OPINION 6

GRIM PROSPECTS FOR

PEACE IN WEST ASIA

MONEY 10

INDIAN ECONOMY LIKELY TO GROW

AT 7-7.2% IN FY25: DELOITTE

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.160 Issue 212

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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY AUGUST 6, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 Established 1864 the pione

WORLD 9

HEZBOLLAH LAUNCHES DRONE

ATTACK ON NORTHERN ISRAEL

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BANGLADESH PM FLEES COUNTRY

With Bangladesh descending into chaos, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina surreptitiously fled the country in a military aircraft on Monday and the Army stepped in to fill the power vac-uum, ending one uncertain chapter and opening another in the nation's restive history. As news of Hasina's departure spread, hundreds broke into Hasina's residence, vandalising and looting the interiors, providing dramatic expression to the anti-Government protests that have killed more than 100 people in the last two days. At the entre of people anger is the Hasina Government's controversial quota system reserving 30 per cent jobs for families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war.

With volatile crowds taking to the streets — some clambering on Hasina's father and Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statue and smashing it with hammers in a lasting image underscoring the fickleness of history — Army chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced that the 76-year-old Prime Minister has resigned.

An interim Government will be taking over, he said in a televised address amid feverish speculation about where Hasina was headed. "I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate," Zaman added, signalling the end of Hasina's 15-year power run.

The Army chief said he had met political leaders and told them the

Army would take over responsibility for law and order. However, there were no leaders from Hasina's Awami League party at the meeting.

As protests spiralled across the country, the Army chief said he had asked both Army and police not to



Protesters climb a public monument as they celebrate after getting the news of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Right

NSA Doval meets ex-PM Hasina at Hindon Airbase

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who resigned on Monday, arrived at the Hindon airbase, Ghaziabad in a Bangladesh air force transport aircraft. She is reportedly planning to leave for London after a brief stopover at the airbase. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval

met Hasina at Hindon Air Base. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the situation in Bangladesh, sources said. Taking note of the fast evolving situation in Bangladesh, the BSF was on high alert while the Delhi Police further strengthened security around the Bangladesh High Commission in the

national Capital. Indigo announced the suspension of their operations to and from Dhaka. Hasina's C-130 plane landed at the Hindon airbase in the evening. Indian Air Force fighter jets were airborne as soon as her aircraft entered Indian air space and kept an eye on it for some time, sources said. Continued on Page 8



restraint and asked protesters to end the violence. He vowed "justice" for all the people.

In Dhaka, restive crowds, swarmed the airport and even spilled into the runway. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in the city's Dhanmondi area was damaged. Four Hindu temples suffered "minor" damages across the country, eyewitnesses and a community leader said.

The Bangabandhu memorial museum — dedicated to Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated along with his wife and their three sons while serving as president in 1975 — was also vandalised. Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana had survived the purge as they were abroad. Hasina then spent six years in exile in India.

The home of Dr Wajed Miah, Hasina's husband, was not spared either in the vortex of violence on Monday, local reports said.

From Ganabhadan, the Prime Minister's official residence, came extraordinary visuals of protesters storming in and walking away with sofas and even chairs.

Turmoil worries families living in West Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

The continuing violence in Bangladesh and the fall of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Government have raised concern among the families residing on this side of the border. Hundreds of families have lost sleep wor-rying about the fate of their relatives and other loved ones in the strife-torn neighbour-

ing country.
"I don't know how they are ... though from different

communities their neighbours are good and understanding but given the scale and magnitude of the violence I wonder how they are now... more than 20 of them," said 80-year-old Chintamani Kar of Behala in South Kolkata expressing concern for his cousin brothers' families at Magura off Jessore.

Bengali film actor, requesting anonymity, said she was worried about her grand uncle who was in Kolkata last year and was scheduled to visit again during the Durga Puja. "Their family was attacked twice at Satkhira... we asked them to migrate but

they would not... they had unflinching faith in the governance of Sheikh Hasina ... but now what will happen to them... we have not been able to speak to them for the past fortnight or so," she said.

Sheikh Qamran, a businessman from central Kolkata, said he too had not received any news of his relatives from Dhaka. "Traditionally, they are supporters of the ruling party there... it is obvious... that helps in business... but now after the fall of this Government I don't know what will happen to them... particularly because the way the establishments are being attacked and torched," said the trader about his relatives who live near Banani area of Dhaka. He said he had even tried to get in touch with them via relatives in Dubai but in vain.

However the condition of Arindam (name changed) is more pathetic. His uncle is a member of the ruling party and had been a panchayat member somewhere in Pabna district owning several acres of land and fisheries.

Continued on Page 8

Bloodbath on Dalal Street

PTI NEW DELHI

Ctock market investors lost a on Monday following a crash in Indian equities triggered by a sharp plunge in Japanese and other global markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759,40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June
RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI 4, 2024. During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86.

Following the sharp decline in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped by Rs 15,32,796.1 crore to Rs 4,41,84,150.03 crore (USD 5.27 trillion).

"Domestic equity indices came under the grip of global markets carnage as a host of external factors like recession fears in the US on the back of weak jobs data, interest rate hike in Japan leading to impact on Yen-carry trade reserving it for nearly 15 and a raging Middle East months. conflict triggered massive sell-off across the board,"
Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP

the LG's office and the AAP-(Research), Mehta Equities



Setback for AAP over LG's 10 aldermen appointment

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the appointment of 10 aldermen by the Lieutenant Governor to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without the aid and advice of the Delhi Government's Cabinet. The judgment came as a major blow to the Arvind Kejriwal Government in Delhi amid tussle with the Lieutenant Governor on a host of issues. The top court pronounced its verdict on the Delhi Government's plea after

led Delhi Government, a Bench of Chief Justice of Detailed report on Page 10 India (CJI) DY Chandrachud

and Justices JB Pardiwala and PS Narasimha ruled that the Delhi Lieutenant Governor is not bound by the aid and advice of the Delhi Government's Cabinet on appointment of aldermen since his powers in that regard is derived from the Municipal

Corporation Act. The bench said the statutory power under section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, as amended in 1993, empowered the LG to

appoint the aldermen.
"It is the law made by Parliament, it satisfies the discretion exercised by LG since law requires him to do so and falls under exception of Article 239," the bench

Continued on Page 8

soon.

Coaching centres death chambers: SC; notice issued to Centre, Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance of the deaths of three IAS aspirants due to flooding in the basement of RAU's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar and issued a notice to the Centre and Delhi Government, to examine if safety norms are being followed.

The Supreme Court said coaching centres have become "death chambers" and are playing with the lives of students. "The incident was an eye-opener for all," it added.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing an appeal by the Coaching Federation of India challenging directions of the Delhi High Court regarding the proliferation of coaching institutes

Mukherjee Nagar. The bench said it was not sure as to what effective steps regarding safety had been taken by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi or the Central Government.

Detailed report on Page 8

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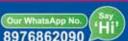


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Wayanad tragedy due to illegal habitat expansion: Min

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As search and rescue operations continue in landslide-hit Wayanad district in Kerala which has claimed over 380 lives and left more than 100 missing, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Monday attributed the tragedy to the "illegal human habitat expansion and protection for illegal mining in the fragile region by local politicians" under the tutelage of the Southern State Government.

Talking to reporters here on Monday, Yadav also accused local politicians of failing to regulate and protect sensitive zones, contributing to the disaster that struck the region six days ago.

The impacts of the landslides are still being felt by the locals, exacerbating the ongoing crisis in Wayanad.

"It is an illegal protection to the illegal human habitation by the local politicians. Even in the name of



A rescue operation underway after a landslide in Wayanad

this area. It is a highly sensitive area. We have already constituted a committee headed by former Director General of Forests Sanjay Kumar... There has been illegal human habitation and illegal politicians. Even in the name of tourism, they are not making proper zones. They allowed encroachment of the local Government...", the Minister said. "We feel it's purely a mistake by the

State Government. There has been illegal human habitation and illegal mining activity under the protection of the local Government. It is very shameful. They must protect nature and human lives," he said.

The Western Ghats is one of the most fragile regions in the country like the Himalayas. Serious efforts must be made to prevent disasters in such regions and the Kerala Government is also responsible for ensuring the same," Yadav said hoping that consultations on eco-sensitive zone notifications for the Western Ghats should be completed

Last week, i.e. on July 31, the Centre had issued a sixth draft notification to declare over 56,800 square kilometres of the Western Ghats across six states, including 13 villages in Kerala's landslide-hit Wayanad, Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), inviting suggestions and objections within 60

Continued on Page 8

Lucknow (PNS): A property dealer was duped of Rs 2.5 crore by the managing director of a real estate company under the pretense of making him a director, in the Sushant Golf City police station area. The victim of the fraud, Satvir



NOTICE

I have changed my name from HUSSAIN to HUSAIN. In future I Shall be known as HUSAIN. HUSAIN S/o Alle Hasan Sadak Mohmmadpur Talluka Ibrahimpur, Bamrauli Kachhar, Prayagraj, UP.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from SHYAM BAHADUR to SHYAM YADAV. In future I Shall be known as SHYAM YADAV. SHYAM YADAV S/o Ram Soochit, LIG 5/69 Aavas Vikash Colony, Yojna-3, Jhunsi, Prayagraj, UP

NOTICE

It is informed to all that spelling of my name has been reflected as RAMASISH PRASAD VERMA in my defence service records, where as actual spelling of my name is RAMASHISH PRASAD VERMA. So I should be known as RAMASHISH PRASAD VERMA in future. Ramashish Prasad Verma Mauhari ka purwa, Samrat Nagar Raebareli UP 229001

NOTICE

I have changed my name from H.P. Gupta to Hanuman Prasad Gupta S/o Shri Kishan Pal Gupta R/o 128/131 K, Block Yashoda Nagar Kanpur Nagar. In future I would be known & recognise by this name only.

