

SUPREME COURT HOLDS WOMEN SUPREME **Medical fraternity safety prime**

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Terming the incident of the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata as "horrific and horrendous" and "a systemic failure of the State machinery", the Supreme Court on Tuesday constituted a 10member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for safety of doctors and healthcare workers at workplace. The SC came down heavily on

Banerjee the Mamata Government in West Bengal, slamming it for its "lackadaisical approach" to the case all through. The top court also directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is currently investigating the matter to submit a status report by August 22. The task force will submit its interim report within three weeks and the final report within two months. The top court also appealed to medical community, the including doctors protesting across the country, to call off the strike and resume work.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was hearing matters related to the incident after it took suo motu cognisance of the incident, which has triggered a nationwide strike by doctors and other health workers

The SC passed the order saying



A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra during hearing on a suo moto case related to the alleged sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata, at Supreme Court in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

the nation cannot wait for another rape to happen for things

to change on the ground. The bench said, "There are legislations to protect medical professionals but they do not address the systemic issues. Medical associations have consistently raised the issue," the court observed pointing out that medical professionals in the course of performance of their targets of various forms of violence

violence". "The constitutional value of

equality brooks no compromises on the health, well-being and safety of those who provide healthcare to others. The nation cannot await a rape or murder for real changes to happen on the ground," the bench said. The SC asked the NTF to formulate an action plan under two sub-heads — preventing duties have been unfortunate violence, including gender-based against medical

professionals; and providing an enforceable national protocol for dignified and safe working conditions for interns, residents senior residents, doctors, nurses and all medical professionals. "The NTF shall be at liberty to make recommendations on all aspects of the action-plan highlighted above and any other aspects which the members seek to cover. They are at liberty to make additional suggestions, where appropriate.

HC rapped for sexist comments

"The NTF shall also suggest appropriate timelines by which the recommendations could be implemented based on the existing facilities in hospitals. The NTF is requested to consult all stake-holders," the bench said. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will provide all logistical support, including making arrangements for travel, stay and secretarial assistance and bear the expenses of the members of the NTF, it said.

"All State Governments and UT Governments, through their Secretaries, in the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and the Central Government, Central through the Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare must collate information from all hospitals run by the State and the Central Government, respectively on how many security personnel are employed at each hospital and each department.

"Whether there is a baggage and person screening mechanism in place at the entrance of the medical establishment. The total number of resting/duty rooms in the hospital and specific details of the number in each department. The facilities provided in the resting/duty rooms," the bench said. The data as submitted shall be tabulated and filed with an affidavit by the Union Government within one month of this order, it said.

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Pulling up judges for expressing personal views and preaching, the Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside a Calcutta High Court judgment acquitting a man who had sex with a minor girl and also junked the High Court's controversial remarks advising "adolescent girls to control their sexual urges".

The court ordered setting up of an independent committee of experts, including one from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, to ascertain the wish of the victim whether she intended to continue with the accused or was willing to be rehabilitated. The court also directed West Bengal Government to give details to the committee on the income and accommodation they would provide the victim and the child if she decides not to reside with the accused.

'The impugned judgment of the High Court is set aside and the judgment of the Special Court is restored to the extent of the conviction of the accused for the offences punishable under sub-sections (2)(n) and (3) of Section 376 of the IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act. Accordingly, the accused stands convicted. The acquittal of the accused for the offences punishable under Sections 363 and 366 of the IPC is confirmed," a bench comprising justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal

Bhuyan said. The bench also directed the West Bengal Government to constitute a committee of three experts, including a clinical psychologist and a social



scientist. "The State Government may take the assistance of NIMHANS or TISS for constituting the committee. A child welfare officer shall be appointed to assist the committee as its coordinator and secretary; (c) The committee shall be formed within three weeks from today," it said. Holding the accused guilty of the offences punishable under subsections (2)(n) and (3) of Section 376 of the IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act, the bench said the issue regarding sentencing will be considered after the committee's report is received

Badlapur seeks Badla



ten-long hours - from 8 am to 6 pm. The protesters squatted on the railway disrupted tracks, train services. At one stage in the evening, the police resorted to lathi-charge to quell the protestors. "We will resume the train services between Badlapur and Karjat after the protesters disperse," a senior Central Railway official said. The protests spilled to Badlapur town, where people — including a large number of women - barged into the controversial school premises, by breaking the main gate of the school. They ransacked the premises, smashing the window panes and damaging the furniture and other items. Raising slogans against the school management for its failure to ensure safety to the girl children studying in its kinder-garten school, the protesters raided the classrooms and virtually went on a damaging spree. Elsewhere outside the school, the protesters blocked the roads and highway and hurled stones at the police personnel who tried to quell the angry citizens. The Badlapur town observed a spontaneous bandh, with shops, hotels and other business establishments remaining closed.

CAPITAL STRANDED





Police speak with protesters on Tuesday who blocked railway tracks at Badlapur station in Thane district after the alleged sexual assault of two four-year-old girls by the school sweeper in the washroom PTI

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Massive protests erupted at Badlapur in the adjoining Thane district of Maharashtra over the alleged sexual assault of two four-year-old girls by a sweeper in the toilet of a leading nursery school and the "delay" in police action. Irate residents staged a "rail roko", agitation crippling suburban train services between Badlapur and Karjat and disrupting normal life in Mumbai's

satellite town. The citizens took to the street at Badlapur, after the news of the alleged sexual assault on girls in the kindergarten school run by Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha (AVPS) by a contractual sweeper on August 12 and 13 spread like wild fire in the satellite town, which is located 68 km away from south Mumbai. It was the delay on the part of the local police to initiate action in connection with the incident that sparked protests.

Based on the complaint of the parents of the victim girls, the police registered an FIR on August 16 — three days after the incident — under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. A day after the registration of the incident, the accused identified as one Akshay Shinde (23) — was arrested. The protesters laid siege to the Badlapur railway station for

A traffic jam, waterlogged road amid monsoon rain, at ITO, New Delhi on Tuesday Ranian Dimri/Pioneer

PTI NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Tuesday hardened its stance on pesky telemarketers, as it directed telico on pesky telemarketers, as it uncetter telicos to take specific measures to curb misuse of messaging services and protect consumers from fraudulent practices. Continuing its offensive against unsolicited spam calls and messages, TRAI made it

clear that from September 1, 2024, all access service providers will be prohibited from transmitting messages containing URLs, OTT links, or call back numbers which are not 'whitelisted' (authorised) by the senders. To enhance message traceability, TRAI has mandated that the trail of all messages from senders to recipients must be traceable from November 1, 2024. Any message with an undefined or mismatched telemarketer chain will be rejected. The latest move assumes significance as TRAI has cracked the whip on unauthorised telemarketers indulging in promotional calls and messages to telecom subscribers. Last week, TRAI directed telcos to disconnect all telecom resources of unregistered telemarketers found making spam calls, and to blacklist them for up to two years.

Centre asks UPSC to cancel "lateral entry" recruitment on 45 positions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Tuesday cancelled its advertisement for recruitment to bureaucracy through lateral entry following a directive to this effect from the Centre. The cancellation comes amid a political row erupting over the issue. The UPSC had on August 17

issued a notification for recruiting 45 Joint Secretaries, directors and Deputy Secretaries through lateral entry — referred to as appointment of specialists (including those from the private sector) in the Government departments. This move had drawn criticism from the Opposition parties, which

claimed it undermined the reservation rights of SCs, STs and OBCs.

"It is for information of all concerned that the advertisement pertaining to lateral recruitment for 45 posts at the level of Joint Secretary/director/Deputy Secretary in different departments published in the Employment News, various newspapers and on the website of the Commission on August 17, 2024 stands cancelled as requested by the requisitioning authority," read a cancellation notice by the

the UPSC. Earlier in the day, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh wrote to UPSC chairperson Preeti Sudan asking her to cancel the advertisement so that



communities their get rightful representation in Government services.

In the letter, Singh made it clear that for Prime Minister Narendra Modi reservation in public employment is a cornerstone of "our social justice framework" aimed at historical addressing marginalised injustices and promoting on ensuring social justice,"

inclusivity.

"Since these positions have been treated as specialised and designated as singlecadre posts, there has been no provision for reservation in these appointments. This aspect needs to be reviewed and reformed in the context of the Prime Minister's focus

he said. "I urge the UPSC to cancel the advertisement for lateral entry recruitment issued on 17.8.2024," he said. Singh said this step would be a significant advance in the pursuit of social justice and empowerment. "It is well

known that, as a principle,

lateral entry was endorsed by

FILE PHOTO

the Second Administrative Reforms Commission which was constituted in 2005 under Veerappa Moily as its Chairperson. The recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission in 2013 were also in the same direction," he points out. "However, both before and after that there have been many cases of high-profile lateral entry," Singh's letter mentioned.

Under earlier Governments, posts as important as that of Secretary in various Ministries, leadership of UIDAI, etc, have been given to lateral entrants without following any process of reservations, Singh said.

"Further, it is well known that the members of the infamous National Advisory Council used to run a superbureaucracy that controlled

the Prime Minister's Office," he said.

While most of the major lateral entries before 2014 were made in an ad hoc manner, including cases of alleged favouritism, "the efforts of our government have been to make the process an institutionallydriven one, transparent and open", the Minister said. Further, the Prime Minister

is of the firm belief that the process of lateral entry must be aligned with the principles of equity and social justice enshrined in the Constitution, particularly concerning the provisions of reservation, Singh said.

Meanwhile, reacting to the latest development, Union Minister Chirag Paswan asserted that the Modi Government at the Centre

reaffirmed "has commitment towards the SCs, STs and OBCs" by asking the UPSC to withdraw the advertisement for "lateral entry" into the

bureaucracy. Addressing Press in conference Patna, Paswan also slammed the Congress-led Opposition for "selective criticism" of the ruling NDA and accused the previous Governments of failure to fill up posts reserved for the

deprived castes. "I thank my Prime Minister for seeking cancellation of lateral entry on behalf of my Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). This Government has set a precedent. We hope regimes of the future will show a similar sensitivity to public sentiments," Paswan said.





uttarakhand 02

56 faculty members in medical colleges

PNS DEHRADUN

The State government has L approved the proposal of the Uttarakhand Medical the Services Recruitment Board for the promotion of 56 faculty members in the government medical colleges of the State. The Medical Education department has promoted 34 assistant professors to the post of associate professor and 22 associate professors to the post of professor. The depart-

sociate professors in the medical colleges after a long period of time. He said that the government plans to deploy faculty in 100 per cent of the posts in the medical colleges of the State. The promotion of faculty

members will give an impetus to the educational environment has also deputed the ment in the medical colleges promoted faculty members in of the State, he said. different medical colleges of the State. The Health minister

Dhan Singh Rawat said the

department has promoted 34

assistant professors and 22 as-

700 students of Patanjalirun schools initiated into Vedic tradition

PNS DEHRADUN

 $S^{\rm hravani}_{\rm Vedarambh\ Sanskar\ were}$ performed on Tuesday in accordance with the Vedic traditions for 700 students of all the education projects, including Acharyakulam, founded by yoga guru Swami Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna. A 51- Kundiya Maha

Shravani Upkarma is the foundation stone of the best sanskars, adding that

all the educational projects of Patanjali, including Acharyakulam, are founded firmly on the foundations of the guru-disciple tradition where the student is trans-



Yagya was conducted in the presence of Acharya Balkrishna for the newly admitted 700 students' initiation into the Vedic traditions

Speaking on the occasion, Acharya Balkrishna said that

formed through the sanskars they acquire from yoga and spirituality.

Among those present on the occasion was the vice-president of Acharyakulam, Ritambara Shastri.

BOOK REVIEW

Health Dept promotes | Heavy rain likely in seven districts today | Police step up security for women in

PNS DEHRADUN

The State meteorological centre has issued a yel-low warning (Be Updated) regarding the possibility of heavy rain likely to occur at isolated places in Dehradun, Pauri, Nainital, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts on Wednesday. Thunderstorms accompa-nied with lightning/intense to very intense spells of rain are likely to occur at isolated places in all the districts of the State. Apart from this, light to moderate rain/thundershowers are likely to occur at many places in Ut-

tarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Almora and Pithoragarh districts and at most places in the remain-ing districts of the State today.

The provisional State cap-ital Dehradun is forecast to witness a generally cloudy sky. Few spells of light to moderate rain/thunder-showers are likely to occur, of which one or two spells



may be intense/heavy in some areas.

Light to moderate rain was witnessed in various areas on Tuesday with 37 millimetres in Laksar, 23.5 millimetres in Kichha, 17.5 millimetres in Rishikesh, 17 millimetres in Pokhri, 13.5 millimetres in Kotdwar, 10.5 millimetres in Champawat, 9.5 millimetres in Nainital, 8.5 millimetres in Gauchar

and five millimetres in Dehradun. The maximum and minimum temperatures were 29.9 degrees Celsius and 23.1 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 32.4 degrees Celsius and 25.3 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 24.1 degrees Celsius and 14.5 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar, 25.2 degrees Celsius and 17.7 degrees Celsius in New Tehri.

government hospitals in Dehradun

PNS DEHRADUN

The police implemented a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Tuesday to improve women's safety in government hospitals in Dehradun. The police will also issue notices to private hospitals to conduct a security audit and ensure police verification of all hospital employees, the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said. He stated that additional police forces have been deployed at the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital and Deen Dayal Upadhyay (Coronation) hospital to ensure round-theclock security. These police personnel will be stationed with wireless handsets, ensuring 24/7 availability in the hospital premises, the SSP said. He stated that the primary focus of these deployed personnel will be on emergency wards while they will also regularly patrol other areas like the OPD, parking sure that police personnel

lots, waiting areas and various wards. Their vigilant presence aims to prevent any anti-social activities and ensure safety within the hospital, the SSP said. Police personnel on duty will maintain coordination close with doctors and hosmanagement pital through a WhatsApp group, including key hospital staff, security heads and police officials, ensuring seamless com-munication. They will also be responsible for monitoring CCTV cameras to ensure they

are functioning properly and

to identify areas that may re-

quire additional surveillance.

Singh said that monthly secu-

rity coordination meetings

will be held with senior hospi-

measures. Night inspections

by zonal officers will en-



are performing their duties diligently, thereby fostering a secure environment for all, especially women, in these hospitals. Besides this, the SSP also instructed all police station in-charges to issue notices to private hospitals in their jurisdictions to conduct a security audit and ensure police verification of all hospital officials to review safety tal employees.

Agastyamuni Nagar Panchayat to be municipality, declares CM

PNS DEHRADUN

A gastyamuni Nagar Pan-chayat in Rudraprayag district will be upgraded to a municipality. Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami made this and other announcements while virtuaddressing allv programme at Agastyamuni, which he was unable to visit physically due to inclement weather on Tuesday

Dhami announced that an ITI will be opened at Bhanaj to encourage technical education in the district. He declared that the Tungnath Mahotsav at Makku will be a district level fair. The Mayali-Basukedar-Guptkashi motor road will be widened-hotmixed, the Guptkashi primary health centre will be upgraded to a community health centre and the Maharshi Agastyamuni temple will be beautified. Dhami further said that arrangements will be made for cre-



also approving a sum of Rs five crore for reconstruction of the Vijaynagar-Pathalidhar route.

The CM said, "Our government is fully committed to women empowerment and is working in this direction. We aim to financially empower women and make them independent schemes. The

power them further," Dhami said.

The CM said that all arrangements are being finalised for the second phase of the Kedarnath Yatra. The government is making consistent efforts to make the pilgrimage more convenient. Dhami said that the online registration system will continue till the first week of September when the Char Dham shrines are closed to the public for the winter. Those unable to register online will be registered on

the spot. There will not be any cap on the number of pilgrims, he added. Dhami clarified that no temple will be built in the name of Kedarnath or any other Char Dham shrine, anywhere in the nation. This decision had been ap-

MLA Bharat Singh Chowdhary, position holder Chandir Prasad Bhatt and others were also present on the occasion.

> In my Army Record my son's name is mistakenly recorded as PRIYANSU RAWAT whereas his correct name is PRIYANSHU RAWAT as mentioned in all other documents.Army No-13623974H EX NK/ACP/HAV SHASHI KUMAR R/O VILL. MALHAN P.O. NAYA GAON DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND.

vide IN-UK39324100199518W

Affidavit 20.08.2024 before

Dehradun.

In my Army Record my daughter's name is mistakenly recorded as KUSHI RAWAT 602/2024 whereas her correct name is KHUSHI RAWAT as mentioned in all other documents. Army No-13623974H EX NK/ACP/HAV SHASHI KUMAR R/o VILL MALHAN PO. NAYA GAON DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. vide IN-UK39324100199518W Affidavit 20.08.2024 before Dehradun.

through various public welmation and burial of horses-mules which die on fare and women empowerthe pilgrimage route while ment **Beyond Darwin: Unfolding**

> rhythm in the universe. The theory posits that after the Big Bang, cosmic

and biological evolution have been in-

terconnected processes. Vir Singh draws parallels with Sanatan beliefs,

equating light, evolution, and time to

Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh, respec-

tively. He emphasises that evolution is

a holistic, cosmic law affecting every-

thing in the universe. Human empow-

erment is central to this theory,

participation of women is being ensured in all spheres now. Women are making important

contributions through women self help groups, to make themselves, the family and the State self-reliant. The State government has also decided to provide 30 per cent horizontal reservation to women in government jobs, as part of its efforts to em-

against following Tender Notice, closing date & time are mentioned against each column. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only

	through payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.				
	Tender No.: 139-DRM-MB-24-25, Dt. 20.08.2024				
	Name of Work : Hiring of truck and multi utility vehicle for miscellaneous work in connection with track maintenance/renewal in the section of Sr.DEN-IV/MB.				
	Tender Closing Date: 12.09.2024	Tender Closing Time: 16:00 Hrs.			
	Advertised Value (Rs.): 2,64,59,089.07	Earnest Money (Rs.): 2,82,300.00			
	Period of Completion: 24 months	Bidding Start Date: 29.08.2024			
	Tender No. Sr. DEN-IV/Publication/24-25, Dt. 20.08.2024 26				

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

proved by the State cabinet, he said.

Date : 19.08.2024

IDFC FIRST

Authorized Officer

Bank

NORTHERN RAILWAY

PUBLIC NOTICE I, 4091478H Rank L/HAV Dinesh Chandra, S/o Shri Trilok Singh, resident of Baniyawala,

CLASSIFIED

Premnagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. In my service record, the DOB of my daughter is wrongly mentioned as 25.02.2018. Whereas the correct DOB is 25.02.2017.

I, No.- 4100176Y Rank RFN Name Narendra Singh Presently R/o H.No. 17/9 General Wing, Premnagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248007. In my Army record my father's name wrongly recorded as Gopal Singh Phaswarh. Whereas my father's correct name is Gopal Singh and DOB is 15.07.1973.

TENDER NOTICE Sr.DEN/IV/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders

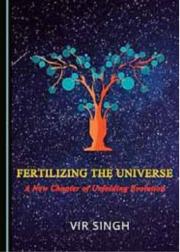
astrobiological evolution

Pushpa Dhami

Darwin's theory of evolution is well understood by those who study biological sciences. According to Darwin, all organisms on Earth are a result of natural selection. However, this theory is flawed by a limitation- it considers only the terrestrial factors and grossly ignores cosmic influences on Earth's life. Again, the living species central to Darwin's theory of evolution are observed and analysed as if they are independent of their physical environment. Evolution pervades the whole cosmos, affecting even extraterrestrial bodies where matter and structures undergo gradual and episodic changes. This leads to the unceasing evolution of life on Earth but the evolution also induces changes on all planets, moons, stars, and galaxies. Beyond biological evolution on Earth, there's a concept of astrobiological evolution, suggesting life may evolve on other celestial bodies in accordance with the Cosmic Time Scale (CST). On Earth, evolutionary changes have occurred in tune with Earth's own time scale. The CST has to be dramatically different from Earth's time scale. This exciting new perspective on evolution is explored in Vir Singh's work, Fertilizing the Universe: A New Chapter of Unfolding Evolution, published by Cambridge Scholars based in the United Kingdom.

Singh, professor emeritus, the Department of Environmental Science, GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology based in Pantnagar, introduces this novel theory. After over a decade of research, his groundbreaking book presents a cosmic perspective on evolution. Singh critiques Darwin's Earth-centric view, arguing that evolution is a universal phenomenon. "Evolution is fundamentally cosmic in its nature," he says. "Darwin's theory isolates Earth from the universe, ignoring the cosmic contributions to life.

Evolution of living beings, planet Earth, and the whole cosmos goes on a



common axis; its influences would differ from planet to planet, moon to moon, one star family to another star family, and galaxy to galaxy. Measure of evolution, that is, how fast the things or a cosmic body records the changes taking place, would be determined by the amount and duration of energy (light) they are exposed to. Darwin's theory of biological evolution was merely analytical, whereas Singh's theory is both evolutionary and revolutionary, suggesting that evolution links species to their environment and cosmic factors. In Fertilizing the Universe, the author delves into three all-pervading cosmic factors: light, evolution, and time. They have a combined impact on all structures, organisations, systems, and individual entities. Everything in the cosmos is subject to change. Nothing in this universe can escape the combined effect of light, evolution, and time, that is, evolution. The cosmos is a home to light. All forms of energies originate from light. Light gives rise to evolution. Evolution rides the 'chariot' of time. These all-pervading factors have to inevitably influence everything out there in this cosmos. The omnipresent elements drive changes, development, and

highlighting the human species' role in the origin of life on other planets and moons. The theory emphasises the need for human contribution to life's evolution beyond Earth.Fertilizing the Universe also proposes new socio-ecological systems such as lumenarchy (rule of light), lumenosophy (philosophy of light), ecological integrity, and cosmocracy (in place of democracy). These concepts aim to globalize human mind, thought, philosophy, and lifestyles, fostering ecological sustainability and values in human systems. Human species is a climax of biological evolution on Earth. Gifted with an evolutionary mind, human species has become a custodian of the entire planet and is now emerging as an all-pervading factor. Human species has evolved as an ally of evolution itself. Therefore, part of the onus of evolution has to be shared by us. Human actions would be vital for fertilising the universe, that is, for replicating biospheres in the universe. Fertilizing the Universe awakens human civilizations instilling a deep sense of ecological responsibility to be exercised beyond planet Earth. Professor Henryk Skolimowski, the father of eco-philosophy, praised Vir Singh's theory in the foreword he wrote for the book, calling it fundamental, profound, and far-reaching. Although Skolimowski did not live to see the full impact of Singh's work, he recognised its potential to surpass Darwin's theory of evolution ruling over the human mind for about two centuries.

