Late City Vol.160 Issue 211 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

OPINION 6

THE UNYIELDING SPIRIT OF MILITARY FAMILIES

WORLD 9

STRIKES ON GAZA KILL 18; TWO DEAD IN TEL AVIV

RBI LIKELY TO KEEP INTEREST RATE **UNCHANGED AT 6.5%: EXPERTS**

MONEY 10

LUCKNOW, MONDAY AUGUST 5, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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SEN FALLS TO AXELSEN IN SEMIS 12 SPORTS

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Fresh violence rocks Bangladesh



People participate in a rally against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Government demanding justice for the victims killed in the recent countrywide deadly clashes, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Sunday

PTI DHAKA

At least 91 people, including 14 policemen, were killed and hundreds injured on Sunday in fierce clashes between protesters demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the ruling party supporters in different parts of Bangladesh on the first day of the non-cooperation movement over Government jobs quota system.

The clashes broke out this morning when protesters attending

cooperation under the banner of the Against Students Discrimination with the onepoint demand of the Government's resignation faced opposition from the supporters of the Awami League, Chhatra League, and Jubo League activists.

Jubo League activists.

So far, 91 people have been killed in day-long clashes across the country, the leading Bengali-language daily Prothom Alo reported.
According to the police headquarters, 14 policemen have been killed across the country. Of them, 13 were

programme killed in Sirajganj's Enayetpur police station. One person

was killed in Comilla's Elliotganj, the paper said. As violence escalated, the Home Ministry imposed an countrywide indefinite curfew from 6 pm on Sunday. A Government agency has ordered the shutdown of Meta platforms Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram. The mobile operators were ordered to shut down 4G mobile internet, the paper added. Meanwhile, Prime Minister

students but terrorists and asked people to suppress them with a firm hand. "I appeal to the countrymen

to suppress these terrorists with a firm hand," she said. Hasina called a meeting of the National Committee on Affairs

Ganabhaban, the paper reported citing sources from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The meeting was attended by the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, police, RAB, BGB, and other top security officers. The meeting came as renewed violence spread to several parts of the country.

Government has announced a three-day general holiday on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to ensure public safety amid the ongoing violent protests across the country.

Giving details, the paper said at least five people were killed in Feni, 22 including 13

policemen in Sirajganj, four in Kishoreganj, four in Dhaka, four in Bogura, three in Munshiganj, four in Magura, three in Bhola, four in Rangpur, three in Pabna, four in Sylhet, three in Cumilla, one in Joypurhat,

one in Habiganj and one in

Barisal.

Six Awami League leaders and activists were beaten to death and several others injured in a clash between the ruling party supporters and protesters in Narsingdi, the paper reported.

Team Hockey keeps India's Olympic Gold dream alive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tf Tokyo 2020 was resurrection, Paris 2024 is turning out to be reaffirmation that the Indian hockey team is well and truly on its way to becoming a global giant again.

Down to 10 men for close to

40 minutes in a 60-minute game, Harmanpreet Singh's men didn't just hold off Britain 1-1 in regulation time, they outplayed the old foes 4-2 in the ensuing shootout to enter the Olympic semifinals for a second successive edition.

The win was special in more ways than one because an average hockey fan in India is not used to seeing the team show such tenacity in a high-pressure situation.

The bronze that these men pulled off in Tokyo was a pulled off in lokyo was a first in 41 years. It was an emotional revival for a sport, whose glorious past of eight Olympic gold medals, the last of which came in 1980, had become a source of nostalgia and grief in equal measure.

The win in Paris is a reassurance that the side is on the right track.

Little wonder then that the hockey fraternity as well as the average man on the street was left in awe of mental toughness and unity that India showed on

"Words cannot express the sort of tenacity, fighting spirit and unity these players have displayed today. Every



India's captain Harmanpreet Singh (C) celebrates a goal with others during the Hockey Men's Quarterfinal match between India and Great Britain at the 2024 Summer Olympics, at Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, in Colombes, France, on Sunday

player was backing each other after they were one player down," Ajit Pal Singh, captain of the 1975 World Cup-winning team told PTI. "The way they defended was world-class and Sreejesh was simply at different level. In all the matches from pool

stages they only got better and the nation is expecting another medal from the

fact that we can now beat any side in the world and it all started from Tokyo," he added.

Paris is a testament to the

Great Britain dominated possession and played with man-to-man marking, not allowing India to attack much. In the absence of Rohidas, Manpreet Singh, who plays in mid-field, was asked to man the defence. "The performance so far in Reduced to 10 men on the man show.

pitch, India could not play scoop balls, a strategy that worked for the side in previous matches, but it managed to escape without getting hurt. It all boiled down to how

Sreejesh would perform and the veteran goalkeeper did not disappoint, blocking the third and fourth attempts by Connor Williamson and Phillip Ropper after the score was tied 2-2 in the shootout.

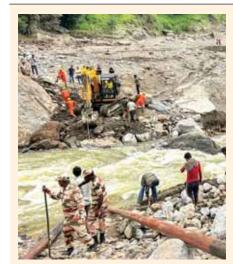
James Albrey and Zach Wallace had scored earlier for Great Britain while skipper Harmanpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Upadhyay and Rajkumar Pal sounded the board for India. "We had no option but to keep the score tied till the end. We focussed on defence, we played to a structure and today." structure and today communication between the players was pretty good. It was a team effort. Harmanpreet said.

The skipper said they had to forget the red card and move forward.

We could not change what had happened. It was a team effort, it was our best defence, playing with 10 men, that was a hard part."

"At this stage, we can't afford to be nervous, no matter who we play or we play extra man or not. That mind-set will remain in the next match."

Harmanpreet acknowledged Sreejesh's role in the win but insisted that it was not a one-



Officials and others during a search and rescue operation following a recent cloudburst, in Shimla, on Sunday

Death toll

rises to 11

in Himachal

cloudbursts

With the recovery of two more bodies from Mandi district, the death toll due to flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal

Over 40 people are still missing after a

series of cloudbursts occurred in Kullu's

Nirmand, Sainj and Malana, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of July 31 and wreaked havoc.

The bodies of Sonam (23) and threemonth-old Manvi were recovered from Rajbhan village in Padhar area of Mandi

The rescue operations are still underway and sniffer dogs, drones and other equipment are also being used to locate

According to officials, 410 rescuers from teams of the Army, NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, CISF, Himachal Pradesh Police and home

guards are involved in the hunt.

Over 30 people are missing in Samej village in Gram panchayat Sarpara in

More machines have been deployed and

the rescue operations are going in full swing. As the flow of water has reduced,

now machines have reached the spot where the missing persons could be

possibly found, Up-pradhan Sarpara C L

The State Government on Friday

announced an immediate relief of ₹50,000

for the victims and said they would be

given ₹5,000 monthly for rent for the next three months along with gas, food and

The State has suffered a loss of ₹662 crore

since the onset of monsoon on June 27 till

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE SHIMLA

Pradesh has increased to 11.

district, officials said.

the missing people.

Rampur subdivision.

other essential items.

Negi said.

August 3.

Assam to bring law soon for life term in 'love jihad' cases

Hasina said those engaging in

"sabotage" across the country

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ssam Chief Minister Asian Chica Sarma on Sunday that his Government will bring a new law that would criminalise "love jihad". The proposed law will have provision for life imprisonment if found guilty. Sarma's statement comes days after the Uttar Pradesh Assembly passed the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024, providing for a maximum punishment of imprisonment to the offenders convicted under certain circumstances.

Speaking at the State BJP executive meet held at the Assam's capital, Sarma said, "We spoke about 'love jihad' during the elections. Soon, we will bring a law, which will award life imprisonment in such cases." However, he did not talk about any deadline regarding the proposed law. Sarma also said the Government will also bring in new domicile policy, allowing only those born in the State to

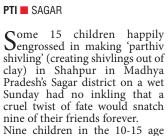
be entitled for Government



jobs, he said. The Assam Chief Minister maintained that indigenous people have received priority in the "one lakh Government jobs" provided as per a pre-poll promise, which will be evident when the complete list is published.

The Chief Minister said the Assam Government has also taken a decision regarding the sale of land between Hindus and Muslims.

Earlier this week, Sarma had said the Government will end the VIP culture, and from now on, only vegetarian and satvik food will be served in every Government programme. Sarma also said the State Government will everv launch a pilot project to simultaneously issue Aadhaar cards and birth certificates to newborns in 13 medical



group were killed and two injured after a wall of a dilapidated house near a temple collapsed between 8:30am and 9am, wiping out the happiness residents of Shahpur town were deriving from the three-day 'parthiv shivling nirmaan' programme, a staple of the month of 'Saavan', underway at Hardoi Temple. "I was returning after offering



Wall collapse kills 9 kids making Shivlings in MP

Rescue work underway after a wall collapsed at Shahpur village, in Sagar district, on Sunday PTI

water to the shivling when a wall collapsed, trapping several children who were making clay shivlings under a tent. I was stunned and could not fathom rushed to help," said an

what was happening. The urn in which I had taken water for the offering fell from my hand. I shouted and people for all around

organisers of the religious event. A video of his narration of the incident to local police at the site, in which he can be heard saying the programme was on for the past three days, went viral on social media soon after. The wall collapse took

eyewitness, who was one of the

dilapidated house belonging to one Patel. We did not know how precarious its condition was or else we would never have erected a tent using it as support. Constant rains further weakened the structure," he said.

At the local primary health centre, a tearful parent said there was no one to bandage the wound on her niece's hand, adding that the facility was a neglected one. Continued on Page 8

IMD issues red alert for Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

After Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Kerala where rains have caused havoc Pradesh, eastern Rajasthan, Gujarat, the Konkan region, Goa, and central Maharashtra to brace for heavy rainfall. The

Meteorological Department on Sunday issued a red alert for these States.

The most severe category, a red alert, indicates extremely heavy in the past few days, now it's the turn of the western Madhya within 24 hours. This poses a significant threat to life and property. Widespread flooding, disruption of essential services, and evacuation orders become

likely. In the coming days, heavy rainfall is also expected in Kerala, Coastal Karnataka and Tamil Nadu while in Maharashtra, a red alert has been issued in Palghar, Pune, and Satara, while an orange alert for very heavy rains has been issued in Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Nasik.

Continued on Page 8

Bulldozers erase Khyber Pass residents' homes, memories

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

demolition drive in Khyber Alemonium unve in rengeral Pass, located in the Civil Lines area, carried out by the Land and Development Office on Sunday, left a trail of devastation that extended far beyond the physical destruction of houses and shops. It obliterated the cherished memories of residents who had called this place home for

generations.

The morning calm was shattered as locals woke to the alarming sight of bulldozers lined up in their neighbourhood, poised to demolish their homes. These structures held not just their belongings but the essence of their lives, their memories walls that now lay in ruins.

intricately woven into the very Among the many hit was Bhupinder Singh Bhatia, a small shop owner whose livelihood and legacy were

reduced to rubble. He stood amid the debris, gazing at the remnants of his life with despair. His small shop, a cornerstone of his existence, was now nothing more than a pile of broken bricks and shattered dreams.

"I have been living here for 70 years. I built this house and shop with my hard-earned money and today, it is gut-wrenching to see the house being demolished," Bhatia said. A large-scale demolition drive at Khyber Pass was also carried out last month which led to over 250 houses being razed and hundreds of residents being displaced.

Shahana Begum, 55, said she has been living in the area for decades but a demolition drive last month razed all her memories.

"Last month, they demolished my house in the Civil Lines area and today, they demolished my daughter's house," she said,



A police personnel during a demolition drive at Khyber Pass area, in New Delhi, on

expressing her grief over the drive that has left her with nothing.

While some of the houses and shops were demolished on said many of them have nearby school in the area.

received notices demolition to be carried out in the coming days. A father of two children, Mohit Gupta is worried about his children Sunday, the residents of the area future. They are studying in a

He said, "This is my only shop, Gupta Store, which will be demolished on August 13. I am very worried as to how I will earn and support my family." The demolition scare has made Gupta move to Burari area for the time being.
"The rent there is so high that

all my savings are spent paying it. For how long can I sustain? I have to pay the fees for children's studies too." he rued. At the site, the air was dense with dust as machinery demolished buildings. Several residents were seen sitting among the rubble that was once their home.

Many of the children who have moved from the area are now returning worried for their parent's security. Nisha, who returned from

Dubai on Saturday night after learning about the demolition of her parents' house, was worried about her elderly parents. "Where will I take my family now? My father is not keeping well. They razed my house in no time and many useful things have been destroyed," she said.

Nishant, 40, was in despair seeing his house being razed. He said while he had built a proper house with all the papers, no one came to their rescue. "We had all the papers for the house but now all my belongings have gone. No one came to help us. What do I do now? This was my home for all my life and now I am left with nothing," he said.

A petition in this regard was filed in the High Court in 2010 and the court had directed that "no coercive steps be taken" against the petitioners. However, the petitioners filed an application in the matter for clarification, after authorities passed an order earlier this year threatening removal of alleged unauthorised occupation and

construction from the area.

Three youths killed in road mishap

Three youths lost their lives when a speeding vehicle struck their motorcycle on Kisan Path in Sushant Golf City late on Saturday night The incident occurred under the cover of darkness, and the aftermath was both devastating and gruesome.

According to initial police reports, the victims were riding their bike on the wrong side of the road and were not wearing helmets, which may have contributed to the severity of the accident. The police are investigating the incident to gather more details and identify the errant driver and the vehicle involved. The scene of the accident was marked by the horror of blood spattered across the road for about 100 metres. Eyewitnesses said that the victims appeared to have been dragged under the vehi-cle for this distance, as evidenced by the blood trail and tyre marks on the road. The intensity of the collision was such that the motorcycle was shattered into pieces, and the bodies of the victims were dismembered.

Inspector Anjani Kumar Mishra provided details about the victims, identifying them as Vinay Rawat (26) of Diwanganj (Mohanlalganj), his friend Brijesh Kumar Rawat (25), and nephew Kuldeep Rawat (22), who lived in Haibat Mau Mawaiya. All three were labourers working on a contract basis.

Class 10th student assaulted by rivals

Lucknow (PNS): A Class X student was brutally assaulted by a group of rival youths near gate injuries, including cuts, contusions, and rashes to his head and behind his ears. His condent was brutally assaulted by a group of rival youths near gate number 8 of La Martiniere College in the Gautampalli police station area on Saturday. The victim, Yuvraj Singh, a student of Christ Church College, was severely injured and is currently hospitalised under close medical supervision.

Yuvraj, who lives in Sai Enclave (Jiamau), was attacked while returning home from college. The accused, including Arush of Jiamau and Umar Zaid, along with five to six accomplices, were allegedly armed with sticks, sharp-edged weapons, and bricks. The assault left Yuvraj with critical

inspecting a site for construc-tion work when the tragedy struck. The inspector confirmed that none of them were wearing helmets at the time of the collision. According to the police, the accident occurred near Mai Ji Ka Purwa village when a speeding vehicle hit the motorcycle head-on.

The police's polygon team arrived at the scene shortly after the accident and, with the assistance of an ambulance, transported the victims to SGPGI Trauma Centre-2, where all three were pronounced dead upon arrival. They were returning home from Khurdahi market after through a mobile phone found

dition is reported to be lifethreatening due to the severity of his injuries. Yuvraj's maternal uncle Ajey Raghuvanshi from Narhi in Hazratganj emphasised the urgent need for a medical examination to assess the full extent of the injuries and to support the criminal case against the attackers.

The police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) and initiated an investigation into the incident. The authorities are working to gather evidence and identify all accused involved in the attack.

at the scene, and their families were informed. The families are distressed by the lack of progress in locating the vehicle responsible for the crash. The local residents voiced concerns over the inadequate street lighting on Kisan

Path, which they believe contributed to the accident. They called for the installation of street lights to improve visibility and prevent future tragedies. Additionally, the lack of proper road safety measures and the tendency for drivers to ignore traffic rules, such as driving on the wrong side of the road, were highlighted as contributing factors to the accident.

Police crack down on boisterous youths celebrating on road

PNS LUCKNOW

In response to recent disturbances and public outcry, the police in Gomti Nagar have intensified their vigilance over unruly youths. The latest incident occurred on Saturday night when a group of young people caused significant disruption by celebrating a birthday on the road between Marine Drive and Janeshwar Mishra Park in the Gomti Nagar Extension area. The group of 12 to 14 youths gathered to celebrate a friend's birthday. Their festivities included placing a birthday cake on the bonnet of a car and indulging in revelry, which alarmed and inconvenienced passing commuters. The commotion was deemed objectionable by those nearby, prompting someone to contact the police. The police arrived promptly, leading to a cooling of the youths' enthu-

Upon their arrival, the police took immediate action by seizing a car and five sports bikes. The youths were informed that further violations could result in jail time. During the police interroga-tion, it was discovered that the individuals involved were students from well-regarded

English medium schools.
Despite their educational backgrounds, the police decided to release them with a stern warning after they assured that such behaviour

would not be repeated. Inspector Sudhir Awasthi commented that the decision to release the youths with just a warning was influenced by their promising futures. Nonetheless, the seized vehicles remain impounded as a precautionary measure. The vouths also made a public apology, promising not to engage in similar disruptive behaviour in the future.

This intervention follows a recent increase in police action due to similar incidents. After heavy rains in Lucknow on Wednesday, a group of youths had gathered at Marine Drive, causing chaos by misbehaving with pedestrians and pushing vehicles into rainwater.

In response to this earlier In response to this earlier disturbance, eight police officers, including the in-charge of the Gomti Nagar police station, were suspended. Additionally, higher-ranking officials including the DCP, ADCP, and ACP were removed from their positions. This shake-up led to stringent new instructions aimed at new instructions aimed at curbing road-related hooliganism.

The police administration has made it clear that any further disruptions will be dealt with severely to ensure public safe-ty and order. The recent actions taken against the youths celebrating on the road are part of a broader effort to address and prevent such disGovt to resolve everyone's problems, says CM Yogi



PNS GORAKHPUR

hief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed the problems of around 400 people at the Janata Darshan held at Gorakhnath temple here on Sunday morning, assuring them of prompt action to resolve them.

Interacting with the people, he emphasised that the government is committed to resolving everyone's problems, adding that every complaint will be addressed with definitive action. Due to the possibility of rain, the Janata Darshan was organised in the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan within the temple premises. Yogi personally addressed the concerns of approximately 400 individuals, with a significant number of women in attendance. He moved among the people seated on chairs, listening to each person's issues patiently and assuring them of prompt resolutions.

The chief minister handed over the written complaints to the officials present and instructed them to address each problem promptly, qualitatively and satisfactorily. He emphasised the importance of sensitive and timely attention to every grievance, ensuring transparency in the process.

Chief Minister Yogi specifically directed strict legal action against land encroachments and called for investigations in cases where victims face ongoing troubles, stressing the need to establish accountability.

He also instructed officers to investigate why some victims had not received administrative support and to ensure immediate assistance to every affected individual. During the Ianata Darshan, many people sought financial assistance for medical treatment, to which the chief minister assured that lack of funds would not hinder their treatment. He directed officials to expedite the hospital cost estimation process and submit it to the government promptly. Financial support for treatment will be provided from the Chief Minister's discretionary fund. Chief Minister Yogi also instructed the officials to ensure Ayushman cards are issued to all eligible individuals to take care of their healthcare concerns.

During the event, several women brought their children, and the chief minister blessed them, enquired about their studies, gifted them chocolates, and encouraged them to excel in their education.

Following the interactions at Janata Darshan, Chief Minister Yogi followed his usual Sunday morning routine at the Gorakhnath temple. After worshiping Guru Gorakhnath and paying respects at the samadhi sthal of his guru, Brahmalin Mahant Avaidyanath, he visited the cowshed. There, he spent time with the cows and also fed them jaggery.

Information

My daughter's name has been erroneously mentioned as Kumkum in Aadhar card number 269617007495. Which is his household name. The correct name in educational records is Anushree. In future my daughter should be known as Anushree. Pintu Kumar S/O Munnu, Village- Bataua Post - Sikhar, District-Mirzapur.

NOTICE

changed my name
KUMAR PRADEEP KHANDELWAL TO PRADEEP KHANDELWAL S/O- RADHEY KHANDELWAL R/O SECOND FLOOR, PLOT NO. CV 4, VINAYAK SHREE N R I CITY, NAWABGANJ KANPUR for future purpose

NOTICE

i Have Changed My Name From Bilquish To Bilkish Tauqeer Ansari W/o Tauqeer Kamal Ansari R/o Silver Estate 111/e (10) 150 Feet v.i.p Road Jajmau Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I Have Changed My Name From Shahjahan Khtoon To Shajhan Begum. W/O Mukhtar Ahmad R/o LIG 251/252 Macca Masjid KDA Colony Jajmau Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I Have Changed My Name From M Ahmed To Mukhtar Ahmed S/o Ali Sher R/o LIG 251/252 Macca Masjid KDA Colony Jajmau Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I have changed my name from supreet Kaur Taneja to suprit Kaur Taneja W/O Bhupinder Singh Taneja R/O H.No. 311, opposite Tulsi Vatika Apartment, Vikas Nagar, Lakhanpur Kanpur

NOTICE

I, Gaurav Gupta S/o Krishna Kumar Gupta my plot property Bhagwantpur Gotpali Tah. Safipur, Unnao, original sale deed registered in S.R.O., Unnao Jild No. 756 Pages 176 to 177 Sl.No. 5638 dt. 31.12.1993, was lost, I have not used the said sale deed in any financial institution. FIR/LAR No.20240000 633607 Dt. 02.08.2024

Man found dead in swimming pool

PNS LUCKNOW

n engineer, identified as A Prateek Tiwari (34), was found dead in a hotel's swimming pool in Sarojininagar on Sunday evening. A police spokesman, while confirming the incident, said Prateek was found unresponsive in the hotel's swimming pool and was rushed to hospital where he was declared dead. He said Prateek's wife was informed about the incident and she was present at the CHC where the victim was examined. He said Prateek and his wife reached the pool along with their friends and families at 4 pm. He was later found unconscious in the swimming pool. "His friends informed the police and a team reached the scene for investigation. The police are checking the CCTV

events," the spokesman said, confirming the cause of death as drowning. Meanwhile, a Bangladeshi cit-

izen, who was recently arrest-ed in Lucknow for using a fake passport, has been handed over to the Sarojininagar police and is currently being questioned. The arrest was made during a routine document check for passengers arriving on AirAsia flight FD 146 at the Lucknow airport. A passenger was found with a passport issued in the name of an address in Ambedkar Nagar, Betul, Madhya Pradesh. Upon investigation, it was revealed that the passenger was actually a Bangladeshi national. He had previously travelled to India using a Bangladeshi passport and had stayed in various hotels in Bodh Gaya. Additionally, a lookout circufootage to find the sequence of lar had been issued against him

in Mumbai due to a complaint regarding illegal passport use. The passenger was apprehended and transferred to the Sarojininagar police station. Further examination uncovered discrepancies: the passport used had a fake Madhya Pradesh address, while the passenger also possessed an Aadhaar card with a West Bengal address.

During interrogation, the suspect, who identified himself as Subhronil Sarkar from Bangladesh, admitted to have obtained the passport fraudu-lently and provided details about his legitimate Bangladeshi passport

Following a complaint lodged by immigration officer AK Bhardwaj, a formal report was registered. The accused has been arrested and is now in custody awaiting further legal proceedings.

Rural kids to be honoued at AKTU convocation

Lucknow (PNS): The Dr Aabdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) convocation ceremony will be held on August 13. According to spokesperson Pawan Tripathi, AKTU is organising various competitions for students in the villages adopted by the university, following instructions from Governor Anandiben Patel. The governor will present awards to the children during the convocation cere-

Tripathi explained that the competitions include painting, storytelling, and speech contests, held in schools across villages such as Dhubaila, Palhari, Paschim Gaon, Farrukhabad, Kondri Bhauli, Sairpur, Dugwar, Mirzapur, Digoi, Durjanpur, Rasoolpur, and Raitha. The students are divided into groups by grade levels: Classes 3 to 5, 6 to 8, 9 to 10, and 11 to 12.

