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#### STOCK MARKETS TO TAKE CUES FROM GLOBAL TRENDS: ANALYSTS

**MONEY 10** 

CHANDIGARH, MONDAY AUGUST 19, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

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## SC takes cognisance of Kolkata rape horror

RAJESH KUMAR/SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"The nation looks to the judiciary as the ultimate guardian of justice, the last refuge for those whose cries



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

silenced by have been brutality.

"The victim in this case, a young doctor whose life was dedicated to serving others, deserves nothing less than the full measure of justice that our legal system can provide. Her death must not be in vain, it must galvanise us to act, to ensure that no other woman suffers such a fate," stated the letter.

"The time has come for the judiciary to send a clear and resounding message that such heinous crimes will not be tolerated, that the sanctity of life and the dignity of women must be fiercely protected by the full might of the law," it The Calcutta High Court recently transferred the probe from the Kolkata Police to the

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

### **CBI** closes in on crucial evidence in murder case

lady doctor, could hold crucial clues to unraveling the mystery behind her rape and murder, according the mystery behind her rape and murder, according the mystery behind her personal diary.

On Sunday, the CBI summoned several security to some Central Bureau of Investigation officials.

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

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

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

reluctance to perform night shifts at the hospital.

"Clearly, she was under The call detail records of Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, along with the personal diary of the slain ladv doctor, could hold

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

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



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

### All does not seem well with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

RAJESH KUMAR **NEW DELHI** 

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

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

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

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

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

"With a heavy heart, I said in

## **10** killed, **27** hurt in UP road tragedy

PNS ■ BULANDSHAHR (UP)

 $T^{
m en}$  people were killed and 27 injured when a pickup van collided head-on with a private bus in the Salempur area here on Sunday, officials said.

The accident occurred on

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

pickup van was coming from Ghaziabad when it collided with the bus. "Ten people were killed and

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

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

undergoing treatment at a private hospital. The condition of four of the injured was serious and they were referred to the Meerut Medical College. remaining injured people have been admitted to the district hospital, Singh said. The DM said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the incident and directed him and other officials to ensure that the injured get the best medical treatment. He said fitness documents of both vehicles were updated.

## Bitter Football Foes of Bengal unite against rape horror

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

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

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

These three century-old

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

giants, whose supporters have of the Bharatiya Nagarik stadium, where police a long history of street clashes Suraksha Sanhita, gathered at struggled to disperse the

brutal crime.

The fans, defying prohibitory orders under Section 163 (formerly Section 144, CrPC) the iconic Salt Lake Stadium to voice their outrage over the

The victim's semi-nude body had been found inside the hospital on the morning of August 9. Dramatic scenes unfolded in front of the where police football fans, resorting to lathi charges as the supporters chanted, "Lobster and Hilsa unite at the death of our own

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

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

## **Child Rights head red flags radical curriculum of Bihar madrasas**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairman Priyank Kanoongo on Sunday expressed concerns being taught in Governmentfunded madrasas in Bihar and the enrollment of Hindu children in such institutions. Also, he questioned the involvement of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in designing this curriculum, calling it the "height of appeasement" by both UNICEF and the Bihar

Madrasa Board. Kanoongo urged the United Nations to these investigate activities and called for the dissolution of the Madrasa Board. In a recent post on the microblogging platform X, he Kanoongo criticised highlighted that textbooks UNICEF, stating, "It is not like Talimul Islam used in these madrasas label non-Islamic individuals as "kafir"

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

(infidels).

published in Pakistan and

Hindu children from madrasas to regular schools, Kanoongo said the Bihar Madrasa Board claimed curriculum prepared by UNICEF İndia. In his post,

UNICEF's job to create a radical curriculum using money received as donations grants governments, under the guise of child protection." A response from UNICEF on this matter is still awaited. Kanoongo also revealed that

many of the textbooks used

in these madrasas are

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

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

## Sriram's IAS coaching centre penalised



PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

statement, the CCPA said because of the violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the CCPA, headed by C Nidhi Chief Commissioner, Khare, and Anupam Commissioner, Mishra, has issued an order against Sriram's IAS for misleading advertisement regarding UPSC Civil Service

Exam 2022. Coaching institutes and online edtech platforms use

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

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

## This Rakhi, markets to cross all bandhan with record sales

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

s people prepare to celebrate ARaksha Bandhan on Monday, sales across the country are expected to surpass ₹12,000 crore, marking a ₹2,000 crore increase from last year. This year, Rakhi sales are expected

to generate over ₹12,000 crore in revenue nationwide, with markets experiencing a surge in demand for "Made in India" Rakhis.

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

"It is expected that this year, the business during the Rakhi festival will reach ₹12,000 crore, compared

to last year's trade of approximately

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

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

Rakhis made from famous products of various cities across the country. Additionally, there is a high

Bhartia said a unique aspect of this national pride, such as Tricolour year's festival is the wide variety of

Rakhis, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Rakhis, and Bharat Mata Rakhis. Designer and silver Rakhis are also selling well in the market. CAIT's national president BC demand for Rakhis that showcase He said from Raksha Bandhan on

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

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

For the past four years, CAIT has successfully promoted a campaign

goods, especially during festivals. While Chinese products used to dominate the market due to their lower prices, indigenous Rakhis have been the sole focus for several years. This year, too, there was neither demand for nor presence of Chinese Rakhis in the market. The chairman of CAIT's Vedic Committee and Vedic scholar from

products and the boycott of Chinese

Ujjain, Acharya Durgesh Tare, said on August 19, there is a 'Bhadra' period lasting until 1:30 pm, during which no auspicious activities should be performed. As a result, the sacred festival of Raksha Bandhan will be celebrated across the country starting from 1:31 pm onwards. CAIT has issued this advisory to all trader organisations across the country, recommending that all traders celebrate Raksha Bandhan encouraging the purchase of Indian during the auspicious time.



## Classifieds

#### **BEDAKHLI**

- I, Karambir son of Shri Suraimal resident of village Bhalaut district Rohtak declare that I declare that my son Sumit Kumar Bhoria is beyond my control. I evict him from my movable and immovable property. I and my family have nothing to do with him. In future Sumit Kumar Bhoria will not be able to handle his transactions and other work, he himself will be responsible for it.
- I, Ramesh Kumar son of Ram Chandra resident of Kachchawas Mohalla, near Shiv Chowk Sirsa, Tehsil and District Sirsa, evict my son Sandeep and daughter-in-law Saloni, who are beyond my control, from my movable and immovable property. I refuse to deal with them in future. The person himself will be responsible and not me and my family
- We Sukhdev Singh S/C Shamsher Singh & Paramjeet Kaur W/O Sukhdev Singh R/O Village Sandhu Kalan Distt Barnala Declare That My Son Shaminder Singh And His Wife Rupam Kaur Are Out Of Our Control. So We Disowned Both Of Them From All Our Movable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own
- I. Balvir Singh S/o Shingara Singh R/o Ghagga Teh-Patran (Patiala) declare that my son Narinder Singh is out of my control. So i disown with him from my moveable/immoveable property. If anybody dealing with him at his/her own risk
- I, Daljit Kaur W/o Late Bhag Singh R/o 827/14, Marhian Road, Khanna {Ludhiana) Declare That My Son Avtar Singh, His Wife Narpinder Kaur and His Both Sons Ekamveer Singh and Karmveer Singh are out of my control. They do not look after me and residing seperately from me. I Disown Avtar Singh, His Wife Narpinder Kaur and his both sons Ekamveer Singh and Karmveer Singh from my property. I or my any family member will not be responsible for their acts and conducts

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

- I, Kuldip Singh S/o Waryam Singh R/o Vill: Pandori Po. Jhawan Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Punjab, declare that my daughter Veena's Passport No. J0081961 in my name is mentioned as Kuldeep Singh is Kuldip Singh. Please enter my correct name in my daughter's Passport as
- Kuldip Singh I, Smt Manjeet Kaur D/o No 4450303X Ex NK {TS} Gurbax Singh Resident of VPO Latour, Tehsil & Distt: Fatehgarh Sahib {Pb} Declare That I am real daughter in respect of above named deceased soldier. As per Army Records my name and date of birth has been written as Karamjit Kaur and DOB mentioned as 08 Aug 1972. Whereas as per Aadhar Card, PAN Card & Voter Card my correct name is Manieet Kaur and Correct DOB is 01 Jan 1969. I Have changed my name from Karamjit Kaur to Manjeet Kaur and DOB from
- 08 Aug 1972 to 01 Jan 1969. I, Rajender Singh S/O Gian Singh R/O H.No. 76/2/9, Raipur Khurd, Chandigarh, Declare That In My Pan Card My Name & My Father Name Has Been Written Wrong As Rajender S/O Hari Singh Instead Of Rajender Singh S/O Gian Singh. My & My Father Correct & Actual Name Is Ra-

#### **CHANGE OF NAME**

jender Singh S/O Gian Singh.

- I, Neelam W/o Vinod Kumar R/o H.No. 924, St. No. 14, Tripuri Town, Patiala (Punjab) have changed my name from Neelam Kumari to Neelam
- I, Suman W/o Raj Kumar, R/o H. No. 1014, St. No.10, Gurbax Colony, Patiala have changed my name from
- Suman to Suman Juneja I, Yash Paul Gupta s/o Sh. Mati Ram Gupta r/o # 10-B, Krishna Colony, Yamunanagar have changed my name from Yash Paul Gupta to Yash Pal
- Gupta. I. Akanksha Alias Shivani wife of Rahul Sachdeva Resident of House No. 09. Ward No. 09 Huda Colony Post Mandi Dabwali District Sirsa have changed my name to Akanksha.

- Son of Gurdial Singh Resident of Village Machhiwara, Jhoke Tehal Singh District Ferozepur have Changed my name to Gurvinder Singh.
- I, Kulvinder Kaur wife of Gurdial Singh Resident of Village Machhiwara, Jhoke Tehal Singh District Ferozepur have Changed my name to Kulwinder Kaur.
- I, Army No. 16117619P Rank NK Name Bala Subramani T of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Residing of D No. 4/245 A, Manju Kottai, Chinna Orappam Vtc Orappam P.o Orappam Tehsil Krishnagiri Dist. Krishnagiri State Tamil Nadu Pin-635108 have changed my Daughter Name in all documents From B Shahana to Shahana B. Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Saratha Thirupathi is le-Mother of No. 16117619P Rank NK Name Bala Subramani T of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Residing of D No. 4/15 Chinna Orappam Vtc Orappam P.o Orappam Tehsil Krishnagiri Dist. Krishnagiri State Tamil Nadu Pin-635108 dohave change my name in all documents from Saratha to Saratha Thirupathi and date of birth 01-07-1969 to 10-03-1967 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary
- I, N Thirupathi is legally Father of No. 16117619P Rank NK Name Bala Subramani T of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Residing of D No. 4/15 Chinna Orappam, Vtc Orappam P.o. Orappam Tehsil Krishnagiri Dist. Krishnagiri State Tamil Nadu Pin-635108 have change my name in all documents from Thirupathi to N Thirupathi Nagulan and date birth 01-07-1957 to 10.03.1957 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Dhanalakshmi C is Wife of No. 16117619P Rank NK Name Bala Subramani T of Unit 22 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Ferozepur Permanent address D No. 4/245 A, Manju Kottai, Chinna Orappam Vtc Orappam P.o Orappam Tehsil Krishnagiri Dist. Krishnagiri State Tamil Nadu Pin-635108 have change my name in all documents from Dhanalakshmi B to Dhanalakshmi C Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- Army No. 15504643K Rank LD Name Siyakumar T of Unit 84 Armd Reat C/o 56 APO Permanent Address Village. Melaurappanur P.O Urappanur Distt. Madurai State Tamil Nadu Pin 625706 have changed my Daughter Name in all documents From Sivani to S Sivani. Vide Affidavit Dated 19 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I. Devikarani R is legally Wife of No. 15504643K Rank LD Name Sivakumar T presently Address Unit 84 Armd Regt C/o 56 APO Residing of Village. Melaurappanur P.o Urappanur Distt. Madurai State Tamil Nadu Pin 625706 have Change my Name R Devikarani to Devikarani R Vide Affidavit Dated 19 August 2024 before at Notary
- Ferozepur. I, Sumitra Biradar is legally Mother of Army No. 15808657A Rank NK Name Siddaram Birajadar of unit 408 Gun MSL Regt. C/o 56 APO Permanent address Satalagaon (P.I) Vijayapura, State Karnataka Pin- 586217 Declare That my Name Sumitra and my date of birth 01/06/1970 Wrongly written in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name Sumitra Biradar and date of
- birth 01/01/1977. I, JC-314603A Rank NB Sub Name Shibu S of Unit 03 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003, Yol Cantt have changed my mother name from Ambujakshi Amma to Ambujakshiyamma & Date of 01.07.1961 01.01.1958 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before
- at Notary Ferozepur. I, Army No. 16112641W Rank HAV Name Senthil Kumar M of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003, Yol Cantt have changed my name from Senthil Kumar M to Senthilkumar M Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.

- I. Gabirivel D is father of Army No. 16123865W Rank NK Name John Peter G of Unit 05 Engr Regiment have changed my name from Gabriel to Gabiriyel D and date of birth from 09.06.1962 to 23.04.1963 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Rakkel G is mother of Army No. 16123865W Rank NK Name John Peter G of Unit 05 Engr Regiment have changed my name from Rakkel to Rakkel G and date of birth from 12.07.1963 to 08.06.1967 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Govindan Nair PK is father of Army No. 15330134Y Rank HAV Name Sethu Bhanu PK of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Sethu Bhanu PK to Govindan Nair PK & date of birth from 01.07.1938 to 13.06.1938 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Mani Ram is father of Army No. 15329406F Rank HAV Name Prabhat of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Maniram to Mani Ram & date of birth from 01.01.1955 to 10.02.1954 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Sankutla Devi is mother of Army No. 15329406F Rank HAV Name Prabhat of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Shakuntala Devi to Sankutla Devi & date of birth 01.09.1961 01.01.1956 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Valsala N is mother of Army No. 16111924L Rank HAV Name Aneeshkumar K of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Valasala N to Valsala N & date of birth from 01.07.1962 to 22.04.1961 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- I, Pankajakshi is mother of Army No. 15330134Y Rank HAV Name Sethu Bhanu PK of Unit 05 Engr Regt have changed my name from Pankajam to Pankajakshi and Date of birth from 01.07.1948 to 01.01.1954 Vide Affidavit Dated 17 August 2024 before at Notary Ferozepur.
- Vikash S/o 2678816A, Ex Naik Maman R/o VPO - Kathura. Teh. - Gohana. District - Sonipat (Haryana) have changed my name from Vikash Singh to Vikash vide affidavit dated 13 Aug 2024 before Sonipat (Haryana) Court. In future I should be known as only Vikash.
- I, Neeraj Kumar S/o No 15131565N, Ex Naik ( ACP Hay) Naresh R/o VPO - Dhanana, Teh. - Gohana, District -Sonipat (Haryana) have changed my name from Neeraj Sharma to Neeraj Kumar vide affidavit dated 13 Aug 2024 before Sonipat (Harvana) Court. In future I should be known as only Neerai Kumar.
- I, Veena Rani W/O Nirmal Singh R/O H.No.301. Street No.4. Daddal Mohalla Phagwara District Kapurthala (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Veena Rani To Beena.
- I, Suman Gulia W/o Shri Joginder Malik R/o House Number 38 Vikas Nagar, Sonipat Road, Rohtak, declare that I have changed my name from Suman Malik to Suman Gulia.for all future purposes.
- I, Sachin S/o Ram Kumar R/o Chhataihara Bahadurpur Distt-Sonipat have changed my Son's name from Ronish to Ronish Rathi for all future
- I, Kirt Partap Singh S/O Parampal Singh R/O H.No.149, Po- Pull Tibri Bhulle Chak Gurdaspur, Gurdaspur Pin: 143530, Punjab, India. Declare That My Given Name As Kirt Partap And May Surname As
- I, Uttamjit Kaur W/o Bawa Singh R/o Vill:Kamalpur Teh-Balachaur (SBS Nagar) have changed my name from Uttamjeet Kaur to Uttamjit Kaur.
- I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Swaran Singh R/o Vill: Mahian Wala Khurd Po. Mehar Singh Wala Teh-Zira (Ferozepur) have changed my name from Parmjit Kaur to Paramjeet Kaur.
- I, Jasbir Singh S/o Bachan Singh R/o Vill: Muradpur Awana Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) have changed my name from Jasbir Singh to Jasvir Singh.
- I, Onkar Singh S/o Braham Dass R/o H.No. 1925 St.No. 19 Darshan Nagar Patiala Punjab, declare that my given name is Onkar and surname is Singh.

- I, Jaskirat Singh S/o Gurdev Singh R/o Village Nandan PO Bassi Purani Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Singh Jaskirat.
- I, Harman S/o Sohan Singh R/o Vill: Mehmadpur Teh-Derabassi (SAS Nagar) have changed my name from Harman to Harman Singh.
- I, Jagsir Singh Gill S/o Gurdev Singh R/o Mansoor Deva (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Jagseer Singh. I, Gurpreet Kaur Gill W/o
- Jagsir Singh Gill R/o Mansoor Deva (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Gurpreet I, Tara Singh S/o Boota Singh R/o Prem Nagar, Kotka-
- pura District Faridkot have changed my name to Resham I, Shashi Gupta D/o Tilak Raj Gupta and W/o Rajesh Gupta R/o Kothi Number 1. Prem Nagar Saingarh, VTC-

Pathankot, Punjab - 145001,

- have changed my name to Shashi Mahajan I, Muneshwar Kumar Yadav S/o Rajadhar Yadav R/o House No.-222, Adarsh Colony A, Balongi, SAS Mohali, Punjab-140301, have changed my
- name to Munna Yadav. I, Surjit kaur W/O Bhola Singh R/o Village Gobindgarh (Ludhiana) Surjit kaur and Surjeet Kaur is same parson.
- I. Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Sh. Swaran Singh R/o Village Milak Sukhi, P.O. Mandhar, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, I have change my name from Sukhdev Kaur to Sukhwinder Kaur All concerned note.
- I, Vikram s/o Ranbir Singh R/o H.No 29 VPO Asaudha Siwan Dist Jhajjar Haryana Have Changed my Name From Vikram to Vikram Singh.
- I, hitherto known as Mohinder Paul S/o Ishar Dass Miglani residing at H.No. 253-L Jalandhar-Town, 144003, Punjab changed my name and shall heteafter be knowm as Mohinder Miglani
- I, hitherto known as Jyoti Goyal D/o Madhu Sudan w/o Garish Goyal R/o H.No. 302-A, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Avenue, Near Chamba Peer Jalandhar, 144004, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Isha Goyal.
- I, hitherto known as Anil Kumar S/o Brij Bhushan Aggarwal R/o H.No. 38, Mohalla No.15, Near Maha Maya Mandir, Jalandhar Cantt-144005, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anil Aggarwal.
- I, hitherto Known as Sandeep S/o Dharam Pal R/o H.No. 843-C, Urban Estate, Phase-1, Jalandhar-144022, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be
- known as Sandeep Ahuja. I, B Jyothi legally Mother of Murali B S presently residing at Ward 3-70, Mallikarjinapuram, VTC & PO Veerichettipalli, Tehsil Gudiyatham, Distt. Vellore (TN) -632603 have changed my name from B Jyothi to Jothy Sriramulu vide Affidavit dated 16 Aug 2024 before Executive
- Magistrate Jalandhar, (PB). I, B Sriramulu legally Father of Murali B S presently residing at Ward 3-70, Mallikarjinapuram, VTC & PO Veerichettipalli, Tehsil Gudiyatham, Distt. Vellore (TN)-632603 have changed my name from B Sriramulu to Sriramulu Munisamy vide Affidavit dated 16 Aug 2024 before Executive Magistrate Jalandhar, (PB).
- I, Amarjeet Singh S/O Naranjan Singh R/O Village Untsar Tehsil Rajpura Distt Patiala Declare That Amarjeet Is My Givan Name And Singh Is My Surname
- I, No. 6935099F ESM NB SUB (MACP) Dharamvir Singh S/o Sh. Dariya Singh R/o VPO Bhana Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that in my service record my mother's name is written as Ramdevi and her date of birth 01/07/1939 which is incorrect. The correct name of my mother is Ramdei and her correct date of birth is 01/01/1935 which is registered in her other
- Civil documents. I, Prishi Singla D/o Rohit Singla R/o House No. 316, Model Town, Jind Road, Kaithal, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Prishi to Prishi Singla. In future I will be known by the name of Prishi

## **Himachal CM launches tablet distribution,** nutrition scheme to boost education

#### **PNS** ■ HAMIRPUR

Timachal Pradesh Chief Hillacinal Fraces.
Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday launched two significant initiatives in the education sector, marking a pivotal moment for the state's educational landscape. These initiatives include the distribution of tablets to primary school teachers and introduction 'Mukhyamantri Bal Poshtik Aahar Yojana' — both aimed at enhancing the quality of educa-

tion and improving nutritional

standards for students in gov-

ernment schools. Under the tablet distribution initiative, 17,510 primary school teachers across the hill state will receive tablets. The move is part of the government's broader push towards digitization, which aims to modernize teaching methods, provide easy access to digital resources, and streamline administrative processes such as attendance tracking and data

By equipping teachers with these digital tools, the State Government hopes to signifi-

ity of education, enabling teachers to present educational content more effectively and participate in online training programs that will further their professional development.

