

North to South, Monsoon Mania ravages India

HIMACHAL / UTTARAKHAND

PNS SHIMLA/DEHRADUN

Building collapsing in Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, roads being washed away, pilgrims being airlifted — these were the scenes in Uttarakhand and neighbouring Himalayan State of HP on Thursday morning as multiple cloudbursts led to rain wreaking havoc in these States.

At least 17 people were killed, 50 missing and hundreds are stranded in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh due Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh due to heavy rains and multiple cloudbursts and toll is likely to go up. More than 1,500 pilgrims stranded on the Kedarnath trek route, which is blocked at several places by boulders, have been shifted to safe places. Pilgrims are being rescued with the help of both helicopters and rescue teams consisting of the SDRF, police and NDRF. district administration.

According to officials, 425 pilgrims have been brought to safety by helicopter from Lincholi and Bhimbali while 1100 pilgrims have reached Sonprayag on foot from various places with the help of rescue teams. The pilgrims had got stranded beyond Bhimbali along Gaurikund-Kedarnath trek route when 20-25 metres of the stretch were washed out by heavy rain on Wednesday night, Disaster Management Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said. While multiple cloudbursts caused severe damage with five people confirmed dead and more than 50 others reported missing in Mandi, Kullu and Shimla.



PTI on Thursday

Search and rescue operation underway following a cloudburst, in Rampur area of Shimla district, on Thursday

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

 $E_{\mathrm{Monsoon's}}^{\mathrm{ven}}$ as the South-West continued unabated in Wayanad district, the death toll in the massive landslides in Mundakkai settlement crossed 283 mark by 6 pm on Thursday. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who inspected the flood-affected region, told mediapersons that the landslides **Continued on Page 8** and deluge which wreaked havoc



in Wayanad district should be declared as a national disaster. The non-stop rain in the district has affected the pace of the rescue operations as disaster response team members were finding it hard to wade through the slush, water and boulders. Though 283 bodies have been

retrieved during the last three davs of search and rescue operations, rescue workers are vet to make any breakthrough

the

sub-

form

Manoj

of

regarding the dismembered human bodies recovered from the rivers and the landslide-affected regions. There is no information about 240 persons from Mundakkai missing after Tuesday's landslides.

Engineers of the Indian Army have almost completed the laying of the Bailey bridge across the Chaliyar river to facilitate rescue operations





Rescue operation underway after landslides triggered by rain, in Wayanad district, Kerala on Thursday

CAPITAL DELHI

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Delhi turned into a floating city after record-breaking downpour late on Wednesday, the highest single-day rainfall for July in 14 years, leading to prolonged traffic jams and 11 deaths in the Delhi-NCR areas. A woman and her three-yearold toddler who fell into an overflowing under-construction drain in east Delhi's Ghazipur were among the victims.

The weather station at Safdarjung recorded 108 millimetres of rainfall within a span of 24 hours. It caused major traffic congestion especially in Lutyen's Delhi.

The rain led to water leaking from the The rain led to water leaking from the roof of the lobby of the newly inaugurated Parliament building. Waterlogging was seen around the premises of the new Parliament, particularly near the Makar Dwar of the Parliament. Several videos of the flooding went viral on social media.

Opposition leaders took swipe at the Narendra Modi Government over "water leakage" in a lobby of the new Parliament building and praised the "sturdy" old Parliament building for its better infrastructure during monsoon. In a statement Lok Sabha Secretariat said a minor water leak in the new Parliament building was due to displacement of an adhesive material used to fix glass domes over the lobby and corrective measures were taken immediately.

"During the heavy rain on Wednesday, the adhesive material used to fix the glass domes over the Lobby of the Building was slightly displaced, causing minor leakage of water in the Lobby," the Lok Sabha Secretariat said in a statement.

Continued on Page 8

Trials in Mandir-Masjid dispute to continue, says Allahabad HC



SC vents its ire



class.

the

that

data regarding

representation of the sub-

A seven-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief

Justice DY Chandrachud

held by a 6:1 majority that

further

classification of SCs and STs

by States can be permitted to ensure the grant of quota to more backward castes

This judgment overrules the 2004 decision in EV Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh, where a

five-judge bench had held that sub-classification was

not permissible, arguing

SC/STs

The bench, which included

Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, Bela M Trivedi,

Misra, and Satish Chandra

Sharma, delivered six

Continued on Page 8

homogenous classes.

Pankaj Mithal,

separate judgments.

inside these groups.

inadequacy

'Bullet train' approach to tackle molestors: Yogi 16 youths nabbed for harassing passersby after Wednesday rains; 3 senior police officers removed, chowki incharge, staff suspended for laxity

PNS LUCKNOW

hief Minister Yogi Adityanath took a strong stance on the recent molestation incident in Gomti Nagar.

violent harassment that took place in a waterlogged under- Singh, ADCP Amit Kumawat, Mohammad Arbaaz, asserting

were made in response to the The government has removed was lodged against the accused DCP (East) Prabal Pratap in Gomti Nagar. Gomti Nagar Inspector Deepak

The police have registered a pass. He condemned the and Gomti Nagar ACP Anshu report under sections 191 (2), accused, Manoj Yadav and Jain from their positions. 3 (5), 272, 285, and 74 (related to outraging a

PTI

PTI

Continued on Page 8

on Kejriwal aide **Bibhav Kumar's** conduct

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday came down heavily on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar who allegedly assaulted AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal, saying "is this kind of goon supposed to work in the CM's residence".

"He (Bibhav Kumar) acted as if some 'goon' had entered the official residence of CM," said the top court, adding that his entire argument before the High Court was that her allegations are concocted.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Ujjal Bhuyan posted Kumar's bail plea for next Wednesday and told senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kumar, that the court was shocked with the details of the incident recorded by the

Delhi High Court. Kumar has challenged the July 12 order of the Delhi High Court denying him bail in the case and claimed that the allegations against him are false. He has also said his custody was no longer required as the probe was over.

The apex court also issued a notice to the Delhi Government on his plea. "Is CM residence a private bungalow? Is this kind of 'goon' supposed to work in the CM's residence?" the bench asked Singhvi, who said there were non-serious injuries and the FIR was lodged three days after the

May 13 incident. In its scathing remarks, the bench also asked Singhvi what Maliwal calling the police helpline number 112 during the assault indicated.

Apex court upnoids quota within quota

RAJESH KUMAR 📕 NEW DELHI

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that subclassification within the Scheduled Castes (SC) which form a socially heterogeneous class is permissible into different groups based on their inter se backwardness for extending the benefits of reservation.

reservation. The court also called for identification of creamy layer among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs) to take them out of the fold of affirmative action (reservation). The court clarified that

while allowing sub-classification, the State cannot earmark 100 per cent reservation for a subclass. Also, the State has to justify the sub-classification on the basis of empirical

declaring that anyone threaten-ing women's safety would face severe consequences.

Addressing the state assembly on Thursday, he emphasised that the accused in the July 31 incident of molestation and harassment near Hotel Taj would not be treated leniently. "Women's safety is our top priority," CM Yogi stated. "The accused in the Gomti Nagar incident will face strict legal action, not 'Sadbhavna' but a 'bullet train' approach. Preparations for this are underway," he assured. Yogi Adityanath's comments

that their actions would be met with the full force of law. Earlier on his instructions, DCP (East), ADCP (East), and Gomti Nagar ACP were removed from their posts with immediate effect for negli-

gence. Additionally, the Gomti Nagar inspector, the incharge of Samta Mulak Chowki, and all policemen at the outpost have been suspended.

In line with the Yogi government's zero-tolerance policy, the Lucknow police commissionerate has lodged cases against the offenders and arrested 16 suspects so far.

Kumar Pandey, Samta Mulak Chowki Incharge Rishi Vivek, Inspector Kapil Kumar, constables Dharamyeer and Virendra Kumar have been suspended. Authorities have also been directed to arrest the remaining accused promptly.

Lucknow Police Commissioner Amarendra Kumar Sengar reported that heavy rains on Wednesday led to waterlogging near the underpass in the Gomti Nagar area, close to the Taj Hotel. Following reports of unruly individuals harassing passersby in the waterlogged underpass, a formal complaint

modesty) of BNSS 2023. Four PTI PRAYAGRAJ separate teams have been established to apprehend the suspects.

Police Commissioner Amarendra Kumar Sengar stated that 16 individuals were arrested during the raids. Two of the accused, Pawan Yadav and Sunil Kumar, were apprehended late on Wednesday night based on CCTV footage, while Mohammed Arbaz and Viraj Sahu were arrested based on tips provided by the Pawan and Sunil. Other arrested were identified as Arjun Agrahari of Continued on Page 8

Court Judge Devender Kumar Jangala asked the Delhi Police to

find out whether an insider from

the complainant (UPSC) helped the applicant (Puja Khedkar).

The court also asked to widened

the probe in the case and ordered

the Delhi Police to investigate if

other persons have availed

Continued on Page 8

 $T^{he \ Allahabad \ High}_{Court \ on \ Thursday}$ ruled that the trial in 18 cases relating to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura can continue, dismissing a petition filed by the mosque committee that challenged the

maintainability of these suits. Justice Mavank Kumar Jain

had on June 6 reserved his judgment on the plea moved by the Muslim side on maintainability of the suits. The court has now fixed August 12 as the date for framing of issues.

The suits filed by Hindu litigants seek "removal" of the Shahi Idgah mosque adjacent to the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple.

The petitions claim that Aurangazeb-era the mosque was built after the demolition of a temple that marked the spot where Lord Krishna was born.

Continued on Page 8

Puja Khedkar denied anticipatory bail STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The decks are cleared for arrest L of controversial dismissed trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar after a Delhi court on Thursday denied anticipatory bail to her. She has been accused of "misrepresenting and falsifying facts" in her Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination 2022 application. The denial of anticipatory bail

comes with a day after the UPSC. which conducts the civil services examination, cancelled her provisional candidature of Khedkar and permanently debarred her from all the future exams/selections.

benefits of quotas under OBC and PwD without entitlement. Denying the anticipatory bail plea of Khedkar, Patiala House

BSF woman wards off Bangla infiltrators all alone

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

A woman personnel of the Border Security Force has successfully beaten back infiltration bid by an armed band of Bangladeshis fighting them single-handedly at the Ranaghat border out-post of

the 68th battalion in Nadia district, sources in the paramilitary organisation said.

According to sources the lady official in charge of a CCTV control room on July 30 noticed some 14 people walking towards the Indian side of the border. She immediately rushed towards them and directed them to

stop and return. However, armed with knives and other lethal weapons they would not listen and charged **Continued on Page 8** at her. The valiant BSF



personnel fought back even as frighten the intruders away. a fellow jawan threw a "stun grenade" from a distance to advance undeterred the

woman constable fired a single shot from her rifle scaring the infiltrators who then ran back to their side, sources said adding this was the third such infiltration bid that was foiled

in the past one week. Referring to the issue Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari said during Mamata Banerjee's rule infiltration had peaked and that the peaked and that the Trinamool Congress was aiding illegal infiltration to increase its vote base comprising the Rohingyas. "It is the same Mamata who protested valiantly against the Government Left for encouraging infiltrators... and now it is under her Government that the Rohingyas are infiltrating in large numbers and migrating to other parts of the country creating law and order problems," Adhikari earlier said.

Swapnil Kusale adds to India's medal collection at Olympics

PTI CHATEAUROUX (FRANCE)

On an empty stomach and with his heart racing, Indian shooter Swapnil Kusale kept his composure to stage a remarkable comeback and help the country claim its first ever Olympic bronze in the 50m rifle 3 positions event here on Thursday.

Kusale shot an aggregate of 451.4 in the eight-shooter final to finish third after being placed sixth at one stage. It took the country's overall tally to three, all bronze in shooting, at the Paris Games. His medal comes

following the stunning performance of Manu Bhaker, who clinched the women's 10m air pistol and mixed team



10m air pistol bronze alongside Sarabjot Singh.

"I did not eating anything, was feeling the butterflies (in my stomach). Just had black tea and came here. The night before every match, I just pray to god," Kusale said after

his unprecedented achievement.



CM welcomes constructive criticism from opposition

<u>he pioneer</u>

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a pointed critique at the entire opposition, including Leader of Opposition Mata Prasad Pandey, in the monsoon session of Vidhan Sabha on Thursday. However, Yogi also acknowl-edged and welcomed the constructive suggestions provided by the opposition members. "The leader of opposition has given us many important sug-

UCKNOW | FRIDAY | AUGUST 2, 2024



मेरा पुत्र MOHD ALI ASGAR तथा पुत्री JAMAL ZEHRA St-Clare's Convent School, Lucknow में पढ़ रहे हैं, जिनके स्कूल रिकार्ड में व अन्य कतिपय अभिलेखों में मेरा नाम MOHD ASGHAR ZAIDI अंकित हो गया है जबकि सही नाम MOHAMMAD ASGAR ZAIDI है। निवासी–23 बनजारी टोला, चौक, लखनऊ–226003।

NOTICE

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SURINDER PAL SINGH TO SURENDRA PAL SINGH. SURENDRA PAL SINGH S/O KULDEEP SINGH R/O 3/13 (1), FLAT NO.201, SATYA SHREE ENCLAVE VISHNUPURI, KANPUR.

NOTICE

My house no. J-270 E.W.S, Gujaini Kanpur Nagar allotment letter-145/SNA/KUDP(sale)/87 which was allotted by KDA, its allotment letter has been kept somewhere, use of which will be considered illegal. Virendra Singh Pal S/o Megh Singh J-270, Gujaini, Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

Be it known to all that before marriage my name was Riya Kesarwani which has now been changed to Riya Srivastava. Now I should be known and recognized as Riya Srivastava for all future purposes. Riya Srivastava wife of Ved Srivastava resident of 34 Tola Khuldabad Gadiwan Prayagraj

NOTICE

gestions. I congratulate you for health sector in your district. your suggestions. Elders and From BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur to the District senior members have always been respected here," said CM Hospital in Siddharth Nagar, Yogi.

He expressed his gratitude to the speaker of the assembly for successfully conducting the monsoon session.

During the budget discussion, Yogi took multiple jabs at the Leader of Opposition, Mata Prasad Pandey. Referring to the Kala Namak rice from Siddharth Nagar, he said that his government has

given the recognition to this protein-rich product, which has become a hallmark of the district. He mentioned that while Kala Namak rice had been produced in the region for years, it had previously been overlooked.

In his critique, CM Yogi also He emphasised the imporcommented on the developments in Pandey's district. tance of these issues while maintaining a respectful tone throughout his address. "Pandey ji, you must have noticed the changes in the

said.

icant."

UP girls to participate

in Japan's Sakura

Science programme

Five workers killed SP leader held on charge as two vehicles collide in Aligarh

PNS I UCKNOW

Five workers died in a fierce collision between a car and improvements are evident. The new Madhav Prasad Tripathi Medical College has been established in your disa canter, while five others were seriously injured in Aligarh district, police said on Thursday. The injured have trict, and just yesterday, the PPP-mode medical college in been admitted to the hospital. Maharajganj received recogni-According to the information, tion for admissions," Yogi there was a fierce collision between a car and a canter in front of the grain market in Kher Kotwali area of Aligarh Meanwhile, the leader of opposition commended Yogi late on Wednesday night. Five workers riding the car died on and his government for their and his government for their efforts. He acknowledged the progress made under CM Yogi's leadership and expressed appreciation for the ongoing work. He also offered constructive suggestions on improving digital attendance systems and enhancing law and order in council schools. the spot, while five workers were seriously injured. Those injured were admitted to the medical college for treatment. All the workers were returning to their homes in Pilibhit district by car after transplanting paddy from Haryana. The bodies have been sent for autopsy

The police are engaged in fur-ther action after informing

PNS LUCKNOW the families of the injured and the deceased.

Iglas CO Dr KG Singh said that around 1:30 am on Thursday, there was a fierce head-on collision between a canter and a car in front of the grain market in Kotwali Kher area. Five workers riding the car died on the spot. Five other workers were seriously injured. Police reached the spot and, with the help of local people, took out the injured workers from the car and admitted them to the medical college for treatment. The workers were victim's family discovered that returning to their home in she was pregnant. Pilibhit after transplanting paddy crop in Haryana. Those who died in the accident

were identified as Vipin, Laalta, Arjun and Hariom, while the identity of the driver is yet to be ascertained. The injured were identified as Ramu, Vimlesh, Ram Kumar, and Munish.

of raping 12-year-old girl ly raped the girl and record-ed the assault. Over the next SSP Rajkaran Nair reported Asamajwadi Party Ayodhya city president was accused of gangraping a minor girl and recording the crime. Following the revela-tion, Ayodhya police arrested SP's Bhadarsa Nagar president Moid Khan, and an employ-ee from his bakery on Thursday They were charged two-and-a-half months, Khan continued to sexually abuse her, using the video to intimidate and threaten her. "Khan

committed these acts with the assistance of Raju Khan, an employee at his bakery. The incident came to light after two months when the ee from his bakery on Thursday. They were charged with the gangrape of a 12-year-old girl. An official spokesman of the government claimed that the crime came to light when the minor became pregnant," the SSP said.

He further said that the incident, which occurred in Bhadarsa town within the jurisdiction of the Purakalandar police station, was uncovered when the girl's she was pregnant. Subsequently, the family filed a report, prompting immedi-ate action from the police due to the gravity of the incident. Notably, the Ayodhya MP claimed ignorance of the inci-dent and avoided media inquiries on the matter. SSP Baikaran Nair stated that family sought medical help due to her abdominal pain, due to her abdominal pain, leading to the confirmation of her pregnancy. Following the family's complaint, the police have filed a report against the accused under the POCSO Act. Both Moid Khan and

Raju Khan have been arrest-

ed and are currently in jail.

that the victim's father passed away two years ago, leaving her family to be supported solely by the earnings of her mother and sisters through labour. As per the allega-tions, about two-and-a-half months ago, after the victim had finished her work, Raju told her that Moid wanted to see her. When the victim arrived, Moid Khan assaulted her.

It is alleged that Moid Khan raped her while Raju recorded the incident on his mobile phone. Following this, Raju also engaged in sexual activity with her. This pattern of abuse continued, with both men repeatedly assaulting the teenage victim.

A video of Moid Khan's assault is now circulating on social media. In response to the situation, Ayodhya MP Awadhesh Prasad stated that he is unaware of the details.

that they had also targeted

Jayant vows to further strengthen NDA

PNS LUCKNOW

Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) Chief Jayant Chaudhary on Thursday pledged to further strengthen the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) by diligently working to meet Chaudhary praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's development vision for the state, describing it as "very nice" and reaffirming their collaborative efforts. 'The vision of Baba (Yogi Adityanath) for the development of UP is very nice, and we ment of OP is very nice, and we are working together," Chaudhary said after a meet-ing with Yogi at the Chief Minister's residence on Thursday evening. Official sources reported that the meeting lasted over an hour, though Chaudhary noted to the media that "the meeting was not long. The time was insufficient, but the discussions were signif-

Regarding the upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, which are to be held for 10 Assembly seats with dates yet to be announced, Chaudhary emphasised that the discus-sions extended beyond electoral matters. "We not only talked about elections but also about policies. The chief minister shared his broad vision for the state's development. We are all working together to make this vision a reality," he added. Upon his arrival in Lucknow, Chaudhary was warmly wel-comed by a large number of RLD workers and leaders, including national spokesman Anil Dubey, national secretary Anupam Mishra, state president Ramashish Rai, and state spokesman Ankur Saxena. Supporters lined the route from the airport to Krishna Nagar and Jail Road, holding placards and garlands to greet the RLD chief.



RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary and others with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

Kanwariyas greeted Retd employee of secretariat duped with flower shower

Lucknow/Meerut (PNS): Flowers were showered on kanwariyas from a helicopter in Meerut on Thursday by District Magistrate Deepak Meena and Senior Superintendent of Police Vipin Tada. Flowers were showered at significant landmarks, including Meerut's historic Augharnath Temple, Delhi-Dehradun National Highway, Pallavpuram, and Siwaya Toll Plaza, causing immense delight to the kanwariyas, officials said. The kanwariyas thanked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the gesture and praised the arrangements along the kanwar route. This comes after showering of flowers from a bulldozer in Meerut on Wednesday. The heli-copter took off from the Police Line and then showered flowers on kanwarivas along the entire NH58 route. During this, an aerial survey of the kanwar route was of over ₹1 lakh Lucknow (PNS): A sum of over Rs 1 lakh was taken from a former secretariat employee in South City (Sector-H) of

SSP Raikaran Nair stated that

SP leader Moid Khan initial-

Four arrested in cyber fraud cases The arrested accused revealed

PNS LUCKNOW

The Thakurganj police T claimed to have arrested four people in connection with recent cyber fraud cases. The accused, Abhishek Shukla, Abhishek Rawat, and Divyanshu Srivastava from Madiaon, along with Arvind Kashyap from Naka, reportedly confessed to their involve-ment in defrauding individuals over an extended period.

The group's activities came to light after they defrauded Bhupendra Chauhan of Rs 61,800 in an online scam. The suspects explained their modus operandi, which involved luring victims with promises of profitable online trading. They would contact victims, offer trading opportunities, and assure them that their investments would double.

In Chauhan's case, the fraud-sters threatened him with severe consequences if he reported the scam to the authorities. The group would convince victims to open accounts on a Telegram app, show false evidence of doubled investments, and prevent them from withdrawing their money, causing victims to invest more.

several other victims, including Satish Kumar from Rajasthan (over Rs 7.85 lakh), Anil Gopal Kulkarni from Maharashtra (over Rs 1 lakh), and Anand from Maharashtra (over Rs 95,000). The total amount defrauded exceeds Rs 1 crore. Meanwhile, the search for Deepali Yadav, a 25-year-old teacher who reportedly jumped into Lucknow's Indira Canal, continues after more than 24 hours. The search operation was halted late Wednesday evening due to darkness but resumed at 11:30 am on Thursday by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team. The incident occurred in Habuapur, Gosainganj police station area. Deepali, who taught at a private school and was pursuing a BEd, was the second of four siblings. On Wednesday, she told her family she was going to Jaitipur market to buy clothes but did not return. Her family became concerned after two and a half hours and began searching for her. A shopkeeper at Jaitipur market reported seeing Deepali board an auto earlier that afternoon.



POONAM DEVI Spouse of LC -734463N Nb Sub RANJEET KUMAR SINGH R/o Village-Sikarahata Post-Sikarahata, Distt.- Balia U.P. PIN -221718, have changed my name from service records book from Poonam Devi to Poonam Singh. And change Date of Birth from 02 Feb. 1985 to 10 Feb 1985.

NOTICE

In passport, my father's name has wrongly been mentioned as Ahmad Ali. His correct name is Mohammad Ahmad. Both the names are of my father and in future he should be known and identified by the name of Mohammad Ahmad. Shahid Ali S/o Mohammad Ahmad R/o Kurian Khapraila, Purani Chungi, Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I, MEJAR SINGH holder of Indian Passport No: S4671369 issued at ABU DHABI on 08/04/2018 and Permanent Resident of VILL BHAGOTIPUR PO GULARIA BHOP SINGH PS PURANPUR PILIBHIT and presently residing at AL DAFRA ĤOSPITAL MIRFA WESTERN REZAN ABU DHABI do hereby change my name from MEJAR SINGH to MAJOR(Given name) SINGH(Surname) with immediate effect

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE inance Limited in one of its clients Incoming intallectantinger interious to provide a finance to one of its clients (11) Sri Shakhava Ali & (2) Smt. Samstrun against their property being House No. 5998/014/412/01, wilf land built over piot No. 9, admeasuring 1200 Khasra No. 640Kha, situated at Bhaptamau Mohalla- Buddheshwar Viharl, Ward-Haidergani, Lucknow. In chain of title being original sale deed dated 01.02.2001 registered on 03.02.2001 vide document No. 7/0 favoring the ex-owner Srl Haninar Singh is allegedly lost & misplaced. If any person has any right, title or interest over the saic property, he may approach to the undersigned within 14 days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and i no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presymed that the property in question is free from all encumbrances and any claim in respective.

(Tarun Prakash Srivastava) Advocate, Mob.: 9335914262 Office: Room No. 111, Citi Hotel, 24, B.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow.

Residential Girls' School in Uttar Pradesh have been selected for Japan's prestigious Sakura Science High School Programme. Sandhya Saroi from Prayagraj and Riya Patel from Pratapgarh will travel to Japan with guidance from experienced science teachers. The Sakura Science High School Programme, organised by the Japan Science and

Technology Agency (JST) from April 1, 2024, to March

31, 2025, offers them an opportunity to engage with educational innovations and collaborate with peers and experts worldwide. Their participation is scheduled for November 10-16, 2024.