Students who stand first and second at the school level in the initial round will advance to the inter-school competition at the university. The governor will honour the winners of each competition during the convocation ceremony.
In addition, the children's

paintings will be displayed at the ceremony, and their speeches and stories will be published in a book.

Tripathi noted the high level of enthusiasm among students participating in the competitions.

Youth who duped woman of ₹4.61 lakh arrested

PNS LUCKNOW

Police claimed to have arrested a youth who defrauded a woman of Rs 4.61 lakh after luring her with a marriage propos-al and then pretending to be a victim. The accused, identified as Nitin from Madhya Pradesh, allegedly created a fake profile on a matrimonial site, falsely claiming to be a staff member of the Ministry of Defence. He targeted unsuspecting families, including that of a girl from Madiaon, who were searching for a suitable match. The family exchanged contact details with Nitin to continue the discussions.

According to police, Nitin first contacted the woman on July 7, presenting himself as a highranking official joining the Ministry of Defence. He gained her trust by provid-

ing fake documents online. A few days later, Nitin called the woman, claiming to have met a road accident and urgently needing funds for medical expenses. Moved by his situation, the woman transferred Rs 4.61 lakh to his account.

After receiving the money, Nitin went into hiding, which raised concerns for the woman about his well-being. It soon became clear that Nitin was not in any distress but was enjoying himself elsewhere. The woman then lodged a complaint with the police.

'Mulayamwadi' faces backlash for spreading falsehood about Yogi

A person claiming to be a "Samajwadi, Secular and Mulayamwadi" in his biodata, faced massive outrage on social media on Sunday, for spreading falsehood about Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. According to an official com-

munique released on Sunday, Surya Samajwadi posted on his X handle a video of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Janata Darshan and wrote, Does CM Yogi hold Janata Darshan in Gorakhnath temple so that Muslims cannot come? I do not see a single Muslim woman in this video. This is against the Constitution. Janata Darshan must not be held in a temple or a mosque. The high court should take cognisance." Subsequently, Surya Šamajwadi was heavily trolled for his controversial post about Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Janata Darshan, the release said. Social media users provided a reality check by sharing facts about Muslim participation, especially Muslim women's involvement, in the Janata

According to the communique, many users posted pictures of Ianata Darshan in which a large number of burqa-clad Muslim women are meeting Chief Minister Yogi. Posting one such picture, an X user named Varun Raj Singh wrote

that UP Police should take

cognisance of the attempt to

spread fake news and defame

the government. Many X users including Anshul, Navodaya, Ritesh Maheshwari, Sagar Khandelwal also tagged UP Police and wrote that legal action should be taken against the person for spreading falsehood about the chief minister. Blue tick holder Rajesh Yadav wrote, "If you want to criticise someone, or oppose a person ideologically, support your claims with facts. Otherwise, if someone takes action, you will shout that

injustice is being done."
Another blue tick holder, Praveen Singh, shared an old news story and wrote, "If Muslims cannot come to the temple, then how has Mohammad Yasin been the

construction work manager and cashier at Gorakhnath temple for the last 40 years? Samajwadi...., when will your tendency to lie end?" Notably, the chief minister

addresses the problems of all without discrimination. Many Muslims, including women, often attend the Janata Darshan to express their gratitude after their issues are resolved. This practice dates back to Yogi Adityanath's tenure as a parliamentarian. Additionally, there is significant Muslim representation among shopkeepers and visitors at the Gorakhnath temple complex, a well-known fact to those familiar with the temple. Photos of burqa-clad Muslim women meeting the chief minister and sharing their concerns went viral on social media, widely posted on platforms like X and Facebook. Similarly, at the Janata Darshan held at the chief minister's residence (5, KD Marg) in Lucknow on July 12, a large number of Muslim women met the chief minister to discuss their issues and seek

Congress deceived farmers: Dubey

Lucknow (PNS): Rashtriya Lok Dal national Purvanchal. The district president of the party spokesman Anil Dubey ruffled Congress' feathers saying the grand old party had deceived farmers during its rule and used them as a

Dubey made this statement during his tour to Purvanchal (Eastern UP) on Sunday during which he inaugurated the RLD office in front of Sadar Hospital in Mau district.

Speaking on this occasion, Dubey said that the RLD central leadership planned to open party offices in every district to strengthen the party. "In this sequence, the office was inaugurated in Mau today. Party's offices will be opened in Ballia, Azamgarh and other districts of

will be assigned with the task to broaden the base of the party by remaining in contact with the public and highlighting local issues of the farmers, youths, unemployed and women and others," he said.

Dubey said that earlier the RLD was in the opposition and so the party leaders used to work to fulfill the demands of the farmers by agitating and faced lathi-charge for the protest. "Today, we are in power and so we will talk to the government and work to fulfill the demands of the farmers. In the budget presented by the government, a huge sum has been earmarked for the

BSIP director suggests measures to prevent Wayanad-like disaster

SHARMILA KRISHNA **LUCKNOW**

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) Director Mahesh Thakkar emphasised the importance of research in the coastal areas of Kerala to prevent future incidents similar to the recent Wayanad tragedy, which claimed more than 120 lives. This was highlighted during a brainstorming session of leading scientists at the National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS)

Thiruvananthapuram. "I presented potential research avenues focusing on the alarming conditions of Kerala's coast, including landslide hazards, coastal erosion processes, and for scientific findings to reach

anthropogenic causes," said Thakkar. He stressed the need policymakers effectively. Thakkar explained that Kerala experienced exceptionally heavy monsoon rainfall leading up to

the landslide, which saturated the soil and destabilised the hillsides. Over recent decades, significant deforestation and landuse changes in the Western Ghats of Kerala have removed natural vegetation that once anchored the soil and stabilised slopes. Experts believe that this loss of forest cover, combined with intense monsoon rains, created conditions for the catastrophic landslide that buried homes and infrastructure, resulting in tragic loss of lives. He noted that the hilly, forested areas of Wayanad along the Western Ghats have a history of landslides. "Rapid urbanisation and conversion of forest land have increased landslide risks in areas like Meppadi and Vythiri. Regions such as Munnar, Devikulam, and Marayoor are considered high-risk zones. Districts including Idukki, Wayanad, Kozhikode, and Malappuram are particularly vulnerable. The Western Ghats in Kerala have steep, unstable

slopes due to fragile rock formations and soil types, making them prone to sliding and collapse. Haphazard construction on unstable slopes and extensive logging have further destabilised the hillsides," he explained. Thakkar also suggested research

on coastal erosion along the Kerala coast, including studying the rate and patterns of erosion using satellite data, aerial surveys, and field measurements. Identifying primary drivers of erosion—such as wave action, monsoons, anthropogenic activities, and climate change—along with evaluating the effectiveness of coastal protection measures like seawalls and breakwaters, is crucial. Assessing the socioeconomic impacts of coastal erosion on communities, including land loss and infrastructure damage, is also vital. Additionally, Thakkar recommended research on sea level rise along the Kerala coast. This includes monitoring and projecting sea level changes using tide gauge data and satellite altimetry, modelling the impacts of sea level rise on coastal areas, and investigating the combined effects of sea level rise with other coastal hazards such as storm surges and cyclones. Assessing the vulnerability of coastal communities and infrastructure to sea level rise and developing adaptation strategies are also impor-

Thakkar emphasised that Kerala, referred to as 'God's Own Country', boasts some of the most biodiverse coastlines in the world. However, global warming threatens this ecological asset in unprecedented ways. "In 2021, natural disasters like landslides and floods caused \$100 million in damages and numerous fatalities. The increased intensity and frequency of weather events due to climate change pose a significant threat to Kerala's coastal areas," he added.

बेक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Regional Office, Kanpur Metro Region: 118/330, Bank of Baroda 1st Floor, Gumti No. 5, Kaushalpuri, Kanpur - 12

Possession Notice Branch : Collectorganj, Kanpur Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the

said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property &

O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date

Borrower: Shri Deepak Singh S/o Shri Shiv Kumar Singh & Smt Kalpana Singh W/o Shri Deepak Singh and Smt. Shiv Devi W/o Shri Shiv Kumar Singh, All R/o: E-332, Plot No. RATSN-113, Shatabad Nagar, Block-EWS, Ratanpur Vistar Part-1, Kanpur Nagar. Demand Notice Date: 09-05-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 31-07-2024 **Property :** Land and Building Built on Property No., House No. E-332, Plot No. RATSN-113, Shatabadi Nagar, Block-EWS, Ratanpur Vistar Part-1, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Shiv Devi W/o Shri Shiv

Kumar Singh, **Area**: 55 Sq. Mtr., **Bounded-North**: 9 Mtr. Road, **South**: Plot No. E-331-B, **East**: 9 Mtr Road, **West**: Plot No. E-316 and E-315-B

Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 29,61,472.00 + Intt. + Others Charges

Date: 31-07-2024 Place : Kanpur **Authorised Officer**

Maya opposes verdict validating sub-classification of SC quota

After Lok Janshakti Party's opposition to the Supreme Court verdict validating the sub-classification in Scheduled Castes reservation, the Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party has raised its voice over the judgment.

BSP president and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, on Sunday, said that her party does not agree with the decision of the apex court as any sub-classification among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was not right. "The sub-classification of people within Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) has been permitted, our party does not agree with it at all," Mayawati said while addressing a press conference

here on Sunday. She said that it was not right to hear the decision of 20 years ago in the case of Punjab state. Also, it would not be a right decision to divide the subcastes among the SCs and STs. The decision of the Supreme Court is like a plan to end reservation, she added.

Mayawati also raised questions on the criteria of creamy layer. Along with this, she said that there should be no attempt to change the reservation in future and it should be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

Warning the Scheduled Castes, tion," Mayawati said.



Bahujan Samaj Party National President Mayawati holding a press conference at the party office on Sunday.

Mavawati said that understanding the emergency situation, the SC-ST class needs to unite. If they remain divided, the opponents will take advantage of them, she added.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court ruled that states have the constitutional authority to create sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, a socially diverse group, to provide reservations aimed to uplift castes that are more socially and educationally disadvantaged. "Because the atrocities faced by the people of SCs and STs have been faced as a group and this group is equal in which it would not be right to do any kind of sub-classifica-

The Lok Janshakti Party has also raised its objection to the decision of the apex court. In a post on X, LJP (Paswan) shared its disapproval of the Supreme Court verdict on subclassification within the SC and ST communities.

"Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is not in favour of the Supreme Court's decision on reservation in sub-categories for SC-ST categories. The party's founder Padma Bhushan Ram Vilas Paswan had also been demanding that as long as there is a practice of untouchability against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in society, there should not be any provision for reservation in sub-cat-

egories and creamy layer for SC-ST categories," the party wrote in Hindi.

LJP chief and Union minister Chirag Paswan, on Saturday, announced that they would file a review petition in the case to reverse the Supreme Court decision.

Meanwhile, Mayawati is chalking out her party's strategy for the UP assembly by-elections. She would take feedback from zone-wise officials and has called a meeting on August 11 to finalise the preparations for the bypolls. BSP state officebearers, chief zone in-charges and district presidents will attend this meeting, in which the strategy for the by-elections will be discussed. Along with this, the panel of

candidates for the by-elections has also been prepared and submitted to the BSP headquarters. Shivbaran Pasi has been appointed in-charge for the Phulpur assembly seat in particular. Mayawati has also directed the formation of booth-wise committees, which will work as an important part of the election strategy. During the meeting, Mayawati will give guidelines for the by-elections as well as reveal the party's election strategy. Her nephew Akash Anand and brother Anand Kumar will also be present in this meeting, and play an important role in the party's election preparations

Muslim, then the entire Saifai

family puts its weight to save him. The SP will be wiped out."

Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav was a

Hitting back, senior SP leader

Shivpal Singh Yadav sought a narco test of Maurya "to make

it clear who is doing cheap pol-

Responding to Maurya's tweet,

Akhilesh Yadav's uncle wrote

on X, "I strongly condemn the

Avodhva incident and also support the demand for narco

test made by Pawan Pandey

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav

Prasad Maurya should also

undergo a narco test so that it

becomes clear who is doing

cheap politics on sensitive

issues." Pawan Pandey is

Samajwadi Party's Ayodhya dis-

Ayodhya police on July 30 arrested Moid Khan, who ran a

bakery in Bhadarsa Nagar, and

his employee Raju Khan for

allegedly raping the minor two months ago and recording the

crime. The incident came to

light when recently a medical examination revealed that the

trict unit president.

victim was pregnant.

itics on sensitive issues".

native of Saifai.

Govt to foster patriotism in youth through Kakori saga of freedom fighters' valour

The Yogi Adityanath-led government is set to instill a spirit of patriotism among the youth by commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Kakori Train Action. Through the Kakori Train Action Centenary Festival, the government aims to inspire the present and future generations with the heroic tales of the Kakori incident and the bravery of India's freedom fighters.

Starting from August 9, the Shatabdi Mahotsav will feature a variety of activities and events spread across the entire state throughout the year. Schoolchildren, teenagers and youth will be actively involved in this celebration through various competitions such as general knowledge quizzes, drawing and painting, calligraphy, essay writing, speeches and debates. Winners of these competitions will be honoured with

cash prizes and certificates during the Independence Day celebrations on August 15 at both district and state levels. To ensure extensive participation, the government has enlisted the cooperation of teachers and students from government and private institutions across various educational sectors, including basic, secondary, higher, technical, vocational and medical education. These institutions will help organise and host the competitions at district and state levels, ensuring a widespread and inclusive celebration.

In addition to these activities, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed educational institutions to organise 'prabhatpheris'. These processions, involving children walking half a kilometer to one kilometer with pictures of freedom fighters and placards bearing patriotic slogans, aim to instill a sense of patriotism in the

youth. Furthermore, school prayer meetings will feature headmasters and teachers sharing stories of freedom fighters to raise awareness among students.

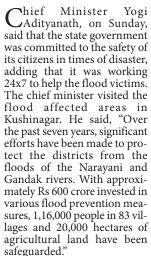
The centenary festival will also include a series of competitions focusing on the freedom fighters, significant events and places related to India's struggle for independence. The Culture department will organise a general knowledge competition covering topics such as the Kakori Train Action, the Mainpuri Conspiracy Case, and other events from 1857 to 1947. A painting competition based on these themes will be held for teenagers and youth, with the best entries displayed in various public spaces, including monuments, auditoriums and government offices. For younger children aged 5 to 12, a calligraphy competition will be organised, while teenagers will participate in an essay competition. Both competitions will revolve around heroes, events and places associated with the freedom struggle. Additionally, speech and debate competitions focusing on the inspiring events and heroes of the Kakori Train Action will be held at college, higher education institute and university levels.

These competitions will be held at district and state levels. A selection committee will be formed by the district magistrate for the selection of the winners at the district level. The competition awards at the district level will be Rs 10,000 for first place, Rs 7,500 for second place, Rs 5,000 for third place, and Rs 1,000 each for seven consolation prizes, while at the state level, the awards will be Rs 51,000 for first place, Rs 21,000 for second place, Rs 11,000 for third place, and Rs 5,000 each for seven consola-

CM: Govt committed to safety of citizens in times of disaster

Working 24x7 to help flood victims

PNS KUSHINAGAR



The chief minister has also instructed the district magistrate to initiate a survey for the construction of a concrete bridge over the Narayani river. The bridge will benefit 20,000 residents on the other side of the river.

He said that as soon as the floodwaters recede, the survey should be conducted promptly to determine the best location for the bridge, and the findings should be reported to the government for quick action. The chief minister also met the flood affected people in Turkha gram sabha and dis-tributed relief material. Earlier, he inspected the Bhainsaha-Chhitauni embankment. During this, he distributed certificates to the beneficiaries of various schemes and tablets among the students. Along with this, the Annaprashan Sanskar of the children was also completed.

Chief Minister Yogi highlighted timely flood prevention measures over the past seven



uous efforts to establish it as a

centre of global faith. Health initiatives have led to the com-

plete eradication of encephali-

tis, which once affected the

children in the region," Yogi

added. He highlighted that a medical college and a new

agricultural university were being established to provide

modern agricultural technolo-

gy and education to the local

population. An international

airport has also been con-

structed, enhancing connectiv-

ity and development and the

roads in Kushinagar have dras-

tically improved, he added.

In his attempt to address the plight of individuals whose houses have been submerged by floodwaters, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is spearheading a major relief effort. years for significantly reducing Understanding the lasting impact of such devastation, he the loss of life and property. These efforts have been particularly impactful in Kushinagar, has directed immediate aid for where approximately three lakh people have been saved from those who have lost their homes in the recent floods. devastating floods, he stated. In response, over Rs 3 crore He emphasised that these meahas been allocated to assist sures have not only secured Kushinagar but have also conmore than 2,000 families across the state within just 30 tributed to flood prevention in days. This funding aims to help these affected individuals other districts across the state. "Kushinagar, located at the foothills of the Himalayas, rebuild their homes and begin the process of recovery. faces rapid river currents, yet Relief Commissioner GS substantial relief efforts have Naveen mentioned that as per the chief minister's instrucbrought stability to the region," he said. Reflecting on the past, tions, the government is rapidly providing financial assistance to flood victims, with he recalled that seven years ago, the area was plagued by mafia dominance, resulting in vio-lence and fear. The Chittauni funds being credited to their accounts within 24 hours. embankment was a dangerous The Yogi government has zone, where people avoided traveling after sunset. Today, the region has seen the end of terror, anarchy and hooliganostantial amount of Rs 3,37,19,000 to aid 2,309 individuals out of 2,316 affected persons across 14 districts ism, marking a significant transformation, he remarked. who lost their homes to the floods. Currently, assistance is being processed for the "As the site of Mahatma Buddha's Mahaparinirvana, remaining seven victims. Kushinagar holds global signif-The relief commissioner informed that among the worst-hit areas, Pilibhit suficance as a land of peace. The government is making contin-

PNS LUCKNOW

Once difficult to distinguish

area, he remarked. Highlighting the effective flood prevention work in the district. Chief Minister Yogi said that during the heavy rains in Nepal from July 7 to 9, approximatelv 4.5 lakh cusecs of water was released into the Gandak and Narayani rivers, far exceeding the usual 12,000 to 20,000 cusecs. Despite this surge, the embankments here remained intact. Addressing concerns of

fered extensive damage with 867 houses affected and it received Rs 42,58,000 in financial aid. Lakhimpur Kheri also experienced significant damage, with 593 houses affected and Rs 80,77,500 distributed to the victims of 588 damaged homes, he added.

Yogi spearheading flood relief effort

₹3 cr distributed for damaged houses

Naveen said that the relief effort had addressed the needs of houses completely destroyed by the floods. He pointed out that 138 houses in 14 districts were completely damaged due to flood and Rs 1,62,00,000 had been allocated to 135 fully damaged pucca houses at the rate of Rs 1.20 lakh per house.

For 14 completely destroyed kutcha houses, Rs 49,20,000 has been provided at the same

Compensation amount of Rs 8,19,000 has also been given for 126 partially damaged pucca houses at the rate of Rs 6,500 per partially damaged house and Rs 38,56,000 for 964 partially damaged kutcha houses at the rate of Rs 4,000 per partially damaged house. Further support includes Rs 76,72,000 for 962 destroyed huts, with financial aid provided at the rate of Rs 8,000 per hut. Additionally, victims of 85 damaged cattle sheds have received Rs 2,52,000, with Rs 3,000 per damaged shed.

from pits, the roads are now well-developed, reflecting the overall advancement in the

river, the chief minister emphasised the need for a concrete bridge to serve the 15-20 thousand people residing there. On this occasion, State Minister Swatantradev Singh, MP Vijay Kumar Dubey, MLAs Vivekanand Pandey, Vinay Gaur, Manish Jaiswal, Mohan Verma, Surendra Kushwaha, Asim Rai, District Panchayat

chairperson Savitri Jaiswal, BIP

district president Durgesh Rai.

Rajeshwar Singh and other

dignitaries were present.

the public representatives about

the villages across the Narayani

BJP delegation visits Ayodhya, meets rape victim's family to protect rapists." Hitting out at SP's top leader-ship, including Akhilesh Yadav and his family members, Maurya said, "If a rapist is a

PNS AYODHYA

Bharatiya Janata Party del-Aegation led by Rajya Sabha member Baburam Nishad met the family members of the rape victim in Ayodhya on Sunday.

The BJP delegation also included Rajya Sabha member Sangeeta Balwant, Minister of State for Backward Class Welfare in the Yogi Adityanath government, Narendra Kumar Kashyap.

The BJP leaders assured the family of the rape victim that they need not be afraid of anything as the state government would protect their interests. Nishad asked the family members to contact him in case of any problem.

Former Union minister of state Sadhvi Niranjan also met the family members and the victim in the district women's hospital. The Ayodhya gang-rape case has reached a political flashpoint between Samajwadi Party and Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of UP assembly bypolls. The BJP is targeting the SP, accusing the main opposition party in UP of protecting main accused Moid Khan in the gang-rape case who is its office-bearer.

After meeting the victim's family, Nishad said, "We spoke to the victim's mother and we will submit a detailed report to the national leadership of our party. The Uttar Pradesh government is not going to spare the accused who committed this crime. Akhilesh Yadav talks about DNA test. He talks about PDA but he cannot feel



Uttar Pradesh Minister Narendra Kumar Kashyap in Ayodhya on Sunday

the pain and agony of this daughter (victim). The government will take such action against the accused that many generations will remember it. I request Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to increase the financial amount of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh."

SP PROTECTING RAPISTS, SAYS KP MAURYA

UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya accused the SP of "protecting rapists" after its chief Akhilesh Yadav demanded a DNA test of the accused in the Ayodhya gangrape case in which the 12-yearold victim became pregnant. BJP leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, have

asserted that accused Moid Khan, who runs a bakery in Nagar Bhadarsa Purakalandar police station area of the district, is a member of the SP and is part of the team of Faizabad Member of Parliament Awadhesh Prasad. Akhilesh Yadav, in a statement on Saturday said, "Without a DNA test in the Bhadarsa case of Ayodhya, BJP's allegation will be considered biased." The BJP hit back, alleging the SP is defending a "paedophile" and showing its "boys will be

Bypolls will be held in 10 assembly constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, including Ayodhya's Milkipur seat which was vacatboys" mindset while the leaded by Awadhesh Prasad of SP after being elected to Lok Sabha from Faizabad. The bypoll ers of the INDIA bloc are "silent". In a post in Hindi on X, Deputy Chief Minister schedule is yet to be announced Maurya said, "It is the Samajwadi Party's innate nature by the Election Commission of

BSP: Some people pressurising mother of gang-rape victim

Bahujan Samaj Party, upping the ante against the Samajwadi Party, said that some people were pressurising the mother of the Ayodhya gang-rape victim to withdraw the complaint and make a compro-

BSP state president Vishwanath Pal on Sunday alleged that the victim's mother made this allegation when a delegation of the party visited her home on Saturday.

"A delegation of the BSP met the family of the girl in her village on Saturday. The mother of the girl told the BSP leaders that some people were asking her to make a compromise in the case. We assured her that justice will be done and she should not come under pressure or threat of anyone," Pal said.

He said the BSP delegation also visited the women's hospital where the 12-year-old girl was undergoing treatment and took a review of her condition from the hospital superintendent.

As per the police, main accused party is defending him," he said.