Simultaneously, the Chief Minister also launched the 'Mukhyamantri Bal Poshtik Aahar Yojana, a nutritional scheme designed to complement the existing Mid-Day Meal Scheme. This initiative targets students from Nursery to Class VIII across 15,181 government schools, aiming to provide additional nutrition to about 5,34,293 children. Under this scheme. students will receive boiled eggs or fresh fruits once a week sourced from local markets based on the preferences of the children. The State Government has allocated an additional budget of Rs 12.75 crore for the scheme for the current financial year, emphasizing its commitment to improving child nutrition and overall health. During the launch event, the Chief Minister addressed the decline in the state's ranking in terms of educational quality, which slipped to 18th place

Government. He highlighted that the current administration is making concerted efforts to reverse this trend. The Chief Minister outlined a threepronged approach to improving education: ensuring no shortage of funds for quality education, sending teachers abroad for exposure visits, and establishing Raiiv Gandhi Day-Boarding Schools in every assembly constituency to strengthen educational infrastructure. In the first phase, 217 teachers have already been sent to Singapore for training, reflecting the Government's focus on enhancing the skills and

global exposure of educators. The Chief Minister also announced a new policy for teacher transfers, limiting them to once a year to ensure stability in schools and continuous quality education for students. He criticized the previous government for opening over 400 educational institutions without adequate staffing, leading to a decline in educational standards. To address this, schools with fewer than five students are being merged with nearby institutions,

and if necessary, the government will provide transportation support for students, even allocating up to Rs 20,000 for this purpose.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that colleges in the State would undergo rationalization to ensure the provision of quality education. Also touching upon the broader economic challenges facing the State, particularly the rising debt burden exacerbated by previous administrations. Sukhu criticized the past Government's populist measures, such as waiving electricity and water bills for affluent families, which he said contributed to the state's financial woes. Despite these challenges, the current government has provided a seven percent Dearness Allowance (DA) to employees and has committed to paying arrears to over 28,000 pensioners aged 75 and above this year. The Chief Minister urged the government employees to support the State's efforts to recover Rs 9,000 crore of NPS funds stuck with the Central Government, highlighting the government's dedication to restoring the state's economy within the next six months.

hands, sometimes one gets the

desired results, and sometimes he

does not. Success generates

hunger for further success and

failure results in disappointment.

Rajasik dhriti, thus, often results

in a feeling of discontentment.

in misery and rajasik resolve

results in recurring discontent-

ment. For attaining a long-last-

ing sense of achievement and

contentment, one needs to cul-

tivate in life a determination

which is in the mode of goodness

(sattvik dhriti).

The tamasik resolve results

#### VOICE WITHIN / VIJAY SINGAL

#### The Basis of Success - A Resolute Understanding and A Firm Determination



#### VIJAY SINGAL

M any factors play a role in the success or failure in any endeavour, or in the overall life of a person. Bhagavad Gita has identified, analysed and explained many of such elements. Two of them - a resolute intellect and a firm determination - are the subject matter of this article.

Steadfastness of understanding is an important ingredient of success. While highlighting the need for steadiness of the intellect on the path of sambudhiyoga, Sri Krishna stated in shloka 2.41 as under: 'O descendant of the Kurus! The intellect of those who traverse this path (the art of detaching the mind from the fruits of one's actions) is resolute (decided), and their aim is one-pointed. But the thoughts of the irresolute are

PUBLIC NOTICE

NO. HBH/EM/PKL/2024/3170 Dated 09/08/24
Sub: Transfer of Flat No.95GF. Housing Board
Colony, Sector-34-4A. Pinjore, Tehsil Kalika. DisttPanchkula, Haryana, in the name Sh. Mohd.
Arshad Kamaal Qasmi Sío Sh. Nisar Ahmed Río
H.No.2487, Mari Wala Town, Manimajra.
Chandigarh on the basis of general transfer current
owner is Sh. Sonu Sangwan Sío Sh. Balwan Singh.
Río H.No. 128. Masthath Colony, Satrod Kalan,
Hisar, Haryana, is living intestate property,
It is notified for the information of the general public
and all concerned with the property Flat No. 95GF.
Housing Board Colony, Sector-3-4-4A, Pinjore.
Tehsil Kalika. Distt-Panchkula. Haryana, which
stands in the name of Sh. Sonu Sangwan, which
stands in the name of Sh. Sonu Sangwan, which
Satrod Kalan, Hisar, Haryana, as per record of this
office.

office.

It has been reported by the applicant (S) was the owner of this property applied for General Transfer on 01.08.2024, in the name Sh. Mohd. Arshad Kamaal Qasmi Slo Sh. Nisar Ahmed R/o H.No.2487. Mari Wala Town, Manimajra, Chandigarh, If anybody have any objection for the General transfer of the said property he should file objection to the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Estate Manager

Housing Board Haryana Haryana

#### ਮੈਂ ਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰ: ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ, ਵਾਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਅਤੇ ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ ਮਣਕਪੁਰ ਸ਼ਰੀਫ, ਖਰੜ, ਐੱਸ.ਏ.ਐੱਸ

**Public Notice** Smt. Rajini Rani wife of Sh. Rishi Pal resident of H.no.4033, Gandhi Nagar, Kurukshetra, Haryana has filed necessary papers to this office for the transfer of flat No 63GF housing board Colony, Sector -42, Ambala Cantt, to the page of Sh. Kamal Najia Accas so of Sh. name of Sh. Kamal Nain Arora son of Sh. Nand lal R/o H.no.774-775, Sector 13 Kurukshetra, In case any one has any objection for the transfer of the said flat, he should file objection to the undersigned within 30 days from the

Estate Manager. Housing Board Haryana Panchkula.

#### Declaration

My name is Kunal Pal, son of Mr. Ga mesh Shanker, resident of 156 New Golden Avenue, Amritsar Punjab, hereby declare that I belong to the other backward classes (OBC) cate gory as recognised by the Governmen of India. This declaration is made fo the purpose to change my general cat-egory to other backward class (OBC) in school certificates.

#### सार्वजनिक सूचना

इस पब्लिक नोटिस के मार्फत जन-साधारण को सुचित किया जाता है कि प्रार्थी श्री संजीव नागपाल पुत्र स्व. श्री मुलखराज निवासी म. न.32, हाउसिंग बोर्ड कॉलोनी, अम्बाला छावनी से मृतक स्व. मुलखराज पुत्र स्व. श्री वजीर चन्द के कानूनी बारिस की रिपोर्ट जारी करने के हेत एक प्रार्थना पत्र इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त हुआ है जारी करने के हत् एक प्रायंता पत्र इस कार्यालय में प्रायत हुआ है।
प्रार्थिक प्रायंता पत्र व संलग्न हरफनामा व रिपोर्ट पार्थंद, ! नंबरदार /
पटवारी अनुसार मुक्त रूप. मृलवाराज पुत्र रूप. श्री बजीर चन्द के
निम्निलिखित कानुनी बारिस है :- 1. संजीव नागणल पुत्र 2. जियानागणल पुत्र 3. नीक कार्स पुत्री यदि इस बारे किसी व्यक्ति को कोई
अपनि है तो बल तसमीलदार अन्याला आवनी के कार्यालय में
प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अंदर-अंदर अपति दर्ज करवा सकता है।
यदि प्राया द्वारा प्रार्थेक्स प्रकाशन प्रकाशन करारी है तो प्रार्थी भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की धारा 177 व अन्य संबंधित काननों

many-branched and endless? Śri Krishna has thus high-

lighted the role of a resolute intellect in controlling and guiding the mind. Attachment is the normal condition of the human mind. It repeatedly runs after various objects of its attachment. One's thoughts are, thus, always scattered. The one with such a disoriented mind has no clear-cut aim in life. He cannot focus on something for long. Hence, he often fails in whatever he does. Recurrent failures create more confusion in the mind. Hence, one is caught in a vicious circle of confusion and failures. How to get out of such a vicious circle? Answer lies in the steadiness of intellect. When the resolute intellect guides the mind, one clearly identifies the goal. Success is ensured when that goal is pursued with an equanimous mind.

Another factor which plays an important role in the success in life is determination and strong willpower. But determination is not uniform in nature. Sri Krishna has differentiated in shloka 18.29 three kinds of determination (dhriti), as per the three gunas (the modes of material nature). These three kinds of determination - the sattvik dhriti, the rajasik dhriti and the tamasik dhriti - have been described in shlokas from 18.33 to 18.35. Different kinds of deterresults. Every resolve does not lead towards attainment of the

#### सार्वजनिक सूचना

इस पब्लिक नोटिस के मार्फत जन-साधारण को सुवित किया जाता है कि प्रार्थी श्री प्रतीन गुलाटी पुत्र स्थ. श्री अमर नाथ गुलाटी निवासी म न. 15- ए, पालम विहार, पंजाबी वाण अन्याला छानती से मुतक स्थ अमर नाथ गुलाटी पुत्र स्थ. देवी दास के कानूनी वारिस की रिपोर्ट प्रार्थ करने के हेतू एक प्रार्थना यह इस कार्यालय में प्रार्व हुआ है। प्रार्थ के प्रार्थना पत्र व संसग्न हरफनामा व रिपोर्ट पार्थद, नंबरदार / पटवार्स प्रायना पत्र व संलग्न हरूकनामा व रिपोट पायद / नंबरदार / पदवार अनुसार मृतकरे क. अमर नाथ गुलाटी पुत्र स्व. देवी दास के निम्नलिखित कानूनी वारिस हैं :- 1.प्रवीन गुलाटी -पुत्र 2. गुरंबरन गुलाटी - पुः 3.संतोष कपुर -पुत्री 4.वीना संबदेवा - पुत्री 5.पिँकी - पुत्री 6.प्रेम लता 3-सताथ कपुर -पुग 4-बाना संचवन -पुग 5.पाकन -पुग 6.पाकन -पुण 6.पाकन -पुण 6.पाकन -पुण 6.पाकन -पुण 6.पाकन

ਨਗਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ : । ਇਹ ਕਿ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਪ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ ਨੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਹੱਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਤੀ 28-04-2015 ਨੂੰ ਇੱ ਖਤਿਆਰ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਹ ਸਪੱਸ਼ਟ ਤੌਰ ਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰ ਸਿਰਫ ਪੰਜ ਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਵਿਭਾਗਾ (ਪਾੱਡਾ ਜਾਂ ਗਲਾਡਾ) ਨੂੰ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਦੀ ਵਿਕ ਲਈ ਸੀ। 2) ਇਹ ਕਿ ਮੈਂ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰਨਾਮੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੱਸੇ ਗ ਉਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਦੇ ਉਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਲਈ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰਨਾਮੇ ਦੀ ਵਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਸੀ। 3) ਇਹ ਕਿ ਹੁਣ ਮੈਂ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਰ ਨਾਲ ਇੱਕ ਇਕਰਾਰਨਾਮਾ ਕਰ ਰਿਹਾ ਹਾਂ ਜਿਸਦੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਮੇਰ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਰਕਬਾ 67/369 ਜੋ ਕਿ 05 ਕਨਾਲ 15 ਮਰਹੇ 01 ਸਰਸਾਹੀ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੰਬਰ, 280, ਖਤੋਨੀ ਨੰਬਰ 21 ਖਸਰਾ ਨੰ. 39//2/2 (7-0), 39//3/1 (6-19), 39//7/2/. (1-15), 39//8 (8-0), 39//9 (8-0), ਹਿਸਾ 67/369 ਵ ਕਿ 00 ਕਨਾਲ ,19 ਮਰਲਾ 07 ਸਰਸਾਹੀ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੰ 281, ਖਤੌਨੀ ਨੰ. 287 ਖਸਰਾ ਨੰ. 39//4/2 (5-9), ਹਿੱਸ 1168/5535 ਜੋ ਕਿ 04 ਕਨਾਲ 02 ਮਰਲਾ 00 ਸਰਸਾ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੰ. 438, ਖਤੌਨੀ ਨੰ. 450, ਖਸਰਾ 29//19/2/2 (1-7), 29//23/2/2 (1-19), 29//24/2 ( 17), 38//8/3 (0-2), 39//6 (5-7), 39//7/1/1 (2-15 39//15/2/1 (0-2), ਹਿਸਾ 167/795 ਜੋ ਕਿ 04 ਕਨਾ 4 ਮਰਲਾ 05 ਸਰਸਾਹੀ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੰ. 439, ਖਤੌਨੀ ਨ 451, ਖਸਰਾ ਨੰਬਰ. 29//12/2 (6-6), 29//13 (8-0 29//18/1 (8-4) ਵਾਕਿਆ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਾਜਰਾ ਅਤੇ ਇਸਦੇ ਨਾ ਹੀ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਰਕਬਾ ਵਾਕਿਆ ਬੂਬਗੜ, ਜਿਹ ਐੱਸ.ਬੀ.ਐੱਸ ਨਗਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਸਮੇ' ਮੇਰੀ ਪਤਾ ਰਤਵੀਰ ਕੌਰ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਹੈ ਜਿਸਦਾ ਹਿੱਸਾ 59/390 ਜੋ ਕਿ 0 ਹਾਲ 18 ਮਰਲੇ (35.6 ਬਿਸਵਾ) ਵਿਚੌਂ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੂੰ 129, ਖਤੌਰ . 139, ਖਸਰਾ ਨੰਬਰ 1-536/5 (11-14), ਜੋ ਕਿ ਗਮਾਫ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀ ਮਾਲਕੀ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਕਬੇ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰ ਲਈ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪੈਸਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਕਰਕੇ ਖਰੀਦਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ, ਨੂੰ ਮੈਂ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਤਿਆਰ ਹਾਂ। 4) ਇਹ ਕਿ i ਤ੍ਰੇਪਰੌਕਤ ਦੱਸੀ ਹੋਈ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਲਈ ਕੋਈ ਇਕਰਾਰਨਾਮਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਹੁਣ ਮੈਂ ਇਕਰਾਰਨਾਮ ਰਾਂਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰ ਰਿ ਹਾਂ। 5) ਇਹ ਕਿ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰਨਾਮੇ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਰਵਦ ਕ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਮੈਂ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰਨਾਮੇ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਪਾੜ ਕੇ ਸੁੱ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। 6) ਮੈਂ ਅੱਗੇ ਤੋਂ ਮਖਤਿਆਰਨਾਮੇ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਰ ਕਰਾਂਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਜੇਕਰ ਮੈਂ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ, ਤਾਂ ਮੈਂ ਇਸਦੇ ਲ ਅਪਰਾਧਿਕ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਜਵਾਬਦੇਹ ਹੋਵਾਂਗਾ 7)ਇਹ ਕਿ ਮੈਂ ਬਿਆ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਹਲਫੀਆ ਬਿਆਨ ਦੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਤੱਥ ਮੇਰੀ ਸਮ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਸਹੀ ਵਾ ਦਰੁਸਤ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਵਿੱ ਕੁੱਝ ਵੀ ਛੁਪਾ ਕੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਾਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਏ

The worst kind of determination is the tamasik dhriti. determination in the mode of ignorance. The tamasik dhriti has been declared to be that obstinacy by which one continues to hold on to dreaming, fear, grief, despair and conceit. Instead of letting go of one's past disappointments, guilts or insults; one clings to the regrets of the past. Such failures and perceived injustices are used as an excuse for not doing one's duties and not fulfilling one's responsibilities. Due to fears of future setbacks, such an obstinate person runs away from the struggles of life. He dreams big, but does nothing to fulfil those dreams. Being embroiled in the unresolved emotions of the past, he remains filled with grief and sorrow. He continues to blame everyone, except himself, for his pitiable condition.

Tamasik dhriti is, thus, to be found in those who are cut-off from reality and live in the make-believe world of their own misery. As against this, the rajasik dhriti is found in the worldlyminded people. The determination with which one performs his prescribed duties (dharma), indulges in sense-gratification (kaam) and works for accumulation of wealth (artha); out of attachment, and desire for rewards - that determination rajasik dhriti (determination in the mode of passion).

The people of rajasik dhriti want to attain great heights. Such a person works hard to gain all the good things in life. His energy is fuelled by the desire for enjoying the fruits of his actions. More than the work in hand, he is focussed on the fruits of his actions. Since the rewards of one's actions are not in one's own

What is sattvik dhriti? The unwavering steadiness of determination, which is cultivated through the practice of yoga; and by which one controls the senses, activities of the mind and the life force - such determination is said to be of the nature of goodness (sattvik dhriti). To elaborate, through the practice of yoga (working without attachment, and maintaining equanimity of mind amongst worldly pleasures and pains etc.), one can develop a positive steadfastness of resolve. Such resolve generates in a person that inner strength by which he keeps his vision focussed on the goal; and mobilises the latent powers of the body, mind and the intellect to attain that

spiritual perfection. To conclude, focussed attention on the work in hand and a strong willpower are two important ingredients of success in life. It needs to be clarified that strong willpower is not the same thing as stubbornness or slavery to desire. A balanced willpower enables one to have clear goals and achieve them through perseverance and self-discipline.

goal. He then surmounts, with

patience and self-control, all the

difficulties and obstacles on the

#### **Public Notice**

PUBLIC NOTICE

HBH /EM/PKL/2024/3170 Dated 09/08/2024

Sub: Transfer of Flat No. 45 SF, Housing Board Colony, Sector-3-44A, Prijore, Tehsil Kalka, Distt-Panchkula, Haryana, in the name Smt. Ankit Saini W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar, Rio Lahaprur, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana on the basis of general transfer current owner is Smt. Anita W/o Sh. Shankar, R/o H.No.60A, Bhainsa Tibba. Near Mansa Devil, MDC Sec.5, Panchkula, Haryana, is living intestate property.

Sec-5, Pancinus, Teryon, Teryon, Teryon, Teryon, Teryon, Title notified for the information of the general public and all concerned with the property No. Flat No. 455F, Housing Board Colony, Sector-3-4-4A, Pinjore, Tehsil Kalka, Distt-Panchkula, Haryana, which stands in the name of Smt. Anita Wio Sh. Shankar, Rio H.No.60A, Bhainsa Tibba, Near Mansa Devi, MDC Sec-5, Panchkula, Haryana, as accorded of this office.

Mansa Devi, MDC Sec-5, Panchkuia, Haryana, as per record of this office. It has been reported by the applicant (s) was the owner of this property applied for General Transfer on 01.08.2024, in the name Smt. Ankit Saini Wio Sh. Ashok Kumar, R/o Laharpur, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana.

if anybody have any objection for the General transfer of the said property he should file objection to the undersigned within 30 days from the date of

ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ , ਸਤਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰ: ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ

ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਅਤੇ ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ ਮਣਕਪੁਰ ਸ਼ਰੀਫ, ਖਰੜ ਐੱਸ।ਏ।ਐੱਸ। ਨਗਰ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦ ਾਂ ਕਿ: 1) ਕਿ ਹੁਣ ਮੈਂ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਲ ਇੱਕ ਇਕਰਾਰਨਾਮਾ ਕਰ ਰਿਹਾ ਹ ਜਸਦੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਮੇਰੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਰਕਬਾ 163/1845 ਜੋ ਕਿ 00 ਕਨਾਲ 09 ਮਰਲਾ 06 ਸਰਸਾਹੀ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੂੰ। 281 ਖਤੌਨੀ ਨੰ. 287 ਖਸਰਾ ਨੰ. 39//4/2 (5-9), ਹਿੱਸਾ 652 5535 ਜੋ ਕਿ 02 ਕਨਾਲ 05 ਮਰਲਾ 08 ਸਰਸਾਹੀ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਕੇਵਟ ਨੂੰ 438, ਖਤੌਨੀ ਨੂੰ 450, ਖਸੂਰਾ ਨੰਬਰ 29/1/9/22 (1-7), 29//23/2/2 (1-19), 29//24/2 (7-17, 38//8/3 (0-2), 39//6 (5-7), 39//71/11 (2-15), 39//15/2/1 (0-2), 67# 187/1590 ਜੋ ਕਿ 02 ਨਾਲ 13 ਮਰਲਾ 00 ਸਰਸਾਹੀ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੂੰ 439, ਖਤੌਨੀ ਤਬਰ. 451, ਖਸਰਾ ਨੰਬਰ। 29//12/2 (6-6), 29//13 (8-0), 29//18/1 (8-4) ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਬੰਦੀ ਸਾਲ 2018-2019 ਵਾਕਿਆ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਾਜਰਾ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਐੱਸ।ਬੀ।ਐੱਸ ਨਗਰ, ਨੂੰ ਮੈੱ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਤਿਆਰ ਹਾਂ। 2) ਇਹ ਕਿ ' ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਦੱਸੀ ਹੋਈ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਲਈ ਕੋਈ ਾਰਨਾਮਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਹੁਣ ਮੈਂ ਇਕਰਾਰ

ਾਂਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਲੀਵਾਲ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰ

ਰਹਾ ਹਾਂ। 3) ਇਹ ਕਿ ਮੈਂ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੋ

ਫ਼ੀਆ ਬਿਆਨ ਦੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਤੱਥ ਮੇਰੀ ਸਮਝ ਵਾ ਜਾਣਕ

ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਸਹੀ ਵਾ ਦਰੁੱਸਤ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੁੱਝ ਵੀ

ਛੁੱਪਾ ਕੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਹਿੱਸ

mohini mittal d/o Ashok mittal , ro 2 adarsh estate opp, sarni palce , jagadhri , declare that my fathei ate Ashok mittal was allotted a plot number b1-160 late Asriok hittal was allotted a plortumber 01-100 from ansal town sec20 phase 2 village khera and bhatuali tehsii jagadhri , distt Yamunanagar, if payment receipt nos 0622019 dated 15/1/2016 receipt no 0622020 dated 15/1/2016 exceipt no 0622091 dated 15/1/2016 acab amount 5 lac receipt no 0661949 dated 1/8/2019 amount 10 lac receipt no 0662429 dated 28/8/2019 amoun 605000 and allotment letter no 7568 has beer misplaced by me in the area of near railway station Yamunanagar, ddr no 132400302401505.

