

said.

Chief

President

### 

Cchoolchildren will be taught Show to spot extremist content and fake news online under proposed changes to the curriculum in the wake of far-right riots across UK cities fuelled by misinformation on social media. UK Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson told 'The Daily Telegraph' on Sunday that she is launching a review of the cur-riculum in both primary and secondary schools to embed critical thinking across multiple subjects and arm children against "putrid conspiracy theories". It means schoolchildren may analyse articles in English lessons to help learn how to weed out fabricated clickbait from accurate reporting. "It's more important than ever that we give young people the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge what they see online," Phillipson told the newspaper. "That's why our curriculum review will develop plans to embed critical skills in lessons to arm our children against the disinformation, fake news and putrid conspiracy theories awash on social media," she said.

"Our renewed curriculum will always put high and rising standards in core subjects first that's non-negotiable. But alongside this we will create a broad, knowledge-rich curriculum that widens access to cultural subjects and gives pupils the knowledge and skills they need to thrive at work and throughout life," she added.

The move came as the chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, cautioned in an article in the newspaper over disinformation being widely shared on social media sites during the recent violent clashes. "What has struck me during the disorder is how vulnerable we all are to disinformation and vile hatred online. We have spoken in recent

years about how to keep our children safe online, and what we have learned this week is that left unchecked misinformation and harmful posts can undermine all our safety," he writes. "How we behave online is not abstract. It has real world consequences. Perhaps we should be

deleting a lot more than we share," he added.

The riots began in Southport, the scene of the fatal stabbings in north-west England of three young girls at a holiday dance workshop on July 29, after false claims over the UK-born teenage male suspect being a Muslim refugee who arrived illegally into the country on a small boat recently spread like wildfire online. The violent clashes, blamed by Prime Minister Keir Starmer on "far-right thuggery", soon spread across different cities with tough policing action and fast-track court hearings being brought in to clamp down on the unrest.

## Harris pledges to work to end taxes on tips Trump's campaign says its emails were hacked AP LAS VEGAS

**AP** WASHINGTON

ernment or entity that attempts to undermine confidence in US democratic institutions, but said it deferred to the Justice Department on this matter. Iran's mission to the United Nations, when asked about ment officials. Court docuthe claim of the Trump camments in that case pointedly paign, denied being involved. noted a desire by Iran to con We do not accord any creduct operations against perdence to such reports," the misceived enemies of the regime sion told The Associated Press. and to avenge the killing of 'The Iranian government nei-Soleimani. ther possesses nor harbors any Politico first reported Saturday intent or motive to interfere in on the hack. The outlet reported that it began receiving emails on July 22 from an the United States presidential election. However, Iran long has been anonymous account. The suspected of running hacking source — an AOL email campaigns targeting its ene-mies in the Middle East and account identified only as appeared to be a research beyond. Tehran also long has threatened to retaliate against dossier the campaign had apparently done on the Trump over the 2020 drone strike he ordered that killed Republican vice presidential prominent Revolutionary nominee, Ohio Sen. JD Vance. Guard Gen. Qassem The document was dated Feb. Soleimani. 23, almost five months before

interference "extremely seri- inal charges against a Pakistani

my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy."

Vice President Kamala Harris promised on Saturday to work to eliminate to restaurant dent wrote TRUMP idea - She has no mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, came to Nevada as the the vice president is holding a San Francisco fundraiser that

ideas, she can only steal from me." Harris and her running final stop of a battleground blitz in which their party has shown new energy after President Joe Biden exited the race and endorsed Harris. On Sunday, has already raised more than USD 12 million, her campaign said, with House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi among



Latino, 55 per cent women and 60 per cent immigrants. "The path to victory runs through Nevada," the union said in a statement, "and the Nevada for President Kamala Harris and Vice President Tim Walz.

July.

ormer President Donald Former Presidential campaign said on Saturday that it has been hacked and suggested Iranian actors were involved in stealing and distributing sensitive internal documents. The campaign provided no specific evidence of Iran's involvement, but the claim comes a day after Microsoft issued a report detailing foreign agents' attempts to interfere in the US campaign in 2024.

It cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spearphishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a former senior advisor."

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung blamed the hack on "foreign sources hostile to the United States." A spokesperson for the National Security Council said in a statement that it takes any report of improper foreign

The US Justice Department this past week unsealed crimrunning mate.

alleged to have plotted assasworkers and other service sination attempts against politemployees, echoing a pledge ical figures in the United States, that her opponent in including potentially Trump, November, Donald Trump, has and to have sought to hire purmade, and creating a rare ported hitmen who were actuinstance of political overlap ally undercover law enforcefrom both sides.

Harris made the announcement at a rally on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where the economy relies heavily on the hotel restaurant and entertainment industries.

Trump vowed essentially the same thing at his own rally in the city in June — though neither he nor Harris are likely to be able to fully do that without actions from Congress.

"It is my promise to everyone "Robert" — passed along what here that, when I am president, we will continue our fight for working families of America, Harris said. "Including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers."

Trump responded on his social Trump selected Vance as his media site a short time later, posting that Harris "just copied those set to speak. There were 12,000-plus people inside the campus basketball arena on Saturday and, before the event started, local law enforcement opted to close the doors to the event due to people becoming ill while waiting outside to go through security in the 109-degree heat. Approximately 4,000 people were in line when the entrances were shut down.

Walz referenced that during his speech, but turned it into an

Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at a campaign rally at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on Saturday AP/PT

Nevada, "don't worry, we're going to be back a lot." As part of the trip, Harris is

hoping to build greater support among Latino voters. In 2020, Biden narrowly beat Republican Trump by 2.4 per-Biden centage points in Nevada.

Trump, the former president,

applause line by adding of tried to create more support in a state that relies on the service industry with his own, previous pledge to make workers' tips tax-free. But the union representing 60,000 workers in that industry, the Culinary Workers Union, announced its endorsement of Harris. About 54 per cent of the union's members are

Harris made her promise on eliminating tip taxation as part of a broader appeal to strengthen the nation's middle class, seizing on a theme that was a centrepiece of Biden's nowdefunct reelection bid.

"We believe in a future where we lower the cost of living for America's families so they have a chance, not just to get by, but to get ahead," she said.

AP VoteCast found in 2020 that 14 per cent of Nevada voters were Hispanic, with Biden winning 54 per cent of their votes. His margin with Hispanic voters was slightly better nationwide, a sign that Democrats cannot take this bloc of voters for granted. "There's an incredible energy here among the college students and community members who are coming together to support and listen to our next president, Kamala Harris," said Imer Cespedes-Alvarado, 21.

# Kin of Brazilian plane crash victims gather in Sao Paulo, identification process on

## AP SAO PAULO

 $F_{\text{liner crash in Brazil are}}^{\text{amilies of victims of an air-}}$ gathering Sunday at a morgue and hotels in Sao Paulo as forensics experts work to identify the remains of the 62 people killed in the accident. Local authorities said the bodies of the pilot, Danilo Santos Romano, and his co-pilot, Humberto de Campos Alencar e Silva, were the first to be identified by forensics experts. Sao Paulo state government said in a statement Saturday evening that the remains of all the victims had been recovered. There were 34 male and 28

female bodies in the wreckage, it said. The ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop operated by Brazilian

in the wreckage. Sao Paulo's morgue began airline Voepass was headed for Guarulĥos international receiving the bodies Friday

airport in Sao Paulo with 58

Portuguese.

firmed dead.

evening, and it asked victims' relatives to bring in medical, Xpassengers and four crew members when it went down ray and dental records to help identify the bodies. Blood tests Friday in Vinhedo, 78 kilometres north of the metropolis. were also done to help identi-Voepass said three passengers fication efforts.

The few family members who held Brazilian identification also carried Venezuelan speaking about the tragedy documents and one had did so on social media.

Tania Azevedo, who lost her At least eight physicians were son Tiago in the crash, was put aboard, Parana state Gov. up in one of the hotels in Sao Ratinho Junior said. Four pro-Paulo, but said in a posting that fessors at Unioeste university in she was waiting to go to the western Parana were also conmorgue

I believe Tiago is somewhere Three-year-old Liz Ibba dos trying to help the other people Santos, who was travelling with wounded who also need light and love," she said. "I couldn't her father, was the only child go there (to the morgue). I am known to be on passenger list. here waiting. It is dark here, I The remains of Luna, a dog that need some light and love was travelling with a Venezuelan family, was found myself.

Images recorded by witnesses showed the aircraft in a flat spin and plunging vertically before

smashing to the ground inside a gated community, and leaving an obliterated fuselage consumed by fire. Residents said there were no injuries on the ground.

It was the world's deadliest airline crash since January 2023, when 72 people died on a Yeti Airlines plane in Nepal that stalled and crashed while making its landing approach. That plane also was an ATR 72, and the final report blamed pilot error.

Metsul, one of Brazil's most respected meteorological companies, said Friday there were reports of severe icing in Sao Paulo state around the time of the crash. Local media cited experts pointing to icing as a potential cause for the accident. A video shared on social media channels Saturday shows a Voepass pilot telling passengers

of a flight from Guarulhos to the city of Cascavel, the same origin of the crashed plane, that the ATR 72 has flown safely around the world for decades. He also asked passengers to be respectful to the memory of his colleagues and the company and asked for prayers.

This tragedy doesn't hit only those who perished in this accident. It hits all of us," the unidentified pilot said. "We are giving all our hearts, all our best to be here and fulfil our mission to take you safely and comfortably to your destination."