(The reviewer is a food and nutrition expert. Views expressed are personal)

Tender Notice: 01-Tele-SandT-MEA-MB-22-23, 01-SANDT-Tele-AMC-MB-23-24

Sub:-Corrigendum in c/w opening of the tender. Ref: Tender notice of even number dt. 12.08.2024 & Amar Ujala news paper dt. 14.08.2024

S. No.	Tender No. & Description of work	Existing Last date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Amended Last date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender		
	01-Tele-SandT-MEA-MB-22-23 Provision of MEA facility in connection with Amrit Bharat	09.09.2024 15:00 hrs.	12.09.2024 15:00 hrs.		
	01-SANDT-Tele-AMC-MB-23-24, Annual maintenance contract of 12 Channel Voice Data Logger over Moradabad Division for Two year.	09.09.2024 15:00 hrs.	12.09.2024 15:00 hrs.		
Not	e : - Other terms & conditions will remain same.		2588/24		

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IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgam CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792 with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.

Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

	Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
I	1	19877171	LOAN AGAINST	1. FANCY ORNAMENTS HOUSE	25.04.2024	1,73,55,946.91/-
I	·	& 32284333	PROPERTY	PROPERITOR JITENDER PAL SINGH		1,10,00,0101011
I				2. HARPREET KAUR, 3. JITENDER PAL SINGH		

PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY KHASRA NO. 1227, RAKBA (MEASURING) 0.093 ACRES I.E. 376.24 SQ. MTRS., IN WHICH A BUILDING IS CONSTRUCTED, WHOSE BUILT UP AREA IS 143.43 SQ. MTRS., LOCATED AT MAUJA: GARHI, PARGANA: CENTRAL DOON, DISTRICT: DEHRADUN, WHOSE PRESENT MUNICIPALITY IS NO. 39/8-A, RAJENDRA NAGAR, LANE NO. 3, DEHRADUN, UTTARANCHAL-248001, AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: PROPERTY OF W MAHAJAN & RASTOGI, WEST: PROPERTY OF OTHERS, NORTH: PROPERTY OF OTHERS SOUTH: 25 FEET WIDE ROAD

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise. Sd/-

> IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)

In my Army Record my daughter's name is mistakenly recorded as MANISHA DEVI whereas her correct name is MANITA as mentioned in all other documents. Army No-13918990P H/NB/SUB GOBIND R/O 35 RISHINAGAR APPAR ADHOIWALA DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. vide IN-UK39273662981849W Affidavit 20.08.2024 before Dehradun.

I, SUREKHA W/o Army No.2811000N NK GAIKWAD GOPICHAND SHRAWAN, Vill.-Ankute , Post-Dhamode, Teh -Yeola, Dist.-Nashik, Maharashtra- 423403. I have changed my name SUREKHA to SUREKHA GOPICHAND GAIKWAD inclussion of middle and last name, as per my Aadhar No.301894047883 vide affidavit sworn before notary and advocate Sanjeev Kumar dated 20.08.2024 UK.Gol.

मेरे पति के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम मीरा देवी दर्ज है, सही नाम मीरा आधार नं. 731215233259 W/o आर्मी नं. JC-339412W सूबेदार अरविंद कुमार, चौधरी चरण सिंह कॉलोनी, न्यू मोहनपुरा, डबल फाटक, रुड़की, हरिद्वार, उत्तराखंड–247667 है।

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Date : 21.08.2024

Place : DEHRADUN

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Statement of ISBT gangrape | Gangrape victim refuses to return home with father victim to be registered today

Police seek PCR of five accused for interrogation

PNS DEHRADUN

The statement of the victim in the Dehradun ISBT gangrape case will be recorded before the magistrate on Wednesday. Besides this, a key witness also provided a statement before the court on Tuesday in the case, the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said. He said that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed on Monday to thoroughly investigate the case and ensure robust legal proceedings against all the five accused. The SIT

ed that a surveillance team was dispatched to Delhi to gather crucial evidence and CCTV footage related to the incident. They successfully retrieved significant evidence from the Kashmiri Gate bus station and surrounding areas, Singh stated. He informed that the police also submitted a petition to the court requesting the recording of the victim's statement at the Balika Niketan in the presence of a counsellor. The victim's statement is scheduled to be



has been collecting all relevant evidence and conducting a comprehensive review of the case. He stat- important evidence and testimonies

SSP forms SIT to probe nurse's rape & murder in Udham Singh Nagar

PNS DEHRADUN

A fter the family of the victim Dharmendra, who worked as a labourer in Udham Singh sions in the Uttarakhand nurse rape and murder case despite the arrest of one accused, the senior superintendent of police of Udham Singh Nagar Manjunath TC formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Tuesday to investigate the case from all the angles. The 33-year old victim was reported missing on July 30 and her body was later found on August 8. She was a nurse in a private hospital in Rudrapur. She was raped and brutally murdered on July 30 while returning from her job whose body was found over a week later dumped in a vacant plot an in-depth investigation into in Dibdiba village, Uttar

recorded before the magistrate on Wednesday. The SSP stated that all

will be meticulously included in the case file. The SIT is also preparing to obtain a police custody remand (PCR) of all accused to ensure a thorough investigation and expedite legal proceedings, he added. Police arrested five men on Sunday on charges of raping a minor girl inside Uttarakhand roadways bus at the Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in Dehradun in the wee hours of August 13. According to the police, the bus departed from Delhi's Kashmiri Gate at 4:30 PM on August 12 and arrived in Dehradun around 10:30 PM. The five accused allegedly raped the girl in the ISBT parking lot inside the bus. Later, a security guard at the ISBT noticed the girl, around 1:30 AM on August 13, who was sitting at a shop while a man was allegedly interacting with her. The guard alerted the 1098 Child Helpline after finding the situation suspicious. The girl was then placed under the care of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) at Balika Niketan for her safety. She disclosed about the rape with her on the fourth day during counselling session after which,

(ies)) The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgager Branch: Sahastradhara Road Dehradun EM of residential Apartment No. B-103, First Floor, Hill View Borrower : M/s Somya Communication Apartment, Mauza Chak Danda Lakhound, Pargana C/o Prop: Sh. Kamal Nagpal, Add: 6A, Parwadoon, Tehsil & Distt Dehradun having total area Chakratta Road, near RGM Plaza Dehradun. 125.415 sq. mtrs registered at bahi No. 1 Zild No. 6192 pages 287 to 322 Sr. No. 32 on 07.01.2015 at SRO-1 Dehradun in the name of Mr. Kamal Nagpal S/o Late Sh. Bal Kishan Nagpal & Mrs. Rekha Nagpal W/o Sh. Kamal Nagpal. Bounded and Butted as under: East: Open Space, West Stairs and thereafter Apartment No. B-101, North: Apartment No. B-104, South: Open Space. All that residential property bearing M.C No. B-XXIV-CWC filed a police complaint. The Branch: Clock Tower Dehradun An and the science of police arrested all the five accused, who worked for Uttarakhand Roadways, on August 18. Road, Dehradun. Add.2. H.No. 4737, No. 172 situated at Sunder Nagar, Tehsil & District Jain Mandir Road, Near Sunder Nagar, Police Station, in Front of Sunder of Mr. Ranjeet side measuring 60ft, South: Property of Nagar Field, Ludhiana, Punjab. 2. Prop. Shri Naman Jain S/o Ashu Jain, measuring 30 ft, West; House cum Plot No. 10 side Add.1: H.No. 4737, Jain Mandir Road, measuring 30 ft. Hanbarn Road, Ludhiana Punjab. Add.3. H.No. 59, Poorvi Jyoti Nagar, Loni road, Delhi. All that property of Land of Building including roof right bearing Khasra No. 102 area 0.15 Acre, situated at Branch: Bhaniyawala, Dehradun Borrower: 1. Mr. Deveshwar Prasad Kala S/o late Salikram Kala and Mauza Jogiwala Mafi Pargana Parwadoon, Distt. Dehradun. Sale deed regd at Bhai no 1, Zild no 3, pg 2. Mrs. Sunita Kala W/o Mr. Devesh-war Kala, Both resident Add.1. 259 Jogiwala Mafi, Raiwala Dehradun, 144, ADF Book No.1, Zild 70, Pg 757 to 766 at No 216 on 30.10.2001. Bounded as under: East: Property of Mr Add.2. Chakjogiwala, Chhiddarwala, Rishikesh, Dehradun. Kirti Singh, Bishan Singh and others, West: Property of Mr Ram Kumar, Dharamdas and others, North: Nala, South: 12ft, wide passage and then property Mr Chandan Singh. Ownership: Mr. Deveshwar Prasad Kala S/o late Salikram Kala and 2. Mrs. Sunita Kala Wo Mr. Deveshwar Kala, Both resident Add.1. 259 Jogiwala Mafi, Raiwala Dehradun, Add.2. Chakjogiwala,

EM of private plot No. 31, Part of premises no. 85/57 area (A) 10.06.2021 104.936 sq. mtr. Situated at Laxmipurwa Kanpur owned (B) Rs. 1.00.14.687/by Shri Neeraj Agarwal S/o Shri Kishori Lal Agarwal. (C) 22.03.2022 Registered with S R I, Kanpur nagar at Book No. 1, Zild D) Symbolic Possessi No. 7975, Page 1 to 20 at Sr. No. 285 on 31.01.2017. Bounded & butted as under: East: Nazul Land, West: (A) 20.07.2021 Balance half portion of building 85/57, North: Other's (B) Rs. 32.43.754/property, South: Road 7.62 meters wide road. Ownership: (C) 22.03.2022 Shri Neeraj Agarwal S/o Shri Kishori Lal Agarwal, Add.1-House No. 43, Gali No. 9, Veerbhadra Road, Rishikesh, D) Symbolic Possessi Uttrakhand. Add.2. 85/57 (Part) Plot No. 31, Laxmipurwa Kanpur. Equitable Mortgage of property Khasra No. 721, area 54.06 Sq. Mtr Khasara No.721,Mauza Sewla Kalan, Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun. Registered at Book No. (A) 09.05.2023 S/o late Mr. Om Prakash Adlakha and 2. Mrs. Preeti Adlakha W/o Mr. Anil (B) Rs. 26,54,074/-(B) Rs. 2,15,500/- Volume 593 Pages 61 to 84 at serial no. 2741 dated on 11.11.2014. Bounded and butted as under: North: Property Kumar Adlakha, Both residents Address: Khasra No. 721 Mauza No. 721 Mauza (C) 05.09.2024Up to 05.00 PM (C) 01.09.2023

PNS 🗖 DEHRADUN The 16-year-old girl, who was allegedly gangraped by five

men inside an Uttarakhand roadways bus parked at Dehradun ISBT has refused to go back with her father. The Dehradun district probation officer Meena Bisht told The Pioneer that the girl's father had travelled to Dehradun from

Monday to meet her and take her home. However, the girl refused to return with him right now. She said,

"The girl was going to stay here anyway considering the ongoing investigation. She will remain at Balika Niketan for a few more days as the investigation continues. We will revisit this topic again after

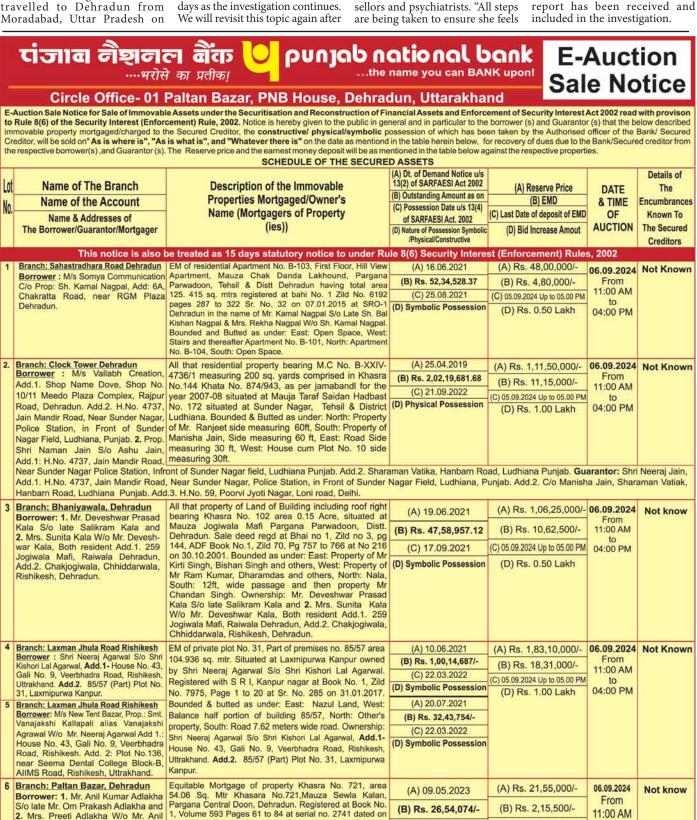
a few days to know if she wants to return home." Bisht also informed that the victim's medical examination has been completed and she is currently in stable physical health. She said that the victim has been receiving regular counselling sessions at Balika Niketan via coun-

safe and stays healthy physically and mentally considering the recent incident. Further decisions will be taken considering her overall welfare," she added.

Besides this, the police also informed that the minor's medical report has been received and included in the investigation.

to

Authorised Officer



Monsoon session of Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha starts today

PNS DEHRADUN

The Monsoon session of the Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha will commence on Wednesday at Bharadisain in Garisain, Chamoli district.

The session at the summer Capital Gairsain is being held after an interval of 17 months. The last session at Bharadisain was held in March 2023 when the Pushkar Singh Dhami government passed the annual budget there.

The session is likely to be stormy with the opposition Congress deciding to corner the State government on the issues of law and order and callous handling of the disaster management and mitigation in the State. The ruling BJP however will make every possible effort to negate the attack from the opposition benches.

The meetings of the legislature parties of BJP and Congress were held in Bharadisain on Tuesday afternoon in which both the parties devised their strategies to be adopted during the house.

Pradesh, as per the police. The a high-quality forensic exami police arrested the accused, nation of the evidence.

Govt insensitive towards victims of Kedarnath disaster: Arya

PNS DEHRADUN

opposition (LoP) Yashpal Arya has accused the State governtowards the disaster affected people. Arya visited Parwadi village located in the vicinity of the Bharadisain Assembly building and met the family members of Himanshu Negi who is missing since July 31 from Gaurikund. Narendra Singh Negi, the father of the missing youngster, told Arya that his son has been missing since July 31, the day when disaster struck the Kedarnath Sonprayag police station on also accompanied Arya. August 3 but the report was

A head of the monsoon ses-sion of Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha, the leader of is not giving any information about him. Arya alleged that ment of being insensitive the State government has not put any information in public domain about the missing, injured and ill people in the Kedarnath disaster. He said that a large number of people from different parts of the country are arriving in Kedarnath in search of their missing family members and instead of helping them the State government is acting in an inhuman and insensitive manner towards them. The area. He said that a missing Dwarahat MLA Madan Bisht report was submitted in the and former MLA Manoj Rawat

Nagar's Gadarpur area, from

Rajasthan on August 13. He

was sent to jail on August 14 based on CCTV footage and

physical evidence. However,

the victim's family has report-

edly raised certain concerns

regarding the investigation in

the case, Manjunath said.

Considering this and to ensure

thorough investigation to make

the case stronger against the

accused in court, an SIT has

been formed that will work

under the supervision of the

superintendent of police (City)

has directed the SIT to conduct

all aspects of the case, ensuring

Manoj Katyal, the SSP said. He

The meeting of the l mittee was also held in t ing on Tuesday. The me Assembly speaker Ritu



was attended by the Par ister Prem Chand Agar (LoP) Yashpal Arya an

The Pushkar Singh I table many important It will also table a sup about Rs 5,000 crore in ing day the house will dolence on the death Shaila Rani Rawat. reviewed the preparation sion at Bharadisain on ing with media-person he had held meetings of administration and recently in which ord arrangements were give fidence that the session

which both the parties		Kumar Adlakna, Both residents		(C) 01.09.2023	(C) 05.09.20240p to 05.00 PM	to	
s to be adopted during the		Address: Khasra No. 721 Mauza Sewalakala, Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun.	wide road, side measuring 20 Ft., East: Property of Sh. Om Prakash side measuring 29 Ft. 6 inches, West: Land of others side measuring 28 Ft. 6 inches. Ownership:	(D) Symbolic Possession	(D) Rs. 0.50 Lakh	04:00 PM	
business advisory com- the Vidhan Sabha build-			Mr. Anil Kumar Adlakha S/o late Mr. Om Prakash Adlakha, Khasra No. 721A Mauza Sewalakala, Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun.				
neeting was chaired by the u Bhushan Khanduri and	7.	Branch: Indra Nagar Dehradun Borrower: M/s Hollywood Collection,	All that second floor portion of property forming part	In the second second second second second second second second	(A) Rs. 90,75,000/-	06.09.2024	Not know
u Dhushan Khandun and		Address: Flat no. 18 & Flat no. 34, 3rd	of Block-V Flat No. 18, Situated at old Connaught Place Dehradun along with roof right having total area		(B) Rs. 9,07,500/-	From 11:00 AM	
		Floor, Block - V, Near Capri Trade Center, Old Connaught Place Road,	122.64 sq.mt. Totally covered (Present municipal No.	(D) Symbolic Possession	(C) 05.09.2024 Up to 05.00 PM	to	
PA I from 1		Dehradun, Prop. Smt. Seema Karanwal		12 m - 2	(D) Rs. 0.50 Lakh	04:00 PM	
TCH) 4 anna anna		W/o Shri Anil Karnwal, Address (First): 51 Vijay Park Blood Bank, Hari Vihar,	area, North: Flat No. 19 & Common Passage, South:				
Station of the local division of the local d		Dehradun. Address (Second): B-185	Open area. Ownership: Shri Anil Karanwal S/o Sh.				
· 生物的 中国 中国		(76/64), Prakash Nagar, Idgah -2,	Bhupender Singh.	90 C Engineer Englaup			
			h Anil Karanwal S/o Sh. Bhupender Singh, Address (First): B-185(76/64), Prakash Nagar, Idgah -2, Dehradun. Gua				
			h, Address (First): 89C- Engineer Enclave, Jakhan, Dehr	adun. Address (Second)			
	8	49, Mitra Lok Colony, Ballupur Road - Branch: Vikasnagar, Dehradun	Property No. 1. All that land khata Khatuni No. 1002	(A) 08.11.2021	Property No.1.	06 09 2024	Not Known
		Borrower: M/s Durga Sugar Company	(1399 to 1404 faslii) bearing Khasra No. 2901 min, Area 3864 sq.ft. or 0.0359 Hect. or 359.10 sq. mtrs. situated	(B) Rs. 83,46,045.00	(A) Rs. 27.40 Lakh	From	Not Known
arliamentary Affairs min- rwal, leader of opposition		Grant Vikasnagar Tehsil- Vikasnagar	at Village Aton Bagh Tehsil Vikasnagar, Pargana	+ further interest and other charges w.e.f.	(B) Rs. 2.74 Lakh	11:00 AM to	
nd other senior leaders.		DisttDehradun- 248198. Proprietor: Sh. Avnish Kumar, Add: Enfielf Grant,	pachhwadoon Distt. Dehradun in the name of Smt. Manisha Bansal W/o Sh. Alok Bansal. Boundaries: East:	01.11.2021	(C) 05.09.2024 Up to 05.00 PM	04:00 PM	
		Vikasnagar, Tehsil Vikasnagar, Distt	Khala, wide side 90ft., West: 20 ft. wide rasta, wide side	(C) 18.02.2022	(D) Rs. 0.50 Lakh		
Dhami government will		Dehradun- 248198. Guarantor/ Mortgagor: 1. Shri Alok Bansal S/o		(D) Physical Possession	A subject of the second second second second		
t bills during the session. upplementary budget of		Jeevan Lal Bansal, Add: Enfield Lane,	Property No. 2. All that land khata Khatuni No. 1002		Property No.2.		
the house. On the open-		Vikasnagar, Near Shiv Mandir, Tehsil- Vikasnagar, Distt Dehradun- 248198.	2280 sq.ft. r 0.0211 Hect. or 211.89 sq. mtrs. Situated		(A) Rs. 16.15 Lakh		
ll pass a motion of con-		 Smt. Manisha Bansal W/o Shri Alok Bansal, Add: Enfield Lane, Vikasnagar, 	at Village Aton Bagh Tehsil Vikasnagar, Pargana pachhwa Doon Distt. Dehradun, in the name of Smt.		(B) Rs. 1.62 Lakh		
th of Kedarnath MLA The speaker Khanduri		Near Shiv Mandir, Tehsil- Vikasnagar,	Manisha Bansal W/o Shri Alok Bansal. Boundaries:		(C) 05.09.2024 Up to 05.00 PM		
ions for the assembly ses-		Distt Dehradun- 248198.	East: Land of others, wide side 38 ft., West: 24 ft. wide Rasta, wide side 38 ft., North: Land of others, wide side		(D) Rs. 0.50 Lakh		
n Tuesday. Later interact-			60ft., South: Land of Shri Alok Bansal, wide side 60 ft.		Contraction of the second second		
ons the Speaker said that s with the senior officers			Property No. 3. All that land Khata Khatuni No. 1002 (1399 to 1404 faslli) bearing Khasra No. 2901 min,		Property No.3.		
nd police in Dehradun			Area 3180 sq.ft. or 0.0295 Hect. or295.53 sq. mtrs. Situated at Village Aton Bagh Tehsil Vikasnagar,		(A) Rs. 22.53 Lakh		
ders for making all the			Pargana Pachhwadoon Distt. Dehradun in the name of		(B) Rs. 2.26 Lakh		
iven. She expressed con-			Sh. Alok Bansal S/o Shri Jeevan Lal Bansal. Boundaries: East: Land of other, wide side 53 ft., West: 24 ft, West:		(C) 05.09.2024 Up to 05.00 PM		
on will be held smoothly.			24ft. wide rasta, wide side 53ft., North: Remaining land		(D) Rs. 0.50 Lakh		
agal		Branahi Wikaanaana Dahaaduu	of Seller, wide side 60 ft., South: Land of others, wide side 60 ft.				
egal	9	Branch: Vikasnagar, Dehradun Borrower: M/s Maa Kamla Traders		(A) 23.12.2021 (B) Rs. 1,00,79,146.00	Property No.1.	From	Not Known
_		(Proprietorship Firm), Add.1. Main Market, Vikasnagar, Distt. Dehradun-	2760 sq. ft. or 0.0256 Hect. or 256.50 sq. mtrs. Situated at Village Alon Bagh Tehsil Vikasnagar, Pargana	+ further interest and	(A) Rs. 19.55 Lakh	11:00 AM	
ehradun		248196, Add.2. Hospital Road,	pachhwadoon Distt. Dehradun. Bounded and Butted as:	other charges w.e.f. 01.12.2021	(B) Rs. 1.96 Lakh	04:00 PM	
		Maharaja Agarsan Marg, Vikasnagar, Distt. Dehradun- 248198, Proprietor:		(C) 22.03.2022	(C) 05.09.2024 Up to 05.00 PM (D) Rs. 0.50 Lakh		
		Sh. Alok Bansal S/o Sh. Jeevan Lal	wide side 60 ft., South: Land of Sh. Anil Jain and Sanjay	(D) Physical Possession	(D) N3. 0.00 Lakit		
or hostel buildings in		Bansal, Add 1. 80, Enfield Lane, Vikasnagar Near Shiv Mandir, Tehsil	W/o Sh, Alok Bansal.				
nd madarsas as well as		Add 2 1 One Guru Kirna Complex	Property No. 2. All that land Khata Khatuni No. 143 (1399 to 1404 fasili) bearing Khasra No. 2902 mi, Area		Property No.2.		
t of those operating on		Near Govt Hospital Vikasnagar Distt	3780 sq.tt. or 351.30 sq.mtrs. Situated at Mauja		(A) Rs. 26.78 Lakh		
d. She also asked the investigate the legiti-		Mortgagor: 1 Smt Manisha Bansal	Alonbagh, within Nagar panchyat Herbertpur Tehsil- Vikasnagar, Pargana pachhwa Doon Distt. Dahradun.		(B) Rs. 2.68 Lakh		
ognition and proposed		W/o Sh Alok Bansal Add 1 80	Bounded and Butted as East: 16 ft. wide road, wide side 63 ft., West: Land of others, wide side 63 ft., North:		(C) 05.09.2024 Up to 05.00 PM		
s of a madarsa located		Mandir Tehsil Vikasnagar Distt	Khata, wide side 60 ft, South: Land of Others, wide		(D) Rs. 0.50 Lakh		
Colony and submit a		Dehradun- 248198, Add.2. 1, Opp. Guru Kirpa Complex, Near Govt.	side 60 ft., Owner: Smt. Jeevan Lal Bansal S/o Late				
report. Khanna also			248198. 2. Sh. Jeevan Lal Bansal S/o Late Shri Sitaram				
disappointment on the f the several key offi-		Bansal, 80, Enfield Lane, Vikasnagar	Near Shiv Mandir, Tehsil Vikasnagar, Distt. Dehradun				
uding the director of			S/o Sh. Heera Nand, Add.1. Mohalla Babuddin, Gangoh, Add.2. Mohalla Neerntala, Garigoh, Saharanpur, Uttar				
Education, the deputy			alan, Isara, Gangoh Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh- 247341				-
and the chief medical f Dehradun district			Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcem d "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BA		e following further condit	tions: 1. The	properties are
hers. She said that the	2.	The particulars of Secured Assets speci	ified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the		he Authorised Officer, but	the Authorise	d Officer shall
on will send letters to		ot be answerable for any error, misstatem . The Sale will be done by the undersigned	ent or omission in this proclamation. d through e-auction platform provided at the Website https:	//ebkray.in on 06.09.2024	@ 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM		
	1	For datallad to send by the undersigned	and a state of the	L	- Historia	All the second sec	

4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.lbapi.in, www.mstcecommerce.com,https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app&www.pnbindia.in Note: For more information. Contact Authorised Officer Mobile Number: 8193024024.