#### LOST AND FOUND 1. Original previous Sale Deed No.

3677 dated dated 20.03.2006 of the property 4 marla owned by Durga Devi W/o Jagdish Parsh Ellenabad in missing DDR No. 13238031240081 dated 25.06.2024 Original previous Sale Deed No 1756 dated dated 23.01.2001 of the property 3 Kanal 13 marla owned by Bhim Sain S/o Chunni Lal and Hem Raj S/o Sukhdev Chand, R/o 132380312400879 dated

 Original previous Sale Deed No.
 1112 dated dated 29.06.2010 of the property 4 marla owned by Sameer S/o Ramesh, R/o Abohar in missing DDR No. 132380312400882 dated 25.06.2024.

4. Original previous Sale Deed No. 2530 dated dated 04.11.2004 of the property 4 marla owned by Kuldeep Kumar S/o Sahab Ram, R/o Mamera Khurd. in missing DDR No. 132380312400880 dated 25.06.2024. Anyone having any objection regarding the mortgage of this property with Punjab & Sind Bank, Branch Ellenabad, District Objection within 15 days to Branch Manager, Ellenabad District Sirsa

Mobile No. 99298-98371. Branch Manager Punjab & Sind Bank, Ellenabad Branch

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### 2,556 aspirants for Cong tickets for Hry Assembly polls slated for Oct 1; BJP banks on internal survey

#### MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

total of 2,556 aspirants have Aapplied for the Congress ticket for the 90-member Haryana Assembly polls slated for October 1. In comparison to the previous Assembly elections, the number of aspirants for Congress tickets has increased for the upcoming State Assembly elections.

The Congress party had won five of the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana recently. The Lok Sabha poll results have led to a spurt in the number of aspirants for the Congress party tickets in the majority of the assembly segments in the State. State Congress president Udai Bhan has applied for Hodal and besides him, one more application has been received from

Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) media head Kewal Dhingra, talking to 'The Pioneer' on Sunday, said that MLAs, former legislators, the kin of political stalwarts, advocates, doctors, retired bureaucrats, superannuated judges, teachers, besides a few journalists have applied for grand old party's nomination. The names of the candidates would be decided on the parameters set by the party, he added.

Dhingra further said that the last date to apply for the Congress ticket was August 10, 2024. The highest 88 applicants of the party are from Nilokheri (reserved) segment in Karnal district followed by 86 ticket seekers for Julana.

indicates that the party is on a good wicket and this is also because the workers sense the party has a good chance of retaining power. It is indeed a positive and encouraging sign ahead of the Assembly election, he added.

Senior Congress leader further said that the Congress has got 743 applications for 17 reserved seats with an average of around 44 applications per seat while a total 1,813 aspirants have applied for the remaining 73 general seats with an average of around 25 applications per seat. Large number of women party workers has also applied for poll tickets. There was also good response for the SC reserved seats, he added.

On the other hand, sources in BJP said that the party is leaving no stone unturned to choose the right candidate for the upcoming Assembly election in the State. "Party gives tickets to the right candidates in each constituency. Party also involves its leaders and ground workers in the candidate selection. Performance of local MLAs is being reviewed. Opinions of local people are also being taken in the selection of candidates. Additionally, the local party leaders and workers are asked to vote for the three most suitable candidates from their respective assembly segments. Finally, the results of the internal survey are used to identify the most favored candidates within the party as there are hundreds of ticket

Another Congress leader said that the party has received on an average 19 applications more in each constituency reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) than general ones. A total 17 out of 90 Assembly seats are reserved for the SCs.

The Congress had won seven seats, BJP five, JJP four while Independent candidate romped home victorious on one seat in 2019 Assembly

The SC votes in a good number went in favour of the Congress in the recent Lok Sabha polls, which helped the party wrest five seats from the BJP. The Congress also clinched both reserved seats — Sirsa and Ambala — in the elections. Total 56 aspirants have applied for Shahabad (Kurukshetra), 57 for Uklana (Hisar), 45 for Guhla (Kaithal) and 44 for Narwana (Jind); while 78 aspirants had applied for the Congress ticket for Bawani Khera (Bhiwani), 52 for Bawal (Rewari), 42 for Pataudi (Gurugram), 38 for Ratia and two for Hodal (Palwal).

A total 88 applications received for Nilokheri (Karnal) being represented by an independent in the Vidhan Sabha was the highest not only in reserved category but also in

the general category, he added.

He further said that as many as 55 aspirants have applied for Kalanaur (Rohtak), 54 for Kharkhoda (Sonepat), 46 for Mullana (Ambala), 33 for Israna (Panipat), 27 for Sadhaura (Yamunanagar), 14

for Kalawali (Sirsa) and 12 for

Moreover, according to the list released by the HPCC, in Faridabad, the number of ticket seekers in the nine assembly segments in Faridabad and Palwal districts has been recorded at 106. The average number of aspirants has been over 11. This has been two to three times higher than the last time. While the highest number of 22 persons have registered for ticket in Faridabad segment (constituency number-89), the lowest number is two for Hodal (83), a SC

reserved seat. Prithla segment of Faridabad district and Hathin in Palwal are placed at the second spot with 20 applicants each. Ballabgarh segment has got as many as 14 applicants. With NIT having 10 applica-tions, Badkhal and Tigaon have got eight and seven respectively.

Entry of three-time former MP Avtaar Singh Bhadana, who has sought a ticket from NIT, has made things interesting or difficult for the party high command, as Neeraj Sharma is sitting Congress MLA from here and is very close to former Chief MinisternHooda.

Talking to journalists, senior Congress leader Hooda recently said that the Congress party will give tickets to loyal, dedicated and winning candidates. Only one person will get a ticket on one Assembly seat and remaining aspirants will work to make the Party's candidate win, he added

#### Search 'Farishtey' hospitals using

#### PNS CHANDIGARH

n a landmark initiative aimed Lat bolstering road safety and emergency medical care, Punjab Government has integrated Farishtey Hospitals into the Mappls Mobile App. The strategic move, orchestrated by the Traffic and Road Safety Wing of Punjab Police in collaboration with the State Health Agency (SHA) and Map My India, marked a significant step towards improving emergency response capabilities across the State.

The state Director General of

The Farishtey Scheme, a

#### Punjab sees 12.58% growth in basmati cultivation area

PNS CHANDIGARH

Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian on Sunday informed that the crop diversification drive has received a significant boost in the state as Punjab witnessed a notable 12.58 percent increase in the area dedicated to Basmati cultivation this Kharif season.

The Minister mentioned that the cultivation of longgrain rice has expanded to 6.71 lakh hectares currently, a significant increase from the 5.96 lakh hectares planted during the previous Kharif Season 2023-24.

Listing the district-wise statistics of Basmati cultivation, Khudian highlighted that Amritsar district led the way with 1.46 lakh hectares dedicated to this aromatic rice. Following Amritsar were Muktsar with 1.10 lakh hectares, Fazilka with 84.9 thousand hectares, Tarn Taran with 72.5 thousand hectares, and Sangrur with 49.8 thousand hectares, showcasing maximum Basmati cultivation in these districts.

The Agriculture Minister also highlighted a substantial 46.5 percent growth in the area under Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) in comparison to the previous year. The area cultivated using the water-saving DSR method has increased to over 2.52 lakh acres, a rise from 1.72 lakh acres in the Kharif season of

"The State Government has prohibited the use of 10 pesticides on Basmati to enhance the export quality of the aromatic crop to a world-class standard," he added.

#### Kolkata Tragedy: Punjab Govt to hold crucial meeting on safety protocols for medical staff

Minister plans to write to **PM**, Union Health Minister

#### PNS PATIALA

Punjab Government has taken a firm stand on ensuring safety and security of medical professionals in the State. In response to the tragic incident in Kolkata, where a female postgraduate trainee doctor was brutally assaulted, Punjab Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education and Research Minister Dr Balbir Singh on Sunday assured that the state government is fully committed to protecting its medical professionals.

During a visit to Rajindra Hospital in Patiala on Sunday, Dr Balbir participated in a protest led by government medical college doctors, who were expressing their outrage and solidarity with their fellow doctors across the country. This nationwide strike was sparked by the horrifying incident in Kolkata, which has raised serious concerns about the safety of medical professionals across India.

Dr Balbir, in a symbolic gesture of empathy, drew blood from his own finger and smeared it on his apron, displaying his deep connection with the doctors' cause. He condemned the Kolkata incident in the strongest terms and expressed his heartfelt sympathies to the victim and her family. "I stand with our doctors, and the Punjab Government will leave no stone unturned to ensure their safety. We will implement stringent measures to prevent any such unfortunate incidents in the future," said Dr Balbir.

He also announced that the Punjab Government would be holding a crucial meeting with the state's medical fraternity,

including representatives from the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Punjab Civil Medical Services Association (PCMS), on Monday. The meeting is aimed at developing comprehensive safety protocols for doctors and paramedical staff, ensuring they can work without fear. In addition to his assurances at the state level, Dr Balbir revealed plans to write to the Prime Minister and the Union Health Minister, urging them to convene a national meeting of all health ministers to discuss the protection of medical professionals. He emphasized the need for a central act, as proposed by the IMA in 2019, that would make any assault on medical professionals a non-bailable offense,

imprisonment. 'The time has come for us to act decisively. I will personally meet with the Union Health Minister to push for the passage of this law. The safety of our doctors is non-nego-tiable," Dr Balbir said. He further demanded that those responsible for such heinous crimes should be given the harshest punishment, including the death penalty, to send a strong message across the

punishable by up to six years of

The Health Minister also reassured medical students, doctors, and their families that

the Puniah Government, under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's leadership, will not compromise on their safety. "As a doctor and a father of a doctor, I understand the immense dedication and hard work required in this profession. The tragic incident in Kolkata is deeply painful, and my thoughts and prayers are with the victim's family," said Dr

Expressing its support for the nationwide protest by doctors following the tragic rape and murder of a female doctor in Kolkata, several Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders — including Cabinet Minister, and MLAs visited hospitals across Punjab to show solidarity with the medical community.

As Health Minister Dr Balbir visited Rajendra Hospital in Patiala, Cabinet Minister Dr Baljit Kaur met with doctors at GGS Hospital in Faridkot. She emphasized the Punjab Government's commitment to ensuring the safety of female doctors and announced plans for enhanced security measures in hospitals. AAP MP Rajkumar Chabbewal and former Minister Dr Inderbir Singh Nijjar also visited hospitals in Hoshiarpur and Amritsar, respectively, to discuss securi-

#### Punjab CM Awards Rs 9.35-cr to Olympians; Govt Urged to Provide Jobs for Long-Term Support

PNS CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday honoured 19 Olympians from the State, distributing cash awards worth a total of Rs 9.35 crore in recognition of their achievements at the Paris Olympics. Eight players from the Bronze-winning Indian Hockey team were each awarded Rs one crore, while 11 other athletes who represented India at the Olympics received Rs 15 lakh

Mann, addressing the gathering in Chandigarh, expressed his pride in the players who have brought immense honour to Punjab and the nation. He lauded the Indian Hockey team's performance, highlighting their historic victory against Australia and other formidable opponents like Spain and England. Mann, who closely followed the matches, emphasized that this bronze medal win is a dream come true especially meaningful given the 52-year gap since India last defeated Australia in hockey.

The Chief Minister commended the leadership of Harmanpreet Singh, the team's captain, who played a pivotal role in guiding the team to success. Singh's remarkable tally of 10 goals in the Olympics was particularly noted by Mann, who expressed his elation at seeing Punjab's players excel on such a grand stage.

Despite the celebration, the occasion also brought forward important concerns from the athletes. Indian shooter Sifat Kaur, who also received recognition, voiced a call for the Puniab Government to prioritize providing government jobs to athletes in addition to cash rewards.



She argued that while financial incentives are valuable, the longterm security and benefits of a government job are far more impactful for athletes' futures. Kaur highlighted the example of hockey players who have secured prestigious positions like DSP and PCS ranks, which offer significant advantages beyond the sports field.

Responding to these concerns, Mann assured that the Government is committed to the welfare of athletes and will explore the feasibility of offering government jobs and promotions also announced that the state is considering making these Olympians brand ambassadors in the fight against drug abuse, a pressing issue in Punjab. These athletes, who have demonstrated exceptional discipline and commitment, will serve as role models to inspire the youth to stay away from drugs and engage in sports. In addition to the awards, Mann discussed the state's broader initiatives to promote sports. He revealed plans to host a major hockey tournament in Punjab later this year, featuring world-class teams from Australia, India, Belgium, and Spain. This tournament, set to take place in Mohali, will be a significant step in reviving and promoting Indian hockey, particularly in Punjab.

The Chief Minister also touched on the state's upcoming Kheda Watan Punjab Dian games, which will commence on August 28. This event is expected to be a catalyst for sports development across Punjab, with the government focusing on creating specialized sports clusters. Areas like Mahilpur, Sangrur, Jalandhar, and Ludhiana will see concentrated efforts to nurture football, boxing, hockey, and athletics, respectively.

> Indian Hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and other players expressed their gratitude the support and recognition. Singh noted that such encouragement would further boost sports in the state and help divert the youth from drug abuse to productive activities like sports.

> Mandeep Singh, another key player, promised Mann that the Îndian team would aim for a higher medal at the next Olympics and increase the representation of Punjab athletes in the national contingent.

> In conclusion, Mann reiterated his government's commitment to the athletes, assuring them that Punjab will continue to support their careers and contributions to the state's sports legacy. The day ended on a high note, with promises of future successes and a renewed focus on nurturing sports talent in Punjab.

## Mappls mobile app

Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav announced the integration, emphasizing its vital role in providing seamless navigation assistance to users, especially during road accidents. "The primary goal of this initiative is to ensure that accident victims can locate and reach nearby hospitals swiftly, particularly within the critical dent," said DGP Yadav.

visionary project launched by the Punjab Government, aims to reduce morbidity rates from road accidents by offering immediate, hassle-free medical treatment in government and empanelled private hospitals. As of now, 384 hospitals across Punjab, including 238 private and 146 state-run institutions, have successfully completed the Punjab Farishtey Scheme Apply Online 2024 process and are now accessible via the Mappls Mobile App. The state Additional

Director General of Police (ADGP), Traffic and Road Safety, AS Rai hailed the integration as a 'significant step in enhancing emergency response

## Punjab Tehsildars Call Off Strike after Talks with Revenue Minister

#### PNS CHANDIGARH

Punjab's Tehsildars (revenue officers) have decided to call off their planned strike following a crucial meeting with the state Revenue Minister Bram Shankar Jimpa on Sunday. The decision came after intense discussions between the Cabinet Minister and leaders of the Tehsildar Union, where it was agreed that the Tehsildars' legitimate demands would be addressed, uation of their work without

The Tehsildars had initially planned to go on strike from August 19 to 21, citing unresolved issues that had yet to be addressed by the authorities, including concerns over operational inefficiencies and the need for more robust support within the Revenue Department. As news of the impending strike emerged, it prompted an immediate response from Minister Jimpa, who recognized the potential impact on the state's revenue services and quickly convened a meeting to resolve the situation.

During the meeting, held in Chandigarh, the Minister acknowledged the critical role

of the Revenue Department in Punjab's administration and expressed the government's commitment to addressing the concerns of its officers. He assured the union leaders that their demands, particularly those related to work-

place safety and operational efficiency, would be given due consideration and resolved promptly. The Minister also admitted that there had been a delay in issuing the official

communication following the Punjab Revenue Officer August 16-17. This delay, he noted, had created a communication gap, leading to unrest among the officers. However, he assured that the necessary documents would be issued soon and that all pending issues would be addressed with priority.

The Revenue Minister, along with Financial Commissioner, Revenue, (FCR) KAP Sinha, emphasized the importance of maintaining a functional and efficient revenue system, especially in light of its significance to the state's overall governance. Minister Jimpa reiterated the commitment of the Punjab government to sympathetically consider and resolve the genuine demands

of the revenue officers.

Following the meeting, the Tehsildar Union expressed satisfaction with the assurances provided and decided to withdraw their strike. They emphasized that while their demands are important, they also recognize the critical

nature of their work and the potential inconvenience to the public that a strike could cause. The Tehsildars confirmed that they would continue their duties as usual. ensuring that all administrative functions proceed without any hindrance.



### Himachal Monsoon Fury: 31 Dead, 33 Missing in Devastating Cloudbursts, Flash Floods

PNS SHIMLA

The ongoing monsoon season in The ongoing monsoon tem
Himachal Pradesh has unleashed a wave of destruction, with 31 lives lost and 33 people reported missing in a series of devastating cloudbursts and flash floods that have battered the State since the arrival of the monsoon on June 27. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, between June 27 and August 16, a total of 51 such incidents were recorded, marking one of the most severe monsoon seasons in recent history.

Lahaul and Spiti, known for its rugged terrain and picturesque landscapes, has been the hardest hit, with 22 cloudburst and flash flood incidents reported — the highest in the state. Kinnaur follows with 11 incidents, while Una has seen six, Kullu and Mandi three each, Sirmaur two, and Chamba, Hamirpur, Shimla, and Solan one each. The scale of the disaster is further underscored by the extensive damage to property, with 121 houses reported to have been completely or partially destroyed.

In addition to the cloudbursts and flash floods, landslides have added to

the devastation. The State Emergency Operation Centre reported that 35 landslides have occurred since the onset of the monsoon, claiming the lives of three people. Mandi district has been particularly vulnerable, reporting the highest number of landslides at nine, followed by Kinnaur and Shimla with six each, Lahaul and Spiti and Chamba with four each, Solan with three, Kullu with two, and Bilaspur with

However, local residents in various districts claimed that the actual number of such incidents may be significantly higher than the official count, indicating the widespread and unpredictable nature of the disaster. As light rains continue to lash parts

of the State, the situation remains grim. On Sunday morning, 95 roads were reported closed, with Kullu bearing the brunt with 33 road closures, followed by Mandi and Shimla with 23 each, Kangra with 10, Chamba and Kinnaur with two each, and Hamirpur and Una with one each. The closure of these roads has severely hampered relief and rescue operations, further exacerbating the challenges faced by the affected communities.

The monsoon havoc has also taken

a toll on the state's infrastructure, with power and water supply schemes severely disrupted. As many as 47 power schemes and 35 water supply schemes have been impacted, leaving several areas without essential services. The State Government estimated that the total losses incurred so far amount to a staggering Rs 1,140 crore, with the road infrastructure bearing the maximum brunt. The Public Works Department alone has suffered losses of Rs 502 crore, while the Jal Shakti Department has reported damages worth Rs 469 crore, and the Horticulture Department has incurred losses of Rs 139 crore. As Himachal grapples with the

aftermath of these natural disasters, the local meteorological office has issued a 'yellow' alert for heavy rains in isolated places across the state until August 21, raising concerns of further damage and disruption. The State Government and emergency services are on high alert, working tirelessly to restore normalcy and provide relief to the affected regions. However, with the monsoon season far from over, the people of Himachal Pradesh remain on edge, bracing for what the unpredictable weather might bring next.