Police restricted access to the main entrance of the Sao Paulo morgue where bodies from the crash were being identified. Some family members of the victims arrived on foot, others came in minivans. None spoke to journalists, and authorities requested that they not be

filmed as they came. A flight carrying more family members from Parana state landed Saturday afternoon at Guarulhos airport, and they also chose not to speak to journalists. A minivan sponsored by the airline was provided to transport them to the morgue.

Many family members were gathering at a hotel in downtown Sao Paulo, and declining to speak to media there, too. An American Eagle ATR 72-200 crashed on October 31 1994, and the US National Transportation Safety Board determined the probable cause was ice buildup while the plane was circling in a holding pattern. The plane rolled at about 8,000 feet and dove into the ground, killing all 68 people on board. The US Federal Aviation

Administration issued operating procedures for ATRs and similar planes telling pilots not to use the autopilot in icing

conditions. Brazilian aviation expert Lito Sousa cautioned that meteorological conditions alone might not be enough to explain why the Voepass plane fell in the manner it did Friday.

"Analysing an air crash just with images can lead to wrong conclusions about the causes Sousa told The Associated Press by phone.

"But we can see a plane with loss of support, no horizontal speed. In this flat spin condition, there's no way to reclaim control of the plane?

Brazil's air force said Saturday that both of the plane's flight recorders had been sent to its analysis laboratory in the capital, Brasilia. The results of its

investigations are expected to be published within 30 days, it said Marcelo Moura, director of operations for Voepass, told

reporters Friday night that while there were forecasts for ice, they were within acceptable levels for the aircraft. In an earlier statement, the Brazilian air force's centre for the investigation and prevention of air accidents said the plane's pilots did not call for help or say they were operating under adverse weather conditions.

The ATR 72, which is built by a joint venture of Airbus in France and Italy's Leonardo SpA. is generally used on shorter flights. Crashes involving various models of the ATR 72 have resulted in 470 deaths going back to the 1990s, according to a database of the Aviation Safety Network.



# Zelenskyy 'confirms' daring military incursion onto Russian soil

Days after Ukraine began a surprise military incur-sion into Russia's Kursk border region, Zelenskyy broke the government's silence on it late Saturday by indirectly acknowledging ongoing military actions to "push the war out into the aggressor's territory" in his nightly address.

Overnight into Sunday, a Russian drone and missile barrage on Kyiv killed two people including a 4-year-old boy. In Russia, Kursk's regional governor said that a Ukrainian missile shot down by Russian air defences fell on a residential building, wounding 13 people. Russia attacked Ukraine with four ballistic missiles and 57 Shahed drones, Ukraine's Air Force said. Air defences shot down 53 drones

The bodies of a 35-year old man and his son were found under rubble after fragments of missiles fell on a residential area in Kyiv's suburban Brovary district, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service on Sunday. Another three people in the district were also injured in the attack.

Serhii Popko, head of the Kviv City Military Administration said the it was the second time this month Kyiv was targeted. Popko said ballistic missiles did not reach the capital but that suburbs took the hit, while drones aiming for the capital were shot down.

Zelenskyy, citing preliminary information, said that Russia had used a North Korean missile in the strike. Ukraine and the US have previously said that Russia has used North Korean missiles in the war.

Zelenskyy reiterated calls to Western allies to step up in assistance to Ukraine, and that "to really stop Russian terror, we need not only a full-fledged air shield that will protect all our cities and communities, but also strong decisions from partners - decisions that will remove restrictions on our

defensive actions." Meanwhile, Ukraine's incursion into Russia continued for a sixth day. The largest such attack since the full-scale invasion and unprecedented for its



Russian Emergency paramedics roll a stretcher with a resident of an apartment building damaged after shelling by the Ukrainian side into an ambulance in Kursk, Russia AP/PTI on Sunday

use of Ukrainian military units on Russian soil, it caught Moscow unaware and was an

embarrassment to Russian military leaders who have scrambled to contain the breach.

remain unclear and Ukrainian military officials have adopted

The exact aims of the operation a policy of secrecy, presumably to ensure its success. Military experts have said that it is

likely intended to draw Russian reserves away from the intense fighting in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, while a presidential advisor suggested it may strengthen Kyiv's hand in any future negotiations with Russia.

Russian Foreign Ministry Zakharova said Sunday that Ukraine "understands perfect-ly well" that the recent attacks "make no sense from a military point of view."

The Kyiv regime is continuing its terrorist activity with the sole purpose of intimidat-ing the peaceful population of Russia," she added.

Kursk acting governor Aleksei Smirnov said on Sunday that a "Ukrainian sabotage and the Belovsky district the pre-vious day, but that the situa-tion had been "stabilized." In Russia, the Defense

Ministry said 35 drones were shot down overnight over the Kursk, Voronezh, Belgorod, Bryansk and Oryol regions. Ukraine has not commented on the Sunday drone attacks

inside Russia. But it comes as Ukraine has increased the pace of similar drone attacks largely targeting military infrastructure and oil depots in recent weeks.

world 09

Meanwhile, Belarus said it was sending more troops to its border with Ukraine on Saturday, saying Ukrainian drones had violated its airspace as part of Kyiv's military incursion into Russia's Kursk region.

Authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko said Belarusian air defense forces destroyed dozens of targets flying from Ukraine over the Mogilev region, which borders Russia, on Friday evening.

The Ukrainian armed forces violated all rules of conduct and violated the airspace of the Republic of Belarus. In the eastern direction, very close to us in the Kostyukovichi district," Lukashenko said at a meeting in Minsk on Saturday. Belarusian Defence Minister Viktor Khrenin said Belarus regards the violation of its airspace as a provocation and is "ready for retaliatory action?

## Israel broadens evacuation orders Bid to protect rights, religious freedoms of minorities in Pak

### AP DEIR AL-BALAH

The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday after a deadly airstrike on a schoolturned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. Israel said it targeted a militant command post,

killing 19 fighters. Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops have returned to heavily destroyed areas where they had previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced by the 10-month-old war, often multiple times.

Hundreds of thousands have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools like the one struck on Saturday. Palestinians say nowhere in the besieged territory feels safe.

The latest evacuation orders apply to areas in Khan Younis, including part of an Israelideclared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other mil-

itants of hiding among civilians and launching attacks from residential areas. Khan Younis, Gaza's secondlargest city, suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an earlier evacuation order.

Hundreds of families carrying their belongings in their arms left their homes and shelters early Sunday, seeking elusive refuge.

"We don't know where to go," said Amal Abu Yahia, a mother of three, who had returned to Khan Younis in June to shelter in their severely damaged home. "This is my fourth displacement," said the 42-yearold widow, whose husband was killed when an Israeli airstrike hit their neighbours' house in March. She said they went to Muwasi,

a sprawling tent camp along the coast, but could not find any space.

Ramadan Issa, a father of five in his 50s, fled Khan Younis with 17 members of his extended family, joining hundreds of people walking toward central Gaza early Sunday.



"Every time we settle in one place and build tents for women and children, the occupation comes and bombs the area," he said, referring to "This situation is Israel. unbearable?

Gaza's Health Ministry says the Palestinian death toll from the 10-month-old war is approaching 40,000, without aying how many were fighters. Aid groups have struggled to address the staggering humanitarian crisis in the territory, while international experts have warned of famine. The war began when Hamas-

led militants burst through Israel's defences on October 7 and rampaged through farming communities and army bases near the border, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians - and abducting around 250 people.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have spent months trying to mediate a cease-fire and the return of the roughly 110 remaining hostages, around a third of whom Israeli authorities believe to be deceased. The conflict has meanwhile threatened to trigger a regional war, as Israel has traded fire with

Iran and its militant allies across the region. The strike on Saturday hit a

mosque inside a school in Gaza City where thousands of

Gaza City where thousands of people were sheltering. The Gaza Health Ministry said 80 people were killed and around 50 wounded. The Israeli military disputed the toll and said it killed 19 Hamas and Islamic libad mil Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants in a precise strike, releas-ing what it said were their

names and photos. Hamas and Palestinian activists disputed the military's claims,

killed in earlier strikes and that others were known to be civilians or opponents of Hamas. Gaza City and the rest of the north have been surrounded by Israeli forces and largely cut off from the world since late last year, and it was not possible to independently confirm the accounts from either side.

The UN human rights office says Israel has carried out "systematic attacks on schools,' which have served as shelters since the start of the war, with at least 21 hit since July 4, leaving hundreds dead, including women and children.

Two men shot before concert at raceway in Iowa

## PTI 📕 ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top civil and mili-tary leadership on Sunday vowed to protect the rights and religious freedoms of minorities, urging all segments of the society to work for promoting interfaith harmony, the spirit of love, tolerance, brotherhood

and unity. In 2009, Pakistan declared August 11 as the National Minorities Day to honour the historic speech made by its founder M A Jinnah who on August 11, 1947, promised to protect their rights.

message said that minorities in Pakistan enjoy all political, economic and social rights which have been guaranteed by the Constitution, according to

'We reaffirm our commitment to the promise made by Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on 11th August 1947, to the country's minorities to prothe government was taking several steps for the political, social and economic empower-

The president urged all seg-

ments of the society to educate the people about their rights and work to promote interfaith harmony, the spirit of love, tolerance, brotherhood and unity to make Pakistan a strong country.

Zardari expressed confidence that the minorities of Pakistan would continue to play a positive role towards the country's development.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to minorities for their outstanding role in the country's development and prosperity.

The purpose of celebrating the day is to express solidarity with the minorities living in Pakistan and to acknowledge their services for the state of Pakistan," he said

The prime minister said that our minority community played a key role in the Pakistan movement and since the creation of Pakistan, has been contributing immensely to nation-building".