Place: Dehradun

SCPCR holds meeting on ille operation of madarsas in De

PNS DEHRADUN

The chairperson of the State **L** Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Geeta Khanna asked the Madarsa Education Board to provide an updated list of registered madarsas in Dehradun district and whether children studying there are enrolled in regular schools too. She also asked for a detailed report about the provision for residential facilities in madarsas, a list of children studying in these madarsas and details of the hostel facilities available for them. Khana further sought information about the designated hours of study in the madarsas. She stated this in a meeting sought a detailed report on the organised by SCPCR on Tuesday construction conditions and reg-

which was attended by the officials from the Mussoorie Development Dehradun Authority (MDDA), Madarsa Education Board and child psychologist Nishat Iqbal, among others, to address the issue of illegal madarsas operating in Dehradun district. Khanna asked MDDA to provide a report on the construction conditions and regulations for hostel buildings in schools and madarsas. She also instructed them to provide a detailed report to the commission on schools operating without proper approval on agricultural land in the Vikasnagar. She also

ulations for schools and an account leased land officials to macy, recos legal status in Azad C detailed r expressed of absence of cials, inclu Primary Ed registrar an officer of among oth commissio these departments concerned and asked them to attend the next scheduled meeting.

Date: 20.08.2024

nation 04



SC reveals why it took suo motu cognisance of Kolkata doctor rape-murder case

RAJESH KUMAR MEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on I Tuesday revealed why it took suo motu cognisance of the recent horrific rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor in Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital. Expressing concern over the lack of workplace safety in healthcare institutions, the court in order also took strong exception to the failure by the West Bengal government machinery to stop a large mob which on August 15 vandalised the emergency ward and other areas of the hospital after the crime. The court also expressed its deep concern over the name of the victim, her photographs and video clips showing her lifeless body having been splashed all over the media and ordered removal of name, photos, videos from media platforms "Why we decided to take suo motu though high court was

hearing it because this is not Medical Association (IMA) just a case of a horrific murcalled for nationwide withdrawal of emergency services der in kolkata hospital.. but this is about systemic issue about safety of doctors across India," a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said while hearing the matter. Terming the incident as "horrific", the bench excoriated the state government over the delay in filing the FIR and allowing thousands of miscreants to vandalise the staterun facility. Taking a serious note of mob violence in the hospital and

the allegation that the Kolkata police fled the scene, the top court ordered deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the hospital to enable doctors to resume work. "On 12:30 am on August 15, a large mob vandalised the emergency ward and other areas of the hospi-tal. Following this, Indian an FIR. Body is handed to the

for 14 hours. The State was expected to deploy State machinery to maintain law and order and protect crime scene. We are unable to comprehend why the State could not do so," the Court said. It also asked the West Bengal government to not unleash the "power of the State" on peaceful protesters and to deal with them with "great sensitivity in this moment of national catharsis". The bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud criticised the ex-principal of RG Kar Medical College Dr Sandip Ghosh for trying to pass off the case as that of suicide and not letting the parents of the deceased to see her body for several hours. "What was the principal doing? Why was this inaction to first pass this



parents for cremation late in the night. On the next day, the doctors are on protest and a mob assembles at the hospital."The hospital is invaded and critical facilities are damaged. What was the police doing? A serious offence has taken place and the crime scene is within the hospital. The police should have pro-

tected the crime scene. How can the police allow vandals to enter the hospital. After the principal resigned, he is sent to another hospital. When his conduct was under scrutiny, how was he appointed to another college immediately," the bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, observed.

The bench said what has taken place in Kolkata is not just a ĥorrific murder but an incident which has raised systemic issues about the safety of doctors."We are deeply concerned that there is a virtual absence of safe work conditions across the country, particularly in public hospitals. Most of the young doc-tors have to put in 36 hours of work.

"We find that there are no duty rooms available, or separate restrooms for men and women doctors and nursing staff. We must evolve a national consensus that there must be a national standard protocol so that safe work conditions are provided," the bench said.

If women cannot go to their place of work safely, then we are denying them equality, the apex court said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, refuted the observations and

submitted that Kolkata police took all necessary action. He said he will place on record all the facts.

"Photos and videos were circulated before the police reached the crime scene. We didn't allow anything to happen and cordoned off the area. Inquest was done and a case of unnatural death was registered immediately. We caught the culprit who was a civic worker. This is not adversarial litigation," Sibal told the court. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said a mob of 7,000 people could not have assembled at the hospital without the knowledge and consent of the police.

Let West Bengal government not be in denial mode, there is complete failure of law and order in the state. A girl has lost her life due to a sexual pervert and an animal," Mehta said. Sibal said over 50 FIRs have been registered following

the vandalism incident and 37 people have already been arrested. The top court asked the West

Bengal government to not take coercive action against people holding peaceful protests and speaking up on social media. "Let not the power of the State of West Bengal be unleashed upon peaceful protesters. Let us deal with them with great sensitivity. This is a moment for national catharsis," the apex court said. Sibal said a lot of misinformation is beng spread in the media about the case and the state government is only taking action against those involved in it.

The court then said,"We expect that West Bengal government shall observe necessary restraint in the face of peaceful protests being conducted by any quarter of the society bearing on the issues which form the subject matter of the incident in Kolkata?

SC observations raise questions on Mamata Govt's mindset, morality: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday said the Supreme Court's observations in the rape and murder case of a medic in Kolkata have raised serious questions on the "mindset and morality" of the Mamata Banerjee Government in West Bengal. The party asserted the Centre will leave "no stone unturned" to ensure justice to the victim.

Making these assertions, BJP national

spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi also targeted the Congress and its allies, saying if the Constitution is under threat today, it is in West Bengal and the states ruled by the opposition INDIA bloc constituents.

He also accused the Mamata Banerjee-led government of taking action against those seeking justice for the victim and asked people to imagine



what would have been the scenario in the country if any of the constituents of the INDIA bloc had been in power at the Centre. With Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal, who is also a senior Supreme Court lawyer, appearing on behalf of the

West Bengal government in the Supreme Court, it becomes clear that all the



ers' crime, Trivedi charged. The Supreme Court on Tuesday came down heavily on the West Bengal government over delay in filing FIR in the rape and murder case of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, terming the incident "horrific".

Taking suo motu cognisance INDIA bloc partners stand of the case, the top court said

this incident raises systemic issue regarding safety of doctor across India.

'The questions that the Supreme Court has asked in connection with the case are serious questions on the mindset and morality of those running the government," the BJP spokesperson said at a press conference at the party headquarters.

"We all know how efforts were made to suppress the incident... It has become clear that the TMC government is shamelessly engaged in protecting the criminals. In this episode, the role of INDI alliance has also become clear," he added.

Trivedi alleged the INDIA bloc partners are standing together to protect each other's crime with Sibal, former Congress leader elected to Rajya Sabha as an independent candidate with support of the Samajwadi Party, appearing in the Supreme Court on behalf of the West Bengal government in the matter.

"There is no if and but left now. They are all standing together to support each other's crimes. They are the same people who stood in support of every separatist and terrorist in the court. They have once again stood in support of a notorious criminal in the court today," he said. "It is now clear that the Constitution is under threat in the states ruled by INDI alliance partners. Not just the Constitution is under threat, but life and dignity as well," he added. Trivedi said the law will take its course in the Kolkata medic's rape and murder case

as per the direction of the court now, "but we want to assure that the Central government will leave no leave stone unturned in ensuring justice to the victim and her family members".

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A^{35-year-old} Border Security Force (BSF) officer has become the first Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) officer to successfully complete the Ironman challenge, one of the toughest triathlon events across the globe. Assistant Commandant Harish Kajla joined the country's largest border-guarding force in 2012. He is currently on deputation posting to the counter-terrorist commando force National Security Guard (NSG).

"Shri Harish Kajla, AC brings in laurels to the Nation and the Force by successfully completing Iron Man Challenge, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, becoming the first officer from CAPFs to successfully complete the challenge," the Border Security Force said on its official X handle on Monday. The officer, as per the BSF, was "able



to complete the event and achieve this historic feat in a time of 12:42:25. The Ironman challenge com-

prises three events which

include 3.8 kilometres of swim-

posted pictures of Kajla holding the national flag as well as the flags of the BSF and NSG at the finish line in the Danish capital.

guard Indian fronts with

Pakistan and Bangladesh, also

ming, 180 kilometres of cycling and 42.2 kilometres of full The BSF is part of the Central marathon. For the latest event, Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) under the Ministry of Home under the male 35-39 years of age category, the cut-off timing Affairs which also includes was 15:45:00, as per the BSF. the CRPF, ITBP, SSB and The force, primarily tasked to

Regulatory failures can cause long-term dent in investor confidence: Cong amid Sebi row PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

row over AHindenberg's allegations against Sebi chief Madhabi Buch, the Congress on Tuesday



NFW DFI HI

India and Malaysia on Tuesday elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim here held tensive talks focusing

India, Malaysia elevate ties to comprehensive strategic partnership



international laws. And, we support the peaceful resolu-

tion of all disputes." The two sides also deliberated upon new possibilities of cooperation in the defence

sector as well. Both sides also decided to establish a digital council for cooperation in digital tech-

In his remarks, Ibrahim said

all issues, sensitive or likewise, were discussed in reflection of

the true meaning of friend-

ship between the two coun-

tries."India is a great nation

with a great history and a

great culture and civilisation.

It is in many ways multi-cul-

tural and multi-religious," he

said. "Therefore, we have a lot

of commonalities which

extend beyond trade and

In the Modi-Ibrahim talks, it

investment," he added.

alliance.

failures an conflicts of interest may be brazened out briefly but they can cause long-term damage to the sentiment and confidence of investors.

The Opposition party also said the Indian equity market has so far enjoyed fair weather due to well-regulated markets but any lapse risks destabilising them.

Congress general secretaryin-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said data released recently reveals that the unique registered investor base of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) with unique PANs has crossed 10 crore.

He said the immediate implication of this is that integrity and transparency in financial markets matter to a large and growing number of Indians, particularly the youth. The median age of these

investors is 32 years, and 40 per cent of all investors are below 30 years of age, Ramesh said, citing the NSE Financial markets function on

the assumption that regulators will regulate fairly and companies will play by the rules, he said. "But when it is revealed that the SEBI Chairperson has had a serious conflict of interest, and that too regarding investigations into alleged

tripping by the Adani Group,

this becomes a serious matter involving the faith of crores of investors," Ramesh said in a social media post.

Regulatory failures and conflicts of interest may be brazened out in the short term but these can cause long-term damage to sentiment and confidence, he asserted.

The politician also claimed that faith in markets was also shaken by the Narendra Modimade market volatility that followed the counting of votes money laundering and round on June 4, 2024.

expanding cooperation in several sectors, including trade, investment and defence.

A pact on promoting recruitment of Indian workers in Malaysia and protection of their interests was one of the at least eight agreements inked between the two sides. The pact on recruitment of Indian workers assumes significance as illegal immigration and human trafficking from India to Malaysia are among major concerns of the two governments.

Ibrahim began his three-day visit to India on Monday night in his first trip to the country as the prime minister.

our partnership will be ele-



vated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Modi said in his media statement. The prime minister said the agreement on employment of workers will promote the recruitment of Indians as well as the protection of their interests.

Highlighting the importance of India-Malaysia economic engagement, Modi said bilateral trade is being done in Rupees and Malaysian currency Ringgit.

'We believe that there is still a lot of potential in economter. ic cooperation. Bilateral trade "Today, we have decided that and investment should be

expanded," he said.

"We should increase mutual cooperation in new technological areas, such as semiconductor, Fintech, defence industry, artificial intelligence and quantum. We have emphasised on accelerating the review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and Malaysia," he said. The prime minister said work

will also be done to connect India's digital payment system UPI with Malaysia's PayNet. We are also unanimous in the fight against terrorism and extremism," he said. Modi also described Malaysia

as an "important partner" of India in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and Indo-Pacific region. 'India gives priority to

ASEAN centrality. We agree that the review of the FTA (free trade agreement) between India and ASEAN should be completed in a timely manner," he said. In an apparent reference to

was decided to set up an Ayurveda chair in Malaysia's the situation in South China Sea that has been witnessing University Tunku Abdul growing Chinese military muscle-flexing, Modi said, Rahman. Apart from this, a decision "We are committed to freedom of navigation and over

flight in accordance with

has also been taken to establish a Tiruvalluvar Chair in the University of Malaya.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pays tributes to Indian Coast Guard DG Rakesh Pal

at his residence in New Delhi on Tuesday

Modi pays tributes to Rajiv on 80th birth anniversary RSS, affiliates to discuss better cooperation at Palakkad meet

scenario, recent important

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Cenior office-bearers of the **J**Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh(RSS), its affiliates and the BJP are set to deliberate on various issues of national said. interest and discuss measures to enhance mutual cooperation at a three-day annual meeting in Kerala's Palakkad district that is scheduled to start from August 31. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, all six joint gener-al secretaries and other senior office-bearers will participate in the meeting, the organisation's national media and pubadded. licity head Sunil Ambekar said in a statement on

Tuesday. "Akhil Bharatiya Samanvay Baithak of Rashtriya Swavamsevak Sangh (RSS) will be organised this year in Palakkad, Kerala, from August 31 to September 2, 2024.

Pujaniya Sarsanghchalak Dr happenings and planning Mohan Bhagwat ji, respected regarding the various dimen-Sarkaryawah Shri Dattatreya sions of social change," Hosabale ji, all six Sah Ambekar was quoted as say-Sarkaryawah and other senior ing in the statement. office-bearers will participate All these organisations will in this meeting," the statement

talk about measures for strengthening "mutual coop-The meeting will also be eration and coordination on attended by top functionaries and key office-bears of 32 various subjects", Ambekar said.

This year's all-India coordi-RSS-inspired organisations, including the Rashtra Sevika nation meet of the RSS Samiti, Vanvasi Kalyan assumes significance as it comes on the heels of top Ashram, Vishva Hindu Parishad, Akhil Bharatiya leaders of the organisation and the ruling BJP at the Vidvarthi Parishad, Bharativa Janata Party, Bharatiya Kisan Centre discussing a host of Sangh, Vidya Bharati and issues, including strengthening coordination between the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, it party and the Sangh as well as "During this meeting, volunupcoming elections, at Defence Minister Rajnath teers of Sangh-inspired organ-isations will share information Singh's residence last week. and exchange experiences Hosabale, Arun Kumar, the about their respective work. In RSS pointsman in the BJP, this meeting, there will be dis-Home Minister Amit Shah, cussions on various issues of BJP chief J P Nadda and national interest in the present Singh were present at the

meeting.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{Modi paid tributes to for-}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ mer prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 80th birth anniversary on Tuesday. India's youngest prime minister, Gandhi held office from 1984 to 1989. He was assassinated by a suicide bomber of the LTTE in 1991.

Tributes to our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji on his birth anniversary," Modi said in a social media post.

The Congress paid rich tributes to Rajiv Gandhi with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying that he ignited hope in crores of Indians and brought India to the 21st century with his "unprecedented contribution".

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Raĥul Gandhi paid floral tributes to his father at his memorial Veer Bhumi here.

"A compassionate personality, a symbol of harmony and





unprecedented contribution," Kharge said.

"His many pleasant initia-tives such as lowering the voting age to 18 years, strengthening Panchayati Raj, telecom and IT revolution, computerisation programme, peace accords, women empowerment, universal vaccination programme and new education policy with emphasis on inclusive education brought about transformational changes in the country," the Congress chief said.

goodwill... Papa, your teachings are my inspiration and vour dreams for India are my own, I will fulfil them taking vour memories with me. Rahul Gandhi said in a social media post in Hindi.

In a social media post in Hindi, Kharge said today the country is celebrating 'Sadbhavana Diwas'. "Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was a great son of India. He ignited a ray of hope in crores of Indians and brought India to the 21st century with his



nation 05

Three of family

among 5 killed

At least five people, including three members of a family, were killed and

one villager went missing after landslides triggered by incessant rain occurred at three places in Tripura, police

The three members of a family

died at Debipur in South Tripura district when their

house collapsed due to a massive landslide on Monday

night, Santirbazar Sub Divisional Magistrate

Abhedananda Baidya told PTI

over phone. The deceased were identified

as Trisankar Chakma, his wife

Rajini and his daughter Binita.

Mauai Reang, aged 52, was killed in a landslide in Gumati

district's Karbook area on

Monday, while another

went

in landslides

in Tripura

PTI 📕 AGARTALA

said on Tuesday.

Guv can't pick & choose: K'taka **CM after prosecution sanction**



PTI BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot should function like a representative of the President of India and not the central government. He said the Governor should

not 'pick and choose' and be selective in the matter of sanction granting for prosecution. Governor is a constitutional post and we respect it. What we say is that he should work

as a representative of the President of India and not the Central government," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

Gehlot on August 16 granted sanction permitting investigation against Siddaramaiah under 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act and prosecution under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development

site allotment Authority 'scam

The Chief Minister recalled that the Karnataka Lokayukta sought Governor's had approval to prosecute Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Η Industries Kumaraswamy on November 23, 2023 in connection with Sri Sai Venkateshwara Minerals case but till now no permission has been granted. The state ombudsman on Monday again submitted a proposal to the Governor seeking his permission to file

a charge-sheet against Kumaraswamy, who had allegedly granted mining lease to the private firm when he was the Chief Minister in 2007 in violation of law 2007 in violation of law. Siddaramaiah also pointed out that the Governor did not give permission to the Lokayukta to former BJP prosecute Ministers

Nirani and G Janardhana Reddy. "On the other hand, T J

Shashikala Jolle, Murugesh

BJP MP hits out at Cong leaders for targeting Guv

PTI BENGALURU

 $B_{\text{Siroya}}^{\text{JP} \text{ MP} \text{ Lahar Singh}}$ out at Congress leaders for allegedly targeting Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot for sanction granting for prosecution of Minister Chief Siddaramaiah on

corruption charges. "Revenue Minister (Krishna Byre Gowda) in the Siddaramaiah cabinet has called the Governor from a Dalit family 'Nalayak'. Another Congress MLC (Ivan D'Souza) has said he

Abraham lodged a (private) complaint against me with the Governor on July 26 at 11 am and 10 hours later I was served a show-cause notice. Isn't it discrimination? That's the reason that the Governor was told not to use 'pick and choose' and should not do it selectively," Siddaramaiah said.

his writ petition In challenging the Governor's order in the High Court on Monday, the Chief Minister submitted that it was issued without due application of in violation of mind, statutory mandates, and contrary to constitutional principles, including the

and on their inadequate representation in public

sector jobs.

will barge into Raj Bhavan and give the 'Bangladesh treatment' to the Governor," the Rajya Sabha member said.

said. "It is now beyond doubt that Congress is following Rahul Gandhi's anarchy formula," he said in a post on 'X'. Congress President M

Mallikarjun Kharge, who is a Dalit, is also a 'Nalayak' ? he asked.

Congress, Siroya alleged, is made up of dynasts and elites who don't value anything or anybody except their self interest. "Will Kharge Ji sack the Minister and MLC?"

advice of the Council of Ministers, which is binding under Article 163 of the Constitution of India Siddaramaiah, who has

denied vehemently any wrongdoing, said the Governor's decision is legally unsustainable, procedurally flawed, and motivated by

extraneous considerations. On the petition filed by him the High Court passed interim orders directing the trial court to defer trial court to defer proceedings on complaints against him and further that instructing no precipitative action be taken pursuant to the sanction till August 29.

