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Modi vows to rebuild ruined Wayanad Two jawans martyred in gunfight with terrorists





Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with officials during inspection of the landslide-affected areas, in Wayanad, on Saturday. MoS Suresh Gopi is also seen the PM (R) interacts with a child survivor at AWS Hospital in Wayanad

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

In a heart-touching show of solidarity and camaraderie, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday assured the people and the Government of Kerala that the entire nation and the Union Government stand by the State in its efforts to rebuild the Wayanad areas devastated by the recent landslides and deluge.

"Money will not be a problem for the reconstruction and work in rehabilitation Wayanad. We have to stand by the youth who have lost everything and help them realise their dreams," said

Speaking to the people of Kerala after a whirlwind tour and aerial survey of the regions devastated in the monstrous landslides and flashfloods that claimed more than 400 lives and destroyed hundreds of houses, the Prime Minister asked the State Government to prepare a detailed report about the number of houses destroyed in the nature's fury and what the State Government was planning to do for the construction of a new and safe township in place of the area devastated in the natural calamity.

He recalled his experience as scheme.

a volunteer in the rescue and rehabilitation team during the 1979 Machchu Morb dam disaster in which more than 2,000 lives were lost. He asked the medical doctors

attending to the survivors to

counsel them and those who

lost their near and dear ones in the tragedy. All that Government has to do is to submit a detailed report about the losses suffered by

the people, the scale of fatalities and destruction in the region as also a comprehensive plan by the Kerala Government about the proposed resettlement Earlier, the Prime Minister made on-the-spot assessment of the destruction and interacted with the soldiers of the Indian Army and the National Disaster Rescue Team who led the rescue operations in Mundakkal,

Punchirimattam Churalmala

regions which bore the brunt

of the nature's fury. He also visited various hospitals in the district where the injured are undergoing treatment, interacted with them and enquired about their wellbeing.
"The Prime Minister asked

me about my health and assured of all possible help from the Government. His

words were soothing and reassuring," said Arun, a youth who had a miraculous escape from certain death after he was taken out from underneath tonnes of mud, soil and rocks fallen on him during the landslide.

Modi was accompanied by Governor Mohammed Arif Khan, Union Minister of State for Tourism Suresh Gopi, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and senior IAS and IPS officers of the State.

It was clear from the body language of the Prime Minister that he was moved by the stories recounted by the victims who had lost their loved ones, houses and sources of life.

Since Friday evening, the Kerala media was agog with reports that the Centre was likely to offer ₹2,000 crore comprehensive rehabilitation that includes package construction of a safe and

secure township. A grim-faced Vijayan, who accompanied the Prime Minister throughout the aerial survey and interaction with the victims, did not speak anything other than reminding Modi that the State was waiting for the ₹2,000 crore which the Centre must allocate. The basis of the ₹2,000-crore package demand has been explained neither by the Chief Minister nor the Chief Secretary Venu.

Continued on Page 2 | general area

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

least two Army At least two were personnel, who were critically injured during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, succumbed to their injuries late Saturday evening.

Three other injured soldiers have been rushed to the hospital. The Indian Army is yet to confirm the fatalities. However, agency reports claimed two soldiers succumbed to their injuries while three others also injured in the ongoing operation are undergoing treatment. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Ahlan Gagarmandu in the Kokernag area of the south Kashmir district following information about the presence of

The gunfight broke out after the terrorists opened fire at the search party personnel, who retaliated, the officials said.

terrorists there.

The site of encounter was located deep inside the forests, around 10 kms from the nearest motorable road. In the exchange of fire, two Army personnel were injured. "Based on specific intelligence input, a Joint Operation was launched by Indian @ImuKmrPolice

@crpf_srinagar today in the Kokernag, **FILE PHOTO**

Contact established and a firefight ensued," Srinagar-based Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Indian Army said in a post on X. Two personnel have been

injured and evacuated from the area," it said. Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released sketches of four dreaded Pakistani terrorists

who were last spotted near dhoks (temporary mud houses) in the upper reaches of Malhar, Bani and Seojdhar forests of Kathua district. The sketches were released almost a month after a group of terrorists ambushed two

vehicles of the Indian Army in which five soldiers were killed in action and five others received injuries in the Machhedi area of Basohli in Kathua district on July 8. Since then the security forces

have launched massive search operations in the area to flush out these terrorists hiding in the area. So far no major success has been achieved in the ongoing operations.

On Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir police announced a cash reward of ₹20 lakh for credible information about the these of whereabouts terrorists. In a post on X, J-K Police released sketches of four terrorists who were last seen in 'dhoks' of Malhar, Bani and Seoidhar forests in the upper reaches of the district. ..a reward of Rs 5 lakhs (has been announced) on each terrorist for actionable information. Anyone with credible information on terrorists will also be suitably rewarded," Kathua police said

in its post. Continued on Page 2

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Bangladesh Chief Justice forced to resign

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan on Saturday tendered resignation, five days after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime amid massive street protests and students marching towards the apex court demanding a revamp of the

The 65-year-old top judge revealed his decision around 1 pm after protesters of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement gathered at the apex court premises. The students had issued an ultimatum to him and the judges of the Appellate Division to resign by 1 pm.

"I feel it is necessary to share a special news with you. Our Chief Justice resigned a few minutes back. His resignation letter has already reached the law ministry," law adviser, equivalent to the Minister of the newly-installed interim Government, Prof Asif

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

including

Hunreds of fans lined up to garland and cheer for

them as members of the

Indian men's hockey team,

Harmanpreet Singh, touched

down in the national Capital on Saturday after winning a

second successive Olympic

The Indian team extended its

record overall Olympic

medal haul in the sport to 13

with a 2-1 victory over Spain

in the third place match in

Paris. However, not all

bronze medal in Paris.

Paris Olympic Bronze medallist Indian Hockey players pose for photos on their

arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi, on Saturday PT

Indian Hockey team

gets grand welcome

captain



Nazrul said in a Facebook video message.

that Nazrul added resignation letter would be sent to President Mohammad Shahabuddin "without delay taking necessary measures" and he was expecting the process to be

completed very soon.
"We have received only the resignation letter of the Chief Justice. There is no update

about (resignation) of others," Nazrul added.

Chief Justice Hassan earlier on Saturday said he had decided to step down from his position. "I have made a decision to resign after speaking with Dr Asif Nazrul," he said.

Earlier, the full court meeting of the Supreme Court got cancelled as students issued a two-hour ultimatum for the

resignation of the Chief Justice and other justices of the apex Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of unitary Bangladesh.

In the face of student protest, Justice postponed the meeting and later said he would step down. Hasnat Abdullah, a coordinator of the Anti-Movement, issued ultimatum at 11 am, asking the Chief Justice and other justices to leave their posts within 1 pm today.

Bangladesh Army personnel were deployed at the Supreme Court premises as hundreds protesting students gathered.

Around 1 pm, Army personnel were stationed in the main building, annexe building, and other areas around the Supreme Court. They urged the protesters to maintain peace and called on

them to avoid damaging

No relief from rain mayhem for Delhiites

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy rain lashed Delhi-NCR for the second consecutive day on Saturday, causing waterlogging and traffic jams.

In Dwarka, two people sustained injuries due to the collapse of a wall of a school after a tree fell on it while a two-storey house collapsed in northwest Delhi's Model Town area during heavy afternoon rain.

With the help of the local police and other rescue team members, three people were taken out of the rubble and sent to a nearby hospital. Two of them are in critical condition, the official said.

Waterlogging was reported in several places in East Delhi, South East Delhi and Central Delhi. The Public Works Department (PWD) said it received 20 complaints of waterlogging during the day, while the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)

received five complaints of

similar nature as well as

The national Capital on

Saturday recorded 20. 4 mm

uprooting of trees.

He remained in Paris along with Amit Rohidas, Raj Kumar Pal, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Sanjay. Pal, Abhishek, This batch is slated to return after the closing ceremony.

members of the winning

team made their way back

home as a few vital cogs remained in the French

capital for the closing

Celebrated goalkeeper PR

Sreejesh, who retired at the

end of India's campaign, is

the joint flag-bearer for the

ceremony along with double-

medallist Manu Bhaker.

ceremony on Sunday.



rainfall. Palam recorded 30.1 mm rainfall, Lodhi Road 20.6 mm and Ridge 22 mm rainfall on Saturday. Choked drains led to

slow-moving traffic, and consequent traffic congestion. Rohtak Road, the highway that connects the city to Haryana, saw heavy jams in the wake of the rain. Kashmere Gate ISBT also witnessed heavy traffic jams.

waterlogging which in turn caused traffic bottlenecks,



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CPWD suspends 3 engineers involved in renovation of Kejriwal's official residence

¬he Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has suspended its three engineers, namely, Additional Director General (Civil) Ashok Kumar Rajdev, Chief Engineer, Pradeep Kumar Parmar and

Superintending Engineer, Abhishek Raj for their role in the illegalities involved in the renovation and construction of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal's official residence at 6 Flag Staff Road.

These three engineers then posted with the Public Works Department of Delhi Government, were instrumental in construction of Kejriwal's bungalow. Both engineers were

currently posted outside Delhi. Parmar and Rajdev are currently posted in Guwahati, Abhishek Raj is posted in Kharagpur.
Since the three engineers are

currently posted outside Delhi, the Vigilance Department, on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, had requested the Director General (CPWD) to suspend and initiate major penalty against them.

"The project of Sheesh Mahal (6, Flag Staff Road) CM Residence was conceived contrary to Rules, Norms, GFR Provisions, PWD Manuals, etc. in order to ensure personal benefits to Hon'ble Chief Minister.

were entirely at fault for not adhering to the extant Rule position/ norms," said sources în Delhi government.

Delhi government's Vigilance department has pointed out that crores of rupees were spent on superior specifications like extra artistic and ornamental works, superior class stone floorings, superior wooden doors & automatic sliding glass doors, providing/ fixing of Vanity in Toilets, marble stone flooring, decorative interiors, decorative pillars, glass shower enclosure and doors, sheer curtain with fabric curtain track & motor with track curtains, wool carpets, wooden blinds, artistic mouldings, defogger glass in



toilets and bathrooms, sliding and folding glass, sauna bath &

According to sources, there are

seven engineers who found responsible for the irregularities that included violation of rules and massive cost escalation in

cations on the instructions of Kejriwal. Out of the five other engineers, three have already been suspended on the directions of the Lieutenant Governoer, while recommendation has been made to CPWD to initiate action against one engineer, who has now

According to Delhi government Vigilance Department, these engineers, in collusion with the Minister (PWD) allowed the construction of the new bungalow for the Chief Minister invoking an urgency clause, where no such urgency existed, whilst the entire coun try was grappling with the

On one hand, the Finance Department was issuing orders on fiscal management and reduced expenditure due to outbreak of the pandemic, on the other hand Minister (PWD), in utter disregard of the circumstances, was hurrying the proposal for construction of the new house during the same period in the name of addition / alteration of the old house.

Also, the DoV has put it on record that the demolition of the old building and construction of a new building and the disproportionate increase in expenditure was done on the directions of the Minister (PWD) and "Hon'ble CM Madam" leading to major

which resulted in deviation in total amount paid & sanctioned amount of work. Renovation and construction of Kejriwal's bungalow incurred a total cost of Rs 52.71 crore, according to a "factual report" submitted by the Delhi government's Vigilance Directorate to the Lieutenant Governor. The cost of Rs 52.71 crore included ?33.49 crore spent on

the construction of the house

and ?19.22 crore on a camp

office for the chief minister, the

report said, citing records of the

ors submitted by consultant

Public Works Department (PWD). The matter is already being investigated by CBI.

Sisodia hopes Kejriwal will be released soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

day after his release on bail, Asenior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday called upon party workers and people to fight against the "dictator-ship" in the country and said his party will "take account of every atrocity committed against the people of Delhi". Targeting the BJP, he also said

these people are not more powerful than the Constitution. Every person has to fight against this "dictatorship" which is not just putting leaders in jail but also harassing citizens, Sisodia said while addressing Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers at its head-

Expressing his gratitude for the support, Sisodia termed Supreme Court's verdict granting him bail in Delhi excise policy case after 17 months as a victory of honesty and truth. "I was hoping that justice would be delivered in 7-8 months. It took 17 months, but honesty and truth have won," he said in a spirirted address to AAP workers at party headquarters in Delhi.

He claimed that while in jail, he was not worried about getting सत्यमेव जयत

bail but was pained seeing businessmen being put in prison in "fake cases just because they did not donate money to the BJP".

"This web of ED and CBI was not created because Kejriwal's name became a symbol of honesty in the whole country. BJP, which calls itself the biggest party in the world, could not prove in a single state that honest work is being done in one of their states. 'Bhrastachar ka ek hi kaal, Kejriwal, Kejriwal," he said. Sisodia told AAP workers that 'we are just horses of a chariot but our real 'saarthi' (chari-

Highlighting the struggles of the AAP and its leaders over the last one and half years, Sisodia expressed hope that Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal will also be released soon.

"For the past 17-18 months, and even before that, we've been fighting this entire battle. was in jail, you all were protesting, Arvind is still in jail, but our lawyers are tirelessly moving from one court to another...Soon, we will also bring Arvind Kejriwal back...," he said.

Taking a swipe at the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sisodia said that India will

2047 if every poor citizens of the country recieved quality education in government schools and that it would be a "jumla" (gimmick) if someone says otherwise.

He further vowed to continue his drive to make Delhi schools world class. "Vo (BJP) jail bhejne ki baat karte hai... hum apni jaan bhi dene ko taiyar hai...," he said.

Seeking to target the BJP over the Vinesh Phogat issue, Sisodia, without taking the wrestler's name, said she protested against its leader and people saw what happened at the Olympics. Phogat, who was disqualified from the Paris Olympics for being found 100 grams overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final, was at the forefront of a lengthy protest alleging government inaction against former Wrestling Federation of India head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment by women wrestlers.

The Supreme Court on Friday gave Sisodia bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged excise policy "scam" and said his long incarceration of 17 months without trial had deprived him of the right to speedy justice.

Ex-deputy CM visits Hanuman Mandir, Rajghat

STAFF REPORTER ■

From visiting Hanuman Mandir at Connaught Place to Rajghat, AAP leader and former deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday addressed party workers, a day after being granted bail in connection with corruption cases linked to now-scrapped Delhi excise policy case after 17 months of

Sisodia visited a Hanuman the last 17 months. Posting Mandir at Connaught Place in the morning to seek blessings. 'I have prayed to Lord Bajrangbali, and I have received his blessings... Arvind Kejriwal will soon receive blessings from Lord Bajrangbali," Sisodia told the reporters after visiting the temple. The former deputy chief minister along with party leaders also visited Raj Ghat in the national capital. Manish Sisodia was joined by other AAP leaders such as Sanjay Singh and Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Earlier in the morning, Sisodia posted a selfie with his wife on social media on Saturday morning, a day after walking out of jail. In the photo, Manish Sisodia is seen enjoying a cup of tea with his wife, Seema Sisodia. The heartwarming selfie by the former Delhi deputy chief minister comes a day after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the Delhi liquor policy case on August 10. Manish Sisodia had been lodged Tihar jail for on X in Hindi, Manish Sisodia wrote, "First morning tea of independence.....after 17 months! The freedom that the Constitution has given to all of us Indians as a guarantee of the right to live. The freedom that God has given us to breathe in the open air with everyone."In his first post on X after being granted bail on Friday by the Supreme Court, Sisodia shared a picture with his wife and wrote, "First morning tea of freedom... after 17 months."

Delhiites will ensure AAP candidates lose security deposits in Assembly polls, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The people of Delhi will ensure that the AAP candidates lose security deposits from most seats in the Assembly polls due early next year, BJP's city unit chief Virendra Sachdeva said on Saturday. South Delhi BJP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said AAP leaders are celebrating as Sisodia came from the Paris Olympics with a gold medal. The people will give their response to the "boastful" speeches made by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders during the welcome ceremony for Manish Sisodia, who has been released from prison on conditional bail, Sachdeva said.