Designed for top-performing science students in the 11th and 12th grades who excelled in their 10th-grade exams and demonstrate proficiency in English, the program high-lights the success of the quality education initiatives under

the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh.

related to the programme,

Lucknow (PNS): Two stu-dents from Kasturba Gandhi

including travel, accommodation, and food, through JST. Additionally, the Japanese government will provide the necessary visas for the students. Participants in the Sakura Science High School Programme will meet Nobel Prize winners, attend special lectures by leading scientists, and visit top Japanese universities and research institutions. They will also experi-

ence Japanese culture through social activities with local High School students. The Sakura Science High School Programme, part of the

broader Sakura Science Programme, aims to foster educational innovation exchanges between Japanese youth and their peers from other countries, broadening

Japan will cover all expenses their educational horizons.

Ayodhya gets 25 golf carts

also conducted.

Ayodhya (PNS): The Yogi Adityanath government has given Ayodhya another enhancement. Now, golf carts will be seen traversing the roads of Ayodhya Dham. Twenty-five golf carts have arrived in Ayodhya and are currently stationed at Guptar Ghat Garden.

Ayodhya Development Authority Secretary Satyendra Singh said: "Twenty-five golf carts have arrived in Ayodhya, with another 25 expected soon. The route map for these carts is still being finalised, but they will eventually be available for tourists to explore Ayodhya. The golf carts will travel from Rampath and Guptar Ghat to various religious sites across the city, operat-ed by the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA)." Singh also mentioned that three different drivers would work in shifts to operate the carts, ensuring comfort and convenience for passengers.

Sachin, another official from ADA, added that they aim to provide the best facilities for devotees.

PGI police station area under the pretense of securing him a prime plot of land. When the victim demanded his money back after being denied the plot, the accused resorted to delaying tactics. Under pressure, the accused issued a cheque to the victim, but it was dishonoured when deposited in the bank. When the victim confronted the accused, they refused to return the money and started threatening to kill him. Left with no other options, the victim filed a formal complaint against the property dealer/broker at the PGI police station. The police are now investigating the matter after registering the victim's complaint.

According to victim Arun Kumar Mishra, property dealer Rajkumar Singh and his son Anurag Singh of Omaxe City promised to secure him a commercial plot worth about Rs 30 lakh near the registration office in Bijnor. Gaining his confidence, they gradually took Rs 24 lakh from him through cheque, cash, and RTGS. When the victim asked for his money back after a long period without receiving the plot, the accused returned only Rs 3 lakh and requested more time to return the remaining Rs 21 lakh. Troubled by the actions of the father-son duo, the victim filed a formal complaint at the PGI police station.



All the Members of the RGB and Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies are requested to participate in the meeting

Detailed agenda of the meeting can be viewed in the website www.nycsindia.com

Date: 02nd August 2024 Place: New Delhi Prakash Chandra Sahu President, NYCS Ltd



E-Tender (Short Term) Enq. No. 539/P-2/EMPW-12715 Dated 05.07.2024 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invite: E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_124154_1 for Repair/Overhauling including eplacement of spares 02 no. Transmission Assemblies of Sr. No. 384A94 and Sr. no. 2523B13 of BEML make Bulldozer Model 8D-155 as per tende specifications. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 29.07.2024 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-70/24

76155/12/3213/2023/36278 Dated CHD :- 8/1/2024

2 Chinese men held for illegally entering India

Maharajganj (PTI): Two Chinese nationals were arrested at the Indo-Nepal border area here for alleged-

ly trying to cross over into India illegally, police on Thursday said. A Bhutanese refugee, who was helping them in the task, has also been arrested, they said. The trio was held at the Sonouli transit point between the two countries by the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

"Yang Meng Meng (37) and Gu Baoqiang (35), both from People's Republic of China, were roaming in Sonauli Indo-Nepal Border area last night when they were stopped by the Sashastra Seema Bal (ŚSB) for a routine checking," said Maharajganj Additional Superintendent of Police Atish Kumar Singh.

Lucknow Metro to reshape financial framework with focus on non-farebox revenue sources

SHARMILA KRISHNA LUCKNOW

ucknow Metro is set to Lreshape its financial framework by focusing on non-farebox revenue sources, as part of the Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation's (UPMRC) broader financial strategy. This includes utilizing property development, the Transit-Öriented Development (TOD) policy, and the CG City project to balance cash inflows and

outflows. UPMRC Managing Director Sushil Kumar highlighted that operating a metro system in a tier-II city like Lucknow demands substantial financial resources. "For

a network spanning 20-30 kilometers, the annual operational cost is around Rs 125-130 crore. Nevertheless, UPMRC has maintained a positive cash flow with annual inflows of about ?150 crore from both fare and non-farebox revenue. This surplus is crucial for covering operational expenses and ensuring the metro's financial stability," he said. A key element in UPMRC's strategy is the implementation of the TOD policy, introduced by the Uttar Pradesh government in

"TOD integrates urban development with mass transit, encouraging residential and commercial development around metro

2022.

corridors. This policy enhances public transport usage and generates additional revenue through mixed land use. Properties within a 500-meter radius of a metro corridor are designated as TOD zones, which promotes higher density development and increases property values. Approximately 50% of the taxes collected from these zones are allocated to UPMRC, bolstering its financial health," Kumar explained. Additionally, UPMRC's proactive approach to prop-

erty development underscores its commitment to diversifying revenue streams. "Over the past year, we have issued around 40

tenders for property development, including opportunities for leasing shops, kiosks, and advertising spaces. Currently, 42 shops are operational across Lucknow Metro stations, and kiosks have been set up at various stations to further boost non-farebox revenue. Furthermore, semi-naming and co-branding contracts for major metro stations and bus stands have been secured, leading to a significant increase of over Rs 8 crore in non-farebox revenue in the past year, with expectations of continued growth," he added.

The CG City project represents another substantial revenue generation opportunity.

Regd. A/D DRT/LKO FORM NO.5 **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW** 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temp (Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh) SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION Summons to defendant under Section 19 (3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Bank and financial Institution Act, 1993, read with Rules

12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rule, 1993). Original Application No.1149/2023 Date: 26-07-2024 **BANK OF INDIA**APPLICANT

Versus **M/s SANTOSH KIRANA STORE & OTHERS** ... DEFENDANTS

1. Mr. Rajkumar (Adult)

Son & Legal Heir of Guarantor Late Ram Gulam Address-R/o, Mohalla Rai Sahab, Tikait Nagar, Barabanki,(U.P.) -225415

In the above note Application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in Two sets alongwith documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the Applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and there after to appear before the Tribunal on 08.08.2024 at 10.30 AM failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal,

Lucknow



city 03

Supplementary budget to propel UP towards \$1-tn economy: CM

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that the supplementary budget aims to propel Uttar Pradesh towards a \$1 trillion economy.

"As the country's most popu-lous state, Uttar Pradesh is responsible for matching and contributing to this growth. To achieve this, the state has set a goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy, with the current budget being a part of this ini-tiative," the CM said in the state assembly on Thursday.

"A comprehensive roadmap has been prepared, dividing the state's departments into ten key sectors. The government is engaging experts, economists, and stakeholders to ensure targeted growth, and the progress through the Chief Minister's dashboard to identify areas needing additional focus and support," Yogi said.

Over the past seven years, significant infrastructure projects have been completed with cooperation from both the state and central governments. These projects include the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, Purvanchal Expressway,

Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway, and Delhi-Agra Expressway. The supplementary budget includes funding for the Ganga Expressway to complete its main carriageway by December 2024, ahead of the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh in 2025. This project agims to provide a ceam project aims to provide a seamless connection between Western and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

"Efforts are underway to connect every district and tehsil headquarters with four-lane roads and block headquarters with two-lane roads, ensuring world-class highways throughout the state. A Greenfield Expressway is being constructed between Lucknow and Kanpur. Additionally, significant progress has been made in enhancing air connectivity in Uttar Pradesh. Currently, the state has four operational inter-

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaks during the Monsoon session of the state Legislative Assembly at Vidhan Bhawan in Lucknow on Thursday PTI

tional 8,000 MW of thermal domestic airports. Jewar Airport, soon to become the fifth international airport, is set to be one of the largest in Asia, significantly boosting the state's economy," Yogi said. The CM announced plans to

establish the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) with construction underway on 36,000 acres of land. This initiative aims to create a new industrial city akin to Noida, revitalising the Bundelkhand region after 46 years. The state has also launched the

Rapid Rail service between Delhi and Meerut, significantly reducing travel time from three and a half to four hours to 40 to 45 minutes, thanks to a 12-lane expressway and the new rail service.

The CM highlighted progress in the energy sector and men-tioned a provision of ₹2,000 crore in the supplementary budget to ensure uninterrupted electricity for residents. He added, "In the coming years, national airports and 11 the state will generate an addi-

Uttar Pradesh has achieved

revenue-surplus status: Yogi

power." He emphasised that efforts are being made across all three areas of energy: genera-tion, transmission, and distribution, with special attention from the government in each area. "Over 14 lakh farmers

with tubewell connections were unable to pay their electricity bills. We have waived electricity bills from April 2023 while making provisions for government and private tube wells. Additionally, we introduced a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for their previous out-

standing bills," Yogi said. He noted that over the past seven years, additional irriga-tion potential of 22 lakh hectares of agricultural land has been created in the state.

The CM said that in 2016, the state's daily electricity demand was 16,000 megawatts, which has now risen to 31,000 to 32,000 megawatts. Despite this increase. the Power Corporation is working to ensure an uninterrupted supply. "Prior to 2017, there was

roadmap for the next three to

inadequate electricity infrastructure—villages were with-out power, there were no industries, and tube well connections were not being provided. Today, we have established electricity connections, set up industries, and made extensive arrangements for power. We are delivering 24-hour electric-ity to district headquarters, 20 to 22 hours to tehsil headquarters, and 18 to 20 hours to rural areas," Yogi said.

The CM stated that the govern-The CM stated that the govern-ment is supporting the UP Power Corporation Limited with a substantial subsidy. "We are providing ₹46,000 crore to the UPPCL," he said, adding that to address consumer interests and issues, responsibilities have been assigned to each DISCOM.

He mentioned that this is a transitional period with signif-icant changes in energy sector infrastructure, which might lead to some issues. However, he assured that efforts are underway to achieve a permanent solution.

politics, but serve public'

Lucknow (PNS): In a politically charged statement amid recent setbacks for the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised his commitment to public service over personal ambition. He declared, "I have not entered politics for prestige

or personal gain. My focus is solely on serving the public, despite the challenges I face." Criticising opposition parties, especially the Samajwadi Party (SP), Yogi Adityanath high-lighted their failure in public service and security. He stressed that his primary duty in politics is to protect and serve the public. "My fight is against those who

endanger the future of our youth, undermine women's security, and disrupt societal order," he said. He warned, "Those who engage in such activities will face consequences."

Addressing the use of bulldoz-ers, the chief minister clarified that they target criminals, not the innocent. "Criminals should fear the bulldozer," he said. On the topic of reservations, Yogi noted that SC, ST, and OBC communities have received a 60 per cent share in government appointments under his administration. He criticised the previous SP gov-ernment, asserting, "During their tenure, OBCs did not even receive 27 per cent reservation in government jobs."

Commenting on past corruption in government recruit-ment under the SP regime, he

used to extort bribes from canent recruitment process, high-lighting the appointment of 5,500 lekhpals and emphasising that their deployment will be handled with integrity. Yogi Adityanath vowed strict action against those who deceive the

'Khata-khat' scheme: Yogi takes dig at Cong, SP

Lucknow (PNS): Quoting a ter lauded PM Modi for his Panchatantra story where thugs efforts to honour Dr BR cheated a poor farmer by cal

'Not here to do CM congratulates Swapnil Kusale

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath extended his heartfelt congratulations to Swapnil Kusale, who clinched a bronze medal in the men's

50m rifle 3 position event at the Paris Olympics 2024. He said this achievement is a source of national pride on the global stage. Taking to the social media platform X, Yogi praised Kusale's relentless dedication

and exceptional sportsmanship, stating, "This historic victory is the result of your tireless hard work and extraordinary sportsmanship. This victory is an inspiration for countless players of the country."



NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations'1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff Regulations'2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for Petition-1: Transmission system associated with Chamera HEP Stage-II Transmission System in Northern Region Petition-2: Series Capacitors on Circuits-I and II of 220 kV D/C Kishanpur-Pampore Transmission Line at Kishanpur Sub-static Petition-3: Provision of 400 kV bays at Fatehpur for ATS under Unchahar TPS, Petition-4: System Strengthening in South West Part of Northern Grid (Part-A) Transmission System, Petition-5: System Strengthening in Northern Region Grid for Karcham Wangtoo HEF Petition-6: Augmentation of transformation capacity at Amritsar and Moga Sub-stations, Petition-7: 400 kV S/C Chamera-Kishenpur Transmission System, Petition-8: 132 kV S/C Mau-Balia Transmission System in the Northern Region, Petition-9: Norther Region System Strengthening Scheme-VII (NRSS-VII), Petition-10: Additional Converter Transformer (Spare) for Rihand-Dadi Bipole in Northern Region.

. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (a) Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (b) Jaipur Vidyut Vitra Nigam Ltd. (c) Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (d) Punjab State Electricity Corporation limited (e) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (f) Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd. (g) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (h) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (i) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (j) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (k) Chandigarh Electricity department (l) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. m) North Central Railway (n) New Delhi Municipal council. (o) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board. Tariff details:

Petition no	Asset detail	DOCO/ ECOD/ National	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition-1	Asset-1	01.08.2003	4678.43		sed AFC based n truing up	384.75	380.44	376.17	372.36	369.39
Petition-2	Asset-1	01.06.1999	795.05		sed AFC based n truing up	92.28	93.74	95.30	97.02	99.23
Petition-3	Asset-1	21.12.2016	962.90		sed AFC based n truing up	221.71	218.15	215.77	214.54	214.12
Petition-4	Asset-1	01.02.2009	29562.47	0.022523	sed AFC based n truing up	4044.50	3903.87	2612.00	2590.32	2575.00
Petition-5	Asset-1	01.04.2011	21119.62		sed AFC based n truing up	3121.24	3028.40	2936.10	2847.49	1931.57
Petition-6	Asset-1	01.03.2008	3921.24		sed AFC based n truing up	920.10	796.91	803.13	811.72	823.80
Petition-7	Asset-1	01.10.1997	8271.00	0	sed AFC based n truing up	1243.42	1246.21	1249.15	1253.63	1261.09
Petition-8	Asset-1	01.05.2003	603.94		sed AFC based n truing up	66.55	66.12	65.84	65.56	65.75
Petition-9	Asset-1	23.01.2011	6596.75		sed AFC based n truing up	1322.60	1304.94	1287.70	1273.36	1058.64
Petition-10	Asset-1	01.10.2000	1840.94	Revised AFC based on truing up		402.72	402.33	401.95	401.95	402.68
b) 2024-29	Block									t In Lakhs
Petition no	Asset detail		Completion Cost as on 31.03.2029		2024-25	2025-26	2026-	27 202	7-28	2028-29
Petition-1	Asset-1			AFC	358.74	355.38		352.08 348		345.82
Petition-2	Asset-1			AFC	88.41	80.27	82.6		.16	87.80
Petition-3	Asset-1	962.	90	AFC 201.44 AFC 2507.57		195.48	193.2	8 18	0.99	180.15
Petition-4	Asset-1		29562.47		2507.57	2495.62	2501.			2548.18
Petition-5	Asset-1		21119.62		1881.61	1876.35	1871.		65.45 1866.37	
Petition-6	Asset-1		3921.24		674.54	693.75	713.5			757.30
Petition-7	Asset-1			AFC	1236.55	1242.54	1248.			1262.13
Petition-8	Asset-1		603.94		62.93	63.72 64.5				66.32
Petition-9	Asset-1		6596.75		900.54	907.33	919.0			960.97
Petition-10	Asset-1		1840.94		402.66	402.65	105.2	the second se		105.27
5. The sugge person, inclue Trade Centre,	estions and ding the ben Naoroji Nag e address o	objections, if eficiary before gar, New Delhi	any, on the p the Secretary - 110029 (or c	roposals , Centra other ad	s posted on the v s for determinal I Electricity Reg dress where the of publication of	tion of tariff ulatory Con office of th	contained	in the app th, 7th & 8	lication be th floor, To	filed by a wer B, Wo

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise) Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016 Corporate Office: B-9, Guidad Institutional Alea, Ratwara Salai, New Denn 110 0 Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 00 www.powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121 A Maharatna PSU

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Authorised Officer



accused them of a "pick and choose" approach. "The 'chacha-bhatija company'

didates. Lekhpals were appoint-ed based on bribes," he alleged. In contrast, he praised his administration for its transpar-

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Thursday that the state has achieved a revenue-surplus status and is now capable of meeting most of its needs independently. "To support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of a \$5 trillion economy and to establish Uttar Pradesh as a \$1 trillion economy, we have introduced a supplementary budget of ₹12,210 crore," he stated. He noted that 44% of the funds from the current fiscal budget for the 2024-25 financial vear have been released. with 20% already utilised. The budget for 2024-25 has now reached ₹7.5 lakh crore, doubling the size of the 2015-16 budget. The CM emphasised that the state budget has been expanded to meet Uttar Pradesh's growing needs. He highlighted that ₹70,000 crore has been transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for 196 schemes across 11 departments, directly benefiting poor individuals. This, he noted, demonstrates how DBT provides a corruption-free system for the underprivileged. Reflecting on Uttar Pradesh's transformation, the chief minister said, "The UP we inherited and the UP we have today are evident to everyone."

He mentioned that after the passage of the 2024-25 budget in February, its implementation added. "We are developing a



began immediately with the start of the financial year in April. The budget size for 2024-25 is ₹7.36 lakh crore. CM Yogi highlighted that the capital expenditure reflects significant investments in major construction projects. "This supplementary budget will boost investment in Uttar Pradesh. Today, both the GDP and per capita income of the state have more than doubled. UP is progressing in the right direction, and the new developments necessitated this supplementary budget," he said.

He asserted that UP has the potential to become a leading economy in the country. "When we came to power, our economy was ranked sixth or seventh, and the state was facing an identity crisis. However, that perception has changed, and today UP has become the second-largest

advancements in education, health, and skill development. These efforts have created new job opportunities.

employment opportunities within the state," the CM said. He cited Thrissur in Tamil Nadu, where previously two lakh people from UP worked, noting that many have returned to their home state due to new The chief minister stated that Uttar Pradesh has successfully increased its share in the national GDP, from 6-7% to 9-10%. He highlighted that UP is now among the states that have established themselves as revenue surplus through effective resource mobilization, allowing it to meet most of its needs internally. CM Yogi mentioned that strict measures have been implemented to combat tax

evasion. He pointed out that in 2017, UP's Credit Deposit (CD) ratio was 44%, but it has now increased to 60%, indicating a rise in employment opportunities. He also noted that the Reserve Bank requires states to adhere to financial discipline when preparing budgets and taking loans. If a state exceeds the allowed limit, national banks will not approve further loans. UP has made significant progress in this area, maintaining its Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) ratio at 2.86, well below the maximum limit of 3.5, reflecting strong financial discipline.

ing his goat a dog, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a scathing attack on the opposition INDIA bloc's 'khata-khat' scheme in the state assembly on Thursday. Panchatantra is a collection of ancient Indian animal fables in Sanskrit. "This alliance resorted to thuggery by making false promises and pushing a false narrative against the BJP. In the 2027 assembly election, it will not be the 'khata-khat' scheme but rather the end of Congress and SP," the CM said while discussing the supplementary budget. He urged his BJP and NDA allies to engage with the public, asking them to inquire about the unfulfilled promises. "Where did the bond of Rs one lakh promised by the opposition alliance go? Who consumed it, and who are the individuals responsible?," the CM asked. In a pointed attack, CM Yogi denounced the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) for their allegations that PM Modi's third term would lead to the abrogation of the Constitution and the scrapping of reserva-tions for SCs and OBCs. "Who are the people who claim that the Constitution is being strangled? Prime Minister Modi has been in power for ten years-has the Constitution been changed? No! In fact, the Constitution has become

stronger under his leadership,"

Ambedkar, emphasising no one has respected Baba Saheb as much as PM Modi. He highlighted PM Modi's establishment of the Panch Teerths dedicated to Baba Saheb, including the grand memorial at his birthplace in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh; the house in England where Baba Saheb pursued higher education, now known as India House; the Delhi residence where he spent his public life; and the site in Nagpur when he received Buddhist initia tion. On caste-based politica discourse in the country, You reiterated that there are on four castes-farmers, women vouth, and the poor. H emphasised that uplifting these groups would eliminat discrimination across the nation. The CM said that fo the first time, farmers have become a central part of th government's agenda. "Today farmers are receiving the ful benefit of MSP. The Soil Health Card Scheme has been intro duced for the first time, an farmers are benefiting from th Pradhan Mantri Kisai Samman Nidhi without regard to caste, religion, or appear ance," he said. Emphasisin that farmers, women, youth and the poor are the only fou castes, CM Yogi stated: "Éffort have been made at the govern ment level to uplift these groups with significant work done i

the agriculture sector." he asserted. The chief minis-

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that every investment generates new employment and fosters development. He announced that funds have been arranged for education, sports, and other initiatives in the state. "The state government has introduced a special proposal through the Rozgar Mission Committee, allocating funds for various operations. Notably, ₹200 crore have been earmarked for youth skill development, and ₹100 crore for Project Praveen along with employ-ment training," the CM said. He also mentioned a collaboration

'Funds arranged for education, sports, other initiatives with Tata Consultancy to develop 150 ITIs into world-class skill development centres. These centres will offer 23 new-age courses designed to meet global market and industry demands. In education, ₹28.40 crore have been allocated for laboratories in 284 government Inter colleges, and Rs 66 crore for communication technology labs in 1,040 government secondary schools. The government has introduced a policy to facilitate the establishment of new private universities. So far, 14 new universities have been established in the state. The government has identified commissionerates lacking universi-

ties and has established six new A medical university has been ones in these areas. These include the Maharaja Suheldev University in Azamgarh, Maharaja Mahendra Pratap Singh University in Aligarh, and Maa Shakambhari University in Saharanpur, all of which are now operational. Looking ahead, four new univer-

sities are planned: one named after Guru Jambheshwar in Moradabad (formalities completed), Maa Pateshwari University in Devipatan division, Maa Vindhyavasini University in Mirzapur division, and an agricultural university named after Mahatma Buddha in Kushinagar.

rapidly being constructed i established in Lucknow, affiliat-Meerut. A sum of ₹100 crore ha been allocated in the supple ing all medical colleges in the state and expanding its opera-tions. An AYUSH university in mentary budget for stadiums in rural areas to boost sports Arrangements have been mad Gorakhpur is also operational and expanding its work. The for registered workers and des CM announced plans to build a titute children through Ata museum in Barabanki in hon-Residential Schools, with school our of hockey legend KD Singh established in 18 divisions. Th Babu. Despite a dispute over his government plans to creat residence, which was ordered for Mukhyamantri Abhyuday auction, the state government Vidyalaya model schools in 5 decided to preserve his home and new districts, with funds alread allocated. These schools will b convert it into a museum to honor his contributions to hockset up in phases, beginning at th ey. Additionally, the first sports district level, followed by assem university in the state, named bly, development block, and after Major Dhyan Chand, is commissionerate levels.

ng of Govt, of India, U.P. Govt, & Bank of India) 🥙 (भारत सरकार, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया का संयुक्त उपक्र Regional Office: C-930, 931, Civil Lines, Dewa Road, Barabanki-225001

ARYAVART BANK 👩 आर्यावर्त

Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Imovable Properties)

Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Imovable Properties) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of ARYAVART BANK, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice in the account mentioned hereunder on the dates mentioned before the names calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices along with interest within 60 days from the date of receipts said notices. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrower/legal Heirs of borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described here below in excercise of power of conferred on him under section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each property. The borrower /legal Heirs of borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the under noted property will be subject to the charge of ARYAVART BANK for the amount with interest and other charges etc. thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:tails of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers & Guarantors	Amount Outstanding	Description of Property & Name of Owner	Date of Demand Notice /Possession taken
в	ranch: Kotwa Sarak, District- Barab	anki		
1.	Borrower: M/s Radhaswami Battery Service, Village- Kotwa Sadak, Post- Hathaundha, District- Barabanki-225411, Prop. Mr. Yogendra Singh S/o Mr. Hardev Singh, R/o Village- Sisaura, Post- Saifpur, Gandhinagar, Tehsil Nawabganj, District- Barabanki-225412 Guarantors: 1. Mrs. Anupama Singh alias Anupam Singh W/o Mr. Yogendra Singh, R/o Village Sisaura, Post- Saifpur, Gandhinagar, Tehsil Nawabganj, District- Barabanki-225412. 2. Mr. Nagendra Pratap Singh S/o Mr. Medilal Singh, R/o Village- Pure Barjor Singh, Post-Meduwa, Barabanki-225405	+ interest & expenses thereon from 01.01.2022	All that part and parcels of Ek kita Plot Bearing Gata No. 2823 mi, situated in Village-Barabanki (Urban) Andar Seema Nagar Palika Parishad, Mohalla- Gandhinagar, Tehsil Nawabganj, District- Barabanki. Area-139.35 Sq. Mtr. In the name of Mrs. Anupama Singh Alias Anupam Singh W/o Mr. Nanhelal, R/o Village-Sisaura, Post-Saifpur, Gandhinagar, Tehsil Nawabganj, District- Barabanki-225412, Bounded as: East: Rasta Kaccha 20 Fit Wide, West: Plot Vikreta, North: Plot Neelam Pandey, South: Plot Vikreta jo aaj hi Bineeta Singh ke Haath bika hai	<u>04.05.2024</u> 29.07.2024
2.	Borrower: M/s Himanshu Jewelers, Village- Kotwa Sadak, Post- Hataunda, Barabanki, Prop. Mr. Gyan Chandra S/o Mr. Ram Prakash, R/o Village Jagdishpur, Sadullapur, Post- Thorthiya, Barabanki- 225405 Guarantors: 1. Mr. Pawan Kumar S/o Mr. Thakur Prasad, R/o Village+ Post- Thorthiya, Sadullapur, District- Barabanki- 225405. 2. Mr. Sanat Kumar S/o Mr. Thakur Prasad, R/o Village+ Post- Thorthiya, Sadullapur, District- Barabanki-225405. 3. Mr. Chandrakant Kumar S/o Mr. Thakur Prasad, R/o Village+ Post- Thorthiya, Sadullapur, District-Barabanki-225405.	Rs. 5,89,427.00 + interest & expenses thereon from 31.12.2019	All that part and parcel of plot bearing Khasara No. 97min, Area-0.044 Hectare, Village-Raghavpur, Pargana-Suryapur, Tehsil-Ramsanehi Ghat, District- Barabanki, In the name of Mr. Pawan Kumar, Mr. Sanat Kumar and Mr. Chandrakant Kumar, all S/o Mr. Thakur Prasad R/o Village+ Post-Thorthiya, Sadullapur, District-Barabanki-225405, Bounded; East: Farm Shyam Bihari and Others, West: Farm Trilochan Nath, North: Talab, South: Link Marg	04.05.2024 29.07.2024
3.	Borrower: M/s Shubham Traders, Village- Kotwa Sadak, Post- Hataundha, Barabanki, Prop. Mr. Ramesh Chandra Yadav S/o Mr. Shrawan Kumar, R/o Village Kooti, Post- Hathaundha, Tehsil Ram Sanehi Ghat, Barabanki-225405 Guarantors: 1. Mrs. Sulochna Devi W/o Mr. Ramkishore, R/o Village- Kooti, Post- Hathaundha, Tehsil- Ram Sanehi Ghat, Barabanki-225405 2. Mr. Sattan Lal S/o Dayaram R/o Village- Kooti, Post- Hathaundha, Tehsil- Ram Sanehi Ghat, Barabanki-225405	Rs. 8,94,604.25 + interest & expenses thereon from 01.01.2023	1. All that Part and parcel of Ek Kita Plot Situated at Gata No. 940 Mi in Village Hathaundha (Vikasheel Gram, Praroop 4Kha, V Code- 1226, Prishth 81, Talika Kramank 3) Pargana- Suryapur, Tehsil- Ram Sanehi Ghat, Distt-Barabanki, Area- 25.092 Sq Mt. In the name of Mrs. Sulochna Devi W/o Mr. Nankau Alias Ramkishore, R/o Village Kooti, Post- Hathaundha, Tehsil- Ram Sanehi Ghat, Barabanki-225405, Bounded as: East: Plot Sarju Prasad, West: Plot Kreti, North: Plot Sattanlal, South: Lucknow- Faizabad Marg 2. All that Part and parcel of Plot situated at Gata No. 940mi in Village- Hathaundha Pargana- Suryapur, Tehsil- Ram Sanehi Ghat, At Vishisht Gram Shreni-2, Distt- Barabanki, Area- 75.278 Sq mt. in the Name of Mrs. Sulochna Devi W/o Mr. Ramkishore, R/o Village- Kooti, Post- Hathaundha, Tehsil- Ram Sanehi Ghat, Barabanki-225405, Bounded as: East: Plot Vikreta, West: Plot Vikreta, North: Plot Vikreta, South: Sadak (Lucknow- Faizabad)	<u>08.05.2024</u> 29.07.2024

Place : Barabanki

Date : 02.08.2024



Population Fortnight: Varanasi 1st in UP in female sterilisation

IONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Varanasi district has per-formed best in female sterilisation and has secured the first place in the state during the World Population Stability Fortnight organised in June-July in three phases to promote the family welfare programme. However, the district has secured the second best position in male sterilisation in which the two adjoining districts, Prayagraj and Ghazipur, ranked first and third respectively. Giving this information here on Thursday, Chief

Sandeep Chaudhary said that in the service delivery fortnight, medical officers, staff nurses, ANMs, CHOs, Sangini and ASHA workers of all block and city level community and primary health centres of Varanasi, along with surgeons of male and female sterilisation have worked very hard.

"As a result of this hard work, the district has secured the first position in the state by performing 1,762 female sterilisations and the second position by performing 175 male sterilisations" the chief medical

Medical Officer (CMO) Dr officer said, adding that the the Population Stability reach of the services of the family welfare programme is gradually increasing in the community as compared to earlier.

Family Welfare Programme Nodal Officer and Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr HC Maurya said that Varanasi has achieved better results due to public awareness and efforts made by all medical officers, doctors, surgeons, health workers and front line workers as well as district representatives of UPTSU and PSI India. He said that during

Fortnight, a total of 1,762 female and 175 male sterilisations have been done in the district.

Apart from this services of Intrauterine 1,912 Contraceptive Devices (IUCD), 1036 Post Partum Intrauterine Contraceptive Devices (PPI-UCD), 32 Post Abortion Intrauterine Contraceptive Devices (PAIUCD), 2,341 Antara Quarterly contraceptive injections, 11804 Chhaya Weekly contraceptive pills, 14,413 Mala N, 2,820 ECPs and 1,07,933 condoms were provided.

Dr Bhattacharya | NCL set to host Singrauli of IIT-BHU honoured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Dr Somak Bhattacharya, associate professor in the Department of Electronic Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Banaras Hindu University), has been honoured with the 'Young Achiever Award' by IIT Kanpur. This award recognises the achievements and significant contributions of IIT Kanpur alumni. Dr Somak received the award during a ceremony held at IIT Kanpur recently. He was also invited as a guest speaker at the event, where he shared his experiences and accomplishments since completing his studies at IIT Kanpur. The IIT (BHU) Director Prof Amit Patra congratulated Dr Somak on this achievement. Two of the students of Dr Somak have also received awards. Deepak Ram, a research student in the Department of Electronic Engineering has been hon-oured with the 'IEEE Antenna and Propagation Society Fellowship 2024-25' award. Additionally, Mehul Kumar Sahu, a B Tech student from the same department, has been awarded the 'IEEE Antenna and Propagation Society Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarship Award.' Dr Somak said that the selection process for the award given to research student Deepak Ram included evaluation of various aspects of the application by three indepen-dent reviewers, along with advisor evaluation and support letters, leading to the selection of top-scoring applications. On the other hand, Mehul Kumar Sahu received the award for his research project titled 'FSS Based Band Pass Filter for Ka

The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), the flagship subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) is all set to host the 'Singrauli Industry Summit-2024, on August 3 at the com-pany's HQ. NCL, the major player in the Singrauli region is organising the Singrauli Industry Summit 2024 with the primary objective to bring all industry players across the greater Singrauli region at a single platform to harness the industrial potential of Singrauli. This platform will enable industries to deliberate on the opportunities and challenges in the region, fostering cooperation among businesses, govern-ment departments and others to unify the efforts for the noble cause of sustainable development with regional balance. This platform will serve as a robust facilitator where major regional players associated with coal, electricity, chemical, cement, aluminum and other related industries along with government departments and experts are expected to participate. This innovative initiative of NCL will give impetus to the integrated development of the Singrauli region along with industrial development and business diversification.

CORRESPONDENT SONBHADRA



Over 200 delegates from all Industries and state and Central Government officials are expected to attend the summit. The conference will have presentation sessions from different domains of the industry, briefing on government policies followed by panel discussions.

Industry Summit tomorrow

Singrauli region the 'Energy Capital of India, is a crucial industrial hub that significantly contributes to the nation's energy security with coal production of over 150 million tonnes and power generation of over 22,000 MW. The region's extensive coal mining opera-tions, major thermal power plants, aluminum manufacturing, other small-scale industries and availability of raw materials underscore its strategic importance.

Singrauli is committed to multiple initiatives that support the region's development and prosperity through job opportuni-ties from coal mining and direct and indirect business to local and vast canvas for CSR initiatives. The 'Singrauli Industry Summit-2024' is another step of NCL for the holistic and sustainable development of the Singrauli region. Northern Coalfields Limited is a leading coal mining company under the Ministry of Coal and a flagship subsidiary of Coal India Limited producing over 135 million tonnes of coal with its 10 highly mechanized mines located in the Singrauli region. NCL plays a significant role in the country's energy security with sustainable mining practices and contributes to socio-economic development initiatives.

NCL the biggest giant in

Bank of India revises interest rates on FDs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

The Bank of India has upward revised the interest rates on its short term and medium term fixed deposits (FDs) of tenure ranging from 180 days to less than one year and continued to offer highest rate of 8.10 per cent p.a. on its 666 days fixed deposit under non-callable deposit for super senior citizen. The bank has hiked its rate for fixed deposits amounting less than Rs 3 crore and now offering 6 per cent for 180 days to less than one year. Further, the bank has also hiked its rate for fixed deposits amounting Rs 3 crore to less than Rs. 10 crore and now ofer-

ing 6.50 per cent for 180 days to 210 days and 6.75 per cent for 211 days to less than 1 year. Additional rate of interest of 0.65 per cent on deposits of super senior citizens and 0.50 per cent on deposits of senior citizens below Rs 3 crore is offered for fixed deposits with maturity period of six months and above.

The bank has continued its "666 Days - Fixed Deposit", offering the best interest rate of 7.30 per cent for customers and general public. Super senior citizen will get 7.95 per cent pa, senior citizen will get 7.80 per cent pa under the 666 days fixed deposit.

of dona pattal caught fire under mysterious circumstances in Industrial Area, Rania, in Kanpur Dehat late on Wednesday night. On seeing the fire, panic prevailed among the factory workers who immediately escaped out of the unit. Fire brigade reached the spot and controlled the fire after toiling hard. Around 2 am on Wednesday night, unit's godown area caught fire. On hearing about the incident, unit owner and CFO Surendra Singh rushed to the spot with two fire tenders. Three tin sheds in the factory were reduced to ashes due to the fire.

ry engaged in the manufacture

FIRE IN FACTORY: A facto-

CSAUA&T



V-C awarded honorary degree and Kumar Singh, has been arded an honorary degree in istralia. In a programme stralia. In a programme Anand Kumar Singh, has been awarded an honorary degree in Australia. In a programme

work in both these areas involving farmers along with from the tree on Thursday processing and industry, which has benefited globally. All the for autopsy after investigascientists, officers and teachers of the university congratulated Dr Singh on this achievement. SUICIDE: On being scolded by family members, an adolescent boy committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree on with an honorary degree. Dr the outskirt of Vanpurwa vil-

night. He was found hanging tions. Abhishek (17) of Vanpurwa, Hikepur, was scolded by family members on Wednesday over some issue. Thereafter, he went out and did not return till late night. On Thursday morning, villagers found him hanging.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that for mental and physical health of children, packaged milk should be discouraged in homes and hospitals as breastfeeding keeps the child healthy and reduces the risk of breast, uterine and ovarian cancers. He was addressing a workshop organised on the first day of World Breastfeeding Week at his Office Auditorium here on Thursday. The CMO said that the theme

CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary addressing a workshop on breastfeeding in Varanasi on Thursday.

of this year is 'Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All'. He added that for the all-'mother's milk as nectar and the round development of the child, 'only breastfeeding' is the first vaccination of the child'. best option for six months. He Giving information about said that emphasis should be laid on making pregnant and lactating women as well as all family members aware about 'Mother's Absolute Affection (Maa) Ek Sankalp', the CMO said that breastfeeding is an ideal behaviour for the growth breastfeed their children with-

tion about the qualities of one hour of birth and is exclusively breastfed for six months, then child mortality rate can be reduced by up to 22 per cent. It is very important to spread awareness about this", the CMO stated. Nodal officer and Deputy CMO Dr HC Maurya explained that breastfeeding is a life saving behaviour. Starting breastfeeding within one hour of birth and exclusive breastfeeding for six months not only fulfills all the nutritional needs of the child, but mother's milk gives the child

delivery rooms and health workers at the community level should go door to door to make pregnant and lactating mothers aware about the benefits of

and development of the child. He emphasised on creating the mother's thick yellow milk (colostrum) within the first awareness about 'Diarrhoea hour of the birth of the baby, Roko Abhiyan', Kangaroo then only breastfeeding for six Mother Care (KMC), Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) months and supplementary nutrition with breastfeeding etc. "Arrange breastfeeding rooms at workplaces and pubfor two years. He said that the staff nurses and ANMs in the lic places so that mothers can out hesitation. All these efforts will ensure good health of future generations. Research breastfeeding. Along with this, he also gave detailed informahas shown that if the newborn is given mother's milk within

the strength to fight infection and also helps in his physical and intellectual development. Not only this, it also prevents the possibility of obesity and lifestyle diseases in adulthood. This is why the Health depart-

ment emphasises this solution, Dr Maurya said.

On the occasion, ACMO Dr. Sanjay Rai, DHEIO Harivansh Yadav, Maternity Health Consultant Poonam Gupta, Divisional Coordinator Aparajita Singh from Nutrition International Institute along with other medical officers and health workers were also present.

The workshop was participated by superintendents of urban and rural community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) Medical Officers in Charge (MOICs), Health Education Officers (HEOs), Block Programme Managers (BPMs), Block Community Process Managers (BCPMs) etc.

Demonstration against waterlogging

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

 $T^{roubled}_{w\ a\ t\ e\ r\ l\ o\ g\ g\ i\ n\ g\ ,}_{Congressmen\ along\ with\ local}$ zens staged a demonstration



has not been improved. Haseeb Ahmed claimed in most areas of the old city, drain water is entering people's homes. Deepchandra Sharma, Sunil Yaday, Shiyam, Chhotelal

Band Applications in Space'. Dr Somak mentioned that the 2024 IEEE AP-S USRS

committee received a total of 79 applications. Each application was independently reviewed by at least three reviewers based on the quality of the proposal and the applicant's GPA. Mehul will receive a scholarship of \$3,000 for his research.

Breastfeeding keeps child healthy: CMO

in the Municipal Corporation premises here on Thursday. The protesters, led by Congress state general secretary Mukund Tiwari, raised slogans against the government and administration outside the municipal commissioner's office. The Congressmen handed over a memorandum to Additional Municipal Commissioner Dipendra Yadav and demanded a quick solution to the problem. Mukund Tiwari said the government and administrative officials are making preparations to develop it as a smart city. Basically the situa-



tion is the same as before. No change is visible anywhere, he claimed. The rain has exposed the cleanliness system of the Municipal Corporation and the drainage system of the city. The rain in the past few days has caused waterlogging in many areas due to which passersby had to face trouble. People in the

नगर वेकास म शम क city's Mumfordganj, Teliarganj, Katra, Govindpur, Kotha Parcha, Khuldabad, Nakhas Kona, Kareli etc. areas have become distressed due to waterlogging. District president Suresh Yadav claimed that in the name of Maha Kumbh Project, roads are being widened on a large scale but the drainage system Tiwari, Manoj Singh, Amar Patel, Shivmurat Bhartiya, Ramji Gupta, Mayank Prajapati

and others were present. **INJURED:** Four Kanwariyas were critically injured when the Tata magic on which they were travelling suddenly overturned in front of Chakmada village under Handia police station on Thursday. The police reached the spot and got the injured Kanwariyas admitted to the Upardaha CHC. Meanwhile a 14-year-old student was killed after being hit by a dumper while going to school on a bicycle in Phulpur.



 $V_{ ext{Chandrashekhar} ext{ Azad}}^{ ext{ice-Chandrashekhar} ext{ of}}$ University of Agriculture and Technology (CSAUA&T) Dr

Doctor of Science. He has been given this honorary degree for his outstanding contribution to the horticulture industry globally. This is the first time that a scientist from an agricultural university abroad has been honored

DRM conducts window-trailing inspection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varanasi Division, North Eastern Railway (NER) Vineet Kumar Srivastava conducted a window-trailing safety inspection of Banaras-Aunrihar-Jaunpur rail section on Thursday from a self-propelled inspection vehicle. He reviewed the safety in rail operations apart from passenger safety, development works of passenger amenities and the progress of operational improvement, along with the development works going on on this rail section. The DRM conducted a thorough inspection of Aunrihar railway station. He inspected the



stalls, waiting room, circulating Engineer (General) Pankai area, entry and exit routes, Keshwani, Senior Divisional Safety Officer Balendra Pal, cleanliness and maintenance etc. Srivastava also inspected Assistant Divisional Operations the relay room, IPS room, Manager (Coaching) Heera Lal, points crossing, key transfer, maintenance register, cancellation Public Relations Officer Ashok Kumar along with senior supercounter etc related to safety and visors and railway employees were present. During his window instructed the concerned officers trailing inspection, the DRM and personnel to strictly follow checked the safety in operations the safety rules. On the occasion Senior Divisional Electrical on the Banaras-Aunrihar rail

section, progress of development works, passenger amenities cleanliness, availability of drinking water, compliance of tempo-rary caution orders and refresher training of safety related employees including competency and PME certificates. During his window trailing inspection, the DRM also checked the safety of the rail track, rail ballast, track screening, overhead traction, alignment, caution order and track fittings of the rail section. Later, Srivastava reached Dobhi railway station and inspected the station building, platforms, FOB etc. Continuing his inspection, the DRM also conducted a thorough inspection of Kerakat and Muftiganj railway stations and inspected the platforms, FOBs, waiting rooms, circulating area, cleanliness and maintenance etc.

Man found hanging from tree 35-year-old man ends life PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR out of water and carried out a

32-year-old man from A³²-year-old man from Hardoi was found hanging from a tree in a park in Gwaltoli police station area on Thursday morning. The morning walkers informed the police which rushed to spot and identified him as Satish of Hardoi. Efforts are on to contact his kin. ACP Colonelganj Mahesh Kumar said the young man was found hanging from the tree with the help of a 'gamchha' in Khalasi Line park of Gwaltoli on Thursday morning. From the Aadhaar card recovered from his possession, he was identified as Satish Rathaur (32), son of Radhey Shyam Rathaur of Surapur Palia Panchshala, Harpalpur, Hardoi. The kin had left for Kanpur from Hardoi, he said. His kin informed that Satish used to work as a labourer in Kanpur. On arrival of his kin, police will lodge a first infor-mation report (FIR) and initiate action in the matter, the ACP said.

Meanwhile the body of a woman was found floating under mysterious circumstances in a reservoir near Kandhi village under Derapur police station area on Thursday morning. The villagers assembled on the spot and suspected that the body to was dumped into the reservoir after her killing. Police got the body

probe. The woman, wearing black jeans and pink kurti was found floating in Rashan reservoir near Kandhi village on Thursday morning. Kandhi outpost incharge rushed to spot who, with the help of villagers, got the body out of water and started efforts to ascertain her identity. He said the body being very old had come floating in the water from a distant place. Efforts are on to ascertain her identity. A probe was also on in the matter. After autopsy, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said. ELECTROCUTED: A youth was electrocuted while putting his mobile phone on charging in Sargaon Bujurg village under Rura police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Wednesday night. After rescuing him, his kin took him to the district hospital in the night itself where the doctor on emergency duty declared him dead. Reports said that Nitanshu (20), son of Kalloo Rawat of Sargaon Bujurg village, came into contact with electric current while putting his mobile on charging on Wednesday night. On seeing him crying, his kin switched off the power supply and somehow rescued him. At the district hospital, Dr Nishant Pathak on emergency duty declared him dead. The body was handed over to the kin on

request without sending it for

autopsy. His cremation was performed on Thursday morning. Inspector Rura said the kin did not inform the police about the incident.

ACHIEVEMENT: In a notable achievement, the Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC) has swiftly completed the construction of the second Receiving Sub-Station (RSS) for Corridor-1 (IIT-Naubasta). This 220/33 KV RSS, featuring two 50 MVA power transformers, is now fully equipped to supply electricity to metro trains and stations along the balance sections. The first 220 KV Receiving Sub-Station (RSS) of Kanpur Metro is situated near Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University in Lakhanpur, supplying power for metro trains and station equipment of Priority Corridor (IIT-Motijheel) as well as Gurudev Chauraha Depot. A second 220 KV Receiving Sub-Station (RSS) has been constructed at Phoolbagh to address the power requirements of trains and station equipment in the underconstruction sections. Kanpur Metro trains running on 750 volt DC current use Third Rail for operation. Third Rail gets electricity from the Receiving Sub-Station (RSS). For the operation of Kanpur Metro trains, a 220 KV supply is sourced from the Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Limited (UPPTCL) grid.

35-year-old man commit-A³⁵-year-old man commit-ted suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling in Mugarsan village under Utraon police station area here on Thursday. On receiving information, the police reached the spot, took the body into possession and sent it for the postmortem examination. His family members are shell-shocked Ashok of Mugarsan police station Utraon, ended his life on Thursday. When his sister-inlaw saw the scenario from the window she raised an alarm following which the villagers gathered there. On receiving information, the Utraon police reached the spot and took the body into possession and sent it for the post-mortem examination. A suicide note has also been found in which dispute over money transaction is being told as the reason. The deceased was the eldest of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

two brothers. The family members including, wife Manisha Devi and mother Karma Devi, are inconsolable. The police is investigating the case from every angle.

Police station in charge Pankaj Tripathi said that the case is being investigated and if any matter comes to light after the post-mortem examination action will be taken.

railway employees retire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

station panel, station building,

platforms, passenger sheds, foot over bridge, food and vending

s many as 41 railway A employees retired on the last day of July here on Wednesday. Out of them, a total of 12 employees got retirement in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) while 29, including an officer from Varanasi Division of North Eastern

Railway (NER). In the farewell ceremony organised at Administration Building in BLW, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Janardan Singh presented medals and folders to the retiring employees and suggested them to invest their accumulated wealth in government institutions only. He also advised them to stay healthy

and remain engaged in work related to social welfare and spend most of the time with the family. With the cooperation of the Accounts and Personnel departments, a lump sum payment was given to the retired employees, including Amlesh Srivastava, Amarendra Nath Arya, Anand Kumar Nath, Ashraf Ali, Pradeep Kumar, Devnath, HK Chaudhary, Prensudan, Narsingh Ram, Baleshwar Prasad, Vijay Bahadur Singh and Ram Asare Pathak. Senior Personnel Officer (Headquarters) Raj Kumar Gupta. Divisional Medical Officer Dr Saurabh Sagar, Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar, Joint Secretary of Employees' Council Shrikant Yaday, members Amit

Kumar, Santosh Kumar Yadav and Manish Kumar Singh and chief welfare inspectors Vijay Gupta and Kamlesh Srivastava were also present. The members of BLW Employees' Council and the representatives of State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda located in the BLW premises presented gifts to the retiring employees.