NOTICE

The name GIRJESH KUMAR BAJPAI, as entered in school records of my daughter Ishita Bajpai is incorrect. The correct name GIRIJESH KUMAR BAJPAI, as in my Aadhar Card, should be rectified herewith. Girijesh Kumar Bajpai S/o Late Shiv Shankar Colony, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, U.P. - 208011

NOTICE

NO- 15713822P, HAV (OSS) PARTHIBAN MOLUGAN VANDIGANOOR (VILL) SAMALPATTI (PO) POCHAMPALLI KRISHNAGIRI TN- 635306 DECLARE VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO- BL067387 DT 26 JUL 2024 IN MY SERVICE RECORD MY WIFE NAMER RANJITHA WRONG-LY MENTIONED. CORRECT RANJITHA

NOTICE

create mortgage in respect of Part of House Kanpur Nagar admeasuring 20.90 Sq Mts With DMI. Housing Finance Pvt Ltd, and the Original sale deed dated 09/05/2014 executed by Akeel in favour of Sri Rajendra Prasad which is registered in Book No. 1 Val No 8155 on pages 99 to 118 at senal no 4526 at the office of Sub Registrar Kanpur Nagar is lost. If any person having any claim against the said Property can

contact to me. within 07 days Bharat Bhatnagar Advocate Office Room No. 14 Second Floor Mudga Adhivakta Bhawan Civil Court Kanpur Nagar Mob. 09839034426

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to informed that my client Cholamandalam Investment and Finance limited intends to provide a loan to its customers Anil Kumar Singh son of the late Shri Arvind Prasad Singh resident at Flat No. 1001. Utsav Enclave Faizabad Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh against the colletral being situated at Flat No. FT 1, Third Floor, Plot No. 599, Prema Apartment, Near Hanuman Setu, Birbal Sahni Marg, Lucknow, However, the original No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the previous owner, Ambalika Mishra (daughter and legal heir of the late Baijnath Mishra), is lost and a copy is unavailable. If anyone has objections to this loan, they should contact me within 7 days with legal proof.

Advocate Vishal Yadav Mobile No.: 9415164653 ddress: 101/148, Bairuni Khanda Model House, Lucknow

Singh, sought help from various police officers but his pleas approximately Rs 2.5 crore.

approximately Rs 2.5 crore. Satvir Singh alleged that Ravindra Tiwari did not prowere ignored. Eventually, he met a senior Home department official and finally garnered police attention, leading to a vide any profit from the investment. When Satvir started formal complaint being lodged. Following the chief secretary's demanding his money back, Tiwari switched off his mobile orders, Sushant Golf City police phone. On May 14, 2024, Ravindra called Satvir to meet registered an FIR and initiated an investigation. Satvir Singh, at 9 pm in Ansal's Garden. who lost his lifelong savings, Satvir, accompanied by his slipped into depression as a friend Mukesh, met Ravindra's result. Reports said that Satvir friends Alok Srivastava and Singh, a property dealer from Vrindavan Colony in PGI Sunil Kumar Modi, who threatened to implicate Satvir in a police station area, met serious case and drove him Ravindra S Tiwari at a social gathering three years ago. Tiwari introduced himself as Despite this incident, Satvir the managing director of Shiv Chitra Real Estate Private

continued to ask for his money, but the accused kept threatening him. Consequently, he filed a complaint at Sushant Golf City police station on May 23, but no action was taken. Frustrated, Satvir met a senior Home department official on June 22, and narrated the entire matter. Following the senior official's order, the police registered a case.

Property dealer duped of ₹2.5 crore | Elderly woman strangled, jewellery stolen

Tn a daylight incident, uniden-Itified accused murdered a 72-year-old woman, Sarla, after breaking into her home and stealing her jewellery in LDA Colony (Sector F) under Krishna Nagar police station on Monday.

Sarla lived alone, having lost her husband, Ashok Kumar Kaka, about eight years ago. Her son Amit works at a cement factory in Gorakhpur, while daughter Rashmi resides with her family in Ahmedabad.

The woman was strangled with a towel. Following the murder, the assailants stole the jewellery from her body. The incident came to light when Sarla's nephew Kamal visited her house and found the doors bolted from the outside. Concerned, he contacted the police.

According to DCP (South) Tei Swaroop, a comprehensive investigation is underway involving Sarojininagar police,

Minor held in Gomti Nagar case

Lucknow (PNS): A 17-year-old boy, who is said to be a prime suspect in the harassment of a woman in Gomti Nagar, was finally apprehended on Monday. He was among the unruly youths involved in the incident and had inappropriately touched the woman when she fell off her bike.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Shashank Singh, the minor has been sent to a shelter home in Lucknow. Police claimed he was the main youth involved in the harassment. The minor reportedly took shelter at his aunt's house in Kanpur, although the police have not

the crime branch, and the surveillance cell. The authorities have deployed a dog squad, which has provided valuable leads on the suspects. confirmed this due to certain constraints. This brings the total number of suspects arrested in the case to 23. Sixteen accused were apprehended on Thursday and two more on August 2. Among those arrested on Saturday were Mohammed Daud (21) from Madehganj, Ali Haider (19) from Thakurganj, and Mohammed Afsaan (32) from Aliganj. The incident occurred following heavy rainfall on Wednesday, which caused

Additionally, police are examining nearby CCTV footage for further clues and have already detained two suspects. Preliminary investigations

waterlogging near the under-pass in the Gomti Nagar area,

close to a luxury hotel. Several

individuals took advantage of

the situation, gathered at the

waterlogged spot, and began harassing commuters by splashing rainwater on them, including the woman whose ordeal was captured on video and went viral. The footage raised serious concerns about Lucknow's social decorum and cultural standards.

In response, the state govern-ment ordered a probe and reassigned senior officers from the eastern zone, including the DCP, ADCP, ACP, the SHO, and the entire police outpost staff. The incident was also addressed in Vidhan Sabha, where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called for strict action against the perpetrators.

revealed that the assailants used Sarla's dupatta to tie her feet and strangled her with a towel. After killing her, they looted the house and fled, bolting the door from the outside. When the police arrived, they found evidence of a violent struggle. Sarla's head showed signs of injury, with blood stains indicating she was thrown to the floor. Her slippers were scattered, and blood was found in multiple locations, suggesting she fought fiercely.

A sniffer dog was used to trace the scent of the towel, leading it to Parag Chowk via Sector-F. suggesting that the assailants escaped through this route. CCTV footage captured images of the suspects and a vegetable vendor, who is also under investigation as a potential witness or accomplice.

Investigators suspected that the assailants might include some-one known to Sarla, who might have entered the house with malicious intent. It is believed that this person, familiar with Sarla, might have used the towel to strangle her from behind, incapacitating her before looting the property.

SUV-borne men attempt to crush group of youths

ing together.

Tn a brazen act, SUV-borne accused allegedly attempted to crush a group of youths under their vehicle (Thar) over a petty dispute in Vikas Nagar police station area.
The act was captured on

Limited, located in Ansal City,

and offered Satvir a position in

the company. About a year later, Tiwari made Satvir a

director and they began work-

Tiwari later proposed adding

investors to the land to earn

profits, which convinced Satvir

CCTV. The footage shows 4-5 youths fleeing in different directions as a high-speed Thar chases them. The youths somehow managed to save their lives. Frightened by this incident, they reported it to police, who are now investigating the matter. According to reports, Mohammed Sufiyan of Shivani Vihar in Vikas Nagar was heading to Mahanagar area in a Scorpio with his friends Nadeem, Mohib, and others to have ice cream at 11 pm on Sunday. Upon reaching the Vikas Nagar turn point, they saw a Thar parked in the middle of the road. They blew the horn several times, but the driver in the vehicle did not move.

As per reports, Sufiyan swerved his car to move ahead, which angered the youths in the Thar. Shortly afterwards, some occupants of the Thar approached them, took the car keys, and alleged. with their car with an intention to crush us," Sufiyan alleged.

Ayouth carrying a pistol dinside the old court

premises in Wazirganj was

caught on Monday afternoon.

After thrashing the youth, the advocates called police and

handed him over to the cops.

DCP (West) Omveer Singh

said the police were informed

that a youth was being

thrashed by advocates and a team was sent to the scene.

"The advocates alleged that the

youth was carrying a pistol and was roaming inside the court premises and could not

explain the reason behind his

presence there," the DCP said.

According to Wazirganj

Before he could react, the youths attacked him with a rod. Sufivan identified three attackers as Arsal Ghazi, Mohammed Faisal, and Tausif, all from Vikas Nagar. He claimed there were 10-12 other youths with the named accused. A case was registered based on the victim's complaint. The police are investi-gating the case and collecting corroborative evidence by reviewing the CCTV footage. Sufiyan alleged that Arsal Ghazi threatened them with dire consequences, claiming they ruled the area. "This is our territory, and nothing happens here against our wishes," Arsal reportedly told Sufiyan while assaulting him. Sufiyan said the accused thrashed him and his friends and attempted to crush them under their SUV. "They started beating us, and we had no choice but to flee the scene, abandoning the car to save our lives. We thought the matter would end after we fled, satisfying the attackers' egos. But they were determined to kill us, chasing us

Youth caught carrying pistol in court premises

Inspector Dinesh Mishra,

Aman Khan, a resident of

Mohan road, was caught at

gate number 3 of the court.

He was caught with a pistol

by Suhail Ahmed Siddiqui, an

advocate and a resident of

Chowk, and his associates. An

FIR was registered on the

complaint given by Farah

Siddiqui, an advocate, and

the accused was arrested. His

criminal history is being investigated," the inspector

"Aman had come to the court

for recall of a warrant against

him. He has a property dispute with one of the advocates

who apprehended him and a

case was registered at the

grabbed Sufiyan by the collar. He said he and his friends managed to escape and save their lives. "People started gathering at the scene, and the attackers left. While leaving, they shouted that we would be unable to harm them and threatened to kill us if we went to the police," Sufiyan

The police confirmed the incident occurred late at night and registered a case under relevant sections of the BNS after receiving a complaint. They also received a complaint from the rival party and are deciding on the course of

ADCP (North) said the incident was reported on the night of August 3 and subsequently, a case was registered based on the complaint. "The investigation officer reviewed CCTV footage and, based on the video evidence, the police team arrested three accused," the ADCP stated.