Moid Khan and Raju Khan had raped the girl two months ago and recorded the heinous act. Moid Khan is a Samajwadi Party leader and close associate of SP's Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad. The accused were arrested on July 30 and on August 3, the administration razed Moid Khan's illegal bakery to the ground. Moreover, an illegal boundary wall built around a public pond

was also demolished. On the SP's demand for a DNA test in the case, the BSP state chief said that the victim's testimony was enough. "There is no need for such a test." Raising questions on the administration, Pal said that it ignored the victim's complaint for two months and only on the intervention of BSP, the FIR was registered. Pal accused Moid Khan of being involved in grabbing the land of a pond and a mazaar, adding that the SP is shielding the culprit, who is the city unit president of the party. "There should be no politics on the issue. The SP has not sacked the accused yet. The

Akhilesh urges court to order protection for rape survivor

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, on Sunday, Ourged the court to order protection for the Ayodhya rape survivor considering the "sensitivity" of the case. He also said people trying to "politicize" the case must not be allowed to succeed.

"The government should make the best possible medical arrangements for the rape survivor. It is the government's responsibility to protect the girl's life," Akhilesh Yadav said in a post on X. "It is a humble request to the honourable court to take suo motu cognisance of the situation and ensure all possible security to the girl under its supervision, considering the sensitivity and seriousness of the situation. The motive of ill-intentioned people to politicise such incidents should never succeed," he added. The SP chief also said that the Uttar Pradesh government should immediately provide assistance of Rs 20 lakh to the victim's family. Reacting to his post, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said Akhilesh Yadav was worried about the Muslim vote bank and that that was why he had asked for a DNA test of the two accused, both Muslims. Maurya said on X, "In the case of the daughter of Nishad community, Congress' pawn Mr @yadavakhilesh, first forgot PDA and talked about DNA (test), now don't mis-lead by talking about the court. You are worried about your vote bank getting angry." Maurya added, "The peo-ple of the state expect that the guilty should be punished and the victim should get justice. The government will fulfill its responsibility.

Inspectors attacked after being caught 'together' in govt accommodation

Lucknow (PNS): In a dramatic incident in Agra, a woman caught her husband, a police inspector, with another female police inspector inside a government accommodation. The confrontation escalated when the woman's family members arrived, dragged both inspectors outside and physically assaulted them. The altercation, captured on video, has since gone viral on social media. Taking serious cognisance of the incident, senior police officers registered cross-cases and on Sunday and also arrested the

inspector's wife and her family members after the medical report of the female inspector confirmed that her hand was fractured during the assault. Action was also taken against over half a dozen policemen for making video instead of trying to defuse the situation.

According to reports, Rakabganj police station in-charge Shaili Rana has a gov-

ernment residence in the police station premises. She lives alone in it. On Saturday evening at four o'clock, two women and some youths suddenly reached the police station and went straight towards Rana's residence. In the video circulated on the internet media, the women open the gate of the inspector's residence while abusing her. In the video, the women are seen dragging Rana out of the residence in lower and T-shirt along with another man, identified as police Inspector Pawan Kumar Nagar. In the video, one of the youths is heard saying that he had doubts since the marriage and he has grown so old that he doesn't even feel like beating him up. While saying this, he picks up a brick but does not hit him. Meanwhile, the medical report confirmed that Rana's hand was fractured in the assault. On the basis of her com-

plaint and medical report,

Inspector Pawan Kumar Nagar's wife Geeta Nagar, brother-inlaw Jwala Nagar and sister-inlaw Sonia Nagar have been arrested and the nephew and his driver who fled from the spot are being searched.

Commissioner of Police J Ravinder Gaur has said that no one has the right to take the law into their own hands. He said if the inspector's wife had any complaint against the female inspector, she should have complained as per the rules but assaulting the inspector in her

house was wrong. Gaur also suspended head constable Vishal and Harikesh for making the video and remaining silent during the assault on both the inspectors.

Inspector Sunil Lamba, Inspector Devendra, head constable Rekha, constable Ankit, constable Girish posted in PRV and driver Rajendra have also been suspended. A complaint has also been written for action against a home guard present on the spot and orders have also been given for departmental inquiry against all the above men in uniform for defaming the department. Sources in the police confirmed that there was a "friendship" between the lady inspector and the male inspector but the relationship took an ugly turn when Rana had some dispute with a clerk of the police station recently. Sources said that some policemen of Rakabganj police station had informed the wife of Inspector Pawan Kumar Nagar that his car was parked outside Shaili Rana's residence. Inspector Pawan Kumar Nagar, who was posted in Muzaffarnagar, was recently transferred to Meerut Vigilance, and he is currently on medical leave. Sources also said that a video had gone viral in which a woman in civilian clothes is seen dancing to a film song and has been described as Inspector

7 killed, 40 hurt in road mishap on Lucknow-Agra Expressway

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Seven persons were killed While 40 others seriously injured when a sleeper bus, after colliding with an uncontrolled car, overturned in a ditch on Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Etawah late on Saturday night. The incident took place at the channel No 129-30 on Lucknow-Agra expressway around 12.45 am. The bus, going to Delhi from Raebareili overturned in a 50 feet deep ditch when an uncontrolled car after crossing the divider suddenly came in front of it. All the injured were admitted to the trauma centre of the Medical College. The bus carrying around 70 persons had left Rae Bareli on Saturday evening. At the Channel No 129 on Lucknow-Agra expressway under Usrahar police station area an uncontrolled car suddenly came in front of the bus from the wrong side. This caused a fierce collision between the bus and the car when the former fell into a 50 ft deep ditch and overturned there. On getting information the UPEIDA team and local police rushed to the spot and rescued people trapped in the bus and car. A team of Dr Somendra Pal Singh, Dr Vishwa Deepak, Dr Raj Kumar Yadav and Dr Shesh Kumar started treating the injured atthe emergency trauma centre, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sanjay Kumar Verma along with ASP Satya Pal Singh, SDM (Sadar) Raghav Vikram, CO (Saifai) Shailendra Pratap Gautam and other officers visited the spot and said the uncontrolled car crossed the road divider after its driver dozed off. The deceased included the car-borne Pradhumna (24), son of Arvind Singh of Thitoli, Talgram, Kannauj, Monu (25),



The wreckage of a double-decker bus after its collision with a car on Agra-Lucknow Expressway

son of Brijesh Pratap of Gadhiya, Talgram, Kannauj and his mother Chanda Devi and bus-borne Omprakash (50), son of Asarfi of Bharsariva Khiri, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shanu Shah of Jais, Amethi and two unidentified

Meanwhile Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday also expressed his condolences over the deaths. The CM took cognisance of the accident and directed the officials to reach the spot immediately and expedite relief work for the injured. The CM also directed the district administration officials to ensure proper treatment for the injured and wished them a speedy recovery. Congress leader Priyanka

Gandhi expressed her grief over the death of the seven people who died in the accident that took place in Etawah. In a post on X, Priyanka Gandhi said the news of the

deaths and injuries of a large number of people was horrif-ic. She also expressed her condolences to the bereaved families. "The news of the death of many people and injury of a large number of people in the horrific road accident on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway is extremely sad. May God grant peace to the departed souls. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," the post read.

In another incident two friends

were killed while another was seriously injured when a speeding truck hit their bike near Bhudda village on Bangermau-Bilhaur road in Unnao late on Saturday night. The deceased and injured were residents of a village in Hardoi. Due to powerful collision, the bike kept dragging on the street up to around 50 metres. On the information of passers-by, police rushed to the spot and sent all the three injured to the

CHC where two of them were declared dead by the doctors. The third one was referred to the district hospital in a critical condition. Truck driver escaped by leaving the vehicle on the spot after the incident. Satyavan (22) of Maulvikheda, Sandila Kotwali, Hardoi, along with friends Shiva (20) and Chhotelal (21) had left for Haridwar at 11 pm on bike. On the Bangermau-Bilhaur road, between Bhudda village and Nanamau Ganga bridge, a truck laden with the eucalyptus wood collided head on with their bike at 1.30 am. At the CHC, Satyavan and Shiva were declared dead while Chhotelal was referred to the district hospital. From the mobile phones recovered from their possession, kin of the deceased and injured had been informed. Kotwali incharge Raj Kumar said bodies had been sent for autopsy. The truck had been impounded while efforts were on to nail its driver, he added.

Ganga continues to rise, poses flood threat in low-lying areas there. In view of the heavy rush,

Due to the continuous rise in the water level of Ganga river not only in the city but also in this belt of Purvanchal also in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) on Sunday, the residents of low-lying areas are facing a flood threat. As the water level of Gomti river has also recorded rising at upstream Jaunpur, the residents of several villages of Daab areas surrounded by Ganga and Gomti rivers near their merger point at Kaithi are facing similar flood threat. As per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Committee (CWC), the water level was recorded rising at a speed of 20 mm per hour each in Varanasi, upstream Prayagraj and Mirzapur while 30 mm and 10 mm at downstream Ghazipur and Ballia respectively at 8 am on Sunday. It was the third continuous day when the Ganga river recorded rising though it was far below the danger mark of 70.262 metres as it was at 64.66 metres. The Sone river also recorded rising



at Chopan in Sonbhadra, while Belan at Lalganj in Azamgarh, apart from some other smaller rivers. Meanwhile, in view of a warning issued by Met department about depression over Jharkhand and adjoining areas moving westwards a day ago, the Varanasi Nagar Nigam has issued advisory to the people. During the last 24 hours, though Varanasi received just 17.6 mm rain, Ghazipur 28.2mm, Mirzapur 23.4 mm, the possibility of heavy rainfall with thunderstorm in th coming days cannot be ruled out. In view of the third Monday in the auspicious month of

Shravan, the security forces and NDRF personnel will keep a close watch on the devotees bathing in Ganga river near Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) in the city and Markandey Mahadev Temple at Kaithi. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain peace in Dwadasa Jyotirlinga KVT. Proper barricades have been made both inside and outside the temple premises. As it is expected that lakhs of devotees, including saffron-clad Kanwariyas, will come there to offer prayers on third Monday, additional security forces have been deployed

checked at many places through metal detectors. All the activities will also be watched through various CCTV cameras. For the conveniences of the devotees, at several places big LED screens have been installed to display the activities of garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum). Besides, heavy rush of devotees is also expected to be seen at Markandey Mahadev Temple apart from all famous Shiva including temples. Mahamritunjya Mahadev (Daranagar), Gauri Kedareshwar (Kedar Ghat), Mahadev Jogeshar (Ishwargangi), Omkleshwar Mahadev (Chittanpura), Teel Bhandeshwar (Pandey Haveli), Sarangnath Mahadev (Sarnath), Vishwanath Temple in BHU and many others in the city areas and its outskirts including all Shiva temples located on Panchkoshi Marg.

no vehicles will be allowed to

move between Godowlia and

Maidagin. To maintain law

and order, the devotees will be

Ganga, Yamuna continue to swell in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Due to continuous rain in the surrounding states, the water level of Ganga and Yamuna rivers continues to swell in the district. On Sunday, the water level of both the rivers kept increasing at the rate of one cm every four hours. The Irrigation department officials said that both the rivers are still flowing much below the danger mark of 84.73 metres. The water level of Ganga in Phaphamau was 78.51 metres at 8 am on Sunday morning. Similarly, the water level of Ganga in Chhatnag was 76.79 and Yamuna in Naini was 77.55



People moving to safer places due to rising water level of Ganga and Yamuna

metres. Whereas 24 hours ago, the water level of Ganga in Phaphamau was 78.40 metres. in Chhatnag 76.31 metres and Yamuna 76.94 metres. On the other hand, seeing the rising water level in Ganga, the teerth

purohits at Sangam have started retreating with their belong-

Due to continuous rain in the flow area of Betwa river in Jhansi, twenty gates of Matatila Dam were opened early Sunday morning. 1.40 lakh cusecs of water is being released into Betwa river from the dam. After this, an alert has been issued in Prayagraj as well. This water can reach Prayagraj after two to three days. This can make the situation even more frightening. However, after the alert was issued on Sunday, people living on the banks of Ganga-Yamuna have started moving to safer places.

PhD scholar presents research in Germany

Varanasi (PNS): Olivia Majhi, pursuing PhD under the guidance of Dr Devanjan Sinha from the Department of Zoology at the Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) presented her research and hosted a networking session at the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) 2024 conference held in Hamburg, Germany recently.

She presented her poster on the topic 'Non-Autonomous Cell Redox-Pairs Dictate Niche Homeostasis in Multi-Lineage Stem Populations' and chaired a meet-up hub session.

Online fraud with lawyer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

case of online fraud with a Acase of online traud with a Allahabad High Court lawyer has come to light here. Cyber thugs called the lawyer posing as police officers and told him that his son, who is studying engineering, is trapped in a rape case. His three friends have gone to jail. Harendra Dwivedi of Azad Nagar Rasulabad, Shiykuti, said that the fraudsters made the lawyer hear a crying voice on the phone and said that his son is crying and send the money quickly. The lawyer transferred Rs 2 lakh in a hurry. Then the demand for more money started. When the lawyer called the police and the bank, the fraudsters switched off the number. The Shivkuti police is investi-

gating the matter.
The lawyer gave a written complaint to the police saying that he had received a call from a WhatsApp number. The caller Aditya Krishna Dubey (26), a

told his name as SI Vijav Kumar. He said that his son Aditya had been caught near BBS Engineering College and three students have been sent to jail in the rape case. Those boys had told his son's name and Aditya is also involved in the incident. When the lawyer protested, he was told to talk to his son. A receipt for depositing Rs 2 lakh was also asked for on the phone. After this, more money was demanded. Finally, when he informed the police, the phone was switched off. Shivkuti in charge, Sanjay Gupta said that police is inves-

Meanwhile the police of Cantt police station here arrested thief litendra Yadav aka Lalla who used to commit theft in the houses of high profile families. Gold chain, gold coins, ₹5.38 lakh in cash and a scooty were recovered from him. **BODY FOUND:** The body of

tigating the matter.

medical representative of Jaunpur, who had drowned in the Ganga two days ago, i.e. on Friday night, was found near Hanuman Ghat on Sunday. For two days, the water police, divers and an SDRF team were searching continuously for

His dead body was recovered during the search this morning. Water police in-charge nni said that o Saturday, the search was conducted till Lilapur Kachhar of Sarai Inayat but he could not be found. Today, on Sunday, the dead body has been recov-

ered at Hanuman Ghat. Dubey was a resident of Baijapur village under Sarai Khwaja police station area of Jaunpur district, and lived in Jhunsi here and worked as an MR. On the basis of the mobile phone, the police informed the family members about it. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination.

Saplings planted



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the guidance of Commandant Rajeshwar Belapurkar, the CRPF personnel of 95 Battalion, along with the Nyas planted saplings at Kashi Krishak Inter College in Harhua

here on Sunday.
The chief guest was Second
Command Officer of CRPF Akok Kumar which was presided over by Principal Dr Ajay Kumar. Environmentalist and Srijan president Anil Singh made éveryone aware. State chief of Ganga Samagra Yuva Vahini Saurabh Singh Patel, members and teachers of the school, Assistant Commandant Ashutosh Sahu and CRPF personnel including media in-charge Praveen Singh were also present.

Team studies process of under construction ropeway project

Afour-member team of Aizawl Sustainable Urban Transport Project (ASUTP) sent by the Mizoram govern-ment visited the city here recently and studied the entire process of the under-construction ropeway project in Kashi. Under the ASUTP, the ropeway system is proposed in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram. The Mizoram officials were made aware of the entire process of construction of the country's first and the world's third urban transport ropeway being built in Kashi by the officers concerned here.

Some time ago chief ministers of many states and top officials of Andhra Pradesh also visited this ancient city to see the development work. Not only



this, members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board had also come to Kashi to see the arrangements of Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT). As the Mizoram government wants to construct a ropeway

in its state on the lines of the one being constructed in Kashi. the Secretary of the Mizoram government and the Project Director of the Urban Development and Poverty

Alleviation Department sent the Joint Director and Project Coordinator of the Project Unit Manager of the ASUTP to Varanasi to understand the entire process of the ropeway construction going on there, informed an official of National Highway Logistic Management Limited (NHLML). The Mizoram team comprising ASUTP Director Andrew Lalharua, Project Coordinator

HVL Zarzoenga and two other officials visited the site of the ropeway and understood in detail the design, safety proto-col, operational and financial plan of the construction of the According to NHLML official,

ev from Varanas Junction railway station to Kashi Vishwanath Temple will be completed in just 16 minutes. The ropeway is being constructed at a cost of ₹807 crore. About 150 trolley cars will run in it and 10 passengers can sit in one trolley. Gondola will be available to passengers at an interval of every one and a half to two minutes. As many as 3,000 people will be able to travel in one direction in an hour, i.e. 6,000 people will be able to come and go from both directions in an hour, he added.

Programme to mark Organ Donation Day



OPF General Manager MC Balasubramanium taking part in the Indian Organ Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

On the occasion of Indian Organ Donation Day, Ordnance Parachute Factory, a unit of Gliders India Limited, organised a programme in the canteen hall on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, OPF General Manager MC Balasubramanium said organ donation is the greatest donation. Everybody should donate and contribute to the society. An inspiring skit was also presented on this occasion. He said the skit presented by the trainees was very emotional. He called upon all to lend serious view to the maintenance of their life and health. He said taking a clue from this programme, all should vow to donate blood at least once in a

year. They can donate blood in every three months also which largely benefit the donor and receiver both. Principal Medical Officer Dr Jyoti Trivedi said the main objective of the skit was to motivate to inspire all. She said all should pledge for donating the organ as each individual can save life of 11 persons. Citing several examples of the merits of organ donation, she enthused the gathering present over there. The team which presented the effective and emotional skit comprised of Shakshi, Anjali, Shashikala, Shalu, Raj Kumar, Parvez Alam and Manvi. Joint General Manager KK Toppo, Works Manager Amar Deep Kumar, Junior Manager HB Singh and Union/Association office-bearers were also present.

COD commandant praises OPF products

COD Commandant Brig Vijay Kumar Poonia during an inspection was all praise for the quality products of

Gyan Singh and KK Toppo, Works Managers Omesh Sinha, Amar Deep Kumar, Priyam Singh and Pravin Chandra were present. INNOVATIVE MODEL: The



(OPF), a unit of Gliders India Limited, Earlier, he was extended rousing welcome by the General Manager MC Balasubramanium. Brig Vijay Kumar Punia inspected the various products of OPF displayed in the exhibition room. He also inspected the ongoing production activities in the cutting shop and parachute workshop before visting to the unit's laboratory. He also saw a slide presentation on the OPF and expressed happiness over the professional and motivated team of officials engaged in the unit. He praised the hard work and sense of responsibility of the officials. Joint General Managers S Banerjee, KS Charak, Vivek Gupta, Ram

Kanpur Metro under Uttar Pradesh Metro Corporation (UPMRC), saved approximately ₹12 lakh last month by implementing an innovative cost-reduction model. These savings were achieved through the purchase of affordable electricity from the National Grid via the Indian Energy Exchange. As Kanpur Metro expands to full commercial operations on Corridors 1 and 2, further savings are anticipated. The model involves booking slots on the Indian Energy Exchange to secure electricity at fixed lower rates with power sourced from the National Grid based on availability. This approach provides electricity at rates 40 to 50 per cent lower than the commercial rates offered by UP Power Corporation.

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail

Corporation

Limited

Corporation Limited (UPMRC) is procuring power for the Kanpur and Lucknow Metros through the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) under the Open Access Model. The IEX, approved by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), had been set up to facilitate transparent and efficient transactions in the power sector. parent and efficient transactions in the power sector. UPMRC is the first government organisation in the state and the second metro service in the country to purchase power from this exchange. Apart from UPMRC, Delhi Metro also follows the same model for purchasing power In model for purchasing power. In Lucknow, this model is resulting in monthly savings of up to ₹40 lakh. Under this model, UPMRC initially implemented the electricity purchase strategy for Lucknow Metro, and following its success, extended it to Kanpur Metro on June 28, 2024. In the first month of using the Indian Energy Exchange, Kanpur Metro achieved a 40 per cent reduction in per-unit energy costs, resulting in empreying tely \$12 resulting in approximately ₹12 lakh savings. Electricity rates on the Indian Energy Exchange are set in 15-minute intervals

throughout the day. The UPMRC purchases power only

during those intervals where

rates are favourable.

Seminar on financial literacy held PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

n interactive seminar on An interactive seminar on 'financial literacy' under 'SMART's Investors Awareness Programme' was organised by the Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University (IM-BHU) here on Saturday. The event was led by SEBI's (Securities and Exchange Board of India) securities market trainers (SMART) Anil Narayan Dubey, Moni Sahu and Deepak Kumar. IM-BHU Prof Ashish Bajpai and Dean of the faculty Prof SK Dubey commenced the session with a welcome note.

Addressing the session, Deepak Kumar briefed about the basics of the capital market and emphasised on the importance of saving and investing. He discussed how to effectively invest and utilise money and illustrated his points with stories of Akbar and Birbal to highlight the importance of a presentfocused mindset. Kumar also provided insights into capital markets, explaining SEBI's role in regulating, developing and protecting investors. He further differentiated between active and passive investing and offered guidance on investing in capital markets and understanding brokers. The session was organised by Dr Anindita Chakraborty.

SPSEC successfully hosts taekwondo championship



The winners of KSS Inter-school Taekwondo Championship at SPSEC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

rhe Sir Padampat Singhania L Education Centre (SPSEC) successfully hosted the KSS Inter-School Taekwondo Championship for Boys and Girls on August 2 and 3 in the school premises. This two-day event saw enthusiastic participation from various renowned CBSE schools across the city, with 241 participants competing in both the Boys and Girls categories. Taekwondo, a Korean martial art known for its head-height kicks, and rapid kicking techniques, emphasizes physical fitness, and mental discipline. Its guiding principles include courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and an indomitable spirit. The event was inaugurated by Principal Bhawna Gupta. She highlighted the benefits of taekwondo, encouraging participants to

strive for excellence. She also commended the young athletes for their dedication and urged them to perform at their best. Vice-President of the Kanpur Taekwondo Association Dinesh Dixit also graced the event. The championship fea-tured competitions categorised into various age groups and dif-ferent weight segments. The first day focused on the girls' events, while the boys' events took place on the second day. The competition was fierce, with participants showcasing their skills and sportsmanship. The school management, the Chairperson, Manorama Govind Hari Singhania, Vice-Chairman, Abhishek Singhania, Vice-Chairperson, Varsha Singhania, and Vice-Chairman, and Director, Partho P Kar, extended congratuled the entire team for the successful conduct of the event.



Goa Assembly ST quota Bill likely in LS this week

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Bill to provide reservation A to Scheduled Tribes in the Goa Legislative Assembly is likely to be introduced in the Lok Sabha this week.

As of now, the ST community has no seats reserved in the assembly. Amid Goa demands from the community, the 'Readjustment

Representation of Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2024 has been listed in the Government business for the remaining part of the Parliament session. The session is scheduled to conclude on August 12.

The law Ministry Bill will the empower census commissioner to notify the population of STs in Goa. Based on it, the Election Commission will amend the Delimitation

Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008, to make way for ST reservation in the 40-member Goa Assembly.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India's organ transplants have more than tripled over the past decade, reaching 18,378 in 2023, up from 4,990 in 2013.

The country now ranks third

globally in overall transplants

and second in corneal trans-

plants. Key figures include 13,426 kidney transplants and

4,491 liver transplants. Among

the States, Telangana accounted for the highest number of

deceased donors in the year at

252, followed by both Tamil

Nadu and Karnataka at 178,

Maharashtra at 148, Gujarat at

146 and Delhi at 66. The num-



the Bill becomes a law.