#### AAP to declare its candidates for Hry Assembly polls soon: Sushil Gupta

PNS CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP's) Haryana State president Sushil Gupta on Sunday said that his party would soon declare its candidates for the October 1 Assembly polls with screening and survey for the purpose underway. AAP will put up a strong fight in all 90 Assembly segments and asserted that the countdown to the end of the BJP government in the state has

The BJP cannot seek votes from people based on their work. Every section, including farmers, employees and doctors, is unhappy. They failed to give employment to the youth, he said. Alleging a breakdown of the law-and-order situation and a rise in drug menace in the state, Gupta said, "Such is the situation that the BJP had to change their chief minister."

Addressing the press conference, Gupta said, "We will build a new Haryana sans goonda raj, unemployment and criminal incidents." "Candidates will be declared soon. We will try to declare the candidates by August 31. The AAP will give tickets to those whom people want," he added. The AAP leader said that screening and survey of candidates is underway. Asked about the AAP's chief ministerial candidate for the upcoming polls in Haryana, Gupta said people will decide that. The party leadership and the political affairs committee will seek feedback from the people at an appropriate time, he said.

To a question about any possibility of a tie-up with the Janananyak Janata Party (JJP), Gupta said there has been no talk in this regard. Slamming the Dushyant Chautala-led party, the AAP's Haryana unit chief alleged that the JJP was in alliance with the BJP when the state government had rained lathis on farmers. The AAP cannot have any truck with them, he said. Gupta said that the people of Haryana have decided to back the AAP as they see it as a viable alternative. "Our tie-up is with the people of Haryana."



कृपया सेल में लिबर्टी का नया जूता पहन कर न आएं
 विका हुआ सामान न बदला जाएगा और न ही वापिस लिया जाएगा।

## Docs' protest: Provide 2-hourly 70 Padma Awardee docs seek PM help updates, MHA directs States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

"Henceforth, a continuous twohourly law and order situation report in this regard may kindly be sent to the MHA control room (New Delhi) by Fax/ Email/ WhatsApp from 1600 hours today," the communication sent on Friday said.

The Home Ministry also provided the State Police forces the Fax and WhatsApp numbers and the Email ID where the two-hourly situation report



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

A group of people entered the premises of the hospital shortly after Wednesday midnight

tification and certification of

brain death, which is legally

recognised as death in India.

"Timely identification of brain

death is crucial for organ dona-

tion, ensuring that organs

remain viable for transplanta-

tion and increasing the chances of successful transplants," he

Dr. Ravi Bansal, Senior Consultant in Nephrology at

PSRI Hospital, Delhi, too delved on the similar lines, highlighting that the kidney transplants have profound impact on patients with renal foilure present that hidrory

failure, noting that kidneys can be donated by family

members or from brain death donors. He stressed that kidney

Dr. Ankur Garg, Director & HOD of HPB Surgery and

Liver Transplant at SHALBY

Sanar International Hospitals,

Gurugram, lamented the

scarcity of donated organs and

the delays in transplants. He

pointed out that advanced pro-

like Incompatible organ transplants

underscore the importance of

organ donation, even when

donor-recipient compatibility

Union Health Secretary,

Apurva Chandra too had

recently underpinned the need

to enhance awareness about

organ donation and stressed

that "to ensure that there is no

organ wastage, we must

When we receive any brain-

dead person, the time is less

and we have to harvest the

organs in 12 hours and the

transplant has to happen with-

strengthen our system.

in a short window

life of the donor.

cedures

is a challenge.

against the rape-murder incident and vandalised portions of the medical facility.

Doctors and other medical staff have been protesting in different parts of the country affecting the functioning of

women, girls, and health care professionals," said the letter. They are pressing for a central The signatories to the letter law to check violence against include Dr Harsh Mahajan, Dr healthcare personnel, declaring Anoop Misra, Dr AK Grover, Dr hospitals safe zones with Mohsin Wali, Dr Ambrish mandatory security entitle-Mithal, Dr. Pradeep Chowbey, Dr Anil Kohli, Dr Ashok Seth, ments among other demands.

 $F^{
m ollowing}$  the tragic rape and murder of a trainee medico

at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical

College, a group of 70 Padma Awardee doctors has urgently

appealed to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for immediate

action to tackle escalating vio-lence against healthcare profes-

"We... write to you with deep concern and profound anguish regarding the horrific events that

recently occurred at R G Kar

Medical College in Kolkata. As

the head of our nation, we

implore your immediate and

personal intervention to address

"Such acts of brutality shake the

very foundations of service by

medical professionals and high-

light the urgent need to address

violence, particularly against

this alarming situation.

in stopping violence against caregivers Dr Balram Bhargava, Dr Mahesh Verma, Dr Mahipal Sachdev, Dr PK Julka, Dr Raman Kapur, Dr Randeep Guleria, Dr SK Sarin, Dr Upendra Kaul, Dr Yash Gulati,

> "As recipients of one of the nation's prestigious civilian honours, we feel a deep responsibility to speak out and demand timely action and appropriate changes," the letter stated as they called for immediate and decisive action to address the growing violence against healthcare professionals, particularly emphasising the need for stronger measures to protect the safety dignity of those working in the medical field.

> Dr Arvinder Singh Soin, Dr D S Rana, Dr Jagdish Prasad and

Dr Jeewan S Titiyal among oth-

Demanding the harshest possible punishment for violence against healthcare workers and calling for the central and state governments to quickly enact and implement a separate law for the protection of healthcare workers, they also drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the proposed bill,

Against Doctors, Medical Professionals and Medical Institutions Bill." It has been ready since 2019 but not yet been tabled in Parliament. "We strongly believe that an ordinance to this effect can be brought immediately, and the bill should be passed post-haste so that all those working in healthcare delivery systems in the country can work without fear, in service of suffering patients," the letter stated. Such cases should be resolved

swiftly by the judiciary, with offences categorised as nonbailable, the doctors added 'We should not allow such acts to become normal or forgotten.

"Let this tragedy serve as a catalyst for real, lasting change. We owe it to the late Nirbhaya, and to all victims of sexual violence, and to future generations to create a society where such horrors are unthinkable. We earnestly appeal to you through this letter to safeguard the medical profession against physical assaults and defacement of the dignity and respect of all healthcare workers.," they said.

## Modi congratulates Thailand's new PM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Paetongtarn Shinawatra on becoming Thailand's Prime Minister and said he looks forward to working with her to further strengthen the ties between the two countries.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of former Leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's Prime Minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement on Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed her prede-

"Congratulations @ingshin on your election as the Prime Minister of Thailand. Best wishes for a very successful tenure," Modi said in a post on

"Look forward to working with you to further strengthen the bilateral ties between India and Thailand that are based on the strong foundations of civilisational, cultural and people to people connect," he said.

Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra.

## **Prevent commercialisation of** organ donation: Dhankhar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $V^{
m ice}$  President Dhankhar on Sunday expressed deep concern over the growing commercialisation of organ donation, advocating that it should be driven by altruism rather than financial gain. Speaking at an event organised by Jain Social Groups (JSG) Central Sansthan, Jaipur, and Dadhichi Deh Dan Samiti, Delhi, Dhankar emphasised the need to preserve the noble nature of organ donation and prevent it from becoming a commercial enterprise that exploits vulnerable individuals. "We cannot allow organ donaof the vulnerable for com-

He urged citizens to embrace organ donation as a mission aligned with the tradition of serving humanity, highlighting the theme of World Organ Donation Day, "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today." Doctors in the sector pointed out that while India faces a significant challenge in addressing the gap between the demand for organs and their availability, the cadaver organ donation rate has remained critically low at less than one donor per million people per

mercial gain of wily elements,"

Dhankhar stated.

year.
The advocated the need for hospitals to promptly identify and certify brain deaths to facilitate timely organ dona-

Dr. Praveen Gupta, Principal Director & Chief of Neurology at Fortis Hospital, emphasised the importance of swift iden-

### Nepal FM Deuba to hold talks with EAM in India



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Nepalese Foreign Minister's visit comes a week after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri travelled to Kathmandu.

Nepal is an important neighbour for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship between the two sides.

The country shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods

#### PTI NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

A female cabin crew member of Air India was allegedly assaulted by an intruder at a London hotel earlier this week, according to sources.

The airline is pursuing the matter with the local police.

In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said it was "deeply anguished by an unlawful incident of intrusion at a hotel, operated by a major international chain, that affected one of our crew members". Sources in the know said a homeless man barged into the room at the hotel where the female cabin crew was staying and

As she shouted, others staying nearby came and rescued her and the person was caught, they added. One of the sources said the cabin crew was allegedly sexually assaulted at the hotel while two other sources claimed it was a physical assault. The incident happened at a star hotel near the London Heathrow airport. The cabin crew member has returned to India and is undergoing counselling, the sources



After the incident came to light, airline employees took to the airline's internal communication platform to complain

Air India cabin crew assaulted at London hotel

about safety issues. One of them claimed hotel staff was unavailable at night and that there is no control over access to the premises, one

of the sources said. The airline in the statement said it is pro-

viding all possible support to the colleague and their broader team, including professional counselling.

"Air India is also working with the local police to pursue the matter to the fullest extent of the law, and with the hotel management to ensure such incidents are not repeated. We request that the privacy of those involved is respected," it said.

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

**NEW DELHI** 

eader of Opposition in the LLok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday termed as an "antinational step" the Government's move of recruiting public servants through lateral entry, alleging that the reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs is being "openly snatched away" by such an action.

The former Congress President also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "attacking the Constitution by recruiting public servants through the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh instead of the Union Public Service Commission".

Rahul's attack came after it emerged that 45 specialists would soon join key posts of Joint Secretaries, directors and Deputy Secretaries in different Central Ministries. Usually, such posts are manned by the officers of all-India services the Indian Administrative



Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) and Group A services, among others.

"Reservation of SC, ST and OBC classes is being openly snatched away by recruiting through lateral entry on important posts in various ministries of the Central Government," Rahul said in a post in Hindi on X. "I have always said that the

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

The SEBI is a vivid example of what representatives of a few corporates will do by sitting on decisive government posts, where for the first time a person from the private sector was made the chairperson, Rahul G said in an apparent reference to the conflicts of interest allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch.

The INDIA bloc will strongly oppose this "anti-national step that hurts both the administrative structure and social justice, Rahul said."Privatisation of the IAS is Modi's guarantee for ending reservation," he said. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Saturday advertised 45 posts -10 of joint secretaries and 35 of directors/deputy secretaries to be filled through the lateral entry mode on a contract basis. It is the biggest tranche of lateral recruitment being under taken by the Centre, an official

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court is sched-■ uled to hear on Tuesday BRS Leader K Kavitha's pleas seeking bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise pol-

icv scam. The apex court had on August 12 sought responses from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Kavitha's pleas challenging the Delhi High Court's July 1 verdict denying her bail in these cases. As per the cause list of August 20 uploaded on the top court website, a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan is slated to hear her pleas.

During the arguments on August 12, Kavitha's counsel had sought bail contending that she has been in custody for around five months and the charge sheet and prosecution complaints have already been filed by the CBI and the ED respectively.

A prosecution complaint is the ED's equivalent of a charge sheet. Her lawyer had referred to the apex court's verdicts on the pleas filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party Leader Manish Sisodia.

The top court had earlier granted interim bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to the alleged scam. Sisodia was granted bail in both the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy

The High Court had on July 1 dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both the cases, saying she was

prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi

Excise Policy 2021-22. The CBI and the ED have lodged separate cases pertaining to alleged corruption and money laundering in the for-mulation and implementation

of the policy. The ED arrested Kavitha (46) from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15. The CBI arrested her on April 11 in connection with the corruption case linked to the

alleged scam. Kavitha has denied the allegations. While dismissing her bail pleas, the High Court had said no case for grant of regular bail was made for now as the investigation is at a crucial stage.

It had rejected her plea for relief on the grounds of being a woman, saying as a well-educated person and a former MP, she cannot be equated to a vulnerable female, and the court cannot lose sight of the "serious allegations" against her. In the High Court, Kavitha had challenged the May 6 order of a trial court which had dis-

missed her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case as well as the ED's money-laundering case. Before the High Court in the

ED case, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Leader, daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, had said she had "nothing to do" with the excise policy and there was a criminal conspiracy against her "orchestrated by the ruling party at the Centre with the active connivance of the ED".

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

With microplastic pollution becoming a significant concern in food, the country's top food regulator has initiated a groundbreaking project aiming to develop and validate methods for detecting micro and nano-plastics in food products and to evaluate their prevalence and exposure levels across the country.

Launched in March, the primary objective of the project "Micro-and Nano-Plastics as Emerging Food Contaminants: Establishing Validated

Methodologies Understanding the Prevalence in Different Food Matrices," include developing standard protocols for micro/nano-plastic analysis, conducting intraand inter-laboratory comparisons, and generating critical

data on microplastic exposure levels among consumers. Anything smaller than 1 micrometer is a nanoplastic that must be measured in billionths of a meter. An official from the Food

study is being implemented in

collaboration with leading

country, including the CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (Lucknow), ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (Kochi), and the Birla Institute of Technology Safety and Standards Authority and Science (Pilani). of India (FSSAI) said that the

In a recent report, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlighted the pres-

research institutions across the

ence of microplastics in common food items such as sugar and salt. While the report underscores

the global prevalence of microplastics, it also emphasises the need for more robust data to fully understand the implications for human health and safety, particularly in the

ducted by Toxics Link, an environmental research and advocacy organisation, claims to have found that all Indian salt and sugar brands contain microplastics.

The highest concentration of microplastics was found in a branded iodised packaged salt sample. The study report "Microplastics in Salt and Sugar" was released recently. Similarly, according to a study published Environmental Pollution jour-

nal, microplastics particles which have been found in almost all the body parts of humans have now reached the fats and lungs of two-thirds of marine mammals.

Similarly, a February 2024 study has revealed that ninety percent of animal and vegetable protein samples tested positive for microplastics,

can range from less than 0.2 inch (5 millimeters) down to 1/25,000th of an inch (1 micrometer). An official from the FSSAI said

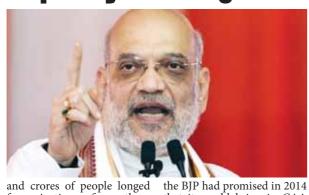
that while global studies have highlighted the presence of microplastics in various foods, it is imperative to generate reliable data specific to India. This project will help understand the extent of microplastic contamination in Indian food and guide the formulation of effective regulations and safety standards to protect public health.

The findings from this project will not only inform regulatory actions but also contribute to the global understanding of microplastic contamination, making Indian research an integral part of the global effort to combat this environmental challenge.

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

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

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



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

"From this forum I would like to ask those who ran past governments as to what was the fault of the people, who came here to save their sisters and daughters and their properties, that they could not become citizens of this

Shah asked. Asserting that law is for the public and not the other way round, Shah said

country. What can be a bigger misfortune and irony than this? It could not happen due to the policy of appeasement for so many years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to bring the law in 2019, and I had the privilege of passing the law in Parliament," Shah said.

He said Bangladesh had 27 per cent Hindus at the time of partition, but today they are just 9 per cent as they have been subjected to forced religious conversion.

"Where have the rest gone?

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

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



PTI SATARA

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

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

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

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

scheme, says Prithviraj

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

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

## Scrap registration cutoff date for Ladki Bahin

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

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

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

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

PTI AGARTALA

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

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

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

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

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

## Modi terms Karunanidhi as towering figure

**PTI** CHENNAI

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

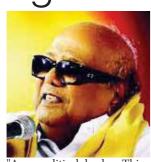
promote the Tamil language and culture are still are remembered by the people, Modi said in a message to Karunanidhi's son and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

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

wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Thiru. @narendramodi avl. For his kind wishes and support for the grand success of the Muthamizh Arignar Centenary Kalaignar Commemorative Coin release

ceremony," Stalin said. In his message, the PM said Karunanidhi "was a towering figure in Indian politics,

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



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

The DMK stalwart was a multi-talented personality

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

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

## Demand for Puducherry Statehood echoes in House

**PTI** PUDUCHERRY

people, he said.

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

after coming to power and it

was done in 2019, which gave

justice to crores of Hindus,

Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs.

"After the law was passed,

everyone was misled that this

would cause injustice to Muslims and they would lose

their citizenship. Today, I

want to make it clear again to

the Muslim community that

there is no provision in this

law to take away anyone's citizenship. This law works to

grant citizenship," the Union

minister said. However, even

certain

governments are misleading

The absence of such a law

granting citizenship ensured

people of our country

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

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

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

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

overcome. He had recently said that "the only solution for all the difficulties the territorial government is facing is onferment of statehoo Puducherry.

Former Puducherry Chief Minister and senior Congress leader V Narayanasamy told PTI that statehood was 'absolutely' necessary and reaffirmed his party's support for the cause. He said there was no room for

any apprehension that the UT's financial position would be strained in the event of being granted statehood. "The Centre's share for the budget of Puducherry and the State's contributions would be



money," he said. The State government should ensure firm realization of taxes by Departments of Electricity and Commercial Taxes. These two, besides the Registration Department are the main sources of revenue for the government. The government should exercise utmost caution in realizing

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

the dues from big power

consumers and those paying

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

than not.

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

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

of central funds would be

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ PANAJI

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

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

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

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

the strike would continue till

the Calcutta High Court delivers its verdict in the rape and murder case. Doctors claimed emergency services in GMCH remain

uninterrupted. Ĥealth Vishwajit Rane Sunday stated the government was implementing crucial changes GMCH, including

and revising laws, to ensure

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

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

umpteen cases where the role

of the Governor has been debated, which has been set in

stone and will be put forth

To a question, Kharge said

there is no way BJP leaders can take the case against

Siddaramaiah to the logical

end because they do not have

## 3 assault woman doctor at Maha hospital, 2 detained

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

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

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

Of those who had come with the patient, two women and a man assaulted the female doctor, prompting the hospital staff to seek police intervention, the official said. Police registered a case against the three alleged attackers under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Maharashtra Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions



Damage or Loss to Property)

Two of the three accused have been detained, the official

In a statement concerning the incident, Sion hospital said, 'There has been an incidence of violence in Sion hospital that occurred early this morning involving one of the on-call residents in the ward. A group of 5-6 intoxicated patient attendants threatened and attempted to physically assault her. She also sustained injuries while defending herself." Terming the assault alarming", the statement said their doctors' safety is "nonnegotiable". This situation requires

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

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

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

Acourt in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced four persons to years simple imprisonment for assaulting a woman in 2018 when she went to a factory to seek repayment

of money lent to its owner by her late husband. Additional Sessions Judge G G Bhansali, in the order passed on August 9, discharged the factory owner from the case due to insufficient evidence workers

against him. The four other factory pronounced guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons) and also fined Rs 2,000 each

A copy of the order was made available on Sunday. Additional Public Prosecutor

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

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

with fibre sticks, causing serious injuries including a fracture to her left leg.

A total of eight witnesses were examined during the trial, Pande said. In his order, the judge said

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

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

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

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

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

Reacting Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot granting permission to prosecute Chief Minister granting Siddaramaiah in the site allotment scam in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), he said the Congress did not go for a witch-hunt because its first priority was good governance. 'As a government our first priority is to deliver an efficient governance, not witch-hunt. But yes, having said that, there are a lot of discrepancies in the previous government," Kharge told

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



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

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

The Minister said there are

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

added.

before the court.

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

"Unfortunately the position (of Governor) has been compromised and he is behaving like a BJP Karyakarta," Kharge alleged. Replying to a question, he charged that the BJP never came to power through people's mandate but stole it. That was the only way BJP could come to power in Karnataka or elsewhere.

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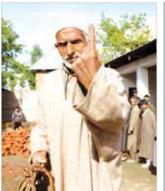
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Moment of truth**

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

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



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

With new electoral boundaries drawn post-delimitation, the political map of Jammu and Kashmir has changed. This could impact electoral outcomes, shifting the balance of power between regional parties like the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and national parties like the

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



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

## Lessons from the Wayanad tragedy

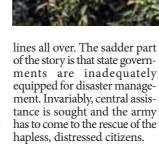


To prevent future catastrophes, we must reassess our approach to urban planning and disaster management, ensuring that development is aligned with sustainable practices

he Wayanad tragedy serious lessons for the futureThe incident and news of the very recent Wayanad landslide tragedy seems to be passé. No one is talking about it now when the media headlines are being hogged by the fresh and more serious episode—of rape, mob violence and anarchy in Kolkata, WB. This does not suggest that we

begin taking a lighter look at the long-term serious administrative steps required to forestall incidents of landslides occurring more due to misgovernance than climate change. More of such incidents are waiting to happen if we do not take urgent, timely steps. It is with great shock that we heard the tragic death of more than 400 persons in the landslides in Wayanad, Kerala and of another 250-plus persons who were reportedly injured or missing. The two large landslides that hit Mundakkai and Chooralmala in Wayanad in the early hours of July 30, resulted in wide destruction, several fatalities, and serious injuries to hundreds. While incidents of natural disasters are episodes apparently beyond the control of humans, there is much humans can do to prevent them and minimize the damage wrought by them after they occur. It is remarkable that just about a week before this tragedy the state government in Kerala was warned by the Union Home Ministry about the possibility of a catastrophe based on the feedback provided by an NDRF team deputed to assess the susceptible site. This is a sad and sobering reflection on the ham-fisted administrative machinery of the state government in India. The frequent incidents of collapse of buildings and bridges in our country have a direct and crying connection with unauthorised, faulty building construction in violation of prescribed safety norms of the government.