The arrested accused were identified as Mohammed Arsal Ghazi, Mohammed Faisal, and Samridh Singh. Efforts to apprehend other miscreants are ongoing. The officer mentioned that the brawl initially arose over a vehicle overtaking issue.

Chowk police station last year," he added.

The incident raised questions

on the security measures taken by the police. The advocates said the security in the

court premises was beefed up

after the murder of dreaded

criminal Sanjeev Maheshwari

aka Jeeva by an assailant

"We believed that the securi-

ty arrangement of the police

was impregnable but today's

incident wahed away our con-

fidence," the advocates said.

They demanded a review of

the security measures in the

court premises and said they

would write to senior govern-

ment officials in this regard.

dressed as an advocate.

Varsity set to introduce 10 online courses

PNS LUCKNOW

Lucknow University is set to Lintroduce nine online PG courses and one online UG course starting from the academic session 2024-2025. Director of the Lucknow University Centre for Online and Distance Education (LUCODE) Dr Piyush Bhargava announced on Monday that the new courses include MA in Political Science, Sanskrit, English, Economics, Social Work, and four specialised MBA programmes in Marketing, International Finance, Business. and Additionally, there will be an online UG programme in

These courses were chosen due to their popularity in offline formats. The university has applied for approval from the UGC and plans to start admissions in the last week of August, with the ses-sion expected to begin in September.

Dr Bhargava noted the positive response to the already existing online courses in BCom and MCom, which started in the 2023-2024 session. "Admissions for these courses took place in March 2024, even before the Class XII and BCom results were out. We received over 135 applications and finally admitted 48 stu-dents in the online MCom course and nine students in BCom. The batch commenced in February 2024," he said. He anticipates a good response for the newly announced online PG and UG courses. 'These courses are particular-

remote areas," he added. Regarding the admission process, Dr Bhargava explained that the eligibility criteria for these online courses are the same as for offline courses, with no entrance test required. "We do not hold an entrance test for these courses to ensure accessibility for all interested appli-

cants who meet the minimum

eligibility criteria," he stated.

ly beneficial for working pro-

fessionals and those living in

Housing, plots scheme launched PNS LUCKNOW/ tial group housing projects at a rate of Rs 32,375 per square metres, offering builders the

GREATER NOIDA

Tn a bid to provide world class facilities to the citizens of Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government has launched a new residential group housing and institutional plots scheme in Greater Noida. The process for allotment of 19

residential group housing and nine institutional plots has already begun. Under this scheme, builders will develop residential townships in Sectors 17, 18 and 22D. Simultaneously, the institutional plots will pave the way for the establishment of hospitals, nursing homes and nursery schools in Sectors 17, 18, 20, 22E and 22D.

Under the new scheme introduced by the Yamuna Industrial Expresswav Development Authority (YEIDA), all allotment processes are set to be completed by September this year. Under the new scheme, plots

will be allotted for 19 residen-

chance to develop townships with world class amenities. The sizes of the plots will range from 11,513.72 square metres to 48,564 square metres. These strategically located plots are in close proximity to key sites, including the F-1 and MotoGP tracks, Yamuna Expressway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Jewar airport, International Film City, Medical Device Park, and dedicated MSME, Apparel, Handicrafts and Toy parks.
The registration fees for these

plots range from Rs 3.91 crore to Rs 17.29 crore. The allotment will be conducted via eauction, with the Bank of Baroda serving as the banking partner. In addition to the residential

group housing plot scheme, YEIDA's institutional plot scheme will facilitate the construction of a child welfare and maternity centre on a 5,000square metre plot in Sector 20, and hospitals on plots of 10,115 square metres and 10,900 square metres in Sectors 22E and 20, respectively.

Furthermore, the scheme will support the development of nursing homes on plots ranging from 1,000 square metres to 2,750 square metres in Sectors 17, 18 and 22D.

The reserve prices for plots designated for the child welfare and maternity centre, hospitals and nursing homes are set between Rs 2.27 crore and Rs 24.81 crore, at a rate of Rs 22,770 per square metres.

Under the new scheme, plots ranging from 1,000 square metres to 1,500 square metres in Sectors 17 and 22D will be allotted at a rate of Rs 15,020 per square metres. The reserve prices for these plots are set between Rs 1.50 crore and Rs 2.25 crore.

In addition to these new plots, YEIDA will complete the draw for the allotment of 361 residential plots and the e-auction process for three plots designated for banquet and marriage hall facilities, all within

Over 30,000 youths in Uttar Pradesh to be trained as Surya Mitras

PNS LUCKNOW

Tn a concerted effort to swift- rooftops to this goal. achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of having solar panels in every household of Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government, under the PM Surva Ghar Yojana, plans to train over 30,000 youths from the state as Surya Mitras.

Currently, 3,000 youths have already completed their training as Surya Mitras.

To develop skilled manpower for the solar energy sector, the National Solar Energy Mission has outlined a plan to groom Surva Mitras, creating a workforce of skilled artisans for solar projects.

Following the launch of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana in February 2023, which aims to install one crore solar rooftops nationwide, the Yogi government of

Uttar Pradesh has committed Pradesh New & Renewable to contributing 25 lakh solar Energy Development Agency

According to available registration has been completed for installing solar rooftops on over 18 lakh houses in the state, with applications submitted for approximately two lakh additional houses. The installation of solar rooftops has already been completed for more than 10,000 homes. To promote solar energy usage,

the government has introduced a net billing/net metering system. Additionally, Uttar

(UPNEDA) has partnered with the Tata Group to install solar rooftops on 10 lakh houses across the state, with the initiative recently commencing in Varanasi. With the large-scale installation

of solar rooftops, there will be a significant need for skilled workers in the sector. To address this, UPNEDA has set a target of training 30,000 Surya Mitras through district training centres and industrial training institutes (ITIs).

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspscl.in (Contact No. 96461-20640)

Tender Enquiry no.1693/CMC/O&M/PC-2532 Dated: 05-08-2024 Chief Engineer / O&M (P&P Cell-I), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites Etender for the Procurement of Railway track material for Railway siding at GHTP Lehra Mohabat., Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 05-08-2024 from 17:00 hrs. onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

76155/12/3230/2023/36378 Dated CHD :- 8/5/2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspscl.in (Phone No. 01881-275289) E-mail: se-hq-ggsstp-ropar@pspcl.in E-Tender (O) Enq. No. 7579/P-2/EMPW-12740 Dated 22.07.2024

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024 POWER 124723 1 for Procurement of spare for HEA (High Energy Area System) for Stage-II & III of GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 01.08.2024 onwards.

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

76155/12/3228/2023/36376 Dated CHD :- 8/5/2024

युनियन बैंक 🕼 Union Bank

Regional Office: 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur 208005 • Tel: 0512-2217517

(PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE)

Union Bank of India requires a well-constructed/under construction commercial premises admeasuring 1400 sqft ±/-10% carpet area ready for possession, on lease for shifting of Mahoba Branch, For further details, please visit Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.com or eprocure.gov.in A non refundable Demand Draft of Rs. 500/- in favour of "Union Bank of India" payable at Kanpur, is to be invariably attached to the Technical Bid. Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is 27.08.2024 upto 02.00pm at Regional Office, 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Asst. General Manager

Zoo inmates to be under CCTV surveillance

SHARMILA KRISHNA LUCKNOW

Technology is making its way into the Lucknow Zoological Gardens for better management of the inmates, with animals being placed under CCTV camera surveillance. Director Aditi Sharma announced that the installation work was underway and would be completed within a fortnight.

Sharma stated that 35 CCTV cameras were being installed, with each enclosure having cameras positioned outside. We cannot install them inside the enclosures because the animals would break the cameras. Therefore, the cameras are being installed from the outside. The OSD cable laying work has already been completed the installation of the cameras will be finished and within 15 days," she explained. The cameras will monitor both animal activity and visitors at

the enclosures, providing continuous observation. "One cannot be there 24x7 watching the activities of the

zoo is short-staffed, making it difficult to keep one keeper per enclosure. Previously, there was a one-to-one ratio of keepers to zoo inmates, allowing keepers to observe the animals' activities throughout the day, including their behaviour, eating habits, interactions with visitors, and reactions to increased visitor numbers," she said. Sharma noted that when an

animal falls sick, it's essential to check its behaviour in the days leading up to the illness.

These cameras will provide continuous recordings, offering clues about the animal's behaviour. The advantage is that cameras can provide a detailed view of the animals' activities, which keepers might not be able to offer, aiding in better management and upkeep of the inmates," she added.

She mentioned that a mix of still and rotating cameras was being installed to provide comprehensive views of the animals. Sharma also highlighted the use of technology for online ticket booking at the

watching the activities of the animals in the enclosure. The zoo, allowing visitors to book tickets through their portal.

CITYBRIEFS

POWER OF 5

In a significant step towards combating childhood malnutrition and fostering a healthier India, Amway India, one of the leading companies supporting health and wellbeing, has announced the expansion of its 'Power of 5' programm to Lucknow in partnership with ChildFund India. This initiative targets children, mothers and caregivers with effective nutrition education and interventions. Amway India Managing Director Rajneesh Chopra said, "Our mission is to not only improve individual lives but to build a foundation for healthier families and communities and to pave the way for a healthier future."

CHABI YOUTH IMPACT CHALLENGE LAUNCHED

CHABI (Children's Hope for Action and Better Impact) Youth Impact Challenge 2.0 was launched at UNICEF office in Gomti Nagar. The challenge invites youth to take up action projects on three themes related to children and create an impact. CHABI YAN(Youth Advocacy Network) was started in 2023 by UNICEF in collaboration with the social work department of Lucknow



The final match of Franciscan Liga was played between the teams of Stella Maris Convent and St Anthony's School, Barabanki on Monday. The chief guest on the occasion was Mark Fernandes, the Parish Priest of St Anthony's Parish, Brabanki The Stella Maris Convent team won the match 2-1.