7 dead, 6 injured as auto-rickshaw rams into stationary truck in MP



PTI ■ CHHATARPUR (MP)

Seven persons, including a one-year-old child, were killed and six others injured victims were going from Mahoba (in Uttar Pradesh) to Bageshwar Dham in after an auto-rickshaw rammed into a stationary truck from behind in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh early on Tuesday, officials said. The accident took place under the Civil Line police behind. station limits when the rickshaw was going towards Bageshwar on Khajuraho-

Jhansi highway around 5 am, police official said. identified as autorickshaw driver Prem Narayan (46), a police "Thirteen persons were travelling in the autorickshaw and seven of them were killed while six others injured after the vehicle collided with a truck on Jhansi-Khajuraho Road,

Centre prioritising eastern India's export growth, says Pradhan



PTI 📕 KOLKATA

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday emphasised the need to enhance exports from eastern India and sought cooperation from the state governments in the region. He also underscored the

government's commitment to ensuring the region benefits from various free trade agreements under the export promotion policy. In this year's budget, eastern India was highlighted as a

Chhatarpur, he said. Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Akhil Rathore said that as per the initial information, the CNG-run priority area for development under the Purvodaya scheme, with matching infrastructure auto-rickshaw rammed into creation being a key focus, the stationary truck from Pradhan said on the sidelines of an Exim Conference organised by the CII here. Three seriously injured persons are being referred to

We have initiated long-term policy reforms, particularly in the mineral sector, which have already begun benefiting the eastern states," he said.

Doctored audio clip of CM being circulated

one year-old Asma, Janardan "The Centre is making efforts, Yadav (45), Manu Shrivastava (25), Govind Shrivastava (35) and Nanni Bua (42) and Lalu (age not known), the officials said. but state governments must cooperate. Industrial growth and job opportunities are contingent on a environment," he said

villager missing, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) BB Das said. A 14-year-old boy died when mounds of earth fell on his house in Champlai area in Khowai district on August 19, a police officer said. Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday instructed the district administrations to take

natural calamity. Many low-lying areas of the stable rain, Baidya said.

appropriate action to prioritise public safety and mitigate the impact of the natural colorrity

Santirbazar subdivision have been submerged due to heavy

West Bengal seeks SC stay on HC order striking down OBC status of many castes

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $T_{
m government}^{
m he}$ West Bengal Tuesday sought an urgent hearing by the Supreme Court of its appeal against the Calcutta High Court verdict striking down the OBC status of several castes, mostly Muslim groups, in the state for granting them reservation in public sector jobs and admissions in state-run educational institutions.

The top court said it will hear the pleas on the issue on August 27. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal,

appearing for the state vernment told a pench sta comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that the high court verdict needed to be stayed as it was affecting the admission of candidates who have cleared the NEET-UG, 2024. "We need a stay of the high court's verdict... The issue of scholarships is pending and



the NEET admissions will be effected," Sibal said, adding that the plea be heard during the day.

A counsel, representing the Classes (OBC) panel, said students are lining up for authentication of their OBC status for securing admissions to medical colleges and other institutions. "We will hear it on Tuesday (August 27)," the CJI said. The top court had on August 5 asked the state government to provide quantifiable data

Several Bhagalpur villages flooded after embankment breach

on social and economic backwardness of fresh castes PTI BHAGALPUR it has included in the OBC list

was breached by river Ganga, officials said.

sector jobs. While issuing notices to the private litigants on the plea of the state government against the high court verdict, it had asked West Bengal to file an affidavit giving details of the consultations, if any, made by it and the state's backward The officials said that the water of the river is receding and no casualty has been reported yet.

it and the state's backward classes panel before including The affected villagers were shifted to safer places, they 37 castes, mostly Muslim groups, in the OBC list. said.

According to a statement issued by the Water Resources The high court had on May 22 struck down the OBC status (WRD), Department of several castes in West "continuous high-level of 2010 Ganga exer sure

The incident caused a floodlike situation in Karari Teentanga, Budhchak and other surrounding areas of Gopalpur division. No casualty has been reported yet

and villagers of the affected areas shifted to safer places", it said. Bihar Water Resources Department minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary said that following the breach in the embankment, necessary items have been brought from outside for immediate repair. "Besides, two teams of senior WRD officials have also been

sent to the spot for immediate

 $T^{he\ Manipur\ government}_{said\ a\ "doctored\ audio}$ clip" of Chief Minister N Biren Singh is being circulated on social media platforms to incite communal violence and derail the peace process in the state.

PTI Imphal

Superintendent of Police

(SP) Agam Jain said. The

Jhansi for further treatment,

he said. The deceased were

A press release issued by government's Manipur Directorate of Information and Public Relations on Monday night appealed to general public to not rely on such unfounded contents circulating in social media and news reports and also to refrain from involvement in preading such false



disinformation through doctored clips as anti-national activities" for inciting hatred and mistrust and to derail the peace process started by state and central governments at multiple levels.

It claimed that the "law and order situation has improved in the last 3 to 4 months with relentless efforts of state and central governments with no large scale confrontation except for some low scale sporadic incidents."

The statement said that "incidents of shelling of rockets and bombs in fringe areas like Kangvai, areas bordering Bishnupur, Imphal m and been reported from time to time and state police and security agencies have taken steps to book the culprits and deter them. Many FIRs have registered been and investigations are going on through agencies like NIA. Security agencies have been able to control such incidents to a great extent."

to derail peace process: Manipur Govt

granted since illegal holding as reservation for them in public sector jobs and state-run educational institutions. While striking down the OBC status of these castes, the high court had said, "Religion indeed appears to have been the sole criterion" declaring these communities

as OBCs.

the protecting structures along its bank in Bhagalpur district. However, from August 19, the water level has started receding. As the water level started receding, the current of the river speeded up and damaged around 60 metres of the Ismailpur-Bindtoli embankment of the river for Ganga".

renair and escue measure the minister said on Tuesday. Officials said rainfall in the state and in catchment areas of Nepal have led to the rivers flowing above danger level at several places. Most of the rivers are spate and flood like in situation has developed in the Kosi-Seemanchal region, they said

in Kota for admission to an

engineering course and began

On Monday morning, the

teenager as usual went to the bathroom to freshen up after he woke up, DSP of the area,

Rajesh Taylor, said citing the

When the boy did not come out even after 15-20 minutes,

the woman knocked on the

bathroom door and found it

unbolted with her son lying unconscious on the floor

Rastogi was rushed to a

hospital, where doctors administered him CPR but on

noticing no sign of revival,

they declared him dead,

Circle Inspector at Jawahar police

Harinarayan Sharma said. The deceased's parents refused a postmortem, so the

body was handed over to

them without lodging any

station,

deceased's mother.

inside, Taylor added.

Nagar

living in the hostel, they said.

incessant

fabricated information

through any media. It warned that people shall be prosecuted under relevant provisions of laws if found involved in spreading such unfounded and baseless content or posting and

sharing of such content. An FIR has been registered in the Cyber police station on

the doctored audio clip claiming to be that of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh which is being circulated on social media platforms, the release said, adding that investigation is underway.

The release said the Manipur government views acts of "misinformation and

Mizoram receives ₹8 cr Central assistance for helping refugees PTI 🗖 AIZWAL

The Mizoram government has received financial assistance amounting to Rs 8 crore from the Centre to provide relief to over 43,000 people from Myanmar, Manipur and Bangladesh, who have taken refuge in the state, the Assembly was informed on Tuesday.

Home Minister K Sapdanga said that Rs 3 crore was received from the Centre during the previous Mizo National Front (MNF) rule, while the state got Rs 5 crore during the current Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) administration.

He was replying to a question from opposition MNF member Ramthanmawia. Sapdanga said that Rs 3 crore received during the previous government was used for amenities providing to refugee camps and other assistance to the people who came from Myanmar. The remaining Rs 5 crore has not been used and it will be utilised for relief to the

refugees, he said. According to the state home department, a total of 43,737 refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh and internally displaced people (IDPs)from Manipur have taken shelter in different parts of the state



Mizo

The Bawm people, one of the

tribes,

from

as of August 13. from Myanmar Refugees accounted for the highest

Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill number at 33,724, followed Tracts (CHT) migrated to the by IDPs from Manipur (7,999) and Bangladeshi state in November 2022 due to the alleged military offensive by the Bangladesh army during its crackdown refugees (2,014), it said. East Mizoram's Champhai district hosted the highest on an ethnic insurgent group in CHT number of refugees, mostly The Kuki-Zo people from Manipur, who also share ethnic ties with the Mizos, Myanmarese, at nearly 14,000, the department said. The Myanmar people mostly from the Chin state, who share ethnic ties with the have been taking shelter in Mizoram since May 2023 due Mizo, have been taking to ethnic violence between shelter in Mizoram since the Meiteis and the Kukis in the military takeover in February neighbouring state 2021.



Coaching student found dead in

'suspicious' condition in Kota

hostel, parents refuse probe

PTI 📕 KOTA

A student was found dead in a suspicious condition in the bathroom of his hostel room here, police said on Tuesday. A police team reached the hostel room upon information from the hostel's caretaker and collected evidence but did not proceed with registration of an FIR on the request of the teenagers' parents, they said.

The parents also refused to conduct postmortem, а following which the body was handed over to them for last rites, they added.

The deceased was identified as Kushagra Rastogi, a resident of Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, who was staying with his mother in the hoste in the Jawahar Nagar area, where his body was found on Monday, police said.

In April this year, Rastogi was case in the matter, Sharma enrolled at coaching institute said

six to life term PTI 📕 JAIPUR A POCSO court has sentenced six accused in the sensational Ajmer sex scandal of the early 1990s to POCSO court has

1992 Ajmer

rapes: POCSO

court sentences

life imprisonment. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court judge Ranjan Singh also slapped fines of Rs 5 lakh on each of the accused. Nafees Chishti, Naseem alias

Tarzan, Salim Chishti, Iqbal Bhati, Sohail Gani and Sayed Hussain Zameer were convicted of being involved in the crime, prosecution counsel Virendra Singh said. Bhati was brought to Ajmer from Delhi in an ambulance. The Ajmer sex scandal came to light in 1992.

More than 100 girls were victimised by a gang, whose members befriended them and shot their photographs in compromising situations, and later raped them.

While 18 people were accused in the case, a separate trial was conducted for these six accused. The other accused have either completed their term or been acquitted by the courts.

The girls, aged between 11 and 20 years, studied in a famous private school in Ajmer. They were called to a farmhouse, where they were raped.

Justice Hema panel report: Kerala Govt ought to be ashamed, says Tharoor

PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Committee Working (CWC) member Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday came down heavily against the Kerala government for not acting on the Justice Hema Committee report, which according to him was a "smoking gun" that everyone ignored. The Thiruvananthapuram

MP, addressing the media after participating in the Birth Day commemoration of Rajiv Gandhi here at the District Congress Committee office said that it is utterly shameful and shocking that the government sat on this report for nearly five years and now released it under duress.

"I saw a statement by the minister for cultural affairs, stating that these ladies could have come to the government and made a complaint, and they have only given a complaint to the commission. But the commission is appointed by the government. So, what kind of excuse is this?" Tharoor asked.

He said it was absolutely indispensable that action be taken on the basis of the report.



frankly, ought to be ashamed of itself," Tharoor said. He said it is unforgivable to see the image of the Kerala film industry, which has a worldwide reputation, being tarnished this way after creating an unsafe working environment for women and perpetuating it through acts of intimidation, blackmail, and worse.

He wondered how a state that was the first in the world to educate girls at the primary level about 200 years ago, allowed this to happen. "And worse is how those who are in authority in the state refused to do anything about a report that is a smoking gun sitting on their desk, and they are just pretending not to see the smoke," Tharoor said.

DEHRADUN | WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 21, 2024

the pioneer



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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Take no chances!

Mpox is becoming a global concern. While there is no need to push the panic button yet, it is important to remain watchful

n the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is now facing another significant health challenge: Mpox, previously known as monkeypox. This viral disease, which has traditionally been confined to certain regions of Africa, has seen a disturbing rise in cases across the globe, prompting widespread concern and action from health authorities. Mpox is caused by the monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus, which also includes the smallpox virus. The good news is that it is not fatal in most cases and is curable. There is no specific treatment for mpox but most people recover in a few weeks. Supportive care and pain control can help people with good immune systems while those with low immunity can recover with medical treatment. While it is less deadly than smallpox, Mpox can still cause severe illness, especially in those with compromised immune systems. The virus is primarily transmitted to humans from animals, but human-to-human transmission can also occur, particularly through direct con-



tact, bodily fluids, respiratory droplets, or contaminated materials like bedding. Mpox's symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and a distinctive rash that often starts on the

face and spreads to other parts of the body. As they say, once bitten twice shy, we have just wriggled out of corona pandemic and cannot afford to have another pandemic. It is not an epidemic but can become one if preventive measures are not taken. After a surge in Mpox cases globally Indian airports have ramped up surveillance and precautionary measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued a nationwide adviso-

ry, urging airports to intensify screening processes and ensure that protocols for identifying and isolating potential cases are strictly followed. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported an uptick in Mpox cases across several regions, with particular concern in areas where the virus had previously been under control. Travellers exhibiting symptoms such as fever, rash, or swollen lymph nodes are being referred for further medical evaluation. Major international airports in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru are at the forefront of these preventive measures. Special medical teams have been stationed at these hubs to conduct rapid assessments and ensure that any suspected cases of Mpox are swiftly isolated and treated. The focus is not just on inbound passengers; outbound travellers are also being advised to take precautions, particularly if they are heading to regions experiencing outbreaks. While India has not yet reported a significant number of Mpox cases, the proactive measures being implemented at airports are part of a broader strategy to prevent the virus from gaining a foothold in the country. Health experts emphasise that early detection and isolation are key to controlling the spread of Mpox, particularly in a densely populated country like India, where an outbreak could have severe consequences.



Another surprise regime change in neighbourhood.



Amid economic distress and a coup, India's once strong alliance with Bangladesh teeters on uncertainty, as anti-India sentiment rises and strategic interests hang in the balance

rime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned in his Independence Day speech that India is worried about developments in Bangladesh, especially about the safety of Hindus and other minorities there. Promptly Professor Yunus head of Caretaker Administration called Modi to reassure him of their safety. The soft coup in Dhaka, the fourth in 53 years is almost whol-ly student-driven following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina losing touch with her people and mounting economic distress. The killing of 200 and more protestors, many students, was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. COAS Gen Waqur Uz Zaman was left with only one choice: order Hasina to flee giving her 45 minutes.

The General must have foreseen this contingency as "the day after" scenario. Otherwise, the speed and orderly nature of the transition could not have been possible. The sentiment on the street is anti-Hasina with the Sheikh Mujib legacy she nurtured of freedom from Pakistan through a liberation war aided by India would not have been so bitterly desecrated. Anti-India feelings largely stem not only from India's blind support for Hasina despite the loss of democratic credentials but also some grievances that Bangladesh has nursed mainly like BSF firing on the border, not sharing Teesta waters and disallowing use of the Siliguri corridor.

Most of all, they were peeved by Home Minister Amit Shah calling Bangladeshis 'insects' and loud advocacy of CAA/NRC. Giving refuge to Hasina indefinitely could increase the anger against India. Critical strategic interests are at stake.Much has been written about the events of July and August in Bangladesh. Astonishing is the importance attached to conspiracy theories: naming the US, and CIA coveting St Martin Island which is also claimed by Myanmar and other



fear. Even though a Nobel lau-reate, liberal democrat and regionalist, Mohammad Yunus is to lead the caretaker administration has said he will be guided by the students and their leaders Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud. The mystery in this drama is the extent to which Gen Zaman, a relative of Sheikh Hasina, was involved in the coup. No regime change has occurred in Bangladesh without the Army either facilitating or executing it.

Sheikh Hasina's greatest achievement was transforming Bangladesh once a basket case into the fastest-growing economy in South Asia with human development indices surpassing all regional countries except Sri Lanka. Its garment industry was world-class till periodic protests and strikes over wages and COVID began to wreck it. Bangladesh grew at a steady 6.5 per cent for two decades with a per capita income of USD 2600, much higher than India's. But its growth story ended after it sought IMF assistance of USD 4.76 bn and inflation crossed

10 per cent. Trade with India had grown phenomenally to nearly USD 18 bn. An FTA in the works for a long, had it materialised Bangladesh's exports would have risen 182 per cent. The largest tourist population a fillip to medical tourism. Defence relations have enhanced miraculously: it is a story of turning foe into friend. This is quite extraordinary, given that Bangladesh used to portray India as an enemy in its war games. India has granted a \$500bn LoC for defence purchases but in Bangladesh's layered defence procurement system controlled by Armed Forces Division once led by Gen Zaman, India is at the lowest level for consideration for hardware with China topping the list at A level.

CHALLENGING Aircraft, submarines, tanks, artillery and other equipment CONUNDRUM are mainly of Chinese origin. IN THE COUNTRY Bangladesh is a nation in disarray being led by student lead-IT HELPED ers whose wishes are being promulgated by the Caretaker IN ITS BIRTH. Administration. India is faced THE GOLDEN PERIOD with a challenging conundrum in the country it helped IN BILATERAL in its birth. The golden period in bilateral relations when RELATIONS India's interests were being WHEN INDIA'S suitably addressed is bound to change given the fact that the **INTERESTS** new regime is targeting Sheikh Hasina and everyone associat-WERE BEING ed with her or the Awami SUITABLY

League. That the Bangladesh Army will become the conduit for a nearnormal relationship is what India must hope for. Geography and economic logic also suggest that for Bangladesh to meet the chal-

lenge of its economic distress India's assistance will be necessary. Dhaka will not forget how New Delhi bailed out Colombo after its default in 2022 and the student protest movement which could not transform Sri Lanka's polity. Former only Hindu Chief Justice of Bangladesh Surendra Kumar Sinha who was sacked by Hasina said last week that everything that has happened in Bangladesh in the last few days has been unconstitutional and he cited the various changes brought about by the Caretaker Administration. In a revolution or a coup the constitution is one of several casualties. The Administration has said that institutional reforms will include reviewing the constitution before any election can take place. All this will take time. It is the early days of regime change with the future clouded with uncertainty. India's new geo-political challenge is shaping and it must now begin engaging relevant stakeholders. What it will do about Sheikh Hasina and Awami League will be one of many challenges.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and

usuai sus ects, Pakistani, 151 and China. While some of these players will certainly fish in troubled water, it is the role of Islamists and jihadi organisations India must comes from Bangladesh giving

IS BOUND TO CHANGE

ADDRESSED

LETTERS

INDIA IS FACED

WITH A

founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

Flowers in full bloom in Amrit Udyan at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi

Cyber security: Reducing attack surfaces in the digital age



As cyber threats become more sophisticated, cybersecurity requires a proactive approach. Advancing security practices through Zero Trust principles is key

s cyber threats continue to evolve, it's impor-Atant to remember cybersecurity is not a onetime task but an ongoing process.Advancing cybersecurity and Zero Trust maturity starts by focusing on three core practice areas: reducing the attack surface, detecting and responding to cyber threats and recovering from a cyberattack throughout the infrastructure, including edge, core and cloud.

The attack surface refers to all potential areas in an environment that a cyber attacker can target or exploit. These points can include software vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, weak authentication mechanisms, unpatched systems, excessive user privileges, open network ports, poor physical security and more. This is achieved by minimizing the potential vulnerabilities and entry points that attackers can exploit to compromise a system, network or organization across various domains including the edge, the core or the cloud Some ways we can strengthen

our security posture: tion. Apply Zero Trust princi**ples:** Zero Trust is a security



concept centred on the belief that organizations should not automatically trust anything Dividing a network into seginside or outside their ments or zones with different security levels helps contain perimeters and instead must verify everything trying to an attack and prevents laterconnect to their systems al movement of a cyber threat before granting access. by isolating critical assets and Organizations can achieve a limiting access between different parts of the network. Zero Trust model by incorporating solutions like micro-Ensure application security: segmentation, identity and Implementing secure coding access management (IAM), practices, conducting regular multi-factor authentication security testing and code (MFA) and security analytics, reviews and using web applito name a few. cation firewalls (WAFs) help protect against common

Patch and update regularly: Keeping operating systems, software and applications up to date with the latest security patches helps address known vulnerabilities and minimize the risk of exploita-

application-level attacks and

reduce the attack surface of

According to the Dell

Technologies 2024 Innovation

web applications.

Utilize AI/ML:

Catalyst report, 58% of Indian Ensure secure configurabusinesses feel GenAI will tion:. Systems, networks and provide automation to help

with the efficiency and scale needed to deal with the influx of threats. We can leverage AI capabilities to help proactively identify and patch vulnerabilities, significantly shrinking the attack surface. Work with suppliers who maintain a secure supply chain: Ensure a trusted foundation with devices and infrastructure that are designed, manufactured and delivered Use network segmentation: with security in mind.

Suppliers that provide a secure supply chain, secure development lifecycle and rigorous threat modeling keep you a step ahead of threat actors.

Educate users and promote awareness: By proactively implementing these measures, organizations can effectively reduce the attack surface, helping to mitigate risks and making it more challenging for adversaries to exploit vulnerabilities, enhancing the overall defence posture against new and emerging threats.

(The writer is Director and General Manager, Data Protection Solutions, Dell Technologies India; views are personal)

CHANKYA OF INDIAN POLITICS

Madam — As a doyen of literature and a great administrator, no one can come close to him for having used "Anna Arivalayaam" as a treasure of knowledge center which paved the way for his glorious political career. The gesture from the Centre will be a welcoming one for the DMK to feel warmth that a commemorative coin of Rs.100 has been released by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Chennai to mark the Birth Centenary of Kalaignar Dr. M. Karunanidhi.

As a prominent writer and politician, he served as the CM for over two decades. His tenure as CM was the longest in the State's history by the count of 6863 days. Whatever one can see as the light and shade in TN in state's progress, Karunanidhi was instrumental for the same. He has recorded 13 times unbeaten in all the contested assembly elections. He reaped what he sowed and the tall leader deserves the coin as an honor for his contributions.

AP Thirvadi | Chennai

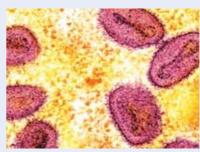
DOCTORS' SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Madam— I strongly condemn the recent horrific incident in West Bengal involving the heinous crime against an innocent 31 year old junior trainee female doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. My heartfelt condolences go to the victim's family. As a matter of fact, it is not for the first time that such horrific incidents take place in one corner or the other across the coun-

We have not forgotten the Nirbhaya case of Delhi. The other day, 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 in the early hours of Sunday. Under the circumstances, resignations are not the solution and those who ask for resignation of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, will they ask for the resignation of the

M-pox is turning into a global threat

THE EDITOR



he risk of M-pox is turning as a global health emergency after its cases took a surge spike in the African continent particularly. The disease had reached western continent as well, recently Sweden too confirmed it's first ever Mpox infected case along with the USA. So far more than 1 lakh cases been reported from around 116 countries in total, however the ministry of health

Maharashtra Chief Minister for this incident or in Uttarakhand where two days back a similar incident had happened? Instead of asking resignations, the grim situation warrants the urgent need for enhanced safety measures for healthcare workers throughout the hospitals in the country.