The proposal to bring the Bill was cleared by the Union Cabinet in March this year days before the schedule for the Lok Sabha elections was announced on March 16. As lakh.

ber of transplants to foreigners

was recorded at 1,851 with

most of them being in Delhi at

under 1 per million, Highlighting the need for

increased awareness and

improved donation rates,

according to a report by the

National Organ and Tissue

(NOTTO). It calls for stepping up efforts to promote organ donation from deceased persons to take care

of the huge organ requirement due to the increasing burden of non-

Transplant

Organisation

of now, no seat in the 40member Goa assembly is reserved for the ST community while one seat is reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

demanding that four out of

Main reservoirs' level less than 2023, but above decade's average: CWC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Despite significant rainfall across India, the average water level in the country's 150 main reservoirs is currently lower than last year's levels but remains above the average for the past decade, according to the Central Water Commission (CWC).
The total live storage across

the 150 monitored reservoirs is at 91.496 billion cubic meters (BCM), which represents 51 per cent of their total capacity. This is 94 per cent of the storage recorded during the same period last year and 107% of the average storage for the last decade. According to a CWC report, the live storage available in these reservoirs stands at 91.496 BCM, or 51 per cent of their total capacity. This is 94 per cent of the storage levels recorded during the same period last year and 107 per cent of the normal storage based on the last decade's average.

Last year, the live storage during the same period was 83.987 BCM, and the normal



storage was 72.411 BCM. Thus, the storage levels this week represent an increase from the previous week but remain lower than both the corresponding period last vear and the normal storage. In the northern region, which includes Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan, there are 10 reservoirs with a total capacity of 19.663 BCM. Currently, they hold 6.532 BCM, which is 33 per cent of their capacity, significantly lower than last year's 76 per cent and the normal storage of 53 per cent for this period. eastern The region,

comprising Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, and Bihar, has 23 reservoirs storage of 50 per cent. This week's storage marks an increase from the previous week's 16.042 BCM (33 per cent of capacity).
The southern

The southern region, covering Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, has 42 reservoirs with a total capacity of 53, 234 PCA TI capacity of 53.334 BCM. They currently hold 35.010 BCM, or 66 per cent of capacity, which is better than last year's 50 per cent and the normal storage of 47 per cent. This week's storage shows an increase from the previous week's 26.538 BCM (50 per cent of capacity). Some States like Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu showed improved storage levels compared to last year.

previous weeks 13.2/1 Bell. (41 per cent of capacity).

The central region, which comprises Uttar Pradesh,

Madhya Conversely, States like Rajasthan, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Gujarat, Pradesh. Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh have reported lower are currently storing 23.102 BCM, or 48 per cent of capacity, less than last year's

55 per cent and the normal CDS to chair

tri-service finance conference

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan will chair an apex level tri-service financial conference on Monday here. The meet is aimed to enhance cohesion and synergy in financial issues of the Armed Forces, Defence Ministry said here on Sunday. Giving details, officials said the conference will see the participation of senior officials from MoD, MoD (Fin), Controller General Defence Accounts, Integrated Financial Advisers of Services, Government e-Marketplace, Headquarters, and Indian Coast Guard Headquarters. The CDS will also deliver the keynote address. conference, aligned with the objectives set for the ongoing drive on integration and jointness in the Armed Forces, is being coordinated by HQ IDS to enhance cooperation and have greater synergy on financial issues. Discussions are scheduled on aspects of Understanding the Perspectives of stakeholders in Defence Finance and Solutions to challenges faced in defence procurements.

The Financial Advisor (Defence Services) and Director (Acquisitions) will also give specific talks on the roles and actions undertaken by their organisations in expeditious procurement.



The Election Commission will take into consideration the revised population figures of the Scheduled Tribes and readjust the Legislative Assembly constituency once

The ST community has been

the 40 seats in the Goa assembly be reserved for them. It is estimated that Goa has an ST population of 1.5

communicable and lifestyle

Such conditions are leading to

a high number of patients

On the positive side, the number of deceased-donor

transplants has increased

from 837 in 2013 to 2,935 in

2023. According to data, the

number of kidney transplants

in 2023 stood at 13,426 while

liver transplants were at 4,491,

heart transplants at 221, lung transplants at 197 and

pancreas transplants at 27.

Among living donors, the number of females (9,784)

diseases.

report stated.

Despite these advances, the suffering from end-stage organ donation rate remains organ failure disease, the



2023. However, among compared to 255.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

was almost double the deceased donors, males number of males (5,651) in outnumbered females at 844

Good diet with yoga boosts physical,

mental health, say AYUSH experts

The total number of living donors in 2023 was 15,436 while deceased donors stood at 1,099. The number of heart transplants increased from 30

20.430 BCM. The western

region's Gujarat and Maharashtra -- 49 reservoirs

have a total capacity of 37.130

BCM. They are at 19.863 BCM, or 53 per cent of capacity, down from last year's 63 per cent but better than the normal storage of 48

per cent. This week's storage

shows an increase from the

previous week's 15.274 BCM

Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh,

has 26 reservoirs totalling a capacity of 48.227 BCM. They

Madhya

Uttarakhand,

in 2013 to 221 in 2023. Heart transplants were higher in 2018 at 241. Tamil Nadu topped the deceased donor transplants at 595 followed by Telangana (546), Karnataka (471), Maharashtra (426) and Gujarat (421) in 2023. Delhi-NCR has the most number of living-donor transplants at 4,275, followed by Tamil Nadu (1,833), Maharashtra (1493), Kerala (1,376) and West Bengal (1,021).

Organs are best donated from brain stem dead persons before the heart stops beating and there are many myths and misconceptions regarding organ donation which need to be taken care of, it said.

Standard Operative Procedures have been drafted, which prescribe that every concerned Ministry will have a nodal officer and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) will coordinate with a nodal officer to facilitate organ transport, it said. No screening of organs will be

done at the airport, the report



Experts raise alarm on vapes, e-cigarettes' promotion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With traditional tobacco products under scrutiny for their severe health impacts, the tobacco industry is now promoting e-cigarettes and vapes as healthier alternatives, health and child rights experts have raised alarms, urging the Government to address this growing threat on an urgent basis.

They warned that despite being banned these products are being strategically marketed to attract and entrap the young population, especially those aged 10 to 19

"E-cigarettes and vapes are as dangerous as tobacco and drugs for our country.

Once a child is addicted to these products, they can easily

be drawn to other forms of tobacco," said Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), at a webinar organised by Tobacco Free India, a citizens' initiative, recently.

Kanoongo highlighted the urgent need for vigilance while Dr Naveen Thacker, President of the International Pediatric Association (IPA), voiced serious concerns about the tobacco industry's tactics.
"The industry is falsely promoting e-cigarettes and vapes as 'healthy' and harmless alternatives to traditional tobacco, with a relentless focus on targeting the youth.

This is a blatant lie. These products are just as harmful, and their deliberate targeting of children is unmistakable,"

WII launches first-ever Master's course in freshwater ecology, conservation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

A iming to bridge gaps in sci-dentific understanding and conservation planning for freshwater ecosystems-an area that has been relatively overlooked despite the increasing pressures from energy projects, agricultural demands, and domestic use, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has launched the first-ever muchneeded two-year Master's Degree Course in Freshwater Ecology and Conservation in the country, starting this academic year.

Dr Ruchi Badola, Dean of WII, emphasised the course's role in developing a new generation of professionals capable of understanding and managing freshwater ecosystems effectively. With freshwater several water resource project coming up to address the energy security, water and with 82 wetlands of country's International importance biodiversity.



(Ramsar wetland) in the country the need for trained human resources conservation of freshwater ecosystem in India was felt, she said talking about the need to launch such a course. A batch of 14 students has already been enrolled with the course.Director Virendra R Tiwari highlighted the course as a significant step in line with the Institute's new vision plan, marking a milestone in demand for agriculture and domestic use in the country and with 82 wetlands of demand with 82 wetlands of demand demand with 82 wetlands of demand de



Union Ayush Ministry. Vaidya Kamlesh Kumar from Sharma Jaipur's Institute National Ayurveda emphasised that diet is integral to balancing the body's five elements ('pancha bhutas') and affecting both the conscious and unconscious mind. He stressed that proper dietary habits are crucial for achieving harmony in yoga practice, as they align with the principles of 'yama' and 'niyama' (ethical and personal conduct). Sharma noted that adhering to a diet that suits one's 'dosha' (body constitution), weather, and geographical conditions can help prevent many disorders and enhance yoga's effectiveness in alleviating



and sorrow fostering

happiness. Kashinath Samagandi, MDNIY Director, highlighted that according to the Bhagavad Gita, focusing on proper diet and conduct (Achaar-Vichaar, Ahaar-Vihar) is essential for successful yoga practice. He recommended consuming two meals a day to align with the digestive cycle. He elaborated that the morning meal should be substantial and nutritious, eaten approximately 1.25 hours after sunrise while the evening meal should be lighter and half the size of the lighter and half the size of the

morning meal, ideally between 7:30 and 8:15 p.m.,

or before sunset.

At the same time, Dr. Arpit At the same time, Dr. Arpit Kumar Dubey of MDNIY discussed the concept of 'Yuktahara' from the Bhagavad Gita, which emphasises a balanced diet as key to achieving yoga goals. "If we pay attention to the food habits in terms of what to take when to take how." to take, when to take, how much to take and how to take, then the Yoga Sadhana becomes the Samadhi (the

ultimate goal).
As has been said Changogya Upnishad -whatever we consume through our five Gjnanendriyas, the same helps us in the growth of our personality," he added

is that the ASI's move to delist the statue from the list of monuments of national importance follows a scathing

report from the Comptroller

and Auditor General (CAG), which exposed the ASI's

SC verdict today on AAP plea against LG's order on MCD alderman

The Supreme Court is sched $oldsymbol{1}$ uled to pronounce its verdict on August 5 on a plea of the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi Government challenging the Lieutenant Governor's decision to nominate aldermen in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi without the aid and advice of the council of Ministers. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha, JB Pardiwala had reserved its verdict in the matter on May 17, last year.

As per the apex Court's website, a bench Headed by Justice PS Narasimha will be pronouncing the verdict. On May 17, last year the top Court said giving the Lieutenant Governor the power to nominal Court said surprise the Mariotical Court said surprise surpr to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will mean he can destabilise an elected civic body. The MCD has 250 elected and 10 nominated members. In December, 2022, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) defeated the BJP in the civic elections, winning 134 wards and ending the saffron party's 15-year run at the helm of the MCD. The BJP won 104 seats and the Congress finished a distant third with nine.

'Is the nomination of specialised people in MCD of that much concern to the Centre? Actually, giving this power to the LG would effectively mean that he can destabilise the democratically Municipal elected Committees because they (aldermen) will have voting powers also," the top Court had said. Senior advocate

Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi Government, had contended that no separate powers have been accorded to the State Government to nominate people to the MCD, and for the past 30 years, the practice of the LG nominating aldermen on the aid and advice of the city Government has been followed. Then Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the LG's office had submitted that just because a practice has been followed for 30 years



does not mean it is correct The bench had observed that giving the LG the power to nominate aldermen will effectively mean that he can destabilise a democratically-elected MCD because these aldermen get appointed to the standing committees and have

voting power.
Earlier, the top Court had asked about the "source of power" of the LG under the Constitution and the law to nominate aldermen to the MCD without the aid and advice of the elected Government. The ASG had referred to the reply filed by the office of the LG and the constitutional scheme to assert the concept of 'aid and advice, in the context of the administrator's power to nominate members to the MCD, is different from the one which has been projected by the Delhi Government here. He had argued that the file pertaining to nominations to the MCD come directly to the office of LG as he is the administrator, and the concept of aid and advice is not applicable in this case.

Singhvi had referred to the 2018 constitution bench judgement of the apex Court and its recent verdict on control over services to claim the LG has to act as per the aid and advice Government.

The senior lawyer contended the LG should have taken back the nominations by now. "There are 12 zones, 12 ward committees and aldermen can be appointed to any committee...

For the first time in the last 30 years, the LG has directly appointed members in the MCD and earlier it was always based on aid and advice (of the Government)," Singhvi had said in this arguments.

Govt to revoke Nicholson statue's national monument status

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ **NEW DELHI**

In a dramatic twist, the Government has launched the process to strip the Nicholson Statue of its status as a Monument of National Importance, revealing a strik-ing lapse in historical oversight. The statue, once proudly standing at Kashmiri Gate in the national Capital to honor John Nicholson-a British officer notorious for his role in the 1857 Mutiny-was clandestinely shipped to Northern Ireland in 1958. Despite its absence for so

monuments until now. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has however moved to issue a draft notification proposing the removal of the statue from its "whereas, the Central survey of the statue from its "whereas, the contral survey of the statue from its "whereas, the contral survey of the statue from its "whereas, the contral survey of the statue from its "whereas, the contral survey of the statue from its "whereas, the contral survey of the statue from its "whereas, the contral survey of the stat

prestigious list. Nicholson, who led the

Delhi during the mutiny, had been celebrated for his controversial role. However, official stance now acknowledges the statue's nonexistence at its original location. statue's removal and its absence from Kashmiri Gate necessitate its declassification as a monument national importance, many years, it remained on admitted an of India's list of significant from the ASI. admitted an official

Government is of the opinion that monument namely British forces in recapturing Nicholson Statue and its



platform, and surrounding gardens, paths and enclosure wall, outside the Kashmiri gate, Delhi, declared protected vide notification.... in 1913, in

exercise of the powers conferred by section 35 of the A n c i e n t Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (24 of 1958), the Central Government hereby gives notice of its

the Gazette of India,

Calcutta...have

ceased to be of

national

importance." "Now, therefore, in

intention to declare that the said monument has ceased to be of national importance for the purposes of said

The draft notification opens a 60-day window for public objections, inviting feedback to the Director General of ASI. What is more intriguing

shocking oversight.
The CAG highlighted that several monuments, including Nicholson's, were listed as important despite being missing.
The report disclosed that, out

of 1,655 protected sites, 92 were unaccounted for, underscoring a severe lapse in the ASI's records.

The CAG report also said that on more than one occasion the culture Minister has told Parliament that 35 of its monuments have gone missing.

When the CAG checked about 1,655 protected monuments and sitescomprising 45 per cent of the total-they found monuments missing.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

On the brink of war

War clouds hover over West Asia as Iran-backed militias attack Israel following the assassination of a Hamas leader

s Iran-backed militias engage in conflict with Israel, a protracted war looms large over West Asia, one of the world's prominent flashpoints. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has long been a focal point of West Asian tensions, involving numerous state and non-state actors. Recently, the situation has dramatically escalated following the assassination of a senior Hamas leader, which has ignited a series of violent responses and counter-responses. The assassination of the Hamas leader, who orchestrated militant operations against Israel, was carried out in a covert operation attributed to Israeli forces. Hamas vowed retaliation, and their pledge quickly materialised in a barrage of rockets targeting civilian areas, prompting Israel to activate its Iron Dome missile defence system. The airstrikes and rocket attacks have resulted in significant casualties and damage on both sides. Compounding the situation, Iran-backed militias, primarily from Lebanon and Syria, entered the fray. Hezbollah, a powerful Shia militant group based in Lebanon



and backed by Iran, launched a series of rocket attacks into northern Israel. Similar militias in Syria have also increased their operations, targeting Israeli military positions and border areas. These militias have a longstanding alliance with Hamas and other Palestinian factions, often receiving financial, logistical, and military support from Iran. The current escalation can be seen as an extension of Iran's broader strategy to challenge Israeli military dominance.

As a response, Israel has intensified its military operations. Airstrikes on Gaza have become more frequent and devastating, targeting not only military installations but also civil infrastructure. Northern Israel has also

seen a ramp-up in military presence. The war's escalation has had dire humanitarian consequences. Civilian casualties are mounting, and the already dire conditions in Gaza are worsening. Indeed, the situation in West Asia is very volatile and a full-on war can break out anytime which would engulf the whole region. It is not the time to assess who is right and who is not, but to deescalate the tensions, and all must show restraint. It is high time the UN intervenes and the Security Council swings into action to ask all concerns to show restrain. If it is unable to stop the war, the UN would lose its standing and become irrelevant in the present world order. The international community must intervene to convince the two sides to come to the negotiation table. The United States has expressed support for Israel's right to defend itself while also urging caution to avoid a full-scale war. European nations have echoed these sentiments, calling for an immediate ceasefire and resumption of peace talks. The West must take a definitive stand against the war. On the other hand, Iran has condemned the assassination and justified the militias' responses as legitimate defence against Israeli aggression. Diplomatic efforts are urgently needed to deescalate the situation and prevent further loss of life and destruction. The world must put its act together before it is too late.



A woman feeds a goat in her partially submerged house after heavy rains in East Bardhaman

The unyielding spirit of military families



BHOPINDER SINGH

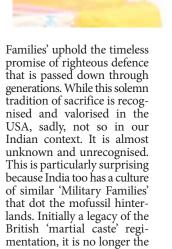
Military service comes with 'unlimited liability,' a reality underscored by the valour and ultimate sacrifices of the young soldiers who gave their lives for the country

ecent martyrdom of four Indian Army personnel i.e., Capt. Brijesh Thapa, Naik Rajesh, Sepoy Brijendra and Sepoy Ajay of the 10th Rashtriya Rifles (Rajput Regiment) are a continuing reminder of the price that a few pay for the entire country. Seemingly service in the Army does not come with a 'Limited Liability' like in a civilian organisation, but with 'Unlimited Liability'. Hardly had the news of Captain Abhimanyu's daredevilry played out in public discourse, earning him the Kirti Chakra, and the news of this Doda operation broke.

Parallels in both cases are significant, even as one was a combat mission, and the other, a rescue mission. The real fire of the Indian Army is not necessarily in its weaponry, training, doctrines, senior leadership etc., but in the proverbial 'junior leadership' of its Young Officers and of Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) who ensure that the institution's youthful iron is tempered into steel. Both Capt. Thapa and Capt. Abhimanyu was from that 'junior leadership' fount, one a combatant and the other a doctor, but warriors in their ways. Both had heeded that unsaid call of military leadership to 'lead from the front'. Officers of other militaries tend to lead relatively more entitled and safer lives, which manifests in the Indian Army having the highest 'Officer-to-Soldier fatality ratio.

This young leadership does not take the backseat of 'ordering' but walks first in harm's way, as this is what Capt. Thapa did, as did Capt. Abhimanyu, who answered his conscience to attempt to save his comrade-in-arms from a fire incident. Such stories are the norm in the Indian Army, but not so, in other militaries of the world. Interestingly, both belong to what is proudly called the 'Military Families', an age-old concept that has survived the icissitudes and institutional diminishments of time, which would logically expect the end of this noble tradition.

In the USA, the concept of multigenerational soldiers, who fight its bloody wars is a revered concept. Folks within these 'Military



reserve of any specific societal

group, anymore. The rarefied air within these 'Military Families' still resonates with much-forgotten values like honour, valour, sacrifice, tradition et al, despite many far more compelling reasons to walk a safer and more financially-materially gratifying path. Both Capt. Brijesh Thapa and Capt. Abhimanyu was professionally qualified (the former got through engineering, and the latter, both engineering and medicine) to venture into the lucrative civilian world - vet. both opted for the 'Uniform', knowing what it entailed. They followed the militaristic footsteps of their respective fathers. Gut-wrenching images of Capt Thapa's parents, Col BK Thapa and his wife receiving their



LEADERSHIP DOES NOT TAKE THE **BACKSEAT OF** 'ORDERING' BUT WALKS FIRST IN HARM'S WAY, AS THIS IS WHAT CAPT. THAPA DID, AS DID CAPT. ABHIMANYU, WHO ANSWERED HIS CONSCIENCE TO ATTEMPT TO SAVE HIS COMRADE-IN-ARMS FROM A FIRE INCIDENT

dignity, pride and unbearable pain all wrapped in control-lable emotions. Col Thapa's moving words about his gal-lant son, "He always wanted to join the Army and would sometimes wear my uniform, saying one day he would own one", added incalculably to his family legacy, and on to the plans, and to the nation. Capt. Thapa stood tall till the very end as the third generation in service to India. Similarly, both Sepoy Ajay (third-generation soldier) and Sepoy Brijendra were from the traditional soldiering areas of Jhunjhunu District, again from 'Military Families'.

The power of the Indian Army is a testament to these 'Military Families' who have defended the territorial integrity of the nation, for generations. One such typical family is of Mata Deen Singh who joined the Bengal Native Infantry in the early 1890's. He was later declared missing

and believed killed in NWFP in 1901. Later four more generations of his served with much aplomb and distinction in the fiery Rajput Regiment. Befittingly, this family claims that there hasn't been a war that India has fought, where a member of the family has not fought! For many in the coun-

son's coffin was a modicum of try, wars and insurgencies are either far removed or distant abstractions but for these families, the price to keep it 'distant' is personal, real, and never cheap. Col Thapa led the stirring fist-pumped salutation of Bharat Mata Ki Jai with his son wrapped in a Tiranga. People in such 'Military

Families' are cut from a different cloth, and the nation can never repay its gratitude to them, ever. Sadly, those in power who are responsible for much of the prevailing mess have very little skin in the game and only play politics ad nauseum. For them, each tragedy is still tradeable to score a partisan point. Beyond condescending exhortations and appropriations, the politicians (since independence, without any exception) have prioritised financials - what with 'austerity' measures, OROP, Agniveer (with pension bill concerns) et all, but always without adequately thinking about how much it would actually 'cost' to send soldiers in harm's way. The 'Military Families' have persisted despite all this.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

Green logistics is an environmental imperative



Minimising empty return trips through triangulation technology reduces carbon footprint and also underscores the economic benefits of green logistics

reen freight transport is an important facet of sustainable logistics and enables the reduction of environmental damage and pollution caused by shipping and transportation. Central to enhancing economic efficiency in this domain is the optimization of container movements which can be achieved through innovative strategies such as triangulation solu-

The need for green freight transport sustainable logistics is crucial to mitigating the adverse environmental impacts of freight transport. Traditional logistics methods often result in significant greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degrada-

By adopting cleaner vehicles, optimising routes, and using eco-friendly fuels, companies can not only reduce their carbon footprint but also enhance their operational efficiency. The business benefits of green logistics are manifold. Companies that invest in sustainable practices can realise substantial savings on fuel costs and improve their corporate reputation. These practices also appeal to

a growing base of environmentally conscious con-

sumers, ensuring loyalty and enhancing brand image. Therefore, the shift towards greener logistics is both an environmental imperative and a strategic business deci-Optimising container move-

ments: Effective container movement is essential for the economic efficiency of green freight transport. Inefficient container handling can lead to increased fuel consumption, higher operational costs, and elevated emissions. Optimizing these movements involves ensuring that containers are fully utilised and that their transport routes are as direct as possible.

Triangulation solutions: It optimises container movements. This method involves coordinating the movement

of containers in a way that 30%. minimises empty return trips. Instead of returning an empty container to its point of origin, triangulation arranges for it to be loaded with cargo headed to a new destination, thus creating a triangular route. Using advanced data analytics, companies can identify routes where triangulation is possible. This involves analysing shipping patterns, cargo availability, and potential destinations. Matching cargo with con-

tainers: After the potential routes are identified, the next step is to match available cargo with containers that would otherwise return

Implementation and monitoring: After matching cargo with containers, the triangulated routes are implemented. Continuous monitoring ensures that the routes remain efficient and adjustments can be made as needed. By minimizing the distance containers travel empty, triangulation significantly reduces fuel consumption and emissions. A study by the European Commission found that opti-

mizing container movements

could cut emissions by up to

Cost savings: Lower fuel consumption directly translates into cost savings for logistics companies. Additionally, more efficient container usage

al container purchases and Enhanced operational efficiency: Triangulation streamlines operations, leading to better utilization of assets and resources. This enhances the overall efficiency of the

supply chain.

reduces the need for addition-

Advanced data analytics and machine learning algorithms can process vast amounts of data to identify optimal routes and cargo matches. Internet of Things (IoT) devices provide real-time tracking and monitoring of container movements, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of triangulated routes. For instance, AI can optimize routing in real time. IoT devices can monitor and manage energy use across operations. Governments can support these efforts by enacting policies and incentives that encourage sustainable ship-

(The writer is founder & CEO, MatchLog; views are personal)

ILL TREATMENT OF ELDERLY

Madam — There are two elements which confirm the government's loyalty and passion towards their people and growth. One the education of children and next comes the health of the elders. The very budget highlights the most dissatisfied segment of elders who are continuously penalized after the GST by levying 18% as tax on health policies. It was 15% prior to GST implementation. Even the heat of it has been felt by the colleague of the Finance Minister, Nitin Gadkari whose plea comes by asking for withdrawal of GST on life and health insurance premiums.