University. In its second phase this year, CHABI is being led by youth champions.

CPR TRAINING

More than 100 traffic police personnel and their families were trained in a CPR workshop under the Sanjeevani initiative in collaboration with **Apollomedics Superspeciality**

Deputy situations. Commissioner of Police

Hospital and Traffic Police Lucknow. The aim of this initiative is to equip the policemen with life-saving skills to save the lives of victims in road accidents or other emergency

(Traffic) Salmantaj Patil was present as chief guest along with other officers.

Akhilesh: SP to oppose amendment | Ensure swift, satisfactory resolution to law governing Waqf Boards

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said his party will oppose the Centre's move to bring a Bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf boards, and accused the BJP of trying to snatch the rights of Muslims. His remarks came after it emerged that the government is all set to bring a Bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf boards to ensure more accountability and transparency in their func-tioning and mandatory inclusion of women in these bodies. The amendment Bill will make it mandatory for Waqf boards to register their properties with district collectors to ensure their actual valuation.

"We will be against it (Wakf Act Amendment Bill)," Yadav told reporters when asked about the proposed amendment

"BJP's only work is to divide Hindus and Muslims, snatch the rights of Muslim brothers and work on how to snatch the rights given to them in the



Constitution," he said after paying tributes to late MP and party leader Janeshwar Mishra on his birth anniversary here. The SP chief charged that the Modi government had earlier snatched the rights of Anglo-

"Anglo-Indians used to have one seat in the Lok Sabha and one in the Vidhan Sabha. They had their own representation, but they got a fake census done and snatched the seats of Anglo-Indians," he charged. The SP chief also targeted

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the Uttar Pradesh Nazul Property (Management and use of public purposes) Bill, 2024 presented by the state gov-

"Look how intelligent our chief minister is... He found out that nuzul is an Urdu word. The officers kept explaining to him that nuzul means something else but he said no, nuzul means land of Muslims," Yadav claimed.

"Think about it, this person was getting the whole of Prayagraj and Gorakhpur vacated only because of the Urdu word nuzul. He has some personal interest in Gorakhpur or some of his colleagues have some personal interest," he charged.

The Bill presented by the state government was sent to the select committee in the Upper House (Legislative Council) and could not be passed after some BJP leaders opposed it. Targeting Union Minister Anupriya Patel, who has been demanding reservation in the private sector, Yadav, without

naming her, said, "It is being heard that a minister is shouting that reservation has ended...Those who are concerned about reservation, whether in Delhi or Lucknow, should immediately leave the

Referring to the caste-wise census, he targeted the state's Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, and said, "There is a 'stool kit' leader. He is doing a lot of 'kit-kit' (talks). I think I will have to end the offer. It is being heard that the 'stool kit' ministers get orders, only then he does it. At least he should talk about caste-wise census and also talk about the reservation that is being abolished." Yadav was apparently referring to his recent monsoon

offer to ruling party MLAs.
"Monsoon offer: Bring hundred, form government," the former chief minister had said. Yadav used the 'stool' prefix while talking about deputy CM Maurya as once he was seen sitting on a stool at a programme due to non-availability of a chair on the dais.

of the delegation, said her "blood boiled" when she

heard the girl's ordeal and

alleged that the accused had

committed similar crimes

earlier as well. The team held

a "detailed discussion" with

the girl's family members and gathered information

about the alleged incident. The delegation also included

Rajya Sabha MP Baburam Nishad and Narendra

Kashyap, Uttar Pradesh's

minister of state (independent

charge) for backward-class

welfare. Nishad told PTI on

Sunday, "The girl is in a critical condition and doctors are

giving her the best treat-

Asked whether he suggested that the girl be shifted to a

better facility in Lucknow or

Delhi, Nishad had said, "We

have told them (doctors) that

if you feel that it (treatment)

is beyond your control, then the girl should be shifted to a

higher centre without any

AYODHYA GANG-RAPE CASE

BJP govt conspiring to malign Samajwadi Party: Akhilesh

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Uttar Pradesh of a conspiracy in the Ayodhya gang-rape case with an objective to malign the opposition Samajwadi Party. "The BJP wants to start a con-

spiracy before the by-elections to 10 UP assembly seats. Their aim from the very first day has been to defame the socialists and especially their thinking about Muslims is undemocratic and unconstitutional," Akhilesh Yadav said.

Hitting out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Akhilesh Yadav said, "If a 'yogi' does not believe in democracy and the Constitution, he cannot be a

'yogi." This is not the first time that Akhilesh Yadav has slammed the Uttar Pradesh government issue. On Sunday, the SP chief had urged the court to order protection for the gang-rape survivor, considering the "sensitivity" of the case. He also said people were trying to "politicise" the case, and that such people 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.

The 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by two men in Ayodhya. In action which followed the incident, two Uttar Pradesh cops were suspended for the delay in carrying out the investigation in the case.

Notably, bakery owner Moid Khan and his employee Raju Khan were arrested on July 30 from the Purakalandar area of Avodhva in connection with the case. According to sources in the police, the teen was raped by the duo two months ago and the act was also record- Moid Khan's influence had

Victim admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital

the obstetrics and gynaecol-

The 12-year-old Ayodhya gangrape survivor was admitted to Lucknow's Queen Mary's Hospital after being referred to the King George's Medical University for better treatment, an official said on Monday. She was referred to King George's Medical University as the women's hospital in Ayodhya did not have the facility to provide adequate treatment, the district's Chief Medical Officer Sanjay Jain said. 'The girl has been admitted to

the Queen Mary's Hospital in Lucknow," Jain said and added that a team of doctors accompanied her during her King George's Medical

spokesperson Sudhir Singh told PTI, "The girl has been admitted in the Queen Mary's Hospital. A team of doctors under Sujata Deo is monitoring her." The Queen Mary's Hospital is

ed. The incident came to light

when a recent medical exami-

nation revealed that the teenage

Later, speaking in the UP assembly on Thursday, Yogi Adityanath claimed that Moid

Khan belonged to the

Samajwadi Party. Meanwhile, Mohammad Moid Khan, the

Samajwadi Party leader who has been arrested for allegedly

raping a minor girl in Ayodhya district, has a long history of

criminal activities. However,

the political influence he held

in the area deterred local

administration and law

enforcement agencies from act-

His arrest in the gang-rape case

is the first substantial action

taken against him in 12 years.

ing against him.

girl was pregnant.

ogy department of King George's Medical University. BJP leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, have alleged that the prime accused in the gangrape case, Moid Khan, was a member of the Samajwadi Party and part of Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad's team. Police on July 30 arrested

Moid Khan, who ran a bakery in the district's Bhadarsa Nagar, and his employee Raju Khan, in connection with the minor's gangrape. The Ayodhya district administration demolished Khan's

"illegal" bakery on August 3. The shifting of the 12-yearold rape survivor took place a day after a three-member Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) delegation met her and her family members and urged the state government to raise the compensation amount from Rs 5 lakh to 25 lakh.

Rajya Sabha MP Sangeeta Balwant Bind, who was part

been cultivated over two decades through his connections with powerful figures in the Samajwadi Party. He was particularly close to Awadhesh Prasad,the Samajwadi Party

MP from Faizabad. One of the most notable incidents linked to Moid Khan occurred on October 24, 2012. During the Durga Puja procession in Bhadrasa, a communal riot broke out, resulting in an attack on the Hindu procession and the murder of a man, Bhola Gupta. Moid Khan, along with a few others, was accused of inciting the riot and murder. In 2012, leveraging his close ties with Samaiwadi Party MP, Moid Khan became the municipal unit president of the Samajwadi Party, a position he continues to hold.

Despite his limited formal education, having only attended a madrasa, Moid Khan amassed considerable wealth and influence. A shopping complex housing a private bank, identified by the Revenue Department for demolition due to illegal occupation of government land, also reportedly belongs to his relative residing abroad. Following Moid Khan's recent arrest, several Dalit families have come forward and accused him of grabbing their lands. The district administration is currently investigating his properties, with suspicions that Moid Khan has invested his relatives' overseas earnings in various assets. Properties under his and his associates' names are

now under scrutiny.

strict legal action against those illegally occupying land or displacing the vulnerable. As usual, many people sought

treatment. Chief Minister Yogi assured them of full support from the government. He directed officials to expedite the estimation of the cost of treatment and make it available to the gov-

officials to resolve revenue and police cases with complete transparency and fairness, emphasising that no one should be treated unjustly. He stressed the importance of

people's satisfaction, and warned against negligence in tackling Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath personally engaged with the people at the Janata Darshan, listening to their problems individ-ually and patiently and assuring them that no injustice would be tolerated and eligible persons who have somehow been denied the benefits of the government's public welfare schemes so far, would be included in the relevant schemes. Several women from the Muslim community also

attended the event. The chief minister referred all applications to the officials concerned, emphasising prompt children accompanied by their resolution and reiterating the families and gave them chocogovernment's commitment to

addressing every victim's issues He instructed officials to take

of public issues: CM tells officials

financial assistance for medical ernment at the earliest.

The chief minister instructed

sensitively aiding every victim and protecting the land and property of the poor. Anyone attempting to encroach on such properties should be prosecuted, he added. The chief minister also assured that those in need of permanent housing would be pro-vided homes through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or Chief Minister Awas Yojana. During Janata Darshan, the chief minister distributed chocolates to children who had come to the event with their mothers. He also showered his love and blessings on them. While touring the temple premises also, Chief Minister Yogi met with many

Yogi performs Rudrabhishek, havan at Manasarovar temple



PNS LUCKNOW

On the third Monday of the sacred month of Shravan, Gorakshapeethadhiswar and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performed Rudrabhishek at the ancient Manasarovar temple in Andhiyari Bagh.