S K Khosla | Chandigarh

LATERAL ENTRY

Madam — The issue of lateral entry (Pioneer, 19th Aug. Pg.4) in the Government services politically assailed as deprivation to the reserved classes and through RSS instead of UPSC needs closer examination from administrative angle and technology gaps in the govern-ment services cadre. It is not a political issue. Neither it forfeits the interests of reserved

classes in the services nor it encroaches their recruitment in the civil or subordinate services. Already several government controlled services relating to digitisation, advanced technological projects etc. have been outsourced to the

and family welfare confirmed it's possible chances as low for India. But we just can't underestimate the risk from M-pox virus. Taking precautions from one's own self is the utmost way to avoid any disease coming to our body. Although there is no such designated cure and vaccine for it right now, but precautions like smallpox and cow pox can be adhere for it as well. The zoonotic diseases had turned common after their frequent transmission from the animals to the mankind, it is unfortunate that we our own self is responsible for creating this imbalance between our and animals habitat. Man is itself responsible for the tragic over exploitation of everything, the consequences are in front of us.

The virus disease from squirrel and monkeys are now entered in human now, risk prevention and mitigation had to be implemented on early basis, to avoid another pandemic for the world.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

companies and entities having desired skills and resources. The patterns of recruitment of civil and subordinate services in the Central and State governments lacks appointment and engagement of specialised and skilled cadres. Presently all government services are being operated digitally through applications and online mechanisms.

The traditional government services are red taped and have colonial essence which are not public oriented. In fact, UPSC must reform its recruitment systems for various services to facilitate appointments of a strong and robust cadre of technocrats highly specialised in latest technologies like cyber security, fintechs, block chain, metaverse, cloud, artificial intelligence etc. who can provide services to all government departments instead of lateral entries which will always be despised and envied within the government cadres. Vinod Johri | Delhi

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FIRSTCOLUMN

THE HIGH COST OF FAST FASHION

Sustainable clothing that is produced ethically should be our responsible fashion choice



SHAINY SHARMA

Fast fashion, which refers to the rapid production of inexpensive clothing based on the latest trends, has transformed the global fashion industry. Brands like Zara, H&M, and Forever 21 have led this movement, providing trendy, affordable clothing at an unprecedented speed. By turning runway designs into store-ready garments in just weeks, fast fashion has made the latest styles accessible to a wide audience, particularly young consumers. While this has democratized fashion, it comes with serious environmental, social, and economic consequences.

The fast fashion model thrives on its ability to meet consumer demand for low-cost, trendy clothing. The business strategy relies on efficient supply chains that quickly replicate popular styles, keeping consumers constantly engaged with new products. This approach fuels the desire for inexpensive, fashion-forward clothing, allowing consumers to experiment with various trends without spending much. For younger consumers, who often use fashion as a means of self-expression, this is particularly appealing. However, the lower quality and shorter lifespan of these clothes contribute to a cycle of overconsumption, waste, and environmental harm.

One of the biggest drawbacks of fast fashion is its environmental impact. The industry is energy-intensive, relying heavily on fossil fuels for textile production and transportation. It is estimated that the fashion industry is responsible for about 10% of global carbon emissions, surpassing the emissions from all international flights and maritime shipping combined. This is due to the widespread use of synthetic fibers, which are



derived from fossil fuels, and the energy required for manufacturing and global distribution. Furthermore, the production process consumes vast amounts of water, especially in the case of cotton, a commonly used fabric that requires thousands of liters to produce just one kilogram. Additionally, textile dyeing and finishing processes contribute significantly to water pollution. Fast fashion's environmental footprint extends beyond carbon emissions and water consumption.

Workers in fast fashion supply chains often endure poor working conditions and low wages. In many cases, these exploitative labor practices are linked to environmental degradation, as manufacturers in lowregulation regions cut costs by disregarding environmental standards. Thus, the social and environmental issues of fast fashion are intertwined. Despite these concerns, fast fashion remains popular due to its affordability and the constant influx of new styles. Many consumers, particularly those on tight budgets, are unaware of or choose to overlook the ethical and environmental implications of their purchases. However, there is a growing movement toward sustainable fashion, driven by increasing awareness of these issues. Sustainable fashion prioritizes quality over quantity, using eco-friendly materials and ethical production practices. Some brands are adopting circular economy principles, focusing on recycling, upcycling, and designing products for durability. Consumers must be educated about the environmental consequences of their choices, and governments should implement stricter regulations on textile production and promote recycling initiatives. Encouraging sustainable practices and fostering demand for eco-friendly products can push the industry toward more responsible production methods. The shift from fast fashion to sustainable alternatives is critical for reducing the industry's environmental and social toll In conclusion, while fast fashion has made high-fashion trends more accessible, its environmental and social costs are significant. Addressing these challenges will require concerted efforts from consumers, industry leaders, and policymakers to move toward more ethical and sustainable fashion practices.

Gas pricing: Reforms turn into a control regime



analys \$ 07

Government's decision to grant a 20 per cent premium on natural gas from the state owned new wells has added complexity to the gas pricing regime



he decision of the Union Government to grant a 20 per cent premium over the APM price (a jargon for adminis-tered or controlled price) for any natural gas (NG) that state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) will produce from the 'new wells or well interventions' from their nominated fields has made the NG pric-ing more complicated. It is an outcome of a thought process that focuses on unshackling the oil and gas industry from price controls to start with but ends up exercising more controls.

Every year, India consumes 59.5 billion cubic metres (bcm) of NG. Of this, nearly 54 per cent or 32.13 bcm is produced domestically, and the balance is met from imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Of the domestic gas, around two-thirds is from blocks given on nomination to ONGC and OIL and from fields given under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) (launched in 1999) as well as those given to private firms before the NELP. NG sup-59.5 BILLION plies from the aforementioned fields (known in common parlance as 'legacy fields') are governed by a particular pricing regime. Before April 2023, under the pricing guidelines effective since November 2014, supplies from these fields used to be a weighted average (WA) of prices of NG at four international locations: Henry Hub (the USA), Alberta Gas (Canada), NBP (National Balancing Point) (the UK), and Russian Gas. The prices used for arriving at the WA were over twelve months. It was revised every six months in a financial year (FY). The four global hubs have fairly mature gas markets and the prices obtained there are pretty reasonable. Moreover, considering that the prices for twelve consecutive months were used for arriving at the WA, it smoothened out the month-to-month variations thereby ensuring that the price to the consumers was 'stable'. From April 1, 2023, the government changed the above system based on the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee (2022). Under the new formula, for any given month, the price expressed per million

British thermal units (Btu) (ener-gy units used globally for setting NG prices) is arrived at by taking 10 per cent of the monthly average of the basket of Indian crude oil in the preceding month. The price thus calculated is subject to a price band of US\$4 - 6.50 per Btu. The shift to link the price of NG with the crude oil price is flawed as natural gas is not a replacement for crude oil. The pricing of NG has to be on its own, especially when nearly half of the gas is used for urea production and power generation. Given the intimate connection of these sectors to food security and the need for affordable electricity (especially, for farmers and poor household consumers) and heavy subsidies are involved, the gas price has to be 'reasonable' and 'stable'. EVERY YEAR. While the earlier formula met both these requirements, the new one effective from April 2023 doesn't as the volatility in crude prices and **CUBIC METRES** monthly revisions in NG price linked to crude can create uncer-tainties for both sectors. To avoid (BCM) OF NG. OF THIS, NEARLY 54 this, the government has put a PER CENT OR price band. What this means is even when the 32.13 BCM IS price determined based on crude linkage turns out to be higher (at the current Indian basket price of PRODUCED USD 77 per barrel, the NG price DOMESTICALLY comes to US\$ 7.7 per Btu) than the ceiling of US\$ 6.50 per Btu, the price will be set at US\$ 6.50 per AND THE BALANCE IS MET mBtu. Given the movement in crude price since April 2023 and FROM IMPORTS considering that in the near term, **OF LIQUEFIED** it will continue to rule well above US\$ 75 per barrel, the formula-NATURAL GAS based price will always be much more than US\$ 6.50 per Btu. So, the ceiling price will be the price to consumers thus rendering the formula redundant. Effectively, thus there is control on the gas price for two-thirds of domestic production and that too at a level,

the government wants. One wonders whether a premium of 20 per cent allowed on gas supplied from the so-called 'new wells' or 'well interventions' in the nomina-tion fields of ONGC and OIL will make any difference to the situation on the ground.

Applying a 20 per cent premium to the formula-determined price of US\$ 7.7 per mBtu (77x0.1), we get US\$ 9.24 per mBtu. But, then there is a cap of US\$ 6.50 per mBtu. So, the price remains at US\$ 6.50 per Btu. The purpose of giving premi-ums is defeated.On the other hand, if the government intends to build a 20 per cent premium on the ceiling price and give US\$ 7.8 per mBtu then, it makes no sense to put a cap in the first place. The moot point is: if anyway ONGC and OIL are to be given a good price, let this be driven solely by the formula and putting a cap is unwarranted.

At least, there is an element of 'predictability; firms on their own can calculate as to what price they will be getting. But, here we have an APM price namely US\$ 6.50 per mBtu (call it base price) that is arrived solely at the discretion of the bureaucrat. And, yet another price for supplies from the socalled 'new wells' or 'well interventions' which is arrived at by adding 20 per cent to this. This too is at the discretion of the bureaucrat. Moreover, which fields get the benefit of interventions will also be at his discretion. Even the pricing of the remaining one-third of domestic NG supplied from the so-called deep/ultradeep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields (KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries and neighbouring KG-DWN-98/2 operated by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari basin off the Andhra Pradesh coast fall in this category) isn't free from 'discretion' and 'arbitrariness'.

go for competitive bidding to determine the price for such supplies (referred to as a 'premium' price), this too is subject to a ceil-ing linked to the prices of alternate fuels including fuel oil, naphtha, and LNG. On taking charge in 2014, the Modi – government started the process of reforming gas pricing by introducing formula-based pricing for legacy gas and thereafter in 2016 by permitting market-based pricing for supplies from deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields. But, it has ended up exercising control of both. Meanwhile, the Kirit Parikh committee had rec-ommended the de-regulation of difficult gas fields' prices by January 1, 2026, and the de-regulation of APM prices for gas supplies from the legacy fields by January 1, 2027. But, the government is silent on these recommendations. In fact, by adding more

Technically though, the firms can

(The writer is an educator; views expressed are persnal)

categories (read: new wells and 'well interventions'), it has given a signal that the administered/controlled pricing regime for NG and attendant bureaucratic red tape is here to stay.

Delivering the 75th Independence Day address on August 15, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the country a target to achieve selfreliance in energy production by boosting the gas-based economy (besides giving a push to electric mobility and hydrogen production). He wanted the share of NG in the total energy mix to go up from the current around 6 per cent to 15 per cent. But, in the absence of a 'stable' and 'predictable' policy environment particularly when it comes to themost crucial aspect of pricing of gas, this won't be possible.

(The write is a policy analyst; views are persona)

Healthcare under siege: Rising violence, gender disparity, and the fight for justice

Health Reports*, 32% of

ASHA workers face sexual

The silent struggles of healthcare workers, often overlooked, reveal a disturbing reality of increasing violence in hospitals and clinics

uring his Independence Day address, the Chief Justice of Telangana proudly announced that he had recommended a Protection of Advocates Act to the state government. The applause that followed made me think of the resident doctors marching through the rain in Delhi, gathering their courage to demand a law that protects healthcare professionals from the increasing violence in spaces that are supposed to be the safest. In 2019, the draft Healthcare

Service Personnel & Clinical Establishments Bill was introduced, seeking to penalise those who assault healthcare workers. However, the Home Ministry opposed it, stating that no separate law was nec-



SATENDRA SINGH

essary for doctors. A Right to Information (RTI) response from the Health Ministry later revealed that the draft Bill had pital been withdrawn. On July 26, 2024, the Health Minister further rejected the idea of a central law, asserting in the Lok bludgeoned to death. Sabha that the newly enacted BNS and BNSS laws provided adequate protection for medical professionals. Despite this, healthcare professionals' anger is justified. Why in the *Journal of Global

doesn't the public show the same solidarity as they did during the Nirbhaya case, where the horrific rape and murder of a physiotherapy student led to nationwide outrage? Even amid a national strike by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) over the rape and murder of a doctor in

in

violence, while 88% experience emotional and economic abuse. Disturbingly, 12% report sexual violence from their husbands, and 64% from beneficiaries and their families. These incidents highlight the pervasive threat healthcare workers face. Last year, a doc-Kolkata, another tragedy was overlooked-the brutal killing tor allegedly raped a nurse at a clinic in northeast Delhi. In of a nurse, a single mother, who went missing from a hosanother case, a Bhopal doctor Rudrapur, was accused of confining and Uttarakhand. Her body was found in Uttar Pradesh after raping a 19-year-old patient. Just recently, at the same medical college in Bhopal, a resishe had been strangled and dent doctor was suspended for Similarly, in Gujarat in 2020, inappropriate behavior with a an Accredited Social Health cancer patient. Violence Activist (ASHA) worker was against healthcare workers raped while on duty. also extends beyond sexual According to a study published violence. Last month in Manipur, armed assailants



attacked a children's hospital, and two weeks later, a patient was shot dead at Delhi's GTB Hospital due to mistaken identity.

These violent acts, whether committed against doctors, nurses, paramedics, or patients, must be addressed with the same urgency and seriousness. However, the IMA has yet to make a statement regarding the rape and murder

membership of the Principal of RG Kar Medical College, implicated in the Kolkata case? Has the Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) taken action against its accused member?

A journalist recently tweeted during a doctors' protest, asking where the female doctors were in leadership positions. This raises a crucial point. According to a study published in PLOS Global Public Health, out of 46 professional medical associations in India, only 9 (less than 20%) are headed by women. Neither the Academy of Hospital Administration (AHA) nor the IOA has ever had a female president. This is despite women demonstrating remarkable leadership in of the nurse in Rudrapur. healthcare-both my hospital tings, and it emphasizes that

Have they suspended the and medical college are currently led by women doctors, and more than 50% of the heads of departments are women. Clearly, women are capable of leading in healthcare, but they remain underrepresented in top positions. Of the 64 individuals currently serving as presidents and secretaries of the 32 state chapters of the IMA, only three are women.

It's time to move beyond token representation. Women doctorsmust be given more leadership opportunities. One of the most balanced and comprehensive statements on the issue of healthcare violence has come from Women in Global Health India. Their statement calls for an end to sexual violence in all healthcare setanyone-whether doctor, nurse, paramedic, or even political party member—who commits such violence must face severe consequences. Eleanor Roosevelt, who played a key role in drafting the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, once famously said that human rights begin in small, often overlooked places.

In the context of today's healthcare system, that means the seminar room of RG Kar Medical College or the private hospital in Rudrapur-spaces where violence has occurred, but which remain untouched by reforms.

(The writer is director-professor at the University College of Medical Sciences and a dis-ability justice advocate.

Views are personal)



Israel recovers bodies of 6 hostages from Gaza

AP JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said Tuesday that it recovered the bodies of six hostages taken in Hamas' October 7 attack that started the war in Gaza, as US and Arab media tors tried to advance an agreement to halt the fighting and release scores of other militantheld captives.

The military said its forces recovered the bodies in an overnight operation in southern Gaza, without saying when or how the six died. A forum for hostage families said they were kidnapped alive. Hamas says some captives have been killed and wounded in Israeli airstrikes.

An Israeli airstrike on Tuesday killed at least 10 people at a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City, in what the military said was a precise strike on a Hamas command center. Another strike killed a mother and her five children in central Gaza. The recovery of the remains is

AP WASHINGTON

Tehran

institutions.

US intelligence officials said Monday that Iran is responsible for the hack of

Donald Trump's presidential

campaign. It was the first US government attribution of

responsibility for a cyber intru-

sion that the Republican nom-

inee had previously linked to

The FBI and other federal agencies said Iran perceived

this year's presidential elec-

tion to be particularly conse-

quential and was determined through the hacking operation

and other activities to interfere

in American politics and "to

stoke discord and undermine

confidence in our democratic

"We have observed increasing-

ly aggressive Iranian activity during this election cycle,

specifically involving influence

operations targeting the American public and cyber

operations targeting Presidential campaigns," said a

Iran behind Trump

campaign hack: US

intelligence officials



Protesters march to the Democratic National Convention after a rally at Union Park AP/PTI Monday, in Chicago

a blow to Hamas, which hopes to exchange hostages for Palestinian prisoners, an Israeli withdrawal and a lasting cease-fire. But it was also likely to increase pressure on Israel's government to reach a deal to

free dozens of hostages who are still believed to be alive. The military said it had iden tified the remains of Chaim Perry, 80; Yoram Metzger, 80; Avraham Munder, 79: Alexander Dancyg, 76; Nadav

Popplewell, 51; and Yagev Buchshtav, 35. Metzger, Munder, Popplewell and Buchshtav had family mem-bers who were also abducted but freed during a November cease-fire. Munder's death was confirmed on Tuesday by Kibbutz Nir Oz, the farming community where he was among around 80 residents who were taken captive. It said he died "after enduring months of physical and men-tal torture." Israeli authorities had previously determined that the other five were deceased.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the recov-ery effort and said "our hearts ache for the terrible loss?

"The State of Israel will continue to make every effort to return all of our hostages — both alive and dead," he said in a statement.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant also praised the operation, which he said had been carried out inside Hamas' vast

tunnel network. There were no October 7 and rampaged immediate reports of any casu-alties among Israelis or Palestinians in the recovery operation.

Ĥamas is still believed to be holding around 110 hostages captured in the October 7 attack. Israeli authorities estimate around a third of them are dead. Blinken, who is on his ninth visit to the region since the start of the war, said Monday that Netanyahu has accepted a proposal to bridge gaps in the cease-fire talks, which have dragged on for months, and called on Hamas to do the same.

Hamas has accused the United States of embracing Israeli demands and trying to impose them on the militant group. There still appear to be wide gaps between the two sides, including Israel's demand for lasting control over two strategic corridors in Gaza, which Hamas has rejected.

Hamas-led militants burst through Israel's defenses on

across the south, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage. Over 100 hostages were released in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned in Israel during a weeklong ceasefire last year. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were militants. Air and ground operations have caused wide spread destruction and forced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million residents to flee their homes, often multiple times. Aid groups fear the outbreak of diseases like polio.

The Palestinian Civil Defense, first responders operating under the Hamas-run government, said the strike on the Mustafa Hafez school in Gaza City killed at least 10 people and that they were still search ing for survivors. It said around

Chicago

700 people were sheltering at the school when it was hit.

Biden backs Harris as 'historic President'



President Joe Biden embraces Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris during the first day of Democratic National Convention, Monday, in

and Vice President of the

He said Trump will find out women's power in 2024. Harris will soon serve as the

47th President of the United States, Biden said, amidst

cheers from his party members

"We saved democracy in 2020 and we must do it again in

2024," he said urging his coun-

trymen that America's future is

"Let me ask you: Are you ready

to vote for freedom? Are you

ready to vote for democracy

and for America? And let me

ask you: Are you ready to elect

Kamala Harris and Tim Waltz

and leaders.

in their hands.

United States," Biden said.

PTI CHICAGO

Kamala Harris will be a "his-toric president", US President Joe Biden has said, as he passed the baton of the Democratic Party to her and made a strong pitch to made a strong pitch to American voters to vote for her to preserve democracy.Biden, 81, received an emotional standing ovation when he came on stage at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on Monday night. Harris, 59, is scheduled to formally accept the Democratic Party's presidential nomination on Thursday to take on Republican rival Donald Trump, 78, in the November 5

as president and vice president?" he asked. election. "Are you ready to elect Kamala Biden appeared to wipe away a tear as he hugged his daughter Harris as the President of the Ashley Biden who introduced United States of America," him at the four-day convention. Observing that the decisions Biden said, amidst cheers from thousands of members and that were being made now leaders of the Democratic Party would determine the fate of the at its national convention here world and the country, Biden in this windy city as he urged said he and Harris had four his countrymen to vote and years of extraordinary progress elect his deputy of four years. Biden said Harris would be a "historic president". in the United States. Biden said Trump promised

infrastructure week every week for four years. "He never built 'She'll be a president respected by world leaders because she already is. She'll be a president a damn thing," he alleged. "Together, we are building a better America," he said as he we can all be proud of, and she will be a historic president who puts her stamp on listed out some of the key America's future," he said. 'We need to preserve our

Harris administration. democracy. We need you to "You cannot say you love your beat Donald Trump and elect country only when you win," he Kamala and Tim as President said.

achievements of the Biden-

Jury clears Texas student's parents of negligence in 2018 school shooting



the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. The statement said the Iranian hackers have "sought access to individuals with direct access to the Presidential campaigns of both political parties." The FBI has been investigating attempts to gain access to Democrat Kamala Harris' campaign.

Ex-Saudi official alleges Prince Mohammed forged king's signature on Yemen war decree

AP DUBAI

former Saudi official on A Monday alleged that Saudi Crown Prince Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman forged his father's signature on the roval decree that launched the kingdom's yearslong, stalemated war against Yemen's Houthi rebels. Saudi Arabia did not respond to questions over the allegations made without sup-porting evidence by Saad al-Jabri in a BBC interview first published Monday. Al-Jabri later acknowledged the allegations separately in detail in a statement to The Associated Press.The kingdom has described al-Jabri as "a discredited former government official." Al-Jabri, a former major general and intelligence official who lives in exile in Canada, has been in a long dispute with the kingdom as his two children have been imprisoned in a case he describes as an attempt to lure him back to Saudi Arabia. Al-Jabri also alleges that the crown prince wants him assassinated. "I am

not a dissident, nor did I put myself in this situation by choice," al-Jabri told the AP. "I was a high-ranking Saudi offi-cial who dedicated himself to safeguarding his country, recognized for saving thousands of Saudi and Western lives. Now I am a father doing everything possible to secure the release of

his children.' His allegation comes as Prince Mohammed serves as Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, often meeting leaders in place of his father, 88-year-old King Salman.