There are many who by their fear either avoid taking up the insurance cover or give up when it comes to renewal by disappointing increase in tax rates. When something is being charged extra there needs to be a fair play by servicing the clients. Not only is the service absent and also a survey indicates that 43% of respondents who filed a claim in the last three years are struggling to get their claim settled. Even when the Minister for Road Transport feels this as a bigger toll levied by his colleague FM, the public outcry is obvious by this exorbitant collection by the government.

AP Thirvadi | Chennai

SC'S LANDMARK JUDGEMENT Madam— The apex court has delivered a landmark judgement in case of reservations. The seven judge bench has clarified that the state governments can classify the list of scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes in to different groups to accord preferential treatment in applying quota. Till now some tribes are being considered as primitive tribal groups and are being given special financial assistance and attention by the Government, but such arrangement is not in case of education and employment. Now the judgement has made it is no place that the long arm of Israel possible to extend such preference in the won't reach' is keen on escalating the war

Stop anthropogenic disaster

THE EDITO



he devastating flood and landslides conditions of Kerala's Wayanad district, which have shocked the entire nation with the tragic count of surmounting death tolls and founding of body parts, has once again raised the heated debate of the Urban Flooding and manmade disasters. Kerala's vulnerability to these natural and anthropogenic disasters had lead to multifold trouble for the local residents. The climate change and Heavy rainfall due to uncertain changes in the Arabian ocean cause unnecessary climatic harassment for

ed, neatly build up with skyscrapers with adjusted greenery for pleasing eyes. But anthropogenic alterations are always hazardous for the environment and hard to heal and cherish naturally. The scenario of Kerala is nothing less than we had already seen in Uttrakhand. Repeated landslides, flashfloods have caused immense hardships for the local resident. Making strategies, policies and claims will not

the people. There is no doubt to the fact that Urban

environment is purely concrete, well construct-

serve the purpose, if have to be attentive in our actions for healing the climate. Let's stop giving anthropogenic scars to our environment surrounding, our actions for healing climate will serve the cause. The incidence of Wayanad is a lesson for all of us, and we have to take combined responsibility for improve our climate by taking care of its well-being.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

sation should not be made or perceived to be made on political reasons.

DVG Sankaro Rao | Vizianagaram

act with care. The identification of

groups should be based on unchallenge-

able evidence and reason. The categori-

ISRAEL ESCALATING CONFLICT

Madam — It is clear from the assassinations of Hamas' top leaders Ismail Haniyeh and Mohammed Deif and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr against the backdrop of its genocidal war on Gaza that Israel is a law unto itself and crosses red lines at will and with impunity. The series of extraterritorial assassinations have dashed our hopes of a long overdue ceasefire deal in Gaza and

fuelled fears of a wider war. The nub of the matter is that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who oversees the assassinations and threatens the 'enemy powers' that 'there reservations for education and beyond Gaza to prolong his political jobs. Anyway the states have the onus to career. Clearly, US' unconditional sup-

port and its amenability to being dragged into the war that emboldened Israel to conduct itself in gross violation of international laws and flagrant disregard of human life and increase the risk of a

broader war. It would be sheer folly if Israel deludes itself into thinking that its savage acts that are likely to result in a full-scale regional war constitute 'deterrence' and take it nearer to 'total victory', to use Netanyahu's phrase. Israel must end its illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, as told by the International Court of Justice, for the 'axis of resistance' to lose its relevance. The international community must apply enough pressure on Israel to stop the war on Gaza and its attacks elsewhere in 'the Middle East' inviting possible counterattacks and agree to a just peace deal and pull the egion back from the brink of a fullwn armed conflict.

G David Milton | Kanniyakumari

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FIRST COLUMN

A HOLISTIC APPROACH FOR **HEALING A TROUBLED MIND**

Through spiritual practices and positive affirmations, one can find the peace



RAVI VALLURI

ecently I received a message on my cell, "I am the son of Lord Krishna, I keep visiting Tirumala, yet I take drugs. Why do I suffer? Kindly help me!"My response was, "Meet a psychiatrist, undergo counselling, and undertake a holistic programme of wellness."But the caller remained unsatisfied and kept pestering me with a flurry of such messages. This person was positively in a state of misery and fear. His crutch and lifeboat were Lord Krishna. The mind of the caller was both fragmented and deeply disturbed. He appeared to be in a state of imbalance Patanjali Yoga Sutras have identified the following as root causes of miseries in life—Avidya, Asmita, Raga, Dwesha and Abhinivesha.1) Avidya—This is nothing but a lack of knowledge or ignorance.

Everything around us keeps changing constantly. It could be our cells, blood, stomach linings, and hair to name some. But we are oblivious to the change. 2) Asmita—This is our intellect and our self. We get stubbornly stuck to our opinions. The caller was fixated on the idea that he was the child of Lord Krishna and stayed put at Tirumala. Yet he was partaking in drugs. 3) Raga—This is nothing but craving. Normally craving arises out of certain pleasurable experiences

It has a deep imprint on the mind. But such impressions only aggravate our wants and misery. 4) Dwesha—Is nothing but hatred. Hatred is antithetical to craving. Though it arises out of craving, the premise is an unpleasant experience. This could be because of certain trag-



ic moments in the past or unrealistic expectations which do not materialise.5) Abhivivesha—This is fear of the unknown. An emotion that affects all of us. Only a clairvoyant sage through penance and austerity overcomes this barrier. The caller proclaiming to be the son of Lord Krishna was in obvious pain and agony. He could experience ecstasy only through scientific help that is, consulting a psychiatrist, taking proper medication and a wellness programme.

The troubled individual's mind could have undergone say the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living or Vipassana to combat fear. But he remained an escapist by not attending either. This is how a fragmented and escapist mind reacts. The caller continued to escape and obviate the inevitable. It keeps hunting for excuses, and alternatives. Invariably the cloak of negativity and ignorance shrouds the mind from combating the problem. Exercising all love, caution, and care, I asked him to chant " Om Namah Shivay", 108 times thrice a day to purge his mind of all negative thoughts and by making positive affirmations through writing "I am happy, healthy and peaceful".

This task was also to be done thrice daily 108 times, and the tapas was to be continued for 41 days. In case a day is missed for some reason, repeat the process for 41 days. Such signals to the mind are extremely useful and powerful. The mind then responds to positivity and discards negative feelings and emotions. He has not contacted me thus far. Presumably, he has embarked on the journey of tapas and hopefully has found support and a beacon of light in the dark tunnel. His Ishta Devata, Lord Krishna wielded Sudarshan Chakra wading through negativity and impurity. Sudarshan Kriya, Pranayama, Yoga and Meditation will certainly swathe through the cobwebs of his troubled mind and increase his Prana, Chi, or energy to obliterate the negativity. I am waiting for the 41 days to end so that he can be happy, healthy, and peaceful and lead a purposeful life.

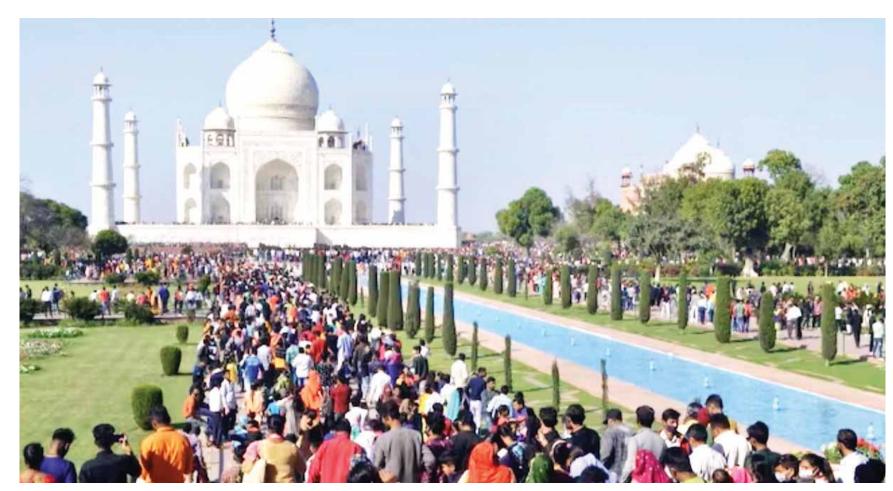
(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

The global crisis of over-tourism



ARCHANA DATTA

Around the world, over-tourism is emerging as a big problem. The overwhelming influx of tourists causes significant hardships for local residents and destinations



he growing problem of overtourism across the globe!Archna DattaRecently, tourism thousands of residents of Barcelona in Spain, protested against tourism, urging tourists to 'go home', waving placards and squirting water guns at outdoor diners, averring that tourists increased prices and put pressure on public services in Spain's most visited city. Not, only Barcelona alone, Venice also introduced a five euro entrance fee to dissuade day-trippers from crowding into the city's limited space and public resources.

Japan, too, has put up a giant screen to block views of Mount Fuji to discourage tourists from gatherings at the iconic spot. Closer home, in Chikamaguluru, Karnataka, police resorted to a special drive at tourist destinations to curb the unruly behaviour of visiting tourists. Now, people have been travelling for centuries, and have traditionally been welcomed to visit countries. While, in India, the spirit of 'atithi devo bhava', treating guests as Gods, prevailed. Over the years, travel as tourism, has turned into one of the most important economic sectors. The ease in global air connectivity and people's increasing craze for exotic visits, adventure and leisure in the internet-connected world, created an unprecedented rise ACCOMMODATION in the number of tourists, which, eventually, evoked a 'tourist phobia', an aversion and social rejection among the locals, as happened in Spain, and else-

In 2019, when, 1.5 billion international tourist arrivals were recorded, a hike of 4% from the previous year, the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) called for managing such a growth of tourists responsibly to best seize the opportunities that tourism can generate for com-



ONE TOURIST PRODUCES FROM 1 TO 12 KG OF SOLID WASTE PER DAY WHEN VISITING A NEW PLACE. DEPENDING ON FACTORS LIKE LOCATION, THE TYPE OF , PERSONAL PREFERENCES, AND THE CHARACTER OF THE STAY

munities around the world'. While, tourism has been described as 'the excessive growth of visitors in areas where residents suffer negative consequences such as permanent changes to their lifestyles, denial of access to civic amenities and damages in their general wellbeing (Milano et al., 2019). It has a social dimension too that 'impairs the place-person interre-

lationships and induces changes in residents' attitudes towards tourism' (Gössling et al., 2020). Over tourism, also makes urban ife 'more tense and stressful' and for women 'a concern for safety in public space'. (Maja Hristov, Nebojša Stefanovic, Nataša Danilovic Hristic, Serbia, 2021). However, the present-day discourses predominantly veer around the issue of sustainability (Gowreesunkar & Thanh, 2020), as tourist hotspots are mostly located in sensitive ecosys-

Water, a precious natural resource, gets seriously misused by the tourism sector affecting the water cycle of the area. In Zanzibar, an average household consumes a little over 93 litres of water per day, while, the average consumption per room in a guesthouse is 686 litres, 7 times more, which in a luxurious 5-star hotel room, rises to 3,000+ litres of water per day. Spain, an important producer of vegetables and fruits for Europe, struggles over water utilisation in two competing economic sectors, tourism and agriculture(Water Equity in

Tourism, 2012). While, a 2022 study said that in case of water scarcity, women are the most affected ones, as it worsens their daily life tasks.

One tourist produces from 1 to 12 kg of solid waste per day when visiting a new place, depending on factors like location, the type of accommodation, personal preferences, and the character of the stay. If the present trend continues, there will be an increase of 251 per cent in solid waste production because of tourism by 2050 (UNEP). Cruise tourism as an antidote, was mootships are among the top polluters. and their raw sewage affects the

Sewage from Mexico's tourism industry threatens the Caribbean coast, and the Mesoamerican Reef has already lost 80 per cent of corals to pollution. In 2023, Santorini Island in Greece, which has a population of fifteen thousand, received around 800 cruise ships, which caused a layer of pollution around the caldera. Notwithstanding, tourism is an economic powerhouse. The Travel & Tourism sector (T&T) witnessed a boom in 2019, accounting for 10.5% of all jobs (334 million), and 10.4% of global GDP (US\$ 10.3 trillion).

In India, in 2019, the T&T sector was worth about \$194.3 billion, added 6.8% to the GDP and employed 40 million people. By 2033, the tourism industry is slated to represent 11.6% of the global economy. While, women comprise 54% of the workforce, but, they are mostly in lower-

skilled, lower-paid and often in informal employment (UNWTO). Now, some cities have gone for new or revised taxation, fines, etc, to de-market

However, tourism de-growth cannot be considered a remedy, which can push tourism-dependent local economies into crisis, as happened in Myanmar's temple city, Bagan, where people suffer to make ends meet for want of visitors, as the country is deep into civil wars. While, regenerative ed in 1987 in the Brundtland Report, which set the tone for 'building back better', going beyond the concept of 'not damaging the environment'.

The UN called for a holistic understanding of living systems in the entire tourism ecosystem, as everything is inter-connected, the government, private sector, voluntary sector, and the communities'.

The tourism industries should also operate in a new way by discarding the 'make-use and dispose' linear extractive model and fit themselves into a circular economy model of 'reuse/no waste', the world body urged. Isn't it high time for the burgeoning tourism sector to follow the path of regeneration, and herald an era of intergenerational equity, without compromising the

planet for future generations?
(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan, All India

Jammu and Kashmir post-Article 370: Tackling terrorism and ensuring integration

Recent terrorist attacks in Jammu highlight the necessity for a having deeper emotional connect with the people and addressing their concerns

his is a 'Stop Press' moment for Jammu and Kashmir after the significant and benefiting legislation of the abrogation of Article 370 - a step towards demystifying and demolishing the 'special sta-tus' of Jammu and Kashmir which was a hydra-headed invitation to the West to make a spectacle of India's extreme problems of terrorism as it was and is being transported from Pakistanand India's Foreign Minister Dr. Jai Shankar has often enlightened us on our Article 370- will not inte-Nation's self-interest. I say the 'Stop Press' moment because there has been a spike in terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, espe- Being and Soul of Jammu



PRATIBHA CHOPRA

local support for Pakistan terrorists. So what does the Stop Press' moment signify? In this 'stop press' moment, we need to dig deep - the abrogation of grate into the body-politic on its own – it has to be integrated as a living experience to attain validation in the

of Jammu and Kashmir is ' Indians' where Indians from the rest of the country also become an active

This calls for a few hardcore resolute living and active steps- the foremost being understanding the minds of the people of Jammu and Washmire a let has been Kashmir – a lot has been done - but we need to engage with this relentlessly and break the ice to pierce their 'special status', 'isolation' and 'exclusivity' which has not done them any good except for dragging them into the mindless narrative of asking for 'autonomy' and realizing it the hard way that Pakistan has always worked out of bounds, and cially in Jammu and has and Kashmir and its people. still does so, to 'keep' them brought under the lens the The definition of the people in a perpetual zone of con-

flict. This brings us to a preparation for working towards democratic strengthening and consolidation of institutional structures in consonance with the reality of Jammu and Kashmir as the Government of India wants to see it after the abrogation of Article 370. Needless to say, all those developmental questions that are normally addressed in any State or Union Territory of India need to be addressed, foremost being economic egalitarianism.

The Congress Party must keep its mouth shut and let the present govt. led by the Prime Minister Modi do its work in Jammu and Kashmir with the infrastructure and development, as



Gadkari would have it. The Congress has through the years mutilated all the Federal aspects of the Constitution of India to politically force Centralised hegemony.

The present Govt. does not intend to treat Kashmir as a communal cauldron and a battleground for Hindutva that the Muslim majority cannot be ignored if we are

Union Minister Nitin and rightly so, therefore it is building infrastructure there. The whole idea of the abrogation of Art. 370 would

bear fruit if religious and ethnic exclusiveness were not exploited negatively but used towards international trade and commerce in the best cultural parlance. In the same breath I would say

could suggest itself to confine its international comfine its international commitments to religious brotherhood and political proximities within the respectful questioning bounds and press freedom, this press freedom not being an absolute right but subject to the upholding of the Sovereignty and Integrity of India and its Dignity as envisaged in the Constitution of India. Constitution of India.

As far as the question of Kashmiriyat' is concerned, nobody is stopping or stalling this journey as long as it is within the legitimacy of the Constitutional provisions and the artistic license that it provides. And there may be questions of class and caste here that

to sound and purport real. We will never forget the Indian Army, the soldiers who never fail us in the treacherous terrains of Jammu Kashmir, Ladhak & Siachen in the said region. We give them the space in our hearts for they do not hide behind any 'political' discourses and tricks and are the first agency of the Social Contract that a Nation State is based on. Their relentless invincibility and risk-taking bravado have no given path to tread but every day is a new challenge. Let all our actions as envisioned in the above paras be a tribute to the soldiers of the Indian Army and it is on us to do our duty now and here.

(The writer is a lawyer; views are personal)

Wayanad death toll crosses 370

Sunday, the sixth day of the Slandslide and deluge in Wayanad district, turned out to be a heart-rending day as the district administration performed mass burial of eight unidentified bodies out of the 40 retrieved by the rescue team National Disaster Response Team.

Unconfirmed reports said that the death toll in Tuesday's landslide and deluge crossed 370 by Sunday though the district administration remained tight-lipped about the number of lives lost in he disaster.

It is believed that the bodies belonged to the residents of Mundakkai and Chooralmala villages that perished in the landslide. There were parts of human bodies like hands, legs etc which were accorded the status of a human body for last rites.

Nearly 60 cents of the Harrison Plantation was earmarked for the burial, since 35 bodies are yet to be identified, the district that he would undertake the administration has held back reconstruction of a higher the burial for collecting the DNA samples for future needs. The last rites of the eight unidentified bodies



were performed with allreligion prayers. The function was attended by hundreds of people from the other parts of the district and those who had lost their near and dear ones in the mishap.

The State Government announced that a new and secured township would be developed at a safe location for those who lost their houses. V Sivankutty, the education minister, declared reconstruction of a higher secondary school in Mundakkai which was washed away in the deluge. Arif Mohammed Khan, the

governor of the State, who had been to the national capital to attend the Conference Governors' convened by the President, told reporters that the Centre would do everything that is needed for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the disaster stricken Wayanad district. Governor is closely monitoring the situation in Wayanad district on an

hourly basis. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan was the first authority to reach the disaster site on Tuesday and spent a whole day supervising the rescue operations. It was taking a cue and other political leaders reached the inaccessible terrain.

Officers and engineers of the Indian Army continue scanning the region with thermal imaging radar and scanners to find out whether any more persons remain trapped in the flood affected

regions.
Two more dead bodies and remains of some persons were retrieved from the Chaliyar Puzha (River).

According to unconfirmed reports, 2250 persons have been accommodated in relief camps in Wayand and Malappuram district. Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopalan said on Sunday that funds would not be an issue for rebuilding a new Wayanad. P A Mohammed Riyaz,

minister for public works, who is the second-in command of the Kerala Government, issued a stern warning to the people asking them not to visit the mishap site till further orders. "I will not allow the promotion of disaster tourism in Wayand," said Riyaz, who is also the son-in-law of chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

BJP, JD(S) continue protest march against Mysuru site allotment scam

 $T_{JD(S), \quad on \quad Sunday}^{\text{he opposition BJP and }} \\ \text{continued their week-long}$ march from protest Bengaluru to Mysuru for the second day, against alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority site allotment scam, seeking to corner the Congress government and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The 'Mysuru Chalo padayatre' against the alleged fraudulent allotment of sites to land losers by MUDA, including to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi

and demanding his resignation -- on the second day, began at Bidadi here and is scheduled to cover a distance of 22 km to reach Kengal.

BJP State President and MLA B Y Vijayendra, JD(S) State President and Union Minister Kumaraswamy, Opposition Leader in Legislative Council Chalavadhi Narayanswamy, leader Nikhil ID(S)Kumaraswamy, several legislators, leaders and workers from both parties several

took part. A large number of workers and leaders from both parties were seen marching, shouting slogans against Siddaramaiah and the Congress government led by him, holding BJP and JD(S) flags and placards, amidst drum beats.

The stretch through which the march passed was decked up with flags of both parties, buntings and portraits of prominent leaders at several places.Kick-started Saturday at Kengeri near Bengaluru, the march on its first day covered a distance of 16 km to reach Bidadi

Addressing the gathering ahead of the march, Vijayendra said the ruling Congress, Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar are "trembling", following the opposition's protest march. "I have seen in the media that the CM and DCM are now questioning the opposition parties as we have begun the protest march, it is for the first time probably the ruling party is questioning the opposition. We are raising our voice against the corrupt Congress government, in favour of SC/STs, backward

downtrodden people," he

Alleging that the Congress after coming to power has indulged in loot, Vijayendra accused Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar of offering the looted money to the "Gandhi family" (Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi). "If we question them about the loot, they (govt) are running away from answering it. They are questioning us today." The Congress is

holding public meetings to counter the BJP-JD(S)' foot march to Mysuru, by targeting both parties and the Union government.

Kumaraswamy, in his address said, the day the Congress came to power in the state, it opened its "shop of corruption". He accused it of looting the money that was to be used for the welfare of the people of the state.

There is competition among the Ministers, they are indulging in corruption. We have accused the government with records. But, they are making false allegations the opposition against without any document or proof," he said.

Govt incorporated employee suggestions in revised Budget: Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Sunday said keeping in mind the interests of the state's employees and pensioners, the government has made provisions by incorporating their suggestions in the revised state Budget 2024-25, he said. Sharma was addressing the thanksgiving meeting on budget announcements for state employees and pensioners at the chief minister's residence on Sunday.

In a statement, he said the state government is committed to the interests of the employees and their families.

He said pensioners are a source of inspiration for society. The experience and knowledge of pensioners is an invaluable asset for the development of the state.

The chief minister said the state government has made many important announcements in this Budget for the welfare of employees and pensioners like salary discrepancy reform, increase in maximum gratuity amount, increase in pension, and improvement in medical facilities.

He said that in the state, there is a facility of pension at an increased rate for those above 75 vears of age. Now, the state government has also announced an additional 5 per cent



allowance for pensioners between 70 and 75

Also, in accordance with the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021, family pension will be available at an increased rate for 10 years in case of death of personnel while in service after April 1, 2024.

The chief Minister alleged the previous government made "tempting announcements" without Budget provision keeping only the elections in mind.

Tipra MLA urges Shah to form infiltrator identification committee

 $T_{
m Debbarma\ has\ written\ to}^{
m ipra\ Motha\ MLA\ Ranjit}$ Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking his intervention to constitute a committee to identify foreigners who have entered Tripura illegally and to deport them to their respective countries.

Debbarma alleged that a large number of Bangladeshi nationals from Chittagong hill tracts entered Tripura and are residing in areas like Chawmanu and Gandacherra in Dhalai district and Karbook and Silcherri in Gumati district - all under Tribal Tripura Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) area and are a threat to the country's security.

"A large number of foreigners are entering Indian territory taking advantage of the weak security system in the Indo-



Bangla border. Infiltration has increased in the last few months", he wrote in the letter to Shah on Saturday.