Sachdeva slammed the AAP, saying "the people of Delhi want to know from Manish Sisodia whether it is true that he has been granted bail under unusual conditions, such as having to report to the police station at 10 am twice a week and keep his phone location active round the clock". The AAP, which is celebrating the bail given to the former deputy chief minister, must not forget that their "role model", Lalu Prasad, was also granted bail in



the fodder scam but later received a long sentence in 2016, the BJP leader said.

The AAP leaders, who are dreaming that the BJP candidates will lose their security deposits in the Assembly polls should remember how the people of Delhi rejected their campaign based on jailed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the Lok Sabha polls," he said.

In the Assembly polls too, the people of the capital will not only reject the AAP's slogans, but also ensure that most of its candidates lose their deposits, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader added.

Addressing a gathering of AAP workers and leaders at the party headquarters here on Saturday, a day after his release from the Tihar jail, Sisodia slammed the BJP-led Centre and called upon people to fight against its "dictatorship".

Sharad, Uddhav instigating caste riots in Maharashtra: MNS's Raj

oteer) is in jail, he will come out

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray on Saturday (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray were spreading "caste poison" in Maharashtra ahead of the State Assembly polls to be held in October this year. Talking to media persons at

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (erstwhile Aurangabad) as part of his ongoing "Maharashtra Navnirman Yatra", Raj said: "All the parties, including the BJP, have been playing politics over reservation. But the caste poison that Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray have started spreading after the Lok Sabha elections is terrible".

Alluding to a recent statement by the NCP (SP) chief that "Maharashtra might witness Manipur-like disturbances in view of the brewing rift among communities over Maratha-OBC reservations issue", Raj accused Sharad Pawar and Uddhav of instigating the agitation over the reservations

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(Operations) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

(POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE under Ministry of Power, Government of

India. Prior to his joining as Director (Operations), he worked as Executive

Director (NR-III) handling challenging and flagship works & delivered results

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and unauthorised extension of load (UE) and others on Saturday.

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INBRIEF



state ahead of the State Assembly polls.

"Shouldn't Sharad Pawar take the stand that caste politics should not spread in Maharashtra? On the contrary, they (Pawar and Uddhav) are contributing... Therefore, I request the people of all castes of Maharashtra not to support their dirty politics. Otherwise, I don't even think about what will happen to Maharashtra in the future," the MNS chief

Demanding to know as to why the ruling BJP which has been in power at the Centre for 10 days had failed to accord reservation to the Maratha community so far, Raj said: "It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi

who said that he entered politics holding the finger of Sharad Pawar. He was in majority at the Centre for 10 years. So why did not give the also (an ally) at the Centre and state for five years, why did not insist on the Maratha reserva-

Replying to a question Raj said: "If Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray believe that they got big votes in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on their own merits, they are mistaken as the vote was against Modi and Amit Shah.

"Whether the Muslims or Dalits voted against BJP in Maharashtra or across India, it happened due to a narrative that the Constitution would be changed," the MNS chief said. On the Maratha reservations agitation undertaken by Jarange Patil, Raj said: "Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray used Jarange's agitation to do politics and the unfortunate part is that some journalists from Marathwada whose names I know, how some of them got contracts, how they

Modi vows...

From Page 1

Sources close to the Chief Minister said that the administration was dependent on the initial amount of Rs 2000 crore while the remaining Rs 1000 crore could be allocated at a later stage. Narayanan Namboothiri, senior BJP leader, told The Pioneer that he was yet to understand the logic behind the demand of Rs

2000 crore aid. After touring the disasterstruck region for more than four hours, Modi participated in a review meeting at Wayanad civil station attended among others by the Governor, Union Minister Suresh Gopi and Chief Minister Vijayan.

MVA Govt tried to implicate Shinde, Fadnavis: Mumbai ex-Police Chief

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param a sensational allegation that the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government tried to "implicate and arrest" then Urban Development Minister and current chief minister Eknath Shinde and then the leader of Opposition and current deputy chief minister Devendra Fadanvis. "Then State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had brought pressure on me to arrest Eknath Shinde and some BJP leaders. Instructions were also there to implicate and arrest Devendra Fadnavis. .. At some point in time, instructions were also there from the top bosses in the MBA to only implicate and arrest me in that case but to implicate Devendra Fadnavis, the then leader of the opposition," Mumbai's ex-CP said, alleging that instructions to arrest Fadnavis had come directly from Anil Deshmukh, Sharad Pawar and Uddhav

Thackeray. "At a meeting held at Sharad Pawar's residence "Silver Oak" where then state Home

to national security," a police

Besides Nityanand Marg,

Seelampur, Indralok, Rajouri

Garden, Palam, Mehrauli-

Badarpur road, Chirag Dilli,

Laxmi Nagar, Kishan Ganj were

also among the affected due to

traffic jams and water logging. The Delhi Police issued a traf-

From Page 1

From Page 1

Minister Anil Deshmukh was charges of corruption made present, pressure was brought against him by Mumbai's foron to implicate the then mer Police Commissioner Opposition leaders, including Param Bir Singh.

But, I refused to carry out the orders, saying that I can not register fake cases against any one," Singh said. In an interview to a news

agency, Singh also alleged that he was under pressure to arrest a senior BJP leader in a Mumbai bank irregularities

Singh is believed to be close to Fadnavis. The latest allegations by Singh should be seen in the context of the running tussle between Singh and Anil Deshmukh. It may be recalled that Singh

had created a sensation on March 20, 2021 by alleging that State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had asked now arrested and dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources in Mumbai

Deshmukh had resigned from his post as the State Home Minister on April 5 2021 within hours after the Bombay High Court ordered a "Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the serious

fic was also hampered on Old

registered by the CBI, Deshmukh was arrested by the ED November 2, 2021 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of bribery, conspiracy and misuse of office.

Deshmukh was behind the bars for 14 months before he was released on bail December 28, 2022. The development had come fortnight after the Bombay High Court granted him bail in an alleged corruption case registered against him by the

Following his allegations against Deshmukh, Singh was booked for several serious offences registered against him in four different police stations in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane district. He was later suspended from service in view of serious offences registered against him and the disciplinary proceedings launched into "certain irregularities and lapses" committed by him, including his unauthorised absence from duty.

Budget has failed to address unemployment, says Mamata's advisor

Principal Chief Advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister, Amit Mitra, on Saturday slammed the Centre for presenting an "irresponsible" Union Budget 2024-25, asserting that it was "ineffective" in addressing the country's economic challenges. Mitra claimed that the Budget has "failed to tackle unemployment and misled the public with subsequent amendments to its proposals".

"Why am I calling it irresponsible? The Finance Ministry made a lot of amendments to the budget proposals. So, were they wrong? There has been a somersault on LTCG and indexation," he said. 'If whatever they were doing

was for a simplified tax regime, then why the somersault within 72 hours or within a week?" he wondered. Property owners would heave a sigh of relief and market sentiments would improve with the Centre deciding to give taxpayers the option to choose between the new 12.5 per cent long-term capital

indexation benefit for assets purchased before July 23, according to industry bodies. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who in her budget for 2024-25 proposed to cut LTCG tax to 12.5 per cent from 20 per cent but without the indexation benefit, moved an amendment to the bill to give the option. Indexation benefits allow taxpayers to arrive at property cost after adjusting for inflation.

Accusing the government of "shirking its responsibility", the principal chief advisor to the West Bengal chief minister, pointed out that the budget relied heavily on the private sector to generate employment, citing the "unrealistic expectation" of 500 companies absorbing 2 lakh interns each year as an exam-

He also highlighted a "decline" in overall consumption growth, household savings, LPG subsidy, and food subsidy, along with a "drop in average monthly income" for both regular and self-employed workers.

Two jawans martyred in gunfight with...

"The identity of the informer

will be kept secret so that spokesperson said. more and more people come Let's work together for a safer forward to assist the police, as community, he said. The ambush in Kathua was the public's help is crucial in preventing potential threats

trict on July 15, resulting in the killing of four army personnel including a cap-tain. Police in Doda district followed by another attack by a separate group of terrorists had also released the sketch-

in Desa forest in Doda dises and cash reward of Rs 5 lakh each on four terrorists involved in the attack as them down.

efforts are continuing to hunt Earlier on June 9, nine pas-

sengers, including seven pilgrims returning from Shiv Khori temple, were killed by terrorists in Reasi district. The terrorists involved in the attack are also on the run despite a cash reward on

No relief from rain mayhem for...

fic advisory in response to the Kakrola Road, Najafgarh near disruptions. Traffic has been Shyam Vihar Chowk, and diverted at Ch Fateh Singh Najafgarh-Nangloi Road due to potholes and collection of water,

The weather department has predicted more rains in the

coming days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had sounded an orange alert for many parts of Delhi-NCR, predicting light to moderate rain or thunderstorms accompanied by gusty wind their heads.

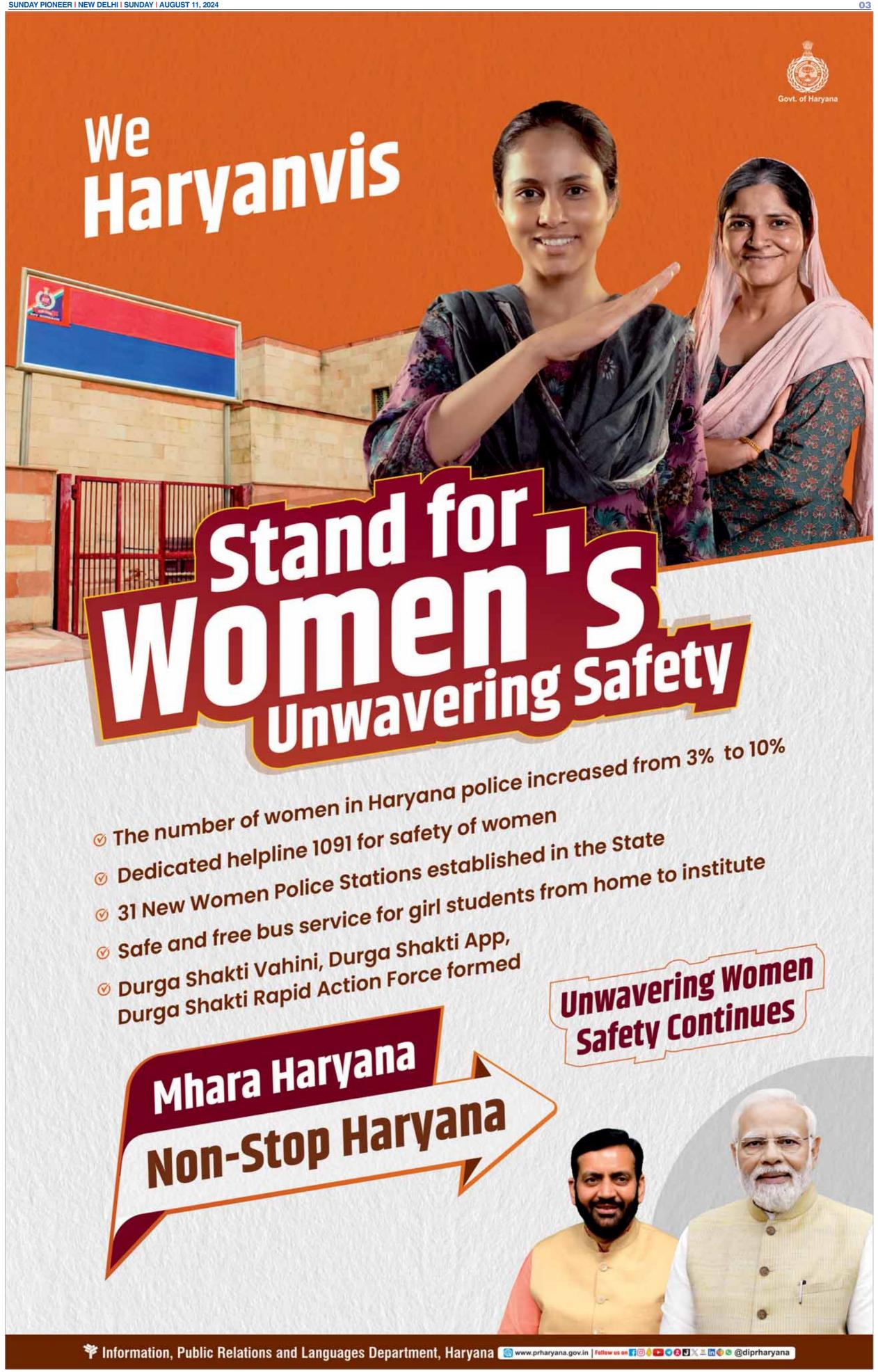
(30-40 km/hour).

Marg due to waterlogging, shifting routes from Mall Road red police said light to Majnu Ka Tila. The traf-

According to police, a tree got uprooted amid heavy rain in Dwarka's Baba Haridas Nagar, and it fell on the wall of an MCD school, causing it to collapse. The two men, who were taking shelter, got trapped under the tree and the debris.

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Rahul pursuing politics of deception, deceit: BJP

The BJP on Saturday hit out at Rahul Gandhi, alleging non-fulfillment of his party's poll promises in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, and said the Congress leader has become synonymous with politics of deception, lies and deceit.

Addressing a Press conference at the party headquarters here, BJP National spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed the Congress Government in Karnataka has fulfilled just two out of a total of 59 promises that the party made during the State Assembly elections. "People of Karnataka are feeling cheated. Wherever the Congress is in power, people of the State are feeling cheated. People of Himachal Pradesh

lies and deceit," he said Bhatia also hit out at Rahul while raising the issue of farmers suicide in Karnataka as he

are feeling cheated. Rahul has

become synonymous with pol-

itics of deception, propaganda,



accused the Congress leader of pursuing "politics of pretense" to win votes.

"He has time to meet the farmers delegation in Delhi but there are media reports that as many as 1,200 farmers have committed suicide in Karnataka. Why couldn't Rahul Gandhi spare even a minute to meet them or direct the Karnataka Chief Minister to



take cognizance of these cases, he said."It's because Rahul Gandhi's priorities are different. That's why it becomes worrisome when he gives the people of Karnataka a Chief Minister who is himself promoting corruption. We all know about the MUDA scam in which SC and ST community members' land has been allotted to the Chief Minister's wife," he added.

Centre responded quickly to Wayanad tragedy: Officials

The Central Government took immediate measures following the landslide tragedy in Kerala's Wayanad as it deployed more than 1,200 personnel from National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Army, Air Force, Navy, fire services and civil defence among others for rescue and relief operations at the incident site. official sources said on Saturday.

More than 100 ambulances along with doctors and other staff were deployed for medical support and treatment, they added as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Wayanad to take stock of the relief and rehabilitation work and meet survivors.

The Indian Army, the sources said, erected a 190-foot Bailey bridge in Wayanad which was crucial in facilitating the movement of heavy machinery and ambulances.

The bridge was completed in 71 hours, significantly enhancing rescue operations by allowing heavy vehicles and machinery to be mobilised to rescue

around 200 people who were stranded due to damage to a bridge. Till now, 30 people have been rescued and 520 evacuated, and 112 bodies recovered by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rescue teams, they said.

The sources added that an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has been constituted by the Central Government to visit the affected areas. The Centre has always lent a

helping hand to Kerala through timely provision of funds to meet the challenge of disaster, the sources said.

This year, the Kerala's State

Disaster Response Force (SDRF) account had around Rs 395 crore on April 1. The first instalment of the central share of SDRF for the ongoing year of over Rs 145.60 crore was released in advance on July 31, they said.

In the last five years, around Rs 1,200 crore has been released by the Modi Government as the Centre's share in SDRF out of the total State Disaster Response Fund of Rs 1,780 crore. In addition to this, the Government has also released Rs 445 crore for the State Disaster Mitigation Fund in the last five years, they added.

Deadline for submission of Ravi-Beas tribunal report extended

The Centre has extended ■ the deadline for the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal to submit its report by another year, moving the deadline to August 5, 2025.

The extension comes as part of a series of delays in the submission of the tribunal's report which has been pending since its constitution in April 1986 under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal was established to address disputes and verify claims related to the Punjab Settlement, according to an official gazette notification.