Prince Mohammed's assertive behavior, particularly early in his ascension to power around the beginning of the Yemen war in 2015, has extended to a wider crackdown on any perceived dissent or power base that could challenge his rule. Al-Jabri first told the BBC a "credible, reliable" official linked to the Saudi Interior Ministry confirmed to him that Prince Mohammed signed the decree declaring war in place of his father. Prince Mohammed was the defense

minister at the time.Later, al-Jabri told the AP that he had reached a deal with U.S. counterparts in the then-Obama administration for Saudi Arabia to launch "an aerial bombardment campaign to eliminate Houthi threats, establish deterrence and force a political process without a ground intervention." His former boss, Saudi Arabia's

then-Interior Minister Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, then chaired a meeting in Saudi Arabia formalizing that plan. Prince Mohammed bin Salman, however, responded with "visible displeasure" at that meeting and said he could beat the Houthis in two months in a ground offensive, al-Jabri claimed. "Surprisingly, a royal order was later issued, overriding the agreed plan and authorizing a ground operation — without the king's knowledge and with a forged signature," al-Jabri told the AP. The U.S. State Department declined to comment on al-Jabri's claims.

The war against the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in

Yemen, launched with public promises by the prince it would quickly be over, has ground on for nearly a decade. The war has killed more than 150,000 people and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters.

The Houthis since the start of the current Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip have launched attacks on shipping that have disrupted traffic through the Red Sea — and led to the most intense combat faced by the U.S. Navy since World War II. Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, who later served as a crown prince for King Salman, was a trusted confidant of the U.S. in the battle against al-Qaida militants in the kingdom after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. King Salman replaced the crown prince for his son in 2017, and Prince Mohammed bin Nayef is believed to have been held under house arrest.Al-Jabri sued Prince Mohammed bin Salman in U.S. federal court, alleging the crown prince sought to have him killed after he fled abroad.

German court upholds conviction Students in UK organise protests, submit memo in Kolkata rape-murder case of 99-year-old ex-Nazi secretary PTI LONDON

lem of gender violence and social injustice in the state of West Bengal, we are seeing the state machinery led by Mamata Banerjee indulge in theatrics and the targeting of protesting voices," said Nikhil Mathew, a PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh and one of the organisers of the protests as SFI-UK secretary

is a symptom of the rising vio-

UK-based Indian stu

equired prosecutors to justify charges by presenting evidence **A**dents' group organised a of a former guard's participation protest in Scotland and subin a specific killing, often a mitted a memorandum to the near-impossible task.

Indian mission in Edinburgh demanding urgent steps to address gender-based violence in the wake of the rape and murder case of a medic in Kolkata. The Students' Federation of India-United Kingdom (SFI-UK) held a

diaspora. "Instead of actively working lence against women and the the memo.

AP BERLIN Galveston (AP): The parents of a former student accused of

killing 10 people in a 2018 school shooting near Houston cannot be held responsible for what happened, a jury decided Monday.

The victims' lawsuit sought to hold Dimitrios Pagourtzis and his parents, Antonios Pagourtzis and Rose Marie Kosmetatos, financially liable for the shooting at Santa Fe High School on May 18, 2018. The lawsuit alleged the parents failed to provide necessary support for their son's mental health and didn't do enough to prevent him from accessing their guns

Authorities say Pagourtzis fatally shot eight students and two teachers. He was 17 years old at the time.

Pagourtzis, now 23, has been charged with capital murder but the criminal case has been on hold since November 2019, when he was declared incompetent to stand trial. He is being held at a state mental health facility.

In April, Jennifer and James Crumbley were sentenced to at least 10 years in prison by a Michigan judge after becoming the first parents convicted in a US mass school shooting. Pagourtzis' parents are not accused of any crime

The lawsuit was filed by relatives of seven of the people killed and four of the 13 who were wounded in the Santa Fe attack. The attorney represent-ing Pagourtzis told jurors that while his client did plan the shooting, he was never in control of his actions because of his severe mental illness. Attorney Clint McGuire, representing some of the victims, said the parents knew their son was depressed, getting bad grades, isolating himself, and had taken weapons from their gun cabinet and safe. McGuire said Pagourtzis also wrote disturbing Facebook posts and ordered ammunition and other items online, such as a knife with a Nazi symbol and a T-shirt that said, "Born To Kill."

German court on Tuesday Arejected an appeal by a 99year-old woman who was convicted of being an accessory to more than 10,000 murders for her role as a secretary to the SS commander of the Nazis' Stutthof concentration camp during World War II.

The Federal Court of Justice upheld the conviction of Irmgard Furchner, who was given a two-year suspended sentence in December 2022 by a state court in Itzehoe in northern Germany. She was accused of being part

the end of the war. of the apparatus that helped the camp near Danzig, now the Polish city of Gdansk, function. Prosecutors said during the original proceedings that Furchner's trial may be the last She was convicted of being an accessory to murder in 10,505 of its kind. However, a special federal prosecutors' office in cases and an accessory to attempted murder in five cases. Ludwigsburg tasked with inves-At a federal court hearing in tigating Nazi-era war crimes says three more cases are pend-Leipzig last month, Furchner's lawyers cast doubt on whether ing with prosecutors or courts she really was an accessory to in various parts of Germany.

crimes committed by the com- With any suspects mander and other senior camp advanced age, questions officials, and on whether she increasingly arise over suspects' fitness to stand trial. had truly been aware of what

Germany's main Jewish leader The Itzehoe court said that welcomed the ruling. "For judges were convinced that Holocaust survivors, it is enor-Furchner "knew and, through mously important for a late her work as a stenographer in form of justice to be attempted," the commandant's office of the Josef Schuster, the head of the Stutthof concentration camp Central Council of Jews, said in from June 1, 1943, to April 1, statement.

'The legal system sent an the fact that 10,505 prisoners important message today: even nearly 80 years after the by hostile conditions in the Holocaust, no line can be drawn camp," by transportation to the under Nazi crimes," he added. Auschwitz death camp and by The Furchner case is one of several in recent years that built on a precedent established in 2011 with the conviction of former Ohio autoworker John Demianiuk as an accessory to murder on allegations that he served as a guard at the Sobibor death camp. Demjanjuk, who denied the allegations, died before his appeal could be heard.

German courts previously

However, prosecutors successfully argued during Demjanjuk's trial in Munich that helping a camp function was enough to convict someone as an accessory to murders committed there. A federal court subsequently upheld the 2015 conviction of former Auschwitz guard Oskar Groening on the same reason

Furchner was tried in juvenile court because she was 18 and 19 at the time of the alleged crimes. and the court couldn't establish beyond a doubt her "maturity of mind" then.

In the ruling, presiding Judge Gabriele Cirener wrote that the fact that Stutthof wasn't always a death camp that existed for the sole purpose of extermination, such as Auschwitz or Sobibor, wasn't legally relevant.

peaceful demonstration outside India's Consulate in Edinburgh on Monday and a delegation submitted their memo to the Acting Consul General of India, strongly condemning the brutal rape and murder of the on-duty female doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata

The group is planning further protests, including a gathering in Liverpool on Wednesday, to continue to highlight their demand for justice in a case that has sent shockwaves across India and among the

"The government has clearly failed to provide a safe space for working women in the state," added Alakta Das, another PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh and one of the organisers as SFI's Edinburgh Subcommittee Member.

In their memo handed over to the Consulate General of India in Edinburgh, SFI-UK accused the state government of "severe laxity" in its response to the incident and demanded a "gender-just" workplace for all women. "This incident

have not yet been able to access

the below-deck cabins because

they were blocked by furniture

that had shifted during the

Rescue crews said they assume

the missing six are in those cab-

ins because the storm struck when most would be sleeping, but the teams haven't verified

their presence there through

portholes. Luca Cari, a

spokesman for the rescue

teams, said the search was pro-

ceeding much more slowly

than another big shipwreck in

Italy, the 2012 Costa Concordia

violent storm.

its citizens. The absence of investment in public infrastructure and safety measures has a disproportionate impact on women, who are already marginalised by the patriarchal social conditions," reads

It goes on to demand a thorough judicial inquiry into the incident and the implementation of adequate workplace security measures for all medical staff.

'We stand in absolute solidarity with all those who are engaged in a determined and resolute struggle against gendered violence and social injustice steeped in power disparities, and demand immediate justice for the victim of the RG Kar Medical College & Hospital," the memo concludes. The group had issued an open letter over the weekend following a peaceful protest staged outside India House in London.

Spanish woman, believed to be oldest person in world, dies at age 117

was going on at Stutthof.

1945, deliberately supported

were cruelly killed by gassings,

being sent on death marches at

AP SPAIN

Maria Branyas, an American-born Spaniard considered the world's oldest person at 117 years old, has died, her family said on Tuesday. In a post on Branyas' X account, her family wrote in Catalan: "Maria Branyas has left us. She has gone the way she wanted: in her sleep, at peace, and without pain." The Gerontology Research

Group, which validates details of people thought to be 110 or older, listed Branyas as the oldest known person in the world after the death of French nun Lucile Randon last year. The next oldest person listed by the Gerontology Research Group is now Japan's Tomiko Itooka, who is 116 years old.



Branyas was born in San Francisco on March 4, 1907 After living for some years in New Orleans, where her father founded a magazine, her family returned to Spain when she was young. Branyas said that she had memories of crossing the Atlantic Ocean during World War L

Catalan Grandma" and bears the description: "I am old, very old, but not an idiot." At age 113, Branyas tested positive for COVID-19 during the global pandemic, but avoided developing severe symptoms that claimed tens of thousands of older Spaniards.

was living in a nursing home in Catalan town of Olot

told them days before her death: "I don't know when, but very soon this long journey will come to an end. Death will find me worn down from having lived so much, but I want to meet it with a smile, feeling free and satisfied?

Divers search for six missing, including Mike Lynch, after yacht sinks off Sicily

AP PORTICELLO

Police divers resumed search-ing Tuesday for six people believed trapped in the hull of a superyacht that sank in a storm off Sicily, including a British tech magnate recently acquitted of fraud charges, his lawyer and a key defense witness at trial. The resting place of the luxury sailboat, off Porticello, is some 50 meters (164 feet) underwater — a depth that requires special precautions: Rescue crews said they were working in 12minute shifts, a measure that slowed down their work to reach the cramped inside of the wreck

The Bayesian, a 56-meter British-flagged luxury yacht, was moored about a kilometer off Ponticello when a storm rolled in before 4 am Monday.

Civil protection officials said they believed the ship was struck by a tornado over the water, known as a waterspout. Fifteen of the 22 people aboard survived, including a mother who reported holding her 1year-old baby over the waves to save her. One body has been recovered, identified by officials as the on-board chef. Fire rescue officials have said the other six on board will be considered missing until they are located in the wreckage.

Karsten Borner, the captain of the Sir Robert Baden Powell, which rescued the survivors who managed to get into a lifeboat, said he was close enough to be able to see the Bayesian as the weather came in but found it had disappeared after the storm cleared. "They said they went flat on the water and were sunk in two minutes,"

Borner said, quoting the surcruise ship that flipped on its side off Tuscany's coast, because vivors. The rotating search of the depth of the wreck and teams, each made up of two specialized cave divers, worked the space divers have to maneu-Tuesday to open up access "That was much simpler. Here points to get inside the wreck, everything is more tight," he which lies at a depth far beyond what most recreational divers are certified to reach. The divers

said. Among those missing was Mike Lynch, who was once hailed as Britain's king of technology. He was cleared in June of fraud and conspiracy charges in a US federal trial related to Hewlett Packard's USD 11 billion takeover of his company

Autonomy Corp. His wife, Angela Bacares, survived. The sailing vacation appeared to be something of a celebration after Lynch's acquittal. Some of the people who stood by Lynch throughout the ordeal were on board, including one of Lynch's US lawyers, Christopher Morvillo, and Morvillo's wife.

Her X account is called "Super At the time of her death she

Her family wrote that Branvas



BNP leader asks India to extradite Hasina Another complaint in tribunal

PTI DHAKA

Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Secretary-General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Tuesday asked India to extradite deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to face trial as he accused her of plotting to thwart the country's

revolution. Hasina, 76, resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests by students and others against her government over a controversial quota system in government jobs.

"It is our call to you that you should hand her over to the government of Bangladesh in a legal way. The people of this country have given the decision for her trial. Let her face that trial," Fakhrul was quoted as saying by the Daily Star newspaper. Talking to reporters after placing a wreath at the grave of former president and BNP founder Zia-ur Rahman in the city, Fakhrul said India is seemingly not keeping its commitment towards democracy by providing shelter to her. "Staying there, she has started various plots to thwart the

revolution that happened in Bangladesh," he alleged. Over 230 people were killed in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasinaled Awami League govern-ment, taking the death toll to

live-fire missile drills as China ramps up threats



A MIM-104C (PAC-2) Patriot short-range anti-aircraft missile launches from Pingtung County, Southern Taiwan, on Tuesday

AP JIUPENG (TAIWAN)

🗖 aiwan's military launched

Defence Ministry spokesperson Sun Li-fang said all the missiles iesdav hit their tar

Interim govt to set up foundation for victims of violence: Yunus

PTI DHAKA

Over 600 people, including 44

police personnel, were killed

since the massive protest by

students over a controversial

quota system in government

jobs first started in mid-July. The government has decid-Bangladesh's interim gov-ernment on Tuesday said it will set up a foundation ed to set up a Foundation to take care of the wounded and the families of the headed by Chief Adviser deceased and wounded who Professor Muhammad Yunus participated in the student-led to take care of the wounded revolution in July-August and the families of the 2024," according to the official X handle of the Chief Adviser deceased and injured who participated in the unpreceof the Government of dented student-led protest which led to the fall of the Bangladesh. "Chief Adviser Professor Sheikh Hasina government.

Muhammad Yunus will head the Foundation, which will include a number of Advisers of the Interim Government, student representatives, and the family members of the

more than 600 since the massive protest by students first started in mid-July. An interim government was formed after the fall of the

Hasina-led government, and 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was named

deceased and injured," it said, adding that the modalities of the foundation will be

announced very soon. Hasina, 76, resigned and fled to India on August 5 following the massive protest by students against the controversial quota system. An interim government was formed and 84-year-old Yunus was appointed as its Chief Adviser. More than a dozen murder cases have been filed against Hasina, holding her responsible for the deaths of students and ordinary citizens during the police crackdown earlier this month.

its Chief Adviser.

The BNP secretary general said the people of this country do not consider her offences as minor. He said they think her "fascist rule has weakened Bangladesh's independence and hindered the country's progress

for the last 15 years". During her regime, she made a debt burden of Tk 18 lakh crores for the nation and nearly USD 100 billion were siphoned off from the country, Fakhrul said, adding that all institutions of the country were destroyed during her misrule. The interim government has been doing a commendable job, he said. The main task of this interim government, which was formed through a revolution and mass upsurge, is to hand over the power to the

public representatives by hold-ing an election, Fakhrul added. "It will definitely take some time to clear the garbage the Awami League government created. It will take time to hold a proper and fair election," he said. BNP chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, 79, was sentenced to 17 years in prison for graft in 2018 under the rule of Hasina.

Zia, currently undergoing treat ment for various ailments, was released on an executive order from President Mohammed Shahabuddin after the collapse of the Hasina-led Awami League government.

against Hasina, 23 others

PTI DHAKA

A fresh complaint was filed Tuesday with Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal accusing deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 23 others of committing crimes against humanity and genocide during a rally by an Islamist group in May 2013. Supreme Court lawyer Gazi MH Tamim filed the complaint on behalf of Mufti Harun Ijahar Chowdhury, joint secretary general (education and law) of Hefajat-e-Islam, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

We registered the complaint, and thus the investigation has started from today," Ataur Rahman, deputy director (admin) of the investigation agency, was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

"Once we complete the preliminary investigation and visit the place of occurrence and the tribunal is reconstituted, we, through the prosecution, will seek arrest warrants against the accused," he said.

The complaint accused Hasina and 23 others of committing crimes against humanity and genocide during a Hefajat-e-Islam rally at Motijheel's Shapla Chattar on May 5, 2013.

This is the fourth complaint filed with the International Crimes Tribunal accusing the 76-year-old former premier, who resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests against her government over a controversial quota system in government jobs. Of the four, three cases are con-

nected to the recent violence centring on the quota reform movement.

The other accused includes Awami League general secretary and former road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Ouader, former minister Reshed Khan Menon, former mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, ex-advisor to prime minister Salman F Rahman,

former security advisor to the prime minister Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former inspector general of police AKM Shahidul Haque, editor of ABnews24.com Subhash Singha Roy and former army chief Aziz Ahmed. Besides them, some unnamed

world 09

ministers, state ministers and lawmakers, unnamed individuals from law enforcement agencies and the then policymakers of some electronic and print media were accused. Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Secretary-General Mirza Fakhrul İslam Alamgir on Tuesday asked India to extradite Hasina to face trial as he accused her of plotting to thwart the country's revolution. Over 230 people were killed in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasinaled Awami League government, taking the death toll to more than 600 since the massive protest by students first started in mid-July.

Taiwan conducts Artworks grow on Dhaka walls to memorialise protests

PTI 📕 DHAKA

^cThis is New Bangladesh' — screams one of the graffi-ti spray-painted on the gates of an official bungalow in the Dhaka University area — one of the hotbeds of the recent anti-government protests in

Bangladesh. Another mural carries the slogan 'Long Live the Resistance' with images of the country's

national flag and human hands painted on the wall. For the very few non-Bangladeshi nationals in the capital city here, these artworks invite both a sense of curiosity and intrigue, while some of the university students PTI spoke to claim that these were made by "a group of fine arts students of the Dhaka University in the last few days". The murals look fresh with

glowing and vibrant paints but they all carry a poignant mes-

sage written mostly in Bengali, and some of these mock the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina who on August 5 resigned and fled to India after unprecedented anti-government protests.

"These murals and artworks were made by some of the students of the fine arts depart-ment at DU (Dhaka University). This is to memorialise the struggle of the students and others in bringing a change of regime and hopefully, the system ahead, as also to inspire others," Abdur Rahman, a Dhaka University student, told PTI here. A native of the historic Comilla

district of Bangladesh, about 100 km from Dhaka, Rahman is currently a first-year undergraduate student in the English Department of the 103-yearold university that is no stranger to mass protests historically.

Indonesia, Australia finalise

new bilateral defence treaty

The public square facing the TSC (Teacher Student Centre) of the university has the famous Anti-Terrorism Raju Memorial Sculpture' opened in 1997 where many students gather these days to raise voices for their two principal demands -"no political interference in University and Dhaka University Students Union's election be held as soon as possible". As one moves towards the road leading to the Shaheed Minar — a monument dedicated to the Bengali language movement in the country located in the Dhaka University area, walls on both sides burn bright with thematic murals, some of them being giant ones which catch the eyes of passersby. Some stop by to click pic-tures or take selfies for memories. Several hundreds of people have been killed in the protests in Bangladesh, trig-gered by the reinstatement of a

E LO This is new BANGEADES

quota system for the allocation of jobs in civil services, and injuries suffered in its aftermath.

The fall of the Hasina government after sustained protests has been described by many Bangladeshis as the 'Second Independence of Bangladesh', or the birth of a 'New Bangladesh' or 'Notun Bangladesh' (in Bengali).

president. Much of the legacy of 'Bangabandhu' as he was called,

a new nation with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as its first

is under attack at present following the protests, his tower-ing statue in Dhaka toppled on August 5, while his old murals were being defaced across the city. Many of the new murals in the Dhaka University area, mention the date '36 July', a rather quirky coinage by local protesters to describe 'August 5' '36 July We Will Never Forget We Will Never Forgive' —

reads another mural. The protests ran through July month which has 31 days, and the 'victory' was achieved on August 5 with the fall of a 'corrupt and dictatorial government'. But, they wanted to memorialise July, so an extra 'five days' were added symbol-ically to call it 'July 36' (instead of August 5).

SL sets expenditure limits for president election campaign for first time

Colombo (PTI): For the first

head on Sept 27 time, Sri Lanka's upcoming cent. Within days of the prime presidential election on minister's declaration, local September 21 will be subject to following the introduction of dozen possible candidates, with some already announcing their interest in leading a party desperate for public support A younger lawmaker, former Economic Security Minister Takayuki Kobayashi, 49, was the first to announce his candidacy Monday. Others whose names have been floated around as possible candidates include former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, 43, three of the party's female veterans, Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi and former Gender Equality Minister Seiko Noda as well as past runner-ups, Digital Minister Taro Kono as well as former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba who is an all-time favorite among the general public.

AP MELBOURNE AP/PT

ndonesia and Australia on neighbouring nations' ability to operate their militaries in each other's territory. The agreement was reached as Indonesian president-elect Prabowo Subianto, who also serves as defense minister, met with Australian officials at the country's Parliament earlier on Tuesday. The bilateral relationship is becoming increasingly important to Australians in face of growing tensions with China. New Australian prime ministers typically make Jakarta one of their first overseas destinations. The pact will be signed within days, when Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles visits Jakarta. Marles said the successful conclusion of negotiations after two years was significant for both countries' national security. "What this agreement will do is provide for much greater interoperability between our defense forces, it will provide

will see us working together the global commons to support the rules-based order and, Tuesday finalised a new importantly, it will allow us to bilateral defence treaty that will operate from each other's Aarles told untrie

added. With around 275 million peo-

ple

ship".

ple, Indonesia has 10 times the population of Australia, which has fewer than 27 million peo-Subianto

AP TOKYO

Japan's governing

party to choose its

Tanan's ruling narty sai

when Mukti-jodhas and Indian troops fought shoulder-toshoulder against the Pakistani forces resulting in the birth of

Bengal Presidency of undivided India and then as the capi tal of East Pakistan from 1947-1971 after the Partition. Bangladesh was born in 1971

Dhaka or Dacca as it was called during the British rule served

as an important city in the

L surface-to-air missiles in live-fire drills conducted Tuesday in response to growing military pressure from China. The exercises took place at the Jiupeng Military Base in a remote area in southern Taiwan. Among the missiles launched were Taiwan's domestically made Sky Bow III antiballistic missiles along with the US-made Patriot PAC II and surface-to-air Standard missiles.

China claims the democratically ruled island of Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary and ramped up its military threat in recent years. Beijing in particular dislikes Taiwan's new President Lai Ching-te, who took office earlier this year and whom Beijing has called a separatist.

Taipei has boosted its deterrence capabilities in response. Missiles, both domestically built and US-made, are key to its defence strategy

gets. "This shows our training is very strict and solid," he said. Beijing did not immediately react to Taiwan's drill. China sends military jets and vessels near Taiwan frequently in what critics call an intimidation tactic. Taiwan's Defence Ministry said early Tuesday it spotted five Chinese military jets and 11 ships close to its shores over the previous 24 hours. One aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial demarcation zone between the

two sides. While its military is dwarfed by China's, Taiwan has bought high-tech weaponry from the United States, revitalised its domestic arms industry and extended the length of mandatory military service from four months to one year The US is bound by

its own laws to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself and considers all threats to the island as a matter of great concern

reporters.