This illegal construction takes place right under the nose of regulatory agencies of the government. Corrupt government offi-cials allow unauthorised con-struction and things appear normal till some major mishap occurs, capturing news head-



The case of landslides and the damage caused by them is not much different from that of buildings and bridges collapsing elsewhere.It would be in the fitness of things to systematically list out the reasons and preventive remedies for such catastrophic landslide events in our country.

Heavy torrential rains: Heavy torrential rains are not the core causal factors. They are only the triggering factors behind such landslides. Further, to say that the intensity and frequency of rainfall in any region or area is purely subject to uncertainties of nature is not quite correct.

Our living paradigms do influence rainfall patterns in various geographical areas. Climate change is the result of faulty living paradigms. There are things we can do to prevent interruption of normal rainfall patterns. Ancient scientific literature of India can provide useful guidance in this regard. Wrong building construc-tion practices: Our building construction and water management practices are not perfect. Our deficient under-



**HEAVY TORRENTIAL** RAINS ARE NOT THE CORE CAUSAL FACTORS. THEY ARE ONLY THE TRIGGERING **FACTORS BEHIND SUCH** LANDSLIDES standing and practices based thereon regarding the earth's geographical interiors puts us in a vulnerable position.

Cracking and crumbling mountains are a direct out-come of these practices. In this regard, one has to merely cast a look at medieval time buildings that stand intact after hundreds of years while also maintaining the integrity of their surrounding hilly sites. Ancient and medieval buildings were built with stones. Modern buildings use RCC with heavy foundations that damage the host sites.

We need to learn and adopt some of our ancient building techniques which gave stronger, environment friendly and more durable structures. Unauthorised mining: Unauthorised mining activities in contravention of set safety regulations cause tremendous harm to the terrains, making them vulnerable to landslides. Strong deterrent and punitive legal measures are the need of

the hour.

Local violation of established building safety norms: As stated above, corruption in municipalities and local government bodies accounts for many cases of unauthorised building construction in fla-grant violation of safety norms. Violation of safety norms should be strictly penalised.

serve to encourage the cient and the corrupt.

(The author is a mana consultant based **Deforestation:** Deforestation

in hilly areas for indiscriminate construction— either of residential buildings or commercial buildings bridges highways or flyovers is a big factor in the wearing of underground natural plates that support hills and mountains. The adverse effects of deforestation may not be evident immediately. But long term, they show themselves in the form of natural disturbances leading to earthquakes and climate change. This phenomenon needs to be studied at the institutional level, and supported by the government. We should not always depend on foreign agency research results. We have the capability and wherewithal to carry out research and devise remedial measures in the form of specific afforestation measures in iden-

Inept state government machinery: As indicated above, our state government agencies are neglectful, inefficient, callous and corrupt. What is the reason? Proper systems do not exist that will ensure the identification and penalization of the guilty in such matters. Slow and tardy judicial proceedings in an unsound judicial system only serve to encourage the inem

tified regions.

(The author is a management consultant based in New *Delhi*; *views are personal*)

## Tackling the water management crisis amidst rapid development



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

ndia's urban landscape has undergone a tremen-**⊥**dous transformation since independence, evolving from traditional townships into thriving metropolises that drive the nation's economic and cultural growth. The Government of India's ambition for a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and their efforts have provided the necessary impetus for this sector.

The Union Budget 2024-25 reflects this commitment with an allocation of Rs 11.11 lakh crore in capital expenditure and an emphasis on water supply, sewage treatment, and solid waste management projects in collaboration with state governments, multilateral development banks, and research institutions.

Our cities, bustling with life and opportunities, stand as testaments to our collective aspirations and endeavours. Yet, beneath this vibrant facade lies a critical challenge that demands urgent attention and innovative solutions: water and wastewater

management. The Past & the Present Status of Wastewater Management in India: India's rapid urbanisation has opment, and ensure clean poses, such as industrial

brought with it significant challenges in managing water resources. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) (data for 2020-21), India's urban centres generate around 72,368 million litres of sewage per day, but the treatment capacity is only 31,841 million litres per day. This gap leads to untreated wastewater being discharged into our rivers and lakes, contributing to pollution and posing severe health

The Government has initiated several programs like the Namami Gange Programme, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and the Smart Cities Mission to address these issues. These initiatives aim to enhance the sewage treatment infrastructure, promote sustainable urban develwater availability. However, over the years, the path to achieving these goals has encountered numerous challenges, from inadequate infrastructure to the absence of innovation, funding constraints and lack of relevant stakeholder partnership.

The gloom has taken a shift in the recent past with relevant stakeholders like youth from the communities, government, and private players all stepping up, discussing viable solutions, promoting innovation and emphasising the need to present sustainable solutions against water &

wastewater challenges. Sustainable Management of Water in India: In India, the future of water hinges on our ability to adopt the circular model, offering a holistic and integrated approach towards water management. Unlike the traditional linear approach, a circular economy emphasises reducing waste, reusing resources, and recycling materials to create a closed-loop system. In the context of water management, this means treating wastewater to high standards and reusing it for various purprocesses, agricultural irrigation, and landscape maintenance. Thus, significantly reducing the demand for freshwater resources and ensuring treated water gets reintegrated into the supply

A Blend of Factors to **Achieve Water Management** The nation's urban development cannot be chalked down and implemented by a single entity especially for a country like ours with a huge geographic scale.

Learnings and the Road Ahead: Despite the global threat that water presents, every nation adapts to an approach more suited to its people and developmental needs. The urban development has picked up momentum in recent decades. We need to balance development ambitions and ensure the essentials. A practical way to fix that is by building a resilient water ecosystem that supports our growing urban needs and contributes towards the holistic vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

(The writer is the CEO of Suez India; views are personal)

#### **MAMATA SHOULD STEP DOWN**

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

A P Thiruvadi | Chenai

#### **CM SIDDARAMAIAH IN TROUBLE**

Madam- The Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is poised to face prosecution in connection with the MUDA land scam case. The approval for legal action has been granted by Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, following a private complaint. The allegations centre around the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) and claims of malpractices surrounding land allotments.

It is alleged that Parvathi Siddaramaiah, the wife of CM benefited from irregularities when MUDA acquired her 3-

## **Elections in J&K after 10 years**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

acre plot in Kesare village, Mysuru, in 2021, seemingly in exchange for allocations of more valuable plots in the upscale Vijayanagar area of Mysuru. Critics assert that the market value of these new plots far exceeds that of the land she originally owned. Siddaramaiah maintains his innocence,

vowing to battle the claims both legaly and politically. He asserts that the land allocation to his wife was conducted following all legal procedures. The Opposition parties are leaving no stone unturned, undertook even a protest march from Bengaluru to Mysuru demanding CM's resignation.

The investigating agencies will now have to start the process of prosecution. Needless to say, one cannot expect the CM to continue in office while agencies reporting to him, are investigating charges against him.

But his political career with a clean image spanning over four decades is under clouds - facing toughest challenge in his public life.

N Sadhasiva | Bengaluru

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

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

development of the people.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

#### **PARIS PARALYMPICS**

last five years after

Madam —In a warm send off ceremony of the athletes for Paris Paralympics 2024. India is sending its largest-ever contingent for the Paris Paralympic Games as 84 athletes will look to leave no stone unturned in their quest for glory in the French capital.

Those 84 athletes will be taking part in 12 sports archery, athletics, badminton, canoeing, cycling, blind judo and powerlifting among others. The para-athletes have a remarkable ability to overcome obstacles and turn challenges into opportunities. They have shown remarkable determination and perseverance in their preparation and hopes were made of getting the highest ever medal in the game. We wish them the very best and are sure they will inspire millions back home with their performances and medal tally. Hope this time, each and every athlete will will perform well.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

## THE ART OF OFFICE FRIENDSHIP

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



RACHNA LAKHPATI

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Responsible tourism: Our promise to future generations



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**ECO-FRIENDLY TOURISM** IS NOT JUST A **TREND** NECESSITY. ARE PAVING THE WAY FOR A FUTURE WHERE RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL IS THE NORM, AND TRAVELERS

PLAY AN

**ACTIVE ROLE** 

THE PLANET

IN PRESERVING

Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, outlines the state's dual focus: "Madhya Pradesh is dedicated to both its people and its landscapes. Our Responsible Tourism initiative seeks to uplift local communities while preserving the state's natural beauty and cultural history." The promotion of rural homestays and support for local artisans drive economic development with minimal environmental impact. He adds, "By promoting local crafts-

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

Himalaya Spa Resort, acknowledges that transitioning to sustainable practices requires an upfront investment. However, he emphasizes that these costs are outweighed by long-term savings. "Initially, there are costs that a property has to bear when implementing sustainable practices. However, these investments often lead to long-term benefits and savings," says Garg. The resort's efforts include reducing single-use plastics and creating an onsite bottling plant, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability. Moreover, the resort engages with the local community, with 80% of

its workforce from Himachal Pradesh, and promotes regional cultural experiences for guests. At the Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort, Mano Gunasekera,

global best practices. "Marriott International, is focused strongly on best sustainability practices.

At times such initiatives come with a cost, however with the proposition of there being a greater impact on the environment," says Gunasekera. The resort supports responsible tourism through projects like turtle conservation and encouraging guests to adopt eco-friendly habits, such as reusing linens and reducing water consumption. These initiatives align with Marriott's Serve360 program, which aims to lower energy usage and promote environmentally conscious products.

Anirban Sarkar, General Manager of Radisson Blu Greater Noida, underscores the importance of sustainability in shaping the hotel's long-term vision. Radisson Blu has set an ambitious target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, far ahead of many global initiatives. Sarkar believes that promoting sustainability and responsible business practices strengthens the brand's reputation and builds local support. "Focus towards Sustainability and Responsible Business practices actually strengthens the brand and shows the brand in a positive light," he explains. Vietnam's leading carrier Vietjet is also making strides toward sustainability. The airline's efforts have earned it recognition in categories like "Outstanding Sustainable Transport." By investing in a modern fleet that reduces fuel consumption by up to 20%, Vietjet is helping lower emissions. Additionally, the airline has transitioned to using eco-friendly materials, such as recyclable packaging, and is researching sustainable aviation fuel with a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

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

These efforts are part of broader initiatives, including the use of sustain-

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

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

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

influences, she works with travel industry as a mentor; views are

(The author is a travel wrier and

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

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

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

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



work tirelessly, often under immense pressure, to deliver care and save lives. Yet, reports of doctors being manhandled, threatened, and even killed are, unfortunately, not uncommon.

Doctors are taught to prioritize the ABCs-Airway, Breathing, and Circulation when a patient is in their care. Their primary focus is always on saving lives, regardless of supported by a dedicated erated. In Australia, hospitals

the circumstances. However, when medical professionals are themselves under threat, their ability to perform these critical tasks is compromised. The environment in which they operate must be one of safety and respect, allowing them to carry out their duties The issue of violence against

without fear of violence. healthcare workers is not unique to India; it is a global problem. However, many countries have implemented robust measures to protect their medical professionals, setting examples that India could follow. For instance, in the United Kingdom, the National Health Service (NHS) has a zero-tolerance policy towards violence against its staff. This policy is

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

a strong deterrent against violence, sending a clear message that attacks on medical professionals will not be tol-



safety measures, including the use of security personnel, panic buttons in consultation rooms, and mandatory trainmedical professionals ing for staff on how to deescalate potentially violent situations. India must urgent-

authorities need to implement stringent actions that will create a safer environment for doctors and other

First and foremost, the government should enact laws that classify any form of violy adopt similar measures to lence against healthcare proprotect its healthcare workers. fessionals as a serious crimi-The government and relevant nal offence, with severe mandatory training on how

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

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

nalist. Views expressed are

## Israel strikes Gaza as Blinken arrives for ceasefire talks

AP DEIR-AL-BALAH

sraeli strikes across Gaza Israeli strikes across canal killed 24 people overnight and into Sunday, including a woman and her six children, local health officials said, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken headed to the region to try to seal a cease-fire deal after months of negotiations. The US and fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar said they were closing in on a deal after two days of talks in Doha, with American and Israeli officials expressing cautious optimism. But Hamas has signalled resistance to what it says are new demands by Israel, and the long-running talks have repeatedly stalled.

The evolving proposal calls for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all hostages abducted during its October 7 attack, which triggered the deadliest war fought between Israelis Palestinians. In exchange, Israel would withdraw its forces from Gaza and release Palestinian prisoners.



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

250. Of those, some 110 are still believed to be inside Gaza, with Israeli authorities saying around a third are deceased. More than 100 hostages were released in November during

a weeklong cease-fire. Quadruplets among six children killed in Gaza The latest Israeli bombardment included a strike early Sunday on a home in the central town of Deir al-Balah that killed a woman and her six children, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. An Associated Press reporter at the hospital counted the bodies

Mohammed Awad Khatab, the children's grandfather, said his daughter, a schoolteacher, was with her husband and their six children when their house was struck. He said the children ranged in age from 18 months to 15 years, and included quadruplets. He said the father was hospitalized after the strike. "The six children have become body parts. They were placed in a single bag," he told reporters outside the hospital. "What did they do? Did they kill any of the Jews? ... Will this provide security to Israel?"

security to Israel?" A strike in the northern town of Jabaliya hit two apartments in a residential building, killing two men, a woman and her daughter, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Another two strikes in central Gaza killed nine people, according to Al-Awda Hospital. Late Saturday, a strike near the southern city of

Khan Younis killed four people from the same family, including two women, according to Nasser Hospital.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militant group conceals fighters, weapons, tunnels and rockets in residential areas. But the monthslong Israeli bombardment has wiped out entire extended families and orphaned thousands of chil-

Israel says 'cautious optimism' about cease-fire talks The mediators have spent months trying to half the fighting, efforts that gained new urgency after the targeted killing of two top militants last month, both attributed to Israel, brought vows of revenge from Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah, raising fears of an all-out war across the Middle East. An American official said Friday that mediators were beginning preparations for implementing the latest cease-fire proposal, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's office expressed "cautious optimism" a deal could be reached. An Israeli delegation is set to

travel to Cairo on Sunday for further talks, and Blinken is expected to meet with Netanyahu on Monday. Hamas has cast doubt on

whether an agreement is near, saying the latest proposal diverged significantly from a previous iteration they had accepted in principle.

Hamas has rejected Israel's demands for a lasting military presence along the Gaza-Egypt border and a line bisecting Gaza where Israeli forces would search Palestinians returning to their homes. Israel says both are needed to prevent militants from rearming and returning to the north. Israel showed flexibility on retreating from the border corridor, and a meeting between Egyptian and Israeli military officials was scheduled for next week to agree on a withdrawal mechanism, according to two Egyptian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the private negotiations.Blast wounds peacekeepers in LebanonIn Lebanon, meanwhile, three UN peacekeepers were lightly wounded when an explosion struck their vehicle near the southern village of Yarin. The peacekeeping mission, known as UNIFIL, said the incident is under investigation and did not provide further details. Hezbollah began launching near-daily drone and rocket attacks along the border after the outbreak of the war in Gaza, drawing Israeli retaliation in a cycle of violence that has steadily escalated. UNIFIL says around a dozen peacekeepers have been wounded since the strikes and counterstrikes began. In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which has also seen a surge of violence since the start of the war in Gaza, gunmen marched in

a funeral procession for two Hamas commanders killed in

an Israeli airstrike in Jenin the

day before.

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

London (PTI): The UK government has ordered a socalled "rapid analytical sprint" to map and monitor extremism trends as part of a review to clamp down on radicalisation, hateful beliefs and violence against women and girls. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper told 'The Sunday Telegraph' that she has ordered the review into the government's counter-extremism strategy amid fears that extremist ideologies online and on the streets of the country have been on the rise. It comes in the wake of a series

of violent clashes involving far-right extremists across Britain following the fatal stabbing of three young girls in Southport, north-west England.

"Action against extremism has been badly hollowed out in recent years, just when it should have been needed most," Cooper is quoted by the newspaper as saying. "That's why I have directed the

Home Office to conduct a rapid analytical sprint on extremism, to map and monitor extremist trends, to understand the evidence about what works to disrupt and divert people away from extremist views, and to identify any gaps in existing policy which need to be addressed to crack down on those pushing harmful and hateful beliefs and violence. That work will underpin a new strategic approach to countering extremism from government, working closely with communities to build consensus and impetus for our plans," she said. The review is said to be looking at the rise of both Islamist and far-right extremism in the UK, as well as wider ideological trends, including extreme misogyny or beliefs that fit into broader categories like fixation on violence. Officials will examine emerging ideologies which are gaining momentum and will assess any gaps in the current system which leave the

country "exposed" to threats

that promote violence or

undermine democracy."For

too long, governments have failed to address the rise in

extremism, both online and

on our streets, and we've seen

the number of young people radicalised online grow.

### Shinawatra becomes Thailand's prime minister after royal signoff

**AP** BANGKOK

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's prime minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed her predecessor. She replaces another leader from the same Pheu Thai Party, at the head of a coalition that includes military parties associated with the coup that deposed the party's last govern-

Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her billionaire father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra. Both were removed from office and forced into exile in coups, although Thaksin returned to Thailand last year as Pheu Thai formed a government. She received the letter of appointment in a ceremony at the party's headquarters in Bangkok, attended by senior members of parties in the governing coalition and her father, who has no formal role but is



widely seen de facto leader of Pheu Thai. The father and daughter arrived in the same car, holding hands as they walked in together with beaming smiles.

Paetongtarn thanked the king, the Thai people and lawmakers, saying she will perform her duties "with an open mind," and will "make every square inch of Thailand a space that allows Thai people to dare to dream, dare to create and dare to dictate their own future. Paetongtarn became Prime Minister days after the Constitutional Court removed Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, after less than a year in office. The court found him guilty of a serious ethical forming a government.

breach for appointing a Cabinet minister who had been jailed for contempt of court after an alleged attempt

to bribe a judge. Paetongtarn is also Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt, and the country's youngest leader at 37.

Pheu Thai is the latest in a string of populist parties affiliated with Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 military coup, which triggered nearly two decades of deep political divi-sions that pitted a mostly poor, rural majority in the north that supported Thaksin against royalists, the military and their urban backers

Parties linked to Thaksin won the most seats in every national election from 2001 until 2023, when it lost to the more progressive Move Forward Party.Pheu Thai was able to form a government after Move Forward was blocked by the military-appointed Senate, partnering with former rivals in what was widely interpreted as a political bargain with the conservative establishment to stop Move Forward from

## Donald Trump claims he's better looking than Kamala Harris

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

Republican presidential can-didate Donald Trump has launched fresh personal attacks against his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, disparaging her physical appearance and insisting that he was "much better looking than her". The former president made the

comments at a rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday while referencing a recent Time Magazine cover that features Vice President Harris. "I'm much better looking than her," Trump, 78, declared after criticising Time Magazine's illustrator for being "too generous" with a portrait of Harris, 59. This isn't the first time he's brought up the topic, which also came up at previous rallies."Time Magazine doesn't have a picture of her. They have this unbelievable artist drawing her," he said. "They took a lot of pictures that didn't work out so they hired a sketch artist." Trump spoke for nearly two hours quickly hitting on Vice President Harris' economic



policy rollout before going off script and calling himself "bet-ter looking", The Hill reported.The attack line from Trump was one of many against Harris and her Democratic allies at Saturday's rally.

Trump last week said he was "entitled" to personally attack Harris because he doesn't "have a lot of respect for her", as he dismissed calls from allies to refocus his campaign on policy issues in his bid to reclaim the White House on November 5. Trump during Saturday's

rally in Pennsylvania also attacked President Joe Biden for dropping out of the presidential race.

Pennsylvania is set to play a deciding role in November's election with its 19 Electoral College votes up for grabs. Trump narrowly flipped the

state in 2016, but then narrowly lost it to Biden in 2020. 'What happened to Biden? I was running against Biden and now I'm running against some-one else," Trump said. "I said, who am I running against, Harris? I said, 'Who the hell is

Harris? Trump also took several jabs at Harris's economic plan that she debuted on Friday. "Yesterday, Kamala laid out her so-called economic plan. She says she's going to lower the cost of food and housing starting on day one. But day one for Kamala was three and a half years ago," Trump said.Trump, lowever, insisted he could bring prices down, without providing additional specifics other than the general push for

be easier."

expanding US oil production. "After causing catastrophic intelligence.