In a simple ceremony organised in the Premchand Auditorium Room of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Office, the DRM Vineet Kumar Srivastava and Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul paid the final amount of ₹11,31,66,720 to the 29 retiring employees including one officer. Senior Divisional Finance Manager

Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Personnel Officer Ramesh Upadhyay, Assistant Divisional Personnel Officer Anirudh Prasad along with inspectors and employees of Accounts and Personnel departments were also present. In his address, the DRM said that the railway employees have an important role in all the records being set on Indian Railwavs today. He advised the retiring employees to do regular exercise, yoga etc to stay healthy and spend the remaining time in fulfilling their social and moral obligations. He gave service medals to all the retiring employees and wished them a good life ahead and expressed gratitude for their long and remarkable services.



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EC takes first step to hold polls in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In a fresh indication that Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir are imminent, the Election Commission (EC) has asked the Union Territory administration to transfer out officers posted in their home districts, an exercise it holds ahead of conducting elections. The commission has been following a consistent policy that officers directly connected with the conduct of clocking a pall bound of elections in a poll-bound State or Union Territory are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for a considerably long period.

has issued similar directions to the Chief secretaries of Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand.

It said the terms of the existing legislative Assemblies of Haryana, Jharkhand and Maharashtra were up to November 3, 2024; January 5, 2025; and November 26, 2024, respectively, and elections in these States were due in 2024.

'Further, the election to the legislative Assembly of the



and Kashmir is also due in the near future," it noted on Wednesday.

It is usual for the poll panel to issue instructions related to transfers of officers ahead of Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. Recently, it had ordered the updation of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir and the three States.

In June, it decided to accept applications allotment of symbols' from registered unrecognised parties in the Union Territory. Whenever Assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir, they



Union Territory of Jammu will be the first since provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution abrogated and the erstwhile

State divided into two Union Territories in 2019. The electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir is usually spread over a month. Following a delimitation exercise, the number of

Assembly seats has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding those seeking allocated 'common occupied Kashmir. Last December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

Be alert during House proceedings to ask suppl questions: Birla to MPs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Don Thursday asked mem-bers to be alert during House proceedings or else, he said, they will lose the opportunity to ask supplementary ques-tions during the Question Hour. Birla said this after Shiromani Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal was unable to respond to the Speaker's call on time. During the Question Hour, a

question posed by Badal related to Punjab was listed in the agenda for discussion. When Birla took Harsimrat Badal's name for a few times, she failed to respond in time as she was apparently busy talking to a fellow member. At this, the Speaker decided to move on to the next question. Soon after, the Shiromani Akali Dal MP responded and urged the Speaker to allow her to raise the issue. "I have called your name thrice. But you were

proceedings, you will not get the chance to raise issues," Birla said. The Speaker also told members that if they want to ask any supplementary question of any listed question, they should submit their names to his office by 10.30 am of that particular day. "I will try to accommodate your request if it relates to your respective State. But that does not mean that you will certainly get the chance to ask supplementary," he said. any Birla, however, later allowed

Badal to raise the relevant and ask the issue supplementary question. The first hour of the Lok Sabha proceedings, called the Question Hour, is reserved for MPs to ask any question of public importance. The member whose question is listed in the agenda is allowed to ask two supplementary

India, Vietnam firm up action plan to expand strategic ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Tndia and Vietnam on Thursday firmed up a new action plan to expand their strategic ties, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that both sides will work towards a free and rules-based Indo-Pacific and that New

Delhi supports development and not "expansionism". After his wide-ranging talks here with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Modi said, the agreed USD 300 million credit line for Vietnam, will strengthen the Southeast Asian nation's maritime security. Chinh arrived in Delhi on Tuesday night on a three-day visit that is aimed at further expanding the comprehensive strategic ties between the two countries.

'We have adopted a new plan of action to further strengthen our comprehensive strategic cooperation," Modi said in his media Statement in presence of Chinh.

Modi said both sides will continue cooperation for a free, open, rules-based and prosperous Indo-Pacific. we have transformed our



Vietnam is India's important partner in our Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision, he said.

relations into Strategic Comprehensive Partnership, he said. We held extensive talks on all

"We support development, aspects of mutual cooperation and initiated steps towards not expansionism (Hum vistarbad nahi, vikasvad ka the framework of future samarthan karte hei)," Modi said.The comments came amid growing global concerns over China's expansionist to behaviour in the Indo-Pacific. Modi said various dimensions of India-Vietnam relations have both expanded and deepened in the last one decade. In the last 10 years,

cooperation," he said, adding the two countries have adopted a new plan of action further strengthen comprehensive strategic cooperation. Modi said both sides have

decided that cooperation will be strengthened on counter-terrorism and cyber security.

New Bill promises to revolutionise disaster management

busy in talking. You have to

be alert when your question is

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced in Lok Sabha on Thursday, aims to strengthen the efficient working of the national and State disaster management authorities besides bringing more clarity and convergence among stakeholders working in the field of

disaster management. The Bill also aims to provide statutory status to certain pre-Act organisations like the National Crisis Management Committee and the High Level Committee.

Besides, it aims to strengthen become DGMS the efficient working of the National Disaster Management Authority and State disaster management authorities, according to the Statement of objects and reasons of the Bill.

Lt General Sadhna Saxena Nair on Thursday took Union Minister of State for Nitvanand Rai who Home introduced the Bill, asserted that there is no interference in the rights of the States and disaster management is the first responsibility of the States The Bill also provides to bring more clarity and convergence in the roles of authorities and committees working in the field of disaster management and to provide statutory status to certain pre-Act organisations like



were

to Pakistan-

National Crisis Management enacted to provide for the Committee and the High effective management of disasters and for matters Level Committee. The Bill also aims to empower connected therewith or

National Disaster incidental thereto. The main purpose of the act Management Authority and State disaster management was to put in place necessary authorities to prepare the disaster plan at national and institutional mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring State level instead of the the implementation of disaster management plans, Executive

be taken up by the ministries legislative power should be and departments of the Government of India and mandated that every ministry or department would carry out the nodal responsibilities respect of disaster in management.

to the constant Due endeavour of the central Government for mainstreaming the disaster management in the development plans, aligning with the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, learnings from past disasters, and experience gained during the implementation of the Act, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been reviewed in consultation with all

stakeholders including the State Governments, the Statement of objects and reasons of the Bill said.

Some Opposition members, however, questioned the constituti ality of the

properly defined. He said any law based on "derived legislative power" may not stand the test of constitutionality. He also noted that the rule making power of the Centre provided in the Bill encroaches the

powers of the States. Saugata Ray (TMC) said the multiplicity of authorities will create confusion. The Bill was later introduced by a voice vote.

Minister of State or Home Rai asserted that there is no interference in the rights of the States and disaster

management is the first responsibility of the States. According to the Statement and objects and reasons of the Bill, the main purpose of the 2005 Act which the Bill seeks to amend was to put in place institutional necessarv mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring the disaster imple entation of management plans. For achieving its purpose, certain authorities and committees were set up at the national level, State level and district level. Seeking to mainstream disaster management in the development plans and learnings from past disasters, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been reviewed in consultation with all stakeholders, including State Governments.

Twelve more airports ready to implement DigiYatra facility



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

While the DigiYatra app is slowly gaining traction, there welve more airports are ready to implement DigiYatra facility that will prohave been concerns expressed in various quarters about vide passengers seamless and contactless movement at various checkpoints through facial recognition system, Civil Aviation Minister Κ Rammohan Naidu informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

privacy of passenger data. The app facilitates the passengers to enroll their verifiable credentials using Aadhaar card number and to keep their personal information on their smartphones to ensu re dat:

Government is committed to

protecting data privacy.

listed. I want to tell all Honourable members that if you don't pay attention to the questions.

Medical Services (Army), becoming the first woman officer to be appointed to the post.

Sadhana: First

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

woman to

Lt Gen

NEW DELHI

She graduated from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, with a distinguished academic and record was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in December 1985, according to a Statement issued by the defence ministry.

She assumed the office of the Director General Medical Services (Army) on Thursday, it said. "Prior to this, she was the first woman to hold the post of DG Hospital Services (Armed Forces) on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal," it said.

Lt General Nair has become the first woman to be appointed as the Director General Medical Services (Army), the ministry said. She holds a post-graduate degree in family medicine, diplomas in maternal and child health and healthcare management, and has undergone a two-year training programme in medical informatics at AIIMS, New Delhi, the Statement said.

She was trained in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear warfare with the Israeli Defence Forces and in military medical ethics with the Swiss Armed Forces in Spiez, it added.

Lt Gen Nair is also the first woman Principal Medical Officer of Western Air Command, and Training Command, Indian Air Force (IAF). She was nominated as an expert member of Dr Kasturirangan Committee for drafting part of the medical education component of the National Education Policy, the Statement said.

For her meritorious service, she has been awarded the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command and Chief of the Air Staff Commendations as well as Vishisht Seva Medal by the President, it said.

Evecutive (mmittee It will provide for creation of disaster database at national and State level, to make provision for constitution of [®]Urban Disaster Management Authority" for State capital and large cities having

the

National

Municipal Corporation and to make provision for constitution of "State Disaster Response Force" by the State Government.

Committee and the State

The original act, the Disaster the Management Act, 2005, was

prevention of and mitigating the effects of disasters and for undertaking a holistic, coordinated and prompt response to any disaster or threatening disaster situation. For achieving the said purpose, certain authorities and committees were established at the national level, State level and district level.

ensuring measures by various

Government for

In addition, the act enumerated the measures to

personnel who

during peace and war.

between

Officer.

measure. Opposing the Bill at the introduction stage, Manish Tewari (Cong) said none of the entries in List 1 or List 2 of the Constitution dealing with central and State subjects deal with the issue of disaster management.

He suggested that the Government should amend the concurrent list to have a proper entry to cover the issue of disaster management. Tewari said the law's

Naidu said 12 more airpor are ready to implement DigiYatra, while 11 airports are preparing to have the facility. Currently, the DigiYatra facility is available at 15 airports of the country. Responding to supplementaries during the

Question Hour, the Minister emphasised that the passenger data shared through DigiYatra App is not stored in any centralised saying system, the

Influenza spreads, 132 fatalities

privacy," the Minister said. Based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), DigiYatra provides for contactless, seamless movement of passengers at various checkpoints at airports in India.

DigiYatra app has been downloaded by more than 43 lakh users, Naidu said, adding the scaling up of the facility will be done in a phased manner

Rajnath urges personnel to enhance skills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

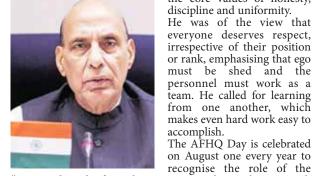
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday here called upon the personnel of the Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services to continue enhancing their skills in today's fastchanging times for efficient policy making and implementation and execution of reforms being undertaken in the

Ministry of Defence (MoD). Addressong the 83rd AFHQ Civilian Services Day, he described the civil services as the steel frame of governance and commended the dedication and hard work of

the AFHQ personnel in taking forward the ongoing works, including efforts to attain Aatmanirbharta, and contributing to the welfare of soldiers. 'You are an important link

between the Armed Forces and the rest of the civilian Government. There is a need to further strengthen your capabilities for enhanced efficiency," he said. Rajnath added that the three

Services form a large part of the functioning in MoD and the AFHQ cadre ensures that the possibility of 'groupthink[†], which results in poor decision-making, is negated in policy formulation.



"Unprecedented reforms have been undertaken in MoD in the last five years, and there been tremendous has progress in several areas. Our achievements have been recognised globally. This has happened due to team work. The Armed Forces and Civil Services should work together Command from from Command Headquarters and Service Headquarters to the Ministry for better output. By including AFHQ Civil Services officers in key roles in MoD, the quality of decision making will improve," he added. The defence Minister urged

The defence Minister urged the Department of Defence to explore the possibilities of better career progression for the personnel of AFHQ Civilian Services. Rajnath exhorted the



everyone deserves respect, Lt Gen Vikas irrespective of their position rrespective of their position or rank, emphasising that ego must be shed and the personnel must work as a team. He called for learning from one another, which makes even hard work easy to Lakhera assumes charge as Assam **Rifles DG** The AFHQ Day is celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE work NEW DELHI

shoulder-to-shoulder with the Lt General Vikas Lakhera on Thursday assumed charge as Service personnel, primarily in the three Integrated Service Headquarters; HQ, Intergated the new director general of the Defence Staff and 24 Inter-Assam Rifles, which is known Services Organisations of as the "Sentinels" of the north-MoD. The aim is to foster eastern region. He succeeds Lt spirit-de-corps of the civilian employees of AFHQ Cadres, General P C Nair who retired after four decades of service. Lt Gen Lakhera has varied who play the role of a bridge professional experience in Service Headquarters and MoD, both serving in the northeastern region. He was commissioned into the 4 Sikh Light Infantry The foundation of AFHQ cadres was laid on August 01, 1942 by organising the then decentralised civilian in 1990.He is a post graduate from Defence Service Staff College, Wellington. He is an alumnus of the Higher posts/cadre operation as Defence Management Course from College of Defence Management, Secunderabad distinct entities under various Service Headquarters and Secretariat of Ministry of Defence and Finance and completed the prestigious National Defence Course from the Royal College of (Defence) under the control Chief Administrative Defence Studies, London.

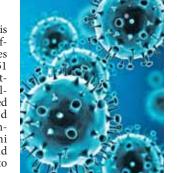


Tn the first five months of this vear, India has seen a significant surge in influenza cases and deaths, with a total of 6,351 cases and 132 fatalities reported. Punjab topped the mortalities list with 41 deaths followed by Gujarat with 27 and Haryana with 26. Case numbers are highest in Delhi (1,563), Gujarat (1,049), and Rajasthan (1,008), according to data from the National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC) under the Union Health Ministry. Last year, in Tamil Nadu alone, 3,544 influenza

cases marked the highest number in 14 years. Health experts said that while temperate regions see seasonal flu primarily in winter, tropical areas like India experience two phases of influenza-summer and a longer winter phase. Since, the current year has already seen 80% of last year's total cases in just five months, it suggests that a potentially severe flu season is ahead.

The incubation period, or the time from infection to illness, is about two days but ranges from one to four days.

However, experts have attributed rise in numbers to higher investigations post-Covid-19 pandemic. Also, Dr Das.



this indicates that regions with immunocompromised populations, those with comorbidities, and the elderly are at higher risk of afflicting with influenza.

Dr Deepak Kumar Das, Chief Medical Officer at the Delhi Government-run Hindu Rao Hospital, emphasised that Hospital, emphasised that individuals with low immunity or underlying health condition as well as those suffering from co-morbidities are at a higher risk of contracting influenza. "Prevention steps are similar to those for Covid-19. People should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and wash their hands regularly. They should also avoid going to crowded places and must wear masks

as a prevention measure," said

"Anti-viral medications can be used to treat influenza. Newer antiviral drugs are also available. Seasonal influenza vaccines are updated annually to match circulating strains. The 2024-25 influenza vaccine includes components targeting common strains of Influenza A (H1N1, H3N2)." "Efforts are ongoing to improve vaccine effectiveness and develop universal influenza vaccines that offer broader protection," said Dr Rishikesh Dessai, Consultant Physician at the Department of Medicine, Sir Gangaram Hospital.

"Also, the vaccine shot should be taken before the onset of influenza spread. Taking the vaccine during the influenza season will not help," said the doctors.

Dr. Kartikeya Kohli, Senior Consultant of Internal Medicine at MASSH Super Speciality Hospital in Delhi, emphasised that influenza is a serious respiratory illness if ignored.

The symptoms of influenza include high fever, chills, muscle aches, fatigue, sore throat, cough, and a runny or stuffy nose. Vaccination remains the best preventive measure against influenza, helping to reduce the severity and incidence of the flu," Dr Kohli explained.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Squabbling overshadows tragedy

The Wayanad landslide tragedy serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of ignoring environmental warnings

n India, we've developed a bad habit of politicising everything, from festivities to tragedies, using every opportunity for one-upmanship against opponents. Indeed, the tragic landslide in Wayanad, Kerala, that claimed life of more than 170 people is being used as a slingshot to score brownie points. It has triggered a heated political exchange between State and Central Government leaders. The tragedy, which resulted in significant loss of life and property, has brought to the forefront the critical issue of disaster preparedness and environmental stewardship. Following the landslide, Home Minister Amit Shah stated that the State had received an early warning but failed to take necessary preventive measures. He criticised the State Government for the negligence, suggesting that more lives could have been saved with timely action. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan guickly refuted Shah's claims, asserting that the State Government had acted on all available warnings and had under-



taken necessary measures to mitigate the impact. Vijayan emphasised that the unprecedented intensity of the landslide was beyond what the early warnings had predicted and that the state's disaster response teams had worked tirelessly to manage the situation. This spat achieved nothing; neither relief for the people injured nor a plan of action to stop such incidents in the future. But yes, both the Central and State Governments gave themselves a clean chit, and that was the end of it.

This incident highlights challenges in disaster management and the need for coordinated efforts between State and Central Governments. The

Wayanad tragedy has also opened a broader discussion on environmental conservation and the risks of taking nature for granted. The Kerala Government must take the blame for unrestricted development in the Western Ghats, one of the most fragile ecosystems in the country. Despite frequent disasters, the Kerala Government continues unsustainable activities in the name of development. The thick tree cover is gone due to changed land use. This has turned many perennial streams and rivers into seasonal ones and increased the risk of flooding in the monsoon season. The Wayanad landslide is a stark reminder of the consequences of ignoring environmental signals. Human activities such as deforestation and unplanned construction have exacerbated the vulnerability of regions like Wayanad to natural disasters. The Wayanad landslide underscores the importance of accountability and proactive measures in disaster management. More importantly, it highlights the critical need to respect and care for our environment. Forests, for instance, play a crucial role in stabilising soil and regulating water cycles. Deforestation disrupts ecosystems, making landslides more likely. The Wayanad tragedy is a call to action for governments, communities, and individuals to prioritise environmental conservation for our collective survival.



The evolution of learning



nion 06

VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Learning is a complex phenomenon with multiple layers. It needs judgement, sensitivity, foresight and a strong will to absorb new ideas

he real world can be tricky to negotiate. This is because a lot of early childhood learning needs substantive modification when it comes to real life. Illustratively, a child is taught many principles which are simply impraccable as he grows up. Typically, a child will be told never to do something without informing their parents, where-as in real life this is neither feasible nor practicable.

The truth is, that childhood learning is about basics; one learns to modify or calibrate it as one goes along. It has to do with a child's mind and establishing certain principles that life experiences may define or modify. Consider the case of teaching a child about parallel lines. The child is taught that parallel lines are lines that never meet. That's good enough for his purposes. As one matures and gains a few years, the child transitioning into adulthood learns that parallel lines do meet, but they meet at 'infinity'. Similar examples can be cited elsewhere. However, more to the point is a simple proposition, namely that learning has to do with the capacity and capability of the learner. The same principle can undergo several modifications or even alterations. As one emerges into adulthood, one learns many other intricacies about life, and several of them can only be re-learned only through experience. Here is the need to sharpen a person's capacity for continuous learning and absorption. Typically, the adult, as he goes through life, meets different types of people, and there is a clear need to coexist with several others. One's judgment becomes a crucible for deciding what the truth is and where one has to steer clear or walk through it. This is what adult learning is

elders.

Sanskrit



An illustration of this could make the point clear. In Sanskrit, there is a saying "Satyam brooyat, priyam brooyat, na brooyat satyama priyam". "Broadly translated, it means, speak the truth, but speak it pleasantly. If a truth is bitter, it need not be spoken". Whether this is AS ONE EMERGES desirable or not is a moot point. What is more, is that INTO ADULTHOOD, other sayings can be found to be very different than the one quoted above. For example, there is another statement "Satyameva jayate" "A free translation into English would be that "truth alone triumphs". The two state-ments are clearly in two different contexts and mean two different things. There is an element of contradiction between the two. It is here that adult learning

AND SEVERAL OF THEM CAN ONLY BE RE-LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIENCE

LETTERS

ill intention, but their style itself became 'offensive'. have a heavy price. After all, tact is something that is not an optional extra, it is essential to life.Being tactful does not end up lying or being untruthful. It only trains a person to be sensitive to another person's feelings and sentiments.

It also raises the importance of recognizing that all inputs ONE LEARNS contribute to better and improved behaviour. MANY OTHER Creating a situation in which INTRICACIES everyone gains and a better environment is established is essential. If bluntness caus-ABOUT LIFE, es hurt rather than improvement, it could lead to deterioration of quality of life, which cannot be the objective of any action.

The obvious conclusion is that learning is a complex phenomenon with multiple

requires a collective experience. Learning therefore is Such offensive behaviour can a lifelong exercise requiring continuous involvement and the capability to evolve. External inputs to learning are of course critical, but internalization of the same is the core. Unfortunately, whereas much attention has been paid to teaching, an equal amount of attention is due to the ways of the learning process. There are indeed definite limits to the capacity to learn and methods of learning.

This is something that needs to be more widely recognized than before, especially since it does not seem to be integrated into the larger theories of learning. Indeed, one needs to pay attention to also when and how a revision of the learning process becomes seminal.

To sum up, it is important to layers. It needs judgement recognize the continuous sensitivity, and foresight. In nature of learning and one's the absence of any of the central role in keeping that above relationships, they can learning alive. A teacher can become compromised. After only help the process but cannot substitute a learner's learning. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

Asian Openbill storks perch on a tree, in Kolkata

Age and capability: Rethinking retirement and leadership



about, and it is a lifelong neces-

sity that is felt at each

stage.Sometimes strange situa-tions can occur, especially if one

aphorisms/proverbs/ folk say-

ngs, and even the wisdom of

learns

through

ASHA IYER KUMAR

Why is it that in the corporate world, age is a barrier to employment, while in public service, older individuals often hold the highest offices?

n May 2020, close on the heels of the covid outbreak, my husband lost his job. It was an unexpected knock to take barely a month after he was awarded the best employee. The company that he was serving for the past many years attributed the pink slip to the pandemic, and following it, it was near impossible for him to find another job. In most cases, it seemed as if he was deemed over-age. In the traditional sense, it must be true that 58 years is the time to hang one's boots, but taking superannuation was far from his mind. His mental and physical abilities had not dimmed a wee bit and he had many more years of active work life left in him. But it was hard to convince a work culture that was transitioning to a younger demographic about his worthiness. He was soon forced to stop looking for a job and start something of his own. Three years on, it is a decision we don't regret taking. But there is one thing that I have not been able to decipher. If a company considers a person to be too old to seek



seek fresh terms as heads of state? This question is more relevant now after John Biden was forced to step aside following doubts over his diminishing cognitive abilities on various platforms. Biden's dropping out in no way suggests that his opponent (who is younger by only three years) is more eligible to be the boss at the White House if age is a major criterion for holding responsible positions. Yet, in public service, it is par for the course for older men and women to push it till economic and social policies allow or they are naturally indisposed. Why is 80 a wholesome number to be at employment at that age, what makes older doyens eligible to the helm of a state and 60 an

age to retire for employees?

There is no doubt that the age gap between the highest and owest denominators at a workplace has widened significantly.

There are concerns about an agile, IT-driven young generation unable to work alongside an older brigade that follows old clunky ways. On this side things, it is still a huge challenge for those used to archaic practices of functioning to adopt digital modes overnight. But experience is something we still cannot after much persuasion, he discount. On the other hand, we also need a lot of young blood to keep our workplaces vibrant. People age differentlv. Their biological age may not be commensurate with their chronological age. In a

recent interview on CNN, Anthony Fauci, former chief medical advisor to the President of the United States looked and sounded many times more agile and vigorous at 81 than Biden does. My mother at 77 is much less healthy than a few other relations in their 90s. So to determine people's capabilities

based on the number of summers they have seen is a faulty method. Our cognitive age and ability to handle the pressures of a job is something only we can gauge.

It is for us to decide if we are fit to handle the responsibilities - be it to serve the nation, run a company or a household. John Biden must have eventually realised that cracks are showing up in his public image and faculties and that stepping aside is the most gracious thing to do, both for his self-esteem and for the sake of his country. Although it had to come made the call. Congratulations to him for being rational and accepting 'it is what it is'.

(The author is a Dubaibased author and columnist; *views are personal)*

ly emphasised in their childhood that they must always tell the truth get so much in the habit of only telling the truth that they become offensive in conversations. This is not because of their

all, if the relationship itself is lost, one might ask: what is the input about?

This issue is fundamental to the act of living. This is so because man is a gregarious animal, and the act of living

ALL QUIET IN BANGLADESH

acquires a special veneer of its own. What that special

something is a matter of experience and exposure.