Initially, the tribunal submitted its report on January 30, 1987. However, the Central Government sought further clarification and guidance on certain aspects of the report, leading to multiple extensions over the years.

The most recent extension, as stated in the Government's notification, acknowledges the "enormous exercise" undertaken by the tribunal in preparing its report. In consideration



of the extensive work required the Government deemed it necessary to provide additional time for the tribunal to complete its task.

This marks the latest in a long line of extensions, reflecting the complexity of the issues at hand and the ongoing challenges in resolving inter-state water disputes

The original deadline for the tribunal's report has been extended numerous times, with the latest amendment replacing the previous deadline of August 5, 2024, with the new date in

CHANGE OF NAME

I. Raiat Kumar Lamba S/o Late Sh. Devender Mohan Lamba, R/o C-59, Omkar Dham Mandir Marg, Rama Vihar, New Delhi - 110081 India, has changed my name from 'Rajat Kumar' to "RAJAT KUMAR LAMBA" as per my Pan Card, Adhaar Card and Voter ID Card. I hereby certify & confirm that Both Rajat Kumar Lamba and Rajat Kumar are same person.

PD(664)C

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it knows to the public at large that my client Mrs Sudesh Devi W/o Mr Dharam Prakesh R/O House No 22 Ground Floor, Block-4 Eros Garden, Faridabad, Haryana have disowned, debar and disinhereited his Son namely Mr. debar and disinhereited his Son namely Mr. Neeraj kumar and her Daughter in law, Smt Preeti Devi, from all their moveable and immoveable properties and my client shall not be responsible for any immoral or moral activities from them i.e., Mr. Neeraj kumar and his wife Smt. Preeti Devi In present or future from today. If anybody deals with them, will do so at their own the contractions of the contraction If anybody deals with them, will do so at their own risk, cost and consequences and my client shall not be responsible in this regard in any manner and my client further declaring that my client shall not be liable for any act or deed done by them ie. Mr. Neeraj kumar and his wife Smr.Preeti Devi. Mr.Neeraj Kumar and his wife Smt. Preet eir above said residence or anywhere in ADVOCATE MOHIT

PUBLIC NOTICE

/IRENDER KUMAR is going to purchase the econd Floor and Third Floor with roo ghts of Property No. 107/4, at Gali No. Esat Azad Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-I 10051 from SMT. MANITA W/o Late SHRI AMESH KUMAR. If anybody has any bjection please contact me within 7 days

(Advocate)152-A WEST AZAD NAGAR DELHI-110051 98111 39553

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that my client Mr. Gagan Khari intending to purchase the Entire Built-up Plot No. WP-234, land area measuring 180 Sq. Yds., Khasra No.531, situated in the Old Lal Dora (1908-93, situated in the Old Lal Dora (1908-93, village Wazirpur Delhi-110052 from Mr. Kamal Kishore and Mrs. Rajwati who became owners vide Gift Deed (Vide Doc. No. 3935) Dated 31.03.2016 executed by Mr. Vatan Singh and same to be financed by Capri Global Capital Ltd. That,(1) Death Certificate and (2) Surviving Member Certificate of Late Mr. Lal Chand man any type of claim/right/tile/inferest over the said property may inform in writing at the address mentioned below, about his objections within 07 days from today, failing address mentioned below, about ni bbjections within 07 days from today, failin which it shall be presumed that the sai property is free from all type of Encumbrances

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(SEE SECTION- (82 Cr.P.c) WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that accused ANUP SINGH @ ANUPAM SINGH, @ Dr RAHUL SINGH KHANNA Age-49 years resides at

following addresses:-C/O GIRIRAJ SINGH R/O 824 ARYA NAGAR, PO. JWALAPUR, HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND-249407 C/O PRITAM SINGH@GIRIRAJ SINGH. 108. HARE KRISHNA ORCHID SUNRAKH, VRINDAVAN, BANGAR MATHURA. UP-28112I ALSO AT FLAT NO. 02 RADHA 2/C, OMEX VRINDAVAN MATHURA UP- 281121

C/O GIRIRA I SINGH@PRITAM SINGH R/O H NO R-29/60/ 17/18 STREET NO DEOL ENCLAYE DABA ROAD, MAUJI COLONY MILLERGANJ LUDHIANA, PUNJAB- 141003 ALSO AT- H.NO. 22 STREET NO. 4 RISHI VIHAR, MAJITHA ROAD, AMRITSAR PUNJAB 143001

FLAT No. 1206, TOWER No. 07, AURIC CITY HOMES SECTOR-82, FARIABAD HARYANA-121004

And were using given mobiles Nos. 995842227, 8368770080, 8368441797, mitted for is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CT. No. 4465/2021 AND CT No. 4707/2021 of punishable under section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, complaint registered vide DD No. 79 dt 10.05.2024 at P.S. SAKET, New Delhi-110017 and the warrant has been returned to a warrant of arrereupon issued that the said ANUP SINGH @ ANUPAM SINGH@Dr. RAHUL SINGH KHANNA cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction the sai ANUP SINGH ALIAS ANUPAM SINGH@Dr. RAHUL SINGH KHANNA S/O GIRIRA SINGH@PRITAM SINGH has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of

PROCLAMATION Is hereby made that the said ANUP SINGH @ ANUPAM SINGH@ D RAHUL SINGH KHANNA S/O GIRIRAJ SINGH@PRITAM SINGH@PABHU DAYAL,
Age-49 is required to appear at Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, South, Saket, Room No. 26, Block-II New Building, District Cour Complex, Saket New Delhi before Metropolitan Magistrate to answer the above said complaint on the next day of hearing Metropolitan Magistrate to ansi on 12th August 2024

Dt: 01.06.2024

SAR TELEVENTURE LIMITED Regd.Office: Plot No. 346 A, 2nd Floor, Udyog Vihar, Phase-4,

Gurugram-122016 Haryana Corp. Office: B-16, First Floor, Sector-2, Noida-201301 Mobile No: +91-8587050050

E-mail: info@sarteleventure.com, Website: www.sarteleventure.com NOTICE OF 05th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING INFORMATION

AND BOOK CLOSURE NOTICE is hereby given that the 05th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members o SAR Televenture Limited will be held on Tuesday, 03rd September, 2024 at 04:00 P.M

through Video Conferencing (VC) /Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") The notice along with the Annual Report for the financial year 2023-24 in electronic mode has been sent to all the Members whose email ids are registered with the Compar The members may cast/exercise their right to vote by electronic means through remote e

oting services. Voting rights shall be reckoned on the paid-up value of shares registered in the name of the member/beneficial owner as on the cut off date i.e. 27th August, 2024, Any person who becomes member of the company after dispatch of the notice of the meeting and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e. 27th August, 2024 may obtain the user ID and password by sending a request at enotices@linkintime.co.in The remote e-voting period commences on Saturday, 31st August, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. (IST

and ends on Monday, 02nd September, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. (IST) Please note that remote 6 voting will not be allowed beyond 5:00 p.m. (IST) on 02rd September, 2024. The Notice and annual report can also be downloaded from the Company's website www.sarteleventure.com. Any grievance related to e-voting may be addressed to the

Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules thereunder and Regulation 42 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 the Register of members and Share ransfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from 28th August, 2024 to 03

September, 2024 for the purpose of Annual General Meeting

DATE: 10.08.2024 Abhishek Jain Company Secretary

Wild plant on Gaya hills offers hope for diabetes: Study on certain therapeutic plants

recent study has identified Aa variety of medicinal plants on Brahmayoni Hill in Gaya, Bihar, with Gymnema sylvestre, commonly known as Gurmar, standing out for its anti-diabetic properties. The researchers also noted that Gurmar is instrumental in the CSIR-developed ayurvedic formulation BGR-34, aimed at managing diabetes which is on the increase in the country due to changing lifestyle and unhealthy diet

Gurmar's effectiveness in reducing blood sugar is attributed to gymnemic acid, which interferes with sugar absorption in the intestine by blocking receptor sites. This action helps diminish cravings for sweets and lowers blood sugar levels.Additionally, Gurmar contains flavonoids and



saponins assist in lowering cholesterol and regulating lipid metabolism, according to the study by Magadh University professors. It is published in the International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts

The study highlights Gurmar among three medicinal plants

found on Brahmayoni Hill. which has long been valued by traditional healers for its extensive range of natural remedies. Gurmar is particularly noted for its anti-diabetic effects.

"Gurmar is a key ingredient in BGR-34, an ayurvedic formulation developed by CSIR and marketed by Aimil Pharma, said the researchers in the study 'Ethnobotanical research

found on Gaya's Brahmayoni Hill. In 2022, a study by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, also validated that the herbal formulation BGR-34 is effective in reducing obesity along with blood sugar levels. It also improves the body's metabolic system. Dr. Sanchit Sharma, Executive

Director of Aimil Pharma, said that the herbal formulation also includes other herbal components like Daruharidra, Giloy, Vijaysar, Manjishtha, and Fenugreek. These have been proven effective in manageing diabetes, Sharma said and pointed out the rising popularity of herbal Ayurvedic medicines in response to the increasing incidence of lifestyle-related diseases and a growing emphasis on preven-

214 women among 1,389 Navy Agniveers graduate from INS Chilka

PNS NEW DELHI

Asignificant milestone was achieved as 1,389 Agniveers, including 214 women Agniveers, of the Indian Navy passed out from the portals of INS Chilka, Odisha on Friday, Navy said here on Saturday. Giving details, officials said Passing Out Parade (POP) for the fourth Batch of Agniveers (01/24) marked the culmination of 16 weeks of rigorous naval training in a unique post-sunset ceremony. The post Sunset POP was reviewed by Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

The POP signifies not only the successful completion of initial training but also marks commencement of a new chapter for the Agniveers in the Indian



parade, Navy chief congratulated the trainees on parade and exhorted the passing out course to uphold the Navy's core values of Duty, Honour, and Courage in their pursuit of nation-building. He urged them to focus on their subsequent phases of training and become technologically proficient sea warriors. Admiral Tripathi awarded medals and trophies to meritorious Agniveers during the POP.

Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, Mrs. Mansi Tanwar W/o- Mr. Kuldeep Singh client, Mrs. Amasi Tanwar W/o- Mr. Kuldeep Singh Tanwar R/o House No. W-2451, Near Dispensary, Naraina Village, Naraina Industrial Estate Najargari South West Delhi-110028. (Mortgagor!) That Mr. Kuldeep Singh Tanwar was the owner of the Scheduled Property, and Mr. Kuldeep Singh Tanwar Giffed the Scheduled Property of Mrs. Mansi Tanwar, vide Girl Deed dated 28.08.2023 Doc. No. 4985, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 2406, Page No.73-81, on dated 28.08.2073. SRO-VIII, Saropian Nagar, New Delhi. Same property Mrs. Mansi Tanwar (Mortgagor) mortgage the schedule property with Eef Bank Firmaria Services our Objection with documentary proof within 7 days o

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY ound Floor, (Without Roof/Terrace Rights), Property earing No. WZ-451, (Back Side Portion) area measuring-

Sachin Maheshwari & Associates (SMA) New Delhi, Ph.: 011-69653588, Moh. -9911380328

Particulars

Total Income from Operations

Net Profit / (Loss) for the period

(before Tax, Exceptional and/or

Net Profit / (Loss) for the period

Net Profit / (Loss) for the period

after tax (after Exceptional and/or

Total Comprehensive Income for

the period [Comprising Profit /

(Loss) for the period (after tax)

Reserves (excluding Revaluation

Reserve) as shown in the Audited

Balance Sheet of the previous yea

Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/-

Basic & Diluted (₹) (Excluding

Other Comprehensive Income)

Basic & Diluted (₹) (Including

Place: Kanpur

Date: 10.08.2024

each) (for continuing and

discontinued operations) -

and Other Comprehensive

Income (after tax)]

Equity Share Capital

before tax (after Exceptional and/o

Extraordinary items#)

Extraordinary items#)

Extraordinary items#)

TAL MECHANIZED LAUNDRY

E-Tender Notice No.: Mech-APDJ are invited by the undersigned for the ollowing work; Name of work: Operation of Departmental Mechanized Laundry a Alipurduar Jn. along with transportatio loading and unloading of linens in train for a period of one year (365 days). Tende alue: ₹3,60,14,352.73/-; Earne: Money: ₹3,30,100/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and pening at 16:00 hrs. on 28-08-2024. Fo emplete information with the tende locument of above e-tender will be

Sr. DME, Alipurduar Jn. **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

Quarter

31.03.2024

(Reviewed)

292.28

272.61

272.61

272.61

172.52

600.00

4.54

2.88

KEY CORP LIMITED

CIN No.:L65921UP1985PLC007547

Regd. Office:16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur - 208001

Email: keycorpltd@gmail.com; Phone: 0512-3013416, 3010422, 2305416

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE

QUARTER ENDED 30th June, 2024

Quarter

30.06.2024

(Reviewed

856.89

837.7

837.70

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NIDM explores use of AI for disaster management

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Institute of ■ Disaster Management (NIDM) is exploring the use of GIS, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning for improving disaster risk

assessment and crop

insurance, Government statement said Saturday. The institute, operatunder the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Friday celebrated the inaugural National Space Day with a workshop focused on 'Space Technology Disaster Management' where presentations were given on the use of geographic information system (GIS) and

Yea

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30.06.2023 31.03.2024

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AI in handling of disasters, it said. The event which was attended by Vivek Shrivastava, Director General of Fire Civil Services, Defence and Home Guards, and Rajendra Ratnoo, Executive Director of NIDM, had panel discussions on the critical role of Government-private sector collaboration in advancing techno-

logical innovations for disaster resilience, it added. K H V Durga Rao, Group

Director of the Department of (NRSC), Chandrashekhar S, Deputy Director of LBSNAA, and Surya Parkash, Head of the GMR and CRBN Division at NIDM also participated in the national workshop, which

drew over 300 attendees. Addressing the gathering, Shrivastava underscored the importance of risk reduction, citing the zero casualties achieved during Cyclone Biparjoy as a model of success, it said. Ratnoo highlighted the value of learning from past disasters and conducting thorough post-disaster evaluations to enhance future prepared-

'The workshop featured technical sessions on the use of GIS, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning in disaster risk assessment and crop insurance," the release stated A discussion chaired by Safi Ahsan Rizvi, Advisor at NDMA, focused on improving data collection and integrating AI/ML tools for more accurate crop yield predictions and insurance assessments.

In the valedictory session, Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain, an NDMA member, emphasised the disciplined application of space technology in disaster management.



Social bonds key to big cats survival

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

On World Lion Day on Saturday, a study published in the University of Oxford has revealed that better-connected female big cats live longer. Analysing 30 years of data, researchers found that strong female bonds are crucial for protection against threats such as infanticidal males, territory defense, hunting, and cub rearing—all requiring cooperation. The research highlights the importance of social connections for lion survival.

The research "Sex-specific social aging in wild African lions" published in 'Current Biology also sheds light on the complex social lives of African lions, emphasising the significance of social connections for their survival. Indeed, the insights from the

study on African lions can serve as a valuable framework for researchers studying Asiatic lions in the Gir Forest in India. About social connectivity and longevity, the researchers noted for females, strong bonds with other females are crucial.

These connections provide essential support for various survival aspects such as defence against threats, hunting, and cub rearing.

Females with robust social networks tend to live longer, they said. The study also gives insight into social ageing patterns noting that social connections change with age. Lead author Lauren Rudd fromm University of Oxford) said, "The importance of close female bonds, particularly in early adulthood, could be because 'friends' can help protect against threats such as infanticidal males. They could also be valuable

allies for territory defense, hunt-

ing, and cub rearing-all of

which require cooperation. Combined these factors potentially explain why better-connected females live longer." Interestingly, for males, the number of social connections is more significant than the strength of individual relationships. They benefit from having a larger number of associates, which correlates with a longer lifespan. Conversely, for females, the quality of social bonds is more critical than the sheer

for understanding disease outbreaks. As females age and their social networks shrink, they might be less exposed to pathogens.

The study also has implications

number.

In contrast, ageing males, with their increasing number of associates, might face higher exposure risks.