During the Rudrabhishek, a prayer for the happiness and prosperity of the state's people, Yogi offered Bilva leaves, Lotus flowers, Durva and other wor-

ship materials to Lord Mahadev. The ritual, which included the recitation of Rudrashtadhyayi from the Shukla Yajurveda Samhita by the learned priests of the Gorakhnath temple, was a solemn and important event. Following the Rudrabhishek, the chief minister performed havan and aarti, accompanied by Vedic chants, praying for a healthy, happy, prosper-ous, and peaceful life for the state's people.

CM's 2-day Ayodhya visit begins today

PNS AYODHYA

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will start his two-day visit to Ayodhya on Tuesday. The chief minister will arrive at Ramkatha Park's helipad by helicopter on Tuesday and visit Hanuman Garhi and Shri Ram Lalla tem-

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday,

directed officials to ensure swift

and satisfactory resolution of

Speaking at the Janata Darshan

for the second consecutive day

at Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti

Auditorium in the Gorakhnath

temple complex, the chief minister emphasised that prompt disposal of people's problems is the priority for his government.

The chief minister heard problems in the chief minister heard problems in the chief minister heard problems.

lems of around 400 people at the Janata Darshan and issued nec-

essary instructions. He also

directed officials to ensure qual-

ity resolution of the issues for

public issues.

people's issues.

Later, the chief minister will hold a meeting with officials and public representatives in the commissionerate auditorium to review development projects and law enforcement.

He will also meet party leaders at the Circuit House and make a field inspection of ongoing development works. On August 7, the chief minister will pay trib-ute at the Samadhi Sthal of Brahmalin Paramhans

Brahmalin Paramhans Ramchandra Maharaj at Digambar Akhara and participate in a 'bhandara'. Following these events, the chief minister will leave for Ambedkar Nagar.

Ramchandra Das Maharaj. He

will then unveil the statue of

Tribal Museum to be opened in Mirzapur

PNS LUCKNOW

In its ongoing pursuit to bring the marginalised tribal communities into the mainstream, the double-engine government in Uttar Pradesh, in line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive, is set to establish a Tribal Museum in Mirzapur. The district administration has already identified the site for this new cultural landmark to be built by the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Research and Training Institute.

Minister of State for Social Welfare (Independent Charge) Asim Arun said, "Uttar Pradesh is home to 15 tribes with a rich and ancient heritage. A museum will be established to preserve and showcase their art and culture. This museum will include a food court featuring tribal cuisine and an outlet for tribal products, promoting local goods and supporting the community's economic self-

He added, "Visitors will also be able to explore traditional musical instruments and sports equipment of the tribal communities. The museum will have modern amenities to offer an engaging experience for tourists from India and

Kakori, Lucknow-227107

Kakori, Lucknow-227107

Branch: Khushhalgani

Guarantor: 1. Mr. Ram Shankar s/o Amrit Lal, Buddheshawar

2. Mr. Anand Kumar Sahu s/o Balak Ram, Vill-Narauna, Post-

Mohan Road, Model City, Lucknow - 226017

यूनियन बैंक 🕼 Union Bank Regional Office: 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur 208005 • Tel: 0512-2217517

(PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE)

Union Bank of India requires a well-constructed/under construction commercia premises admeasuring 1700 sqft ±/-10% carpet area ready for possession, or lease for shifting of Lalitpur Branch, For further details, please visit Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.com or eprocure.gov.in A non refundable Demand Draft of Rs. 500/- in favour of "Union Bank of India" payable at Kanpur is to be invariably attached to the Technical Bid. Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is 27.08.2024 upto 02.00pm at Regional Office, 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur . The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Debts Recovery Tribunal 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Set Mandir, Luckne (Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh) nons For Filing Reply & Appearance Through Publication

(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery DATE: 31.07.2024

OANO 921 of 2023 M/S SHRI HARI ENTERPRISES & OTHERS

1. Shri Hari Enterprises Through Proprietor Vineet Kumar Verma Lakhperabagh, Maharishi Mr. Vineet Kumar Verma, S/o Sant Ram Verma R/o Barel road, Dr. Sajjan

Maharishi Nagar, Lakhperabagh, Nawabganj, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh - India

3. Mr. Sant Ram Verma, S/o Raj Ram Verma R/o Barel road, Dr. Sajjan Lal Wali Gali, Maharisi Nagar, Lakhperabagh, Nawabganj, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh - India

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply/evidence in Paper Book form in tw sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 20.08.2024 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and

REGISTRAR DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL Lucknow

ARYAVART BANK

(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India) Regional Office: Lucknow, Aryavart Bhawan, 569/20/K/1, Sneh Nagar, V.I.P. Road, Opp. Awadh Hospital, Alambagh, Lucknow Notice Under Section-13(2) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets A Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. (SARFAESI Act.)

Authorized Officer, Aryavart Bank, Regional Office - Lucknow, have issued Demand Notice under Section-13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 through Registered /Speed post. The contents of the same are interalia the defaults committed by you in the payment of outstanding amount including principal interest and other charges etc. The outstanding dues are mentioned here-in-below:

e d	Sr. No.		Description of the property	Date of Demand Notice	Amount of Notice
a i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	1.	Borrower & Mortgagor: Smt. Arti w/o Indra Pal, Plot-5B,Khasra nNo.201, Khargapur, Gomtinagar Lucknow-226010 Co-borrower: Indra Pal s/o Shree Ram, Plot-5 B, Khasra no. 201, Khargapur, Gomtinagar Lucknow-226010 Guarantor: 1. Mr. Arjun Singh s/o S B Singh, Khargapur Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 2. Mr. Chandra Pratap Singh Gautam s/o Tara Chandra Singh Gautam, C-46,J-Park 2, Mahanagar Vistar Mahanagar Lucknow-226006 Branch: Khargapur	Residential Property: Plot no.5B, khasra no.201 min., Vill-Khargapur, Pargana Tehsil & Dist- Lucknow, TITLE HOLDER- Arti Maurya w/o Indrapal Maurya, Details of Property As Per Sale Deed Dated 17.11.2014, Boundaries: EAST: Rasta 14 feet wide, West: House of Sandeep, North: Plot No.7, South: Plot Suresh Vishwakarma Area: 400 Sq.feet, 37.174sq.mt	22.07.2024	Rs. 3,34,464.51 + Interest & Expenses etc.
		Borrower: Pandey Enterprises Prop: Bagesh Pandey, Shri krishanpuri Bharat Nagar Madiyon, Sitapur Road, Lucknow-226020 2. Mr. Bagesh Kumar Pandey s/o Krishna dutt Pandey, Shri krishanpuri Bharat Nagar Madiyon, Sitapur Road, Behta Lucknow-226021 Guarantor: 1. Mr. Ashish Bajpai s/o Chandra Mauli Bajpai, Post-Gaura Chowki Munderi Gaura Fatehpur Barabanki-225305 2. Mr. Anmol Awasthi s/o Chandrasekhar Awasthi, 537/836 Krishnapuri Bharatpur Behta, Lucknow-226021 Branch: Vikas Nagar	Residential Property: Plot no.45 carved upon khasra no.775 Paikaramau Bakshi Ka Talab Lucknow, TITLE HOLDER-Bagesh Kumar Pandey S/o Krishna dutt Pandey, Details of Property As Per Sale Deed Dated 11.02.2013, Boundaries: EAST: Rasta 20 feet wide, West: Plot No.58, North: Plot No.48, South: Rasta 22 feet wide Area: 1500 Sq.feet, 139.405sq.mt		Rs. 5,09,495.92 + Interest & Expenses etc.
d d	3.	Borrower & Mortgagor: Smt. Pushpa Kumari w/o Ajay Kumar, Vill-Narauna, Post-Kakori, Lucknow-227107 Co-Borrower: Ajai Kumar s/o Siyaram, Vill-Narauna, Post-	Residential Property: Plot part of land Khasra No.426 Sa Minj. Vill-Narauna Pargana kakori Tehsil and Dist-Lucknow,	~1	Rs. 11,07,038.00 + Interest

Area: 800 Sq. feet, 74.349 sq.mt urther with reasons, we believe that you are avoiding the service of said Demand Notice issued under the Act hence, we are now constrained to make this publication of demand notice, as required u/s-13(2) of said Act. the Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. You are hereby called upon to pay Aryavart Bank, within a period of 60 days rom the date of publication of this Demand Notice with the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc., failing which, we Aryavart Bank will take necessary action under the provisions of Section-13(4) of sale thereof. Further, you are prohibited u/s.-13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale/lease etc. and encumber in any other way, the aforesaid secured asset.

TITLE HOLDER- Pushpa Kumari w/o

Ajay Kumar, Details of Property As Per

Boundaries: EAST: Rasta 20 feet wide

West: Plot Ashok Kumar Yadav, North:

Plot Monika, South: Plot Sabhajeet

Sale Deed Dated 16.05.2018,

Authorised Officer Date: 06.08.2024 Place: Lucknow

Yogi transforming Bundelkhand region into solar energy hub Khargada,

PNS LUCKNOW

▼n its efforts to provide solar Lenergy to both urban and rural areas, the Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is developing solar parks to trans-form the Bundelkhand region into a solar energy hub.

The largest of these solar parks is being established across 9,000 acres in Jhansi, Lalitpur and Chitrakoot, where a 2,000 MW solar plant will be installed. This will produce 4700 million units of electricity per year.

The process of leasing the target-ed land from 32 villages is currently underway. So far, over 8,000 acres (more than 90 per cent of the land) has been secured.

Simultaneously, the Yogi Adityanath government has set a goal to complete all three projects by December 2025. However, experts suggest that the projects may commence ahead of schedule. This endeavour will create over 18,000

employment opportunities. Swift progress is being made towards developing groundmounted ultra-mega solar power parks in Jhansi, Lalitpur and Chitrakoot in the Bundelkhand region.

Lalitpur District Magistrate Akshay Tripathi said, "So far, 1,317.80 acres of government land and 1,022.73 acres of private land has been identified to develop a solar park spanning 2,700 acres. Approximately 86 per cent of this land has already been acquired on lease."