Some people who repeated

Madam — After the recent mind-boggling violence in Bangladesh, things seem to be stabilising for now. Hopefully, peace will not be compromised again, as Dhaka is an important neighbor for New Delhi. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's support for those who fought for the liberation of Bangladesh, led by her late father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is well known and reasonable. In the past, Hasina's firm and decisive action against the offenders of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War earned her praise, but her indecision and leniency towards extremism were criticized by moderates and liberals.

Her recent decision to reserve fifty-six percent of jobs for the descendants of the liberation movement was undoubtedly aimed at certain sections of the country's vote bank. Although the Bangladesh Supreme Court struck down the order and reduced the reservation to five percent, Hasina must be feeling the setback. Some short-sighted remarks by Hasina during the students' protests further fueled emotions. It's time for the longestserving Prime Minister of Bangladesh to get her act together and display the statesmanship expected of her.

Ganpathi Bhat| Akola

THE LEGACY OF JRD TATA

Madam—The 29th of July 2024 marked 120 years since the birth of JRD Tata, fondly called Jeh by those close to him. Words cannot do justice to his modesty, philanthropy, achievements, awe-inspiring firsts, patriotism, and staunch belief in the three guiding tenets of Zoroastrianism: good thoughts, good words, and good deeds, without professing either belief or disbelief in God.Ieh was India's first commercial pilot lice nse holder and the first to fly a commercial plane from Karachi to Madras.

He was also the first Indian businessman who refused to bribe politicians and the first to establish Asia's first cancer care hospital, the Tata Memorial Centre in

Remembering APJ Abdul Kalam

THE EDIT



hroughout his life Abdul Kalam professed the scientific, academic as well as spiritual development of the students. He made

Bombay. Furthermore, he was a pioneer in advocating for workers' rights, introducing an eight-hour working day, free medical facilities, and more. As stated at the outset, it is impossible to fully capture the essence of JRD Tata, whose life itself was his message.

Tata passed away in Geneva, Switzerland, from a kidney infection on 29 November 1993, at the age of 89. A few days before his death, he remarked, "Comme c'est doux de mourir" ("How gentle it is to die"). Upon his death, the Indian Parliament was adjourned in his memory, an honor rarely given to those who are not members of parliament.

He was buried at the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Pages from JRD Tata's life ought to be made compulsory reading in our parliament and legislative assemblies. It might lead to some introspection and, perhaps, inspire some of our elected representatives to mend their ways. Politics in India being what it is, I know this is just daydreaming on my part.

Avinash Godboley |Dewas

numerous speeches and wrote many books addressing the youth; which are listened and read even today by students even across the world. Choosing his birth day as the 'World's Student's Day' was an appropriate decision honoring his works as a scientist and the millions of youths that he inspired and still inspires through his works, achievements, speeches, lectures and books.

Students deserve better education standards and we hope it is time to inculcate the best education to students so that they may not wish to go to other countries for education purposes. He believed that students are the future of a nation and they can bring considerable change if well nurtured and educated. He professed education as the only weapon to fight back the demons of poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition etc.

Anandambal Subbu | Mumbai

LACKADAISICAL APPROACH OF MCD

Madam — This refers to the editorial, Enough is enough (July 29) vide which the bitter truth was elaborated that the inaction of municipal authorities and the lack of accountability have resulted in yet another tragedy. The tragic death of three students at the illegal Rao IAS Coaching Centre in Old Rajendra Nagar area of Delhi is a shameful tale of gross and unpardonable negligence at the admin-istrative level. This illegal business is flourishing with the connivance of MCD officials. The basement meant for commercial storage was illegally converted into a coaching centre. There was no emergency exit and no technical scientific arrangements for drainage. The issuance of NOC for building usage and security lapses reflected lackadaisical approach of the MCD officials. Harshest unitive measures must be taken against e people responsible.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

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FIRSTCOLUMN INDIA NAVIGATES DIPLOMATIC TIGHTROPE

Despite the US unease, India charts its own course; QUAD Tokyo conference is a case in point



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

n a balancing act of sorts, the Government of India is trying to address US and European concerns regarding PM Modi's meeting with President Putin last month, when many of the leaders were in a huddle in Washington for the NATO summit. President Putin went an extra step to welcome PM Modi in Moscow, signalling a strong message to the US, regarding the long-standing partnership with India. Senior officials in the US expressed deep concern with the optics involved in PM Modi's Moscow visit while reiterating that nothing significant was achieved.

Russia bilateral is a tightrope, that India has managed to carefully tread on, despite its growing engagement with the US in the past decades. Therefore, this week's QUAD foreign minister's conference in Tokyo where External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his US counterpart Anthony Blinken was significant. The joint statement in unequivocal terms condemned Russia's action in Ukraine, perhaps for the first time joining in such a multilateral official communication. The joint statement read "We express our deepest concern over the war raging in Ukraine including its terrible and tragic humanitarian consequences. We reiterate the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in line with international law, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity."

PM Modi had also in his bilateral meetings with President Putin and public messages subsequently, mentioned the need for finding lasting solutions to the Ukraine crisis away from the battleground while condemning the attack by Russia killing nearly 41 persons including at a children's hospital.

PM Modi said "Whether it is war, conflict or a terrorist attack, any person who believes in humanity, is pained when there is loss of lives. But even in that, when innocent children are killed, the heart bleeds and that pain is very terrifying.". Ukraine President Zelensky has condemned PM Modi's visit to Russia. Government officials now indicate that the PM is likely to travel to Ukraine in August to balance the geopolitical dynamics and reset India and Europe's relationship.Meanwhile, the QUAD for-



Union budget prioritises employment and skilling DINESH SOOD



analysis 07

To empower youth, the Government has announced three transformative schemes aimed at promoting skilling across various sectors



ne of the top nine priorities of the Union Budget is employment and skilling. In line with this, three schemes have been announced to promote skilling. The first scheme involves increasing the maximum loan amount for high-end skilling courses under the revamped Model Skill Loan Scheme from Rs 1.5 lakhs to Rs 7.5 lakhs, with an interest rate of 1.5% per annum. This scheme is expected to empower the youth by providing easy access to advanced-level skill courses, potentially removing significant financial barriers for many deserving students and candidates to gain futuristic and in-demand industry skills, thus creating a futureready and empowered

workforce.Recognising the significant role played by non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions in the skill loan market, the Ministry of Skill Development and Employment (MSDE) has made pivotal modifications to the scheme. This includes the inclusion of NBFCs, Micro Finance Institutions, and Small Finance Banks to extend loans backed by a guarantee against default up to 75% of the loan disbursed through the instrument of collateral-free loans of up to Rs 7.5 lakh to facilitate 25,000 aspirants every year.Without a vibrant skill loan market, many youths leave aspiring candidates without the necessary financial support to pursue their skill training. To ensure uninterrupted credit flow in the skilling sector and to provide low-income youths with access to affordable finance for specialized skill courses, the MSDE initially launched the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Skill Development in July 2015, resulting in below expectations. The low fund utilisation under the scheme over the past decade was due to the low ticket size of loans up to Rs 1.5 lakh, even as course costs and fees rose due to inflation, leaving many high-cost

courses out of the scheme. Secondly, private banks still need to be more willing to finance government-sponsored schemes. As of March 31, 2024, loans amounting to Rs 115.75 crore had been extended to just 10,077 borrow-ers over the past decade.However, the government's unwavering commitment to addressing this issue is evident in the new model skill loan scheme, which aims to meet the challenges of a highly skilled workforce emerging from paced technological changes. Relevant skills are in demand, and the cost of acquiring specialised

THIS

FIRST-OF-ITS-

KIND skills is higher. Only 5% of the so-called skilled SCHEME, workforce is formally trained, cre-AIMING TO ating a significant skilling gap that needs to be urgen COVER UNE addressed. While 26.5 crore children enrol in school each year, by CRORE the time they reach higher edu-YOUTH IN cation, their numbers have dwindled to 4.3 crores. To align with 5 YEARS, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 mandate, an addi-HAS THE tional five crore children who POTENTIAL pass school need to be included in higher education and to make

beauty-wellness, IT, AI-data science, cloud applications, digital marketing, hospitality, animation, gaming, graphic designing, and drone technology.

These courses, driven by changing industry dynamics, offer substantial placement opportunities and the potential for global mobility, providing a promising future for the youth and opening doors to international career prospects

The second scheme aimed at skilling 20 lakh youth over five years. The scheme, with a total outlay of Rs 60,000 crore, aims at fulfilling this objective by upgrad-ing 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the hub and spoke arrangements with outcome orientation. It's an ambitious scheme that aims to make youth more employable by imparting industry-specific skills. The course content and design will be upgraded to reflect the skill needs of the industry. For instance, emerging IT sector needs could include cyber security or data analytics skills. The third scheme introduced in the Budget for Skilling Youth is a comprehensive scheme that provides the youth with internship opportunities in 500 top companies. This first-of-its-kind scheme, aiming to cover one crore youth in 5 years, has the potential to be a game changer in tackling youth unemployment. This internship scheme's innovative approach and potential impact make it a beacon of hope for young people's future employment, promising a significant reduction in youth unemployment rates.

cycle of frustration and disappointment. Students with professional degrees like MBA, engi-neering, etc., may still find landing jobs or internships easier after graduation. However, the scenario could be more precise for unemployable humanities graduates with no ready-made market-appropriate skill set.

Thus, such a scheme providing young graduates across disciplines with internship opportunities at leading companies can be a game-changer if implemented properly and effectively. Perhaps, in the future, the government could consider widening the scope of this scheme by making it mandatory for companies above a specific size (the government could come up with a set of specifications to decide this) to take in a fixed number of interns every year and fund the training program through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. These funds are a company's initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on environmental and social well-being.Most importantly, the internship opportunities provided under this new scheme could significantly boost the employability quotient of youth. With concrete experience, they will be more likely to land a job. However, implementation, effectiveness, and accountability are crucial to fostering employable skill sets. (The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation(NSDC), Network Member of India International Skill Centres; Views expressed are personal)

eign ministers meeting continued to focus on the Gaza crisis, and its spillover in the Red Sea zone, impacting lives and raising freight costs. The foreign ministers jointly communicated "We urge all parties to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law, as applicable. We welcome UNSC Resolution S/RES/2735 (2024) and strongly urge all parties concerned to work immediately and steadily toward the release of all hostages and an immediate ceasefire. We call on all parties to take every feasible step to protect the lives of civilians including aid workers, and facilitate the rapid transportation of humanitarian relief. We also encourage other countries, including those in the Indo-Pacific, to increase their efforts to address the dire humanitarian need on the ground. We underscore that the future recovery and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip should be supported by the international community. We remain committed to a sovereign, viable and independent Palestinian state taking into account Israel's legitimate security concerns as part of a two-state solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in a just, lasting, and secure peace."

India would be the host for the QUAD leaders summit scheduled this year, however, the crucial US presidential elections in November would be a key determinant of the time. President Biden who has mostly shaped the Quad narrative in the past, would like to leave a lasting impression on this group of four.

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

TO BE skill training accessible to every individual, especially the large A GAME number of students from rural CHANGER IN India.

The Model Skill Loan Scheme is not just a solution but a necessary and urgent step in bridging this gap. The skill economy is increasingly market-led, integrating new-age learning into the skill development ecosystem. The youth from urban and semiurban areas recognise the opportunities for skilling and livelihood improvement. An initiative like the Model Skill Loan Scheme opens doors to many skill courses in sectors such as healthcare,

Moreover, landing an internship is difficult, leading to a vicious

Transforming bone fracture treatment with the magnesium implants invention

TACKLING YOUTH

UNEMPLOYMENT

This innovative solution promises to alleviate the long-term suffering of bone-fractured patients caused by traditional metal implants

n age-old adage "necessity is the mother of

invention"still holds now. This aforementioned adage is duly proven by the fact that Nitin Pratap Varma Senior Scientist and highly esteemed research scholar from Dhanbad-based IIT-ISM and currently working as Senior Scientist for Shahjahanpur(UP) based company G Surgiwear Limited, felt the necessity of resorbable implant that could be fully absorbed in the bodies of accident vic-tims as part of treating their fractured bones. Understanding this need of the hour, Varma held meetings with members--scientists of his research team. Many brainstorming ses



GYAN BHADRA

sions with experiments ensued. Eventually, the team led by Varma zeroed in on the final product and invented the "magnesium implant" for the first time in the world. Shedding light on factual aspects of his invention, Varma says: "For many years, I have been observing the predicaments and troubles being suffered by bonefractured patients due to inserted implants comprising plates and screws made

up of stainless steel and titanium metals Since those plates and screws remained embedded in the body, patients had to undergo painful sufferings for a long period. To remove those metallic plates from the body, the patients have to undergo surgery which is physically tormenting as

patients have to bear the brunt of risk aspects of surgery. And to add insult to injury,

patients bear the huge expenses of surgery.Keeping in mind the troubles faced by patients, Varma convened a series of meetings with his fellow scientists and team members to discuss the use of plates made up of resorbable metals in place of stainless steel--made plates



After having a long discussion, we reached to the scientific conclusion that implant of resorbable metals gets fully absorbed in the body within 3-5 years of insertion.

It is no hyperbole on my part if I say it vanishes into the

body. Thus through continued research and experiments, we invented and zeroed in on magnesium implant due to its pathbreaking resorbable quality in the human body. Patients do not feel any

afterwards., Varma explains magnesium implants, Varma matter-of-factly. Analysing his bone treatment-related achievement in an in-depth manner, Varma explains that there are three kinds of metals that are resorbable and biologically safe: magne-

sium, zinc and iron. Undoubtedly, these metals have their pluses and minuses.Varma and his colleagues have been experimenting with resorbable metals to gain knowledge of their utilities and qualities.

For this very purpose, the team of scientists also visited the Jamshedpur-based National Institute of Metallurgy institution to seek intricate technical knowledge of metals. Expressing optimism over physical inconvenience the utility and quality of

avers that the invented product has reached the final

stage; since the product has already been implanted in animals for testing its effica-

Álso, to be well-versed with different clinical parameters related to experimental procedures, the animals have been kept under observation for six months.

Results from animal testing are very encouraging.After successfully experimenting with this product in animals, Varma has plans to test this product in human bodies. For this, he has decided to seek permission from the Drug Controller General of India. Having successfully tested this product in human bodies, it will be put in the

public domain, Varma explains. Eventually, it is no exagger-

ation to say that the inven-tion of the magnesium implant is slated to bring revolutionary changes in the treatment of bone fractures and other bone diseases. This is more so because as per a research report, scores of scientists are engaged in experimental procedures of implants in laboratories the world over. And in this context, thousands of research papers have been inked and published. But to this date, those scientists have yet to make in-roads to reach the level of realistic utility of implants.

(The writer is a freelancer; views expressed are personal)



nation 08

Olympics 2024:

Kolhapur erupts

MCD, DDA at loggerheads over drowning of woman, son STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Colony (UP - Delhi border).

incident took place is under construction by DDA (DDA jurisdiction). The drain is about 10 to 12 feet deep and

the same is running along the

120-150 feet road of DDA

starting from Khoda Chowk

towards Mayur Vihar Phase-

Earlier, the AAP targetted

Saxena over the drowning of a

woman and her toddler in an

under-construction DDA drain

in Ghazipur and demanded

action against the erring offi-

cials, terming it as "unfortu-

'The DDA was carrying out

the work of redevelopment of

the drain. The Lt Governor is

the chairman of the DDA. The

officials directly report to him.

We demand action against the

Lt Governor," Rajya Šabha MP

Sanjay Singh said, accusing the BJP of "maintaining" silence over the incident that he

termed as "murder".

nate".

III," the statement read.

'The road and drain where the

 $T_{\rm of \ Delhi\ (MCD)\ and\ Delhi}^{\rm he\ Municipal\ Corporation}$ Development Authority (DDA) are in loggerheads over the death of a woman and her three-year-old son by drowning in east Delhi's Ghazipur during the torrential downpour on Wednesday. While the DDA claimed that the drain belongs to MCD, AAP targetted Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena who is also the head of the DDA over the death.

This comes a day after Tanuja and her three-year-old son Priyansh slipped and fell into the waterlogged under-construction drain around 8 pm on Wednesday, amid heavy rain in the area. They had gone to a weekly market near Khoda Colony. The (DDA) blamed the MCD

for the death, stating that the major portion of the drain where the tragedy struck has been handed over to the MCD while their part is covered with Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) slabs. "The total length of the drain along the Khoda Colony side is 1350 meters. Out of which, 1000 meters of the drain, along with the adjoining road, was handed over to the MCD a considerable time ago. The remaining 350 meters of the drain, extending from the Truck parking plot (Bus Terminal) to the PWD road, is under the jurisdiction of the DDA," a

statement by DDA said. The added that recently, the desilting of the 350-metre section of the drain under the DDA's jurisdiction was completed, and this section was subsequently covered with RCC slabs. "Additionally, a screen was installed at the junction point of the MCD and the DDA drains to prevent the flow of garbage into this drain," the

statement stated. It added that the tragic incident took place in the MCD drain. "Their bodies were found at the junction point of the MCD and DDA drains, where a screen is installed, which is approximately 500 meters from the drowning site," it stated, adding that the 350-meter section of the drain under the jurisdiction of DDA is fully covered. Putting the onus on the DDA,

MCD stated that the incident of drowning happened in an under construction DDA drain near Ambedkar Gate of Khoda



The civic body has issued urgent preventive measures for compliance which includes ensuring separate entry and exit points in the basement of any building, public declara-tion of their building plan, removal of encroachment from drains and footpaths, among other steps. All zonal deputy commissioners have been directed to implement these measures to prevent misuse of the basement and other related matters in a circular issued on July 29,

released on Thursday. .A tragic incident occurred in the basement of a coaching institute for IAS aspirants located at Old Rajender Nagar on Saturday, the 27th of July 2024 which resulted into loss of life of three students due to flashflood caused because of choked sewer line / storm water drainage system. Needless to say that it is the primary responsibility of MCD to provide a safe and liv-able city to the Public... " "In

MCD orders survey of buildings

this regard, a delegation of students met the Commissioner

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

on Sunday, the 28th of July The Municipal Corporation T of Delhi (MCD) has ordered a survey of buildings with basements, open hanging wires and old barrels catering to the combined drainage system across the city in wake of the Rajinder Nagar coaching centre deaths.

building having basement should be surveyed and immediate action including sealing be taken against those who are found misusing the same. There should be separate entry and exit gates for the basement and all building plans be made available in public domain, so that the violators can be detected, it added. All encroachments above drains and footpaths

must be removed and the storm water drains be fully desilted and choking at any point needs to be cleared with the help of super-sucker machines, as per the order. "In case a fresh drain is required at any place, an

same should be put up," it said. Furthermore, the officials have been directed to keep handy portable pumps along with operators for dewatering of vulnerable points where waterlogging usually occurs. Such points have already been identified by the MCD, it said.

AAP holds meet to discuss future strategy, Assembly elections

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

AP held a meeting on Thursday evening to discuss the future strategy and the Delhi Assembly elections at its party headquarters where the senior party leaders were also present.

According to a statement, the party will discuss its strategy regarding the upcoming Delhi elections which will be held in 2025 while also deliberating upon how the party will deal with the various incidents happening in the national Capital politically including the death of the three IAS aspirants in the basement of Rau's coaching centre recently due to rain induced floods.

Senior party leaders including Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Sandeep Pathak, Delhi cabinet ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Gopal Rai, AAP National Secretary Pankaj Gupta and Kondli MLA Durgesh Pathal were present in the meeting.

As the party is not in alliance "The meeting will be held at the with Congress for the impendparty headquarters. There will ing elections, the AAP will fight the assembly polls solo. AAP's be a discussion on the strategy ahead of the Delhi Assembly Delhi State convenor Gopal Rai had said, "For the State polls, which are due early next year," the AAP said. The AAP, Assembly elections, there is no need for the INDI alliance. We which is in power for the last three consecutive terms, is will fight the polls with the help of the people of Delhi, and we will win." vying to gain power for the fourth time. To achieve this, the



party is chalking out a strate-

gy to start organisational meet-

ings with ground workers at both Mandal and Booth level.

The party is planning to hold meetings with MLAs,

Councillors and booth level

workers in every constituency

across the state. Later, the party

will hold such meetings at the

booth level where the party's

strategy will be discussed with

all the workers. After these two

levels of meetings, AAP is

planning to carry out "Apke

Vidhayak Apke Dwar" campaign where all MLAs will

present their report cards to the

Kolhapur, a city in western Maharashtra that is known as "Dakshin Kashi", famous for its Mahakshmi temple, its chappals and wrestling akhadas - erupted in joy on Thursday, as its son of the soil Swapnil Kusale won a Bronze medal in Olympics in the 50-metre rifle threeposition final in Paris.

The shouts of "Bharat Mata ki jai...Bharat Mata ki jai... rent the air in the nooks and corners of the historic city located on the banks of Panchganga River as 28-yearold Swapnil brought glory to Maharashtra 72 -long years after Khashaba Jadhav clinched an individual Bronze in wrestling in the Helsinki Olympics in 1952.

Glued as they were to the television sets, the family members and the people of his Kambalwadi village in Radhanagari taluka of Kolhapur district cheered the Olympic gold medallist, wept in joy and went into a celebration mode, after their own lad became the toast of the nation.

A recipient of the coveted Shiv Chhatrapati Award, Swapnil comes from a hum-ble background.

Pakistani infiltrator gunned down by BSF

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE .IAMMI

An unarmed Pakistani intruder was gunned down by BSF troops along the International Border in the Samba district of Jammu region while he was attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory late Wednesday night. Preliminary reports suggested the intruder was being pushed inside the Indian territory to check whether the gaps existed to push in small groups of terrorists. Senior BSF officers of the Jammu frontier rushed to the forward BSF post to take stock of the infiltration bid from across the International

border. Briefing reporters in Samba, Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier D K Boora said, "At around 10.15 pm, forward duty points (of B movement of one human being crossing the International movement was kept under observation and was challenged when he entered into this side"." The intruder tried to flee



ducted in the area" the IG BSF

one stepping foot on Indian soil

The officials said the body of the intruder was recovered near the border fence but nothing objectionable was recovered

from his person. The identity of system. the deceased could not be ascertained immediately, they said, adding the body is being handed over to polic for pos along malities. In Rajouri, a joint team of the Indian Army, JK operation based on intelligence inputs. The operation led to the railway recovery of a large consignment of weapons, ammunition, and

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw assures action on recent accidents

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Under criticism due to series of train accidents and derailments in recent times, Railways Minister Vaishnaw Thursday assured that the Government will make every effort to implement automatic system Kavach in the right earnest. Vaishnaw, however, did not

give any timeline for implementation of Kavach on the entire railways network, but mentioned that smaller countries having much smaller railways networks took more than 20 years to implement the automatic train-protection

Vaishnaw "I can assure you that no stone Opposition Congress and "its social media troll army" of will be left unturned in the roll out of Kavach. We will work trying to amplify every small day and night and make every effort to install Kavach every kilometer," Vaishnaw said in a lengthy speech during which he also praised the efforts of 12 lakh employees for transporting two crore passengers in about 20,000 trains every day. At one point of time the



Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday

the

"incorrect" information about bureaucrat turned politician also lost his cool responding to incidents at the Ayodhya Opposition members who railway station. were attacking him by terms

Minister's apparent The reference to Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's meeting with loco pilots at the New Delhi railway station last month had the Opposition members on

raising slogans 'Railway Minister go back', 'Reel Minister haay, haay' and 'Reel Minister isteefa do' before staging a walkout. Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi took a jibe at Vaishnaw for not taking moral responsibility for train accidents and called him the 'derailment minister.' Replying to a debate in the Lok Sabha on the Demand for Grants, Vaishnaw slammed the previous UPA Government for allegedly not doing enough for ensuring safety of passengers. Unfortunately, during the 58 years of Congress rule, the

automatic train-protection system was not implemented on even one km on Indian Railways till 2014. I acknowledge that many

experiments were carried out,

Apex court upholds...

From Page 1

public.

"The State in exercise of its power under Articles 15 (nondiscrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth) and 16 (equality of opportunity in public employment) of the Constitution is free to identify the different degrees of social backwardness and provide special provisions (such as reservation) to achieve the specific degree of harm identified," held the CJI in his 140-page judgement."Historical and empirical evidence demonstrates that the SCs are a socially heterogeneous class. Thus, the state in exercise of the power under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) can further classify the SCs if (a) there is a rational principle for differentiation; and (b) the rational principle has a nexus with the purpose of sub-classification," the CJI held.