The research is based on over 150,000 observations of 665 lions over nearly 30 years. Sheding light on the association

between females and males, the study pointed out that the strength of females' connections to males tends to be at its highest in midlife, and then declines as they age.

In contrast, females' social connection to other females declines linearly with age, being highest in early adulthood.



Israeli airstrike on Gaza school kills at least 80 people

AP DEIR-AL-BALAH

An Israeli airstrike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City early Saturday, killing at least 80 people, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest strikes in the 10-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

The Israeli military acknowledged the strike, claiming it hit a Hamas command centre within the school. Hamas denied

The strike on the Tabeen school in central Gaza City also wounded 47 people, the Health Ministry said. The facility, like almost all of Gaza's schools, has been used as a shelter for people who have been forced to flee their homes by the war.

Video from the scene showed walls blown out on the ground level of a large building.

Concrete chunks and twisted metal lay atop the blood-soaked floor, along with clothing, toppled furniture and other debris. A blackened car with the windows blown out was covered in

Fadel Naeem, director of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, told The Associated Press that the facility received 70 bodies of those killed in the strike and the body parts of at least 10 others. The strike hit without warning in the early morning before sunrise as people were praying at a mosque inside the school, according to Abu Anas, a witness who worked to rescue

"There were people praying, there were people washing and there were people upstairs sleeping, including children, women and old people," he said. "The missile fell on them without warning. The first missile, and the second. We recovered them as body parts."

Three missiles ripped through the school and the mosque inside, where about 6,000 displaced people were taking shelter from the war, said Mahmoud Bassal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defense first responders who operate under the Hamasrun local government.

Many of the dead were unrecognisable, he said, adding that he expected the death toll to rise. Many of the casualties were women and children, he said. According to the United Nations, 477 out of 564 schools in Gaza had been directly hit or damaged in the war as of July 6. In June, an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in central Gaza killed at least 33 people, including 12 women and children,

according to local health offi-

On Thursday Israel's military hit two schools sheltering displaced people in eastern Gaza City, killing at least 15 people, according to hospital officials.

Israel has blamed civilian deaths in Gaza on Hamas, saying the group endangers noncombatants by using schools and residential neighbourhoods as bases for operations and attacks. Israeli intelligence indicated

about 20 militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, including senior commanders, were using the Tabeen school compound to plan attacks on Israeli forces, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman said in a statement on the social media platform X.

İzzat al-Rishq, a top Hamas official denied there were militants in the school

Shoshani also questioned the casualty numbers issued by the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Israel said the targeted school was located next to a mosque serving as a shelter for Gaza City residents.

A cameraman working for The Associated Press said, however, that the mosque and the classrooms were in one building, with the prayer hall on the ground floor and the school above it. A missile appeared to have penetrated through the floor of the classrooms to the mosque below and then exploded, according to the camera-

The strike came as American, Qatari and Egyptian mediators renewed their push for the two parties to achieve a cease-fire agreement that could help calm soaring tensions in the region following the assassination of

top Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut.

Egypt, which borders Gaza and serves as a key mediator, said the strike on the school showed Israel had no intention of reaching a cease-fire deal and ending the war.

Neighboring Jordan also condemned the attack, calling it a 'blatant violation" of international law

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 39,600 Palestinians and wounded more than 91,700 others, according to the enclave's Health Ministry. The war was triggered by Hamas' Oct 7 attack, in which militants from Gaza stormed into southern Israel, killing around 1,200 people and abducting 250 oth-

UN-sanctioned official named head of Iran's nuclear agency

AP TEHRAN

Tran's newly-elected president **L**reappointed a US-educated official who came under United Nations sanctions 16 years ago as head of the country's nuclear department, state TV reported Saturday.

Mohammad Eslami, 67, will continue his work as chief of Iran's civilian nuclear programme and serve as one of several vice presidents. Eslami's reappointment by President Masoud Pezeshkian comes as Iran remains under heavy sanctions by the West following the collapse of the 2015 deal that curbed Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief. Pezeshkian had said during his presidential campaign that he would try to revive the nuclear deal.

The United Nations sanctioned Eslami in 2008 for "being engaged in, directly associated with or providing support for Iran's proliferation of sensitive nuclear activities or for the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems", when he was the head of Iran's Defense Industries Training and Research Institute.

He was appointed as the chief of Iran's nuclear department for the first time by late President Ebrahim Raisi in 2021, before that, from 2018, in moderate former President Hassan Rouhani's era, Eslami served as Transport and Urban Development Minister. He has experience working in

Iran's military industries, for years, most recently as deputy defense minister responsible for research and industry. Eslami holds degrees in civil

engineering from Detroit University of Michigan and the University of Toledo, Ohio.

The US, France, Britain and Germany accused Iran of escalating its nuclear activities far beyond limits it agreed to in the 2015 deal and of failing to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International

Atomic Energy Agency. Iran accused the US and its allies of continuing to apply economic sanctions that were supposed to be lifted under the deal, and insisted its nuclear programme is peaceful and geared towards generating electricity and producing radioisotopes to treat cancer patients and remains under constant oversight by the IAEA.

Iran is building two nuclear power facilities to supplement its sole operational 1,000megawatt reactor at the southern port town of Bushehr, which went online with Russia's help in 2011. Under its longterm energy plan, Iran aims to reach 20,000-megawatt nuclear electric capacity.

The nation has in recent months faced country-wide power outages

Russia tightens security in area of

 $R^{ussia} \quad \text{on} \quad \text{Saturday} \\ \text{announced what it called a}$ counterterrorism operation to increase security in the border region where an incursion this week by Ukrainian forces caught Russian troops offguard and exposed its military vulnerabilities in the 2 1/2vear-old war.

The Russian Defence Ministry said fighting was continuing in the Kursk region and that the army has conducted airstrikes against Ukrainian forces, including using a thermobaric bomb that both causes a blast wave and creates a vacuum that suffocates its targets.

The measures announced for Kursk and for the neighbouring Belgorod and Bryansk regions that border Ukraine allow the government to relocate residents, control phone communications and requisition vehicles

The raid that began on Tuesday is the largest cross-border foray of the war and raises concerns about fighting spreading well beyond Ukraine.

In neighbouring Belarus, where Russian troops are deployed but which has not sent its own army into Ukraine, President Alexander Lukashenko said Saturday that its air defences shot down unspecified objects launched from Ukraine that territory.

"I do not understand why Ukraine needs this. We need to figure it out. As I said before, we made it clear to them that any provocations will not go unanswered," Lukashenko said, according to state news agency

A Russian plane-launched missile slammed into a Ukrainian shopping mall on Friday, killing at least 14 people and wound ing 44 others, authorities said. The mall in Kostiantynivka, in the eastern Donetsk region, is located in the town's residential area. Thick black smoke rose above it after the strike.

"This is another targeted attack on a crowded place, another act of terror by the Russians, Donetsk regional head Vadym Filashkin said in a Telegram

It was the second major strike on the town in almost a year. Last September, a Russian missile hit an outdoor market

Ukraine attacks

July saw the heaviest civilian casualties in Ukraine since October 2022, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said Friday. Conflictrelated violence killed at least 219 civilians and injured 1,018 over the month, the mission

Russia's Defence Ministry said reinforcements are being sent to Kursk to counter Ukraine's raid, with Russia deploying multiple rocket launchers, towed artillery guns, tanks transported on trailers and heavy tracked vehicles.

The ministry reported fighting in the outskirts of Sudzha. about 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the border. The town has an important pipeline transit hub for Russian natural gas exports to Europe

There has been little reliable information on the daring Ukrainian operation and its strategic aims are unclear. Ukrainian officials have refused to comment on the incursion. which is taking place about 500 kilometres (320 miles) southwest of Moscow.

Asked about Ukraine's incursion, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Friday the United States was "in touch with our Ukrainian counterparts" but that he would not comment until "those conversations are

"There's been no changes in our policy approaches," Kirby said when asked about US policy on use of weapons. "They're using it in an area where we had said before that they could use US weapons for cross-border strikes. The end goal here is to help Ukraine defend itself." Mathieu Boulegue, a defence analyst at the Chatham House think tank in London, said the Ukrainians appear to have a

clear goal, even if they're not saying what it is. "Such a coordinated ground force movement responds to a clear military objective, Boulegue told The Associated Press. Also, the raid has spooked the Russian public and delivered a slap in the face to Russian President Vladimir

PR coup," he said. The attack "is a massive symbol, a massive display of force (showing) that the war is not frozen," he said.

Putin, offering Ukraine "a great

Bangladesh Chief Justice steps down

The Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Obaidul Hassan on Saturday decided to step down from his post in the face of protests by the students who issued an ultimatum to him and judges of the Appellate Division to resign by 1 pm, according to media reports. The 65-year-old judge will

tender his resignation after consulting President consulting President Mohammed Shahabuddin in the evening, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. The chief justice revealed his decision around 1 pm after protesters of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement gathered at the court premises Hasnat Abdullah, one of the

coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, issued an ultimatum demanding the resignation of the chief justice and the justices of the Appellate Division.

Abdullah said the protesters threatened to besiege their residences, The Daily Star newspaper said.

Earlier, Chief Justice Hassan called for a full court meeting with all justices from both divisions of the Supreme However, the protesting stu-

dents viewed the convening of the full court meeting as a judiciary coup announced a siege of the High Court premises. In the face of student protest, Chief Justice Hassan post-

poned the meeting and later said that he would step down Bangladesh Army personnel were deployed at the Supreme Court premises as hundreds of protesting students gathered.

Around 1 pm, army personnel were stationed in the main building, annexe build-



ing, and other areas around the Supreme Court.

They urged the protesters to maintain peace and called on them to avoid damaging government properties. Chief Justice Hassan told

journalists at the apex court premises that he has decided to resign considering the safety of the judges of Supreme Court, High Court and lower courts across the country amid the emerging situation, The Daily Star for the resignation. Completing those, I will send my resignation letter to President Mohammed Shahabuddin by this evening," he added. Asked whether other judges

'There are some formalities

of the Supreme Court will also resign, the Chief Jusitce said, "It's their decision." Following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who resigned and fled to India on Monday following the political turmoil in Bangladesh, 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was

sworn in on Thursday as the

head of an interim govern-

ment.

His government is expected to announce fresh elections after bringing the law-andorder situation under control following the deadly antigovernment demonstrations against the Hasina government that had led to massive violence, now abating.

conclusions about the causes,

Sousa told the AP by phone.

"But we can see a plane with

loss of support, no horizontal speed. In this flat spin condi-

tion, there's no way to reclaim

Speaking to reporters Friday in

Vinhedo, Sao Paulo Public

Security Secretary Guilherme

Derrite said the plane's black

box had been recovered, appar-

Marcelo Moura, director of operations for Voepass, told

reporters Friday night that,

while there were forecasts for

ently in a preserved state.

King Charles praises 'community spirit' after UK's violent riots

PTI LONDON

 $B_{\text{praised the "community}}^{\text{ritain's King Charles III has}}$ spirit" of the peaceful counterafter the "aggression and criminality" of the far-right riots that broke out across different cities in the country and have resulted in over 700 arrests.

According to Buckingham Palace, the 75-year-old monarch had several phone calls on Friday evening to express his thoughts, including a call with Prime Minister Keir Starmer and the police chiefs tackling the response to the violent clashes.

A palace spokesperson said the King spoke to Starmer and held a joint call with the chair of the National Police Chiefs Council, Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, and UK Gold Commander Ben Harrington, Chief Constable of Essex.

The disorder initially began in the wake of a mass stabbing attack in Southport that killed three little girls on July 29 and injured several others after misinformation about the immigration status of the sus-

pect spread across social media. 'In these calls, His Majesty was updated on the current situation and expressed his heartfelt thanks to the police and emerdoing to restore peace in those areas that have been affected by violent disorder." spokesperson said.

Additionally, the King shared how he had been greatly encouraged by the many examples of community spirit that had countered the aggression and criminality from a few with the compassion and resilience of the many. "It remains His Majesty's hope that shared values of mutual respect and understanding will continue to strengthen and unite the nation," the spokesperson

It emerged that the monarch has also been holding private calls to be kept updated on the situation and expressed his "heartfelt" gratitude to the police and emergency services for their work to restore peace in the areas that have been affected by violent disorder. It comes as police forces across the UK remain on high alert amid fears of further unrest over the weekend.

Brazilian authorities probing cause of plane crash that killed 61 "Analysing an air crash just with images can lead to wrong

 $B_{\text{Saturday to piece together}}^{\text{razilian authorities worked}}$ what exactly caused the plane crash in Sao Paulo state the prior day that killed all 61 people on board.

ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop, was headed for Sao Paulo's international airport in Guarulhos with 57 passengers and 4 crew members when it went down in the city of Vinhedo.

Images recorded by witnesses showed the aircraft in a flat spin and plunging vertically before smashing to the ground inside a gated community, and leaving an obliterated fuselage consumed by fire. Residents said there were no injuries on the ground.

Rain drizzled down on rescue workers as they recovered the first bodies from the scene in the chill of the Southern Hemisphere's winter. Some residents of the condominium silently left to spend the night elsewhere.

It was the world's deadliest airline crash since January 2023 when 72 people died on board a Yeti Airlines plane in Nepal that stalled and crashed while



making its landing approach. That plane also was an ATR 72, and the final report blamed pilot error.

A report Friday from Brazilian television network Globo's meteorological center said it "confirmed the possibility of the formation of ice in the region of Vinhedo," and local media cited experts pointing to icing as a potential cause for the

An American Eagle ATR 72-200 crashed on October 31, 1994, and the United States National Transportation Safety Board determined that the probable cause was ice buildup while the plane was circling in a holding pattern.

The plane rolled at about 8,000 feet and dove into the ground, killing all 68 people on board. The US Federal Aviation Administration issued operating procedures for ATRs and similar planes, telling pilots not to use the autopilot in icing conditions.

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

ice, they were within acceptable levels for the aircraft. Likewise, Lt. Col. Carlos Henrique Baldi of the Brazilian air force's centre for the investigation and prevention of air accidents, told reporters in a late afternoon press conference that it was still too early to con-

firm whether ice caused the

The plane is "certified in several countries to fly in severe icing conditions, including in countries unlike ours, where the impact of ice is more sig-nificant," said Baldi, who heads the centre's investigation divi-

Trump looks to young voters

As Donald Trump adjusts to the reality of his new race against Kamala Harris, over the direction of the country, and particularly the economy.

"What has happened is we are witnessing a kind of out-of-body experience where we have suspended reality for a couple of weeks, Trump campaign pollster Tony Fabrizio told reporters during a briefing in West Palm Beach on Thursday of the current state of

future and it is a fight for freedom," Harris : It was a message echoed by Trump during a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago club. "The honeymoon period's gonna end," he insisted while minimising the size of the



crowds Harris has been drawing and lashing out at his new opponent. "Let me tell you: We have the enthusiasm.

had energised the Democratic base and that her team has taken the lead on fundraising. But they insist they have more than enough to do what they need to win. Trump's camaign and its affiliates reported raising USD 138.7 million in July — far less than the eyepopping USD 310 million sum reported by Harris. Her campaign began August with more cash on hand.

With less than three months to go, senior campaign officials are focused on a group of persuadable voters that they believe is key to victory. The targets, which they say comprise about 11 per cent of the electorate in key battleground states, skew younger and are disproportionately male and moderate. While more than half are white, they include more nonwhites, especially Asians and Hispanics, than the broader electorate. They are especially frustrated by the economy, including their personal finances, and are pessimistic things will improve.

"It's a very narrow band of people that we are trying to move," Fabrizio said of the efforts. Since these voters don't engage with traditional news outlets and have traded cable for streaming services, the campaign has been working to reach them in novel

'There is a reason why we're doing podcasts. There is a reason why we're doing Adin Ross," Fabrizio said, referring to the controversial internet personality who ended his interview with the former president earlier this week by giving him a Tesla Cybertruck wrapped in images of Trump raising his fist after his assassination attempt.