#### inflation, Comrade Kamala announced that she wants to institute socialist price controls," Trump said. Ahead of the Democratic National Convention beginning on Monday, Trump questioned why Harris is going, claiming that she never earned any votes as a presidential candidate. Trump continued to claim Harris "stole" President Biden's presidential bid, saying Biden is "angry" and that he "hates" Harris, ABC News reported.

an overthrow of a president. This was an overthrow," Trump Trump said he looked forward to debating Harris on September 10, claiming, "She'll

'Joe Biden hates her. This was

Trump has struggled to deliver a consistent message targeting Harris, even as Republicans argue they have a strong case against her on the economy and immigration. While the former president has at times focused on the issues, has mocked Harris' laugh and her

#### S'pore grants citizenship to 177 people

Singapore (PTI): Singapore Sunday welcomed 177 new citizens, including Sudhan Vincent from Tamil Nadu, encouraging them to contribute to the city state's common causes and help the nation to function as a "viable society". "We all have different talents

and different interests. Find something meaningful to you, purposeful to you and use it for the greater good. Then you contribute to our community," Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper. Sudhan was among 177 new

Singapore citizens who received their citizenship certificates at the annual National Citizenship Ceremony held by the People's Association at the Singapore Institute of Management Performing Arts Theatre, a state-supported institution. According to the latest statistics, around 23,500 new citizenships were granted

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

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



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

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

Additionally, the report found about 223,000 pregnant and lactating women are expected to be malnourished in 2024.

"The report confirms an alarming trend of acute malnutrition for children in southern Yemen," said the UNICEF representative to Yemen, Peter Hawkins.

"To protect the most vulnerable women, girls and boys, an investment in and scale-up of prevention and treatment efforts are more critical than

The report attributed the sharp rise of malnutrition to the combined effects of cholera and measles outbreaks, high food insecurity, limited access to safe drinking water, economic decline and inadequate humanitarian aid — all are direct and indirect results of the decadeold war. The IPC is a global partnership of 15 U.N. agencies and humanitarian organizations working in Yemen and funded by the European Union, the U.S. and the U.K.

## Harris and Walz to campaign by bus in Pennsylvania

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

Southwestern Pennsylvania is a critical part of a key battleground state that has long com-manded the attention of presi-

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

Kristin Kanthak, associate professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh. Allegheny County, which includes Pittsburgh, is a diverse

county with urban, suburban and rural areas, and a lot of people who haven't decided how they will vote, she said.

"It makes sense to come here and ask for votes because there are votes up for grabs here," Kanthak said of Harris. "It's not just about turning out your base. It's about having an opportunity to speak to truly undecided voters."In the 2020 race, Biden won Allegheny County with 60% of the vote, while Trump won neighboring Beaver County, which includes Rochester, with about 58% of the vote. After Trump's surprise win in the state in 2016, Biden flipped Pennsylvania in 2020 and, in so doing, won the White House — in part by running up his vote totals in heavily Democratic Pittsburgh, the state's second-largest city and the county seat of Allegheny

## **Earth ends 13-month streak of record heat**

**AP** WASHINGTON

 $F_{
m 2024,\ air\ and\ ocean\ sur-}^{
m rom\ June\ 2023\ until\ June\ }$ face water temperatures averaged a quarter of a degree Celsius higher than records set only a few years previously. Air temperatures in July 2024 were slightly cooler than the previous July (0.04°C, the narrowest of margins) according to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

July 2023 was in turn  $0.28^{\circ}\text{C}$ warmer than the previous record-hot July in 2019, so the remarkable jump in temperature during the past year has yet to ease off completely. The warmest global air temperature recorded was in December 2023, at 1.78°C

above the pre-industrial avertemperature for December - and 0.31°C warmer than the previous

Global warming has consistently toppled records for warm global average temperatures in recent decades, but breaking them by as much as a quarter of a degree for several months is not common. The end of this streak does not diminish the mounting threat of climate change. So what caused these record temperatures? Several factors came together, but the biggest and most important is climate

change, largely caused by burning fossil fuels. Temperatures typical of Earth 150 years ago are used for sion. Like UK house prices,

erence period, 1850-1900, was before most greenhouse gases associated with global industrialisation - which increase the heat present in Earth's ocean and atmosphere – had been emitted.July 2024 was 1.48°C warmer than a typical pre-industrial July, of which about 1.3°C is attributable to the general trend of global warming over the intervening decades. This trend will continue to raise temperatures until humanity

comparison to measure mod-

ern global warming. The ref-

ing fossil fuels in the ground where they belong. But global warming doesn't

stabilises the climate by keep-

the general trend is up, but there are ups and downs along the way Behind much of the ups and

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

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

PTI ■ HOUSTON

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

at the same time a 2024 Kia Telluride, operated by Mani, was heading north-bound. Evidence at the scene showed the right rear tyre of the Cadillac had a blowout, crash investigators were quoted as saying by FOX10TV.com.

Witnesses claimed the vehicle passed them at a high speed before the collision. The Texas Department of Public Safety said the blowout caused the driver of the Cadillac to lose control and cross over to the northbound lane into the Kia's path. The Kia crashed into the passenger side of Cadillac, causing extensive damage to both vehicles, officials said.

"It is one of the worst crashes I have seen in 26 years because of the magnitude of the damage and amount of people lost," said Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Bryan Washko.

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

## **Hasina destroyed every** institution: Younis

 $B^{\text{angladesh's interim gov-}}_{\text{ernment chief Muhammad}}$ Yunus on Sunday accused deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina of destroying every institution of the country in her efforts to stay in power as he promised to hold a free, fair and participatory election as soon as his government completes the "mandate" of carrying out "vital reforms."

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

Chief Adviser of the interim

government on August 8. "In their efforts to stay in power, Sheikh Hasina's dictatorship destroyed every institution of the country. The judiciary was broken. Democratic rights were suppressed through a brutal decade-and-a-half long crackdown," United News of Bangladesh quoted Yunus as saying through his Press

His comments came as he briefed diplomats stationed in Dhaka for the first time since the interim government's

Bangladesh on Sunday reopened all educational institutions, including universities

sities, secondary schools and

colleges, across the country

after more than a month of clo-

sure due to violence centring

the student-led protests that led

to the ouster of Prime Minister

The educational institutions

in Bangladesh were closed indefinitely on July 17 to ensure

the safety of students in the

wake of clashes that erupted

during the recent movement

demanding reform of the job

Sheikh Hasina.

quota system.

Secretary Shafiqul Alam.

Yunus said he took over a country which was in many

ways a complete mess. He emphasises on required reforms in the Election Commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces and media.

The chief adviser said elections were rigged blatantly and generations of young people grew up without exercising their voting rights.

"Banks were robbed with full political patronisation. And the state coffer was plundered by abusing power," Yunus said, adding that they will also make sincere efforts to promote national reconciliation.

Yunus said they will undertake robust and far-reaching economic reforms to restore macroeconomic stability and sustained growth, with priority attached to good governance and combating corruption and mismanagement.

He said the top priority of the interim government would be to bring the law and order situation under control. 'We will be close to normalcy within a short period, with the unwavering support of our people and patriotic armed forces," Yunus said.

reopen the institutions under

its jurisdiction. All the educa-

tional institutions reopened

on Sunday, after a month of

closure. According to Somoy

Television, a Bengali news channel based in Dhaka, "All

concerned have been asked to

take necessary steps to resume

academic activities in all the

educational institutions from

August 18 following the instruction of Chief Adviser

Muhammad Yunus," a notifica-

tion signed by deputy secretary

Mosammat Rahima Akhtar,

In the morning, school stu-

said on August 15.

The Ministry of Education on Thursday issued a directive to going to their institutions,

reported.

Bangladesh.

The police force has also resumed its operations. The armed forces will continue to serve in aid of civil power as long as the situation warrants. 'Our government remains pledge-bound to ensure the safety and security of all religious and ethnic groups," he

Bangladesh saw a spike in violence against members of Hindu communities following the fall of the Hasina-led government. Yunus said the interim government will hold a "free, fair participatory" election as soon as it completes the "mandate" to carry out "vital reforms

He said they have also made it a priority to ensure justice and accountability for all the killings and violence committed during the recent mass uprising. He said they will uphold and promote all their international legal obligations, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. "Our government will adhere to all international, regional and bilateral instruments it is a party to. Bangladesh shall continue to remain an active proponent of multilateralism, with the UN at the core," Yunus said.

going to their institutions,

many accompanied by guardians, the Daily Star

Many points of Dhaka city are

witnessing severe traffic congestion due to the reopening of

The working week is from Sunday to Thursday in

Initially, classes were scheduled

to resume on August 4 in all

government primary schools,

except in the 12 city corpora-

tions and Narsingdi municipal-

ity, but this was also post-

Meanwhile, the postponed

educational institutions.

#### **Sheikh Hasina** sued in 'mass murder' case

**Dhaka (PTI):** An application was filed with a court in Bangladesh on Sunday to register a case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 33 others, accusing them of carrying out a mass murder by indiscriminately firing on a rally organised in 2013 by Hefazat-e-Islam here.

Babul Sardar Chakhari, chairman of the Bangladesh People's Party (BPP), applied to the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Zaki-Al-Farabi, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

The application accused them of the "mass murder" during the rally at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel on May 5, 2013. The court recorded the plain-

tiff's statement and said it would pass an order on the issue later. With this, 76-yearold Hasina, who resigned from the premiership and fled to India on August 5 following a mass uprising, now faces 11 cases, including eight for murder, one for abduction, and two for committing crimes against humanity and genocide, in Bangladesh. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government, taking the death toll to more than 600.

## Educational institutes in B'desh reopen

nations will be resumed from September 11. According to the revised routine, the exams will be complet-

ed on October 23.

Higher Secondary Certificate

(HSC) and equivalent exami-

Classes at public universities have been suspended since July 1 when teachers went on strike in protest of a new pen-

sion scheme. After the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, the educational institutions were declared open on August 7, but the academic activities could not be resumed fully due to the low attendance of

## Ukrainian troops stike two key bridges in Russia

Tkraine has destroyed a key bridge in Russia's Kursk region and struck a second one nearby, less than two weeks into its stunning cross-border incursion, disrupting Russian supply routes and possibly signaling that its troops are planning to dig in.

Russia's pro-Kremlin military bloggers have acknowledged that the destruction of the first bridge, which spanned the Seim River near the town of Glushkovo, will impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces repelling Ukraine's incursion, although Moscow could still use pontoons and smaller bridges in the area. Ukraine's air force chief, Lt. Mykola Oleshchuk, on Friday released a video of a Ukrainian airstrike that split the bridge in two.

Less than two days later, Ukrainian troops hit a second bridge in Russia, according to Oleshchuk and the Russian regional governor, Alexei Smirnov.

As of Sunday morning, there were no official reports on where exactly the second bridge attack took place. Russian Telegram channels claimed that a second bridge over the Seim, in the village of Zvannoe, had been struck.

According to Russia's Mash news site, the attacks left the area with just one intact bridge. The Associated Press could not immediately verify these claims but if confirmed, the Ukrainian strikes would further complicate Moscow's attempts

to replenish its forces in Kursk and evacuate civilians. Glushkovo lies some 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) north of the Ukrainian border, and approximately 16 kilometers (10 miles) northwest of the main battle zone in Kursk. Zvannoe is

located a further 8 kilometers (5

miles) northeast. Ukraine may try to hold ground seized in Russia's Kursk

Kyiv has been tight-lipped about the planned scope and goals of its lightning push into Russia, the largest attack on the The incursion has already

country since World War II. which took the Kremlin by surprise and saw scores of villages and hundreds of prisoners fall into Ukrainian hands.

Ukraine, on Saturday, August 17, 2024

The Ukrainians drove deep into the Kursk region in several directions, facing little resistance and sowing chaos and panic. Ukraine's Commander in Chief, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi claimed last week that his forces had advanced across 1,000 square kilometers (390 square miles) of the Kursk region, although it was not possible to independently verify what exactly Ukrainian forces effectively control.

But the strikes on bridges, apparently aimed to stymie a Russian counterpush in Kursk, could mean that Kyiv intends to seek a foothold in the region or at least signal to Moscow that it plans to do so.

Analysts say that although Ukraine could try to consolidate its gains within Russia, it would be a risky maneuver given Kyiv's limited resources, because supply lines extending deep into Kursk would be vulnerable to Russian strikes.

boosted Ukraine's morale, sapped by a failed counteroffensive last summer and months of grinding Russian gains in the eastern Donbas region, and proven its ability to seize initia-

Ukrainian servicemen ride atop on a tank after returning from Russia near the Russian-Ukrainian border in Sumy region

It has resembled Ukraine's lightning operation from September 2022, led by Syrskyi, in which its forces reclaimed control of the northeastern Kharkiv region after taking advantage of Russian manpower shortages and a lack of field fortifications. Zelenskyy seeks permission to strike deeper into Russia President

Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy late on Saturday urged Kyiv's allies to lift the remaining restrictions on using Western weapons to strike targets deeper in Russia, including in Kursk, saying that his troops could deprive Moscow "of any ability to advance and cause destruction" if granted sufficient longrange capabilities.

"It is crucial that our partners remove barriers that hinder us from weakening Russian positions in the way this war demands. ... The bravery of our soldiers and the resilience of our combat brigades compensate for the lack of essential decisions from our partners," Zelenskyy said in a post on the social platform X.

Russia's Foreign Ministry and pro-Kremlin bloggers have alleged that U.S.-made HIMARS launchers have been used to destroy bridges on the Seim. These claims could not be independently verified.

Ukraine's leaders have repeatedly sought authorization for long-range strikes on Russian air bases and other infrastructure used to pummel Ukraine's energy facilities and other civilian targets, including with retrofitted Soviet-era "glide bombs" that have laid waste to the country's industrial east in recent months.

Moscow also appears to have dialed up attacks on Kyiv, targeting it with ballistic missiles for a third time this month early on Sunday, according to the head of the municipal military administration. Serhii Popko said in a Telegram post that the "almost identical" August strikes on the capital "most like-ly used" KN-23 missiles supplied by North Korea.

## Sri Lanka President | Ex-spy chief was part of ploy to spread unrest: Govt calls for deepening

ties with India

PTI ■ COLOMBO

**S**ri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has emphasised the importance of strengthening economic cooperation and regional integration with Japan to India, with a special focus on deepening ties with New Delhi, as his country seeks to emerge from bankruptcy.

Wickremesinghe's comments came as he was virtually addressing the Head of State Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit, held under the theme "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future." From the north-central town of Anuradhapura yesterday.

The conference, chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, brought together heads of state from various countries. Reflecting on Indo-Sri Lankan

sised the "vision" statement shared between the two nations, which celebrates their historical

cooperation and lays the foun-

relations, the President empha

dation for future collaboration. He expressed optimism that this vision will lead to stronger integration between Sri Lanka and India across various sectors. President Wickremesinghe highlighted Sri Lanka's strategic commitment to expanding economic partnerships across Asia, particularly through the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEC).

The President noted that as the Bay of Bengal region emerges as a hub of economic growth, the significance of BIMSTEC continues to rise.

Sri Lanka, as a member, seeks closer economic integration with India and is exploring economic cooperation agreements extending from Japan to India, his office said in a statement. President Wickremesinghe also expressed his gratitude to Prime

Minister Modi and the people of India for their support during Sri Lanka's recent

economic crisis. The President acknowledged that India's assistance played a vital role in helping Sri Lanka

navigate the challenges of the bankruptcy.

"Sri Lanka thanks India for hosting the third virtual seminar on Voices of the Global South. This series enables us to engage with each other to understand our different viewpoints while also helping us arrive at a common stance

on many issues confronting the South," he said.

'We have reached a point where the West can no longer dominate global leadership and, furthermore, has become part of the problem. Ukraine and Gaza are prime examples, which I will not address as they have already been discussed by previous speakers. In this context, we must appreciate India's efforts to strengthen the Global South". Deliberating on the economic crisis, Wickremesinghe said Sri

Lanka had reached agreements with the Official Creditor Countries, the Export-Import Bank of China, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank to emerge

from bankruptcy. "At this stage, I must acknowledge the generosity of Prime Minister Modi and India, whose contributions made it possible for us to survive the two years of bankruptcy, which imposed a heavy burden on our people. The Vision Statement agreed upon by both our countries outlines the path for closer relations, emphasizing our 2,000year history of cooperation. This will ultimately lead to deeper integration between our nations across many sectors". Sri Lanka will be finalising the Comprehensive Economic and Technological Agreement with India, he said.

"We will also inaugurate connectivity in power, transport, and land, and we will focus on the development of Trincomalee Harbour, among other projects we have agreed upon. These efforts will help us upgrade our knowledge and technology, enabling us to move towards a digital economy. I must express my gratitude to India for the assistance it has provided".

## PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government has **L** accused jailed former premier Imran Khan of masterminding a political conspiracy, and others, to sow anarchy and disharmony in the country, according to media reports.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar claimed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder was spreading unrest across the country and former ISI chief Lt-Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed was part of the conspiracy, the Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Hameed, who served as director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) from 2019 to

2021 when Khan was the prime minister, was arrested following action in the complaint of a private property developer over alleged misuse of official author-

three retired military officers, were also arrested in connection with the court martial of Hameed.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Tarar hinted that the ambit of the probe against Lt Gen (retd.) Hameed and his other "co-conspirators" would be widened in days to come, Dawn newspaper reported. Tarar said that in the wake of Hameed's arrest, the army con-

ducted transparent investiga-

tions as they have their mech-

anism of internal accountability. Referring to the arrests, the information minister claimed that Khan had conspired with in the country.

by the PTI founder, which was linked with Gen Faiz and other accomplices," he said, adding that the ambit of the investiga tion would widen.

"No matter if someone is Saqib or Nisar, things will proceed transparently," he said, referring to former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, who the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party accuses of propping up the PTI regime and targeting their political opponents.

Tarar alleged that evidence was

surfacing, which showed that Khan was "in contact" with these conspirators — at the time of the vote of no-conficontinued back and forth with this "unholy political alliance". He stressed that other institutions should also practice the same self-accountability that the army had demonstrated.

The information minister stressed that other institutions should also practice the same self-accountability that the army had demonstrated.

Meanwhile, just days after distancing himself from the former spymaster, facing court-martial proceedings, Khan seemed to endorse claims that he and the

retired general were close. Khan, hinting that the former spymaster and he was close, said Hameed's transfer to the these people to spread anarchy dence, and even after his incar- Peshawar corps was part of the ceration — and his messaging conspiracy hatched against the reported. Khan claimed that this was done by former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa at the behest of Nawaz Sharif. Lt Gen (retd.) Hameed, consid-

> ered extremely powerful when he headed the spy agency, was appointed to the coveted post when then ISI chief and current Army chief Lt Gen Asim Munir was prematurely removed from the post. It was reported then that then prime minister Imran Khan was not happy with

Later, the army decided to replace Hameed, a move vehemently opposed by Khan and it is believed that it was the beginning of the souring of his ties with the powerful military.

ment in November 2022, four months before his retirement date after the current army chief took over. He was considered close to then Army chief Gen Oamar Baiwa.

The post of ISI chief is considered one of the most important in the Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 76-plus years of existence and has hitherto wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign

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

Colombo (PTI): A group of election observers from the European Union and the Commonwealth have arrived in Sri Lanka to monitor the September 21 presidential election, Election Commission officials said on Sunday. They are here at the invitation of Sri Lanka's Election Commission The EU has previously done election monitoring in Sri Lanka six times with the last being at the presidential election of 2019.

The deployment of the Election Observation Mission in Sri Lanka this year confirms our long-standing commitment to supporting credible, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections in the country," the head of the observer group said in a statement on Saturday.

The forthcoming presidential election will give a new impetus to democracy following the 2022 political and economic crisis. This election is important for Sri Lanka to continue making progress on its path of reforms and lasting recovery, in full respect of democratic values," the head of the observer group was quoted as saying.

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

Vietnam's new leader To Lam is making China the destination for his first overseas visit, signalling the continuing importance the Southeast Asian country places on its giant neighbour even as it strengthens ties with the United States and others. Lam stepped off a Vietnam Airlines plane on an overcast Sunday morning in Guangzhou, a major manufacturing and export hub near Hong Kong, China's state media reported.

He later flew to Beijing, where he will meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping. His three-day visit comes about two weeks after Lam was confirmed as general secretary of Vietnam's Communist Party, the country's top political position. He succeeded Nguyen Phu Trong, who died last month after 13 years as leader. Lam also has held the largely

president since Mav. The new leader is expected to continue his predecessor's strategy of balancing ties with China, the United States, Russia and others, Yu Xiangdong, the director of

ceremonial title of the nation's

Studies at China's Zhengzhou University, wrote Saturday in the state-run Global Times newspaper.