The ruling means that within the 15 percent reservation for SCs, castes that are deemed more disadvantaged would be given more weightage than others. The ruling will have crucial consequences for states which want to give wider protection to some castes that are grossly underrepresented despite reservation, in comparison to the so-called dominant scheduled castes.

Trials in Mandir-Masjid...

barred

But the mosque management

from what it was on the day of the country's Independence. committee and the UP Sunni Hindu side counsel Vishnu Central Waqf Board argued Shankar Jain told reporters that with the dismiss

From Page 1

it there was no hat the suits focussed

Ashwini search operations were con-

said.

meet the same fate.

Security Force) observed mortem and other legal for-Border from Pakistan. His Police, and BSF launched an and was fired upon by the alert explosives from a remote locapersonnel and neutralized. The tion in Kalakote, Rajouri.

disaster landscapes in Wayanad

district in Kerala. Incessant

rains, fallen trees and dilapi-

dated roads have made it a

challenging task to lay the Bailey Bridge and maneuver

heavy machinery meant for

removing the obstacles from

the thoroughfares, according to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Briefing the media after an

interaction with commanders

of the Indian army units who

have been working 24X7 for

Vijayan said it would take

many more days to clear the

debris generated by the land-

'The completion of the Bailey

Bridge by this evening would

speed up the rescue and relief

operations. Since there are no

means to take the heavy

machinery to cut and remove

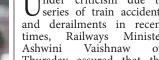
the trees and boulders, the

rescue staff were finding the

going tough," the chief minis-ter said.

the last three days,

slides.



train-protection

From Page 1

Alaknanda

Rudraprayag

The officer asserted that any-

with "nefarious design" would

immediate proposal for the

their •nt railways network to instill a sense of fear in more than two crore passengers who use the railway network everyday.

like 'Derailment Minister' and

accused

'Reel Minister'.

"The attempts by the Congress to spread misinformation will not succeed," the Minister said, adding that attempts were made by the Congress and the Samajwadi Party to spread

Chief Minister

"Those who were busy making reels with loco pilots ... Not one air conditioner was installed in running rooms during the UPA rule, and there were no with airlocomotives conditioned cabins," Vaishnaw said.

Opposition members trooped to the Well of the House

approach to take it fruition," Vaishnaw said. Vaishnaw said Kavach 4.0 received certification by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation on July 17 this year and three manufacturers of the system scaled have up their

production capabilities.

SC vents its ire on...

From Page 1

"Every day we grant bail to contract killers, murderers, robbers but the question is what kind of incident...," the bench said, while asserting that the manner in which the incident had taken place bothered it.

Singhvi said on the day of the incident she went to the police station, then came back without saying anything but then after three days she lodged an FIR. The bench told the senior lawyer, "We are shocked? Is this a way to deal with a young lady? He (Kumar) assaulted her even after she told about her physical conditions."

Singhvi said the court is relying on the details of the FIR lodged by her but Kumar's complaint was not registered by her "friendly" police and Delhi lieutenant governor. Justice Kant said, "We are not on your internal politics and the court is only going by the case records and the FIR."

Puja Khedkar denied...

From Page 1

The investigation agency needs to widen the scope of the investigation. The agency is directed to find out the candidates recommended [by the UPSC] in recent past who have availed benefits beyond permissible age limit under OBC quota and those who availed Persons with Benchmark Disabilities benefits despite not being entitled to it," the Court ordered.

WAYANAD

From Page 1

the adjoining regions of the city including Gurugram and Noida. In Haryana's Soldiers and volunteers of the National Disaster Response Team numbering more than Gurugram, three died due to 500 are working round-the-clock in their efforts to rescue persons trapped underneath the boulders and clay. Chief Minister Vijayan said in

his media briefing that the Army officers had told him that there was no possibility of finding any survivor in Mundakkai as the entire population havehas been either drowned or washed away by the gushing waters

following the landslides. All 348 houses in Mundakkai were washed away by the flood waters. The Central Water Commission, the agency entrusted with the task of issuing warnings about floods, issued a flood alert in five districts of the State.

Vijayan had on Wednesdav blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for the failure of the central agencies in issuing timely warnings about the flood and landslides.

under Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 that prohibits changing the status of any place of worship

were

challenging plea maintainability, the high court will continue to hear all the cases.

'Bullet train' approach to tackle molestors: Yogi

From Page 1

Vinay Khand, Ratan Gupta and Aman Gupta of Vigyan Khand, Anil Kumar of Barabanki, Priyanshu Sharma of Ajgain in Unnao, Ashish Singh of Gudamba, Vikas Gudamba, Bhandari of Manish Kumar and Abhishek of Hazratganj, Tiwari Krishnakant, of Gomti Nagar Extension, Jai Kishan, of Khargapur, and Abhishek Kumar Sahu of Gomtinagar. The police also recovered six motorcycles/scooters from the

miscreants. Meanwhile, ADCP (South) Shashank Singh has been appointed as DCP (East), ACP (Cantonment) Pankaj Kumar Singh as ADCP (East), and ACP (Ghazipur) Vikas Kumar Jaiswal as ACP (Gomti Nagar). Inspector (Mall) Rajesh Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as

SHO in Gomti Nagar. Earlier while addressing the state assembly, CM Yogi questioned, "Should we garland criminals instead of taking decisive action?" He stressed that the government's priority is to ensure respect and security for everyone, with strict consequences for those who create unrest.

Yogi reflected on the actions taken by the government. He highlighted that the incident prompted immediate and serious responses: the removal of the DCP, ADCP, and ACP involved, and the suspension of the police inspector and all personnel at the police outpost. These steps were part of the government's commitment to address the issue with the gravity it deserves.

Yogi also criticised the Samajwadi Party (SP) and its leaders, accusing them of involvement in serious crimes. reducing criminal activities.

He pointed out that Moin Khan, a key suspect in the Ayodhya rape case, is an SP office-bearer. The SP has not acted against him, which CM Yogi condemned. He further criticised the former SP district president implicated in the Hardoi incident, highlighting a history of criminal activity and questioning why such individuals have not faced proper action.

The chief minister described these individuals as a blight on society and argued that improving conditions in Uttar Pradesh will be challenging until this issue is addressed. "Should we honour such criminals, or should they face severe consequences?" he asked. He emphasised the need for a strong and effective response to ensure justice and safety.

Yogi contrasted Úttar Pradesh's current situation with the past, noting significant improvements. He cited a substantial decrease in crimes against women from 2017 to 2022 compared to the national average. He pointed out that crime rates in states like Telangana, Odisha, and Rajasthan had increased more than in Uttar Pradesh during this period. Specifically, UP ranks 24th in terms of rape cases, with higher crime rates reported in states such as Chhattisgarh and Kerala. The CM also highlighted the increased enforcement measures under the current government. Actions taken under the Arms Act, NDPS Act, Excise Act, Goonda Act, and Gangster Act have all seen significant rises, reflecting the state's commitment to tackling crime effectively. This increase in enforcement demonstrates the government's proactive approach to addressing and

Army engineers achieve major feat in laying 85 ft Bailey Bridge in Wayanad

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

The engineers of the Indian Army did the country proud by laying an 85 feet long Bailey Bridge in just 36 hours, a record feat by any standard, in Wayanad district of Kerala on Thursday. This was achieved by 6 PM on Thursday despite heavy rainfall and uncertain weather conditions. An Army jeep made the first trip along the bridge as onlookers raised "Jai Jawan" slogans. The completion of the bridge would speed up the rescue operations in the disaster affected region as there are no roads worth the name in the district thanks to the Public Works Department of the State. Members of the National Disaster Response Team and soldiers of the Indian Army, who have proved their mettle and expertise in handling some of the worst mishaps are finding it tough to work in the post-

TMC passes resolution against new criminal laws

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The ruling Trinamool Congress on Thursday passed a reso-lution against the three new criminal laws — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Saksdhya Adhiniyam replacing Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act in that order earlier implemented nationally by the Centre from July 1. in contact with a live wire in

HIMACHAL / UTTARAKHAND

Pradesh In Uttarakhand, at least 12 Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and people including three of a family, were killed and six took stock of the situation

arising due to the cloudburst in injured in heavy overnight the state, and assured him of all help from the Centre. rains in various parts that triggered many incidents of house collapse, flooding and Uttarkhand chief minister

Pushkar Dhami said the government stands with the rise in water levels of several rivers.An advisory has been affected people. All possible issued for Kedarnath-bound assistance will be provided to pilgrims asking them to wait in them. He directed Tehri District Magistrate to streamline road connectivity, electricity and drinking water a safe place until the weather improves and the roads blocked here and there are restored. Both Mandakini and supply in the affected areas to restore normalcy.In Kharkhari, in district are a truck carrying rations and flowing close to the danger essentials for a group of kanwariyas was among the vehicles washed away.

CAPITAL DELHI

From Page 1

It said the problem was detected timely and corrective measures were taken immediately. "Thereafter, no further leakage of water has been noticed," the Lok Sabha Secretariat said.Six weather stations across Delhi recorded over 100 mm of rain in a single day. Rains in Delhi, which was put on a 'red alert', claimed lives of atleast six people in the city including a 62-year-old man who died in a building collapse in north Delhi's Sabji Mandi area, a 22-year-old woman and her three-year-old son in east Delhi's Ghazipur area who drowned after they

electrocution after coming in contact with high tension wire after heavy rain while two died in Greater Noida after a wall collapse in Dadri area. Multiple incidents of fallen trees, water inundated roads, and wall collapses were slipped into a waterlogged reported from across the city drain, a 12-year-old boy who as several key stretches were got electrocuted after coming choked with unending traffic and people left stranded.

rivers

southwest Delhi's Bindapur area, an 18 year old boy who fell and died in South Delhi's Sangam Vihar and a 28 year old Prabhat who died due to electrocution at his home in South east Delhi's Meethapur. Five deaths were reported in

mark.Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Himachal



world 09

US, Russia complete biggest prisoner swap

WSJ reporter Evan Gershkovich, Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan freed by Moscow

AP WASHINGTON

he United States and Russia completed their biggest L prisoner swap in post-Soviet history on Thursday, with Moscow releasing Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan in a multinational deal that set some two dozen people free, according to officials in Turkey, where the exchange took place.

The trade followed years of secretive back-channel negotiations despite relations between Washington and Moscow being at their lowest point since the Cold War after Russian President Vladimir Putin's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The sprawling deal is the latest in a series of prisoner swaps nego-tiated between Russia and the US in the last two years but the first to require significant concessions from other countries. But the release of Americans has

come at a price: Russia has secured the freedom of its own nationals convicted of serious crimes in the West by trading them for journalists, dissidents and other Westerners convicted

and sentenced in a highly politicized legal system on charges the US considers bogus. The White House did not immediately release any details on the deal.

In a statement posted online, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty President and CEO Stephen Capus acknowledged media reports that a journalist working for the broadcaster, Alsu Kurmasheva, would be released as part of the deal. Capus said the broadcaster wel-

comed "news of Alsu's imminent release and are grateful to the American government and all who worked tirelessly to end her unjust treatment by Russia". Kurmasheva, a dual US-Russian citizen, was convicted in July of spreading false information about the Russian military, accusations



her family and employer have rejected.

The deal would be the latest exchange in the last two years between Washington and Moscow, including a December 2022 trade that brought WNBA star Brittney Griner back to the US in exchange for notorious arms trafficker Viktor Bout and a swap earlier that year of Marine world? veteran Trevor Reed for Konstantin Yaroshenko, a Russian pilot convicted in a drug

trafficking conspiracy. President Joe Biden placed securing the release of Americans held wrongfully overseas at the top of

based on religion.

Liberation War.

his foreign policy agenda for the six months before he leaves office. In his Oval Office address to the American people dis-cussing his recent decision to drop his bid for a second term, the Democrat said, "We're also working around the clock to bring home Americans being unjustly detained all around the

Russia also got back Vadim Krasikov, who was convicted in Germany in 2021 of killing a for-mer Chechen rebel in a Berlin park two years earlier, apparent-ly on the orders of Moscow's security services, according to a

statement from the Turkish gov-

ernment. Speculation had mounted for weeks that a swap was near because of a confluence of unusual developments, including a startingly quick trial and conviction for Gershkovich that Washington regarded as a sham. He was sentenced to 16 years in a maximum-security prison.

Also in recent days, several other figures imprisoned in Russia for speaking out against the war in Ukraine or over their work with the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny were moved from prison to unknown locations. Gershkovich was arrested March

29, 2023, while on a reporting trip to the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg. Authorities claimed, without offering any evidence, that he was gathering secret information for the US. The son of Soviet emigres who settled in New Jersey, he moved to the country in 2017 to work for The Moscow Times newspaper

before being hired by the Journal

in 2022. He had more than a dozen closed hearings over the extension of his pretrial detention or appeals for his release. He was taken to the courthouse in handcuffs and appeared in the defen-dants' cage, often smiling for the many cameras.

US officials last year made an offer to swap Gershkovich that was rejected by Russia, and Biden's Democratic administration had not made public any possible deals since then.

Gershkovich was designated as wrongfully detained, as was Whelan, who was detained in December 2018 after travelling to Russia for a wedding. Whelan was convicted of espionage charges, which he and the US have also said were false and trumped up, and he is serving a 16-year prison sentence.

Whelan had been excluded from prior high-profile deals involving Russia, including those involving Reed and Griner.

War with Israel in 'new phase', says Hezbollah leader

AP BEIRUT

Hezbollah's leader warned Thursday that the conflict with Israel has entered a "new phase," as he addressed mourners at the funeral of a commander from the group who was killed by an Israeli airstrike this week in Beirut.

Meanwhile in Tehran, Iran's supreme leader prayed over the body of Hamas' political leader, who was killed in a presumed Israeli assassination. The back-to-back killings have

increased fears of an escalation into a wider war, leaving the region waiting to see how Iran and ally Hezbollah will respond.

Iran has vowed retaliation against Israel for the strike that killed Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday in the Iranian capital of Tehran. Israel US reaches plea deal with has not denied or confirmed responsibility for the killing. Israel did confirm it carried out the strike Tuesday in Beirut that killed Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur, along with an Iranian military adviser and at least five civilians. Israel said Shukur was behind a rocket attack days earlier that hit a soccer field in the Israeli-held Golan Heights, killing 12 children. Hezbollah denied being behind that strike. In a speech via video link to mourners gathered at an audi-torium with Shukur's coffin in a Beirut suburb, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said, "We ... have entered a new phase that is different from the previous period."

"Do they expect that haj Ismail Haniyeh be killed in Iran and Iran will remain silent?" he said of the Israelis. Addressing Israelis who celebrated the two killings, he said, "Laugh a bit and you will cry a lot." But as he often does, Nasrallah kept his comments vague, vow-

ing retaliation without saying what form it would take. He said only that Israel "will have to wait for the anger of the region's honourable people."

International officials have been scrambling to avert a cvcle of retaliation before it spi-



rals into a greater war. Since the Gaza war began in October, Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire almost daily across the border in exchanges that have caused deaths and the evacuation of tens of thousands from their homes. But they have also stayed within limits.

Several times, strikes that appeared to cross red lines raised fears of an acceleration into full-fledged war, but outside diplomacy reined in the two sides. Hezbollah faces strong pressure from Lebanese not to draw the country into a repeat of its 2006 war with Israel, which wreaked heavy death and destruction in Lebanon.

Israel and Iran risked plunging into war earlier this year when Israel hit Iran's embassy in Damascus in April. Iran retaliated, and Israel countered in an unprecedented exchange of strikes on each other's soil, but international efforts succeeded in containing that cycle before it spun out of control.

In Dahiyeh, the biggest Shiite district of Beirut, hundreds of black-clad mourners packed the auditorium, many of them holding Hezbollah flags or photos of Shukur. An escort of red-capped fighters carried Shukur's coffin, also draped in a Hezbollah flag, down the aisle to the backing of a military

band. In his speech, Nasrallah praised Shukur as a veteran commander and denied that Hezbollah carried out the deadly strike on the soccer field.

Jamaat-e-Islami, Chhatra alleged 9/11 mastermind Shibir banned in B'desh

PTI DHAKA

Bangladesh on Thursday banned the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir under anti-terrorism law following nationwide unrest over the quota system for government jobs, accusing the fundamentalist party of instigat-ing protests that left at least 150

ing protests that left at least 150 people dead. A notification issued by the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday confirmed the ban on the Islamist party, a key ally of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The ban on Jamaat, Chhatra Shibir and other asso-ciated groups came through an ciated groups came through an executive order under Section 18(1) of the Anti-Terrorism Act. "They (Jamaat-Shibir and BNP) just used the students as their shield," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Thursday when Italian Ambassador Antonio Alessandro called on her at her official residence Ganabhaban

A Home Ministry spokesman said that the government on August 1 banned all political activities of Bangladesh Jamaate-Islami and its various wings. The Bangladesh government on Tuesday decided to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami following the deadly nationwide students' protests over quotas in govern-ment jobs, accusing it of exploiting the movement that left at

least 150 people dead. The development comes after a meeting of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance passed a resolution earlier this week that Jamaat must be banned from politics.

The decision to ban Jamaat comes over 50 years after its initial prohibition in 1972 for "misusing religion for political purposes". The Jamaat opposed Bangladesh's 1971 independence from Pakistan and sided with the Pakistani troops during the Liberation War.

The party, founded in 1941 in ing the protests of the quota undivided India, was first reform movement.

banned in 1972, the year PTI WASHINGTON

Bangladesh framed its Constitution, which disbanded The US has announced that it has entered into a pretrial deal with the alleged 9/11 masthe functioning of any association or union or political party termind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a Kuwaiti-Pakistani But the subsequent military gov-ernment led by General Ziaur Rahman revoked the ban by engineer, and two other coaccused in the 2001 terror attacks issuing a martial law proclama-tion, which allowed Jamaat to that killed nearly 3,000 people. The agreement – reached after 27 months of negotiations - takes refloat and years later became a crucial partner of the then prime the death sentence off the table minister Khaleda Zia's 2001for Mohammed, Walid Bin 2006 four-party alliance govern-ment. Two senior Jamaat leaders 'Attash, and Mustafa al Hawsawi, prosecutors said in a letter sent were inducted into her cabinet. to the families of 9/11 victims and survivors shortly before the Department of Defense Top leaders of the ruling Awami League, who have been in power for the past 15 years, have sup-ported the ban on the Jamaat announced the news in a press release Wednesday. Mohammed because of its role in the and his co-defendants, who have spent almost two decades in the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will The Jamaat remained active despite losing its registration enter guilty pleas at a plea hear-ing that could come as early as and being barred from elections due to court rulings. The party was allegedly involved next week, according to the let-ter obtained by CNN. The settlein the recent violence surroundment agreements with the Pentagon bring partial closure to

a case that has dragged on for years and become mired in legal delays over whether the evidence extracted through torture during their interrogations was

admissible in court. On September 11, 2001, two hijacked passenger planes hit the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A third plane struck the Pentagon in Washington. A fourth plane, heading to Washington, crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers fought back with the hijackers. Many family members of the nearly 3,000 people who died in the September 11, 2001, attacks want the 9/11 defendants put to death.

Since a trial became increasingly unlikely, plea bargains were widely viewed as the only way to resolve the case, the US media reported.The Convening Authority for Military Commissions, Susan Escallier, has entered into pretrial agree-ments with Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarak Bin 'Attash, and

Mustafa Ahmed Adam al Hawsawi, three of the co-accused in the 9/11 case, the US Department of Defence said in a press release. "The specific terms and conditions of the pretrial agreements are not available to the public at this time," it said. The three accused, along with Ali Abdul Aziz Ali and Ramzi Bin al Shibh, were initially charged jointly and arraigned on June 5, 2008, and then were again charged jointly and arraigned a second time on May 5, 2012, in connection with their alleged roles in the September 11, 2001, attacks against the United States, the release said. The letter says that the families now have 45 days to submit questions to be answered by the alleged co-con-spirators by the end of the year. Before his birth, Mohammed's parents immigrated to Kuwait from Pakistan's Balochistan province. Mohammed, a USeducated engineer, was captured on March 1, 2003, in Pakistan and held with other Al Qaeda

Trump questions Harris' racial identity UK stabbings suspect named in court

nominee Donald

Iournalists convention in

Washington (PTI): Republican National Association of Black was interviewing Trump on ter."Harris, 59, did not directly PTI = LONDON address the content

detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

missions that he is just days away professionalism in the face of could be heard as the crowd was from his 18th birthday on hateful behaviour," said Met penned in by the police trying to

Trump has launched a racially insensitive attack against Kamala Harris by questioning whether she is "Indian or Black", drawing a sharp reaction from his Democratic rival who termed his remarks "the same old show" of "divisiveness" and "disrespect". Trump, 78, falsely claimed Vice

President Harris had only emphasised her Asian-American heritage until recent-ly when, he claimed, "she became a black person".

"I've known her a long time, indirectly, not directly very much, and she was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black," Trump said at the

Chicago on Wednesday, as the race for the November 5 presidential election gained momentum with opinion polls showing that Harris has narrowed the gap with her Republican rival. "So I don't know - Is she Indian? Or is she black?"

Harris' mother is originally from India, and her father is from Iamaica.

As an undergraduate, Harris attended Howard University, a historically black school in Washington, and belongs to Alpha Kappa Alpha, the country's oldest Black sorority. She was also the president of the Black Law Students Association while studying at the University of California's law school in San Francisco, and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus during her time in the Senate. When one of the journalists who

stage tried to tell h had always identified as Black and had attended a historically Black university, the former president continued: "I respect either one, but she obviously doesn't. Because she was Indian all the way, and then all of a sudden, she made a turn, and she went - she became a Black person. And I think somebody

should look into that too." Trump's comments prompted immediate criticism.

Speaking at an event in Houston Wednesday for the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, a historically Black sorority, Harris told the crowd that "this afternoon, Donald Trump spoke at the annual meeting of the National Association of Black Journalists, and it was the same old show." "The divisiveness and the disrespect, and let me just say, the American people deserve bet-

words but said that Americans "deserve a leader who tells the truth, a leader who does not respond with hostility and anger when confronted with the facts, we deserve a leader who understands that our differences do not divide us, they are an essential source of our strength."Harris campaign com-munications director Michael Tyler earlier said the "hostility Trump showed on stage today is the same hostility he has shown throughout his life, throughout his term in office, and throughout his campaign for president."

"Trump lobbed personal attacks and insults at Black journalists the same way he did throughout his presidency — while he failed Black families and left the entire country digging out of the ditch he left us in," Tyler said.

The teenage male suspect L charged with murder over the fatal stabbing of three young girls in north-west England was Thursday named by authorities after restrictions were lifted in court, as Prime Minister Keir Starmer held talks with police chiefs over violent protests the incident triggered outside Downing Street here.

Axel Muganwa Rudakubana, a Wales-born 17-year-old from the nearby village of Banks in Lancashire who was arrested soon after the attack on Monday in Southport, appeared at Liverpool City Magistrates Court charged with three counts of murder, 10 counts of attempted murder and possession of a

knife. Judge Andrew Menary lifted the legal restriction on naming the accused after hearing sub-

August 7 and remanded him in youth custody until the next

hearing on October 25. In its update on Wednesday evening's violent clashes in the aftermath of the stabbings, the Metropolitan Police said that 111 people had been arrested for offences including violent disor-der, assaults on police officers, possession of knives and offensive weapons and breach of protest conditions.

A number of officers were injured as one was punched in the chest, one elbowed in the head, one kicked in the back, one kicked in the wrist and another kicked multiple times.

"Last night our officers faced unacceptable scenes of disorder and violence, as others across the country have done in recent days. They acted with great courage and the highest levels of

Police Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist. "All our thoughts should be

with the victims and families of those impacted by the most dreadful attack in Southport. It is shameful that some have sought to exploit this tragedy as justification for their own violence and criminality. There is absolutely no place for this on our streets. We will ensure that anyone involved in any violent disorder and criminal behaviour will be stopped, arrested and will face justice," he said.

Flares were thrown towards the gates of Downing Street and some among the crowd threw cans and glass bottles. Protesters later tried to kick down a fence as they were confronted by police equipped with riot gear. Chants of "Rule Britannia", "save our kids" and "stop the boats"

contain the disorder on Wednesday night. The London events followed violent protests in Southport and also in Hartlepool, north-east England, and Aldershot, south-east England, believed to involve far-right groups whipped up by social media misinformation claiming the male suspect behind the stabbing was a Muslim asylum seeker who

arrived illegally in the country on a boat. Arrests were also made in the violent disorder in Hartlepool and Aldershot. Earlier, Merseyside Police Chief

Constable Serena Kennedy said the charges against the teenage suspect mark a "significant milestone" in the "live investigation" as the force continues to work with partners from Lancashire Police and Counter Terrorism Policing North West (CTPNW).