Harris makes an immigration pitch

7ice President Kamala Harris drew on her prosecutorial background to make her first expansive pitch on immigration to border-state voters as she and her new running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, attracted thousands to a campaign rally in Arizona during their tour of battleground states. Harris, the former attorney general of California, reminded the crowd that she, as a law enforcement official, targeted transnational gangs, drug cartels and

"I prosecuted them in case after case, and I won," Harris said in front of a crowd of more than 15,000 in Glendale, a suburb of Phoenix. "So I know what I'm talking about?

Harris promoted a border security bill that a bipartisan group of senators negotiated earlier this year, which Republican lawmakers ultimately opposed en masse at Republican nominee Donald Trump's

"Donald Trump does not want to fix this problem," Harris said. "Be clear about that: He has no interest or desire to actually fix



the problem. He talks a big game about border security, but he does not walk the

Her effort to address immigration — a political liability that has dogged Harris for most of her vice presidency — head-on in the critical battleground state is part of a broader push from her campaign to make gains in Sun Belt states that had become increasingly out of reach with Joe Biden at the top of the ticket.

Trump and his allies, who had long hammered Biden over the influx of migrants

during his term, are now shifting their attacks to Harris. Kari Lake, who is running against Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego for the open Senate seat in Arizona, bashes Gallego in a recent ad for supporting Biden's and Harris' "radical border agenda," featuring repeated clips of the vice president chortling. "It's very easy for us to segue and switch

our sights and focus on her," said Dave Smith, Pima County's Republican party chairman. But Harris has been courting the state's

fast-growing Latino population and released a new ad of her own, highlighting how Harris, the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica, rose to the ighest echelons of American politics. And, as she has done in other campaign

stops, Harris during the rally infused the theme of "freedom" throughout her remarks, especially as it came to voting rights, gun safety, LBGT rights and access to abortion. "Arizona, ours is a fight for the said, who had walked out on the stage as : Beyonce's "Freedom" blared throughout Desert Diamond Arena.

AP WEST PALM BEACH

his campaign is counting on younger male voters to give him the edge in November in a presidential contest they insist is his to lose. Trump and his Republican campaign now face a dramatically different race than the one just three weeks ago, before President Joe Biden abandoned his bid. While thev acknowledge polls have tightened with Harris as the Democratic nominee, they maintain that the fundamentals of the race have not changed, with voters deeply sour

the race.

Campaign officials acknowledge that Harris

Garment sector facing uncertainty due to Bangladesh crisis: Sitharaman

Normalcy may return soon, says FM

The Indian garment and knitted fabric sector is witnessing a bit of uncertainty due to the Bangladesh crisis, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday, expressing hope that the interim government there will settle things "sooner rather than later.'

Interacting with the media on the sidelines of customary post Budget address to the central board of Reserve Bank of India, she said efforts are being taken to ensure that with neighbouring country are

With regard to Indian investments, she said, the textile_industry_particularly from Tamil Nadu has made investments there in good faith and they have done well having gone there.

"The exports from Bangladesh also increased because of the duty and quota



Bangladesh will have on our

economy. I hope that the

interim government will

settle things sooner rather

than later so that both the

people of Bangladesh and

India can get back to

Earlier this week, Bangladesh

plunged into a political crisis when Sheikh Hasina resigned as the Prime Minister and fled

the country. Soon after

Parliament was dissolved

leading to the creation of an

normalcy," she said.

liberal approach that we have towards low-income They (Indian countries. garment industry based in Bangladesh) could even export to India."

Particularly, she said, the garment and knitted fabric sector is seeing a bit of uncertainty because of the crisis in the neighbouring

"I hope that the investments are all safe... It's too early for me to see what kind of an impact this situation in

The 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus on Thursday took oath as the of an interim government, replacing Sheikh Hasina who abruptly resigned and fled to India leaving the country in turmoil following deadly protests against her government controversial quota system in

Friday, Bangladesh's im leader Yunus interim announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors and named a former top diplomat to head the foreign ministry.

The Nobel laureate's first task is to bring stability to Bangladesh after he Bangladesh responded to a call by student protesters for him to temporarily lead the country following weeks of deadly anti-government demonstrations against the government led by Sheikh Hasina.

Sovereign green bonds trading at IFSC to begin in 2nd half of this fiscal: RBI Guv

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday said trading of sovereign green bonds can commence at the International Financial Services Centre in Gujarat during the second half of the current fiscal.

'We are in discussion with the IFSC, it will be operationalised very soon. I operationalised very soon. I think in the second half (of the current financial year), it will be possible," Das said. In April, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced that it will issue a framework to enable the trading of sovereign green bonds in GIFT City.

The government has been raising funds through green bonds since 2022-23 and has raised a total of Rs 36,000 crore in the last two

in the current financial year, government has raised only Rs 1,697 crore out of the stipulated Rs 12,000 crore scheduled to be raised in the first half ending in September through green bonds as it did not find

response from investors to financing of the green such bond issuance, Das said, "as the debt manager of the government, we are watchful of what exactly is happening and something needs to be done we will interact with the government and deal with

He further said, one major announcement in this about budget developing

taxonomy.
"I think that will have a significant long-term impact on mobilisation of funds for the green sector, favourable bids. not only through green Asked about the tepid bonds but also overall

sector," he said. 'We will develop

taxonomy for climate finance for enhancing the availability of capital for climate adaptation and mitigation. support achievement of the climate country's commitments and green transition,' Minister Sitharaman had said in her Budget speech for 2024-25. Earlier in the day, Sitharaman addressed the board members in the post-budget 609th RBI's Central Board Meeting

VA Tech WABAG Ltd secures repeat order from CMWSSB

PTI CHENNAI

Water treatment player VA Tech WABAG Ltd has secured a repeat order of Rs 415 crore from the Rs 415 crore from the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, the company said on Saturday.

The order is towards the Operation and Maintenance of 110 million litres per day

Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Desalination Plant at Nemmeli in Chennai for a period of 7 years, city-based VA Tech WABAG Ltd said. VA Tech WABAG had bagged an Operation and Maintenance contract from the Chennai Metropolitan

Water Supply and Sewage Board (CMWSSB) and it was completed in 2021.

In a BSE filing today, the company said, "CMWSSB floated a public tender for the Operation and Maintenance of the plant and WARAC control to the company said,"

WABAG secured this repeat order for Operating and Maintaining the plant for

sector is on the cusp of a revolution, with innovative segments like millets, ready-to-eat and plant-based dairy

alternatives unlocking a treasure trove of economic opportunities for farmers. The newly launched report reveals, technology holds the key to supercharging this growth, ensuring the highest standards

of safety and quality and propelling India's exports onto the global stage," CII National Council for Cold Chain and Agri Logistics Chairman Ravichandran Purushothaman



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das during the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India in the customary post-Budget meeting, at Reserve Bank of India in New Delhi, on Saturday

Domestic food market expected to grow by over 47% to touch USD 1,274 bn: Report

The domestic food market is expected to grow by over 47 per cent to reach USD 1,274 billion by 2027, a report released by the Confederation of Indian Industry and supported by Danfoss India said

food India's processing innovative industry sees startups emerging with cuttingedge technology, the report titled 'Food Processing Sector in India - Potential for Southern States. And released CH (Confederation of Indian Industry -- Food and Agriculture Centre Excellence) and Danfoss India,

Danfoss India is a leader in heating, ventilation and airconditioning and is the



headquartered engineering major Danfoss. Some of the key highlights of the report, which was released at the CII-FoodPro 2024

of Denmark-

subsidiary

include the potential that southern states hold for food processing industry.
"Tamil Nadu leads India's export of processing fruits, juices and nuts, with a 33 per

cent share by quantity and 27

per cent by value, exporting

USD 220.81 million in 2023-24," the report said. The food processing industry in India sees innovative

startups emerging with cuttingedge technology, the report The study carries insights on emerging trends, technologies and export opportunities

enabling businesses to make informed decisions and tap statement on Saturday. into the sector's potential

"At Danfoss India, we are excited to be a part of this transformative journey, driving sustainable food processing solutions that will shape the future of Indian agriculture and food sector," he said in a

Banks should focus on their core business, bring innovative products to mobilise deposits: FM market."

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{
m Nirmala\ Sitharaman\ on}^{
m inance\ Minister}$ Saturday exhorted banks to focus on their core business and explore new ways to attract deposits, household savings are increasingly shifting towards alternate investment products.

and "Both RBI the government have been asking banks to focus on their business activity... They should be aggressive in deposit mobilisation and then lend. That is the core activity of banks," she said. Interacting with the media after her customary post Budget address to the central board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), she said there is mismatch deposits to meet their between credit and deposit targets," she said.

growth presently.

Stressing that banks should give emphasis on collecting deposits, she said, "RBI has given them some liberty in might managing the interest rates. Using that liberty, they should make deposits attractive... Bring innovative products and mobilise deposits."
She also urged bankers to

shun lazy banking and focus on small savers rather than big or bulk deposits. "Trickles (small savings) are going to be your bread and butter, money to bank on... That trickle which was the emphasis long back, which kept nothing for the other side (big deposits). Now we've (banks) gone to the other side completely. Now they are chasing bulk

But the requisite small deposit mobilisation is one of the very critical jobs of a bank, she said, adding "it might be grinding monotony, but that's where your bread and butter lies. Echoing a similar view, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das "we have been witnessing about 300 to 400 basis points gap between deposits and credit growth, deposits are lower.

'So at the moment, our effort is to highlight this point. It is kind of a proactive caution for the banks' management that going forward, this may create structural issues with regard liquidity management. As it stands today, we don't see a crisis. But it has to be attended



vast branch network to mobilise deposits through innovative means and products, he emphasised. He further said interest rates are deregulated and often banks raise deposit Banks should leverage their rates to attract funds.

if Asked any intervention is required to bolster deposit growth, Das said, "India has deregulated interest rates and if you back on regulating deposit and credit rate, it can be

Governor while

unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy earlier in the week, also had expressed concern of deposit-lending mismatch in the banking sector. He had said that banks

were taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental demand.

This, he had warned, "may potentially expose the banking system to structural liquidity issues. Banks may, therefore, focus more on mobilisation of household financial savings innovative through products and service offerings and by leveraging retrograde and distort the fully on their vast branch

network." Earlier in Sitharaman addressed the

central board of RBI on the sidelines of the 609th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India here. She interacted with the directors in the Central Board, outlined the vision of the Union Budget 2024-25, its focus areas and the expectations from the financial sector.

the

The Finance Minister also underlined the priorities for 'Viksit Bharat'.

Sitharaman accompanied by Minister of State Pankaj Chaudhary, T V Somanathan, Finance Secretary and Secretary, Department Expenditure; Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment

Public and Management and other

senior officials. The Board also reviewed the global and domestic economic situation and outlook, including the challenges posed by geopolitical developments and global financial market

volatility.
Deputy Governors Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan J and other Directors of the Central Board - Satish K Marathe, S Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Anand Gopal Mahindra and Pankaj Ramanbhai attended the meeting.

Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, also attended the

REC CMD honoured

PNS GURUGRAM

 $V^{
m ivek}$ Kumar Dewangan, IAS, CMD, REC Limited received 'Distinguished Fellow' Award at the 2024 Director's Conclave & 34th IOD Annual

The Institute of Directors organised this event to recognise and honour the leadership and contribution of individuals in the corporate

The 'Distinguished Fellow' Award was presented to Dewangan by the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal, acknowledging his outstanding dedication and innovative approach towards leading REC Limited to new heights of

success. award The recognises Dewangan's visionary leadership towards fostering infrastructure growth and innovation, and promoting all round prosperity.



strengthened India's global position in the energy sector, it

Dewangan said, "I am humbled and honoured to receive the award. This accolade is a reflection of our collective ambition at REC to innovate and lead in the energy sector. It is a moment of pride for all of us, as it acknowledges our unwavering commitment to excellence and sustainability. I accept this award with a promise to continue our journey towards empowering a brighter, greener future for our

Diversify ethanol production, Shah urges sugar mills PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ooperation Minister Amit ►Shah on Saturday called on mills to explore alternatives to sugarcane for ethanol production, pushing for a multi-dimensional approach to biofuel manufacturing. Speaking at an event organized

by the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF), Shah said India would achieve its 20 per cent ethanol blending target by 2025-26, ahead of the original 2030 deadline.

The minister highlighted that the government's ethanol blending programme has helped reduce the country's crude oil import bill and address environmental

concerns You need to be futuristic and He emphasised the need for



look at opportunities and expand. Ethanol can be made from multiple sources," Shah said, urging cooperative sugar mills to shed their "orthodox' approach and explore alternative feedstocks such as maize and bamboo.

Shah said about 1,000 crore litres of ethanol is required for blending, and the necessary infrastructure to achieve this target is in place.

potential export opportunities once the Global Biofuels Alliance is established. minister challenged

NFCSF to expand its operations, suggesting the federation to set up one cooperative sugar mill for every three districts in four states within a year.

Shah also advised NFCSF to hire professionals to guide loss-making cooperatives and set a target of increasing mills' annual turnover by 25 per cent in two years. 'We have a habit of working

inefficiently and seeking help from the government. The government will be willing to help more if you work efficiently.Make a dynamic Federation, not a demand-

sugar mills to modernise and driven Federation," he added adopt new technologies, citing

The push for diversification The push for diversification comes as India seeks to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and promote sustainable energy alternatives.

Shah also gave away the NFCSF awards for best performing cooperative mills under different categories. NFCSF

President Harshavardhan Patil said the sector faces several challenges and demanded an increase in the minimum selling price of sugar, the rates of B-Heavy molasses and sugar syrup used for ethanol making, and export of 10-20 lakh tonnes of

The federation is in the process of preparing a roadmap for the sector for the next ten years and is likely to be ready by September 5.

Amara Raja Group opens battery pack plant, lays foundation stone for cell manufacturing in T'gana

PTI HYDERABAD

The Amara Raja Group on Saturday held a groundbreaking ceremony for their Customer Qualification Plant for cell manufacturing and inaugurated Phase 1 of the battery pack plant with a current capacity of 1.5 GWh in Mahabubnagar district of Telangana.

Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies (ARACT), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Amara Raja Energy & Mobility Limited (ARE&M), one of industrial and automotive battery majors, held the ceremony.

Along with the battery pack plant inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of the Customer Qualification Plant (CQP), Amara Raja signed a

Memorandum Understanding (MoU) with Piaggio. The battery maker had earlier

signed an MoU with the state

government for setting up research and development and a greenfield manufacturing facility for Lithium-Ion battery-making in the state with an ultimate capacity up to 16 GWh and a Battery Pack Assembly unit up to 5 GWh with an investment of Rs 9,500 crore. "The first phase of it (16 MWh), when we are getting to 8 to 10 GWh, we are planning to do it with our own internal accruals and borrowings. But to go beyond that, we need to raise money through equity," Jayadev Galla, Chairman and MD of ARE&M, told reporters in a press conference.





REETIKA LOSES QUARTER-FINAL **BOUT AGAINST MEDET**

PTI PARIS

ndian wrestler Reetika Hooda lost a close quarter-Ifinal bout against Aiperi Medet Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan in the women's 76 kg freestyle category at the Paris Olympics here on Saturday.

The wrestlers were locked 1-1 after six minutes of top-

quality defensive wrestling but the Kyrgyz won having logged home the last equalising point as per rules.

Both wrestlers played a defensive game and the solitary point each was scored through passivity across the two periods.

Reetika will now wait for Kyzy to enter the final which will give her a shot at competing in the repechage round.

If she doesn't then India's Paris Games campaign will end with six medals and without a

Earlier, Reetika displayed power and skill in equal measure while outclassing Bernadett Nagy of Hungary 12-2 in the pre-quarterfinals.



Nadeem won the men's javelin gold in the ongoing Paris Olympics with a stunning 92.97m throw — which was also an Olympic record - while Chopra, who was defending his title, took the silver with a season's best effort

the sport.

"It's already grown a lot. We're already seeing more talented javelin throwers in India. The same is happening in Pakistan," Chopra said when asked whether their success will lead to a boom in athletics in both India and Pakistan. "When we went to the Asian Games and Arshad couldn't compete due to a knee injury, his replacement, Yasir Sultan, threw very well. The medal Arshad just won will inspire more kids to follow, which is great," Chopra said on Jio Cinema.