'The fact that Lam chose China as his first overseas visit destination since taking office is a sign that Vietnam attaches great importance to its relations with China," Yu said in an opinion piece. "But at the same time, judging from experience, the country is not by any means going to give the US the cold shoulder.'

Vietnam upgraded its ties with the United States and Japan last year to a comprehensive strategic partnership, the country's highest designation for a diplomatic relationship. Relations with China and India also have been given the same designation. The United States and its ally Japan have been developing closer ties with Vietnam's communist government -America's former foe in the Vietnam War — as they seek partners in a growing economic and strategic rivalry

with China. When Xi visited Vietnam in December, the two countries announced they would build "a shared future that carries

The agreement, which Chinese state media has described as an elevation of

ties, was seen as a concession by Vietnam, which had resisted using that wording in the past. Russian President . Vladimir Putin met Lam in Vietnam in June after visiting North Korea on a rare overseas trip for the Russian leader, who has been ostracised by many countries because of the 2022 invasion and still-ongoing war in

Ukraine. Lam's agenda in Guangzhou included visiting sites in the southern China city where Vietnam's former communist leader Ho Chi Minh spent time, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said. Ho, the founder and first president of communist Vietnam, was in southern China in the 1920s and again in the 1930s as part of the Soviet Union's efforts to expand communism globally. Though they have long ties as one-party communist states, Vietnam and China have sparred repeatedly over territory that both claim in the South China Sea. China also

briefly invaded parts of north-

ern Vietnam in 1979.

## **Fire erupts on former Soviet aircraft carrier**



**Beijing (PTI):** A fire broke out on a retired aircraft carrier during the dismantling and refitting of the vessel along the Yangtze River in east China's Jiangsu Province. The incident took place on Friday afternoon along the river in an industrial zone south of the Nantong city. No casualties have been reported and flames have been largely extinguished on Saturday. An investigation into the cause of the fire is underway, local authorities were quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The aircraft carrier, named Minsk, was in 2016 moved to Nantong, where it is expected to form part of a planned aircraft carrier theme park. 'Minsk' had previously been

aircraft carrier was sold to a company in the Republic of Korea before being resold to a Chinese company, which transformed it into part of a military theme park in Shenzhen. Earlier the Nantong industrial zone said it would start renovations on the vessel in March with the goal of opening a national defence centre based on the carrier by October 1. China currently has two aircraft

in south China's Guangdong

Province for several years. After its retirement in 1995, the

carriers, Liaoning, which was a refit of the Soviet-era ship, and Shandong, which is an indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier commissioned in 2019 China's third aircraft carrier Fujian is currently undergoing moored in the city of Shenzhen

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the earnings season drawing to a close, stock markets will take cues from global trends and foreign investors' trading activity this week, analysts said. The US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes will be the major highlight this week, experts

"This week, there are fewer cues on the macro and micro fronts, as the Q1 earnings concluded However, important global economic data, such as Japan's inflation numbers and the minutes from the US FOMC meeting, will be closely watched. The uncertain geopolitical situation remains the primary near-term risk for the market," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika

Traders will also closely

Investmart Ltd.



movement, he added. Easing fears of a recession in the US triggered a global market rally on Friday.

'Positive US economic data like cooling inflation and robust retail sales numbers

iumped 1,330.96 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 80,436.84 on Friday, marking its best single-day gain in more than two months. The NSE Nifty surged 397.40 points or 1.65 per cent to close at a two-week

The 30-share BSE benchmark

high of 24,541.15.
"The outlook for the market will be guided by the FOMC meeting minutes, US existing home sales and new home sales data," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 730.93 points or 0.91 per cent, the Nifty climbed 173.65 points or 0.71 per cent. Siddhartha Khemka, Head

Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said, all eyes this week will be on US Fed meeting minutes. "Overall we expect the market to consolidate in a broader range and take cues from global factors," Khemka

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Japan was the top holder with securities worth over USD 1.11 trillion followed by China at the second spot with a holding valued at USD 780.2

billion in June, according to the latest data released by the US Treasury Department. At the third place was the United Kingdom with an exposure of USD 741.5 billion ahead of Luxembourg at the fourth position with a holding to the tune of USD 384.2 billion.

Among the countries and jurisdictions, India was at the 12th place owning American government securities worth USD 241.9 billion in June, higher than USD 237.8 billion value recorded in May.

As per the data, India's holding is the highest in the last one year and it was at USD 237.8 billion in May



2024. In April this year, it touched USD 233.5 billion declining from USD 240.6 billion in March.

In June last year, the exposure was at USD 235.4 billion. countries/

jurisdictions among the top 10 holders were Canada at the fifth spot with a holding of USD 374.8 billion, followed by Cayman Islands (USD 319.4 billion), Belgium (USD 318 billion), Ireland (USD 308 billion), France (USD 307.2 billion) and Switzerland (USD 287.1 billion).At the 11th position was Taiwan with an exposure

of USD 265.9 billion.

global witnessing uncertain times amid high inflation, geopolitical tensions and other challenges. There is an uneven growth pattern and in the June quarter, the real GDP in the United States expanded at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent, higher than 1.4 per cent seen in the first three months of 2024.

World Economic In its Outlook Update issued in July, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the global economy is in a sticky spot and projected a growth of 3.2 per cent for this

#### Next round of India-Aus FTA talks from today



Thief negotiators of India and Australia will begin the next round of talks for the comprehensive free trade agreement from tomorrow in Sydney, where both sides are likely to close negotiations on several chapters of the pact, an

Both countries have already implemented an interim pact and are in discussions to expand its scope under the CĒCA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation

into force in December 2022.

"Out of the total 19 areas of the agreement, we have completed

The ECTA provides duty-free access to Indian exporters of over 6,000 broad sectors, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery in the Australian market. Under the pact, Australia has offered zero-duty access to India for about 96.4

Collaboration in space, mining and sports are among 15 new areas mutually identified by India and Australia for negotiations under the comprehensive free trade agreement. For the first time,

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will need around 1 lakh company secretaries by 2030 amid rising economic growth and increasing focus good governance, according to the company secretaries' apex body ICSI. Currently, there are more than 73,000 company company secretaries and out of the total, around 12,000 are practising company secretaries.

Company secretaries play a key role in the corporate governance framework in ensuring compliance of companies with various statutory requirements.

Company Institute Secretaries of India (ÎCSI) President B Narasimhan said there has been a paradigm shift in the way the country's economy is perceived today and company secretaries have essentially become significant linchpin in making India one of the most investment destinations of the world.



company secretaries by 2030, he told PTI during a recent interaction.

On an average, the ICSI gives membership to over 2,500 people every year. Going by projections, India is

expected to become a USD 7 trillion economy by 2030. "It is eminently possible for

the Indian economy to grow in the coming years at a rate above 7 per cent on the strength of the financial sector and other recent and future structural reforms... Under a reasonable set of assumptions with respect to the inflation differentials and boards.

India will need around 1 lakh the exchange rate, India can aspire to become a USD 7 trillion economy in the next six to seven years (by 2030)," a finance ministry report said in January this year.

while talks of a rate cut by the

US Fed as early as next month

fuelled a mega rally across

Senior VP (Research), Mehta

equities, including

Prashanth Tapse,

global

India."

Meanwhile, to attract more young talent into profession, the institute has also started direct registration of graduates and post graduates in the company secretary executive

programme. Among other initiatives, ICSI has introduced secretarial standards to bring uniformity in the secretarial practices followed across corporate

## FPIs turn net sellers; pull out ₹21,201 crore from equities in August so far

PTI NEW DELHI

Poreign investors continued their relentless selling in the Indian equity markets in August, offloading shares worth Rs 21,201 crore due to the unwinding of the yen carry trade, recession fears in US and ongoing geopolitical conflicts. This came after an inflow of

Rs 32,365 crore in July and Rs 26,565 crore in June, data with the depositories showed. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused funds in these months expectation of sustained economic growth, continued reform measures, better-thanexpected earnings season and political stability. Before that, FPIs withdrew Rs

25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond According to the data, FPIs



withdrew a net amount of Rs 21,201 crore in equities so far this month (August 1-17). So far this year, FPIs invested Rs 14,364 crore in equities, data with the depositories

FPI outflows witnessed in August were mainly driven by a combination of global and

domestic factors.

"Globally, concerns about the unwinding of the Yen carry trade, potential global recession, slowing economic and ongoing geopolitical conflicts led to market volatility and risk

Bhowar, Director Listed Waterfield Investments, Advisors, said.

The outflow was triggered due to the unwinding of the Yen carry trade after the Bank of Japan raised interest rates to 0.25 per cent.

Domestically, after being net buyers in June and July, some FPIs might have chosen to book profits following a strong rally in previous

Additionally, mixed quarterly earnings and relatively higher valuations have made Indian

attractive, Bĥowar added. Srivastava. Himanshu Associate Director, Manager

Research. Morningstar Investment Research India, said the post-budget announcement of an increase in capital gains tax on equity investments has largely fuelled this selling spree. In addition, FPIs have been

cautious due to the high valuations of Indian stocks, coupled with global economic concerns like rising recession fears in the US amid weak obs data, uncertainty over the timing of interest rate cuts, and the unwinding of yen carry trade, he added.

A significant trend in FPI flows recently, which became pronounced in August, is the sustained selling by them through the exchange while continuing to invest through the 'primary market and others' category. This difference in FPI behaviour is due to the differences in valuations.

official said.

Agreement).

The interim pact - Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) - came tenth round of negotiations is scheduled from August 19-22 in Sydney.

our discussions on four chapters, and we are in very advanced stages in a few others. We hope that in this round, we should be able to close altogether, maybe more than 10 chapters," the commerce ministry official said. In this round, the official said that both countries are likely to get into market access discussions in goods and

per cent of exports.

On the other hand, the CECA envisages deeper and comprehensive engagement on the five issues - goods, services, digital trade, government procurement and rules of origin - that were agreed under

these new segments would become part of a trade pact being negotiated by India.

## Cognizant says entry-level annual pay for engineers at ₹4-12 lakh; best in industry

Facing social media backlash over the Rs 2.52 lakh annual salary offer for freshers, IT giant Cognizant on Sunday said it offers Rs 4-12 lakh salary to fresh engineering graduates, and the salary being quoted on social media is for nonengineering undergraduate degree holders.

The firm also faced social media ridicule for doling out annual salary hikes of as low as 1 per cent, but what is being quoted is the lower band of the 1-5 per cent annual increments that the firm has dished out based on individual performance. Cognizant annually hires fresh engineers and non-

engineering/IT graduates for

With the two recruitments

running almost parallel, hiring for three-year nonengineering/information technology undergraduate degree holders picked up and was widely shared as Cognizant's salary package for

"Our recent job posting for talent from non-engineering backgrounds, with a 3-year undergraduate degree has been grossly misrepresented. This job posting, with compensation of Rs 2.52 lakhs annually, was only for candidates with a 3-year undergraduate degree and not for engineering graduates. 'Our annual compensation

fresh engineering graduates ranges from Rs 4 lakhs to Rs 12 lakhs annually, depending on the category of hiring, skill set, and advanced accredited certifications," said Surya Gummadi, EVP and Cognizant

hires Cognizant engineering undergraduate degree holders for administrative and other roles and invests substantial time and money in upgrading their skills and IT training, after which they get absorbed in

Americas.

various roles. "The compensation we offer for engineering graduates is highly competitive within the IT services peer group," he

Cognizant's salary package for engineering graduates matches the best in the industry, and at some levels, it is even higher than peers.

"We have been recruiting and upskilling freshers from engineering institutions as well as colleges offering degrees in science, arts, and commerce. Today, as AI increasingly powers modern businesses, we are creating new pathways for talent to thrive in India's technology industry," Gummadi said. Gummadi — who joined Cognizant as a fresher twoand-half-decades back and rose through ranks to now head geography, which forms

three-fourths of Cognizant's

revenues — said the firm has

a robust training programme that has benefited freshers

## battery energy storage system unit

**PTI** ■ SRIPERUMBUDUR

Taiwanese en □aiwanese electronics Foxconn is working on plans to set up a battery energy storage system unit in India, its Chairman Young Liu said

With an eye on the electric vehicle segment, Foxconn has been expanding its battery manufacturing business, with the first plant already set up in

Liu told PTI that Foxconn's information communication technology segment has just started in

"We are also waiting to put our 3+3 future industry in India. I have been talking to



Foxconn working on plans to set up

the minister for industries here about how can we collaborate on BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) in Tamil Nadu...," Liu said.

As part of the "3+3 strategy", Foxconn has prioritised the three key industries -- electric vehicles, digital health, and robotics — each has a significant growth potential with current scale at USD 1.4 trillion and over 20 per cent compound annual growth rate.

Foxconn's battery storage business is more focused on electric vehicles.

Indian businesses need to align cyber security

Battery energy systems (BESS) enable energy

sources like solar and wind. Foxconn has set up its first BESS unit in Taiwan for e-Buses. The unit is expected to start mass production this year. The company is also in discussion to set up a BESS factory in Indonesia.

The proposed BESS factory in India will complement Foxconn's electric vehicle manufacturing business in India, which is under works. When asked about the status of EV production, Liu said it will start "very soon". Foxconn has invested over

USD 1.4 billion in India to date, and its business has grown to USD 10 billion.

At present, the company employs over 48,000 people in

by SonicWall said earlier this

The number of brute force or

targeted attacks is escalating

in India, with every third

cyber incident reported due

to ransomware in 2023, cyber

security firm Kaspersky has

According to Hia, the cause

for such attacks is the amount

of data exposed on the

internet, which has grown to

### **FMCG** players expect volume trends to sustain amid rising demand in rural markets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

varied roles.

 $F_{\text{goods (FMCG)}}^{\text{ast-moving}} \ \, \stackrel{\text{consumer}}{\text{companies}}$ expect to sustain volume growth in the coming quarters, buoyed by recovery of demand in rural markets and good monsoon, despite concerns over growing food inflation.FMCG majors, including HUL, ITC, Dabur, Britannia, Nestle and Emami, in their June quarter earnings have reported 'green shoots' from the rural markets and strong growth from echannels, commerce from quickparticularly

commerce platforms. The industry had around 6.6 per cent volume growth in the

However, companies are worried about elevated food inflation as coffee and cocoa prices have gone up unprecedently. Amid expectations of an increase in cereals and grains prices, some of the players have even indicated price hikes. Dabur CÊO Mohit Malhotra

April-June period of this fiscal.

said, "Going forward, the volume will increase on the back of rural inching up for us. So I expect the subsequent quarters to be better than our quarters, definitely not worse." He expressed optimism,

and rural-centric government spending, FMCG demand will see a gradual uptick. Malhotra also mentioned inflation in food is very high

today and "we might have to take some price increases in food, but it depends upon how the situation is." Marico MD & CEO Saugata Gupta said the FMCG sector continued to witness gradual improvement in demand trends in the June quarter, with better rural growth."We expect volume trends to sustain the trajectory, aided by stable retail inflation, a healthily progressing monsoon season, saying that with a good and the Govt's budgetary monsoon, improving allocation towards boosting macroeconomic indicators the rural economy," he said.

### Hero MotoCorp gets over ₹17 cr tax notice from Delhi GST authorities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

across the board.

Hero MotoCorp on Sunday said it has received a demand notice of over Rs 17 crore from Delhi GST authorities.

The company has received an order dated August 17, 2024, for disallowance of input tax credit for FY 2019-20 from the Office of the GST Officer, Government of NCT of Delhi, the two9,38,66,513, interest Rs 7,32,15,880 and penalty Rs 93,86,651 as per the notice. Based on the company's assessment, the tax demand is not maintainable in law, it added.

The input tax credit disallowed by the office of the GST Officer, New Delhi, was rightfully claimed by the company as per the provisions of the GST law but disallowed on account of wheeler major said in a regulatory filing.

The company said the tax demand is for Rs the supplier's non-compliance, which is not attributable to the company, Hero MotoCorp said.

#### budgets with growth objectives, says Kaspersky PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian businesses need to align cyber security budgets with their growth objectives to ensure sustainable expansion in the face of increasing digitalisation and associated risks, a top official of Kaspersky has said.

The emergence of new-age including technologies, artificial intelligence and GenAI, is critical for companies to boost their businesses.

"In order to grow businesses, you need to digitise. If you don't digitise, you are not going to have that business growth value," Adrian Hia, Managing Director for the APAC region at Kaspersky,

At the same time, the digitalisation of businesses increases the attack surface area, opening avenues for like sophisticated cyberattacks.

If Indian businesses aim to grow by 20 per cent, they also need to boost their cyber security budget by 20 per cent in the course of preparedness against these attacks, Hia noted.

Further, he said that organisations need to upkeep their systems and data while moving towards digital transformation.

climbed 11 per cent to 13,44,566 in 2024 against

12,13,528 a year ago, a report

In India, malware attacks

nearly 10-fold, either through applications or web server proliferation of "The

smartphones, where everyone has two smartphones...has led to data from 3 billion smartphones in India. So, the attack surface has increased, he added.





DR SUNIL CHUMBER Professor and Head

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

#### TREATMENT INDICATIONS AND OPTIONS

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

#### **INDICATIONS**

Patients hyperthyroidism: All MNG patients who also have hyperthyroidism (increased thyroid hormones) on blood tests will need some form of treatment.

without Patients hyperthyroidism: Goitre compressive symptoms such as difficulty in breathing, difficulty in swallowing, cough, difficulty urgent treatment. Lastly, receive treatment for MNG

#### due to cosmetic reasons. **TREATMENT OPTIONS**

surgeon removes the whole or a part of the thyroid gland. choice in patients with compressive suspicion of thyroid cancer, few



DR REVA SHANKAR SAHU

supplementation is needed when the entire thyroid gland is removed.

•Medical treatment: All patients hyperthyroidism are started on "antithyroid medications" like carbimazole, and methimazole till hormone levels become normal, after which surgery can be done. sleeping, etc. needs to be However, if patients who do treated. Also, if your doctor not want surgery or are not suspect's thyroid cancer based fit to undergo surgery, they on size/rate of growth/ scans can be kept on these or needle test, he will advise medicines for a long time as relatively new and not an alternative but is not very patients may choose to effective in decreasing the •Annual surveillance: For size of the goitre.

"Radioactive iodine" is a solution •Surgical treatment: The I131which is given to annual surveillance is an patients either as an oral liquid to drink or as a This is the treatment of capsule. It gets taken up by the thyroid alone and symptoms, destroys it from within in a indication for treatment weeks. It and large goitre. A lifelong recommended by doctors as appropriate treatment is hormone an alternative to surgery in provided.



DR AMOL SOOD

patients who are unfit or unwilling to undergo surgery. Pregnant ladies and lactating mothers have to be very careful and inform your doctor immediately as this

method is not safe for them. Ablative procedures: These are ultrasound-guided procedures that involve injection of medical alcohol or the use of radiofrequency (RFA) or laser to destroy diseased thyroid tissue. These procedures are

readily available.

people with goitre but no • Radioiodine treatment: other symptoms, not having hyperthyroidism, and not containing being suspicious of cancer, option. For this, the doctor conducts a yearly checkup, checks thyroid function test, and neck ultrasound. If an is arises or the patient desires,

#### **OPERATIONS IN MNG**

Indications for surgery in MNG are local compressive symptoms (difficulty in swallowing and shortness of breath), suspicious malignancy features on imaging, large substernal development, drugresistant hyperthyroidism, and cosmetic concerns.

If MNG is limited to one lobe of the thyroid, the standard surgical procedure is a hemithyroidectomy only the lobe with nodule(s) is removed and the other half thyroid is left intact.

In these cases, it is crucial to assess the other lobe not being removed, for any involvement through an ultrasound scan before surgery, and feeling with hands during the surgery that it does not have any

Two main categories of

surgeries can be performed for MNG cases involving both lobes. First category is more limited and includes "bilateral subtotal thyroidectomy" where both lobes of the thyroid are normal thyroid from both are left behind. This method will be performed by your surgeon

MNG is a widely occurring

disease of thyroid gland

where small nodules form

inside the thyroid causing it

to become bigger and

problems

difficulty

produce

cosmesis,



DR YASHWANT RATHORE

to decrease the risks associated with the other procedures, such as injury to nerve and parathyroid gland.

The second type includes total and near-total thyroidectomy, which tends to be a more aggressive approach. In these again both the lobes of thyroid are removed, but minimal-to-

no thyroid is left behind. This group of surgery recommended to reduce the need for repeat operation which might be required to remove the left-behind thyroid if the disease appears again or removed but small pieces of if carcinoma is found in the hormone supplements lifelong removed thyroid. As these and based on Thyroid procedures are known to have Function Tests reports doses higher risks of injury, only will be adjusted by your doctor.