"There are reports that Rohingyas have entered Indian territory using Tripura and are a threat to the country's security," the Tipra Motha MLA said.

Debbarma urged the Union power committee truck on the Delhi-Mumbai

involving civil, police and officers iudicial identification and foreigners who have illegally entered Tripura and push them back to their countries.

Road crash in Rajasthan leaves four dead Jaipur, Aug 4 (PTI) Four members of a family were killed and five others injured Home Minister to constitute a when their car rammed into a

Expressway in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district on Sunday, police said. The deceased had gone to

Rishikesh in Uttarakhand for a religious programme where a woman of the family died. After cremation, the family members were returning to Vikramgarh-Alot in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district when the accident occurred. Prima facie, the car driver dozed off due to which the car rammed into a truck moving ahead near Bhagwatgarh-Trilokpura Banas river falling under Surwal police station, Deputy Superintendent of Police Hemendra Kumar said. The bodies of the deceased and the injured were taken to a hospital of Sawai Madhopur by an ambulance.

The deceased were identified as Rajan (22), his sister Monica (24), Rekha (42) and her mother Dhapu Prajapat



GRP, RPF need valid tickets for train travel, rules tribunal

PTI ■ Ahmedabad

GRP and RPF personnel authority or purchase a ticket for train travel and carrying only the ID card is not enough, the Railway Claims Tribunal ruled dismissing the plea for compensation filed by a constable who claimed to be on official duty when he fell off a train

The Ahmedabad bench of

the tribunal also underlined the "negligent attitude of Railway" regarding a circular on issuing duty card passes to Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel required to travel frequently. GRP constable Rajesh Bagul had moved the tribunal seeking Rs 8 lakh compensation with interest from Railway claiming he was on official duty on the day of the accident. Bagul went to Surat railway police station for official duty on November 13, 2019.

He was returning from Surat to Bharuch on the Surat-Jamnagar intercity train when he fell off at Palej station, causing serious injuries to his left leg, leading to its amputation above the knee, as per his petition. Tribunal Member (Judicial)

Vinay Goel dismissed the petition noting Bagul had failed to provide any valid travel authority to prove his official travel claims.

Accident

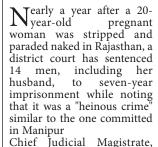
Road crash in Rajasthan leaves four dead

PTI ■ JAIPUR

 $F^{our\ members\ of\ a\ family}_{were\ killed\ and\ five\ others}$ injured when their car rammed into a truck on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district on Sunday, police said.

The deceased had gone to Rishikesh in Uttarakhand for a religious programme where a woman of the family died. After cremation, the family members were returning to Vikramgarh-Alot in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district when the accident occurred. "Prima facie, the car driver dozed off due to which the car rammed into a truck moving ahead near Bhagwatgarh-Trilokpura Banas river falling under Surwal police station," Deputy Superintendent of Police Hemendra Kumar said.The bodies of the deceased and the injured were taken to a hospital of Sawai Madhopur by an ambulance.The deceased were identified as Rajan (22), his sister Monica (24), Rekha (42) and her mother Dhapu Prajapat (60).

Court sentences 17 people for | Coaching centres in basements stripping woman in Rajasthan | will be sealed: Patna DM



Pratapgarh, Ramkanya Soni on Saturday also sentenced three women involved in the five-year to imprisonment, Special Public Prosecutor in the case, Manish Nagar said. While observing that women

are revered in the country as to the women. Strict steps are goddesses and that the necessary to curb crime

"There is no one in the hospital to take care of the

injured children. Doctors

don't turn up here for months,

and if they do, they arrive at

11am and leave by 3pm. A single doctor runs this PHC,"

the parent claimed. Another

video showed a person claiming that some children

would have been alive had



scriptures also mention honouring women, he said violence and atrocities are continuing on women in 'kalyug' (depraved and final age of Hindu world cycle).
"It was a serious crime

committed against the woman by the accused. Similar heinous crime was committed in Manipur. Such crimes cause emotional hurt

doctors been available, and

sought the suspension of

health and civic authorities of

the area for the tragedy. Local

BJP MLA and former state

minister Gopal Bhargava told

reporters some of the

deceased were from one-child

families, highlighting the

intensity of the pain the event has brought to the area and its residents. These children got

against women then only crime will reduce," the judge said in the order. He was apparently referring to two women being paraded naked in strife-torn Manipur

last vear. Besides the victim's husband Kanha Meena, the court sentenced Khetia Meena, Motiya alias Motilal Meena, Punia Meena, Kesra alias

Kesrimal Meena, Suraj Meena, Pintu Meena, Nathulal Meena, Manaram alias Veniya Meena, Netia Meena, Rupa Meena, Gautam Ramlal Meena, Meena. Ramesh Meena to seven-year imprisonment.

Three women --Indra Meena, Mirki Meena and Jhumli Meena -- were sentenced to five-year imprisonment.

crushed under the tent and

the debris from the wall,

Bhargava pointed out. Collector Deepak Arya said two children died on the spot,

seven

succumbed on the way to

hospital or on reaching there.

Two injured children were

admitted in the district hospital and are out of danger,

Arya added. The deceased

others

while

Patna

The Patna district administration on Sunday said that any coaching centre found to be running from the basement of a building in the district will be sealed forthwith.

Patna District Magistrate (DM) Chandrashekhar Singh, who has launched an inspection drive ever since three civil servant aspirants died in an institute in Delhi, said that so far no coaching centre here was found to be running from the basement. "Officials of the district administration have been given clear instructions to immediately seal those coaching institutes which are running from the basement. This is simply a violation of

have been identified as Dhruv

Yadav (12), Nitesh Patel (13),

Ashutosh Prajapati (15), Prince Sahu (12), Parv Vishwakarma (10), Divyansh

Sahu (12), Dev Sahu (12), Vansh Lodhi (10) and Hemant

(10), local officials said. Chief

Minister Mohan Yadav has

assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to

the kin of the deceased.

financial

announced



so far district officials, who are conducting the inspection of coaching centres, have not found even a single institute in the state capital which is running from the basement," the DM told PTI on Sunday. Patna The administration has given a month to coaching institutes to fully comply with the rules. They must obtain mandatory

the existing norms of running a coaching institute. However,

district

registration to run coaching centres in the district. Strict action will be taken against those centres who fail to comply with the existing provisions after a month, the DM said. "The district administration has so far (in the last six days)

received applications from around 1,100 coaching centres in Patna for registration/renewal. Their applications are under process. The district administration has also decided to launch an online system of single Window Clearance' for all mandatory clearances/permissions to coaching institutes in the districtA portal will be launched for the purpose within a few days," said the

Task force to clear encroachments, illegal resorts in forests, western ghats

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Sunday said the state government has constituted a forests and western ghats encroachment clearance task force' to clear illegal resorts, home stays and all forest encroachments in the entire ghat regions of the state, including the western ghats, which covers 10 districts. This task force has been formed under the leadership

of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, and it will carry out forest encroachment clearance clearance operations in western ghats and other ghat areas from

tomorrow itself, the Minister



said in a statement. Khandre had on Friday directed the forest department's additional chief secretary to issue orders for the removal of all forest encroachments that have sprung up after 2015 in the western ghats region, and to submit an action taken report in a

landslides at Wayanad in neighbouring Kerala and Shirur in Uttara Kannada district, resulting in loss of lives, Khandre said hills that existed for thousands of years have disappeared, landslides are continuously occurring in the western ghats region of the state including Shiradi Ghat, Charmadi Ghat. He said, "if we do not wake up now, the next generation will not forgive us.

The Minister said clear instructions have been given to carry out clearance operations in all the cases where the 64A (of the Karnataka Forest Act) process has been completed with regards to the month's time. Pointing to encroachment in the forest terrible tragedies caused by in the Ghat areas after 2015. encroachment in the forests

IMD issues red alert for Rajasthan...

Wall collapse kills 9 kids...

From Page 1

From Page 1

IMD scientist, Dr Naresh Kumar said, "Monsoon is in its active phase. There is a deep depression in North East MP. There is low pressure in Southwest Rajasthan. We expect extremely heavy rainfall in western Madhya Pradesh, eastern Rajasthan, Gujarat, Konkan region, Goa and Central Maharashtra for which we have also issued a red alert.

There will be no rain in Delhi-NCR in the next two days." He further said that in the coming days, heavy rainfall is expected in Kerala, Coastal

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. "Heavy rainfall is expected in Kerala, Coastal Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in coming days. In north-eastern states, heavy rainfall is expected. When the monsoon trough comes to its near position, light to moderate

rainfall is expected in Delhi," he added. As per IMD, the monsoon

trough at mean sea level now passes through Bikaner, Jaipur, Satna, the Centre of Depression over north Jharkhand and the neighbourhood. Bankura, Canning, then southeastwards to the northeast Bay of Bengal. The weather department has predicted isolated heavy rains over Jammu-Kashmir until August 5 while Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan will face heavy rains until August 10. Similarly, Punjab has been predicted to witness heavy rains on August 4 and 7th. In North East India, very heavy

rains are very likely over Assam, and Meghalaya on August 6th and 7th and Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on August 5th.

Strikes on Gaza kill 18; two dead in Tel Aviv

Israeli strikes killed 18 people in Gaza early on Sunday, including four Palestinians in a tent camp inside a hospital complex, while a stabbing attack by a Palestinian killed two people in a Tel Aviv sub-urb. Tensions have soared following nearly 10 months of war in Gaza and the killing last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran. Iran and its allies have blamed Israel and threatened retaliation, raising fears of an even more destructive regional war.

"The state of Israel is in a multifront war," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a Cabinet meeting, and said the country was ready for any scenario in defence or attack. Jordan's foreign minister was making a rare trip to Iran as the United States and its Arab allies try to prevent a wider conflict. Already, Hamas says it has begun discussions on choosing a new leader. The stabbing attack in Tel Aviv



Palestinians react to fire from an Israeli strike that hit a tent area in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al Balah Gaza Strip, on Sunday

killed a woman in her 70s and an 80-year-old man, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service and a nearby hospital, and two other men were wounded. The police said the attack was carried out by a

Palestinian militant, who was "neutralised." In Gaza, an Israeli strike hit a tent camp for thousands of displaced Palestinians in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Martyrs

Hospital, killing four people,

including one woman, and injuring others, Gaza's Health Ministry said. An Associated Press journalist filmed men rushing to the scene to retrieve bodies while trying to extinguish the fire.

geted a Palestinian militant in the strike, which it said caused secondary explosions, "indicating the presence of weaponry in the area."

The hospital in Deir al-Balah is the main medical facility operating in central Gaza as many others in the territory no longer others in the territory no longer function. A separate strike on a home near Deir al-Balah killed a girl and her parents, according to the hospital. Another strike flattened a

house in northern Gaza, killing at least eight people, including three children, their parents and their grandmother, according to the Health Ministry. A further three people were killed in a strike on a vehicle in Gaza City, according to the Civil Defense first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government.

Palestinian militants in Gaza fired at least five projectiles at Israeli communities near the border without causing casualties or damage, the military said. An Israeli strike on Saturday at a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City killed at

least 16 people and wounded another 21, according to the Health Ministry, which announced the toll on Sunday. Israel's military, which regularly accuses Palestinian militants of sheltering in civilian areas, said it struck a Hamas command center. The war in Gaza was triggered by Hamas' October 7 attack into Israel that killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took around

250 people hostage. Israel's massive offensive in response has killed at least 39,580 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants. Heavy airstrikes and ground operations have caused widespread destruction and displaced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

Hezbollah and Israel have continued to trade fire along the Lebanon border since the war began, with the severity growing in recent months. The militant group says it's aimed at relieving pressure on fellow Iran-backed ally Hamas.

managers did not immediate-

ly respond to a request for comment. The Houthis did not

immediately claim the attack

Saturday. However, it can take

the rebels hours or even days

before they acknowledge an

The rebels have targeted more than 70 vessels by firing mis-

siles and drones in their cam-

paign that have killed four

sailors. They have seized one

vessel and sunk two in the time

since. Other missiles and

100 arrested as anti-immigrant clashes spread across UK

PTI ■ LONDON

Police forces across the UK have made at least 100 arrests as violent clashes and unrest involving anti-immigration far-right groups continued to spread over the weekend, with Prime Minister Keir Starmer offering his full support to officers to take firm action against the "extremists". Bricks being hurled, fireworks

thrown, windows of a hotel housing asylum seekers smashed, shops attacked and set on fire and several scuffles breaking out between mobs and the police were among the scenes of confrontation that played out in Liverpool, Hull, Bristol, Leeds, Blackpool, Stoke-on-Trent, Belfast, Nottingham and Manchester on Saturday. UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper warned the mobs they will "pay the price" for such "criminal disorder and violent

thuggery".
"Addressing the scenes of disorder we have seen, the Prime Minister set out that the police have our full support to take action against extremists on our streets who are attacking police officers, disrupting local businesses and attempting to sow hate by intimidating communities," Downing Street said after a high-level meeting of minis-ters convened by Starmer on

Saturday. "The Prime Minister ended by saying the right to freedom of expression and the violent disorder we have seen are two very different things. He said there is no excuse for violence of any kind and reiterated that the government backs the police to take all necessary action to keep our streets safe," the statement added.

Groups that monitor anti-Muslim incidents across the UK have said there has been an increase in reports from British Muslims expressing concerns for their safety, with many scared to visit their local mosques. "People particularly are frightened because of the

colour of their skin, and that cannot be right and that is something this government will take every action to deal with," UK Policing Minister Diana Johnson told the BBC.

"When I saw people looting some of the shops in the city centre, that's nothing to do with genuine protest or people having different opinions about immigration. That's about criminal behaviour that needs to be dealt with," she said, warning the culprits there are "sufficient prison places" for such "criminal behaviour".

Officials at the UK Ministry of Justice are said to be in discussions with the judiciary, as well as police chiefs and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for magistrates' courts to open longer hours to speedily process the expected surge in the num-ber of people in custody for

riot-related offences.
Wales-born Axel Muganwa
Rudakubana, 17, from
Lancashire, has been charged with the stabbing attack on the Taylor Swift theme children's dance workshop in Southport, north-west England, which was the first site of the unrest earlier in the week.

It was triggered after false claims spread online that the suspect, who is of Rwandan heritage, was an asylum seeker who had arrived in the UK on a small boat. Since then, misinformation has continued to spread across social media and resulted in violent demonstrations involving anti-immigrant chants by protesters in different parts of the country.

Merseyside Police in Southport publicly identified the English Defence League (EDL) as a key factor – a group that does not exist in a formal sense but its founder, Tommy Robinson, is associated with using the social media space to whip up farright sentiments. Stand Up to Racism, among the groups organising some of the counterprotests, has warned that the activities of the extremist mobs

Jordan's top envoy to make rare Iran visit

Tehran (AP): Jordan's foreign minister is expected in Iran on Sunday, as the United States and its Arab allies try to prevent a wider war after the back-toback killings of top Iran-allied militants sparked vows of

revenge against Israel.

Ayman Safadi would be the first senior Jordanian official to pay an official visit to Iran in over 20 years. Jordan is a close Western ally and helped inter-cept scores of missiles and drones fired by Iran toward Israel in April. Iran said it was retaliating for the killing of its generals in an Israeli strike in Svria.

Many fear Iran and its regional allies could launch a similar attack following the killing of a senior Hezbollah commander in an Israeli strike on Beirut last week and of Hamas' top political leader in an explosion in Tehran a day later.

Both attacks were widely blamed on Israel, which has acknowledged killing the

Hezbollah commander, Iran. Hezbollah and Hamas have vowed to avenge the killings. Safadi "will deliver a message from His Majesty King Abdullah II to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the situation in the region and bilateral relations," Jordan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Safadi is expected to meet with his counterpart, Ali Bagheri Khan, and other senior officials in Tehran later on Sunday, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported. The last time a senior Jordanian official traveled to Iran on an official visit was in 2004 when then-Prime Minister Faisal al-Fayez went to Tehran. Last week, Jordan sent a lower-ranking official to the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was also in Tehran to attend the ceremony, died in an explosion that Iranian authorities have said was caused by a short-range projectile.

Suspected missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels hits container ship

Asuspected missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a container ship travelling through the Gulf of Aden, authorities said on Sunday, likely the first assault by the group since Israeli airstrikes targeted them.

The Houthis have offered no explanation for the two-week pause in their attacks on shipping through the Red Sea corridor, which have seen similar slowdowns since the assaults began in November over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But the resumption comes after the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor, amid renewed concerns over the war breaking out into a regional conflict.

The attack on Saturday happened some 225 kilometers (140 miles) southeast of Aden in a stretch of the Gulf of Aden that has seen numerous Houthi



Smoke rises after a strike in an area in Lebanon next to the Israeli-Lebanese border at the Galilee region on Sunday

attacks previously. A security official on the vessel said a missile struck the vessel, but "no fires, water ingress or oil leaks have been observed", according to a statement from the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre, a clearinghouse for information on attacks in the Mideast. The UKMTO did not

immediately identify the vessel hit. The private security firm Ambrey also reported the attack. Details reported by the two organisations suggested the vessel targeted was the Liberian-flagged container ship Groton, which had left Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates bound for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The Groton's Greek

drones have been either intercepted by a US-led coalition in the Red Sea or splashed down before reaching their targets. The Houthis maintain that their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the United States or Britain as part of the rebels' campaign they say seeks to force an end to the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. However, many of the ships

assault.

Trump tears into Georgia's Republican governor not stopping a local district issues, he also again brought fraud in 2020 and suggested

attacked have little or no con-

 $nection \ to \ the \ war -- including$

some bound for Iran.

he regretted endorsing Kemp two years earlier. And he tied crime in Georgia's capital city to Kemp's inability to turn around what Trump portrayed as lax crime reduction efforts supported by

Harris. "Your governor ought to get off his ass and do something about it," he said.

Biden beat Trump in the state by 11,779 votes in 2020. Trump pressured Georgia's Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" enough votes to change the outcome. Trump was later indicted in Georgia for his efforts to overturn the election, but the case remains on hold while courts decide whether the Fulton County district attorney can continue

to prosecute it. Meanwhile, Kemp has proven to be the rare Republican



without sacrificing his power or popularity - and ultimately, he has expanded it. Kemp won the governor's office narrowly in 2018, after garnering Trump's endorsement. But Trump blasted him after the 2020 election when Kemp certified Biden's slate of electors, defying the thenpresident's demands to help overturn Trump's narrow loss

mer Sen. David Perdue, w spoke at Saturday's rally — but the governor trounced him on his way to defeating Democrat Stacey Abrams, a national star in her party, by 7.5 percentage points, a veritable blowout in a battleground state. Kemp will chair the Republican Governor's

against Kemp in 2022 - for-

Association for the 2026 election cycle, when he is leaving office. And he's widely known to be national Republicans' top choice to take on Democratic US Sen. Jon Ossoff in that midterm cycle. Erick Erickson, a prominent conservative host in Georgia, said of Trump, "He can't help himself."

"Donald Trump is really trying to build unity in Georgia by attacking the sitting Republican Governor whose ground game he will need to win and also that Governor's wife," Erickson wrote on X. "And if he loses, it'll be because of this stuff, not a stolen election.'

Harris rejects Trump's offer to shift presidential debate

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential Dominee Kamala Harris has rejected her Republican rival Donald Trump's offer to shift the presidential debate to the Fox News channel, media reports said on Sunday. Trump, 78, and President Joe

Biden — who was then in the race to the White House agreed in May to participate in two presidential debates. The first was in June, hosted by CNN, and the second - to be hosted by ABC News - was scheduled for September 10. Biden withdrew from the race last month, following which Vice-President Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, was declared the 2024 presidential nominee of the ruling Democratic Party after she won enough votes from Democratic delegates in a virtual roll call.

On Saturday, Trump said that he has agreed to an offer from

Vice President Harris on September 4, shifting from the original plan, CBS News report-

"I have agreed with FoxNews to debate Kamala Harris on Wednesday, September 4th. The debate was previously scheduled against Sleepy Joe Biden on ABC, but has been terminated in that Biden will no longer be a participant, and I am in litigation against ABC Network and George Slopadopoulos, thereby creating a conflict of interest," he said. Meanwhile, Harris took to X to turn down Trump's debate offer

on Fox News. "It's interesting how "any time, any place" becomes "one specific time, one specific safe space." I'll be there on September 10th, like he agreed to. I hope to see him there," Harris said.

The Harris campaign also said it will stick to the original plan for an ABC News debate.

Fox News to hold a debate with It said that "Donald Trump is running scared" hoping that Fox News will "bail him out" of the debate he had already agreed to with ABC News,

according to the report. "He needs to stop playing games and show up to the debate he already committed to on Sept. 10," the report quoted Michael Tyler, the Harris campaign communication director, as saying.

'The Vice President will be there one way or the other to take the opportunity to speak to a prime-time national audience," Tyler said, adding that the campaign is open to discussing further debates but only after the one both campaigns have already agreed to takes place. Last month, Harris challenged Trump to a debate, provoking him to say whatever he had "to say to her face".

Harris would face Trump in the general elections on

Former President Donald Trump picked a new fight with Georgia's Republican governor as he campaigned in the key swing state where he's looking to avenge his narrow 2020 loss — a defeat he continues to blame on Republican officials based on his false theories of election fraud.

Governor Brian Kemp, Trump wrote on his social media site, "should focus his efforts on fighting Crime, not fighting Unity and the Republican Party!" He also criticised Kemp's wife, Marty, and alleged that both Kemps were once grateful for his endorsement when Brian Kemp won the 2018 governor's race.

In a subsequent post, Trump railed on Kemp for defying his demands to help overturn Trump's narrow 2020 loss in the state. And at his rally, he went on about Kemp for several minutes and blamed him for his loss to Democratic President Joe Biden and for

him and several associates for his efforts to overturn the results.

On X, Kemp told Trump to "leave my family out of it" and urged him to stop "engaging in petty personal insults, attacking fellow Republicans, or dwelling on the past."

The back and forth came just ahead of an afternoon rally, when thousands of supporters packed the same Atlanta arena as Vice President Kamala Harris' backers did four days earlier. Georgia is likely to see another closely contested election as both campaigns push hard in the state, with Democrats riding a new wave of enthusiasm after Biden dropped his reelection bid and endorsed Harris.

Trump's Republican allies have urged him to focus on issues where they see an advantage over Harris, notably the economy and immigration. While Trump attacked the likely Democratic nominee on both

nationally who could hold his ground against Trump

in his state. Trump backed a primary rival

expects González to provide an explanation now that he is free. Jaap Arriens, a Dutch video journalist based in Warsaw, hung out with the man he knew as Pablo in Warsaw

González mostly fit in, but seemed better-off than the average freelance journalist. He always seemed to have the newest and most expensive phones and computers, working at the Poland-Ukraine border with the latest 14-inch MacBook Pro. He had plenty of money to spend in bars. He recalled González once say-

lancer who talks like this." González, whose grandfather emigrated from Spain to the Soviet Union as a child during the Spanish Civil War, was known as a Basque nationalist with ties to the region's independence movement.

Russia is suspected of supporting separatist movements in Spain and elsewhere in an effort to destabilise Europe. González' wife in Spain had been advocating on his behalf during his detention in Poland, even though they were not living together at the time of his arrest. Over the past years, the suspect's supporters ran an account on Twitter, now X, to advocate for his release.

When he was sent to Moscow Thursday, @FreePabloGonzález account tweeted: "This is our last tweet: Pablo is finally free. Endless thanks to all." Those who have followed the case are now awaiting González's next

Mystery around Pablo González: Spanish journalist or Russian spy? "At no time did he have any

AP WARSAW

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, reporters from around the world rushed to the Polish-Ukrainian border to cover an exodus of refugees fleeing Russian bombs.