He was referring to last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, where he had won a gold.

Asked whether the India-Pakistan rivalry will switch from cricket to javelin, Chopra said, "That'll be possible if we had more competitions like in cricket. We have two major competitions: the Olympics every four years and the World Championships every two years.
"If we had more competitions, more

people would watch, like the Diamond League and some others," said the 26year-old from Khandra village near

The 27-year-old Nadeem also spoke about the significance of Pakistan and India winning gold and silver in Paris Olympics.

'I'm really happy. Out of the hundreds of countries participating, Pakistan and India have performed really well. Neeraj won gold at the (2023) World Championships in Budapest, and this is a golden moment for me," he said

"Our friendship is really strong, and I wish it continues for a long time. Asked how many times he's watched the clip of his Olympic record throw that

fetched him the gold, he said, "I've watched it a few times, and I feel I have the capacity to do even better. One day I hope I can showcase this capacity." Chopra hoped that the competition with Nadeem would continue to grow.

"It was a very healthy competition, with Arshad doing a great job and breaking the Olympic record. Big congratulations to him. I wish our competition continues to be this strong. We will keep working hard and give javelin support in our countries while motivating kids who may want to take

up the sport." On his efforts to breach the elusive 90m mark, Chopra said, "I've wanted to cross that mark since the 2018 Asian Games where I threw 88m. I feel like I'll cross 90m, but there are technical and injury reasons behind why I'm struggling to hit my maximum reach. "I have to work harder for that and keep myself fit."



Sreejesh a legend of hockey, will inspire next generation of players: Teammates

Tust-retired India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh is a legend of the game and will inspire the next generation of hockey players in the country, said his teammates on Saturday, after returning from Paris Olympics with a second successive bronze medal.

Eight-time champions India clinched a bronze medal in Paris, beating match. The last of India's Olympic hockey golds came in

"Sreejesh is the best person, a legend, and India calls him the 'Great Wall', amazing, that is all I can say he played his best hockey, and he has contributed to the country by playing hockey, and the standard he has set as a goalkeeper, it will inspire the next generation," forward Lalit Upadhyay said during a felicitation ceremony here.

"I would like to thank the entire country because of the overwhelming support you have given to hockey, like the last time but even more so now, hockey is still in the hearts of people, they continue to love the sport and continue to support." Lalit was also full of praise for

inspirational Harmanpreet Singh, who scored 10 goals to emerge as the highest scorer of the tournament.

"The country has given him (Harmanpreet) nickname (Sarpanch). I am glad that the country gave him this nickname, the ones who love hockey, as a great captain,

he has shown his character and to be the top scorer of the Olympics is a big achievement. "He is a legend, there is much more to do now, and our vision is that we move forward and we can change the colour of the medal and achieve our dream." Lalit recollected the fighting spirit shown by the side against Great Britain in the quarterfinal when they were down to 10 men for more than 40 minutes of the match but "I would like to thank the coaching staff and all the players, we played like a

cohesive unit and showed the character of the team, we had to give it our all, because in that moment we had no option to back down. That was the match and I cannot say more,"

Defender Jarmanpreet Singh wished Sreejesh luck following his retirement from hockey. "I do not need to say anything

about Sreejesh, the entire country praises him and has seen him play, they all call him the 'Wall', he is a legend and a great player. I had a lot of fun playing hockey with him, and I wish Sreejesh continues to do good work for hockey," he said. He also praised skipper Harmanpreet's effort in the

tournament. "Harmanpreet is a goal

machine of the team and we receive a lot of help from him he is the 'Sarpanch'.

Jarmanpreet was happy with his own performance in his maiden Olympics. "I enjoyed myself at this year's Olympics, this was my first Olympics, and my target was to perform well for my team and the country.

Nadia breaks Africa's stranglehold on 10,000-metre podium Milan-Cortina Winter Games.

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS (FRANCE)

or three straight Olympics, L'nobody born outside of Africa had even come close to finishing on the podium in the women's 10,000 meters. Italy's Nadia Battocletti ended

that streak Friday night at the Paris Games, claiming silver in an event that had come to be by Kenyans, dominated Ethiopians and runners from those countries representing other nations. Battocletti first served notice of

her potential when she swept the 5,000 and the 10,000 at a home European Championships in June. But, there were no Africans in Rome.

During the 5,000 at these Games, when Battocletti finished fourth, the Africans realized how competitive she

Battocletti crossed fourth in that race, then was upgraded to bronze when Kenya's Faith Kipyegon was disqualified for trading elbows with Gudaf Tsegay before Kipyegon had her bronze restored on appeal. "After the 5,000, they started greeting me, appreciating me. I received lots of compliments from the Kenyan and Ethiopian girls," Battocletti

"I imagine they had a little bit of fear. ... I heard them talking in the last laps about who amongst them was about to sprint?

When Beatrice Chebet of Kenya burst ahead in the final 100 meters of the 25-lap race, Battocletti was the only one who could follow her. Chebet won in 30 minutes,

43.25 seconds to complete a sweep of the 5,000 and 10,000; Battocletti crossed second a mere 0.10 behind, and Ethiopian-born Dutch runner and defending champion Sifan Hassan was third, nearly a full



second back.

"In the last 500-600 meters. I kept my eyes wide open and I told myself, 'Don't let them run away," Battocletti said. "I tried to be as smart as possible, like a

And to think, this was only the fourth time in her career that Battocletti has run a 10,000. She's only 24 and distance runners tend to mature later in their careers.

Battocletti's parents were both runners. Her father, Giuliano, competed for Italy at eight world cross-country championships. Her Moroccan mother, Jawhara Saddougui, specialized in the 800.

Battocletti is from the mountainous region Trentino amid the Dolomites Range, an area better known for snow sports and near some of the venues for the 2026

The event that changed my life was the historic Ciaspolada della Val di Non, a snowshoe race that my father won for the third time in 2007," Battocletti said, thinking back to when she was six years old. 'The organizers told me that if

I wanted to, I could symbolically run the final stretch with him. That allowed me to cross the first finish line of my life"

Beyond running, Battocletti also studies architecture, building and construction engineering at the University of Trento.

Before the 10,000, Battocletti taped up one of her ankles due to an Achilles tendon issue. But, the tape peeled off as the race wore on and was dragging around her spikes.

"At a certain point, I felt like I was skating," she said. "Then at the end, I heard the stadium exploding in celebration.

Tamirat wins men's marathon to end Kenya dominance

AP PARIS

Ethiopian runner Tamirat Tola won the men's marathon at the Paris Olympics to end Kenya's dominance of the race.

Tola finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 6 minutes, 26 seconds, with Belgium's Bashir Abdin finishing 21 seconds behind and Benson Kipruto taking bronze for Kenya, 34 seconds

Tola looked back as he neared the line and had time to soak up the applause.

Two-time defending champion Eliud Kipchoge struggled throughout was more than eight minutes behind Tola. The last non-Kenyan to win

was Ugandan Stephen Kiprotich at the London Games in 2012

Brazil beats Canada in tense three-set women's beach volleyball

Not even a tense tête-à-tête in the gold medal game could spoil the vibe at Paris' biggest beach party.

Canada's Brandie Wilkerson and Brazil's Ana Patrícia got into a finger-pointing shouting match across the net in the tiebreaking third set of the beach volleyball final of the Paris Olympics on Friday night. The referee tried to keep the peace, but it was the Eiffel Tower Stadium DJ who cooled tempers on the sand by playing John Lennon's "Imagine" over the PA system.

The players laughed and clapped. The crowd applauded and sang along.

Wilkerson was shown a yellow card.

The top-ranked Brazilians left with the gold medal. "Were competitors and we are

fighting for the same thing: There's only one gold medal," Wilkerson said during a postmatch news conference in which the two laughed and jokingly put up their fists as if



they were going to brawl it out. "Immediately after the game, it's all love and respect," she said. "We bring out the best in each other, and I'm honored to play against this team.'

Ana Patrícia and Duda rallied from an 11-5 deficit to take the first-to-21, win-by-two first set 26-24, and Canada won the second 21-12. Brazil opened up a 12-7 lead in the first-to-15 tiebreaker when, after a joust at the net, Wilkerson and Ana Patrícia began pointing fingers at each other. The second referee, the one at

sand level, moved out to separate the two players, but Wilkerson continued to argue and picked up a yellow card. As the Brazilians got into position to serve for the next point, the DJ began playing "Imagine," the late Beatle's song calling for

unity and peace. The message resonated with the players.

"What a beautiful opportunity we have to play the finals under the Eiffel Tower against the best in the world," Wilkerson said. "Like, that, in of itself, is a Wilkerson told reporters afterward that it was all a misunderstanding: She was responding to her family, cheering in the crowd behind the Brazilians, and Ana Patricia thought Wilkerson was taunting her.

"We're pretty amped up, partners are coming in, refs are coming in. So it was a bit of a mess," Wilkerson said. "But after the game, and even right when they came to shake our hands, still on the court, there was an immediate hug and just kind of like, Hey, it's all good." When play resumed, it took Brazil only five more points to finish off Wilkerson and Melissa Humana-Paredes, kicking off a party the sport's spiritual home hadn't seen since hosting the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games at Copacabana. In Tokyo, the country was shut out at the Summer Games for the first time since beach volleyball was added to the program in 1996.

Three years later, Brazil not only returned to the podium but climbed to its top step.



wins gold

AP ■ PARIS

 $A^{\text{lgerian}}_{\text{Khelif}} \ \text{boxer} \quad \text{Imane} \\ \text{a gold}$ medal Friday at the Paris emerging Olympics, champion from a tumultuous run at the Games where she endured intense scrutiny in the ring and online abuse from around the world over misconceptions about her womanhood.

Khelif beat Yang Liu of China 5:0 in the final of the women's division, welterweight wrapping up the best series of fights of her boxing career with a victory at Roland Garros, where crowds chanted her name, waved Algerian flags and roared every time she landed a punch.

After her unanimous win, Khelif jumped into her coaches' arms, one of them putting her on his shoulders and carrying her in a victory lap as she pumped her fists and grabbed an Algerian flag from the crowd.

"For eight years, this has been my dream, and I'm now the Olympic champion and gold medalist," Khelif said through an interpreter. Asked about the scrutiny, she told reporters: "That also gives my success a special taste because of those

perform as athletes, and I hope that we will not see any similar attacks in future Olympics,"

Fans have embraced Khelif in Paris even as she faced an extraordinary amount of scrutiny from world leaders, major celebrities and others who have questioned her eligibility or falsely claimed she was a man. It has thrust her into a larger divide over changing attitudes toward identity gender regulations in sports.

It stems from the Russiandominated International Boxing Association's decision to disqualify Khelif and fellow two-time Olympian Li Yu-ting of Taiwan from last year's world championships, claiming both failed an eligibility test for women's competition that IBA officials have declined to answer basic questions about.

Tm fully qualified to take part in this competition," Khelif said Friday. "I'm a woman like any other woman. I was born as a woman, I live as a woman, and I am qualified."

The International Olympic took Committee unprecedented step last year of permanently banning the IBA from the Olympics following years of concerns about its governance, competitive fairness and financial transparency. The IOC has called the arbitrary sex tests that the sport's governing body

Jetherlands defends women's hockey title Annan, an Australian native who guided the Netherlands to gold in **AP** ■ COLOMBES (FRANCE)

The Netherlands defended its title in Olympic women's field hockey, rallying from an early deficit to beat China 2-1 in a shootout in the final at the Paris Games on Friday night. The victory followed the Dutch men's

team taking gold a day earlier. The Netherlands became the first country to sweep the field hockey medals at the Games since the women's tournament was added in 1980. Much like the men, the women did so

surrounded by a sea of orange, with Dutch fans filling Yves-du-Manoir Stadium and making for a festive atmosphere. Also like the men, it did not happen easily. The Netherlands fell behind 5:54 in

when a defensive lapse in front



allowed Chen Yi to redirect Dan Wen's setup past goalkeeper Anne Veenendaal. After trailing for just six minutes all tournament until the final, the Dutch generated plenty of quality chances through three quarters, including Frederique Malta ringing one penalty corner shot off the left post and missing wide right on another.

Yibbi Jansen tied it with 9:11 left in regulation by scoring on a penalty corner, setting off cheering, flagwaving and jumping in the stands. Pien Sanders, Maria Verschoor and Marijn Veen scored in the shootout to spark what could be an all-night party for the Dutch players and their fans. The second of back-to-back Olympic titles came with former coach Alyson Annan on the other side with China.

Hockey investigation into team culture under her watch following complaints from The Netherlands improved to 21-0 against China over the past decade, with 15 of those wins being by multiple goals.

Tokyo in 2021, abruptly stepped

down in early 2022 after a Royal

Association

Dutch

Argentina took home women's field hockey bronze after beating Belgium in a penalty shootout. Argentina medaled for a second consecutive Games, taking silver in Tokyo for losing to the Netherlands in the final. 'It's crazy," Argentina goalkeeper Cristina Cosentino said. "We're very Cristina Cosentino said.

attacks." "We are in the Olympics to

imposed on the two boxers irretrievably flawed.



New Delhi, August 11, 2024

the pioneer

"There are so many roads you can take that will lead you the wrong way, that nobody will hear your name"





DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH DAMAGE?

The Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project, nearing completion, is expected to be an example for the world with the longest wildlife corridor in Asia. It will cut the travel time between the two cities to 2.5 hours but apprehensions remain about its impact, writes PARITOSH KIMOTHI

ttarakhand has for long been a popular destination for pilgrims and tourists. While Haridwar is a major pilgrimage centre in the plains, the provisional State capital Dehradun hosts a number of prominent national-level institutions including the Survey of India and Indian Military Academy along with famous educational institutions, apart from being the gateway to the popular hill station of Mussoorie and other tourism activities especially in the mountainous regions of Garhwalin the State. Apart from long weekends and special occasions, the summer months frequently witness a large number of people arriving here especially from Delhi-NCR. Similarly, snowfall in the nearby hills also attracts a number of tourists from neigbouring regions. At present, people travel between Delhi and Dehradun/Haridwar by road, train or by air. The time taken to travel between Doon and the national Capital by road ranges from five to seven hours depending on the time when one travels and the location one is going to. Similarly, it takes about five to six hours by train and though the flight takes 40 minutes to one hour, one may spend more than an additional hour to get to the destination from the airport.

This scenario is expected to be changed drastically in the near future with the completion of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project of the National Highways Authority of India. The completion of this 212-kilometre six-lane access controlled expresswaywith a project cost of Rs 14,000 crore, which is in its final stage of construction, will drastically cut down the travel time between Delhi and Dehradun/ Haridwar to 2.5 hours. This expressway is also expected to be an example for the world as it also features a 13.8 kilometre elevated road, making it Asia's longest wildlife corridor. The authorities involved in the project state that the



THE DEHRADUN-**BASED WILDLIFE** INSTITUTE OF INDIA (WII) SET UP 80 CAMERÁ TRAPS ON THIS STRETCH AND STUDIED WILDLIFE **MOVEMENT HERE** FOR THREE MONTHS. THE **MOVEMENT OF ABOUT 40 TO 50** DIFFERENT WILDLIFE SPECIES RANGING FROM DEER AND WILD BOAR TO LEOPARDS AND **ELEPHANTS WAS ASCERTAINED HERE** IN THIS DURATION. AS PART OF THE **EXPRESSWAY** PROJECT, THE **AUTHORITIES WILL** ALSO WORK ON AN **ECO-RESTORATION**





on the one side and the Shivalik Wildlife Reserve on the other. An average of 35,000 vehicles pass daily through this stretch.

Widening the existing stretch of the highway between Ganeshpur in the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh and Asharodi in Dehradun would have been cheaper but might have ended causing more environmental damage and exacerbating humanwildlife conflict. Widening the existing highway would have entailed the cutting of about 1.5 lakh trees while about 11,000 trees had to be cut for building the elevated road.

The Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) set up 80 camera traps on this stretch and studied wildlife movement here for three months. The movement of about 40 to 50 different wildlife species ranging from deer and wild boar to leopards and elephants was ascertained here in this duration. As part of the expressway project, the authorities will also work on an ecorestoration plan. Further, budget

study wildlife movement on this corridor for a period of five years. Similarly, the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun will undertake a three-year Sal tree regeneration project in this area to enhance the environment. According to officials involved in the project, the elevated stretch is expected to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and also prove beneficial for the wildlife and environment. At present, the longest such wildlife corridor in India is about eight kilometres long and is located inPench, connecting Madhya Pradesh with Maharashtra. While this project promises to bring about drastic changes not just in Dehradun and Haridwar but also in Delhi, there are many who have apprehensions about the impacts of this major development. Dehradunbased anthropologist and heritage expert LokeshOhri says that the project will certainly have benefits but questioned whether Dehradun and Mussoorie are prepared for what is to come. "The opening of

this expressway will practically turn Dehradun into a part of the NCR like Ghaziabad or Faridabad. The flood of visitors has already converted Rishikesh into a trap for the locals who struggle to move around the city through traffic congestion resulting from the rush of tourists, who in turn also face the problem. The pressure on the forest wealth of this region and real estate will also increase after the expressway becomes functional. Though such projects do benefit all, the focus should also have been on ensuring that the locals benefit more. Apart from this, the authorities here do not seem to have taken any measures to prevent the negative impacts the project will have on Deĥradun and Mussoorie," he said.

 $H^{\mathrm{uman\ rights\ lawyer\ Reenu\ Paul}}_{\mathrm{who\ had\ also\ challenged\ the}}$ Ganeshpur-Asharodi stretch of the project in the Uttarakhand High Court for conservation of the Shivalik ecosystem, opined that damage to the Shivalik range will cause considerable damage to the

Doon Valley. She points out, "The Shivaliks play a vital role in insulating the Doon Valley against high winds, heat, dust and pollutants from the plains on the south western side of the valley. In the Gazetteers of Dehradun published in 1910, HG Walton had remarked that the climate of Dehradun differs from the plains owing to its elevation, while the wooded range of the Shivalik partly suppress and partly moisten the scorching winds that blow during the hot weather in the plains. Apart from this, the project doesn't appear to be sustainable as the hillocks of the Shivalik are highly eroding. The tributaries of the Ganga river including Mohan Rao, Sukh Rao, Saloni and Chilla Rao have also been disturbed and obstructed, disturbing the hydrology of the area. The wildlife corridor has also been fragmented," she opined. The authorities are confident that the opening of the Delhi-Dehradun expressway will not only enhance public convenience by drastically cutting down the travel time, but also boost economic activities further in the region. Infrastructural development is a major focus of the Union government and is a vital requirement for achieving the desired level of economic progress and public welfare. On the other hand, many in Dehradun remain sceptical about the impacts this project will have. The once green and serene Doon Valley has witnessed a considerable drop in greenery and rise in congestion and pollution in recent years. The city's existing infrastructure struggles to meet the requirements of the locals and visitors as factors like congestion and inadequate parking space have impacted the very character of Doon and life here. Expected to be completed in the next couple of months, the opening of the expressway for traffic is sure to bring about drastic changes. However, only time will tell the real cost of this major development.

environment and climate of the



CHARMING

PROMISES A TRANQUIL RETREAT!

Inhaling the scents of fresh blooms, sipping freshly brewed tea, I witnessed sunrise magic from the folds of Nilgiris, sitting in the garden of the charming villa, The Xanadu in Coonoor. Here I sealed every moment as the celebration of Nature

BY SHARMILA CHAND

ucked at the edge of a cliff, the villa is my home for three days with a magnificent view of the rolling Nilgiri hills, tea plantations and the plains below. I tell my friend, Aparna Bharathan, the humble owner of this pretty home, that I have 'checked in and breathing out'. She bursts into laughter as that exactly is the tagline she has chosen for her Xanadu chain of premium, fully serviced vacation rental villas.

For me, a trip to Coonoor is essentially to relish slow travel without ticking off 'must do' list. Hence, a game of Jenga or Monopoly in the plush living room while watching the pitter patter of while watching the pitter patter of raindrops, is luxury. There is a whiff of pleasant aroma in the room, I can't resist and peep into the kitchen where Ganga Ram is busy making rasam and lemon rice. He is little more generous in using curry leaves in tadka, and that makes me Ganga has spoilt me thoroughly with several glasses of cutting chai

and delicious food. **MAGICAL NIGHT**

I wait for the spectacular night view Located at the convergence of both when the sky is full of pretty stars in Ghats, lends Nilgiris vibrant flora coherence with the lights of the and fauna. From Evergreen forests

plains shimmering below. This is luxury for me. The weather throughout the day plays its own hide and seek, the clouds enveloping the hills in a stroke of misty white and next moment letting the hills magically appear in the famous 'Nilgiri' blue haze.

NII GIRIS ENDOWED WITH IINIOI **BIODIVERSITY**

The Nilgiri mountains stretch over the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, connecting Western Ghats with the Eastern Ghats. and lowland Savannas to lush Shola grassland, enchanting flora encompasses the region. Various endangered species including Nilgiri Langur tĥrive here. What I love is the heady fragrance of cypress, eucalyptus and pine. The soft purple haze of my favourite jacaranda trees keeps my eyes longing for more. I can't get over seeing magnificent trees of Pont Setia, the same festive plant with bold red leaves we have in small pots during Christmas time. And then the lush mosanda in white and pink, another favourite of mine that seems to be calling me back soon!

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY - THE TODAS

It is said that Toda community settled here around 3500 years ago, thus the oldest inhabitants of the region. Known for their pastoral way of life and vegetarian lifestyle, the Todas have a distinct identity. Every aspect of their life, including their artistic skills, are inspired by nature. The traditions they follow significant in their lifestyle. I was told by locals that during an infant's naming ceremony, the grandfather uncovers the child's face out in the open air for the first time, showing various elements of nature - the rising sun, the birds, the cows, buffaloes etc. I visited one Toda

village and saw women busy at their art work. Their embroidery represents an ancient art form and has been granted a GI patent by The

A CUP THAT CHEERS!

Visiting Nilgiris and not taking a trip to a tea plantation, is unfair. Though you see the sweeping vistas of carpets of tea all around, blooming on the slopes as far as eye can see, but experiencing a walk through the plantation and completing it with tea tasting, is a beautiful outstanding experience. And who can do this better than Sandeep Subramani, a fourth generation tea planter and founder of Tranquilitea which runs a chain of experiential boutique holidays in the Nilgiris and conducts a highly acclaimed gourmet tea tasting experience in their estate in Coonoor called the 'Cups That

Cheer'. Sandeep takes one and half hour glorious session on tea which is full of stories, facts and secrets. One smile - "The Nilgiris has the world's highest tea estates. At around 8000 feet there is simply no other place on earth that grows tea as a plantation crop as high as in the Nilgiris. Darjeeling, the region that makes the other famous Indian tea has its highest tea estates at just over

6000 feet. Let me explain why tea doesn't grow at such heights anywhere else. The weather is generally too cold for tea to grow at these elevations. However, the geographical location of the Nilgiris provides the perfect temperature band through the winter months, for tea to grow even at these heights. Talking about temperature, tea thrives between 13° C and 30° C and we are always within that range. Though night-time temperatures in winter can drop below 13° C, day temperatures are always within the optimum range. This results in a tea that is intensely flavourful and typically floral in nature," he concludes.

INTERESTING ATTRACTIONS TO VISIT

Though I am contented to luxuriate in the comfort of home Xanadu, but for those discerning travelers who might like to have a sightseeing plan, here are few top things to do in

Dolphin's Nose Point — Located amidst the rolling hills, the tip of the peak of the enormous rock resembles the nose of a dolphin hence the name Dolphin's Nose. Gigantic ravines are on both sides of the place offering a view of inspiring Catherine Falls.

Lamb's Rock - enjoy fascinating

views of the valley at this vantage point with jagged rock that drops down several hundred feet to bury itself in the luxuriant jungle below. The place got its name after Captain Lamb who attempted to open a path to this place. **Droog Fort** — The historical Droog Fort at an altitude of about

6000 feet above the lush plains, is said to be used by Tipu Sultan as said to be used by Tipu Sultan as an outpost. To reach this place, one has to go up to Nonsuch Estate and trek down for about 4 kms. According to locals' tales, the fort is linked with the legend of a local demon, Bakasura. Due to this, it is also called Bakasura Malai by the natives.

Sim's Park — Spend sometime in the park which was developed around the natural contours of the land by JD Sims and Major Murray in the year of 1874. Spread over 30 as a pleasure resort for the residents and visitors, and later developed into garden. It has wonderful landscaped gardens & walkways lined up with beautiful flowers spread across, also a lake inside the park that offers boating facility as well.

KETTI VALLEY

Embark on the toy train to enjoy this beautiful valley. It is also famous for bird watching and trekking. You can also visit the famous Shiva Lingam temple

GOURMET CHEESE

Coonoor is now also famous for selling gourmet cheese. You can take a tour of cheese farms or simply visit a popular old store Nilgiris Store' or 'Baker's Junction' just 100 m from Bedford circle.

Shopping in Coonoor is pretty good. From pretty embroidered shawls, apparels, Toda jewellery and handicrafts items to natural oils, fruit jams, homemade chocolates and of course, the huge variety of tea, shopping here is

Spend at least a week, soak in fresh crisp mountain air and come back rejuvenated till you return to the spectacular queen of

Sharmila Chand is an author and journalist who writes on Travel, Food, Culture and Lifestyle.











PARADISE EXPLORING

A journey through the pristine beauty of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Nestled in the azure waters of the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a tropical haven that offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, vibrant marine life, and rich cultural heritage, writes SANTANU GANGULY

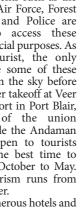
Persy Indian should visit the Andaman Islands at least once in their lifetime Army, Navy, Air Force, Forest to complete their journey. The Andaman Islands offer an incredible blend of natural beauty, historical significance, wildlife, and adventure sports. The Andaman Islands are wellconnected by regular flights from Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kolkata, and one can also reach them by ship from Kolkata, Chennai, and Visakhapatnam. However, traveling by flight is recommended to witness breathtaking aerial views that

resemble slices of heaven. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprise a total of 836 islands, of which only 31 are inhabited. Visitors are not allowed on all the islands, and the non-tribal Andamanese people cannot visit the restricted islands.

Department, and Police are permitted to access these islands for official purposes. As a general tourist, the only chance to see some of these islands is from the sky before landing or after takeoff at Veer Savarkar Airport in Port Blair, the capital of the union territory. While the Andaman Islands are open to tourists year-round, the best time to visit is from October to May. Monsoon tourism runs from June to October.

There are numerous hotels and guest houses available for online booking, and package tours are also offered to suit various budgets. The local businesses are known for their honesty, adhering to strict and regulations

throughout the islands. For



example, if the local authority sets the price of coconut water at forty rupees, the rate will be consistent everywhere.

In Port Blair, the major attractions include the Cellular Jail, Chatham Saw Mill, Forest Museum, Samudrika Naval Museum,

Anthropological Museum, Fisheries Aquarium, Science Center, and Corbyn's Cove. The historic Cellular Jail will not only enrich your knowledge of history but also evoke a deep emotional connection as you learn about the struggles of lesser-known freedom fighters and the they inhumane torture endured under British rule. To reach Shaheed Dweep (formerly known as Neil Island) and Swaraj Dweep (formerly known as Havelock Island) from Port Blair, you

must travel by small ships,



following a process similar to airport check-in. Plan to stay at least one night on each of these islands to explore them fully. Must-visit beaches on Shaheed Dweep include Bharatpur, Lakshmanpur, and Sitapur, while Elephant Radhanagar beaches on Swaraj

Scuba diving at Shaheed Dweep offers an unforgettable

experience. Other popular attractions include Hudi Tikri, Red, Bird and Bat islands, Amkunj Beach near Rangat; Dhaninallah Mangroves and Karmatang Beach near Mayabunder; limestone caves and mud volcanoes near Diglipur; Craggy Island; Ross & Smith Islands, and various national parks and protected sanctuaries.

The indigenous tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are divided into two groups: the Onge, Sentinelese, Jarawa, and Andamanese of Negroid descent living in the Andaman Islands, and the Shompen and Nicobarese of Mongoloid descent living in the Nicobar Islands. It is strictly prohibited by law to enter tribal reserves,

haven and adhere to the law. During my visits to the Andaman Islands, I was fortunate enough to encounter the Jarwa people. However, last year, I had an incredible experience while traveling by local public bus from Diglipur to Port Blair. As we entered the Jarwa forest after crossing a river, four Jarwa boys waved at our bus driver for a lift. The bus stopped, and they quickly got on board. One of them sat beside me, admiring my bracelet made of beads, which they seem to have a fascination for. Though I wanted to give it

to him, I had to refuse due to

the law prohibiting the exchange of items with the

tribes.

laughter,

meet, or photograph these

tribes. Respect their peaceful

Photos: Santanu Ganguly

Their innocent

however,

As a dedicated disciple of Padma

Bhushan Drs. Raja Radha Reddy

Agarwal have beautifully embodied

the spirit of Kuchipudi. Her recent

expression of her growth and the

profound influence of her esteemed

and Kaushalya Reddy, Adiva

performance was a heartfelt

gurus, writes SAKSHI PRIYA



EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF KUCHIPUDI

n the vibrant world of classical dance, few traditions are as richly expressive and historically significant as Kuchipudi Originating from the Andhra Pradesh region of India, this classical dance form is renowned for its intricate footwork, elaborate gestures and profound storytelling. It embodies a fusion of dance, drama and music, bringing ancient narratives to life with remarkable grace. Adiva Agarwal's recent Kuchipudi Kuchipudi performance, marking her Rangapravesham,

was a stunning demonstration of this art form's enduring allure. From the moment she stepped onto the stage, it was clear that her recital was more than just a display of technical skill; it was a heartfelt journey into the essence of Kuchipudi. Under the guidance of her esteemed guru, Padma Bhushan Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Kaushalya Reddy, Adiva has honed her craft with dedication and precision, resulting in a performance that both honoured tradition and showcased her personal artistry. The evening commenced with

'Ganapati Vandana," customary invocation to Lord Ganesha, setting a tone reverence anticipation. This opening act seamlessly transitioned into "Dashavatara," where Adiva's portrayal of Lord Vishnu's ten avatars was nothing short of mesmerising. Each avatar was brought to life with a delicate balance of intricate footwork and expressive storytelling,



demonstrating Adiva's deep understanding of the form and Khusro. Amir Adiva's its narratives.
The highlight of the

this piece was performance was the "Tillana," imbued spiritual reverence, its rhythmic complexity and showcasing her ability to energetic movements. Adiva's convey profound emotions through dance. The grand finale, "Tarangam," was a breathtaking display of Adiva's ability to navigate the intricate patterns and maintain dynamic engagement with the audience was a showcase of her virtuosity. Dancing on the rim exceptional skill and stage of a brass plate while executing presence. Her performance intricate footwork with flawless

interpretation of

was a beautiful embodiment of synchronisation, demonstrated a remarkable Kuchipudi's essence, blending technical brilliance with level of skill and commitment. This climactic piece beautifully capped off an Adding emotional depth to the evening was "Chhaap Tilak Sab Cheeni," a devotional poem by evening of exceptional

performances.

Agarwal's Rangapravesham was not only a celebration of her talent but also a tribute to the rich legacy Kuchipudi. performance was a vivid illustration of the art form's beauty complexity, made even more special by the guidance of her esteemed gurus. As Adiva continues to evolve in her dance journey, her recent recital stands as a reflection

of her dedication and the enduring charm of classical

Discovering Absence Through Visual Expression

Antra Srivastava's latest exhibition challenges us to delve into the unseen revealing the hidden depths of absence in our lives, says **TEAM AGENDA**



deeply

expression,

Dehradun-based artist, her

experiences as an avid

traveler deeply influence her

work, resulting in paintings

that capture the vibrancy and

diversity of the world.