CONCLUSION

Not having enough Iodine in

this problem, but due to

breathing,

sleeping.



DR NEELAM

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

goitres seen before the 90s

nodules are mostly non-

such enlargement is seen in

have largely come down. The

power are key to lower stress and better mental health. THE PIONEER reports on two insightful studies

Mediterranean diet and nature's healing

### **Mediterranean Diet Linked** to Lower Stress Levels

Feeling stressed? Adopting 1,500 Mediterranean diet machi could be beneficial, according to recent research. A study by Binghamton University, State University of New York, compared the Mediterranean diet to the traditional Western diet to explore their effects on stress levels. The Mediterranean diet,

known for its emphasis on fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, and healthy fats like extra virgin olive oil, may help reduce stress and mental distress. Lina Begdache, Associate Professor of Health and Wellness Studies, noted that the study, published in Nutrition and Health, found that

this diet lowers mental distress and improves perceptions of stress. In contrast, the Western diet, which is high in processed foods and low-quality carbohydrates, is linked to increased stress and mental distress. Research has shown it to contribute to the globally rising risk of communicable diseases like hypertension and cancers.

machine learning to analyze survey data and found that the Mediterranean diet is associated with lower levels of stress and mental distress. In addition to mental health benefits, the Mediterranean diet has been shown to support overall health. A recent study published in Heart highlighted its benefits in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and

The findings suggest that incorporating more Mediterranean diet components could be a simple yet effective way to manage stress and improve health.

death, especially among women, by nearly 25%.

A recent study, published in the journal Heart, too showed the association between a Mediterranean diet and incident risk of cardiovascular disease CVD and death. Focusing especially on women, the study showed that a Mediterranean diet can boost your heart health and lower the risk of heart disease and death by nearly 25 per The research, involving over

#### **Spending 10 Min in Nature** can Boost Mental Health

We recognize that nature plays a crucial role in human health, yet behavioral and healthcare providers frequently overlook its potential as an intervention. But now a new study published in the peerreviewed journal Ecopsychology, has revealed that spending time in nature—even as little as 10 minutes—can yield shortterm benefits for adults with mental illness.

"We know nature plays an important role in human health, but behavioral health and health care providers often neglect to think about it as an intervention," said Joanna Bettmann, a professor at the University of Utah rivers, lakes, oceans-and College of Social Work and lead author of the study. "We set out to distill some evidence-based guidance for those providers."

The amount of time study participants spent in nature varied from study to study; some participants spent as little as 10 minutes in a city park, while others spent multiple days in immersive



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

#### front of your neck, you should government efforts of wilderness experiences. We iodisation of salt, the large contact a nearby doctor.

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

Ayurvedic Medicines Accelerate Bone Fracture Healing

The healing process of bone fractures is crucial for effective treatment and rehabilitation. It is a complex, highly regulated series of events that involves a variety of cellular activities, molecular signals, and

mechanical factors. Fractures may be Simple (closed) when the bone breaks but does not penetrate the skin or Compound (open) when the bone breaks and penetrates through the skin, increasing the risk of infection. Comminuted fractures occur

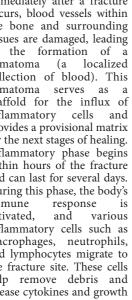
when the bone is shattered multiple pieces. Greenstick fractures occur mostly in children when the bone bends and cracks. Stress fractures are small

cracks in the bone caused by repetitive forces or overuse. Bone healing is a dynamic process that typically occurs in four overlapping stages: formation, hematoma inflammatory phase, reparative phase, and remodeling phase.

Hematoma formation starts

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

new bone tissue. Reparative characterized formation of a soft callus, which eventually transitions



the



few days to weeks after the fibroblasts, fracture, chondroblasts,

osteoblasts migrate to the fracture site. These cells produce collagen and other extracellular matrix components, forming a soft callus made of fibrous tissue and cartilage. This soft callus bridges the fracture gap and provides initial stability.

Over the next few weeks to months, the soft callus is gradually replaced by a hard callus composed of woven bone. Osteoblasts play a key role in this process by laying

down new bone tissue. The hard callus increases the mechanical stability of the fracture site and is a crucial step toward complete bone healing The final phase of bone

healing is the remodeling phase, which can last for several months to years. During this phase, the hard callus is remodeled into

mature lamellar restoring the bone's original structure and mechanical properties. The gradually regains its normal strength, shape, function.

Several factors can influence the rate and quality of bone healing. These factors can be broadly categorized into biological, mechanical, and systemic factors. Biological Factors are age,

blood supply to the fractured bone delivering oxygen, nutrients, and cells to the fracture site.

such as bone density and

microarchitecture, affects

The intrinsic quality of the bone, influenced by factors



food is an important cause of cancerous but anytime any

osteoporosis can compromise bone healing. Mechanical factors include the mechanical stability of

formation and bone repair. Systemic factors include particularly calcium, vitamin D, proteins, etc. Hormones such as parathyroid hormone, growth hormone, and sex hormone, hormones play significant role in bone metabolism and healing. There are a number of are quite effective in each and every phase of bone healing.

of the fracture through

immobilization or surgical

fixation promote callus

healing process and can be used alone or in combination allopathic other medicines include Hadjod, Aama haldi, Lakshadhi guggul, Shatavari, Ashwagandha, etc Botanical name of Asthishrinkhala or Hadjod Cissus quadrangularis which reduces swelling, relieves pain, treats allied illnesses relieves associated with fracture and aids in healing fracture. of calcium, phosphorus &

vitamin D and is nowadays being used in many combinations of allopathic adequate intake of nutrients, medicine also. Lakshadi guggul is a combination of lakhsa (Laccifer lacca), Asthishrinkhala (Cissus quadrangularis) Arjun bark (Terminalia Ashwagandha (Withaniya somnifera) Nagbala( Grewia hirsuta) and Guggul, which is a gum resin obtained from Ayurvedic medicines which a variety of plants including species Commiphora wightii, C. gileadensis, C. mukul,

These medicines escalate the Boswellia serrata, B. sacra, etc. The combination is a rich source of calcium, vitamins & antioxidants which is medicines. Some of the known to fasten the healing process in bone fracture, low bone density, and pain in joints. It's quite effective in osteoporosis also. haldi ( Curcuma amada) is another herb having antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and rejuvenative properties. Shatavari ( Asparagus racemosus) is highly rich in antioxidants and acts as a The herb contains high levels rejuvenator and strength provider in bone healing. These medicines not only shorten the recovery time but also aid in the quality healing of the bones. With appropriate care and

intervention, most fractures can heal effectively, allowing patients to regain full function and return to their normal activities by the use of Ayurvedic medicines.

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

# Our fight will continue, truth will prevail: Vinesh

verwhelmed by the grand reception she received on her arrival from the Paris Olympics, wrestler Vinesh Phogat said that her fight against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) would continue and hoped that "truth will prevail". Hundreds of supporters had gathered outside the IGI airport here on Saturday to give a rousing welcome to Vinesh who was disqualified for being overweight after reaching the 50kg final at the

Vinesh's appeal against her disqualification was rejected by the ad-hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport

On her way to Balali from Delhi, Vinesh was felicitated by her supporters and 'khap' panchayats in several villages as it took her almost 13 hours to cover 135 kms.

She reached her native village in Balali around midnight and was accorded a grand welcome by the villagers. Her neighbours and friends met her with tears and smiles and patted her for the courage she had shown.

Exhausted after a tiring journey that began in Paris, Vinesh addressed the gathering before calling it a



"Our fight has not ended and the fight will continue and I pray to god that the truth will prevail," said Vinesh while addressing the people.

During their sit-in at Jantar Mantar, Vinesh along with Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik had spent nights on the streets.

They had accused the then WFÍ chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual harassment of women harassment of women grapplers. They were evicted when they tried to march towards the new Parliament

The case against Brij Bhushan is being heard by a Delhi court. Vinesh said that the welcome she had received on arrival would give her the courage to pick up the threads and get on with life.

"As I got love from my fellow Indians, my village and my family members, it would give me some courage to make this wound heal. Maybe, I could return to wrestling," said the 29-year-old Vinesh.

"Missing the Olympic medal is the biggest wound in my life. I don't know how much time it would take to heal this wound.

I don't know if I would pursue wrestling or not but the kind of courage I got today, I want to use that in the right direction,"

Vinesh said she does not know if she deserved the accolades

she added.

"But I feel extremely lucky to be born in this village. I would always fight for the honour of the women and of this village. World two-time medallist Championships wished that someone from Balali would better her wrestling achievements.

champion and has won eight Asian Championships medals. "I want it from the bottom of my heart that somebody from my heart that somebody from the village carries my legacy forward and breaks my records. If I can promote women wrestlers of my village, it would be my biggest achievement," she said. "It would be disappointing if no wrestler emerged from this village. We have paved the way

village. We have paved the way with your achievements. I request you all to support the women in this village, they need support if they have to replace us.

"They can achieve a lot. All they need is your support. I will always be indebted to this nation, this village. Whatever I have learnt, I will share with my sisters from this village and I wish someone from this village breaks my record."

Vinesh had announced her retirement from the sport after her disqualification.

In an emotional post on social media, Vinesh shared her childhood dream, the hardships she faced after losing her father, and also put on record the contribution made by people in her extraordinary

However, she did not mention her uncle Mahavir Phogat, something that irked her cousin sisters Geeta and

#### **BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY**

## Lyon seeks English spinner Hartley's inputs to tame Yashasvi

exploits.

information

"I love talking about cricket, so if I can talk to someone

who has played Test cricket, I might be able to pick up

something I'm not aware of.

There's so much knowledge

floating around this game that we can always tap into."

Since winning the 2014-15 Border-Gavaskar 2-0, Australia have lost the next

four series against India --

two to Virat Kohli's side (2016-17, 2018-19), Ajinkya

Rahane (2021) and Rohit

"If the plans we've spoken

Sharma (2023).

Ace off-spinner Nathan Lyon has already started his homework on rising batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal with England spinner Tom Hartley's inputs on the southpaw safely stored in his memory bank ahead of the five-Test Border-Gavaskar series between India and Australia starting from November 22.

Jaiswal, who scored a century on debut in the West Indies last year, scored an astounding 712 runs in the five Test series against England at home earlier this

But the pace and bounce on offer on Australian tracks will pose a different challenge for the Mumbaikar.

"I haven't come across him [Jaiswal] yet, but that will be a massive challenge for all us bowlers," Lyon was quoted as saying by ESPNCricinfo.

The way he (Jaiswal) played against England, I watched that quite closely and thought

that was quite amazing.
"I had some really good chats with Tom Hartley (England left-arm spinner) about different ways he went about it to different guys which I

found quite interesting." Lyon had a stint in English county with Lancashire and had an opportunity to share notes with Hartley, who had 20 wickets in four Tests against India and he is about come to true, then I someone who has first-hand think it will be.' knowledge of Jaiswal's

Along with Lyon, Josh Hazlewood is survivor from the 2014-15 another The 36-year-old Lyon, who has 530 wickets from 129 and conceded Tests, feels that with so much information "floating Australia's recent results against India present a around", Aussies have the best significant hole in their chance to accomplish the "unfinished business" against record.

"It's been ten years of unfinished business, it's been a long time, and I know we're extremely hungry to turn things around, especially here at home," Lyon said.

"Don't get me wrong, India is an absolute superstar side and extremely challenging but I'm extremely hungry to turn things around and make sure we get that trophy back," he

Lyon feels that this Australian team under Pat Cummins is slightly different compared to Tim Paine's team that lost back-to-back series against India at home.

#### Maharaj helps South Africa secure 40-run win over West Indies in 2nd test

**AP** ■ PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

South Africa bowled Out West Indies for 222 to secure a 40-run victory on day three of the second test Saturday after Keshav Maharaj wrapped up the win with his fifth wicket of the

It was South Africa's tenth consecutive test series win against West Indies and highlighted by Maharaj becoming South Africa's most successful spinner in tests with 171 wickets after taking his series Jayden Seales out for the final wicket.

That overshadowed a six-wicket haul by Seales in South Africa's second innings as the tourists were dismissed for 246 after resuming on 223-5. That set the West Indies a winning target of 263 but they were in big trouble on 104-6 before Gudakesh Motie and Joshua Da Silva put together a 77-run stand to give the hosts hope of

a victory.
But Maharaj accounted for them both and then surpassed Hugh Tayfield as South Africa's most successful spinner when Seales was caught by David Bedingham at short leg to cue the African

South Africa scored 160 in its first innings after choosing to bat first and West Indies replied with

celebrations.

The teams played to a rain-affected draw in the first test in Trinidad

## India to open campaign against WI in 2025 Women's U19 T20 WC

PTI DUBAI

Defending champions India will open their campaign against the West Indies in the second edition of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup to be played in Malaysia from January 18 to February 2 next

India have been clubbed along side hosts Malaysia, West Indies and Sri Lanka in Group

India defeated England to win the inaugural edition of the tournament in South Africa

England, neighbours Ireland, Pakistan and the USA are

placed in Group B. South Africa, along with New Zealand, new entrants Samoa and a qualifier from Africa will form Group C, while Group D comprises Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, and a

qualifier from Asia. Each team will play the other sides in the round-robin phase, making for three games each in the group stage.

The top three sides from all four groups will then progress to the Super Six stage.
The bottom-ranked sides

from Groups A and D, and B and C will contest in last place play-off on January 24. The 12 sides in the Super Six



stage are further divided into two groups, with the top three teams from Groups A and D making up Group 1, and those of Groups B and C making up In this stage, each side will carry forward the points, wins and NRRs (Net Run Rate) they secured against fellow Super Six qualifying sides.

Each side will contest two fixtures in the Super Six, opponents

corresponding groups that finished at different group The top-two sides from each

The top-two sides from each group will qualify for the semifinals to be held on January 31, with the final slated for February 2.

The semifinals and final will all be played at Bayuemas Oval. If India qualify for the semifinals, they will play semifinal 2, which will take place on January 31.

There are reserve days for both

There are reserve days for both the semifinals and final. While February 1 is a reserve day for the semifinals, February 3 has been kept as a receive day for been kept as a reserve day for the summit clash.



## **Durand Cup: QF fixtures** announced; Bagan, EB head for potential derby final

PTI KOLKATA

The quarterfinal fixtures of was announced on Sunday with the city hosting Bengaluru FC versus Kerala Blasters match of the tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium on Friday.

Fearing security concerns in the wake of widespread protests for a trainee doctor's alleged rape and murder case alleged rape and muruer case in Kolkata, the organisers had on Saturday abandoned the Durand Cup marquee league fixture between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

Both the teams were awarded one point each as reigning champions Mohun Bagan qualified as group A toppers to be pitted against Punjab FC in the third quarterfinal which will be held at

Jamshedpur. East Bengal made the cut as one of the two best secondplaced teams to be drawn against Shillong Lajong FC for the second quarterfinal which will now be held in Shillong instead of the Salt Lake Stadium because of the prevailing unrest in the city. Salt Lake Stadium, however, will get to host the fourth quarterfinal, the match that

game in Shillong concluded on Saturday evening and it became clear who the eight qualified teams were, a video call was arranged where representatives of all qualified teams came on board. A live draw of lots was then conducted in front of them

does not involve the two

"After the FC Goa versus

Kolkata heavyweights.

Shillong Laiong FC

release. Both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal now find themselves in the opposite end of the draw with a potential derby clash in the Durand Cup final on August 31.

and two teams to play in each

venue was finalised," stated a

The organisers are however yet to confirm the venue for the semifinals and final which are slated at the Salt Lake Stadium.

QF Lineups August 21: Northeast United FC vs Indian Army FT (SAI Stadium Kokrajhar; 4pm); Shillong Lajong FC vs East Bengal (Jawaharlal Nehru

Stadium, Shillong; 7pm). August 23: Mohun Bagan vs Punjab FC (JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur; 4pm); Bengaluru FC vs Kerala Blasters FC (Saltlake Stadium;

## Abhay wins maiden Formula 1600 National Championship

PTI CHENNAI

 $B_{\text{clinched}}^{\text{engaluru's Abhay Mohan}} \xrightarrow{\text{maiden}}$ national title by winning the prestigious Formula 1600 National championship with 10 consecutive wins after the end of the fourth and final round of the MRF-MMSC Indian National Car Racing

Championship on Sunday. The 2022 junior national karting champion, who graduated to single seater racing this year, took to the

powerful Formula cars like a duck to water, with a

phenomenal all-win record till

the penultimate race of the last round. The 16-year-old had an impressive unbeaten run of 10 consecutive races conceded points only after clinching the championship that featured 12 races.

Two Mumbai drivers -- Zahan Commissariat and Bakhru -- finished second and third respectively in the championship.

"This is my first year in single seater Formula cars, but it has been a memorable season. It feels really amazing to be the National champion and to have 10 consecutive wins," said

## **Priya helps India A beat Australia A in final one-dayer**

PTI ■ MACKAY (AUSTRALIA)

Rookie leg-spinner Priya Mishra grabbed five wickets while Tejal Hasabnis and Raghvi Bist scored halfcenturies as India A thrashed Australia A by 171-run in the third and final one-dayer here on Sunday.

India A finally achieved success in the third and final one-dayer after having lost five successive games -- three T20s in Brisbane and two onedayers here -- in the six-match white-ball series.

India A scored a modest 243/9, thanks to middle-order batter Tejal's 66-ball 50 and Raghvi's 64-ball 53 before 20-year-old Delhi cricketer Priya took a fifer (5/14) to dismiss the Australia A batting for just 72 runs for a massive win. Playing in only her first match

on the tour, Priya dismissed

opener Maddy Darke (22) and

top-order batter Tess Flintoff

(20) as the home team was left

order taking the wickets of Nicole Faltum (2), Kate Peterson (1) and Nicola Hancock (0) as the hosts were dismissed in 22.1 over, which gave India A a consolation win. The one-off unofficial Test will

of the chase.

August 22. Earlier, a 104-run partnership between Tejal and Raghvi helped India A overcome a shaky start, which saw them reeling at 43/3 in the ninth Minnu Mani 2/4).

be played in Gold Coast from

reeling at 52/4 in the 15th over

She then destroyed the middle

over. The duo, which has stood out in the series for its batting, then carried the team to 147 before Tejal was dismissed in the 28th over. Raghvi too followed suit before Sajeevan Sajana (40) and captain Minnu Mani (34) took the team beyond the 200-run mark. Brief scores: India A 243 for 9

in 50 overs (Tejal Hasabnis 50, Raghvi Bist 53, Sajeevan Sajana 40, Minnu Mani 34; Maitlan Brown 3/39, Charli Knott 2/26). Australia A 72 in 22.1 overs (Priya Mishra 5/14,

> champion Coco Gauff last year in her first semifinal appearance. Sabalenka is a three-time semifinalist, including each of the past two years. 'We've had a lot of great

battles in the past," Sabalenka said. "It's always a high-intensity match. I'm really looking forward to another great battle against

Sinner will face No. 3 Alexander Zverev, Zverev, the only remaining former champion in the draw, beat Ben Shelton 3-6, 7-6, 7-5. Zverev has won four straight against Sinner.

Frances Tiafoe advanced to finding some form.

consecutive year when Hubert Hurkacz retired in the second set because of a calf injury. Tiafoe will face the winner of the late match between Holger Rune and Jack Draper. the other

the semifinals for the second

quarterfinals, No. 6 Jessica Pegula outlasted Leylah Fernandez, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6 for her first semifinal berth in Cincinnati. Pegula, coming off a successful title defense Monday in Canada, will face Paula Badosa. Badosa beat Anastasia

Pavlyuchenkova 6-3, 6-2.

"Paula is really playing some good tennis," Pegula said. "She turned her year around and is

## Top-ranked Iga, Jannik reach semifinals in Cincinnati

AP MASON (OHIO)

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek and Jannik Sinner fended off challenges Saturday to reach the semifinals in the Cincinnati

Swiatek extended her match winning streak to 15 with a 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 victory over 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva. Swiatek will face third-ranked Arnya Sabalenka, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over 10th-ranked Liudmila Samsonova 6-3, 6-2.

Sinner avenged last week's loss to No. 6 Andrey Rublev in the quarterfinals in Montreal with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 victory to become the first Italian man to reach the Cincinnati semis in the Open era. "It was very windy and I tried to Swiatek lost to eventual

be as consistent as possible," Sinner said. "First time that I've played a semifinal in this place, so that's very positive." Swiatek and Sabalenka have met twice already this year, with Swiatek winning finals at Roland Garros and Madrid. Swiatek is 8-3 against the twotime Grand Slam winner. 'We're both players that kind

of deserve to be in semifinals and finals, because we're working very hard," Swiatek "I respect Aryna so much. Physically, she's always fighting and has lots of

Neither player has reached the final in Cincinnati.