Alluding to Jinnah's historic speech, Sharif said that complete religious freedom has been given to minorities. He expressed commitment to protect the rights of minorities and their overall development and

prosperity Meanwhile, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and the services chiefs acknowledged the indis-pensable contributions of minorities to the nation's

According to an army state-ment, the army leadership, extending warm felicitations to the minority communities of the country, said, "This occasion serves as a poignant reminder of the diversity, inclusivity and harmonious coexistence that are the hallmarks of our great nation."

The army said minority communities are an integral and vital part of the social fabric of the country and their rights and freedoms are sacrosanct as enshrined in the Constitution and Islam.

According to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in 2021, there are 96.47 per cent Muslims in the country, followed by 2.14 per cent Hindus, 1.27 per cent Christians, 0.09 per cent Ahmadi Muslims and 0.02 per cent others. The minorities are often at the receiving end due to violence by extremist groups.

# FS Misri meets Nepal's top leadership,

saying two of the 19 had been

protect their rights. President Asif Ali Zardari in his

state-run Radio Pakistan.

# tect their rights and religious freedoms," Zardari said, adding ment of minorities.

progress, prosperity, and rich cultural heritage.

## discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties

### PTI KATHMANDU

oreign Secretary Vikram Nepal's top leadership and discussed ways to provide an impetus to various sectors of

bilateral cooperation. Misri, who is here on a two-day visit at the invitation of his Nepalese counterpart Sewa Lamsal, paid a courtesy call on President Ramchandra Paudel at the president's office Sheetalniwas in Kathmandu. "While conveying greetings of the Indian leadership, he discussed ways to further strengthen India-Nepal ties across all sectors," the Indian Embassy in Nepal said in a post on X.

Misri also called on Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli at his office at Singhdurbar.

"Foreign Secretary reaffirmed India & Nepal's civilizational, close and multifaceted relationship & discussed ways to provide an impetus to various

sectors of bilateral cooperation," the mission said in another post. Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal was also present on the occasion

Earlier in the day, Misri and Secretary of Nepal's Urban Development Ministry Maniram Gelal jointly inaugurated a new building of Nepal Bhasha Parishad in Kathmandu built under India's post-earthquake reconstruction grant.

"Foreign Secretary @VikramMisri & Mr Maniram Gelal, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Govt of jointly inaugurated the new building of Nepal Bhasha Parishad in Kathmandu, built under India's post-earthquake reconstruction grant," the Embassy of India said in a post on X. The building in the Naradevi area of the capital was damaged in the 2015 earthquake. Nepal Bhasha is the language belonging to the eth-

Kathmandu In keeping with Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's call of Ek Ped Ma ke Naam, Misri planted a apling of Nili Gulmohar at the Indian mission's complex. Launched by Prime Minister Modi, on World Environment Day this year, the campaign

aims to plant 800 million trees by September 2024 and 1.4 billion trees by March 2025 through a collective effort involving the government and

society in India. Misri was earlier received by his Nepalese counterpart Sewa Lamsal upon his arrival here. "Foreign Secretary of India @VikramMisri arrives in Kathmandu for an official visit from 11-12 August 2024. Warm reception by Nepal Foreign Secretary Ms Sewa Lamsal," the Embassy of India said in another post on X. The visit is in keeping with the

tradition of regular high-level nic Newar community of India-Nepal bilateral exchanges

& underlines India's commitment to its #NeighbourhoodFirst policy," it said. According to the Foreign Ministry, foreign secretaries of both countries would discuss a gamut of matters related to Nepal-India relations, mutual

interests, and cooperation. This is the first visit of the Indian foreign secretary to Nepal after the formation of the Oli-led coalition government last month. This is a regular visit of the Indian Foreign Secretary to Nepal, the Foreign Ministry sources added.

Misri will also meet Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development Prakash Man Singh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Bishnu Paudel and Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak. He will also hold a bilateral meeting with Foreign Secretary Lamsal and will attend a dinner reception hosted by Lamsal.

Iowa (AP): Two people were shot and killed at a raceway in Iowa just as a concert was about to begin, authorities said on Sunday.

The shooting happened Saturday night at the I-29 Speedway in Pacific Junction, roughly 20 miles south of Omaha, Nebraska, An outdoor concert at the venue was about to begin when shots were fired in the parking lot, the Iowa Department of Public Safety said in an online press release. The victims were identified as Marcus L Johnson, 28; and Charles A Williams Jr, 27. Both were from Omaha, Nebraska. The Mills County Sheriff's Office is being assisted by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Iowa State Patrol, Omaha Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies. Authorities are asking anyone who has information about the shooting to contact the Mills County

At least 18 dead after landfill site collapses in Uganda's capital

### AP 📕 KAMPALA

vast landfill site in the AUgandan capital collapsed, killing at least 18 people, the Red Cross said.

Fourteen other people were injured when the Kiteezi landfill, which serves as a waste disposal site for much of Kampala, collapsed late Friday. At least two of the dead were children, Kampala Capital City Authority said in a statement. The collapse is believed to have been triggered by heavy rainfall. The precise details of what happened were unclear, but the city authority said there was a "structural failure in waste mass".

Irene Nakasiita, a spokes-woman for the Uganda Red Cross, said the toll reached 18 after more bodies were retrieved from the scene on Sunday. "The assessment is not yet completed," she said, adding that rainfall was slowing the efforts of rescue teams digging through heaps of trash

part of the city. Women and children who scavenge plastic waste for income frequently gather there, and some homes have been built close to the

steep slope in an impoverished

The Kiteezi landfill is on a landfill.

'Pure veg Indian dishes' - new trend among foodies in Karachi

Sheriff's Office.

## PTI 📕 KARACHI

 $P_{\text{financial centre Karachi has}}^{\text{akistan's industrial and}}$ become the food capital for the foodies of the cosmopolitan city, with the latest trend being an acquired taste for authentic and refined Indian vegetarian dishes such as 'soyabean aloo biryani, 'aloo tikkis,' 'vada pav', 'masala dosa' and 'dhokla'.

For millions of people in the capital of Sindh province, Karachi's beauty is the food options ranging from the most expensive European and Italian cuisine to affordable Chinese food or a simple bun kabab as the food capital caters to the taste and pockets of everyone. The foodies in recent months have also developed a taste for "pure vegetarian" dishes. Mahesh Kumar, who owns the

small Maharaj Karamchand

historical old compound of the bustling M A Jinnah Road, says his business is booming as people have developed a taste for vegetarian dishes known in Karachi as "pure vegetarian Indian dishes".

The Narayan compound, where before partition Hindus, Sikhs and Christians lived in peace and harmony, not only houses the restaurant but also the centuries-old Swaminarayan Temple and also a Gurdwara. Initially built for the inhabitants of the compound, the Maharaj Karamchand Inn is now a popular joint for the lawyers and visitors who show up every day at the city courts just opposite the compound or for other businesses in this commercially vibrant area of old Karachi. "Our Soyabean Aloo Biryani,

Vegetarian Foods Inn inside a Mixed Vegetables are famous and we witness a lot of rush during lunchtime with a lot of takeaways and deliveries as well," Kumar said.

Kumar said his father started the restaurant in 1960 and there is nothing fancy about it with the same old wooden chairs and tables, but what attracts Muslim and non-Muslim customers is the homemade spices and the fresh vegetables and oil used in preparing the dishes.

Kumar admits they do not publicise their restaurant because there are still some Muslim conservatives who consider it taboo for Muslims to eat food prepared by Hindus. "We have enough clientele who are happy with our food and service but don't like to promote

it," he added. It is not just this Hindu-run Aloo Tikkis, Paneer Karahi, and

vegetarian restaurant that is doing a great job but, in other parts of Karachi, entrepreneur Hindu, Christian and Muslim women have set up food stalls specialising in refined Indian vegetarian dishes such as 'pav bhaji', 'vada pav', 'masala dosa' and 'dhokla'

Kavita, who started a food stall in the Cantt area on a side street eight months ago, sells Indian vegetarian dishes and can barely keep up with the rush at her stall. "What is surprising for us is that apart from walk-in customers, we have developed a clientele of regular customers who love our food," she said. What surprised Kavita and her family is the taste the meat-loving people of Karachi have developed for pure vegetarian dishes. Not only Kavita but her sister-in-law, Chandrika Dixit, brother Jeetandra and her

mother Nomita manage three stalls next to each other while a fourth stall which sells 'dhoklas', 'aam panna' and 'dal samosas' is run by a Christian lady Mary Richards.

"We all live in the same compound close by and after hearing how people have taken to Indian vegetarian dishes we have decided to try our luck. We make these dishes regular-

ly at home," Mary said. Muslim and non-Muslim customers, calling out her name 'Kavita Didi", vibrate in the air as people coming in their cars also have to line up for their orders on the well-lit street. Kavita's food stall has already been covered by big media outlets in Pakistan and even BBC ran a story as to how a Hindu girl's food is selling like hot cakes among Karachites. On the other side of the cos-

mopolitan city, two sisters - Mahreen and Lubna - are also doing well with their food stall on a famous food street in the populous Hussainabad area.

We are unique in the sense that we sell Indian vegetarian food surrounded by restaurants and stalls selling traditional Pakistani meat dishes," chuckles Lubna.

The two sisters have learnt how to make 'masala dosa', vada pav', 'vegetarian rice' and 'pav bhaji' from their elders who migrated from India after the partition in 1947

Both sisters talk at length as their hands remain busy preparing dishes and handing them out to eager customers. 'People are now eating these dishes because they are not expensive, tasty and quick to prepare," Mahreen said.