Through her art, she blends

surrealism with poetic

inspiration from the vitality

of nature and the profound

energy that flows through her

creative process. She describes herself as both a

participant and a witness in

this artistic

this artistic journey, immersing herself in the boundless realm of creative

energy. The theme of The *Inescapable*

Presence of Absence delves

into the paradox where

absence becomes a palpable presence. This theme

challenges viewers to rethink

their perceptions, urging

them to reflect on the

significant impact of what is

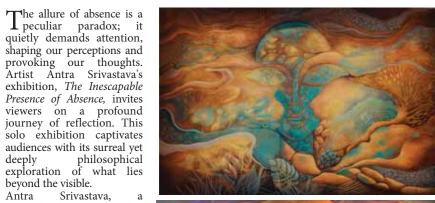
not present. It invites an

exploration of the unseen and

the unheard, asking profound









questions about the nature of existence. Srivastava's artistic journey is profoundly influenced by ancient Indian scriptures and the wisdom of sages, providing a foundation for her introspective quest. Her collection is a philosophical interpretation of the 18 chapters of the Gita, reflections on Sant Kabir's dohe and saakhees and a portrayal of six elements: air, water, earth, fire, space and consciousness. This unique

perspective allows her to seamlessly blend multiple layers of colours, creating harmony and rhythm, blurring the lines between abstraction and realism and evoking a surreal effect.

In the Kabir series, Srivastava resonates with Kabir's ability to express complex ideas with simplicity. She emphasises that life's intricacies are selfcreated and that true knowledge emerges from inner silence rather than

external teachings. This series, inspired by Kabir's and saakhees, underscores the experiential aspect of wisdom, offering a fresh perspective on life's fundamental truths. Srivastava's art invites a profound connection with the self, urging us to explore the deeper implications of absence alongside presence. Her work is a reflection of our existence, challenging us to look beyond what is visible and consider the unseen forces that shape our lives

The exhibition's title itself, The Inescapable Presence of Absence suggests a haunting elegance. It forces us to contemplate the spaces in between, the silence between words and the pauses in conversation that often carry more weight than the spoken. In these gaps, Srivastava finds beauty and complexity, offering her audience a mirror to their inner worlds. This exhibition stands as an attestation to art's power to transcend the ordinary, provoke thought and inspire change. Her exploration of absence is not merely an artistic endeavor; it is a call to acknowledge and embrace the unseen, the unheard and the unfelt aspects of our existence. Through her work, Srivastava offers a profound reminder that art is not just a

reflection of the world but a

gateway to understanding the

intricacies of our inner selves.

By the time visitors exit,

CANVAS ONDERS

Experience the magic of watercolor through a captivating exhibition that celebrates the beauty of nature, architecture and human expression, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

At the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, a captivating solo exhibition cases the evocative p of watercolor art. The exhibition "This Beautiful World," featuring the watercolor works of Dr. Sushma Mahajan and curated by Dr. Alka Pande, offers a captivating glimpse into the world through the eyes of a talented and passionate artist. collection of 35 watercolor paintings is a vivid celebration of beauty, nature and the intricate details of everyday life.

a vibrant piece characterised by

artistic flair.

The exhibition successfully Mahajan's highlights skill with extraordinary watercolors, showcasing her ability to create vibrant and realistic images that evoke emotion and wonder. Her unique perspective as both an artist and a medical professional adds depth to her work, and it is evident that she views the world with a keen sense of appreciation for its many facets.

One of the standout pieces is Spotted Charm, a painting of a leopard that captures the animal's grace and mystery with stunning accuracy. The richness of the colors and the attention to detail make this piece particularly memorable. Similarly, Magic of Night Glow is a beautiful depiction of vintage cars on cobblestone streets, bathed in soft, atmospheric light. This piece resonates with a sense of nostalgia and transports viewers to a timeless scene that feels both familiar and

enchanting. reflection and peace. The The Sun Chariot is a painting's serene composition fascinating work that pays invites viewers to pause and homage to the Nalinga temple art. Artist meticulous consider the importance of finding calm amid the chaos of modern life. *The Bridge* similarly highlights the rendering of the astronomical sundial, with its eight spokes representing the "prahars" of the day, is both educational significance of connections and relationships, celebrating and visually captivating. The the beauty of bridges as symbols of unity and continuity. The Power of Music, celebrates music as a painting serves as a reminder of the rich cultural heritage and architectural marvels that universal language of the spirit, while *Sunflowers*, presents a spiritual perspective continue to inspire artists today. Her ability to capture both natural and architectural beauty with precision invites on these bright blooms. These









viewers to appreciate the power of art and the beauty that surrounds us. In Anchored in Serenity the artist depicts a tranquil boat scene that encourages

> artworks reflect the artist's thoughtful approach and emotional depth, conveyed through vibrant colors and delicate detail.

The curation of the exhibition by Dr. Alka Pande further enhances the experience, providing context and insight into the themes techniques that Mahajan's work. Pande's expertise in Indian arts and

layer of understanding, making the exhibition not only visually engaging but also intellectually stimulating.

This Beautiful World is an exhibition that beautifully

aesthetics brings an added

captures the essence of the world around us. Mahajan's paintings are a tribute to her talent and dedication and the exhibition as a whole serves as a reminder of the power of art to inspire, uplift and connect us to the world. The blend of nature, culture and emotion in her work offers a refreshing opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary extraordinary beauty that exists in the ordinary moments of life.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar





























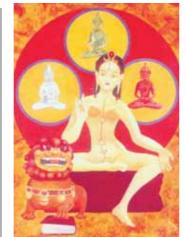




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, you'll find yourself managing an influx of activities or responsibilities, which calls for strategic balance in your life. You are currently handling multiple projects or commitments, making adaptability and effective time management crucial to your success. While you possess a natural drive that propels you forward, it's important to prioritize tasks and delegate when necessary. It's important to keep a balanced approach to prevent exhaustion. Consider revisiting your strategies around work or financial planning to secure long-term benefits. Being flexible and open to making adjustments will serve you well. Remember, it's okay to seek assistance when overwhelmed. This period is ripe for refining your methods, which will boost both your efficiency and

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour teal Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week heralds a period of emotional refreshment and the opportunity for new ventures in personal and creative spheres. There's a sense of promise for beginning anew in emotional or creative pursuits. The current cosmic atmosphere supports embracing novel experiences and connections, encouraging an optimistic and welcoming approach. Whether you find yourself drawn to a new passion, embarking on a project that stirs your soul, or achieving a personal revelation, you are well-placed to nurture profound emotional ties. Let your intuition lead, and do not hesitate to share your innermost thoughts and desires. This period is ripe for achieving emotional satisfaction and stirring creativity. Engage wholeheartedly in pursuits that deliver happiness and fulfillment, as your positive energy is likely to draw equally uplifting situations and enhance your relational

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week promises a period of intellectual curiosity and a heightened drive to pursue new knowledge. It's an opportune time to delve into unfamiliar subjects or tackle intricate challenges. Your environment supports a deeper engagement with learning and effective communication, enhancing your ability to analyze and assimilate complex information. Embrace your natural propensity for exploration and stay open to adopting fresh viewpoints. However, exercise caution to avoid miscommunication or premature conclusions. Focus on refining your communicative abilities and remain vigilant for new learning opportunities. Your keen insight and analytical prowess are key to overcoming obstacles and discovering meaningful revelations during this period. Maintain a balanced approach to ensure that your quest for knowledge is both thorough and thoughtful.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Mint Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week heralds a time for fair judgment, urging you to seek balance and uphold integrity in all dealings. The universal energies prompt a focus on addressing any imbalances or unresolved issues with a clear, honest approach. Expect a period where matters of agreements or legality come into play, emphasizing the necessity for straightforward communication and a strict adherence to ethical standards. Now is the moment to consider your choices and actions, making sure they align with your core principles. The celestial influences highlight the significance of accountability and making choices based on righteousness over convenience. It's a favorable moment to pursue resolutions in disputes or conflicts and to reestablish harmony in both personal and professional spheres. Maintaining fidelity to your principles ensures that fairness will triumph.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Coral Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week brims with vigor and an eagerness for exploration, making it an ideal time to pursue your ambitions with zest. You'll find yourself fueled by an intense desire to act decisively and with conviction, moving swiftly toward your objectives. The current influences encourage a spirited approach to new ventures and ideas, igniting your creativity. However, it's crucial to temper this rapid momentum with thoughtful planning and strategic foresight. While enthusiasm can propel you forward, careful consideration will ensure your actions are both effective and sustainable. Embrace this period of high energy to overcome obstacles and advance significantly, but keep your foundational goals well in focus to steer your efforts toward success

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Maroon Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week heralds a period of deep reflection and the necessity to release aspects of your life that no longer contribute positively to your personal growth. It's a time to critically evaluate your engagements and relationships, discerning which of these no longer align with your deeper desires and values. Embracing change may be essential now, possibly by choosing a new direction that better serves your quest for fulfillment and alignment with your true self. Trust in your intuitive guidance as you navigate through this phase of transformation. This is an opportunity to grow, to shift away from the familiar yet unfulfilling, and to move towards experiences that genuinely enrich your life. Focus on what brings you a sense of purpose and joy as you make these significant

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Plum Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week heralds a period of positive outcomes and successful endeavors for you. Expect a surge in clarity and iov, enhancing your overall sense of achievement. It's an excellent time to engage in creative pursuits or personal projects, as your vigor is peaking and your efforts are likely to meet with success. Your interactions and communications are set to thrive, paving the way for new partnerships and connections. Seize the opportunities for personal growth and development that present themselves. Allow your radiant energy to be your guide, celebrating your victories, no matter the scale. This infectious enthusiasm not only uplifts you but also serves to inspire those around you, aiding in the realization of your aspirations with relative ease. Revel in this prosperous phase and let your passion lead you to even grander achievements.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Lavender Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week marks a time of festivity and community unity. Emphasizing the value of community, friendship, and happiness, this period is marked by a sense of fulfillment through connection with others and the enjoyment of shared experiences. The cosmic influences favor collaborative efforts and social gatherings, presenting a prime opportunity for attending social events, engaging in parties, or participating in group activities. This is a time to strengthen bonds, relish in the support and fellowship of peers, and focus on crafting enduring, positive memories. Leverage your innate ability to manage social interactions with ease, allowing the happiness and encouragement from your social circle to uplift and invigorate you. Enjoy this harmonious phase by fully immersing yourself in the joy and unity it brings.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, you find yourself in a particularly potent phase for creating and achieving. Your innate flair for innovative thinking is heightened, setting the stage for you to craft ambitious objectives and actively pursue your aspirations. You possess a unique knack for transforming your visions into tangible outcomes, so have confidence in your abilities and instincts. The current environment favors novel and original approaches, allowing you to tackle any hurdles in unique ways. This period also favors effective communication; expressing your ideas with clarity and conviction can draw in the support you need. However, take care to avoid overcommitment or a narrow focus on a single project, as maintaining a balanced approach is crucial. Embrace your role as a driver of change and actively seek out opportunities.

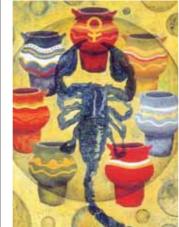
Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week marks a period of financial solidity and practical achievements. You may find yourself taking on roles that demand authority or responsibility, especially in areas related to your career or financial management. It's a prime time to concentrate on fortifying your economic or work-related stability. The current influences favor wise management of resources and strategic planning. Balancing your nurturing tendencies with a practical approach will enable you to support both yourself and others effectively. Consider this a favorable moment to establish long-term objectives, make sound investments, or explore career advancement opportunities. Embrace the leadership skills you possess and apply your practical knowledge to strengthen your position and achieve

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Olive Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week calls for continued resilience as you navigate through persistent challenges. You may feel a sense of fatigue as if you've been in a long battle, yet it's crucial to remain steadfast and determined. The current influences hint that you importance of staying alert and proactive. Reflect on the lessons learned from previous trials to strengthen your stance. Concentrate on safeguarding your interests and maintaining a solid front against difficulties. Leveraging your past experiences and inner resilience will be vital in overcoming these hurdles and moving forward. Trust in your own resourcefulness and do not shy away from seeking assistance when necessary. Your perseverance will soon be rewarded with a fulfilling sense of achievement and triumph

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week invites you to embrace new beginnings and a spirit of adventure. It marks a period ripe for fresh starts, encouraging you to approach the unknown with optimism and trust. This is an ideal time to dive into new ventures or explore opportunities that ignite your curiosity. Allow yourself to step out of your usual boundaries and discover new horizons. Whether it's initiating new projects, chasing dreams, or innovating on traditional challenges, your guiding force should be your inner voice. Trust in your instincts and open your heart to the unfolding path before you. This period is about shedding past reservations and neeting life's adventures with awe and openness. Embrace this phase of spontaneity and transformative potential letting your adventurous spirit lead the way

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Charcoal ucky day Monday

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t comes out from the previous issue that the primal source - the root of Lall creations - is beyond all limitations of creativity, knowledge, time, space, and laws of causation. Ordinary mortals, on the contrary, are in the first place, armed with limited creative ability. Second, the primal source is all-

knowing, as it lends intelligence to all levels of creation, and also to all creations at the levels respectively due to each. But all manifest creatures, including human beings, lack allknowingness. Consequently, one's scope of vision and thereby awareness level gets narrowed down, offering us a fractioned view of the world process. Third, for the above reasons, human beings are born with an inherent 'sense of want', which excites the urge to make up for the void. Thus, comes into play the sense of craving, desire, lust, possession and such other related tendencies

Fourth, unlike the creator, we are bound by the limitation of time, in the sense that we measure happenings in the frame of past, present, and future. As we are aware, all live existences

have a limited stay in this world, and so their stay could be measured in time frame. Because of this limitation, ordinarily, our attention keeps shifting from past, which is nothing but history; to future, which is uncertain. Consequently, our level of focus on the callings of the present gets compromised. We, thus, fail to remain riveted to the present, which sets the premise of the future. So, because of attention deficiency, we fail to put in our whole. We are thus, often left behind in the run of time, and with obvious consequences. Fifth, one remains bound by the laws of causation. It keeps all human actions bound to cause and effect chain. In this scheme of things there has to be a cause behind any effect, which in turn, sets the premise for fresh happening. And there is no scope for having a free lunch in this world. So, we have to bear with the consequences, for all our deeds, good or bad, depending on the intent and character of our actions. We, thus, get trapped into an unending chain of cause and effect - Karmic cycle. It is something like the seed of mango will

Shakti trinity influences thought trends



bear mango tree only, and that of neem, a neem tree. But then the primal source is self-caused, inexhaustible and eternal, and therefore is beyond the binds of the laws of causation

Finally, human beings are bound by the limitation of space. Here it needs to be appreciated that the primal source being a unified energy-field, its constituents can't be differentiated by any measure of space, and so free from all form-existences including human beings are bound by space. We, therefore, identify ourselves with our gross body, differentiated from all others, and belonging to a particular place. With such an individualised sense of identity, the sense of essential unity underlying all diverse existences takes a back seat. The sense of allinclusiveness thus getting lost, one gets tempted to differentiate one from the other, and begin to compare each other in relative terms. Consequently, a sense of divide comes into play. It is in this sense that out of many, one meaning ascribed to the word 'Maya' is the sense of measure.

any such limitation. On the contrary,

It is important to note here that the way a human being perceives, is how s/he would react, respond, or act upon in day-to-day life. And since human minds have limited perceptive and comprehensive abilities, an ordinary mortal is not able to have holistic understanding of the world process. Naturally, with a fractioned vision, one fails to perceive things in right perspective, and with obvious

consequences

Owing to the above limitations of mind, the essential unity of the Shaktitrinity, vital to our dynamic existence does not ordinarily remain live in our minds. We rather look at them in apparent terms. So, invariably we remain under the influence of the particular shakti variant that would be prominently displayed. It needs to be appreciated here that there would be no existence, live or inert, but for any of the three. Their mix would, however, vary from person-to-person, with one or the other attribute playing heavy over the other two. That distinguishes a being from the other in terms of one's thought process, which defines a person's unique character and thereby one's usual conduct. Now, according as which particular aspect of the Shakti-trinity is prominently displayed defines individual specific mind-trends, which sets the terms of how one views life. The issue continues.....

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