"And in that sense, this agreement will be the deepest, the most significant agreement that our two countries have ever made," Marles added. Subianto described the agreement as "ironing out some legalistic details" and said that it achieved "great progress" in the two countries' defence cooperation.

Euan Graham, an analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute think tank, questioned the pact's strategic value to Australia

Subianto made clear that Indonesia would remain nonaligned under his leadership, Graham said. This means Indonesia will remain among a group of countries that don't want to be officially aligned with or against any major power bloc such as the United States. "The issue is that Indonesia doesn't share the for much more exercises same threat perception as between our defense forces, it Australia towards China," he

Canberra visit was his first to Australia since he was elected president in February. He noted that Australian Prime

Minister Anthony Albanese was the first foreign leader to congratulate him on his election victory.

'We have had our ups and downs as the political situation and the geopolitical situation of course evolved, but I think we are very happy today to have several decades of very close cooperation," Subianto told reporters and added he was determined to continue "this good neighbour relation-

Albanese said he looked forward to attending the presi-dent's inauguration in October. Albanese was elected prime minister in 2022 while Indonesian President Joko Widodo was in power. 'There is no more important relationship than the relationship between our two great nations," Albanese said.

Tuesday it will hold a vote on September 27 to choose its new leader after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's surprise announcement that he will be stepping down.

The internal election must be held by the end of September, which marks the end of Kishida's three-year term and will only include the party's parliamentarians and its 1.1 million dues-paying members. The winner will be the head of the Liberal Democratic Party and the country's prime minister as the party and its smaller coalition partner control Japan's two-chamber parliament.

Last week, Kishida — who took office in October 2021 said he was bowing out of the race to pave the way for a new leader to form a united LDP to make a fresh start to regain public trust, badly hurt by the party's extensive corruption scandal, causing his support ratings to dip below 20 per

Each candidate needs support from 20 party lawmakers to run which usually requires time to drum up.

the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act in January 2023. According to a gazette notification dated August 16 and published Monday, each candidate is allowed to spend a maximum of Rs 109 per elector for election campaigning activ-ities, totalling Rs 1,868,298,586 (approx USD 5 million) per candidate. The expenditure limit per candidate has been set at 60 per cent of the total amount, while political party secretaries are allowed 40 per cent for their candidate's election campaign activities The parties must submit expen-

diture reports to the Elections Commission within 21 days of the election results being declared, the notification stated Incumbent president Ranil Wickremesinghe, main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and leader of the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna Anura Kumara Dissanavake are

the front runners.

Fire rages at Russian oil depot after drone attack Nine dead after consuming

AP KYIV

 $R_{gled\ on\ Tuesday\ to\ put\ out}^{ussian\ authorities\ strug}$ a massive fire in the southern Rostov region for a third consecutive day after an oil depot was hit by Ukrainian drones as Ukrainian forces push into Russia's Kursk region.

The fire at the depot in the town of Proletarsk burned across an area of 10,000 square meters, according to Russian state news agencies. There are 500 firefighters involved in the operation, and 41 of them already have been hospitalized with injuries, according to the Russian state-owned news agency TASS, citing local officials. Ukraine's Army General Staff claimed responsibility Sunday for attacking the oil depot, which was used to supply the needs of Russia's army, calling it a measure "to undermine the military and economic potential of the Russian Federation." Ukrainian

Volodymyr President Zelenskyy said the daring Kursk incursion has allowed his army to capture a significant number of prisoners who could be used in exchange for captured Ukrainians, expanding on Kyiv's objectives for the mission launched two weeks ago. He earlier said that Ukraine sought to create a buffer zone that might prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border, especially

with long-range artillery, missiles and glide bombs. "Overall, this (Kursk) operation became our largest investment in the process of freeing Ukrainian men and women from Russian captivity," Zelenskyy told diplomats on Monday, according to a state-



number of Russian prisoners in one operation?

Zelenskyy said the Ukrainian army has captured 1,250 square kilometers (480 square miles) and 92 settlements of Russia's Kursk region. Ukraine's incursion into Kursk, the largest attack on Russia since World ment published on Telegram late in the day. "We have already captured the largest actions across the border, as

well as (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's inability to defend his territory, are telling," Zelenskyy said. "Óur proactive defense is the most effective counter to Russian terror, causing significant difficulties for the aggressor." But as he hailed successes in Kursk, his troops face a bleak situation in the Donbas region, where Russia is bearing down on the city of Pokrovsk and forcing Ukrainian forces to pull back and Ukrainian civilians to flee their homes. Russia's relentless six-month

slog across Ukraine's Donetsk region following the capture of Avdiivka has cost Ükraine heavily in troops and armor. Ukrainian defenders have no choice but to pull back from positions blown to pieces by Russian artillery, missiles and bombs. Pokrovsk is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region. Its capture would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the entire Donetsk region. Russia wants control of all

parts of Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk, which together make up the Donbas industrial region.

poisonous food in Pakistan

Karachi (PTI): Nine young people, eight of them siblings, died and one was hospitalised after reportedly eating poisonous food in Pakistan's Sindh province, a media report said nere on Tuesday. The deceased include five sisters and three brothers in the age group four to 18 years.

As soon as the 10-member family and their guest had dinner on Monday night at Haibat Khan Brohi village near Pir-jo-Goth, Khairpur district, they started falling unconscious, the Dawn newspaper said. Their relatives and neighbours rushed them to Kingri Taluka Hospital where three members of the family died and their bodies were returned to the heirs without autopsy as there were no doctors to perform it. Villagers accused

paramedics and nurses of mishandling the victims in the absence of doctors, leading to the deaths of three family members. "Later, others also succumbed to the poison and hence nine siblings had died since last night," the newspaper said quoting the villagers.

The 10th victim, whose condition is unstable, is under treatment at the hospital, they said. The newspaper further quoted Gul Baig Brohi, father of the victims, who said that his daughters and sons had died due to the absence of doctors and mishandling at the taluka hospital. He also corroborated that no postmortem examination was carried out. Area's SHO Ameer Ali Chang said that police have started an investigation of the incident even as a team of food officials from Sukkur took samples of the leftover food eaten by the victims.

5-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED BY SANITATION WORKER

Lahore: A five-year-old girl was raped allegedly by a sanitation worker at a prominent hospital here in the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Tuesday. The heinous incident took place on the third floor of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Monday. According to Lahore police, the sanitation worker, who is in his 20s, was committing the heinous crime, the child's cries caught the attention of nearby patients' attendants who overpowered him and handed him over to police after giving him a sound thrashing.



Sensex rebounds 370 points; bank, finance stocks spurt

Stock market benchmark Dindices Sensex and Nifty found firmer ground on Tuesday, propelled by robust buying in banking, financial and auto stocks amid a largely and auto stocks amid a largely firm trend in global equities.

Besides, easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and falling global crude oil prices further bolstered sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex

rebounded 378.18 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 80,802.86. During the day, the benchmark soared 518.28 points or 0.64 per cent to 80,942.96. Rising for the fourth consecutive day, the NSE Nifty surged 126.20 points or 0.51

per cent to 24,698.85. The domestic market started the session with a strong surge buoyed by positive global sentiment amidst Israel-Hamas ceasefire talks and diminishing US recession fears due to recent favourable data.

easing "Concurrently, geopolitical risks and weak China demand have led to a

decline in crude prices, benefiting the domestic said Vinod Nair, economy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, NTPC, and Sun Pharma

were the major gainers. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Adani Ports, JSW Steel and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE

midcap gauge climbed 0.98 per cent and smallcap index went up by 0.52 per cent.



Among the indices, financial services jumped 1.19 per cent, utilities (1.07 per cent), power (0.80 per cent), IT (0.76 per cent) and auto (0.75 per cent). Capital Goods and FMCG were the laggards. "Meanwhile, inflationary pressure in Japan and the appreciating Yen cautioned the rally. This week's Japan inflation data and FOMC minutes will provide insights into future interest rate trajectories and market trends," Nair said.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

overall Indian gaming industry is expected to almost

double to USD 6 billion by

2028 from USD 3.1 billion in

2023, a joint report by

Interactive Entertainment

and Innovation Council and

online gaming firm Winzo

According to that report, the

companies, including 500

gaming studios. The annual

to 1

has said

projected

European markets were trading with gains. The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday.

"Much of the strength and rally "Much of the strength and rally at Dalal Street is in the backdrop of steady SIP flows by retail investors. Global factors will be keenly watched as local investors would be eyeing the July FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting Market Committee) meeting minutes to be released on Wednesday," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,667.46 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Domestic However,

Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1.802.92 crore.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.72 per cent to USD 77.10 a barrel.

In a range-bound trade, the BSE benchmark on Monday slipped 12.16 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 80,424.68. The NSE Nifty edged up 31.50 points or 0.13 per cent to 24,572.65 in a volatile trade.

Developed countries push to expand contributor base for new climate finance goal

PTI NEW DELHI

s the deadline to agree on a Anew climate finance goal nears, developed nations are pushing to expand the list of countries responsible for contributing funds to help developing countries address change, climate with Switzerland even proposing criteria to broaden the donor

base. Submissions made by some developed countries to the regarding UNFCCC negotiations on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) — the new climate finance goal to be finalised in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November — suggest that wealthy nations might pressure countries with high emissions and high gross national income (GNI) per capita, such as Saudi Arabia, Russia and China, to contribute.

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted 1992. high-income, in industrialised nations (referred to as Annex II countries) are responsible for providing finance and technology to help developing countries combat



and adapt to climate change. as an These countries include the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and (EU) European Union member states such as Germany, France and the UK. Some developed countries, led by the EU and the US, argue that the global economic landscape has changed significantly since 1992.

They suggest that nations the principle of equity. In a submission to the which have become wealthier during this period, like China and some Gulf states, should European Commission said also contribute to the new that the "collective goal can climate finance goal. only be reached if parties with

Developing countries view this high GHG emissions and economic capabilities join the effort".

The US said that while current contributors will continue to support developing countries, other nations with the "capacity to support others in pursuing mitigation and adaptation must also be accountable for delivering on the NCQG's support layer'

'Their contributions will also enable a larger quantum for the support layer of the NCQG," the US said, adding that contributing parties could be identified in various ways through a "definitional approach, a criteria-based approach, a de facto approach, or otherwise".

"We are open to discussing various options. In no event are we considering a large number of new contributing parties," said the US, the world's second-largest GHG

emitter. Switzerland proposed that in addition to developed countries, parties that are among the "10 largest current emitters and have a purchasing power parity-adjusted gross national income per capita of more than USD 22,000" should also contribute to the new climate finance goal.

Note floated to seek distinction between online game of skill, game of chance for FDI: Official

PTI NEW DELHI

The department for promo-tion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has circulated a note seeking views of different ministries on distinguishing between online 'Game of Skill' and 'Game of Chance' for the purpose of FDI, a senior official said.

The official said that a clear distinction between the two is necessary to seek foreign investments as online game of

skill has huge potential. In his address during the 78th Independence Day celebrations here, Minister Narendra Prime Modi called upon Indian professionals to lead the global gaming market and help establish the country as a global leader in the industry. He had emphasised the need for Indian talent to dominate not just in gaming but in game production as well by leveraging the country's rich

cultural heritage. circulated for interministerial discussions to distinguish between the two for the purpose of FDI (foreign direct investment). We need to see how in online gaming, we can make



distinction between 'games of the annual revenue of the skill' and 'games of chance' for the purpose of FDI," the official, who does not wish to be named, said. Certain quarters raise

objections as they relate online gaming with gambling and betting. There are also issues that who would be the final authority to define these things. "We need an Indian gaming industry independent body to assess comprises over 1,400 gaming that," the official said, adding, "in our interpretation, there is no restriction when it comes revenue for gaming Skill hut the fame of

83.79 against US dollar

Rupee rises 8 paise to

PTI MUMBAI

¬he Indian rupee stayed firm for the second straight ses-sion and settled 8 paise higher at 83.79 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, buoyed by positive domestic equity markets, weak American currency and lower crude oil prices.

Forex traders said, foreign outflow, however, fund resisted a sharp rise in the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.86 against the greenback and traded in the range of 83.76 to 83.88. The unit finally settled at 83.79 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 8 from its previous paise closing level.

On Monday, the rupee settled 8 paise higher at 83.87 against the American currency. Anuj Choudhary, Research

Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas said the rupe

sharp gains."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.04 per cent to 101.68. Analysts said the US dollar

declined to a seven-month low on rising odds of a rate cut by the Federal Reserve. "USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of

Rs 83.50 to Rs 84," Choudhary said, adding that concerns over upcoming PMI data from the US and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium later this week may keep investors awaiting for further cues.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.31 per cent to USD 77.42 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 378.18 points, or 0.47 per cent, to 80,802.86 points. The Nifty rose 126.20 points, or per cent to

Abandoning RBI's inflation target regime could be risky, counterproductive: Research paper

to shift

attempt

responsibility from those who

have historically benefited

from industrialisation and

contributed the most to

greenhouse gas emissions.

They argue that expecting

them to contribute, especially

when many are still struggling

with poverty and inadequate

infrastructure amid worsening

climate impacts, undermines

UNFCCC last week, the

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) inflation targeting regime has worked well and need not be abandoned in favour of a more discretionary regime that could be risky and counterproductive, a new

research paper has said. The paper titled 'Inflation Targeting In India: A Further Assessment' said the weight of food-price inflation in the CPI inflation basket should be reduced to better reflect the circumstances of Indian households.

"The RBI's inflation targeting regime has worked well. Given this record, radical changes such as broadening its mandate or abandoning the target in favour of a more discretionary regime would be risky and counterproductive," it said.

The paper is authored by economists Barry Eichengreen (University of California, Berkeley) and Poonam Gupta (NCAFR)



tweaked to improve performance," it suggested. The government and the RBI signed an inflation-targeting agreement in February 2015 and amended the RBI Act in May 2016.

The inflation target was set by the government in consultation with the RBI with the possibility of revisiting it

after five years. Accordingly, the government announced, via the Official Gazette, 4 per cent Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation as the target from August 5, 2016, with an upper tolerance limit nt and a lower limit of 6 per ce

on almost all counts, it has

of 2 per cent.

"It has been only once that inflation exceeded the upper tolerance band of 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters (during January 2022-September 2022)," the paper said.

According to the paper, evidence points to improved outcomes during inflation

targeting. "Inflation is lower and less volatile; inflation expectations are better anchored, and the transmission of monetary policy is more effective," it

problem is who will define Game of Skill." Online gaming as an industry is evolving and has expanded across horizons. India is the fastest growing mobile gaming market and

be levied at face value of entry level bets placed on gaming platforms and casinos.

6 billion by 2028. The GST Council last year decided that 28 per cent GST the highest levels in nearly two and a half weeks on a weak US dollar and positive (Goods and Services Tax) will domestic markets.

is

"A decline in crude oil prices also supported the rupee. However, FII outflows capped

points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday, offloading shares worth Rs 2,667.46 crore, according to exchange data.

In contrast, the paper noted that the 4 per cent point target, +/-2 per centage point tolerance band and focus on headline inflation remain broadly appropriate.

"That said, the regime can be performed as envisaged.

Recently, Chief Economic Adviso Nageswaran had pitched for excluding food inflation from the rate setting calls, saying For most part, the paper pointed out that targets set under the inflation-targeting agreement have been met; and

said.

that the monetary policy has no bearing on the prices of food items, which are dictated by supply side pressures.

registrations issued

under India Handloom

Brand so far: Govt

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Almost 2,000

India a priority market; seeing digital demand across new sectors: Adobe

PTI NEW DELHI

India is a high-performing market for Adobe in Asia-Pacific region and among the fastest-growing globally, Adobe India Vice-President and Managing Director, Prativa Mohapatra has said, adding that momentum on productivity, creativity and personalisation are driving digital opportunities across new sectors. In an interview to PTI, Mohapatra said India is a big innovation hub and a "great

market" for Adobe. "Adobe in India is a microcosm of Adobe as a whole... Today we have research, we have products and the market ... And it is the second-largest base for Adobe, beyond the US," Mohapatra said, asserting that the company's focus on talent and infrastructure investments in the country, continue.

Artificial Describing Intelligence as "very transformative technology", she said the company is of the firm belief that AI has to be "responsible".

"Technologies that are transformative have to be dealt with very really responsibly," Mohapatra said, pointing out that the company operates within AIframework ethics of accountability, responsibility, and transparency.



The power of digital has turned every business into a business" "technology irrespective of the sector they operate in, she further said. "We as Adobe, and India in particular, are in space where are focused on we productivity, creativity and experience, and that is where

the opportunity lies. The opportunity is how do we make everyone creative, how do we bring productivity across business and people, and how do we upgrade personalised experiences for every customer," Mohapatra said.

AI-driven growth, and new unleash the power

Personalisation is here," she said

technology

and

For three consecutive years now, India has been the bestperforming market in the Asia Pacific region for Adobe India and one of the fastestgrowing markets globally, she said.

"So that is really a great place to be in, and demand continues to be across sectors. "A couple of years back, the demand was in sectors like banking and financial services, and in travel and transportation... These transportation... consumer-driven industries were early adopters of our technology... The good news is that B2B sectors are now adopting digital... Growth is

Businesses are experiencing experiential age expanding and we are unlocking new sectors," she technologies are set to of personalisation. "In terms of evolution, the era the government's sharp focus experience... on

digitisation have also opened up opportunities in areas such as citizen services and egovernance.

"I am sure that with all the focus that the government has on technology, there will be lot of opportunities in that space in reaching out to citizens, bringing e-governance and productivity at scale, Mohapatra said.

Organisations have started acknowledging the power of digital in driving business momentum, she said.

"We are tracking where can digital 'use cases' become real... New ways of digital use are emerging, say, in how you buy your new car, or how you experience a new washing machine," she said.

Smaller cities and towns are offering massive runway for growth.

^eTier 2-3 cities are emerging as growth drivers, as tech companies are going into these markets. Also, there are skills available in smaller cities, and accordingly a lot of growth potential.

^wEven the government is talking about skill-building and that is another big positive we are seeing in the market

At the same time policy frameworks are getting more and more user-friendly, and organisation-friendly," Mohapatra said on the business drivers.

Indian firms to spend USD 45-50 bn in capex over 1-2 years, RIL to lead: Moody's

PTI NEW DELHI

Moody's Ratings on Tuesday said rated Indian compa-nies will spend USD 45-50 billion annually over the next 1-2 years towards capex as companies boost capacity, with the country's most valued firm Reliance Industries alone accounting for 30 per cent of the spendings. Investments to increase

vertical integration and achieve net zero targets will also keep spending high, Moody's Ratings said in a report on corporates in India

and Indonesia. "Rated Indian companies' capex will remain elevated at around USD 45-50 billion annually over the next one to two years. With an annual capex budget of around USD 15 billion spread across its reserves different business segments, Reliance Industries alone will account for around 30 per cent of the portfolio capex, Moody's Ratings said.

The oil and gas sector and Reliance Industries will collectively account for over 60 per cent of the rated Indian portfolio's spending over the

next couple of years. Moody's said the seven rated oil and gas companies in India will also account for around 30 per cent of rated Indian

companies' capex. These companies will spend around USD 15 billion annually to expand existing capacity and make green



among emerging economies in the region outside of China. India's GDP is projected to For instance, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (Baa3 stable) and Indian Oil will spend USD 6 billion and USD grow at over 6 per cent over the next two years, Moody's 4 billion, respectively, in each said, adding domestic demand will be the main driving force of the next two years on addition, behind India's growth.

carbon transition risk.

downstream integration and The large proportion of energy transition, Moody's domestic consumption in added. It also said strong India has and will continue to earnings will continue to keep insulate the rated companies the leverage of Indian corporates low, even as companies push ahead with from external shocks. In addition, as urbanisation accelerates across the country, sustained government spending on infrastructure capital spending plans in response to consumption growth and as offshore will stimulate borrowing rates remain high. activities across key industrial Moody's said credit quality sectors, Moody's said. India's economy is well diversified across services and manufacturing. India's large will remain robust for companies in India and

Indonesia. domestic market helps to shelter the country from India and Indonesia are the two largest emerging market economies in Asia excluding fluctuations in external China. These two G-20 countries have the highest demand, Moody's said, adding it expects leverage for rated capacity and make green number of rated companies energy investments to reduce and volume of rated debt companies in India remain low.

Abeen issued under the 'India Handloom' Brand for 184 product categories, the government said on Tuesday. The 'India Handloom' Brand was launched on August 7, 2015, on the occasion of the National Handloom Day, to brand high-quality handloom products with zero defects and no ill-effects on the environment.

"Since the launch of the "India Handloom" Brand, 1,998 registrations have been issued under 184 product categories," the Ministry of Textiles said.

The government has undertaken various measures for promoting the handloom sector. To provide end-to-end support for promotion of the sector and welfare of handloom workers, the Ministry of Textiles is implementing the National Handloom Development Programme and Raw Material Supply Scheme across the country, it said. Under the NHD Programme, financial assistance is provided eligible handloom to organisations/workers upgraded looms accessories, solar lighting units,

business

will

for and construction of workshed, product and design development, technical and common infrastructure, marketing of handloom products in domestic/overseas markets, etc.



SPORTS LIFE IS A BEAUTIFUL LIFE: MANU TELLS STUDENTS

risscrossing the country since returning from Paris with two historic Olympic medals, ace shooter Manu Bhaker was in the southern metropolis on Tuesday, exhorting students to try making a career out of sports as it offers "a beautiful life".

Manu, 22, scripted history in Paris by becoming the first Indian athlete post Independence to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics, more than making up for her forgettable games debut in Tokyo three years ago.

"My journey, coming from the Tokyo Olympics, it was very difficult for me to be confident again. I was world number two, but I did not do good in it," a garlanded Manu said after being felicitated by the Velammal Nexus School here. "I know the taste of losing and then winning. It's the beauty of sports. One competition you lose, and you can win the other. But, it would only happen if you put in hard work."

Urging young students to take up sports as career options, Manu emphasised on "dreaming big" and "hard work".