Far from the crowded

Hussainabad area, a Muslim Gujarati-speaking family that migrated from Junagadh in India has been selling different varieties of masala dosas in Bahadurabad for over five decades.

"Come sunset and business begins," says Zafar, whose father started the masala dosa stall on a scrap Suzuki van proudly claiming that their food joint is among the first original places to sell pure vegetarian Indian dishes. Zafar and his team of cooks and helpers sell varieties of masala dosas but the aloo masala dosa remains their bestselling item despite being priced at 500 rupees.

"I think Karachi has a lot of migrants from India who are more moderate or liberal in their choice of food and that is why there is an acquired taste for Indian vegetarian dishes,"

Zafar explained. On the other end of the spectrum are the upscale Rajdhani Delight and Nawab Dynasty restaurants in the posh Clifton area whose daily "pure vegetar-ian" and "chicken Thalis" are

sought after by foodies. As soon as you walk into the Rajdhani Delight restaurant owned by a Gujarati family, the aroma of authentic Rajasthani and Gujarati food just gets into you, restaurant manager Jerome Earnest said.

The 'navratan vegetarian thali' with its mixture of vegetable, paneer, daal dishes, chutneys, achar, spicy yoghurt, dhokla, rice, salty lassi and gulab jamuns is a steal for 1500 rupees with waiters attired in traditional Rajasthani costumes waiting to serve you fresh chapatis in the metal tray with small bowls.





# Sebi proposed F&O norms to hit exchanges, brokers: Reports

### PTI NEW DELH

Stock exchanges and brokers, catering to retail traders, could be hit hard by the regulator Sebi's proposed measures for Futures & Options (F&O) trading regulations, with market volumes slumping 30-40 per cent, according to reports. If these measures are

implemented, the number of investors could decrease, it added.

Moreover, discount brokers, who depend heavily on retail investors, are expected to be more affected than traditional full-service brokers

Sebi, in its consultation paper in July, proposed seven measures, including increasing minimum contract size and upfront collection of option premiums, intra-day monitoring of position limits, rationalisation of strike prices, removal of calendar spread benefit on expiry day and increase in near contract

expiry margin. Sebi stated that these measures are aimed at enhancing investor protection and promote market stability in derivative markets. According to a report by



Jefferies, Sebi's proposed (NSE) to be more affected measures to reduce the number of weekly option contracts from 18 to 6 could from impact around 35 per cent of industry premiums. However, if trading shifts to the remaining contracts, the overall impact can be reduced to 20-25 per cent. Among its 7 proposed

measures, IIFL Securities see the highest impact from the withdrawal of weekly options (only 1 per exchange allowed) as index Options account for 98 per cent of the volumes. IIFL Securities expects the National Stock Exchange

impacted. than the BSE because 60 per cent of NSE's revenue comes options trading, per compared to 40 per cent for BSE. It estimates that by the financial year 2026, NSE's earnings could be reduced by

25-30 per cent while BSE's earnings could drop by 15-18 per cent. Jefferies also believes that removal of Bankex weekly contract can impact BSE's earnings per share (EPS) by 7-9 per cent over FY25-27. It further said that BSE might see a small decline in earnings, but if trading

inventory as a notable

'We have an all-time high

there has been moderation in the EV fleet segment demand

due to the expiry of FAME II in March 2024," he stated.

Outlining the company's strategy, Chandra said: "As

far as we are concerned, in

terms of actions, we focus on

retail acceleration backed by

company

marketing

improve

inventory with buildup which

challenge.

channel

effective

activity shifts from discontinued products, it could offset the impact or even lead to earnings growth. 'We don't see any impact on MCX from these regulations. Within the value chain, discount brokers are likely to be more impacted than traditional full service brokers given former's dependence on retail investors," IIFL Securities said

Jefferies believes that clearing members like Nuvama, which caters to institutional players Traders High-Frequency (HFTs) and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are less

Rationalizing weekly options to only one benchmark index exchange will significantly affect the NSE because it currently has four weekly index expiries, with "Bank Nifty" being the most important, contributing to 50 per cent of its options volume. The change could reduce NSE's overall trading volumes by 30-35 per cent, IIFL Securities said. On the other hand, BSE is expected to be less affected since it only has two contracts, with Sensex making up 85 per cent of its volumes in FY24.

## Adopt guidance over intimidation: **CBDT** chief Agrawal to I-T officials PRUDENT, Agrawal said P

## PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Income-tax department department should make renewed efforts to come across as responsible, responsive, transparent apart undertaking from an approach of "guidance over intimidation" while dealing with taxpayers, the CBDT

chairman has said. Ravi Agrawal, the head of the direct taxes administration body of the country, suggested a 'PRUDENT' approach to be followed by the taxmen as the income tax regime completed 164 years in India. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chief recently

spoke to his colleagues via an 'Samvaad' online video session -- The Chairman Speaks -- on the occasion of the 165th Income Tax Day that was observed on July 24. He said the tax department has undergone "transformational" change, adopted technology in its processes, increased taxpayer base and that its orientation

has changed from being largely an "enforcement and adversarial" department to largely a service department facilitating taxpayer compliance through non-



intrusive tax administration. Agrawal said revenue under the direct tax category has been growing and there were about 65 crore PANs and more than 8.5 crore ITRs were filed during 2023-24 fiscal

"Our role as part of the tax administration is critical. It is incumbent on us to service the citizens as well as business with professionalism as we embark on our journey to fulfil honourable Prime Minister's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 and with the beginning of 'Amrit Kal', I take this opportunity to present an approach to be adopted by each one of us irrespective of rank in the department," he said.

The approach, he said, has been encapsulated under the acronym PRUDENT and it will guide the officials as they continue to navigate the "complexities" of tax administration.

Explaining the acronym

Macroeconomic data the

last batch of Q1 earnings

and global trends are the

major factors that would influence trading sentiments

in the equity market in a holiday-shortened week

Besides, trading activity of

foreign investors would also be a crucial factor in

dictating movement in the

markets

for Independence Day.

ahead, analysts said.

market.

Equity

week

would

Steel prices trade at 3-year lows on increased supplies: Report

## PTI NEW DELHI

for

tax

enhance

in the

Domestic steel prices have dropped to a three-year low on account of increased imports, according to a report. Hot rolled coils (HRC) prices

have fallen to Rs 51,000 a tonne from a peak of Rs 76,000 a tonne in April 2022, markets research

firm BigMint said in a report. The rate of cold rolled coils (CRC) is trading at Rs 58,200 a tonne from the peak of Rs 86,300 a tonne in April 2022. The prices exclude the 18 per cent GST on

the commodity. "The rates of HRC and CRC in India are trading at their threeyear low graph. The surge in imports has impacted the domestic prices hitting the demand," BigMint said.

responsive, he said, the According to the data, imports during the April-June quarter taxman has "to be decisive, rather than have an ad-hoc surged by 68 per cent to 1.93 million tonnes (MT) from 1.15 approach' would like to emphasize that any decision that we take

stands for professionalism, R

for being responsible and

and businesses, D for dedication and due diligence,

E for effective enforcement, N

administration and T for

He said the tax officials

department by investing in capacity building, fostering

adaptability, prioritizing taxpayer service, maintaining

a judicious approach and

ensuring ease of business on one hand, while ensuring data

By being responsible and

commit ourselves to be

transparent in our actions.

This transparency builds trust

accountable for its actions,

that

is

the

held

technology-based

professionalism

administration.

driven action.

taxpayer.

administration,

and ensures

administration

"As

U understanding transactions

non-intrusive

responsive,

for

should

MT in the same period of 2023-24. Steel imports rose by 38 per cent has impact on the concerned to 8.319 MT in 2023-24, making responsible India a net importer of the commodity. we must

Steel players have raised the issue of increased imports from select countries with the government and sought measures to protect the domestic industry from rising shipments.

### Global demand muted; gradual improvement | LIC to invest around Macroeconomic data, global trends, Q1 earnings to drive market sentiments this week: Analysts expected in domestic market: Tata Motors ₹1.30 lakh crore in PTI NEW DELHI

## PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Tata Motors demand to expects remain sluggish in overseas markets this fiscal while pinning hopes on a gradual bounce back in the domestic market on the back of new launches and the upcoming festive season.

Earlier this month, the Mumbai-based automaker reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 5,566 crore and total income of Rs 1,09,623 crore for June quarter.

"Overall, from a demand perspective, we do anticipate that as far as the global demand is concerned, it is likely to remain muted. It has been that way. It's likely to remain muted. No immediate changes there," Tata Motors Global CFO PB Balaji said in an analyst call.

In the domestic market, the company expects a gradual improvement in demand ring the rest of the vear aided by government plans to invest on infrastructure, healthy monsoons, favourable overall economic macros, new launches and upcoming festive period, he noted.



So there is a need for absolute reason why there is an optimism as far as the domestic demand buildup is concerned, how gradual it's going to be, we will have to wait and see," Balaji said.

He noted that commodities campaigns, micro market are also likely to remain range bound and therefore, in this situation, the automaker is confident of sustaining the months. performance in the coming quarters, and delivering a strong year.

"So financials wise, this business is on a strong wicket the footfalls in the showroom, and is likely to remain that way in the coming quarters he added. He also highlighted the and the full year as well," Balaii sa Passenger vehicle industry retail sales witnessed decline for two consecutive months -Tata Chandra cited high channel

a livelihood.