Chinese Prez calls for smart system to boost border defence

PTI BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for greater use of technology and the deploy-ment of a "smart system" for border defence to meet "new opportunities and challenges", amidst Beijing's unresolved land and maritime territorial disputes with its neighbours. The instructions were made during a group study session on Tuesday attended by the Communist Party's 24-member Politburo, its top policymaking

body. Xi highlighted the need to "strengthen technological empowerment" in border defence, "enhance the development of new methods and conditions for border, maritime, and air defence, and build a comprehensive and smart management and control system," Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday.

This aligns with Xi's repeated calls to improve the use of advanced technology in the new opportunities and chal-

armed forces to meet moderni-

sation goals by 2027 and achieve the goal of building a world-class military by 2050. Tuesday's meeting lacked details about what the "smart" systems would entail, the Post report said.

However, an article published last year in the PLA Daily, the official newspaper of the People's Liberation Army, said technological advancements for border defence included modernised reconnaissance, surveillance, and early warning networks for efficient monitor-

ing, as well as unmanned weapons incorporating AI. Xi called for efforts to build a 'strong, stable, and modern" border defence, as well as air and sea defence, to safeguard the country's national security and interests.

"As the world undergoes a century of accelerating changes, the influencing factors have become increasingly complex. The construction of border, maritime, and air defence faces



lenges," Xi said.

China is facing tensions on multiple fronts, including the military standoff with India in eastern Ladakh since May 2020 after Chinese troops aggressively moved closer to the LAC. Śince then the two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff. The two sides so far agreed to disengage from four points, namely the Galwan Valley, the Pangong Lake, Hot Springs, and Jianan Daban (Gogra) in eastern Ladakh.

India is pressing the People's

Liberation Army (PLA) to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas, maintaining that there cannot be the restoration of normalcy in its relations with China as long as the state of the borders remains abnormal.

On Wednesday, India and China held a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) in New Delhi.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two sides reviewed the current situation along the LAC with a view to finding an early resolution of the outstanding issues.

In the South China Sea, China has ongoing territorial dis-putes with the Philippines, and in the East China Sea, it is at odds with Japan over the contested Diaoyu Islands, known in Japan as the Senkaku Islands. Xi called for strengthened "overall coordination" to secure the borders, according to state news agency Xinhua.

UK halts further rise to Family Visa minimum income threshold

PTI LONDON

A planned 'incremental' hike hin the minimum income threshold for British nationals and permanent residents apply-

Commons in a written statement this week that there will be no further hike on the current GBP 29,000 annual income requirement until the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) completes a review into the impact of the hikes on families.

The MAC has also been tasked to review the reliance of some key sectors on international recruitment, in particular IT and engineering, which rely on "sig-nificant levels" of international recruitment, including from India.

"The family immigration rules, including the minimum income

respect for family life with ensuring that the economic wellbeing of the UK is maintained,

Cooper states. "To help ensure that we reach the right balance and have a solid evidence base for any change, I will commission the MAC to review the financial requirements in the family immigration rules. The minimum income requirement is currently set at GBP 29,000, and there will be no further changes until the MAC review is complete," she notes.

As part of a package of measures to curb migration in December last year, the then Prime Minister Rishi Sunak led Conservative government had announced that from April this year, the minimum salary or income required by British nationals to sponsor long-term Family Visas for spouses or parents will rise from GBP 18,600 to GBP 29,000 and then be followed by further increases to GBP 38,700 – in line with the minimum income require-

requirement, need to balance a ment for the Skilled Worker Visa route.

> Analysts had flagged that this steep hike will have a wide-ranging impact on the family plans of those on lower incomes. Indians made up the second-highest cohort under the Family Visa category in 2023 (5,248), after Pakistanis (14,330) and ahead of Bangladeshis (3,534) as the top three nationalities sponsoring such visas, as per UK Home Office statistics from earlier this year. Setting out her migration strategy, newly appointed Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has set out plans to strength-en the MAC so that it can highlight key sectors where labour market failures mean that there is an "over-reliance on international recruitment". "As a first step, I am commissioning the MAC to review the reliance of key sectors on international recruitment. In particular, I am asking the MAC to look at IT and engineering — occupations that have consistently, over a

decade or more, been included on shortage occupation lists and relied on significant levels of international recruitment," Cooper told the Commons.

"These occupational groups are in the top 10 occupation-al groups in the UK that have the highest percentage of their workforce made up of new foreign workers who have been issued visas," she said.

Her plans to strengthen MAC include deployment of additional Home Óffice staff to its secretariat to ensure it is able to work more strategically to forecast future trends, while continuing to "review and provide independent, evidence-based recommendations on key areas of the immigration system".

Meanwhile, many of the other Tory government visa curbs have been carried forward by the new Labour regime, including restrictions on overseas students and care workers to bring family dependents on their visas.

ing to bring family members to ioin them in the UK, a move impacting several Indian fami-lies, has been shelved by the new Labour Party government. UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper told the House of

money 10

Sensex rises for 5th day

Nifty scales historic 25K mount on US Fed rate cut hopes

PTI MUMBAI

enchmark Sensex Benchmark Sensex advanced 126 points to close at an all-time high while broader Nifty scaled the historic 25,000 mount for the first time in a volatile trade on Thursday following gains in banking and oil shares as the US Federal Reserve hinted at a

LUCKNOW | FRIDAY | AUGUST 2, 2024

US rederal Reserve initial at a rate cut by September. Extending its winning run to the fifth day in a row amid weak global trends, the 30-share Sensex climbed 126.21 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at a new lifetime high of 81,867.55. The index opened higher and rallied 388.15 points, or 0.47 per cent, to high of the set of the an all-time intra-day high of 82,129.49 in the morning session.

Session. The NSE Nifty rose 59.75 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 25,010.90. Intraday, it scaled the record 25,000 level for the first time, rising 127.15 points, or 0.50 per cent, to 25,078.30. From the Sensex stocks, Power Grid, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Nestle India, Adani Ports and



Special Economic Zone, Maruti Suzuki India and Reliance Industries were the major gainers. In contrast, Mahindra and

he pioneer

Mahindra, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro and Tata

The BSE smallcap gauge fell 0.70 per cent and MidCap by Larsen & loubro and lata Motors were the laggards. "The benchmarks started positive taking cues from the global market following the Fed Chair's indication that a 0.30 per cent and MidCap by 0.80 per cent in the broader market. During all-time high lavel Arrows it was level. Among the indices, utilities zoomed by 2.04 per rate cut might be considered at the September meeting due to cent, power by 0.86 per cent, energy by 0.80 per cent, oil & easing inflationary pressures.

gas by 0.59 per cent and metal by 0.35 per cent. Realty, capital goods, industrials, auto, telecommunication, and consumer discretionary were among the laggards. "Indian equity indices rose for the fifth consecutive session. Indian markets opened higher on the markets opened higher on the back of positive cues from US markets where FOMC Chair Jerome Powell said a cut as early as September was a possibility," Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head Retail Research of HDFC Securities, said. Maruti Suzuki India shares settled 1 per cent higher after the homegrown automobile major reported a 47 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 3,650 crore for the June quarter. During the day, the stock hit a 52-week high on the bourse. Shares of Omaxe declined 5 per cent -- its lower circuit limit -- in the second straight day following Sebi restrictions on the realty firm, its Chairman, the MD, and three others from the securities market for two years for misrepresenting the company's financials.

Strategic reforms needed to enhance India's appeal to global investors, attract FDI: GTRI

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Strategic reforms are needed to enhance India's appeal to global investors as despite having huge potential, FDI data shows that the country data shows that the country has not fully capitalised on its opportunities, think tank GTRI said on Thursday. Suggesting a four-step plan, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that

measures which can help India position itself as a leading choice for foreign investors include reducing cost disadvantages for companies relocating to companies relocating to India, improving the Ease of Doing Business throughout the business lifecycle, and establishing a framework for evaluating investment proposals.

India attracted USD 44.4 billion in FDI (foreign direct investment) in FY2024, which is only 1.1 per cent of its GDP. The country lagged significantly behind countries like China (USD 189.1 billion), Brazil (USD 86.1 billion), Australia (USD 61.6 billion), and Canada (USD



low or zero tariffs on imports," GTRI Founder Ajay

He said that the financial

costs in India are the highest,

with lending rates around 9-10 per cent, while China

enjoys lower interest rates at

option,"

Srivastava said.

Billion) as noted in the World costs due to large-scale local production and efficient Development Report 2023, it supply chains, while Vietnam said. offers competitive costs with

It suggested that India must offer a more competitive cost structure to attract businesses shifting from China or considering alte production locations. alternative

For this, India needs to address the four cost-related components - labour, rate material, energy and financial costs.

4-5 per cent, and Vietnam's rates are moderate at 7-8 per "In India, raw material costs cent. are higher for non-traditional "India needs to address these costs and strive to be the most productions due to import dependence and high tariffs. cost-effective China benefits from lower Srivastava added.

To further improve the ease of doing business, the GTRI suggested the identification of priority sectors, particularly where those India's manufacturing and export capabilities are currently weak, such as Electronics, computers, telecom, precision equipment, and factory

machinery. Secondly, invite top global firms as anchor manufacturers. These firms can drive technological innovation and improve productivity across sectors.

"Additionally, there is a need to ensure quick factory-toship movement. Improving logistics through dedicated freight corridors and strategically locating industrial zones near ports will streamline port and customs processes, facilitating faster shipments," it added. Recommending to create a framework for evaluating investment proposals, it said investments involving technology transfer must be assessed for their potential to enhance local technological capabilities, especially in high-tech areas where India aims to close gaps.

Domestic travel operators to see 15-17% revenue growth this fiscal: Crisil Ratings

PTI NEW DELHI

 $R_{\text{increasing propensity to travel}}^{\text{lsing domestic tourism and}}_{\text{overseas will expand the revenue of}}$ India's tour and travel operators by 15-17 per cent this fiscal, Crisil Ratings said

on Thursday. Factors like improving infrastructure, rising disposable incomes, a behavioural shift in travel patterns, and the government's increasing focus on boosting domestic tourism will further

support the sector's revenue growth. The assessment was based on an analysis of the country's four major travel operators, who account for about 60 per cent of the sector's revenue. "The credit profiles of travel operators,

too, are expected to remain healthy, supported by strong balance sheets and steady operating margins of 6.5-7 per cent, in line with last fiscal, resulting in sizeable cash flows and continuing low reliance on debt," Crisil Ratings stated. In the domestic tourism market, growth is being fuelled by 'micro holidays' (e.G., quick getaways or staycations over long weekends), growing spiritual tourism, and better infrastructure (improved lastconnectivity) facilitating travel to



"However, the broader market

closed on a negative bias due to escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East leading to

rising crude oil prices," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

rating agency said. For overseas leisure travel, growth is being led by higher disposable incomes, visa-free facilities from 37 countries, simplified visa processes, including visaon-arrival and e-visa facilities, among others, and easing visa-related challenges related to long-haul destinations

Ratings Ltd, observed that the trend of 'revenge travel' seen after the pandemic has evolved into 'regularised travel' in recent years with a significant shift towards shorter and frequent vacations, for both domestic and overseas trips.

"Moreover, growing middle-class rising aspirations, urbanisation, ordable na kages st dily increasing

Sebi fines JM Financial Asset Management, former CEO, others for flouting rules

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

¬apital markets watchdog Capital markets watchdog Sebi has imposed penalty totalling Rs 2 crore on seven entities, including JM Financial Asset Management Ltd, its trustee and its former CEO Bhanu Katoch, for flouting regulatory norms.

The fine needs to be paid within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its order. Individually, a fine of Rs 25 lakh was levied on JM Financial Asset Management, Rs 10 lakh on JM Financial

Trustee Company, Rs 1.1 crore on Bhanu Katoch, Rs 17 lakh on his mother Swarn Lata Katoch and Rs 8 lakh on his wife Sharika Kher. Additionally, the regulator slapped a fine of Rs 22 lakh on

Deepen Doshi, who was head of institutional sales at JM Financial Asset Management during the violation, and Rs 9 lakh on his mother Aruna Doshi.

noted In its or



over

cannot

unpublished information. securities of DHFL. "However, Noticee Nos. 1 and 4 by putting their interests

This was considered unfair trading. Additionally, their investments were made informing before unit violating holders. Sebi regulations and the AMC's employee policy on

investments. Through this act, these five persons made a notional gain of over Rs 1 crore collectively. "The Noticee Nos. 1 (Bhanu Katoch) and 4 held (Deepen Doshi) important positions as Chief Executive Officer and Head of Institutional Sales, respectively, during the examination period. By virtue of their positions, they were privy to non-public material information regarding the impending sale of defaulted

responsibility of disclosing to the investors at large by merely averring that the sale of defaulted securities had a positive impact on the net asset value (NAV).

"No doubt Noticee Nos. 6 (JM Financial Asset Management) and 7 (JM Financial Trustee Company) had disclosed relevant information in the annual report for FY 2020-21 regarding the sale of defaulted securities, but the fact remains that the said annual report was issued on April 10, 2021, i.E. Almost nine months after the sale of defaulted securities," Sebi

added. The order came after Sebi received a news article in July 2020, reporting an unusual 19.9 per cent increase in the Net Åsset Value (NAV) of JM Low Duration Fund and other debt funds. This jump was mainly due to the sale of defaulted securities from DHFL, which had matured in

2019. circular dated June 23 A Sebi

newer destinations.

An increase in inbound travel (foreign tourist arrivals) to pre-pandemic levels are also supporting domestic travel, the Poonam Upadhyay, Director at CRISIL

In addition, attractive travel packages and increased focus of Indian airlines on new destinations in southeast Asia and and high demand from the corporate and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) segments record high this calendar year, it said.

income levels, and the government's focus on boosting Indian tourism will maintain the strong momentum in the tour and travel sector. This will, in turn, ensure healthy double-digit revenue growth for travel operators this fiscal as well," Upadhyay stated.

these five persons invested in certain JM Financial Mutual Fund schemes, holding defaulted Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) securities before the valuation change, using

affairs. schemes' general including the reasons for the NAV increase, but failed to do so in a timely manner. Sebi said that JM Financial Asset Management and JM Financial Trustee Company

abdicate

their

the interests of

unitholders, have misused their positions and taken undue benefits out of the

same," Sebi said in its 86-page

Further, the regulator said that JM Financial Asset

Management and JM Financial Trustee Company

were responsible for promptly

and accurately informing all

unit holders about the

order passed on Wednesday.

2020, allowed transactions in such matured downgraded securities, enabling the sale. Since these securities had a 'Nil' valuation, their sale value was entirely considered a gain, causing the NAV to rise.



Nasscom bats for Infosys, says ₹32k cr GST notice shows lack of understanding of industry model

Infosys for services availed by

the company from its overseas

branches for five years starting

Infosys has called the notice a

'pre-show cause' notice and

said that it believes the GST is

cause notice for payment of

GST of Rs 32,403 crore for the

period July 2017 to March

2022 towards the expenses

incurred by overseas branch

offices of Infosys Limited and

added that the company has

responded to the pre-show

cause notice.

in 2017.

PTI NEW DELHI

pex IT association ANasscom on Thursday came out in support of Infosvs -- which is facing a Rs 32,403 crore GST notice, saying that the move reflected a lack of understanding of the industry's

operating model. Flagging the issue of the applic-ability of GST through the reverse charge mechanism (RCM), Nasscom rued that multiple companies are facing avoidable litigation, uncertain-ty, and concerns from investors and customers.

"Recent media reports of a GST demand of over Rs 320 billion (Rs 32,403 crore) reflects a lack of understanding of the indus-try's operating model," Nasscom said in a statement, without naming Infosys.

The leading industry body asserted that it is crucial that compliance obligations are not subject to multiple interpretations.

Accelerating services exports is key to India's ambition of 'Viksit Bharat' and for attracting global tech investment to India, it added. PTI CHENNAI

Domestic food

to grow at 47%

till 2027: Official

The domestic food market was expected to grow by over 47 per cent between 2022 and 2027 and expected to touch USD 1,274 billion, a top industry official said.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Foodpro Expo 2024 Chairman B Thiagarajan said the food processing sector "This requires a supportive policy environment and ease of was growing at an average annual growth rate of 5.35 per cent between 2015-16 to 2022-23. doing business. The government circulars issued based on "In 2022-23, the sector accounted for 7.66 per cent of the GVA recommendations of the GST (Gross Value Added) in manu-Council must be honoured in facturing at 2011-12 prices," enforcement mechanisms so Thiagarajan, also the Managing that notices do not create uncertainty and negatively Director of air-conditioners and impact perceptions on India's ease of doing business," it said. commercial refrigerators maker Blue Star Ltd said in a press GST authorities have slapped a release on Thursday. Rs 32,403 crore notice on

"In terms of employment, the sector employs almost 2 million workers in nearly 41,500 registered units. With a market size of USD 866 billion in 2022, the food industry will play a vital role in the economy growth. CII Tamil Nadu Chairman

Srivats Ram said currently not applicable to these expens-India is the largest producer of milk, pulses, banana, mango, The Bengaluru-headquartered IT firm on Wednesday said pomegranate, papaya, lemon, non-food crops like cotton Karnataka State GST authorities have issued a pre-show and jute.

During 2023-24, India produced 304.4 million tonnes of cereals, 296 million tonnes of pulses, 351.9 million tonnes of horticulture, 230.6 million tonne of milk and 138.4 billion eggs, Ram also the Managing Director of steel wheels manufacturer Wheels India Ltd said.

India's manufacturing market expected sector growth eases slightly in July

PTI NEW DELHI

Tndia's manufacturing sector growth eased slightly in July, on softer increases in new orders and output, while cost pressures and demand strength led to the steepest increase in selling prices since October 2013, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) moderated slightly from 58.3 in June to 58.1 in July. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

headline "India's manufacturing PMI showed a marginal slowdown in the pace of expansion in July, but with most components remaining at robust levels, the small drop is no cause for concern," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said.

Despite slowing since June, manufacturers Indian reported a substantial increase in new work intakes. There were also reports of strengthening demand from clients based in Asia, Europe, North America and the East, Middle Indian manufacturers experienced a robust increase in international sales during July.

The overall rate of expansion was marked and the secondstrongest in over 13 years, the survey said.

On the price front, buoyant demand also exerted pressure on prices. Input costs rose at one of the quickest rates in nearly two years, which contributed to the steepest increase in selling prices since October 2013.

manufacturers Indian reported having paid more for coal, leather, packaging, paper, rubber and steel, as per the survey.

The continuous increase in the output price index, driven by input and labour cost pressure, may signal further inflationary pressure in the economy," Bhandari noted. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in the June meeting as sticky food inflation continues to keep retail inflation high. The next monetary policy announcement is scheduled for August 8.

Going ahead, the survey further noted that the overall level of positive sentiment towards the year-ahead outlook for production was broadly unchanged since June. Growth is expected to be supported by marketing efforts and new client enquiries, it said.

Chandrayaan-3 success encouraged startups to

PTI 🗖 CHENNAI

The historic success of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission to the Moon has captured the attention of several startups to tap the Indian space sector, said former ISRO scientist Nambi Naravanan.

Tamil Nadu Minister for Industries TRB Rajaa said the achievements of space scientists and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) should be celebrated. Rajaa and former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan took part in the launch of space technology accelerator (Tamil word 'Vaanam" meaning sky) backed by its co-founders Sameer Bharat and Hariharan Ram Vedamurthy, on Wednesday. The space tech aims to nurture startups in the space sector by offering its expertise including seed fundings among others. "We are evaluating about 6 startups this year (to offer its expertise)", Ram said. According to him, the Indian space economy pegged at USD 13 billion is expected to touch USD 44 billion in 10 years. Ram said Nambi Narayanan and actor Madhavan, who played the role of Narayanan himself, in multilingual film the world. the 'Rocketry', have been inducted "We need to celebrate these into the Board of Vaanam victories, instead of showcasing it as just one Space Tech accelerator. Narayanan in a 'Fireside Chat' event. Achievements of ISRO organised at the event and space scientists like Narayanan should be told (to observed that though there

are about 189 startups in space



technology, 'majority' of them were engaged in what ISRO did 50 years ago.

"Why do you want to do something that ISRO did 50 years ago? You need to do what ISRO needs today and in that you will be able to compete globally, particularly with other countries." he said. Narayanan expressed his long-term desire to set up an Asia Aeronautics Space Agency (AASA) comprising Asian countries, in line with National Aeronautics and Administration Space (NASA) of the United States. You may induct countries like Maldives, Mayanmar if they are interested (to set up the Asian Space Agency)" he said. Welcoming Narayanan's view, Rajaa remarked that the achievements of ISRO and space scientists should be celebrated and showcased to

the world)" he said.

engaged in the space sector while the majority of such startups were based out of Bengaluru, he added. Narayanan said academic institutions should forge a partnership with space agencies like ISRO to foster education on space technology to students. He said it was the Princeton university that forged a partnership with NASA to tap the space sector allowing students to explore the opportunities in space tech. "We need to tell kids, schools

Chennai holds third position

in the presence of startups

about space technology. It should be taken into the curriculum," he said and opined that a space exploration facility be set up to encourage kids.

"Maybe, the space exploration facility can accommodate about 100 students who will get an opportunity to see and feel how it will be in space and how other planets look from Earth. It may be like a simulation. This will encourage them ", Narayanan said



ART & CULIUNE VIVACILY

GEETA CHANDRAN'S **ARTISTIC LEGACY**

Padma Shri awardee **GEETA CHANDRAN**, honored with the NRITYA CHOODAMANI, celebrates 50 years of transformative work in Bharatanatyam, underscoring her lasting impact on classical dance and cultural dialogue, says SAKSHI PRIYA

ongratulations on being conferred the NRITYA **CHOODAMANI** title. Reflecting on your 50-year journey in Bharatanatyam, how do you perceive this honour in the context of your career and contributions to classical dance?

Every award is a reminder that the work must continue. But, frankly, after a while, the awards truly cease to matter. One's perspective changes. What is truly exciting is that the body and the mind are so aligned that one can dance only for oneself. That is the most exciting frontier. Everything else feels superficial.

You have received numerous prestigious awards over your career, including the Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. How does the NRITYA CHOODAMANI title compare to these other honours in terms of its significance to you?

The Krishna Gana Sabha is an extremely prestigious dance forum in Chennai. An honour from that Sabha is very significant. In fact, for a Bharatanatyam dancer who has crafted my dance journey completely outside Chennai considered the mecca of Bharatanatyam, this is a nod from that citadel. So, I value it.

Your journey in Bharatanatyam began 50 years ago with your arangetram. Can you share some of the most pivotal moments and challenges you faced during these five decades?

Dance is probably the most fragile of artistic pursuits. That is because its instrument is the body and to keep that tuned constantly in pitch condition is an extremely arduous and daily task. Taming the body constantly for fifty years has been challenge Number 1. The next challenge has been to add layers to the knowledge gained from some of the most wonderful Gurus of those decades.



issues that have engaged my focus: exploring linkages between body and mind; forging relationships between solo dancing, group dancing and choreography; actualising the connects between the artist and society; and using dance as a medium for expressing abstract notions of Joy, Values, Aspirations, Beauty, Mythology and Spirituality.

NATYA VRIKSHA's vision statement seeks to probe the continuing relevance of classical tradition in a world of changing values. It showcases the aesthetics of Bharatanatyam and its history, how the tenets of the dance can be employed as a means of communicating issues of championed to ensure the art form's relevance and vibrancy in today's world?

At NATYA VRIKSHA, I aim to make youth aware of the immense potential of Bharatanatyam to become a live voyage of learning; make them comprehend the complex ; interlinkages between the classical dance tradition and its strict grammar with other disciplines: Philosophy, Ritual, Religion, Myths, Ancient texts, Poetry, Literature, Art (Painting and Sculpture), Cultural Studies, Yoga, Handicrafts & Handlooms and Beauty & Aesthetics.

Towards this end, I have evolved a holistic method of transmitting classical dance; an approach that encompasses training students both in dance (theory and practice) and dance aesthetics. They are also made aware of the related fields of music, aharva (costuming & make-up), stage design and sound & light technologies. The aim is to use Bharatanatyam as a tool to wider knowledge, spiritual and physical empowerment

Balancing multiple roles as a dancer, choreographer, Carnatic vocalist and media personality is no small feat. How do you integrate these diverse aspects of your artistic identity into a cohesive whole?