He noted that land has been identified in about nine villages within the Talbehat tehsil area, including Pawa, Sarkhadi, Burma Bihar, Shahpur, Talbehat Andar (Khandi), Piprai, Gevragundera, Jharar and Kadesar Kalan.

The Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) is currently putting up fencing

and constructing an internal grid sub-station for solar energy evacuation in these locations. Tripathi said that this 600 MW capacity plant would generate 1,400 million units of electricity annually and the project would also provide employment opportunities to 210 skilled and 4,850 unskilled workers. Additionally, during the 25-year operation and maintenance period, around 200 skilled and 360 unskilled workers will be employed.

A 600 MW solar plant is being established across 2,700 acres in Jhansi. Jhansi District Magistrate Avinash Kumar stated, "In accordance with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, the process of acquiring land on lease for the development of a solar park is progressing at a rapid pace. Land from eight villages in Garautha tehsil, namely Khadoura, Jalalpura, Pura, Jaswantpura, Sujanpura, Nadoura, Bararu and Motikatra, has been identified for this purpose." He added, "So far, 263.77 acres of government land and 2,328.67 acres of private land has been acquired on lease, completing 96

per cent of the land acquisition process. The UPPCL is currently working on fencing and con-structing an internal grid substation for solar energy evacua-tion. This 600 MW solar power plant will generate 1,400 million units of electricity annually, creating employment for 210 skilled and 4,850 unskilled workers. Additionally, during the 25year operation and maintenance phase of the project, around 200 skilled and 360 unskilled workers will be employed." Besides, the process of leasing land from 15 villages in Mau tehsil for the establishment of an 800 MW solar plant on 3,400 acres in Chitrakoot is currently underway. The villages involved include Chhatainimafi,

Kataiyadandi, Mankachhatani, Chachokhar, Chharehra, Dondiamafi, Kotwamafi, Usrimafi, Bargah, Atari Majra, Goiyakalan, Goiyakhurd and Semra.

So far, 1,249.50 acres of government land and 1,821.51 acres of private land has been acquired on lease, amounting to 90 per cent of the required 3,400 acres. The UPPCL is currently working on fencing and construction of an internal grid substation for solar energy extraction. This solar plant will generate 1,900 million units of electricity annually. During the establishment phase, 265 skilled and 6,050 unskilled workers will be employed. Additionally, during the 25-year operation and maintenance period of the project, approximately 300 skilled and 450 unskilled workers will receive employment opportuni-

Lakhs offer prayers at KVT

Lakhs of devotees, including thousands of saffron-clad Kanwariyas offered prayers at Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) on the third Monday of the auspicious month of Shravan. Due to the increase in the number of Kanwariyas, the entire sprawling Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (corridor) premises echoed with the traditional slogan of 'Har Har Mahadev', along with 'Bol Bom' throughout the day. Long queues of people were seen towards the temple throughout the day not only from Godowlia and Maidagin areas but also from the river side. Like the last Monday, Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma, CEO of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust Vishwa Bhushan Mishra and other officers showered rose petals on the devotees. In view of heavy rush of devotees, elaborate security arrangements were made and no vehicles were allowed to move between Godowlia and Maidagin throughout the day. To maintain law and order, the devotees were checked at many places through metal detectors. Senior administrative and police officers were present there to keep a watch on the situation in KVC premises. All the activities were also watched through various CCTV cameras. To avoid congregation



Devotees going to offer jalabhishek at KVT on third Monday of Shravan in Varanasi.

the devotees were asked to move towards the corridor only through barricading and RAF, paramilitary and PAC jawans were deployed both inside and outside of the premises. A large number of Kanwariyas came from Prayagraj and other places. For the convenience of the devotees, at six places big LED screens were installed to display the activities of 'garbhagriha' (sanctum sanctorum) as the devotees were not allowed to touch the Shivling and they offered 'jalabhishek' through a big metal structure from outside the 'garb-Apart from KVT, lakhs of devo-

tees also offered prayers at several other famous temples located in the city as well as its out-

skirts. Maximum rush was seen at Markandev Mahadev located near the confluence of Ganga and Gomti rivers at Kaithi. Besides, there was heavy rush of devotees at all famous temples, including Mahamritunjya Mahadev (Daranagar), Gauri Kedareshwar (Kedar Ghat), Jogeshar Mahadev

(Ishwargangi), Omkleshwar Mahadev (Chittanpura), Teel Bhandeshwar (Pandey Haveli), Sarangnath Mahadev (Sarnath) and many others in the city areas. In the outskirts, a heavy rush of devotees was also seen at all the Shiva temples located on Panchkoshi Marg, including Karmdeshwar Mahadev, Bhim Chandi, Rameshwar Mahadev, Paach Pandev and Kapildhara.

Temple,

heavy rush of devotees was also seen at Vishwanath Temple in BHU premises and Shool Tankeshwar Mahadev and scores of all others as the city is famous for having the replicas of all the Dwadasa Jyotirlingas.
CONFERENCE: The

International Joint Annual Conference (IJAC), hosted by Jay Minesh Adiwasi University in Ranpur, Kota (Rajasthan) recently was conducted under the auspices of the 54th Annual Conference of the Indian Archaeological Society, the 49th Annual Conference of the History and Culture Society (HCS), and the 45th Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies (ISPQS). The three-day event featured presentations from numerous national and international scholars. Among the participants was Guniva Yaday, a research scholar from the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology at BHU who presented her paper. She presented her research paper 'Comparative Study of Pottery Tradition from the Kushana & Gupta Period in the Middle Ganga Plain, which won the best paper presented at the said IJAC. Her exceptional contribution was recognised and she received a gold medal, a prize of ₹5,100 and a certificate for Best Paper Presentation.

DM hears problems

Varanasi (PNS): District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam heard the problems of the general public during the Jan Sunwai (public hearing) in his chamber at the Collectorate here on Monday. After listening to the complaints, the DM talked to the concerned officers on phone. He instructed the officials concerned to ensure quality disposal as per the wishes of the government. He said that whatever problems are coming

Ganga level continues to rise in Kashi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The water level of Ganga river continued to rise in the city and due to it the devotees and Kanwaritas faced difficulty in taking a holy dip in holy river water before going to offer 'jalabhishek' at Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) on the third Monday in the auspicious month of Shravan. The water level of the river has reached close to the feet of Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dasaswamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Many of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged in the water. The venue of famous regular Ganga Aarti has been shifted upstairs for the fourth time in recent weeks. Dozens of low-lying temples located at the internationally



The water level of Ganga continued to rise in Varanasi on Monday

famous 84-odd ghats were either fully or partially submerged in water.

The river, which was rising at a speed of two cm a day ago, was recorded increasing by almost four cm per hour in the city. According to the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of

Central Water Commission (CWC), during the 24 hours the water level has increased by 68 cm, rising to 65.34 metres at 8 am on Monday from 64.66 metres a day ago. It continued rising right from Prayagraj to Ghazipur including Mirzapur and Varanasi. Though it was steady at upstream Phaphamau and downstream Ballia where it was flowing at 55.38 metres during the day and the slight rise in the level will deteriorate the situation there as the warning level is at 56.615 metres. In Varanasi, the same level is at 70.262 metres. The residents of several villages of Daab areas surrounded by Ganga and Gomti rivers have heaved a sign of relief as the water level of Gomti river has recorded steady at Jaunpur. During the last 24 hours the city has also received heavy rains of 12.6 mm by 8 am. It is expected that the rains will continue to hit the region in coming days and may increase the water level of rivers further. The Ganga river was rising at a speed of 50 mm per hour at Mirzapur but 30 mm at Prayagraj (Sangam) and also 30 mm at downstream Ghazipur.

Revolutionary initiatives needed in commerce, industry & trade: Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

To materialise Viksit ■ Bharat-2047, revolutionary initiatives are required in commerce, industry and trade. Our self-reliant country will be able to become a 5 trillion GDP only when professional management, skill-based education and accountability will be fixed in the public sector. These views were expressed by the Dean, Faculty of Commerce in Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Prof Harendra Kumar Singh, on the occasion of the International Commerce Day organised in the Platinum Haĺl of the faculty here on Monday. Prof Singh said the conduct of Indian management service examination by the Union Public Service Commission is

Former Pro Vice- Chancellor, Central University of South Bihar, Gaya, Prof Óm Prakash Rai congratulated Prof Singh for initiating the celebration of the day in the faculty. Prof Rai said the basic purpose of cele-

brating the day for students is to encourage innovation and creativity with regard to various commercial activities conducted by various people and parties. Prof Rai suggested that the Faculty of Commerce should adopt a village and after intensive survey, the opportunities for taking new commercial activities in a specific way should be explored for the villagers and our students should help all concerned villagers to perform the commercial activities in innovative ways. Former Dean of the faculty Prof Asha Ram Tripathi said the objectives of the university have the message of entrepreneurship with human values, which needs to be implemented in the present society. Young entrepreneur of Varanasi Avijit Soni said objectives are necessary for entrepreneurship. Multitasking is the need of the hour. Achieving big goals is possible by fulfilling small objectives. Former MLC Mani Sankar Pandey also spoke on the occasion.

Mishap victim succumbs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A youth, injured in a road mishap a week ago, succumbed to his injury during treatment at the Lucknow Trauma Centre on Sunday. After the autopsy, kin staged a massive agitation and blocked the road at the Akohari Chauraha of Unnao with the body on Monday morning and demanded compensation. SDM, circle officer (CO) and other senior officers rushed to spot to pacify the situation. His wife Surjkali said her husband Mohan of Narichak, Maurawa, Monan of Narichak, Maurawa, Unnao, was seriously injured allegedly by the bike of Kamal of Ranjit Kheda village on Akohari road on July 27. He was admitted to KGMU Hospital, Lucknow. He succumbed to his injury during treatment on Sunday. After the autopsy in Lucknow, kin took the body and staged massive agitation at Akohari chauraha and blocked the road on Monday morning. CO Purwa Somendra Vishwas, Inspector Maurawa Chandra Kant Singh, SDM Purwa Udit Narain Senger and other officers rushed to spot and tried to pacify the issue.