Among them was Pablo González, a freelance journalist from Spain who had been based in Poland since 2019, working for Spanish news agency EFE, Voice of America and other outlets. Warsawbased reporters knew him as an outgoing colleague who liked to drink beer and sing karaoke into the wee hours of the morning.

Two and a half years later, he was sent to Moscow as part of a prisoner swap, leaving behind both mysteries about who he really was and concerns about how Poland handled a case in which he was accused of being a Russian agent.

In the first days of the war,

González provided stand-up reports to TV viewers in Spain against a backdrop of refugees arriving at the train station in the Polish border town of Przemysl.

But less than week into the war, Polish security agents entered the room he was staying in and arrested him. They accused him of "participating in foreign intelligence activities against Poland" and said he was an agent of the GRU, Russian military intelligence.

Friends were astonished and, as Poland held González without trial for months that turned into years, some grew sceptical and organised protests in Spain demanding his release. Authorities have never detailed the accusations.

But on Thursday evening, the burly 42-year-old with a shaved head and beard was welcomed home by President Vladimir Putin after being freed in the largest prisoner swap since the His inclusion in the deal appears to confirm suspicions that González was a Russian operative using his cover as a iournalist.

Born Pavel Rubtsov in 1982 in then-Soviet Moscow, González went to Spain with his Spanish mother at age 9, where he became a citizen and received the Spanish name of Pablo González Yagüe. He went into journalism, working for outlets Público, La Sexta and Gara, a Basque nationalist newspaper. It's not clear what led Poland to arrest him. The investigation remains classified and the spokesman for the secret services told The Associated Press that he could not say anything beyond what was in a brief statement. Poland is on high alert after a string of arrests of espionage suspects and sabotage, part of what the authorities view as hybrid warfare by Russia and Belarus against the

Polish security ser-

vices said Poland included him in the deal due to the close Polish-American alliance and "common security interests". In their statement, they said that "Pavel Rubtsov, a GRU officer arrested in Poland in 2022, (had been) carrying out intelligence tasks in Europe". The head of Britain's MI6

agency, Sir Richard Moore, said at the Aspen Security Forum in 2022 that González was an "illegal" who was arrested in Poland after "masquerading as a Spanish journalist". "He was trying to go into Ukraine to be part of their destabilizing efforts there," Moore said.

Another hint at his activities came from independent Russian outlet Agentstvo, which reported that in 2016 Rubtsov befriended and spied on Zhanna Nemtsova, the daughter of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, who was murdered in Moscow in Poland-based journalists who knew González said he used his base in Poland to travel to former Soviet countries including Ukraine and Georgia. He had a license to operate a drone and used it to film Auschwitz-Birkenau from the air for coverage on the 75th anniversary of the death camp's liberation in 2020.

Voice of America, a US-government funded organisation, confirmed that he worked briefly for them, but they have since removed any of his work from their website.

"Pablo González contributed to a few VOA stories as a freelancer over a relatively short period of time starting in late 2020," spokesperson Emily Webb said in reply to an emailed query. "As a freelancer who provided content to a number of media outlets, his services were arranged through a third-party company used by news organisations around the world."

access to any VOA systems or VOA credentials," Webb said. "As soon as VOA learned of the allegations, we removed his material." Because Poland's justice system was politicized under a populist

government that ruled in 2015-23, some activists worried about whether his rights were respected. Reporters Without Borders was among the groups that called for him to be put on trial or released.

The group stands by its position that he should not have been held that long without trial. "You are innocent until a trial proves you guilty," Alfonso Bauluz, the head of the group's office in Spain told AP on Friday. He expressed frustration at the silence around the case, and the fact that there will apparently not be a trial at all. saying Poland has not presented the evidence it has against him.

But the group also says it

and Kyiv, as well as in Przemysl shortly before his arrest. Arriens described him as a friendly, funny man with a macho demeanour and a chest covered in tattoos that he once showed off in a bar.

ing: "Life is good, life is almost too good." "And I thought:

Man, freelance life is never too good. What are you talking about?' I don't know any free-

RBI likely to keep interest rate unchanged at 6.5%, say experts

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep the key interest unchanged at 6.5 per cent on Thursday, and wait for more macroeconomic data before taking a call on rate cut in line with expectations, experts

The US Federal Reserve has decided to maintain a status quo on its interest rate for now and indicated there could be monetary policy easing in the coming months. Amid persisting inflationary pressures, RBI will be closely tracking the US tracking the US monetary policy trajectory before changing its stance on interest rate, which has remained unchanged since February 2023, experts opined.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) may also refrain from rate cut as economic growth is picking up, notwithstanding the elevated interest rate of 6.5 per cent (repo rate).

The meeting of the Reserve



numerically in the coming

months, it will be more due to

the base effect," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist,

He further said growth is on

the stable path which means

that the present interest rate situation does not militate against business.

The RBI would rather wait

and be sure that inflation is on

the downward path on a durable basis before taking

any action. While we do not

expect any change in GDP

Bank of Baroda.

scheduled for August 6 to 8. while this will come down Das will announce the decision of the rate-setting panel on (Thursday). August on

The central bank last hiked the repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then it has held the rate at same level in its last seven bimonthly monetary policy reviews.

"We do expect a status-quo position to be adopted by RBI in the forthcoming credit Bank Governor Shaktikanta policy. Inflation remains high Das headed MPC is even today at 5.1 per cent and of new guidance on inflation numbers," Sabnavis said. Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said that high growth in FY2024, combined with the

inflation of 4.9 per cent in first quarter of the current fiscal are unlikely to shift the voting pattern of the four members who voted for a status quo in the June 2024 meeting towards a change in stance or rate cut in the August 2024 meeting itself. "If the food inflation outlook turns favourable on the back of a normal distribution of rains in the second half of the monsoon season, and in the absence of global or domestic shocks, a stance change is possible in October 2024. This could be followed by a 25 bps rate cut each in December 2024 and February 2025, with an extended pause thereafter,"

she said. Last month, Governor Das had said the question of change of stance on interest rate is quite premature given the gap between current inflation and 4 per cent

India seeks duty concession on cars, machinery, commercial vehicles in FTA with Sri Lanka

PTI NEW DELHI

India is seeking customs duty concession on a number of goods including cars, commercial vehicles and machinery from Sri Lanka under a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA), talks for which are underway, an official said.

India has also sought easier visa norms to further facilitate entry of professionals from here, the official said. The 14th round of talks between senior officials of India and Sri Lanka was concluded recently in Colombo.

Issues which came up for the talks included rules of origin, goods, services, and technical barriers for trade.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka has sought removal of a quota on apparel exports to India. The island nation is also asking for duty concessions on tea and certain agricultural commodities.

The official said that as elections are announced in Sri Lanka, the next round of negotiations between the two countries will be held after that.

The two nations have already implemented a free trade agreement in goods and now duty) concession for up to 8

they are negotiating to expand the pact by including more goods and services. The India-Sri Lanka Free

Trade Agreement (ISFTA) came into force in March 2000. It enhanced economic relations between the two countries by reducing tariffs on a wide range of goods. Since the original ISFTA

focused solely on goods, both countries have been negotiating for several years to expand it into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which would include services, investment, and other areas of economic

Under the current FTA, India allowed limited imports of garments from Sri Lanka at a 50 per cent tariff (or customs

cooperation.

million pieces annually, with a requirement that 6 million of these pieces use Indian fabric. Additionally, India offered a 50 per cent tariff concession on up to 15 million kg of tea from Sri Lanka each year. Think tank Global Trade

Research Initiative (GTRI) said that Sri Lanka may be said that Sri Lanka may be seeking removal of the quota on garments, especially considering that India has allowed duty-free imports of garments from Bangladesh under the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) for Least Developed

Countries (LDCs). However agreeing to this request may not be easy for India as allowing duty free imports has led to a significant increase in Bangladesh, growing from USD 144.25 million in FY'2014 to USD 739.06 million in FY'2024, a cumulative growth of 412.34 per cent," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Srivastava said.
Sri Lanka has placed items like automobiles and electrical goods on its negative list, restricting their import.

Since the implementation of the ISFTA, trade between the countries

experienced fair growth. India's exports to Sri Lanka increased from USD 499.3 million in FY'2000 to USD 4.17 billion in 2023-24, a cumulative growth of 735.2 per cent. Meanwhile, imports grew from USD 44.3 million to USD 1.4 billion over the same period.

In the last fiscal, India's key exports to Sri Lanka included petroleum products (USD 704 million), cotton (USD 260 million), pharmaceuticals (USD 255 million), refined sugar (USD 206 million), fabric (USD 223 million), machinery (USD 171 million), pepper (USD 90.9 million), car and motorcycle parts (USD 79.3 million), onions (USD 63.4 million), and pulses (USD 32 million).

FPIs invest ₹32,365 cr in equities in July on continued policy reforms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\rm 32,365\ crore\ into\ Indian}^{\rm oreign\ investors\ infused\ Rs}$ equities in July on the back of expectation of continued policy reforms and sustained economic growth and better-than-expected earnings season.

However, they pulled Rs 1,027 crore from equities in the first two trading sessions of this month (August 1-2), data with the depositories showed. There has been a mixed trend with respect to FPI flows following the budget announcement on increase in capital gains tax on equity investments.

Going forward, developments in the US economy and markets will set the trend for FPI in August, V K Chief Vijavakumar. Investment Strategist, Geojit

Financial Services, said.

Weaker-than-exped employment data along with slowing economy has made it certain that the US Fed is expected to cut rates in September. The more important question here is the sustained rise in US bond revisions in India's GDP forecast by IMF and ADB, and a slowdown in China, also works in India's favour, he added.

Apart from equities, FPIs withdrew Rs revisions in India's GDP forecast by IMF and ADB, and a slowdown in China, also works in India's favour, he added.

Apart from equities, FPIs invested Rs 22,363 crore in sustained rise in US bond in the added. extent of cut. Currently, there yields.

The resurgence in FPI is strong commentary getting built for maybe a 50 basis investment can be attributed points rate cut in interest to sustained economic year so far.



rates," Vaibhav Porwal, Cofounder of Dezerv, said. According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have made a net inflow of Rs 32,365 crore in equities in Iuly. This came following an inflow Rs 26,565 crore in June driven by political stability and the sharp rebound in markets.

Before that

infrastructure development, better-thanexpected earnings season that has improved corporate balance India's sheet. Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India,

> Additionally, upward revisions in India's GDP

the debt market in July.

Mcap of eight of top-10 most valued firms slump ₹1.28 lakh cr; TCS, Infosys biggest laggards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Eight of the top-10 most valued firms together lost Rs 1,28,913.5 crore in market valuation last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerging as the biggest laggards, amid weak trend in equities.
The valuation of TCS

tumbled Rs 37,971.83 crore to Rs 15,49,626.88 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Infosys tanked Rs 23,811.88 crore to Rs 7,56,250.47 crore.

ITC's mcap dropped by Rs 16,619.51 crore to Rs 6,11,423.11 crore and that of State Bank of India slumped by Rs 13,431.54 crore to Rs 7,56,717.85 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries Limited declined by Rs 13.125.49 crore to Rs 20,28,695.57 crore. Bharti Airtel's

valuation went lower by Rs 11,821.5 crore to Rs 8,50,389.88 crore and that of ICICI Bank diminished by Rs 7,843.75 crore to 8,42,176.78 crore. The valuation of Hindustan Unilever dipped by Rs 4,288



crore to Rs 6,32,862.41 crore. However, the mcap of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 32,759.37 crore to Rs 12,63,601.40

valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) soared Rs 1.075.25 crore to Rs 7,47,677.98 crore.

BSE Last week, benchmark declinded bv 350.77 points or 0.43 per cent. In the ranking of the most valued firms, Reliance Industries retained the number one rank followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Hindustan Unilever

Spending on outbound tourism to rise 11% annually to reach USD 55 bn in 2034: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $S_{\text{tourism}}^{\text{pending}} \ \ \text{on} \quad \text{outbound} \\ \text{tourism} \quad \text{is} \quad \text{expected} \quad \text{to}$ grow from USD 18.82 billion in 2024 to USD 55.39 billion in 2034, a report said.

The 'Navigating Horizons' report jointly prepared by Nangia NXT and Ficci said packaged tours still dominate the outbound market in India, with a share of 39.20 per cent in 2024, as there is a preference for choosing preplanned tour packages from travel service providers due to greater convenience and customisation.

The report said that availability of Indian or said that vegetarian food options as well as awareness about niche tourism will help increase the number and frequency of Indians engaging in foreign travel in the coming years. The market has already seen robust growth with rising disposable incomes, an expanding middle class, systemic ease and flexibility in obtaining visas, and a desire for international experiences. "Countries like Egypt,

Azerbaijan and Georgia, among others, known for their rich history, cultural



unique topographies, are attracting more and more Indians to venture abroad. Such destinations are often more affordable as well," the report said.

With a rising urban and young population, the inclination towards exploring international destinations expected to continue to grow. Demographic trends thus are likely to support growth in outbound tourism in the near future, it added. 'India's outbound tourism

market is showing stellar growth and is projected to reach USD 18.82 billion in 2024. There have also been

industries such as aviation and hospitality. The growth in the industry is bolstered by increased consumer spending, visa reforms, social visibility media commercial marketing efforts," said Suraj Nangia, Head (Government and Public Nangia NXT.

With the Indian outbound market expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.4 per cent and reach USD 55.39 billion by 2034, the outlook is positive with coordinated efforts by all stakeholders propelling the industry forward, Nangia

After record profits, State-owned fuel retailers see profit slump in Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After reporting record profits, state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), BPCL and HPCL posted up to 90 per cent slump in their June quarter earnings as margins fell and they booked underrecovery on the sale of domestic cooking gas LPG at government-controlled rates. IOC, the nation's largest oil firm, reported 81 per cent drop in standalone net profit in April-June - the first quarter of current 2024-25 fiscal year - to Rs 2,643.18 crore as opposed to a profit of crore as opposed to a profit of Rs 13,750.44 crore a year back, according to a company filing. Net profit also declined sequentially, when compared to an earning of Rs 11,570.82 crore in March quarter.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) posted 90 per cent drop in

posted 90 per cent drop in profit to Rs 633.94 crore as compared to an earning of Rs 6,765.50 crore in April-June 2023 and Rs 2,709.31 crore in the preceding March quarter. Petroleum

Corporation Ltd (BPCL) net profit dropped to Rs 2,841.55 crore in April-June from Rs 10,644.30 crore a year back and Rs 4,789.57 crore in January-March, its filing showed.

The three fuel retailers made



prices despite a drop in cost. The price freeze was justified in the name of recovering losses they had suffered in the previous year when they did not raise retail prices despite a surge in cost.

The gains arising from the price freeze were eroded with petrol and diesel prices being cut by Rs 2 per litre each just before general elections and a fall in refining margins.
Also, the three had

uncompensated LPG subsidy - IOC booking under-recovery of Rs 5,156.23 crore in April-June, BPCL Rs 2,015.10 crore and HPCL Rs 2,443.71 crore, according to

the filings. As per an order of the oil ministry, when market determined price (MDP) of LPG cylinders is less than its effective cost to customer marketing (ECC), oil

separate buffer account for future adjustment. However, as on June 30, 2024, the three firms had a net negative buffer as the retail selling price was less than MDP.

The three retailers IOC, BPCL and HPCL had reported record profits totalling about Rs 81,000 crore in FY24 (2023-24), which was far more than their annual earnings of Rs 39,356 crore in pre-oil crisis years. This is because they resisted calls to revert to daily price

revision and pass on softening in rates to consumers on grounds that prices continue to be extremely volatile rising on one day and falling on the other - and that they needed to recoup losses incurred in the year, when they kept rates lower than cost.

IOC in 2023-24 posted a extraordinary gains from companies (OMCs) have to standalone net profit of Rs

39,618.84 crore compared to Rs 8,241.82 crore in 2022-23. While the company could argue that FY23 was impacted by the oil crisis, the FY24 earnings are higher than even the pre-crisis years - Rs 24,184 crore net profit in 2021-22 and Rs 21,836 crore in 2020-21. in 2020-21.

BPCL posted a net profit of Rs 26,673.50 crore in FY24, higher than Rs 1,870.10 crore earnings in 2022-23 and Rs 8,788.73 crore in FY22.

HPCL's 2023-24 profit of Rs 14,693.83 crore is compared with a Rs 8,974.03 crore loss in FY23 and a profit of Rs 6,382.63 crore in 2021-22, according to the filings. The losses in FY23 had led to

the finance minister announcing Rs 30,000 crore equity infusion in the three firms. Mid-way through the year, that support was halved to Rs 15,000 crore. The support was to happen by way of equity infusion via a rights issue.

But after the record profits of 2023-24, the equity infusion plan has now been scrapped. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had on February 1 last year, while presenting the annual Budget for the 2023-24 fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024), announced an equity infusion of Rs 30,000 crore in IOC, BPCL and HPCL to support the three state-owned firm's energy transition plans.

Rise in construction activities to propel India's cement demand by 7-8% in FY25: UltraTech

PTI NEW DELHI

Demand for cement is projected to grow 7-8 per cent in the current financial year, helped by an increase in construction activities throughout the country, UltraTech Cement said in its latest annual report.

To meet this increased demand, the cement industry is expected to add 35 - 40 million tonne capacity in the next fiscal, with 60-65 per cent concentrated in the eastern and southern regions, said the Aditya Birla group flagship firm.

Besides, this demand surge will translate into an increase in capacity utilisation of the industry to 72 per cent in FY25, which was around 68 per cent in FY23.
"In FY 2024-25, cement

demand is projected to grow 7-8 per cent driven by an increase in construction activities throughout the country, spread across the infrastructure and housing sector," said UltraTech. There has been a "concerted

focus" on the integrated and coordinated planning and implementation projects, infrastructure adhering to the principles of PM Gati Shakti.

Priority has been given to allocating expenditure towards vital sectors and additionally, the effectiveness of cash management has been enhanced through the timely release of resources



using the Single Nodal Agency/Treasury Account system, it added. "Responding to the increasing demand from the

infrastructure and housing sectors, the Indian cement industry is poised to add new production capacities. As much as 35-40 million tonne capacity is expected to be commissioned in the next fiscal, with 60-65 per cent concentrated in the eastern and southern regions," it

Addressing the company' shareholders, Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said India's infrastructure sector is poised for "remarkable growth", with an estimated 15.3 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in investments, projected over the post five years. over the next five years. Citing a Morgan Stanley report, Birla said, "This growth is expected to result

of USD 1.45 trillion." "The rapid expansion of production capacity, coupled

in a cumulative expenditure

significant of brand strengthening equity in the marketplace, positions your company to harness these long-term growth opportunities effectively," he said adding UltraTech's growth trajectory mirrors India's growth story. UltraTech is aggressively expanding its capacity and Birla said "our growth momentum has accelerated." momentum has accelerated, enabling us to be at the forefront of India's infrastructure development." While mentioning the capacity of UltraTech, Birla said its " scale and capacity footprint is unparalleled" which will further enable it " to service India's growing demand for cement across

the country.' Last month, UltraTech announced acquiring a majority stake in South-based India Cements Ltd (ICL) and also over Rs 3,000 crore open offer to acquire 26 per cent shares of the

In FY24, UltraTech recorded net sales of Rs 69,810 crore and crossed the historic milestone of 150 MTPA (million tonne per annum) capacity.
"From the first cement unit

that we commissioned in the early 1980s with one MTPA capacity to now the world's third largest cement company, outside of China, UltraTech's journey has been marked by scorching growth, ambitious bets and flawless execution," said Birla.

Zomato collected ₹ 83 cr in platform fee from customers till March

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{Zomato, which began}}^{\text{ood delivery aggregator}}$ charging platform fee on orders from last August, collected Rs 83 crore through the new levy till March, the company's annual report has revealed.

Platform fee has been cited as one of the three key factors driving Zomato's Adjusted Revenue, which grew 27 per cent year-on-year to Rs 7,792 crore in FY24.

"Adjusted Revenue as a percentage of GOV (gross order value), continued to increase primarily due to increase in commission take-rates. improvement monetization and introduction of platform fee from Q2FY24 onwards," the report stated.

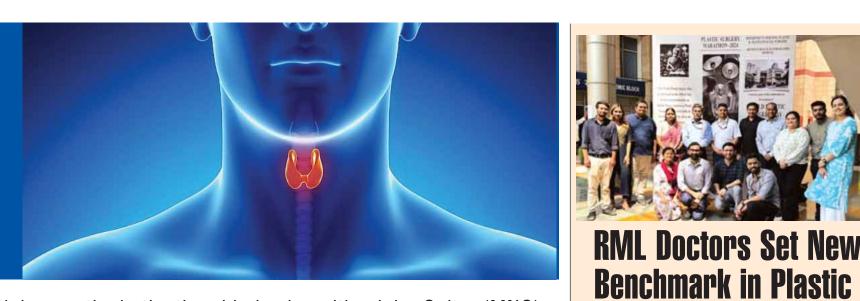
All of these factors more than compensated for the reduction in customer delivery charge per order due to the free delivery benefit available on Gold orders, it added.

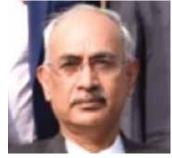
Interestingly, most late night orders in the last fiscal year came from Delhi NCR, while most breakfast orders came from Bengaluru, Zomato shared in the report.

The food delivery aggregator began levying platform fee at Rs 2 per order last August, which has gradually been increased to Rs 6 now in key

vivacity 11

BENIGN GROWTH WITH POTENTIAL RISKS





DR SUNIL CHUMBER Professor and Head

ot all thyroid nodules

are harmful. In fact,

most nodules in a

Are All Nodules Dangerous?

multinodular goitre are

benign, meaning they are not

cancerous. However, there is a

small chance that some

nodules can be malignant

(cancerous). Understanding

this risk is crucial for proper

Potential Complications of

MNG: While MNG itself is

usually not life-threatening, it

Compression Symptoms:

As the goitre grows, it can

press against the windpipe

(trachea) and esophagus

(food pipe), leading to

difficulty breathing and

swallowing. This pressure

can also cause a noticeable

swelling in the neck.

several

monitoring and treatment.

cause

complications, including:

Characterised by multiple growths in the thyroid gland, multinodular Goitre (MNG) is typically benign but carries a small cancer risk. Factors like family history and nodule features influence cancer risk, necessitating timely imaging and, blood investigations among others. In this second part of the series, ARCHANA JYOTI speaks with the team of AIIMS Delhi's Surgical Discplines Department headed by DR SUNIL CHUMBER to get more insight into this

UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF CANCER IN MNG

Thyroid Dysfunction: MNG can sometimes lead hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid), where the gland produces too much thyroid hormone, causing symptoms like weight loss, rapid heartbeat, nervousness. Less commonly, it can cause hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid), resulting in fatigue, weight

gain, and depression. Cancer Risk: Although rare, some nodules in a multinodular goitre can become cancerous. Detecting these malignant nodules early is vital for



DR ANKITA SINGH

RISK IN MNG

Several factors can increase the risk of thyroid cancer in

effective treatment.



DR AJAY MOHAN

individuals with MNG: Family History: A family history of thyroid cancer or genetic conditions that predispose to cancer increases

the main ones used:

the first

a black and white picture of

the thyroid gland and

allows your doctor to see

the size and number of

nodules, and even their

makeup – whether they're solid, fluid-filled, or a mix

of both. Ultrasound images

suspicious features in the

nodules that might indicate

Computed Tomography

(CT): CT scans provide

more detailed images than

ultrasound, but is not

required for all cases of

MNG. Your doctor will ask

for this only if required like

if the goiter is large, or

pressing on other organs,

and if cancer is suspected.