"To achieve the goal, we must put in a lot of hard work and effort. It doesn't always start



with aiming for something big, you also have to work to achieve it.

sports 11

top competitions across the world. Reflecting on her

journey, the champion shooter

said she has learnt a lot in the last few years and urged the

youngsters to never shy away from learning new things. "I have had eight and a half years in my shooting career. I have travelled almost half of

the world. I have seen different kinds of people and cultures,

their backgrounds and struggles, and also known

'We should never be ashamed

of where we come from -- the

cultural background. You

should carry it with pride, and

you should be proud of

yourself, how far you have

come, and you have a long way

"I never knew English, how to talk to people, and many other things I never knew. But, I

"People helped me to learn different things. You can

always approach a teacher or

your parents to learn something new. You can always ask somebody to teach

you." Manu also asked the

students to not give up after

"Do not give up on any small

setbacks that you face. If you

do not win a competition or

do not perform well in an

exam, do not give up, but hold

yourself together, get back up

their journeys.

taught myself.

facing setbacks.

to go.

achieve it. "If you can dream big, you can achieve big. So, always start by dreaming big. "I always tell myself that no matter if I win or lose in any competition, I'll always be very confident and hold very confident and hold myself high and together, and be very confident.

"We have many career options. You don't have to become a doctor or an engineer. Sports life is a beautiful life. From financial support to any kind of it, you get everything in mental support sports," she asserted.

Manu, who won a bronze each in the women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event -- where she had paired with Sarabjot Singh -- weighed in on the role of her parents in inspiring her.

"My inspiration came from my mother. She made me the way I am today. She told me to take inspiration, but not to become like anyone else. Without parents' support, a child cannot do much," Manu said. "My shooting career and journey started at my school. In any sporting career, the beginning happens first from home, and then from school. All the parents and teachers play a very significant role in what you become and what you do with your life?

In her career so far. Manu has and keep going on," she signed won innumerable medals in off.

SINQUEFIELD CUP Gukesh holds Ding Liren, Praggnanandhaa draws with Abdusattorov

PTI SAINT LOUIS (USA)

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh held reigning world champion Ding Liren of China to a draw in a highly anticipated contest in the first round of the Sinquefield Cup chess tournament here. The clash resembled more of a shadow boxing match than a genuine contest, as both Gukesh, the World the Championship challenger, and Liren avoided revealing their true preparations for their upcoming World Championship battle later World this year.

The Italian opening met with some usual response and Liren's attempt to complicate

matters through a king side attack met with a cold-water

treatment. In the end, the Chinese decided to end the game through perpetual checks after sacrificing a Bishop and a rook.

After a rather disappointing show in the Saint Louis rapid and blitz tournament where he finished last, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa made some amends taking a draw with Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in his opening game.

was hardly any There recovery time for Praggnanandhaa but it seems that the young gun has moved on from the last

from Petroff defense Praggananandhaa faced the Abdusattorov and could do

little as the queens got traded in the early middle game. The remainder was a position wherein neither players could push for more and drew the game in just 36 moves.

Alireza Firouzja of France continued from where he left in the Saint Louis Rapid and blitz tournament and defeated American Fabiano Caruana in what was an important contest for the Grand Chess tour ranking. Leading over Caruana after a fantastic show that netted him the winner's trophy in the rapid and blitz that ended just a couple of days back, Firouzja is now a firm favourite to win the crown from Caruana in the overall

rankings on the tour that had five tournaments this year. There are eight more rounds to come int eh ten player round double robin tournament that has a total prize pool of USD 350000 apart from the Grand Chess tour bonus prize fund of

USD 175000. USD 175000. Results round 1: Fabiano Caruana (Usa) lost to Alireza Firouzja (Fra); 2. Wesley So (Usa) drew with Anish Giri (ned); Ding Liren (Chn) drew with D Gukesh (Ind); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fid) drew with Maxime Vachier. drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) R Praggnanandhaa (Ind) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) 16.



Bumrah has been best multi-format bowler for last 5-6 years: Ponting

PTI DUBAI

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been the best multi-format bowler last five or six years reckons former Australia captain Ricky Ponting. Ponting said that there might have been a few concerns over Bumrah's longevity but he has only returned stronger from injuries. "I've said it for a long time, he's probably been the best multi-format bowler there's been in world cricket for the last five or six years," Ponting said on the ICC review. "There might have been some fears a couple of years ago when the injuries come in and 'would he come back the same?', but I think he's actually come back better," he added "The greatest way to always get a real gauge on these players is by asking (other) players. And when you talk to opposition batsmen about him (Bumrah) in particular, it's always, 'No, he's a

nightmare! You never know what's going to happen. "One's going to swing, one's going to seam, he's going to bowl an in-swinger, he's going to howl an out-swine

T20 World Cup: New York's notorious Dhruv Chavan crowned

Polo Cup champion

PTI CHENNAI

Mumbai's Dhruv Chavan edged out Aditya Patnaik to emerge champion in the Polo Cup India 2024 racing event here on Tuesday. Dhruv (183 points) pipped Aditya (170 points) to the post to take the title by a mere four points. Oias Surve

mere four points. Ojas Surve settled for the third position with 159 points.

Aditya jumped into the lead, winning Race 1 at the Madras International Circuit.

But Dhruv took the next race to catch up with him. In round 2, Aditya made a strong statement by winning the first race.

However, Dhruv was more consistent, securing crucial

points in rest of the races in the round to bag the title. Romir Arya was crowned the Best Rookie of the

the won Championship.



season while Munjal Savla United States. Master

between between Sri Lanka

drop-in pitches get six satisfactory ratings

PTI 🗖 DUBAI

event.

The ICC match referees have gone soft on the much-maligned pitches used for the New York leg of the T20 World Cup with six of the eight games, including the India versus Pakistan contest, getting a "satisfactory" rating referee. After a rather long delay, the ICC published the pitch ratings on its website on Tuesday. The tournament, won by India, was played from June 1 to 29. getting a "satisfactory" rating. Only two games at the makeshift Nassau County All eight games in New York ended up being low-scoring affairs, drawing scathing Cricket Stadium, including criticism from experts and fans during and after the ICC India's opening fixture against Ireland, have got an "unsatisfactory" rating from

event. The cricket on display in New the game's governing body which remains bullish on York was not the best advert for a sport trying to make its presence felt ahead of the promoting cricket in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, The surface used for the game where it will make its debut.

India played three games in

and South Africa also got New York while their match match referees for the games thumbs down from the match against Canada in Fort in New York. Lauderhill was washed out.

The drop-in tracks prepared in Adelaide by curator Damian Hough and transported to New York proved to be underprepared with hardly any testing done before the opening game between South Africa and Sri Lanka.

The surface came under fire for its unpredictable bounce and sluggish outfield throughout the tournament. For the eight games in New York, the average first innings score was 107.6.

Ranjan Madugalle, David Boon, Jeff Crowe and Richie Richardson were the four in Ahmedabad.

The pitch for India's Super 8 game against Afghanistan in Barbados was rated "satisfactory" with only the final match's strip being deemed "very good". Out of the 52 games staged in the competition, only three "unsatisfactory" and the third one being the semi-final between Afghanistan and South Africa in Trinidad, where the former was bowled out for 56. Last year, the ICC had given

"average" rating to the surface for the ODI World Cup final between India and Australia

PTI KATHMANDU

Coming off a fighting 1-0 Win over Bhutan, the Indian team will need to work on its finishing in the upcom-ing matches of the SAFF U20 Championship, head coach Ranjan Chaudhuri reckoned

on Ťuesday. Having beaten their Himalayan neighbours 1-0 in their opening match, India have provisionally taken the top spot in Group B with three

points. While Chaudhuri was full of praise for his boys who managed to hold on to the lead against Bhutan despite being down to nine men, he also pointed out how India still need to improve while going forward.

"The way our boys fought after the two red cards is indeed commendable. It's not easy to set a stable formation with nine players, but they managed to hold fort. It speaks a great deal about their character," said Chaudhuri. "Not only did they hold fort,

India need to hone finishing skills after Bhutan triumph: Head coach



but they also broke through Bhutan's defence a few times. Finishing is perhaps the one area we have to

With a three-day gap before their next match against Maldives on August 23, the Blue Colts could manage to squeeze some rest and recovery into their packed sched-

Chaudhuri said, "We are playing on artificial turfs, which do tend to take a toll on the body, so we have planned to have a recovery session today (Tuesday, 20). August We had initially planned for a pool session, but the rain and the relatively cooler weather here in Nepal made

Hence we went ahead with light stretching.

We plan to put in two productive training sessions in the next couple of days before

we play Maldives." With three points on board, the India U20s will have one eye on the next Group B match between Bhutan and Maldives on Wednesday, where a victory for the latter would secure a spot in the semi-finals for the Blue Colts. "I'm watching all the matches in this tournament, and I will definitely be watching that one.

A lot depends on how that match goes," he said.

"We are also going to dissect our match and try to rectify our mistakes from it? us reconsider those plans. Midfielder Manjot Singh

continued.

With 15 wickets in the T20 World Cup, Bumrah played a

World Cup, Bumrah played a pivotal role in India's title triumph and Ponting heaped praise on the 30-year-old. "If I watch what he did in the T20 World Cup - the pace is still there, there's nothing that's changed with the accuracy or what he can deliver," Ponting said. "The skillset is all the same

"The skillset is all the same. He's getting better year on year. He would rank right up there.

"When you've got that skillset and the consistency that he has, then you're going to be a great player. Look at (Glenn) Anderson, these guys, their longevity and their skills being able to hold up for such a long period of time is what separates them from the rest." separates them from the rest," Ponting added.

Dhami was in agreement with his coach, and felt that the team could only improve from here on.

"We can play much better than what we did, and we must show that in our next game. We must work on our combination and communication. But I feel the more matches we play here, the better we will get," said Dhami.

"This is the competition phase, after all. It's all about what attitude we approach these games with."

As India prepare for the next match against Maldives, two of their players, Pramveer and Vanlalpeka Guite will be suspended after being sent off gainst Bhutan. However, the Blue Colts head coach is not overwhelmed by the situation. 'Yes, we will have to replace them in our next match, but the boys are all ready. Those players who started from the bench are equally good, and now it's an opportunity for the others to fight for those two spots," he said.



Samoan batter Visser sets new **T20I record with 39-run over**



PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

¬ amoa middle-order Sbatter Darius Visser on Tuesday set a new world record for most runs in an over in T20Is, accumulating 39 against Vanuatu in the World Cup East Asia-Pacific Region Qualifier in the capital city of Apia. Visser hammered pacer Nalin

Nipiko for six sixes in an over shade over 160 kmph. that also included three no balls.

His big-hitting ability was evident in his knock against The 28-year-old right-handed batter, who learned the ropes Vanuatu -- 132 off 62 balls in Sydney grade cricket, was with five fours and 14 sixes. playing in only his third T20I, "It was clean hitting (by Visser). We did not know it and comes with the reputation of being a genuine was a world record, and later power-hitter, who once it was mentioned during the topped the shot-speed session innings break. by Hype Cricket Academy in "But happy for him, and and they were Stuart Broad

the semifinals.

happy that we managed a win. Looking forward to the next match," Samoa skipper Jasmat Caleb replied to a PTI query. Samoa will face bitter rivals Fiji in their next EAP Qualifier on match Wednesday.

Previously, there were five occasions when a bowler conceded 36 runs in an over

Akila Dananjaya (2007).(2021), Karim Jannat (2024), Kamran Khan (2024) and Azmatullah Omarzai (2024). Broad conceded six sixes in as many balls against Yuvraj Singh of India in the 2007 T20 World Cup, while Windies batsman Kieron Pollard batsman achieved the feat against Dananjaya during a bilateral T20I at Coolidge, Antigua.

Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee creamed sixes off Qatar's Kamran Khan in the ACC Premier Cup, while Windies' Nicholas Pooran hit Afghanistan pacer Azmatullah Omarzai for six sixes during the T20 World Cup this June at Gros Islet. Rohit Sharma and Rinku Singh combined to take 36 runs off Afghanistan pacer Karim Janat at Bengaluru during a bilateral T20I that India won in the first-ever

second Super Over. Along with joining these big names, Visser, who also dabbles in coaching in Australia when he does not have international commitments, made another piece of history as his century was the first by a Samoan batter in T20Is.

The knock guided the side to a competitive 174 all out. The next highest score in Samoa innings was 16 by Jasmat, and it underlined the value of his knock. In reply, Vanuatu gave a strong chase but ended up at 164 for nine, losing the match by 10 runs. Opener Nipiko nearly amended his waywardness with the ball with a 73 off 52 balls with six fours and three sixes.

He had good support from skipper Joshua Rasu (23 off 14 balls) and Tim Cutler (21 off 11 balls) but Vanuatu fell short.



Bhushan's T-Series announces a biopic on Indian cricketer Yuvraj

PTI MUMBAI

An upcoming biographical movie will chronicle the inspiring inc will chronicle the inspiring journey of former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh, the makers announced Tuesday. The yet-to-be-titled biopic will be produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and co-produced by Ravi Bhagchandka, known for "Sachin: A Billion Dreams" and the upcoming Aamir Khanupcoming Aamir Khan-starrer "Sitaare Zameen Par".

Par. The film is touted as a "grand celebration of Singh's unparalleled journey and contributions to cricket, capturing the essence of his career, unforgettable six sixes in the 2007 T20 World Cup, his courageous off-field battles and his subsequent return to cricket in 2012" return to cricket in 2012",

a press release said. Singh, who began his career at the age of 13, said he is hoping his life story will inspire people to overcome challenges.

"I'm deeply honoured that my story will be showcased to millions of my fans across the globe the director and cast.

route to her 15th WTA title.

She had never gotten past the semifinals at Cincinnati, losing

The 26-year-old Sabalenka can

now be considered a favorite at

the US Open. The Belarusian

missed Wimbledon with a

shoulder injury, then returned to the tour at Washington two

"I would say that I'm really

great

"Probably not the best tennis I

tennis,"

three times in that round.

by Bhushan and Ravi. Cricket has been my greatest love and source of strength through all the highs and lows. I hope this film inspires others to overcome their own challenges and pursue their dreams with unwavering passion," the former India all-rounder said. Kumar, known for backing

blockbuster films such as "Drishyam 2", "Animal", "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2", 'Kabir Singh" and 'Tanhaji: The Unsung "Kabir Warrior", said he is excited to bring out the inspiring journey of Singh on the big screen.

"Yuvraj Singh's life is a compelling narrative of resilience, triumph, and passion. His journey from a promising cricketer to a cricketing hero, and then to a hero in real life, is

truly inspiring. "I'm thrilled to bring a story that needs to be told and heard through the big screen and to celebrate his extraordinary achievements," he said.



matches) at the league stage and the top four teams in the points table to qualify for the semi-finals," the organisers

said in a release on Tuesday. A total of seven franchises, PBG Pune Jaguars, Bengal Wizards, Punjab Patriots, Hyderabad Strikers, Gujarat Panthers, Mumbai Leon Army and defending champions Bengaluru SG Pipers will vie for top honours. In order to discover and It connects the tennis

monitor young players, the community across India and organisers said TPL has tied allows them to compete with up with Gujarat State Tennis each other and helps the Association (GSTA), Delhi tennis players to track their Lawn Tennis Association progress," it added.

(DLTA) and Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) for conducting district ranking tournaments apart from introducing their own mobile

app. "Over 100 academies have been affiliated with TPL app from various regions of India.

Nagal, Gaston to feature in 6th Tennis Premier League in Mumbai from Dec 3-8 PTI MUMBAI Cricket Club of India. The tournament will be

Ace Indian player Sumit Nagal and France's Hugo Gaston will be the main attractions in the men's category of the sixth Tennis Premier League to be held here from December 3-8. Poland's Magda Linette, who is ranked 41st in the world, and Armenia's world No 52 Avanesyan, will Elina headline the women's points. category in the tournament "Each team will play a total of which will be held at the 500 points (100 points x 5

AP LECCE (ITALY)

Debutants

grab goals

for Juventus

debutants in Italy's Serie A as new faces at Juventus and Atalanta gave their teams a winning start to the league season.

New Juventus coach Thiago Motta surprised fans by handing a debut to youth academy graduate Samuel Mbangula on Monday and the 20-year-old winger responded by scoring the opening goal in

a 3-0 win over Como. Mbangula cut in from the left in the 23rd minute and slotted a low drive into the far corner to give Juventus the lead. US international Timothy Weah scored the second for the Turin club when he smashed a shot in off the underside of the bar just before halftime. It was the American's first league goal for

the club. Andrea Cambiaso added a third in injury time to pad the scoreline in Cesc Fàbregas first league game in charge of Como since taking over as head coach this offseason.

Atalanta routs Lecce

New signings Mateo Retegui and Marco Brescianini both scored twice as Atalanta routed Lecce 4-0 in a blistering

start to its campaign. Brescianini joined last season's Europa League winners from Frosinone just three days ago and Retegui was signed last week from Genoa.

Brescianini got the opener when the midfielder pounced on a parried save by goalkeeper Wladimiro goalkeeper Falcone after 35 minutes and doubled then Retegui Atalanta's lead with a powerful header on the stroke of halftime.

Retegui got the third from the penalty spot 12 minutes into the second period and then Brescianini took advantage of gaping holes in the Lecce defence to make it four after 65 minutes.

The result means the Bergamo club sits top of the Serie A table on goal difference after one round.

It was a good day for debutants in Italy's Serie A as new faces at Juventus and Injured Messi out of Argentina's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Chile, Colombia

each category carrying 25

AP BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA)

Lionel Messi will not play Cup qualifiers World because of injury.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni announced his 28man squad on Monday for the matches against Chile on September 5 and Colombia five days later.

Messi is still recovering from a right ankle injury. The 36-year-old Ángel Di María, who retired from the

national team after winning the recent Copa America, is not on the list either. Romero World Cup champion Argentina leads South American qualifying with 15 points after six matches. Lisandro

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Walter Benítez (PSV Eindhoven), Gerónimo Rulli (Olympique Marseille), Juan Musso (Atalanta), Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa).

Defenders: Gonzalo Montiel Alexis (Sevilla), Nahuel Molina (Liverpool), Enzo Fernández

(Atletico Madrid), Cristian (Chelsea), Giovani Lo Celso (Tottenham), Ezequiel Fernández (Al Qadisiya), Ezequiel Rodrigo de Paul (Atletico Madrid), Nico González (Fiorentina).

Alejandro (Manchester Forwards: Garnacho (Olympique Lyon), Valentín United), Leandro Paredes (Roma), Guido (Olympique

Top-ranked Jannik and women's number 2 Aryna win titles in Cincinnati

AP MASON (US)

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner and women's No. 2 Ayrna Sabalenka earned straight-set victories in the finals of the Cincinnati Open, the first titles at the tournament for both players. Sabalenka on Monday defeated

Jessica Pegula 6-3 7-5 for her first title since the Australian

Open in January. Sinner, who turned 23 on Friday, beat American Frances Tiafoe 7-6(4) 6-2 to become the youngest Cincinnati champion since 21-year-old Andy Murray won in 2008. "I'm very happy to be in the position where I am," Sinner

said "I'm just trying to keep going this way mentally. It's important to recover to be ready for New York. That's the most important thing." The US Open begins on August 26 in New York.

Sinner and Tiafoe were both playing in their first Cincinnati finals with their previous best results being the third round.

errors led to a 7-6 defeat. Sinner had a 5-1 lead in the second before Tiafoe saved three match points to make it 5-2 before Sinner was able to serve out for the win.

Tiafoe had a less conventional path to the final. He won the first set in the quarterfinals on Saturday before Hubert Hurkacz retired with a calf injury then saved two match points to defeat Holger Rune in

three sets in the semis. An American man hasn't won the title in Cincinnati since Andy Roddick in 2006.

can play but I'm definitely getting there. Hopefully at the US Open I can reach even higher levels" Sabalenka moved up a spot to

17 minutes to build a 4-1 lead in the first set. Pegula, who double-faulted five times, broke serve for the first time to tie the second set at 5-all, but Sabalenka won the next two games to finish off the 1-hour, 14-minute match.

"She was playing at a high level and never really came down," Pegula said.

When she's serving really well, it's tough, especially on these fast courts."

The sixth-ranked Pegula had a challenging road to the final. After defending her title at Toronto, the American played two matches on Friday because of weather-related

postponements and had three matches go three sets. Her time on the court exceeded Sabalenka's by more than two hours entering the final.

"I'm proving to myself that I can play a lot of matches and overcome a lot of challenges," Pegula said.

"I'm looking forward to not doing anything for a few days." Sabalenka joined top-ranked Iga Swiatek as the only players with 10 or more WTA titles since 2020.

Rodríguez (West Ham), Alexis Mac Allister Tiafoe forced a tiebreak in the first set, but three straight No. 2 in the rankings before the match, then didn't lose a set en higher levels." Allister Against Pegula, Sabalenka took Castellanos (Lazio). Vardy scores on PL return as Leicester holds Tottenham to 1-1 draw

PTI LEICESTER (ENGLAND)

Tamie Vardy still knows how to score in the Premier League. The 37-year-old striker rescued a point for Leicester in its return to the Premier League on Monday by

(Manchester

Midfielders:

Barco (Brighton).

Nicolás

heading home a second-half equaliser in a 1-1 draw against Tottenham, which had largely dominated the first half.

Tottenham had plenty of opportunities to build a bigger lead but new signing Dominic Solanke was among those guilty of missing chances. Instead it was Spanish defender Porro who made Pedro

Tottenham's early superiority count after 29 minutes when he got between two Leicester defenders to head James Maddison's cross into the net at the far post.

But Vardy, who was key to Leicester's stunning Premier League title win in 2016 and has remained with the club since then, was left unmarked to head home an equaliser.

A corner count of 9-0 gave some indication of Spurs' dominance in the first half but Vardy's goal changed the game completely. Steve Cooper's team suddenly looked a lot livelier and both



teams had chances to win in a Postecoglou said. "We need to be busy last half hour.

weeks ago.

playing

Sabalenka said.

Tottenham are a really good team but we gave them too much respect, and we started getting after them and it changed the momentum," Vardy told Sky Sports.

Sports. disappointing. Vardy spurned a good chance in the 70th minute when he was able to run clear on goal but his low shot was saved by Guglielmo Vicario. At the other end, Richarlison sent a header wide deen into injury time with the last deep into injury time with the last chance of the match.

"It is a disappointing night for us," Tottenham manager Ange communicating.

more ruthless in front of goal. We were that dominant, we should have been well away from the opposition. To be that wasteful tonight when we had so much of the ball and territory, it is disappointing."

The Uruguayan received oxygen and taken off on a stretcher, but Postecoglou said he was "conscious and



(Tottenham), Germán Pezzena Plate), Leonardo Balerdi Olympique Marseille), Germán Pezzella (River (Olympique Marseille), Nicolás Otamendi (Benfica), Martínez United), Tagliafico

Matías Soulé (Roma), Giuliano Simeone, Julián Álvarez both (Atletico Madrid), Valentín Carboni Marseille), Lautaro Martínez (Inter Milan) and Valentín