FEARED DROWNED: A youth was feared drowned in the Ganga at the Khereshwar Ghat in Shivrajpur police station area on Monday morning. He was identified as Abhishek Yadav alias Govind (28), son of Hakim Singh of Guba Garden, Kalyanpur. The divers failed to trace him till late evening due to deep water and strong stream. ADCP Brijendra Dwivedi and ACP Ajay Trivedi were present at the spot who also called the NDRF team. SO Subodh Kumar said efforts are on to trace him.

Meanwhile, an 18-year old youth was feared drowned in the Ganga when he had gone there to bath with friends at the Dyodhi Ghat under Maharajpur police station area on Sunday evening. Police pressed the divers but failed to trace him. Anuj Verma (18) of Rajiv Vihar, Naubasta, was a bike mechanic. On Sunday evening he along with friends Neeraj Sahu and Harshit Shau had gone to Dyodhi Ghat for bathing in the Ganga After he started drowning, his friends raised an alarm. Police rushed to the spot and pressed the divers who failed to trace him till late night. SHO Sanjay Pandey said his kin had been informed.

evotees throng temples Temple on the Sangam bank, Ram Janaki Temple and Lord PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

On the third Monday of Shravan month long queues of devotees was witnessed in Shiva temples here. The devotees reached the temple since morning. The number of women in the queues was quite high. After offering milk, Ganga water, flowers, 'dhatura', etc., desi ghee lamps were lit and aarti was done with camphor. The entire atmosphere was filled with Shiva with the chanting of Har Har Mahadev. Maximum crowd gathered at the Mankameshwar Mahadev tem-

ple located on the banks of Yamuna. There about onekilometre-long queue at the temple. A large number of men and women police personnel were deployed for security. Many officers were also seen patrolling. Devotees who came from far and wide per-formed 'jalabhishek' of Lord

Shiva. Devotees performed 'jal-

abhishek' at Mahadev Temple

located in Civil Lines Hanuman

Niketan, Shri Bade Hanuman

Dashaswamedheshwar Temple located at Daraganj Dashaswamedh Ghat in the city, located Nagvasuki Temple, Koteshwar Mahadev, Padila Mahadev Temple, Phaphamau, Someshwar Mahadev Temple Arail Naini, Shiva Temple Rajrooppur, apart from Kundaura Mahadev Temple Janghai, ancient Shiva Temple Baraut, Belnath Temple Bhiti etc. located in rural areas. Thousands of Kanwariyas took water from Daraganj Ganga Ghat and left for 'jalabhishek' at Kashi Vishwanath and Baba Semradnath Mahadev and

other Shiva temples.

of people

during the public hearing, they should be resolved on time.

Placement drive at SHUATS

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): A place- dents got success in the final ment drive was organised at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Science (SHUATS) in which 28 students recruited by two companies Academor Edutech and VR Seeds Pyt Ltd Director Career Planning and Placement Prof Ashok Tripathi said after several rounds of interviews in the placement drive organised by the companies, a total of 28 stu-

result. As many as 22 students of BSc Agriculture, BTech Agriculture, BTech Biotech, BTech CSE, BTech Mechanical Engg., BTech Food Tech, MBA Agribusiness, MSc Agriculture, MSc. Forensic Science got job in Academor Edutech. Similarly, six students of BSc Agriculture, BSc Horticulture, MSc Horticulture, MSc Seed Science were selected by VNR Seeds Pvt Ltd.



E-Tender Enquiry No. 545/P-2/EMPW-12753 Dated 02.08.2024 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_124840_1 for Replacement of 6.6 KV Nuhon Colony overhead feeder from CHP Switchgear no.-2 to 11 KV Nuhon Colony Sub-Station with Underground 11KV XLPE Cable at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 02.08.2024 onwards

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

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD

orate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspscl.in

(Phone No. 01881-275289) E-mail: se-hq-ggsstp-ropar@pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 544/P-2/EMPW-12745 Dated 02-08-2024

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_124843_1 for Service/repair of

electrical operated actuators of valves during annual overhauling of units at

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online a

RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW
(Area of jurisdiction part of Uttar Pradesh) OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER

NOTICE UNDER RULE -2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961

READ WITH SECTION 29 OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 HDFC BANK LTD, Vs. CERTIFICATE HOLDER DEVESH TRIPATHI & OTHERS CERTIFICATE DEBTOR

Lucknow 226017(U.P.)

CERTIFICATE DEBTOR

1. This is to notify that a sum of Rs. 40,15,109/- (Rupees Fourty Lakh Fifteen Thousand One Hundred Nine Only) with pendentilite and future interest @ 10.00% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing of the Original Application i.e. 19.08.2020 with cost jointly & severally till its realization and severally in the DRC No.933/2022, is due on you as per order dated passed by Hon'ble Tribunal in O.A. No. 666/2020 HDFC BANK LTD. VERSUS DEVESH TRIPATHI

2 You are hosting in the Control of the C

2.You are hereby directed to pay within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with The Recovery of Debts &Bankruptcy Act, 1993.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on affidavit the particulars of asset on or before

Rs. 43,005/-

Recovery Officer-I Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 17.03.2025 at 10:30 AM.
5. In addition to the afore said sum, you will also be liable to pay the following::

Given under my hand and the Seal at Lucknow on this 18.07.2024

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 02.08.2024 onwards.

76155/12/3226/2023/36373 Dated CHD :- 8/5/2024

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

Detail of Cost

Application Fee Advocate Fee

Publication charges Miscellanous Expenses

76155/12/3229/2023/36377 Dated CHD :- 8/5/2024

Programme to educate students about plastic pollution offered city residents a unique

he not-for-profit organisation "Just for Environment" organised a programme in Upper Primary School, oar, to educate the students about plastic pollution and to celebrate the festivals as 'green festivals' by staying away from the use of pollution causing materials.

President Anita Agrawal advised the staff and students to make a beginning in this direction from August 15 itself by celebrating it as 'Green Independence Day' avoiding use of plastic flags, carry bags and other decorative material. "We should use bio-degradable material only as use of plastic is creating multiple environ-mental issues besides choking of drains etc. In fact, looking to the menace of water and air pollution, we should take a pledge to celebrate our festivals "Green Festivals". This should be practiced in day to day life as well", she said.



Patron Narendra Mohan told the students about the importance of personal hygiene. Understanding the meaning of personal hygiene and recognising its significance can lead to a healthier and more fulfilling life. Proper personal hygiene supports a strong immune system, which serves as the body's natural defence against infections, he said. As an effort to inculcate good hygiene practices, tooth pastes,

Independence Day. Secretary Dr Jahar Singh, treasurer SC Verma and other

tooth brushes, bath soaps and towels were also distributed to the students. In addition to this,

carry bags made of compostable material were also provided to the school for distribution of sweets during the

members, Jitendra Singh, Archana Sharma, Neelam Chaturvedi and Ankit Trivedi actively participated in the conduct of the programme.

BOOK FAIR: On the first Sunday of August coinciding with Friendship Day, the Kanpur Metro and the

'Repertwahr' organisation

chance to forge friendship with books. The day marked the beginning of a month-long book fair at Motijheel Station, enertwahr' The fair features works by renowned authors from both India and abroad, with special discounts available for buyers. Additionally, Kanpur Metro will host various literary activities throughout the duration of the fair. To celebrate Friendship Day,

the book fair that began on Sunday featured posters highlighting the significance of friendship. Catering to the enthusiasm of the youth, dedicated sections were set up for popular 'Manga' series, Harry Popular Manga series, Harry Potter and superhero books. Additionally, a wide selection of works by authors, mystics, and thinkers from both India and abroad are available, perfect for gifting to friends and family. This fair will run for one month and features a diverse selection of books. It includes

Malhar Mahotsav: Vocalist

renowned non-fiction writer Yuval Noah Harari and acclaimed fiction author Haruki Murakami. To cater to organised in collaboration with students' needs, there is also a range of general knowledge and motivational books. Visitors can explore a variety of literary genres, including fiction, novels, poetry collections, essays, memoirs, and biographies, all available under one roof.

MD of Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC), Sushil Kumar, remarked, "Kanpur Metro has consistently organised book fairs to foster a culture of reading. Gate No. 2 at Motijheel Metro Station has become a favorite spot for book enthusiasts. Today, we continue this tradition with a new book fair at the same location. The book fairs organized by Kanpur Metro in collaboration with various organisations have received strong support from both book lovers and metro

SK Tripathi takes over as NCR **CPRO**



New CPRO, NCR, Shashi Kant Tripathi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Shashi Kant Tripathi, an Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer of 2009 Civil Services batch, took over as Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of North Central Railway (NCR) here on Monday. Earlier, Tripathi was looking

after the responsibility of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Goods)/Prayagaraj. He took over charge from the outgoing CPRO Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, who has been transferred to Northern Railway (NR). Tripathi is originally from Chitrakoot and has done his graduation from Allahabad University and post graduation from JNU Delhi. He is a dynamic officer and has worked on many important posts in NR and NCR Tripathi started his railway service as Assistant Divisional Operations Manager in Ferozpur Division of NR in 2012. Tripathi was awarded the 2021 National Award for his excellent work towards mobility and loading of sand, flyash and millet goods in

Woman ends lite

Jhansi division.