PTI NEW DELHI further buildup which happened in Q1, did add stress on the wholesales. Also,

Life Insurance Corporation India (LIC) MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty has said that the corporation is looking to make fresh investments of around Rs 1.30 lakh crore in equities during

the current financial year. During April-June FY25, the insurance behemoth made an investment of about Rs 38,000 crore in shares as against Rs 23,300 crore in the same

focus, targeted product interventions, which are period a year ago. LIC earned a profit of Rs going to come in the coming 15,500 crore from its investments in equity markets There are new upcoming during the first quarter. The launches primarily to drive profit from its investment was higher by 13.5 per cent customer excitement and of quarter-on-quarter. course, it is also going to help

'We are surely looking at the markets and price movements...We are looking to invest a good amount at east wh



around Rs 15 lakh crore at the end of June, he said.

LIC has exposure in 282 through companies investment in their shares as of June 30, 2024.

Under The Assets (AUM) Management increased to Rs 53,58,781 crore as at June-end as compared to Rs 46,11,067 crore at the end of same quarter previous year, registering an increase of 16.22 per cent.

off this week as investors Total investment grew by Rs 7,30,662 crore, from Rs process recent gains and 42,44,852 crore in March 2023 to Rs 49,75,514 crore as on March 31, 2024. Total eauity investm ent por



remain closed on Thursday last batch of Q1 earnings "This week, all focus will be will drive stock-specific on the global markets as we movements. Hero MotoCorp, Hindalco are can see the extension of weakness after a long period of stability. The Indian equity market could also some of the big corporate earnings this week, he added.

witness some bit of levelling 'Additionally, institutional flows will play a crucial role in market dynamics," Gour said

contend with high prices. Vodafone Idea, NMDC, Geopolitical tensions are IRCTC, SJVN and PC also escalating, but markets 1,276.04 points or 1.57 per Ieweller WOI eacting also announce their quarterly reflected in the declining earnings during the week. crude oil prices," said From the macroeconomic Pravesh Gour, Senior front, industrial production data for June and inflation triggered by the unwinding On the domestic front, the announced on Monday. recession fears in the US.

out on Wednesday. Indian inflation data is due this week, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. forward. the 'Moving direction of the domestic market will be influenced by global markets," Nair added. Last week, the BSF

slumped

WPI inflation data will be

reduction. "We will continue the rigor on tight control on fixed cost and - May and June, this fiscal. continued effort on structural Tata Motors Passenger cost reduction within the Vehicles MD Shailesh organization," Chandra organization," said

pany

invested in last financial vear...LIC made an investment of around Rs 1.32 lakh crore in FY'24," he said. Market value of LIC's investment in stocks of various companies stood at

constitute Rs 12,39,740 crore as against Rs 8,39,662 crore in 2022-23, whereas other investments constitute Rs 37,35,774 crore as against Rs 34,05,190 crore in 2022-23.

significantly, which is Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

declined 350.2 points or 1.41 per cent. Stock markets globally faced a sharp correction last week

security through insurance

are driving this trend. He

added that as accident rates

climb, more individuals and

companies are seeking

disability and income loss

Nerurkar

rate for July will be of the yen carry trade and

benchmark

cent

## Financial strain of disability in India high, insurance aims to bridge gap

### PTI KOLKATA

Astaggering number of Indians face financial hardship due to disability, country lakhs with suffering temporary or permanent limitations each year and recognising this critical gap in financial security, insurance companies are stepping forward with innovative solutions, officials said on Sunday.

A 2018 report by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) revealed that India, despite having only 1 per cent of the world's vehicles, accounts for 6 per Officer, Ramit Goyal said. cent of all road crashes.

A study titled 'Measuring the financial impact of disabilities According to experts, close to in India' available on the 5 to 7 lakh people in the National Institutes of Health suffer from temporary or permanent (NIH) website, suggests disability each year due to the around one-fifth (20.32 per cent) of the household's high rates of accidents and crippling diseases and lose monthly consumption their ability to work and earn expenditure was spent on outof-pocket expenses for "The onset of disability often disability.

More than half (57.1 per cent) brings substantial healthcare making of the households were expenses, comprehensive pushed to catastrophic health insurance coverage crucial to prevent social and financial decline," expenditure due to one of the members being disabled. Almost one-fifth (19.1 per cent) of the households that Future Generali India Insurance, Chief Distribution

INSURANCE

pushed below the poverty line. was treated for disability were According to R Garg, Head-

Insurance, Term Policybazaar.Com, in a country like India where there is no social security coverage like those in developed nations and where 2.2 per cent of the population is disabled, having disability income protection becomes prudent.

FGII's said recently launched group health insurance product covers both temporary and permanent disabilities arising from physical or mental illnesses, accidents, and unforeseen events that result in income

The plan provides a safety net by replacing up to 75 per cent of pre-disability income per month, along with potential coverage for loan EMIs and credit card minimum payments.

coverage, leading to higher Bajaj Allianz another leading penetration rates. insurer said it has seen a Continued support and favourable regulations from steady increase in personal IRDAI can further boost this accident insurance uptake, which includes disability growth, income protection. emphasised

P Nanda Gopal, Founder and Bhaskar Nerurkar, Head of the Health Administration CEO of Upsure, emphasizes Team at Bajaj Allianz General the critical need for DIP plans Insurance, noted that rising among vulnerable groups like living costs and greater daily wage earners and gig financial workers.

awareness of loss

## Major cement companies report volume growth in Falling prices, imports challenges for lab-grown diamond industry: GTRI June qtr, revenue remains muted due to lower price

and

like

high

This sharp decline points to

## PTI NEW DELHI

Significant fall in prices, eroding consumer interest and competition with imports are some of the major challenges being faced by the domestic lab-grown diamond industry, think tank GTRI said on Sunday.

It also said that while India faces the issue of production overcapacity, it continues to import lab-grown diamonds in large amounts and this issue needs deeper investigation.

To address these challenges, the government needs to take certain steps such as setting clear and consistent rules to standardize quality, certification, and market practices; issuing a Quality Control Order to check quality of imports; and



investment in research and development to improve per carat due to local production processes, reduce overproduction oversupply from abroad. costs, and enhance the quality of lab-grown diamonds. The Global Trade Research problems Initiative (GTRI) said that overproduction, imports, and lack of India's lab-grown diamond industry is facing a major regulation, which are hurting challenge, with prices falling consumer confidence. Urgent by 65 per cent in the past year, corrective steps are needed to Lab-grown diamonds are

get this high-growth industry back on track, it added.

were above the poverty line

before one of the members

Meanwhile, natural diamonds cost around Rs 3.5 lakh per

carat and this price drop is making it difficult for manufacturers to repay loans taken for purchasing labgrown diamond making machines, putting them under financial strain, it said. Lab-grown diamonds, as the name suggests, are created in laboratories replicating the natural high pressure, high temperature conditions under which diamonds are formed in the Earth's mantle.

These diamonds are chemically, physically, and optically identical to natural diamonds. Natural diamonds come in various shapes, while lab-grown diamonds are usually square or rectangular.

produced in a rough form and need to be cut and polished, just like natural diamonds. The value of a cut and polished lab-grown diamond

is 6-8 times higher than its rough form. "The industry faces several

challenges, including falling intensifying prices, competition both from local and imports, and the lack of clear regulatory frameworks. These issues pose potential risks to the sustained growth and profitability of India's lab-grown diamond sector," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

units producing lab-grown diamonds in India has increased to 10,000 units, leading to over supply and t o u g h e

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI single-digit volume growth in the June quarter, though their topline was muted on account

the price. Listed manufacturers such as UltraTech, Ambuja Cements, ACC, Shree Cements, and Dalmia Bharat - in their latest quarter earnings reported gains in volumes, ranging from 3 to 9 per cent and increase in capacity utilisation. However, soft cement prices have put their topline under pressure in the April-June period. Besides, raw material costs went up marginally due to an increase in the cost of fly ash and slag.

The all-India average cement price was at around Rs 348 per 50 kg bag in June 2024, down 50 kg bag in June 2024, down around 3 per cent year-onyear. However, this was higher when compared to Rs 335 per bag in May 2024.

For the first two months of FY25, the average cement price was at Rs 340 per bag, down 8 per cent YoY. În FY24, the average price was Rs 365 per bag and Rs 375 per bag in FY23, according to the report. Moreover, intense heatwave and general elections also slowed the pace of construction activities in April-Mav

UltraTech Cement reported a flat consolidated net profit of Rs 1,696.59 crore for the June quarter. The leading cement maker's revenue from

up 7 per cent to 31.95 million tonne (MT), said the Aditya Birla Group firm which has announced an open offer for the South-based rival India Cements Ltd after acquiring the promoter's stake. Adani Group firm Ambuja Cements Ltd reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 789.63 crore and its revenue from operations was at Rs

8,311.48 crore. Though its results were not comparable due to past acquisitions of Sanghi Industries and ACCPL, its consolidated revenue from operations was at Rs 8,712.90 crore in the corresponding June period of FY24.

of the continued downtrend in

He said that the number of

competition.