There is no master plan; just efficient management of time to do all these things that I truly enjoy and that imbue my being with meaning.

Curating dance at the Serendipity Arts Festival must be a unique experience. How has this role influenced your perspective on contemporary and traditional art forms and how do you see them converging?

Serendipity has made me focus on young audiences and their expectations of performance. And what joy it is to see that GenZZZ can equally engage and enjoy the pristine classical and the contemporary and also the experimental. Curating that

A New Path to Inspire

ADAH SHARMA makes her singing debut with a powerful rendition of the Shiv Tandav Stotram, showcasing a profound connection to both devotion and artistic expression. In a conversation with TEAM VIVA, Sharma reveals her intent to inspire others through her music.

dah, your recent singing debut with Adam, your recent on generation of the Shiv Tandav Stotram has captivated many. What inspired you to choose the Shiv Tandav Stotram for your singing debut?

As an actor I meet so many people who say they saw me do something and got inspired to do it themselves. So I thought this would be nice to inspire people. Also we made this version a version that has a lot of beats so you feel energised when you listen to it .

Can you describe the emotions you felt while chanting the Shiv Tandav Stotram live in a temple and how that experience influenced your recorded performance?

I had shared a version during the lockdown which I sang live in my home and then in a temple last year. Whenever I went for any public appearances people would ask me to chant it. So I thought it would be nice to do a studio recorded version. Chanting the Shiv tandav makes me feel focused, strong , energetic and the empowered feeling that all evil will be destroyed.

The video of your live chanting at an event went viral and received widespread acclaim and is trending on instagram since the release. How did that response impact you and did it motivate you to pursue more singing opportunities?

I did this especially for the audience so them enjoying it feels very special. I sing anyway, always. There's always music going on in my head. I've got singing offers before but I thought the first one should be something from me directly to the audience So I decided to release it on my own YouTube channel.



of the ocean on a rock. I practice meditation on one foot everyday to increase focus. On the day we decided to shoot it was very sunny and breezy and hot. So that was tough. But somehow the strength just came to push through and I didn't feel like it was a challenge.

How did you approach the task of capturing the essence and energy of the Shiv Tandav Stotram in both your live and recorded performances.

With honesty always, as I do everything in life. I don't know any other way.

Given the positive reception of your live chanting performance, do you plan to incorporate more live chanting or musical elements into your public appearances?

I haven't actually planned anything. We thought we would do a launch but I'm shooting for two big projects and the role in one of them I think is the toughest I've played. So even on days off in preparation. We just put the song out on YouTube and Instagram , no ads, no publicity. But in today's time I think the audience is the best PR.

What message or feeling do you hope to

And finally, the search for one's own artistic voice and to keep it sane without compromises has been a wonderful path of self-realization.

As the Founder-President of NATYA VRIKSHA, you have nurtured many young artists. How has your philosophy of holistic dance education evolved over the years and what core values do you emphasise in your teachings?

Dance as movement is only a fraction of my vision of dance. At Natya Vriksha, I have experimented with Bharatanatyam as a 'force multiplier' for the widest range of classical dance

contemporary concern, even while exploring linkages between history and continuity, between external body and internal mind-space, between yesterday and tomorrow, between artist and audience.....between roots and wings.

You are celebrated for your dynamic performances that promote societal dialogue and inclusivity. Could you elaborate on how you choose themes and choreograph pieces that transcend linguistic and cultural barriers?

My engagement with contemporary issues led me to create a unique rights for forest tribals. JAYATU BHARATAM celebrated 75 years of India's independence.

format which I call performance-

dialogue through which I raise

contemporary issues through my

classical performances. Previous

works like HER VOICE and

IMAGINING PEACE raised issues

of the meaninglessness of violence.

KAIKEYI spoke about stigma and

villainization. MYTHOLOGIES

RETOLD addressed the issue of

female foeticide. ANEKANTA

Constitution's vision of an inclusive

society. And GANDHI: WARP AND

WEFT was a reminder of Gandhian

values and choices. SIMHIKA:

DAUGHTER OF THE FOREST

highlighted the need for justice and

Indian

highlighted the

All these choreographies have articulated my conviction that dance can be a vehicle to build social bridges and erase social stigma, amplify gender issues and raise awareness on making sustainable environmental choices. I am currently absorbed with creating a new work that looks at new dimensions of women and conflict.

Preserving and promoting Bharatanatyam is a significant part of your legacy. What specific initiatives or projects have you

On the other hand, Mohan Samant's

dizzy mix has brought me in touch with artists from across the spectrum all over India, South Asia and beyond.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind in the world of Bharatanatyam and classical dance, both through your performances and your work with students and the broader community?

I don't yearn for any legacy. The only legacy is constant sweat. If you can do that every single day of your life, you can become a dancer. Everyone else remains an amateur.

How do you balance your acting career with your newfound interest in singing and do you have plans to explore more musical projects in the future?

I like doing multiple things I enjoy. But I don't know how to plan for the future. I enjoy living in the present and working on becoming a better actor, dancer , singer everyday. I believe opportunities will come if they are meant to.

What was the most challenging part of performing the Shiv Tandav Stotram and how did you overcome those challenges? For the video I wanted to stand in the middle

convey to your audience through your rendition of the Shiv Tandav Stotram and how do you feel it aligns with your overall artistic expression?

I am one of those very fortunate actors, I get the opportunity to play different roles because the audience accepts me in them. Just after the Kerala story where I played an innocent college girl I played an evil bar dancer in Sunflower season 2 and then I did Bastar where I was a soldier fighting for my country. My upcoming projects also have me being different people. On social media I am myself which is so different from all these characters . The audience doesn't allow me to get typecast. I'm very very lucky.

ETWEEN **D I A L O G U E** тwо RTISTIC Δ B VIS 0

Experience the artistic vision and creative journey of Amitava and Mohan Samant. Their exhibitions remind us that art goes beyond just being a collection of works, it becomes a dialogue between the past, present and future, writes TEAM VIVA

The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art engagement with materials, ranging I in New Delhi has hosted two remarkable exhibitions that explore the creative journeys of Amitava and Mohan Samant. These exhibitions, titled "If We Knew the Point" and "Magic in the Square," provided a fascinating look into the world of Indian modern art through the eyes of two artists whose works are both unique and museum presented over 150 works pieces by Mohan Samant, showcasing how each artist has contributed to shaping contemporary Indian art.

Amitava's "If We Knew the Point" was an introspective exploration of his internal landscape, brought to life through a variety of mediums hinting at and techniques. The exhibition title underlying itself hinted at a philosophical c h a o s journey, with the "point" referring A m i t a v a's to the elusive meaning or direction approach struck a

from graphite, ink and watercolor to acrylics and burnt marks. His artworks resisted straightforward narratives, inviting viewers to interpret the complex themes and emotions embedded within each piece.

Central to Amitava's work was the color black, used not merely as a tone but as a gateway to deeper deeply interconnected. The introspection. Black served as a canvas for exploring socio-political by Amitava and a diverse range of themes and reflected the realities tumultuous of contemporary society. In works like the "Heads" series, dense, totemic figures emerged from

> this blackness, their intricate patterns

in life that Amitava seeks through balance between control and his art. The collection revealed spontaneity, as he layered materials Amitava's versatility and his deep to create compositions that were



Photo: Pankah Kumar

wide array of cultural motifs, cultural synthesis and exploration. incorporating elements from Together, these exhibitions Indian mythology, Egyptian provided a holistic view of the hieroglyphs and modernist techniques.

fascination mythological and ancient themes its evolution.

them as living artifacts that challenged the conventional boundaries of painting and

The juxtaposition of Amitava and that art is more than just a Mohan's exhibitions offered a collection of works; it is a unique dialogue between two conversation between the past, generations of artists. While present and future, a tribute to the Amitava's work delved into enduring power of creativity and language that defied categorisation. introspection and emotional the human spirit.

Samant's works often drew from a complexity, Samant's art celebrated Western diverse trajectories of Indian art, highlighting the personal and with cultural narratives that have shaped

was evident in his work, where the As viewers navigated these past and present converged to exhibitions, they were encouraged create symbols and narratives. His to reflect on their interpretations art was not just a visual experience and connections, making the but a sensory one, incorporating experience both profound and mixed media materials like wire, intimate. In this shared space, art plastic toys and sand to add became a journey - a continuous texture and depth. These exploration of meaning and the elements created a tactile human experience. Through their dimension to his pieces, lenses, the museum offered a inviting viewers to explore window into the transformative power of art and its ability to bridge cultural and personal divides.

> At the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, these two exhibitions reminded us







PTI PARIS

ational record holder Priyanka Goswami finished a poor 41st in women's the 20km competition while Vikash Singh and Paramjeet Singh ended at lowly 30th and 37th positions respectively in the men's event as Indian race walkers produced a disappointing performance at the Paris Olympics here on Thursday.

Priyanka, an Asian silver medallist, clocked 1 hour, 39 minutes and 55 seconds, more than a whopping 10 minutes outside her season's best of 1:29:48, to bring up the rear. Only two race walkers finished behind her.

AP PARIS

The U.S. Men's 3x3 basketball team fell to 0-2 in pool play in the Paris Olympics with a 19-17 loss to Poland Wednesday night. Jimmer Fredette cut the lead

to 1 with about 90 seconds left a basket by Canyon Barry with before Michal Sokolowski made a free throw a few seconds later to extend the lead to 19-17.

lead to 19-17. The U.S. Had a chance to tie it late, but Fredette's 2-point attempt came up short. Fredette, who was brought in to boost the team after the U.S. Failed to qualify for Tokyo, appeared to sustain an injury with about three injury with about three minutes left. He looked to be in pain as he was tended to by a trainer but soon returned to the game.

after the game and a team spokesman said he was receiving treatment but did not provide any specifics on an injury. The U.S. Team remains

The 28-year-old Priyanka, throughout. who has a personal best of 1:28:45, has been based in competition of the Paris Competition of the Paris Olympics began on Thursday. In the men's corresponding event, which started 30 minutes late due to rain, Vikash clocked 1 hour, 22 Australia since early this year after the Mission Olympic Cell approved her high-altitude training last December.

Reigning Asian Games champion Yang Jiayu of China won gold with a time of 1:25.54 while world champion Maria Perez (1:26:19) of Spain and Commonwealth gold medallist Jemima Montag (1:26:25) of Australia took the silver and bronze respectively.

The competitions were held under warm and humid conditions. When the women's event ended, the temperature rose to nearly 25 degree Celsius while humidity was more than 85 per cent Athletics after the 6km mark and he was seen in discomfort, holding his abdomen while bending down forward.

ICS

A team coach told PTI that Akshdeep was having fever for the last two days due to Urinary Track Infection (UTI). minutes and 36 seconds while Paramjeet crossed the finish "He was having fever from 30th onwards because of UTI. line in 1:23:48sec in the race However, he recovered from fever yesterday," the coach won by Brian Daniel Pintado won by Brian Daniel Pintado (1:18:55) of Ecuador. Caio Bonfim (1:19:09) of Brazil and reigning world champion Alvaro Martin (1:19:11) of Spain took the silver and bronze medals respectively while Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Massimo Stano (1:19:12) of Italy was fourth said.

India was among the countries which had three full quota of athletes in the men's event but all of them could not match their personal best.

The best performance by an Indian in the Olympics was the 10th-place finish by KT Irfan in the 2012 London Games Akshdeep Singh pulled out with a timing of 1:20:21.

In one of the biggest upsets of the Olympic Games boxing competition, two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen (50kg) bowed out after a 0-5 loss to Asian Games gold-medallist Wu Yu, completely outmaneuvered by the Chinese in a stunningly lopsided bout here on Thursday. Nikhat was unseeded for the

PTI PARIS

here on Thursday. Nikhat was unseeded for the Games as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which is holding the boxing competition, doesn't recognise the International Boxing Association (IBA), which conducts the world conducts the world

conducts the world championship. One of India's strongest medal contenders, Nikhat was put under pressure by the top-seeded reigning flyweight (52kg) world champion in the opening round itself. Yu was quick off the blocks and Yu was quick off the blocks and

counter-attack, she wasn't able to connect. The reason being, Yu's brilliant footwork, which allowed her to consistently switch her stance to avoid the blows. Trailing 1-4, Nikhat found a bit more success in the second round as she landed a few straights but Yu managed to connect some telling hooks

on the Indian's face. Nikhat ended the round with a few body shots. Not much changed in the third round as Nikhat desperately

tried to connect but continued to fail due to Yu's nimble movements. Despite this loss, Nikhat

though Nikhat tried to

Despite this loss, Nikhat remains one of the most consistent Indian boxers, having won back-to-back gold medals at the world championships and the 2022 Commonwealth Games besides a bronze in the Asian Games last year.



Biggest, most diverse fleet in Olympic sailing gets ready to hit water

AP MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

The biggest and most diverse fleet of the 2024 Olympics' sailing events, the one-person dinghy, is scheduled to hit the water Thursday in sweltering Marseille.

The small, white-sailed boats formerly known as lasers, now called ILCA 6 for women and ILCA 7 for men - go slower, sail deeper into the water and have a less spectacular design than a less spectacular design than many other vessels in the Olympic marina. But, to the sailors who race them, they are the purest form

them, they are the purest form of the sport. "It's very pure and it's very close - you've got to work for every inch," said Matt Wearn, 28, of Australia. "You're not looking to win by a mile, you're looking to win by a meter."

Wearn is seeking to defend the gold he won in the event in the Tokyo Games - and so is Anne-Marie Rindom of Denmark, 33, who in addition to gold from Tokyo has a bronze from Rio de Janeiro and first competed in the London Games in 2012. 'It's all about the sailor in the boat," said Rindom, whose parents first took her sailing when she was two weeks old. She competed in her first regatta at age nine.

In this class, boats are provided to Olympians only about a week before the Games, level-

ling the playing field. That makes consistently nailing the smallest tactical detail - an inch of advantage at the starting line, catching a sudden wave to surf ahead, balancing for the additional weight of branding stickers on the sail the key to medal.

"All these little accuracies make a huge difference," said Micky Beckett, 29, of Britain. "Being on top of your mental game is absolutely everything That's also because the boats are so versatile and "basically unsinkable," in Beckett's words, that they can - and do - sail in any weather, for hourlong regat-

US men fall to 0-2 in 3x3 basketball pool play at Olympics with 19-17 loss to Poland

about six minutes left before Poland used a 6-1 run to make it 15-9 with four minutes to

Poland was up by 5 with about $2 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes to go when Barry made three free throws to cut the lead to 17-15. Barry shoots free throws underhanded like his father, NBA Hall of Famer Rick Barry.

A basket by Adrian Bogucki pushed Poland's lead to 3 and Dylan Travis made a shot for the U.S. Before Fredette's last He did not speak to reporters bucket got team within 18-17. Bogucki had seven points and five rebounds for Poland, which lost to France on Tuesday. Barry and Travis led the U.S. With six points each. Fredette, who is the only player with NBA experience in the 3x3 competition, added three. The U.S. Struggled from long-range, making just 2 of 15 attempts.



holder

which beat Poland on Tuesday. Lithuania got seven points each from Aurelijus Pukelis

and Dziaugys. **LATVIA** 21, **NETHERLANDS** 12: Karlis Lasmanis scored eight points to lead defending champion Latvia over the Netherlands. Nauris Miezis added five points and six rebounds in the win after Latvia opened the tournament by beating Lithuania.

Worthy de Jong made a basket followed by a free throw to get the Netherlands within 1 with about four minutes

lead to 19-12. But Lasmanis made a 2-

pointer to end it on the next possession. The Netherlands, which beat China in its opener, was led by De Jong's seven points. CHINA 21, SERBIA 15: Zhang Ning scored 11 points and added four rebounds to

help China beat Serbia. A basket by Mihailo Vasic put Serbia up 9-7 with about six minutes remaining. China took over after that,

going on a 10-1 run to take a 17-10 lead. China made three 2-pointers in that stretch to pull away

said. So far in Marseille, the challenge has been the opposite: very low winds under a scorching sun, which can also be draining. The boats are relatively inex-

pensive to buy and transport, designed to fit the top of a car. So, they're the star of World Sailing's development program, which aims to support athletes from nations without long histories in Olympic sailing, from El Salvador to Fiji to Mozambique. "It's cool to see it's not always the

same five nations," said Nethra Kumanan, 26, of India, who qualified for the Games in the ILCA 6 at the so-called lastchance regatta under the pro-gram. "We hope we can give them a fight."

And a fight it is, because the event features almost twice as many boats as the other sailing

categories - more than 80. "It's the hardest to win, it's very equal," said Tom Saunders, 32, of New Zealand, whose brother also was an Olympic sailor but in the two-person boats. "It feels like it's not over till the very end," echoed Maud Jayet, 28, of Switzerland, who learned sailing on Alpine lakes and competed in the Tokyo Games.

Like her and most sailors in this category, Marit Bouwmeester, 36, of the Netherlands, enjoys shouldering all the responsibil-ity alone for racing strategy, unlike in two-person boats. Her tactics have been paying off - she's medaled in the last three Olympics, snagging silver in London, gold in Rio and bronze in Tokyo. In Marseille, howev-er, she's trying something new

- competing as the mother of a 2-year-old daughter. "It's a challenge to do mother-hood and top sports," Bouwmeester said, especially to find the time to train hard and then, recover, but there's also a mental advantage. "If I have a bad day, I can go back to being a mother." Pavlos Kontides, 34 and the first athlete from Cyprus to win a medal - for the then-laser in 2012 - is coming back for his fifth Olympics, with a toddler in tow who changed his perspective about the relative importance of medals. Not that he doesn't want one.

confident despite the tough start to the Paris Games. "I don't think we're

concerned," Kareem Maddox said. "We just know we have some adjustments to make." The U.S. Was down by 1 after

"We're just not making shots,"

Barry said. "That's what it comes down to. We had a lot of good looks and they just

Italy was fourth.

National

record

didn't fall tonight." FRANCE 21, LITHUANIA 19: Timothé Vergiat scored eight points and his basket with three seconds remaining lifted France to a win over Lithuania and a 2-0 start in pool play.

France led by 5 after two free

throws by Lucas Dussoulier with about two minutes left. Lithuania then scored the next five points, with the last three from Evaldas Dziaugys to tie it with less than a minute to play. Lithuania had the ball with 12 seconds left, but Gintautas Matulis turned it over to set up Vergiat's game-winner.

to go. Latvia then scored the next nine points, with two 2-pointers by Lasmanis and one from Miezis to extend the lead to 19-9.

Arvin Slagter scored the first points for the Netherlands in more than two minutes on a 2-pointer after that and De Jong made a basket with less Jules Rambaut had nine points with five rebounds for France, than a minute to go to cut the

Marko Érankovic and Dejan Maistorovic made consecutive 2-pointers for Serbia to cut the lead to 19-15 with about two minutes to go.

Zhao Jiaren closed it out by making two free throws with

2:05 remaining. Majstorovic had seven points and Brankovic added five for Serbia, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal winner.

tas. Not that physical strength is negligible. In big swells, with spray coming straight at the ath-letes bodies, races can be "quite battering, like being thrown into a washing machine and spat out the other side," Wearn

OTHER SPORTS

India eager to settle Rahul vs Pant debate in ODIs against SL

PTI COLOMBO

The Gautam Gambhir-led Indian team management has an opportunity to decide who among KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant will be India's long-term first-choice wicketkeeper-batter in ODIs when the side takes on Sri Lanka in a three-match series beginning here on Friday. There will be clamour around the first

sighting of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as well, after the recent T20 World Cup triumph.

that outside noise, focusing on sorting out the combination in a season that has some marquee one-day events including the Champions Trophy. In that context, the Rahul vs Pant

conundrum is certain to get priority treatment in this series.

Rahul is the incumbent wicketkeeperbatter and has been assigned to that role by the previous set-up under Rahul Dravid since last year's Asia Cup, a tournament in which he made his comeback from a long injury-forced layoff.

Since then, Rahul has done full justice to his duty both in front and behind the wicket.

Since the continental showpiece last year, Rahul has made 834 runs from 21 matches at a fine average of 69.50 with two hundreds. Besides, Rahul also captained



But the think-tank will look to shut out India in the ODI series against South Africa earlier this year

As a stumper too, the 32-year-old has been pretty good. But will Gambhir follow the same route

since Pant is back in the reckoning? Pant's return to India fold through a clutch of T20Is after that horrific accident in 2022 has been heartwarming but he has not set the field ablaze with his outings. There have been encouraging sparks during the last month or so. But is that enough to convince the powers that be to pick him ahead of Rahul?

If Gambhir and skipper Rohit decide to keep both Rahul and Pant in the 11, then they will have to think as to how to accommodate Shreyas Iyer, another formidable player in the 50-over version. In his last ODI outing, Iyer made a 52 against South Africa at Johannesburg, and

his record in 2023 is also impressive - 846 runs from 20 matches at an average of 53 with three hundreds.

So, it could be a three-way tie between Rahul, Pant and Iyer for two batting slots because if India go ahead with all three of them, then they will have to play with five bowlers.

India might not want to walk that rigid path particularly with Hardik Pandya missing this series because of personal reasons.

Hence, India might just want to give a run to either Shivam Dube or Riyan Parag at No. 6.

However, the management entrusting Parag with bowling duties in the just-concluded T20Is could be a precursor to the larger role he might get in the ODI series.

That Parag can shift between off-spin and leg-spin effectively too brightens his chance, something he was not able to showcase much in the IPL, courtesy the Impact Player rule.

But the Assam player has a fairly noticeable body of work in the domestic 50-over competition — the Deodhar Trophy.

He took 11 wickets last season to be placed sixth behind Vidwath Kaverappa (13), Shams Mulani (12), Mayank Yaday (12), Shahbaz Ahmed (12) and R Sai Kishore (11) at a good economy of 4.8.

Injured SL pacers Pathirana, Madushanka ruled out of ODIs against India

PTI COLOMBO

Sri Lanka suffered a massive blow ahead of the three-match ODI series against India as pacers Matheesha Pathirana and Dilshan Madushanka were ruled out with respective injuries. The first one-dayer will be played at the RPSC Stadium here on Friday.

"Madushanka suffered a Grade 2 hamstring injury on his left leg during the team's field-

My favourite bowler is Bumrah: Dhoni

ing practice" the Sri Lanka Cricket

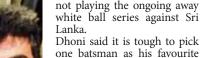
announced in a statement on Thursday.

PTI HYDERABAD

Legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni picked Jasprit Bumrah as his favourite bowler, but the multiple World Cup-winning former Indian skipper refrained from selecting between Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma as batsman of his choice.

Bumrah played a vital role in India's recent T20 World Cup triumph in the Americas, bowler because Bumrah is picking up 15 wickets from there. It's difficult to pick a eight matches at an economy batsman because we have rate of 4.17, best among the regular bowlers in the ICC many good batsmen. But that doesn't mean bowlers aren't good," said Dhoni during a showpiece.

The effort earned Bumrah the promotional event here. player of the tournament award.



not playing the ongoing away white ball series against Sri

one batsman as his favourite because several batters churn out excellent knocks. "It's difficult to pick one among

batters as whomever I see batting, he looks the best. But when I see someone else he also looks great.

"But as long as Team India is winning, I don't want to pick a batter (as my favourite). I hope they will keep scoring runs for the team," Dhoni said. The 43-year-old Dhoni did not reveal his IPL future when a fan posed a question about his plans for the 2025 edition. "There is a lot of time for it. We Bumrah has been given a rest post the World Cup, and he is

have to see what decision they take on player retention etc. Right now, the ball is not in our court. "So, once the rules and

"Pathirana has suffered a mild sprain on his right shoulder while diving to take a catch

during the Third T20 match vs. India," the statement added. Pathirana did not bowl in

The hosts have brought in Mohammed

Shiraz and Eshan Malinga as replacements

Meanwhile, Kusal Janith, Pramod Madushan

and Jeffrey Vandersay have been added to

the thirds T20I at Pallekele on Tuesday.

for the injured players.

the squad as standbys.

regulations get formarlised, I will take a call, but needs to be in the best interest of the team," he added.

At present, the IPL teams are a divided house over a host of issues ranging from the mega auction rules to the 'Impact Player' rule.

The BCCI secretary Jay Shah said he had a "constructive dialogue" with the IPL team owners on a variety of subjects, which would then be taken before the IPL Governing Council led by Arun Dhumal for further deliberation.

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"It's easy to pick my favourite