In these situations, CT

scans provide a closer look

cancer risk.

help identify

Radiation Exposure: Previous exposure to radiation, particularly in childhood, can raise the likelihood of

developing thyroid cancer. **Characteristics:** Nodule Nodules that are large, rapidly growing, or have certain features seen on ultrasound (such as irregular edges or microcalcifications) may be more suspicious for cancer.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND **FOLLOW-UP**

Regular check-ups and appropriate diagnostic tests are crucial for managing the risk of cancer in MNG. If you have a MNG, your doctor may recommend:

Periodic Ultrasound **Exams:** To monitor nodule size and characteristics.

Plastic

cases

deformities.

demonstrate their expertise

in an unprecedented 24-

From 9 am on July 15 to 9

am on July 16, a dedicated

team of 17 surgeons

tirelessly operated across 24

operating theatres, tackling

a spectrum of complex

severe trauma-induced

Among their patients were

individuals as young as two years old to adults up to 47

years of age, each requiring

specialised care and surgical

intervention. Of the two

minors (two years of age)

bardach's palatal repair and

contracture release with

skin grafting were done. The oldest male, a 47-years-

old patient underwent lymphangioma excision

Dr. Ajay Shukla, Medical

Superintendent of RML

Hospital, said the initiative

aimed to address postponed surgeries and urgent cases.

department's commitment

to maximising the number

of procedures performed,

ensuring that patients in

need received timely care. Among the day's notabl

vessels, and nerves, said Dr.

MK Jha, the Additional

Director at the Hospital.

addressed severe facial

injuries, correcting not only

functional impairments but

also restoring essential

appearance and self-esteem. Dr. Samik Bhattacharya,

Head of the Department of

Burns,

Maxillofacial,

underscored

Microvascular

patients'

Plastic,

highlighted the

plastic surgery.

achievements

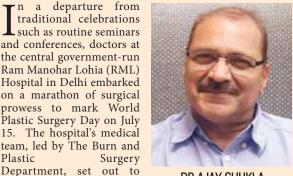
ranging from congenital anomalies to

hour surgical session.

Thyroid Function Tests: To ensure your thyroid is working properly.

Prompt Biopsy Suspicious Nodules: Early detection is key successful treatment.

While the majority of MNG are benign, it is important to be aware of the potential risks and complications, including the small chance of cancer. Regular check-ups, appropriate diagnostic tests, and timely treatment are key to managing this condition effectively. If you have a multinodular goitre or notice any unusual symptoms, consult your doctor for personalised advice and care. Staying informed and vigilant can help ensure the best



Surgery Arena

DR AJAY SHUKLA Medical Superintendent of RML Hospital, Delhi

The department's initiative was aimed to prioritise postponed surgeries and urgent cases, underscoring its commitment to timely treatment and increasing the number of procedures conducted

crucial for facial symmetry and expression.

The marathon session also catered trauma-induced deformities, requiring skin grafts, and congenital anomalies such as cleft lip and palate. Dr. Sharma, a seasoned Professor within the department, emphasised the transformative impact of these surgeries, not only improving physical health but also enhancing overall quality of life for their

patients.

Dr Neerja Banerjee, head of Anesthesia, and the team headed by Dr Rupesh conducted the OT as a mission. Dr Baneriee said, the that reconstructive surgery hand aims to restore transplantation, a feat appearance and function of requiring intricate precision body parts affected by and coordination of bones, illness, injury, cancer, tendons, muscles, blood tumors, developmental issues, or congenital defects. Commenting on the unique approach, Dr. VK Tiwari, a The surgical marathon also renowned Plastic Surgeon and former Medical Superintendent of RML Hospital, currently serving as Dean of Hindu Rao College in Delhi, said such initiatives will give idea to more hospitals which will ultimately benefit the

"These surgeries often Surgery, involve more complexity the and longer healing times significance of procedures compared to cosmetic like eyebrow corrections, treatments," he said.

BLOOD INVESTIGATIONS

Blood investigations in important part of evaluation. It helps understand the cause of the goitre and the status of thyroid hormone production increased, normal or decreased. It includes the following:

- TSH (Thyroid Stimulating Hormone) -usually remains normalbut can be reduced in MNG(increased secretion of thyroxine by thyroid gland) and increased if MNG is associated with hypothyroidism thyroxine (decreased secretion)
- Free T4 Free T3

Both usually remain normal, increased in toxic goitre, can be decreased in goitres with hypothyroidism.



DR CATHERINE HALAM Senior Resident

Serum Tg (thyroglobulin) is usually elevated

Thyroid autoantibodies anti-Thyroid Peroxidase (anti-TPO) and anti-Thyroglobulin (anti-Tg) are negative unless some autoimmune activity is present where anti-Tg will be found elevated.

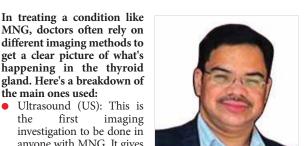
The choice of tests to



DR KAMAL KATARIA Additional professor

investigate the functional status of a patient with a simple diffuse goitre or multinodular goitre may differ depending on the geographic areas of the

Although serum thyroglobulin correlates with the iodine status and the size of the enlarged thyroid gland, it has little or no value in diagnosis of



DR. DEVENDER

structures to help plan treatment.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI): This is another way to get detailed images of the thyroid and surrounding areas. Again, it is not performed for all patients and has similar indications as for CT scan and is especially useful when doctors suspect the goiter is growing into other tissues, or if a patient is

Thyroid Scintigraphy: This is a different type of scan in which a special kind of dye ("radioactive tracer") is

allergic to dye used in CT



DR AAYUSH NAGPAL

Each imaging method has its pros and cons, but your doctor potential problems.

(To be concluded)

IMAGING MODALITIES

possible outcomes.

Junior Resident

used to take images of the thyroid. It shows if nodules are "hot" or "cold", which is, whether they are actively working - to produce thyroxine (hot), or not (cold). Hot nodules usually aren't cancerous, but cold ones might need further checking.

often will use a mix of them to get the full picture of what's going on with the thyroid. This helps them make the best decisions about treatment and keep an eye out for any

at the thyroid and nearby Plastic Surgery: Transforming Lives and Confidence

DR SANJAY PARASHAR and DR KRITI LOHIA delve into the various benefits of plastic surgery, emphasising its role in improving physical appearance, correcting congenital deformities, boosting self-esteem, and fostering mental well-being for individuals facing personal challenges

Plastic surgery is a augmentation, liposuction, subspecialty that and hair transplantation the restoration, reconstruction, person's looks but also help or enhancement of the human body and it has evolved significantly over the years. It comprises two broad specialties- Aesthetic surgery, which was once primarily associated with celebrities for beauty enhancements, and Reconstructive surgery, which encompasses a wide range of procedures that significantly impact an individual's life.

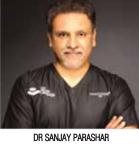
ENHANCING PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND SELF-ESTEEM

One of the most immediate benefits of plastic surgery is the enhancement of physical appearance. Procedures such rhinoplasty (nose reshaping),

significantly alter not only a align their external appearance with their inner self-image. This alignment is like a bullet

train to a substantial boost in self-esteem. individuals feel happy about their appearance, they most definitely experience increased self-confidence, which positively influences various aspects of not only their own lives, from personal relationships to professional endeavors but also a trickle-down effect on

people in their circles. For instance, a person who has spent the majority of their life feeling self-conscious about a prominent nasal breast hump or unbalanced breasts



may find that correcting these issues through plastic surgery eliminates a significant source of insecurity. Other skin issues like vitiligo, acne, scars, burns, moles, warts, cysts, mulberry birthmarks, dark spots, etc can handled minimally invasive aesthetic dermato-surgery and improve the looks significantly. These procedures become the first step towards their newfound



confidence, which encourages them to engage more freely in social situations, pursue career opportunities with greater vigor, and generally approach life with a more positive outlook.

CORRECTING CONGENITAL DEFORMITIES

Plastic surgery also has a profound impact on individuals who are born corrects these deformities,

with congenital deformities such as cleft lip and palate, craniosynostosis (premature fusion of skull bones), and syndactyly (webbed fingers) that are effectively treated reconstructive through surgery. These congenital issues affect not only their physical appearance but also functional impairments and social stigma.

Cleft lip and palate, for example, are among the most common congenital deformities, affecting approximately 1 in 700 babies worldwide. These conditions cause difficulties in feeding, speech, and hearing, and often result in social challenges due to visible facial differences. Reconstructive surgery

in this case, a child. When physical benefits, children and adults who undergo successful corrective surgery, time and again report higher self-esteem better integration, as they no can longer feel defined by their appearance. It is often argued that plastic surgery allowed them to redefine

ADDRESSING TRAUMATIC

Traumatic injuries, such as those sustained in accidents or due to violence, can leave disfigurements that impact impact their physical and emotional well-being. Reconstructive immense and priceless.

fractures, and you look beyond just the traumatic injuries, restoring both function appearance.

Consider the case of a burn victim who has suffered extensive facial and body burns. These resulting scars be physically debilitating and emotionally harrowing. Through skin grafts, tissue expansion, regenerative therapies, and reconstructive techniques, plastic surgeons and trained dermatosignificantly surgeons reduce the appearance of these scars and improve the functionality of affected individuals with severe areas. The psychological of transformations is both

significantly improving an plastic surgery repairs individual's quality of life or damage caused by burns, | PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFITS AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

The psychological benefits of plastic surgery extend beyond improved self-Individuals esteem. frequently report a reduction in their anxiety depression following these procedures. particularly true for those who have lived with longterm dissatisfaction or emotional distress related to their appearance. By addressing their concerns, plastic surgery helps alleviate negative emotions and promotes mental well-being. (Dr Sanjay Parashar is a wellknown plastic surgeon in Dubai

and Dr Kriti Lohia is an Aesthetic Dermatologist and Dermato-surgeon. They are cofounders of 'Aesthetics redefined by Cocoona,' Gurgaon)

JULIEN SHOCKS SHA'CARRI, WINS WOMEN'S 100 METRE GOLD, BRINGS 1ST OLYMPIC MEDAL TO SAINT LUCIA

ha'Carri Richardson's comeback story hit a brick wall when Julien Alfred romped in the rain to the 100meter title in 10.72 seconds to bring the first-ever Olympic medal to her island country of Saint Lucia.

Racing one lane to the left of Richardson, and with water from a fast-moving storm puddling on the purple track in the Stade de France, Alfred got off to a fantastic start, then powered through the rain and beat Richardson by .15 seconds - about three body lengths on Saturday. It was the biggest margin in the women's Olympic 100 since

American Melissa Jefferson, marijuana cost her a chance to



finished third in 10.92 seconds. All week long, the field seemed to be clearing for Richardson, the reigning world champion who was making her Olympic Richardson' training partner, debut after a positive test for

race three years ago in Tokyo. When Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce abruptly withdrew from the semifinal, which went off about 90 minutes before the goldmedal race, the entire Jamaican team that had swept the podi-

um in Tokyo was out of the 100.

One island's loss is another's gain. The strongest contender left was Alfred, who hails from the Eastern Caribbean island with a population of around

Olympic entrant besides Richardson to break 10.8 this year - and when she and Richardson lined up next to each other in the semifinals, it was a preview of things to

Alfred won that race by .05, then lined up next to Richardson again for the final

and tripled that margin.
One of the most anticipated races of the Olympic track meet was never a contest.
Alfred had two steps on the entire field at the 40-meter mark, while Richardson, whose starts have been an issue at times this summer, labored to get to full speed.

The American, her arms pumping wide in Lane 7, looked to be making up a bit of ground when Alfred leaned into the finish line. But there was too big a gap between them and the real contest was the one between Richardson and Jefferson for second.

America's lone gold medal of the day came from Ryan Crouser, who earned a threepeat in the shot put. Another American silver went to the 4x400 mixed relay team, which got reeled in by Femke Bol of the Netherlands in the anchor Jasmine Moore won a bronze

medal in the triple jump competition, won by Thea Lafond, setting herself up for a possible double when she competes in long jump later this week. Earlier in the day, Noah Lyles finished second (10.04) in a sluggish first-round qualifying heat to make the semifinals in

BADMINTON AT OLYMPICS

Sen falls to Axelsen in semis, to play bronze-medal playoff

Tndia's dream of a first-ever LOlympic gold in badminton will remain unfulfilled after Lakshya Sen suffered a straight-game defeat to reigning Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles semifinals at the Paris Games here on Sunday.

The 22-year-old from Almora, a 2021 World Championships bronze medal, squandered a three-point advantage in the first game and a 7-0 lead in the second to surrender 20-22 14-21 to the two-time world champion Axelsen in a 54minute semifinal clash.

Sen will have another chance to become the first Indian male shuttler to win an Olympic medal when he meets Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the bronze medal playoff. India have never won a Olympic gold medal in bad-



minton with PV Sindhu claiming a silver and bronze at the Rio and Tokyo Olympics and Saina Nehwal securing a bronze in London

Lovlina outwitted in QF; India's boxing campaign ends

after Tokyo edition bronzewinner Lovlina Borgohain towards the end of the first (75kg) bowed out following round. She was particularly a hard-fought quarterfinal impressive before she to loss to China's Li Qian in the 3-2 lead in the contest. women's competition here The second round didn't start on Sunday.

Borgohain. world champion in the category, went down 1-4 to the Tokyo Games silver-winning 34-year-old in a messy contest during which both the It was once again 3-2 in boxers were repeatedly cautioned for clinching and holding. ferent set of judges scoring in her favour this time, she holding.

The 26-year-old's loss ended India's boxing campaign in the Olympics after Nishant Dev was ousted from the men's 71kg quarterfinals on continued in the third round

contest. gent, comprising four women and two men, was representing the country in the Games. Out of these, four had crashed out in the prelimi-

nary stage itself. It was a pacey start to the proceedings as Borgohain and Qian quickly got into a tan-

gle. However, none of the boxers seemed willing to launch the first attack.

The holding and clinching started pretty early in the bout and the referee had to repeatedly step in to separate the two old foes.

Oian seemed determined while Borgohain came across India's boxing campaign at the more animated of the two came to a medal-less end nected some clean combination punches and a left hook impressive before she took a

> any different but Qian was more purposeful in her approach. Her right straights were on target while Borgohain was cautioned twice for excessive holding. favour of Qian but with a difonly had a slender one-point lead on one card, while the

remaining four were tied. The holding and clinching Saturday night, also a close too and both the women seemed a bit drained.

A six-strong boxing contin- However, Qian showed great presence of mind throughout to keep Borgohain at a distance. Borgohain was not up to it when it came to controlling the pace of the bout and repeatedly took hits on counter-attacks.

The Assamese had fought Qian in the Asian Games final last year and gone down 0-5. She later beat Oian in the semifinals of the world championship semifinal in

But more recently, she was bested by the veteran in a pre-Olympic tournament in Czechia in June.

Boxer Nishant's Olympic debut ends in heartbreak with quarterfinal loss

Nishant Dev's maiden Olympic campaign ended in heartbreak after a devastating split verdict defeat to Mexico's Marco Verde Alvarez in the men's 71kg quarterfinal here on Saturday.

Leading after the first round, the 23-year-old world championship bronze medallist Indian lost 1-4 to his second seed Mexican opponent in the quarterfinal at the North Paris

Nishant had defeated Alvarez

Championships.
Nishant was off to a flyer as Alvarez struggled to match his pace. He used his straight jabs to great effect, landing them square on the Mexican's face as well as the body to tire his

opponent. Alvarez was trailing for the most part of the round but managed to connect a lethal right hook on Nishant's face, that forced the referee to give the Indian a standing count, followed by a left in the dying minutes. But the Indian's dom-



inant display ensured he had the bragging rights. Nishant continued to unleash

a range of punches, including a combination of hooks, while Alvarez too upped his game, and while he tried to throw

connecting some vital blows. However, Nishant looked the stronger of the two as he picked the Mexican's shots. But the judges favoured the Mexican 3-2 as Alvarez and Nishant entered the final three

minutes by the narrowest of margins, leading on one card. Alvarez landed a combination of punches to start the final round on an aggressive note. The Mexican showed more urgency as he landed an uppercut. The Indian, on the other

Alvarez acknowledged that the bout was a tough one.

"It was a tough bout, played with heart and mind. I hit on his body to open up for upper cuts. I had lost to him in 2021 world Championships. I have a lot of respect for him," Alvarez

"He is very technically sound boxer. My coaches asked me to play smart after I lost the first round." Nishant is the fifth Indian

boxer to exit the Olympic

Katie Ledecky swims into history with 800 freestyle victory at **Paris Olympics**

AP ■ NANTERRE (FRANCE)

Katie Ledecky capped anoth-er stellar Olympics by becoming only the second swimmer to win an event at four straight Summer Games, holding off Ariarne Titmus to win the 800-meter freestyle

Saturday night. It was Ledecky's second gold medal in Paris and ninth of her remarkable career, which marked another milestone. She became only the sixth Olympian to reach that figure, joining swimmer Mark Spitz, track star Carl Lewis, Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina and Finnish runner Paavo Nurmi in a tie for second place.



Ukraine has won its first gold medal of the Paris Olympics by defeating South Korea in the final of the women's team saber fencing on Saturday. The Ukrainian team recovered from six points down to beat

South Korea 45-42 on 22 points from individual bronze medalist Olga Kharlan. She came in for the final leg of the bout with her team at 40-37 down and went 8-2 to win Ukraine had two medals before Saturday's final; a silver in shooting from Serhiy Kulish and the bronze that Kharlan won Monday in women's saber. That was a particularly emotional moment for Kharlan, a year after she was disqualified



at the world championships for refusing to shake the hand of a Russian fencer, something which briefly put her Olympic qualification in jeopardy.
It was an incident that highlighted the tension over whether to allow Russian athletes to keep competing following Russia's 2022 invasion of

Viktorija, a former UCF rower with epilepsy, wins Lithuania's first medal in Paris Olympics

AP VAIRES-SUR-MARNE,

Aformer University of Central Florida rower with epilepsy who won Lithuania's first medal at the Paris Olympics on Saturday hopes her achievement will help motivate others with the disor-

Viktorija Senkute, who attended the Florida college from 2015-18, won the bronze medal in the women's singles class. It was also the first medal for any Baltic country at the 2024 Paris

"This is insane, I still feel like I'm dreaming," Senkute said. "It's a very big day for Lithuania, for all Baltic countries and for UCF. Everybody from UCF was watching and cheering, everybody from Lithuania. This unites so many



Senkute said she wants to use her Olympic success to help show that people with epilepsy can live their lives normally and compete at a high level.

"It means nothing to me. It's not a limitation at all," she said.

"People who have epilepsy are normal, regular people and they win Olympic medals. So I really hope that this will be a motivation for everyone who at some point people didn't believe in them. I kept doing what I want, what I love. And this being rowing. And this led to fulfilling my dreams."

The 28-year-old Senkute was diagnosed with epilepsy, which causes seizures, when she was 15 and has to take medication daily to keep it under control. "I take medication every morning and afternoon, but it's just routine discipline," she said "I'm just taking it with my vitamins, so I don't even notice. It's really a part of my life, but it gives no limitations."

UCF's rowing team won four American Athletic Conference championships while Senkute was on the team.

Won't retire until I get Olympic medal: Deepika

She has flattered to deceive for four straight Olympics but multiple World Cup medal winning archer Deepika Kumari has vowed not to quit unless she ends up on podium which she feels could be Los Angeles in four years' time. For Deepika, it has always been a case of not being able to display enough temperament in pressure situa-tion at the grandest stage. "Obviously, I want to play more in the future and will continue

my game," Deepika told PTI in an exclusive interaction at the India House here.

"I really want to win an Olympic

medal, and I won't quit until I achieve that. I'll train harder and come back strongly," added Deepika, who has won every international medal except for an Olympic yellow metal.

"Firstly, I will present myself more strongly. There are many things, like quick shooting, that I need to learn a bit more about, and it's very important to train myself accordingly. "What I learned from the Olympics is that late shooting doesn't work; you have no room to make big mistakes, so you have to control that. I will learn that from here," she said in hindsight. Deepika, 30, appeared in her fourth consecutive Olympics in

Paris, making a remarkable comeback after becoming a mother for the first time in birth to her daughter.

December 2022, when she gave After topping the national selection trials, Deepika went on to

win an individual gold at the Shanghai World Cup in April. Back at her favorite venue, where she had won multiple World Cup medals, Olympic pressure was evident as she had her worst ranking round ever at the Games. She qualified for the main draw as the 23rd seed, ranking lower than fellow Indian debutants Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur. Her score of 658 was notably 36 points below that of Korean top seed and eventual gold medalist Lim Sihyeon.

She was the weakest link in the team event, as they succumbed to the Netherlands in their opening round match without much of a fight.

However, Deepika was not ready to give up as she made a splendid comeback in the individual category, working her way up to the quarterfinals with three tough wins. Pitted against Korean archer Nam Suhyeon, whom she had defeated in the semifinal of the Shanghai World Cup, Deepika took a two-set lead but could not convert another, shooting into the 7-point red ring as the Korean teenager rallied to a 6-4 win.

Nam finished with a silver, losing to her more favored teammate Lim.

Looking back at the result, Deepika said: "I was not nervous. I was playing strongly, but one shot (the 7-point) really went wrong, and that was the reason I lost the match. Overall, it was a good experience."

Salukvadze, only woman to compete at 10 Olympics, says she's retiring. For good this time

AP ■ CHATEAUROUX, FRANCE

After 10 Olympics and 36 years, Nino Salukvadze says she's finally done. The pistol shooter from

Georgia has been ever-present at the Summer Olympics since Seoul in 1988, when she competed for what was still the Soviet Union. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, she became the first female athlete to compete at the Games 10 times.

In that time, the 55-year-old has seen the Games become is tougher than ever.

Salukvadze considered retiring after her first Olympics, after she'd won gold and silver medals as a 19-year-old. She nearly walked away in the 1990s, when she struggled to support her family financially in newly independent Georgia. She announced her retirement after the Tokyo Games in 2021.

This time, though, she says she is done "for sure." Coming to the Paris Olympics

was about honoring her father, bigger and more professional-ized and says the competition Vakhtang, who was also her coach. After the pandemic-

delayed Tokyo Olympics in 2021, he talked her out of retirement for one last push. "He was my mentor not only in sports, but also in life. He was a wise man," she told The Associated Press in the city of Chateauroux, near the Olympic shooting range, on Friday after her last competition. "He never asked for anything

in his life. We had the kind of relationship where we understood each other just with our eyes," Salukvadze said.
"If you quit sports, you can't

was the only favor he asked me come back. Just try," she for his whole life. I thought he recalled her father saying. "It perhaps wouldn't be able to ask



again. I gathered all my strength, for his sake." Salukvadze's father died earlier this year at the age of 93, but he lived to see his daughter qualify for a spot for Georgia. From her 10 Olympics, Salukvadze has three medals: one gold, one silver and one bronze. In Paris, she placed 38th in the 10-meter air pistol event and 40th in the 25-meter

pistol, meaning she didn't reach

a televised final.

Salukvadze's last Olympic medal - and her first for an independent Georgia - was in Beijing in 2008. At the time, Georgia was at war with neighboring Russia. Salukvadze won bronze and embraced Russian silver medalist Natalia Paderina on the podium in what was widely seen as a gesture for peace.

Salukvadze may not be totally done with the Olympics yet. She's a coach at her own shooting club back home in Georgia and is a vice president of the national Olympic committee.

Salukvadze's record 10th Olympic appearance was recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

"IÓC President Thomas Bach has sent his congratulations to Nino Salukvadze in a letter and

Federation is holding an event to honor this achievement," the IOC told the AP in an emailed statement. Even after 36 years, nothing

we understand that the

International Shooting Sport

quite matches the feeling of winning an Olympic gold medal as a teenager back in "When I won at the Olympics

and stood on the podium, it was indescribable," she said. Even now, Salukvadze added, "I can evoke these feelings in myself in the same way, feel it just the same.

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