Leading cement reported

www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

# chandigarh | MONDAY | AUGUST 12, 2024



# **A REFRESHING TWIST ON PROBIOTIC HEALTH**

Yakult Light Mango Flavour combines the benefits of probiotics with the delicious taste of mango. This new variant supports gut health and boosts immunity with every sip. Enjoy a tasty and healthy addition to your daily routine, says SAKSHI PRIYA



n today's fast-paced world, maintaining good health is La top priority, especially with increasing lifestyle disorders linked to poor nutrition, stress and inadequate sleep. A robust immune system is essential for combating these challenges and ensuring overall wellbeing. One effective way to support immunity is through probiotics, which are known for their ability to enhance gut health. Recognising this, Yakult Danone India Pvt Ltd, a leader in the probiotic industry, has launched an exciting new product Yakult Light Mango Flavour. Probiotics are live bacteria that

are beneficial for gut health. They work by increasing the population of good bacteria in the gut, which helps reduce Dr. Minoru Shirota, a Japanese

bacteria. This balance is crucial deeply moved by the poor health conditions in Japan for proper digestion, nutrient during the early 1900s. absorption and overall immune function. A healthy Witnessing the deaths of gut is often linked to a strong children due to infections immune system, which is caused by inadequate hygiene essential for fighting off and poverty, Dr. Shirota dedicated his life to preventive infections and maintaining overall well-being. Yakult has health. He believed in using long been a trusted name in probiotics to prevent diseases rather than curing them after probiotics and its latest offering, Yakult Light Mango they occur. This philosophy Flavour, continues this legacy. led to the development of the The new product contains the SHIROTA strain, which has now been helping people same unique probiotic strain, Lactobacillus casei Shirota maintain gut health for over 90 (SHIROTA strain), as the years Yakult Light Mango Flavour original Yakult. This strain is scientifically proven to survive combines the health benefits of the journey through the probiotics with the delightful digestive tract and reach the taste of mango, a favourite fruit among Indians. This new intestines alive, where it can impart its health benefits. variant is a sister product to the

The story of Yakult begins with original Yakult, offering the

India Pvt Ltd, emphasises the importance of probiotics in daily life: "Lactobacillus casei Shirota is backed by more than 100 human studies conducted across the globe, including India. Probiotics increase the good bacteria in the gut, reducing the harmful ones. This balance ensures better digestion, proper absorption of nutrients, and stronger immunity, reducing the risk of infections." In

today's environment, where factors like pollution, stress and poor diet can easily disrupt gut health, incorporating probiotics into your diet is a proactive step toward better health. A decrease in probiotic bacteria, coupled with unhealthy lifestyle choices, can lead to poor gut health and weak immunity, manifesting as fatigue, poor growth, malnutrition, and repeated Therefore, infections. introducing scientifically validated probiotic products like Yakult into your daily routine is essential for maintaining a healthy gut and a strong immune system.

flavour adds a

refreshing twist, making it an

enjoyable choice for those who

love the fruit and want to incorporate probiotics into

Dr. Neerja Hajela, Head of

Science and Regulatory

Affairs at Yakult Danone

their daily routine.

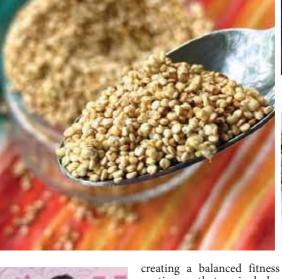
Yakult Light Mango Flavour is more than just a tasty drink; it's a step toward better health. By incorporating this probioticrich beverage into your daily routine, you can support your gut health and boost your immunity. As Yakult Danone India continues to innovate and expand its offerings, the new mango flavour is an attestation to its commitment to improving the health and well-being of its consumers. Whether you're a longtime fan of Yakult or new to probiotics, Yakult Light Mango Flavour is a refreshing way to support

# Revolutionising Fitness and Wellness

Renowned fitness expert **SUMAYA DALMIA** highlights the importance of balanced lifestyle habits, emphasising nutrition, exercise and daily activity for sustainable health

A<sup>t</sup> the recent FDCI Manifest Wedding Wedding Weekend, renowned fitness and wellness expert Sumaya Dalmia delivered masterclass focused on practical health and fitness advice. The session, designed for brides, grooms and wellness enthusiasts, aimed to promote sustainable fitness habits rather than quick fixes or superficial transformations. Sumaya's approach emphasised the importance of a balanced lifestyle, combining nutrition, exercise and daily physical activity for longterm health benefits.

Sumaya began the masterclass by addressing common fitness myths that often mislead people. She debunked the idea that weightlifting leads to unwanted bulk, especially for Instead, women. she encouraged attendees to embrace strength training, highlighting its role in building muscle, improving metabolism and boosting confidence. Sumaya stressed that fitness is not an instant achievement but a lifelong journey requiring consistency and dedication. She pointed out that while exercise is crucial, nutrition is equally vital in achieving fitness goals, stating, "99.9% of anything to do with gut health, losing weight or aesthetics is about nutrition." The masterclass delved into importance the understanding individual dietary needs, focusing on protein intake. Sumaya explained how to calculate daily protein requirements and stressed the significance of distributing protein consumption throughout the day for optimal absorption. Rather than categorising foods as "good" or "bad," Sumaya advocated for balanced eating, integrating proteins, healthy fats and carbohydrates based on personal needs. This approach, which promotes moderation and mindful





Sumaya also addressed the role of daily physical activity beyond structured workouts. She acknowledged that modern lifestyles often involve less natural movement, contrasting this with the more active routines observed in other cultures. By encouraging simple activities like walking, taking the stairs and doing housework, Sumaya illustrated that even basic physical engagement significantly contributes to overall health. Her message was clear, while structured workouts remain essential, daily physical activities are equally important for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

eating, resonated well with The masterclass provided

that includes routine strength, flexibility, mobility, cardiovascular and core exercises. Sumaya's approach to fitness reflects the lessons the learned during pandemic, emphasising that effective workouts can be achieved at home with minimal equipment. This perspective encourages individuals to find ways to stay active, regardless of their environment or access to gym facilities. Another significant aspect

of Sumaya's masterclass was the discussion on diet, nutrition and lifestyle adjustments tailored for specific needs, such as PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome). She stressed the importance of mindful eating and clean eating, especially as one ages. For those following vegetarian diets, she recommended protein high-quality sources like nuts, seeds, quinoa, paneer, soya and sprouts. Proper cooking methods and using spices like hing and ginger were suggested to aid digestion. For individuals with PCOS, she recommended a diet high in protein, healthy fats and fibre-rich vegetables to help regulate hormones.

Sumaya also touched on the

explaining the difference between Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) and Optimum Daily Allowance (ODA). She highlighted the importance of tailoring supplement intake to individual needs, considering factors such as menopause, perimenopause and specific conditions like PCOS. Essential supplements like Vitamin D3, magnesium glycinate and B12 were recommended, noting that even with sun exposure, many people, including Indians, often require D3 supplementation. She cited studies showing a link between low D3 levels and severe COVID-19 cases, underscoring its importance

for overall health. Sumaya Dalmia's masterclass offered attendees a

comprehensive guide to achieving and maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Her focus on debunking fitness myths, promoting sustainable habits and encouraging a holistic approach to health and wellness inspired participants to adopt practices that support longterm well-being. Sumaya's insights serve as a reminder that true fitness is about balance, consistency and personalisation, empowering individuals to take control of

same 6.5 billion beneficial

the audience.

# No one is immune to antimicrobial resistance

## **SHOBHA SHUKLA**

"Even the healthiest amongst us could face a life-threatening situation through a minor injury, routine surgery, or common lung infection, if antimicrobials fail," said Dr Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, World Health Organization (WHO) Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Nepal. "For those with pre-existing conditions like cancers, HIV, or diabetes, an untreatable infection can become an unexpected and deadly adversary."

### Why do infections become difficult to treat or untreatable?

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites change over time and become resistant to (or no longer respond to) medicines, making infections harder (or impossible) to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. Misuse and overuse of medicines fuels AMR.

It is important to remember that it is the disease-causing microbe (and not the human being, animal or plant which is being treated) that becomes resistant to medicines. Therefore, even if a person uses antimicrobial medicines responsibly, they are still at risk of acquiring a drugresistant infection.

Resistant microbes can pass between animals, plants and food, and in the environment. A "One Health" approach which recognises that the health of animals, humans, plants and the environment are interlinked is therefore essential to respond to AMR.

### No one is immune to AMR

AMR threatens to unravel a century of medical progress, turning once treatable infections into untreatable lifethreatening conditions, said Dr Pandav. "AMR is identified by the WHO as one of the top 10 global health threats facing humanity. AMR is making infections harder to treat, leading to prolonged hospital stays, higher medical costs, and increased disability, morbidity, and mortality. AMR has a real and devastating impact on individuals,

families, environmental health agricultural and food productions, and livelihoods." Dr Pandav was speaking as a Guest of Honour at the South Asia Sub-Regional Media Workshop to prevent Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was organised by Health TV Online along with co-hosts, including the Ministry of Health and Population of government of Nepal, Nepal Health Research Council of government of Nepal, Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA), and partners.

### Almost 5 million people died of AMR in a year

"In 2019 it was estimated that almost 5 million deaths were associated with bacterial AMR including 1.27 million deaths being directly caused by it. Raising awareness is our first line of defence against AMR. It is a collective responsibility, and the media plays a crucial role to shape public opinion, influence policy, and dispel myths and misinformation. Public messaging on AMR in the media needs to be simple, consistent, and clear," said Dr Pandav.

"Four quadripartite agencies that have joined hands to combat AMR globally include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WHO, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In a meeting in 2022, they had identified working with the media as one of the top four priorities. South Asia Media Workshop to prevent AMR was organised to raise awareness among media personnel and increase their active engagement on AMR and addressing it with One Health approach," said Kalpana Acharya, Organising Chairperson of South Asia Media Workshop to prevent AMR, Editor-in-Chief of Health TV Online, and founding Board Member of Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA).

## Nepal's response to AMR challenge "I would like to commend Nepal

government's Ministry of Health and Population for their leadership and



initiatives already taken to tackle the AMR challenge. Nepal has successfully endorsed the National Action Plan on AMR. At the 77th World Health two months Assembly back, governments, including that of Nepal, endorsed the resolution to accelerate national and global responses to AMR," informed Dr Pandav.

"In Nepal in 2019, there were 6400 deaths attributable to AMR and 23200 deaths associated with AMR. Nepal has the 153rd highest death rate per 100,000 population associated with AMR across 204 countries. AMR was the third biggest cause of death in 2019 in Nepal (after cardiovascular diseases and chronic respiratory diseases). The number of AMR deaths in Nepal is higher than deaths from neoplasms, respiratory infections and TB, digestive diseases, maternal and neonatal disorders and diabetes and kidney diseases," said Dr

Madan Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief of Quality Standards and Regulation Division, Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal. He also Chairs AMR National Technical Working Committee and serves as a Member Secretary of AMR National Steering Committee of government of Nepal.

Discovery of penicillin was a breakthrough moment in 1928 but resistance against penicillin was reported in the 1940s – soon after it came into the market. Methicillin resistant S.aureus (MRSA) was reported in 1961. Microbes are becoming resistant to the medicines we have - due to their misuse or overuse. And now it is 30 years since a new class of antibiotics was last introduced, shared Dr Upadhyaya.

Nepal is a signatory to Jaipur Ministerial Declaration on AMR 2011 when the South-East Asia region of the WHO became the first WHO region to adopt it.

Dr Upadhyaya shared that Nepal's National Action Plan on AMR (2024-2028) is currently awaiting the endorsement from the cabinet. It has already been endorsed by the National Technical Working Group on AMR, Finance Ministry of Nepal, National Planning Commission of Nepal, and the Social Committee of Nepal's cabinet.

The National Action Plan on AMR (2024-2028) of Nepal has five strategic priorities, each with its time-bound activities, managed by a government agency (focal point) with supporting partners.

- Improve awareness and understanding of AMR through effective communication, education and training Strengthen the knowledge and
- evidence through surveillance and research
- Reduce the incidence of infection through effective infection prevention and control
- Optimise the use of antimicrobial agents in human, animal and food, and
- Promote investments for AMR activities, research and innovations.

The Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal is the national focal point for AMR. Nepal's Department of Drug Administration is the national focal point for antimicrobial consumption. Nepal's Veterinary Standards and Regulatory Laboratory is the national focal point for antimicrobial use in the animal health sector. Nepal's National Public Health Laboratory is the national focal point for AMR surveillance in human health. Nepal's Central Veterinary Laboratory serves as the focal point for AMR Surveillance in animal health. Nepal's Department of Food Technology and Quality Control serves as a focal point for AMR surveillance in the food sector, and the Department of Environment is the focal point for AMR in the environment, said Dr Madan Kumar Upadhyaya.

"Implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan on AMR is challenging with limited technical capacity and budgetary resources. Limited access to diagnostic microbiology facilities (at subnational level) and access to antimicrobials is another challenge," said Dr Upadhyaya.

#### Right and timely diagnosis and right treatment is key

Good plan has to be followed by a greater implementation on the ground. "We have to find an effective strategy to implement the National Action Plan on AMR. More importantly, we have to take it to the local level and ensure that the right antimicrobials are prescribed, the right amount of medicines are taken and for the right disease," said Dr Roshan Pokhrel, Heath Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal. "We need to make progress in combating AMR and measure the progress too (with right data) to ensure that we are preventing AMR."

World leaders will convene on 26th September 2024 at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR. This is the second such meeting. The first UN High-Level Meeting on AMR was held in 2016 which resulted in significant global and national actions to address AMR with One Health approach. Participants in Nepal called upon the world leaders for stronger commitments matched with concrete actions to prevent AMR.

Later this year, the World AMR Awareness Week (18-24 November 2024) will be observed worldwide on the theme: Educate, Advocate and Act Now.

(Shobha Shukla is the award-winning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of CNS (Citizen News Service) and is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She is a former senior Physics faculty of prestigious Loreto Convent College and current Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Chairperson of Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA).



# It's a dream to compete with other international stars in India: Neeraj

### PTI NEW DELHI

ntar javelin thrower Neeraj Schopra hoped to compete with other international prominent names in India sooner than later following his silver medal-winning effort in the Paris Olympics.

Chopra bagged the silver at the Paris showpiece with a throw of 89.45m behind Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who hurled the javelin to 92.97m, an Olympic record. Anderson Peters of Grenada came third with a throw of 88.54m among the field that included some high-profile javelin throwers like Julian Webber, Jakub Vadlejch and Julius Yego. "It's a dream of mine to

compete with other international stars in India. Hopefully, there will be an international competition soon in India and I can do that," Chopra said during an interactive session with fans organised by the Olympics.Com

But before that, Chopra, whose silver was his second successive Olympics medal after the gold in Tokyo, said he wanted to work on certain areas of his game.

"I am entering a new season



methods or technique. But I hope to improve upon a couple of areas, especially the line of the javelin. "You know, the correct angle

of throwing so that I get more power in my throw. I will certainly work on it," he said. Chopra said he wanted to give it all in the Paris Games final despite being below his best physically. The body conditions (of his)

were tough. But when Arshad now. So, I don't have that made that throw...I was able much time to change training to hit my season's best

because the thought was set after her marriage. She is not familiar with social media and things like that. She often in my mind that I had to give the best throw because the competition had already speaks from her heart. But become very tough." Mothers of Chopra and understands what she families of athletes, even from Nadeem had taken the social different countries, feel towards them." media by storm as they showered affection on each

Praise for Sreejesh, Manu Chopra lauded shooter Manu Bhaker for showing Chopra said his mother always spoke from her heart perseverance to grab two bronze medals in the Paris as she to date remained a "My mother...she always stayed in a village before and Games after experiencing utter disappointment in the

# After another gold, US men's basketball programme will now catch its breath

 $T_{\rm men's}^{\rm he \ first \ practice \ for \ the \ US}$  basketball team after arriving in Paris was one of those workouts that those who were there, watching behind closed doors, will talk about for a

Tokvo edition.

"The way Manu Bhaker prepared her mind and came

from her Tokyo setback is impressive. Her mindset appeared to be very strong this time while taking part in

back-to-back competitions. I

back-to-back competitions. I think it's just a start for her because I saw even people over 50 (age) were participating in shooting. "I hope Manu will play in a lot more competitions, bring a lot more medals for the country and change the

country and change the

colour of the medal too," he

The 26-year-old also hailed

Indian hockey team's goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who

retired from top-level competition with a bronze at

"Sreejesh is a very relaxed and funny person. He motivates

younger players a lot. Sreejesh

bhai had said that he would

retire after the Olympics. The

players, I think, also felt that

they should win it for Sreeiesh

bhai after doing so many

great things for the team." Chopra said Sreejesh offers a

fine example in tackling

"He has so many years of

experience and he knows how

to tackle the pressure

situations. He seemed to be in

his zone when I met him

before the bronze medal match," he added.

pressure situations.

said.

Paris.

long time. Players were split up evenly. Go play, they were told. What happened next set the tone for the rest of the team's time at the Paris Games.

'We warmed up and then it became competitive," US assistant coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And, that's when you realized, one, that this team really cares and that it felt the responsibility to play and compete at the highest level. And then secondly, the level of talent on that floor ... we knew it could exceed all expectations."

expectations. A couple of weeks later, they won gold. The mission was completed Saturday night when the U.S. Won gold for the fifth consecutive Games, holding off France - in Paris, no less - 98-87.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points, all on 3-pointers, while Kevin Durant won his fourth Olympic gold and LeBron James won his third gold and fourth medal overall.

And then, the party started. Before long, it'll be time to start thinking about how to do it again in 2028 when the

**sports 12** 

back as managing director for the men's national team, and he's already excited about what is looming.

"I've done a lot of things in my life," Hill said. "And, this is a thing that certainly

a thing that certainly consumes you, but it is incredibly rewarding." Especially when the team wins. There will be changes between now and 2028. James will be 43 and likely retired by then (though with James, never say never).

It might seem iffy for Curry and Durant to still be playing in four years, but again, who knows? Some players like Anthony Davis and Bam Adebayo already have said they want in; others like Anthony Edwards, Devin Booker, Jayson Tatum and Tyrese Haliburton seem to be locked if they want to continue.

No decisions are set, and that won't change for a while. Hill is going to take a well-earned break. The next major Olympics return to Los break. The next major Angeles. Grant Hill will be international tournament is

the World Cup in Qatar in 2027. It's safe to say that it'll be sometime in 2025 when he even starts getting serious about putting together a group for that.

'Over four years, a lot can and will happen," Hill said. "Now, getting away from it a little bit, just letting things play out and see how guys continue to develop and see what kind of season guys have over the next year or so. And then, at some point, you start that

process all over again." When he took over, Hill said he wanted a pipeline for both players and coaches. People leave the program, others move up.

Steve Kerr made clear when he agreed to replace Gregg Popovich as US coach, it would be for the 2023 World Cup and the Paris Olympics. It would seem likely that the next national team coach will be either Spoelstra or Tyronn Lue, given how both were assistants under Kerr the last two summers.

## PTI PARIS has raised us. He educated us. He has transmitted the sports Uzbekistan's beloved head boxing coach was revived from apparent cardiac arrest by two spirit to us. He has been with

confirmed

staff after celebrating his team's first gold medal of the

Paris Olympics, his fighters

The Uzbek team went on to win five golds - more than any Olympic team in the last

other's son.

simple rural soul.

## Gymnast Jordan must return bronze medal after court mandates score change: IOC

PTI PARIS

merican AJordan Chiles must won in the Paris Olympics floor exercise after sport's Paralympic Comministence Comministence Paralympic Comministence Comministence Paralympic Paralympic Paralympic Comministence Paralympic was judged improperly, the International Olympic confirmed Committee Sunday The IOC announced early Sunday it was reallocating the bronze from Monday's women's floor final to Romanian Ana Barbosu after the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said Saturday night it would respect the court's decision and elevate Barbosu to third. The decision came less than 24 hours after the Court of Arbitration for Sport voided a scoring appeal made by Team USA coach Cecile Landi during the competition that had vaulted Chiles onto the podium. CAS ruled Saturday that the on-floor appeal by Landi to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the 1minute window allowed by the FIG. The ad hoc committee wrote that

20 years - in tribute to Tulkin Landi's inquiry came a Kilichev, who is recovering in a Paris hospital. minute and four seconds "(Kilichev) is more than a coach or a father, in fact," gymnast after the score was posted. The IOC said in a statement return the bronze medal she it will be in touch with the Bakhodir Jalolov said after winning his second super heavyweight gold medal. "He US Olympic and Committee Chiles' bronze and will work with the Romanian Olympic Committee to discuss a reallocation ceremony honouring Barbosu. PTI PARIS CAS wrote Saturday that the initial finishing order **C** ifan Hassan traded elbows should be restored, with Barbosu third, Romanian Swith Tigst Assefa with 150 meters left in the women's Maneca-Voinea marathon, then passed her Sabrina along the railing to win the race for her third distance fourth and Chiles fifth. The organization added the FIG should determine the medal of the Paris Games on final ranking "in accordance with the above Sunday. Hassan finished in an decision," but left it to the International Gymnastics Olympic record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 55 seconds. She also won bronze in the 5,000 and Federation (FIG) to decide who would get the medal behind gold winner Rebeca 10,000. By simply completing the marathon, 10,000 Andrade of Brazil and silver medalist Simone Biles of she ran more than 62 the US. kilometres. The FIG said it was the She now has six Olympic medals. In Tokyo, Hassan won the 5,000 and 10,000 IOC's call on whether to reallocate the medal. The and finished third in the IOC confirmed Sunday it would respect FIG's decision and seek to have 1,500. Assefa got silver, and Kenya's Hellen Obiri took Chiles' medal returned. the bronze. Breaking

## After coach's life was saved backstage, Uzbekistan dominate Olympic boxing

me in my heart, and tomorrow we will be going to members of Britain's training

visit him in the hospital." Kilichev fell ill backstage after flyweight Hasanboy Dusmatov won Uzbekistan's first gold medal Thursday. According to GB Boxing, team doctor Harj Singh and physical therapist Robbie Lillis found Kilichev in lifethreatening distress. They performed CPR on the coach, and Lillis also used a defibrillator, the team said. Jalolov said Kilichev remained in contact with the team over the past two days

while recovering, and his



fighters responded with a historic performance. Jalolov was the last of Uzbekistan's five Paris champions to climb the

podium Saturday night in the

best Olympic performance since Cuba also won five golds at the 2004 Athens Games. Uzbekistan won the final five men's gold medal bouts contested at Roland

starting Garros. Dusmatov on Thursday - a victory followed by that frightening moment for Kilichev.

'This is history for and I'm Uzbekistan, emotional because becoming Olympic two-time

champion was my dream," Jalolov said. "Now I feel very happy, and I will continue my career as a professional boxer."

Lazizbek Mullojonov won the heavyweight title Friday night, joining a remarkable Olympic lineage at that weight including Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Teofilo Stevenson, Felix Savon and Oleksandr Usyk.

"We are building a new generation of boxers," Mullojonov said. "This is the result of all the federation's work."

Indeed, Uzbekistan has responded sharply to its twisting fortunes in the past two Games under Kilichev's leadership. The team claimed three gold medals in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 to signal its arrival as an international power, but won just one gold medal -Jalolov's first - five years later in Tokyo. With Jalolov and Dusmatov returning alongside a new

crew of gifted young boxers,

Uzbekistan has returned to

dominance.

## Sifan wins women's marathon World Boxing to announce major increase in membership after Paris Olympics



tradition, the women's Olympic marathon was held on the final day instead of the men's race. Hassan, an Ethiopian-born

debate over changing attitudes

racer who runs for the Netherlands, used the same tactic in the hilly, 26.2-mile course as on the oval. She lingered behind the leaders for most of the race before summoning up the energy for a late-race kick that would go down as one of the best the sport has seen. This one, amazingly, had more the look of a crowded race on the oval down the stretch. As Hassan gathered to make her last pass, Assefa, from Ethiopia, tried to block her path. Hassan moved to

the inside around a bend. Assefa tried to squeeze her against the barrier separating the course from the cheering fans. The runners traded elbows, and then, Hassan took off past

Assefa and sprinted in for the win.

PTI PARIS The nascent governing body fighting to keep boxing in the Olympics is about to get a major membership boost. World Boxing expects to expand its membership base to 50 national federations or more in the weeks after the conclusion of the tumultuous

> Paris Olympics, President Boris Van Der Vorst told The Associated Press. The organization already has 37 members, including most of the top Western national

federations. Van Der Vorst said he is leaving Paris even more confident his sport can pull off "the greatest comeback story ever in the Olympic

federation individually to accomplish this seismic change to the sport - and the clock is ticking. Boxing is not currently on the program for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and the

Boxing Association, which has been banished from the

World Boxing must court each

Olympic movement.

movement." Van Der Vorst has spent the Games speaking to boxing leaders and federation officials as World Boxing attempts to unify the sport under the only practical alternative to the Russian-International dominated

competition, but it has struggled to defend its claims

since they resurfaced at the

Olympics, occasionally giving

contradictory information or

saying they were asked not to

give details by the boxers'

The two boxers' detractors included former U.S. President

Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling and Italian

Premier Giorgia Meloni. Their presence in Paris became a

weapon in a largely Western

national federations.

International Olympic Committee has repeatedly said the sport must find a suitable new governing body - likely by early 2025 - to be restored to the lineup for the Games. An

IOC unit ran the past two Olympic boxing tournaments. "There's only one reason to join (World Boxing), and that's to save our sport," Van Der Vorst told the AP on Saturday.

## Boxer Lin Yu-ting wins gold, concludes an Olympics filled with scrutiny

### PTI PARIS

in Yu-ting fought to remain Lpoised and calm throughout the Paris Olympics boxing tournament, even when it seemed like most of the chattering world was maligning her, misrepresenting her and questioning the very nature of her being.

The flyweight shut off her social media, kept up her training and focused on earning one proficient victory after another.

But when she heard Taiwan's anthem while standing on the top podium at Roland Garros with a gold medal around her neck, Lin suddenly broke down in cathartic sobs. She cried not only for the tumult of the past two weeks, but for a lifetime in boxing that

culminated in this gold-medal

victory over previously unfathomable challenges. "I saw images flashing, and I thought about the beginning of

my career when I started boxing," Lin said. "All the difficult practices, the times that I got injured, the competitors I fought against. All these images flashed in my head. There are times of great pain. There are times of great joy. I cried because I was so

touched." Lin completed her domination of her division Saturday night, following Imane Khelif's lead a day earlier by giving a glittering response to the intense scrutiny faced by both fighters inside the ring and around the world over misconceptions about their womanhood. Lin routed Julia Szeremeta of The

Poland 5:0 in the final, capping her four-fight unbeaten run through Paris by winning Taiwan's first Olympic boxing

gold medal. On Friday, Khelif won Algeria's first women's boxing medal with a decisive victory in the welterweight division final, beating Yang Liu of China.

Both fighters persevered through an avalanche of criticism and uninformed speculation about their sex during the Paris tournament to deliver the best performances

of their boxing careers. "Every fight is not easy," Lin said. "Winning 5-0 might seem easy, but behind that is a lot of practice and hard work."

World leaders, celebrities and online critics attempted to make it about something other than the boxers' years of work. detractors either



questioned their eligibility to be in women's competitions or falsely claimed they were men, potentially forcing both women to take unwanted starring roles in a

toward gender identity and safety regulation in sports. Lin said she minimized this enormous

distraction by managing to avoid learning about it almost entirely. She also said she'll eligibility test for women's speak with her team about competition, but it has whether to take legal action

against some of the claims. "As an elite athlete, during the competition it's important to shut myself off from social media," she said. "That's extremely important. Some of the noises or some of the news articles, of course I heard some of the information through my coach, but I didn't pay too much mind to it. And I was invited by the IOC to participate in the Games. This is what I focused on."

culture clash over eligibility for Both fighters were disqualified women's sports. Khelif said a gold medal would last year from the world championships organized by be the "best response" to the uproar. Both fighters got the the International Boxing Association, a Russianlast word in Paris, although the chatter and scrutiny could dominated governing body that has been banished from persevere for the rest of their the Olympics since 2019. The IBA said they failed an

Lin hadn't been as dominant or

careers.

as dynamic as Khelif in Paris, but she steadily rolled toward the final as the top seed in the women's 57-kilogram division. The 5-foot-9 (1.75 meter) Lin is usually taller and more slender than her opponents, and she uses those advantages to pick them apart with skill and angles, rather than

strength or power. That's exactly what Lin did to Szeremeta after taking the ring Saturday to loud cheers and dozens of Olympic-style Chinese Taipei flags waving in the stands, with millions more cheering back home.

After having her hand raised and holding open the ropes for Szeremeta's departure in a typical boxing gesture of sportsmanship, Lin went to the center of the ring, knelt on the Paris 2024 logo and touched

her head to the canvas.