UPAA to organise javelin throw championship on August 7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

To commemorate the anniversary of Neeraj Chopra's gold medal victory at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, UP Athletics Association (UPAA) will organise a javelin throw championship at the Christ Church College ground here on August 7. Secretary Dr Devesh Dubey said the championship will also mark the National Javelin Day celebrations. He said men and women athletes in U-14, U-16, U-18 and above age groups from all over state were eligible to participate in this championship. Around 100 javelin throwers are likely to take part in the event. It may be recalled that on June 30, 2022, Neeraj Chopra had also set a national record with 89.94 metre throw at the Stockholm Diamond League, Sweden. TAEKWONDO CHAMPI-

ONSHIP: The Agra team emerged overall champions in the State Taekwondo Championship jointly organ-ised by the UP Taekwondo Association and The Sportz Hub here at the TSH court on Sunday. Aligarh players

excelled in Poomasae category. Gold medal winners were selected for the UP State team which will participate in the ensuing National Taekwondo Championship to be held in Kanpur from August 16 to 18 when the Indian squad will be finalised from top seed players of the country for the junior world championship. The gold medal winners included Astitva Kumar (Kanpur), Maz Khan (Lucknow), Akshat Pawar (Ghaziabad), Priyanshu (Ghazipur), Sahil (Firozabad), Abhay Pratap (Gorakhpur) and Yash Shakya (Etah). BADMINTON: Shuttlers of

the host Jai Narayan Vidya Mandir Inter College excelled in the two-day Vidya Bharti state badminton tournament which concluded here on Sunday. They emerged winners in 13 events. On the basis of their performance in this tournament, players were selected for the Zonal Vidya Bharti championship for onward selection for the National School Badminton tournament. DP Singh, Saurabh Srivastava, Ashutosh Satyam Jha, Amar Singh and Yash Tewari were present.

${ m F}^{ m amous\,semi ext{-}classical\,vocal-}_{ m ist\,\,Sucharita\,\,Gupta\,\,mes-}$ merised the audience at the Malhar Mahotsav organised by Kutumb Prabodhan (Kashi Prant) at Adarsh Shiksha Mandir in Bhadaini here on

Sunday evening. She first presented the composition 'Badra Ki Or...' in Vilambit Teen Taal in Raga Malhar, after that she got a lot of applause by singing Banarasi Kajri *'Siya Sang Jhule* Bagiya Mein Ramlala...

After that she concluded by singing the Sawan song 'Viren Bhaiya Ahiye, Sawanwa Me Na Jaibe Nandi'. Anand Mishra accompanied her on the tabla. The second performance was classical singing by Dr Ramshankar of the Faculty of Music Arts, Banaras Hindu University. He first mesmerised everyone by singing 'Aiso Sawan Dulha Aayo Re...' in Raga Malhar, 'Barsan Lagi Ghanghor...' in Drut Taal, and then 'Badra Barse Gher Gher…' in Vilambit Taal in Raga Jayant Malhar. Prashant Mishra on



tabla and Mohit Sahni on harmonium accompanied him. The third performance was sitar playing by world-renowned artist Pandit Devbrat Mishra. He played such a tune on the sitar in the instrumental ensemble with his group of disciples that everyone was immersed in the colours of Sawan. He started the presentation with Raga Megh Malhar. He made the whole courtyard resonate with 'Barse Ghata Ghan Ghor...', 'Garj-Garj Aaj Megh...', 'Ghanan Ghanan Chhaavo Re... etc. In the end, when he presented Banarasi Kajri 'Hamare Saawariya Nahi Aaye, Sajni Chhai

seen cheering. He was accompa-nied by Krishna Mishra, Vats Agnihotri on sitar, Divyanshu Dubey, Anurag Gupta, Abhinav Dubey, Pushkar Raj, Anurag Kashyap in singing, Prashant Mishra and Navneet Prajapati on tabla. The last presentation of the festival was the Kathak dance of Ragini Kalyan. After Shiv Vandana, she presented traditional Kathak in Drut Teen Taal. The festival ended with Thumri and Jhoola. The festival started with the lighting of lamps by the guests, including chief guest Padmashri Pandit Shivnath Mishra, Dharma Sanskriti Aayam Pramukh Acharya Venkataraman Ghanpathi, Dr Shukdev Tripathi, Dayashankar Mishra, Pramod Mishra and Pandit Devbrat Mishra. They first of all offered flowers on the picture of Bharat Mata. After this, Mansi Singh presented Ganesh Vandana. Dr Vidhi Nagar, Dr Ambrish Chanchal, Rakesh Kumar, Neeta, Lakshmi, Savita, Sanjay etc were present in the programme which was conducted by Priyanka Agnihotri.

Ghata Ghanghor...', everyone was

Prayagraj (PNS): A married woman committed suicide by hanging herself in Saidabad Chowki area late on Sunday evening. Her family members are inconsolable The police took the body into possession and sent it for post-mortem

SC issues notice to Centre, Delhi Govt over IAS aspirants deaths

The Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance of the deaths of three IAS aspirants due to flooding in the basement of RAU's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar, issuing a notice to the Centre and Delhi Government, to examine if safety norms are being fol-

The Court said coaching centres have become "death chambers" and are playing with the lives of students. "The incident was an eyeopener for all," it added.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing an appeal by the Coaching Federation of India challenging directions of the Delhi High Court regarding the proliferation of coaching institutes in Mukherjee Nagar. The bench said it was not sure as to what effective steps regarding safety had been taken by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi or the Central Government. "The recent unfortunate incidents taking away lives of some of the young ones who joined coaching centres for

openers for one and all. We therefore deem appropriate to expand the scope of these proceedings as suo motu to issue notice to Union of India (through Ministry of Urban Affairs) and NCT of Delhi to show cause as to what safety norms have been prescribed so far and if so what is the effective mechanism introduced for

their career pursuits are eye



their compliance," the court said in its order.

"This is horrible what we are If need be, we will even close

down these coaching centres. For the time being, the coaching should go online, unless there is meticulous compliance of building regulations and other safety norms."These (coaching centres) have become death chambers. Coaching centres are playing with the lives of these aspirants who have come from different parts of the country with dreams and are working hard," the bench said. Such institutes must be made to operate via online classes until there is full compliance with the safety norms under the Master Plan of Delhi, 2021

read with Unified Building

Bye Laws of Delhi, 2016, the

coaching institutes and centres of Delhi are required to comply with the fire and safety norms under the Master Plan of Delhi, 2021 read with Unified Building Bye Laws of Delhi, 2016. Coaching institutes can operate online unless there is full compliance of the safety norms and basic norms for dignified life of young ones

studying there. Such norms must include proper ventilation, safety passages, air and light," the Court said.

The top court took cognisance of the matter while hearing a petition filed by an association of coaching centres challenging a December 2023 Delhi High Court order which had directed the city's fire services and the civic body to inspect all coaching centres here to

the apex court dismissed the appeal while imposing a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the association and said no coaching centre should be allowed to operate unless there is compliance with fire safety norms and other requirements.

"It is very inappropriate time when this has come up....This is a state of affairs where a lot of young ones coming from places across the country to Delhi have lost their lives.

On this plea by Coaching Federation, we are imposing one Lakh cost to be deposited with the Supreme Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association," the Court

On Friday, the High Court transferred the probe into the deaths of the three students from Delhi Police to the Central Bureau

Investigation (CBI) "to ensure the public has no doubt over the investigation".

Seven people, including Rau's IAS Study Circle CEO Abhishek Gupta and coordinator Deshpal Singh, have been arrested in the death of three IAS aspirant due to flooding in the basement of RAU's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar. The three who died were Shreya Yadav (25) of Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni (25) from Telangana and Nevin Delvin (24) from Kerala. Students enrolled in various coaching institutes have been protesting since the incident, demanding improved safety

Govt collects ₹8,263 cr towards GST on health insurance premium in FY'24

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Amidst Opposition from Union Cabinet Minister Nitin Gadkari, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and several MPs against the 18 per cent GST on health insurance premiums, the Government on Monday told Parliament that it collected ₹8.263 crore from this tax in the 2023-24 fiscal year. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary noted that the 18 per cent GST rate on health insurance has been consistent since GST's introduction and the Government has received representations requesting for exemption or reduction in the rate of GST on life insurance and health insurance.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that several Opposition parties are planning to stage a protest in the Parliament complex on Tuesday to press for the rollback of 18 per cent GST on life and health insurance premiums.

Replying to a written query on the GST in the Lok Sabha, Chaudhary said that certain insurance schemes catering to poor sections of the society and differently-abled, such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Universal Health Insurance Scheme, Jan Arogya Bima Policy and Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme are exempt from GST. 2023-24, the GST collection from health insurance premium stood at ₹ 8,262.94 crore, while ₹1,484.36 crore was collected exemption or reduction in the on account of GST on health rate of GST on life insurance reinsurance premium. In the and health insurance. 2022-23 fiscal, ₹ 7,638 crore

GST rates and exemptions are recommendations of the GST Council, which is constitutional comprising representatives from both the Centre and the States/UTs, he added.

insurance premium, while Rs In Rajya Sabha, senior TMC 826 crore came in from health Leader Derek O'Brien had raised the issue, seeking reduction of 18 per cent GST In reply to a separate question, Chaudhary said, on health insurance policies "After the introduction of as high tax rate is burdening GST with effect from July 1, people, especially the middle 2017, GST is leviable on life health

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha, he also referred to a letter written to the Finance Minister by senior BJP Leader and Union Minister Gadkari making similar demands. received requesting for

straightforward. Reduce 18 per cent GST on medical and

nealth insurance. We should reduce it because this is an issue which is burdening people, mainly the middle class. That's why it needs to be reduced," said

Further, he said there is an imbalance in the insurance sector, where 75 per cent is life insurance policies, and 25 per cent medical insurance. Derek said the West Bengal chief minister has written to the finance minister in this regard and many Opposition MPs have also raised the issue. Derek also rejected the argument given by the Government that the GST Council can only change this. 'This is a flawed argument," he said, adding that the NDA has a majority in the council

PM took people into confidence on Article 370, claims book

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There was complete clarity in my mind that taking the public in Jammu and Kashmir înto confidence was absolutely essential for the execution of the decision," Prime Minister Narendra Modi says about his government's decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and

The Prime Minister's remarks come in the foreword of a new book titled "370: Undoing the Unjust, A New Future for

'We wanted the decision, whenever it would be taken, to happen with concurrence of the people rather than imposition," he writes in the book, researched and written by non-profit organisation BlueKraft Digital Foundation and published under the Penguin Enterprise imprint. The book mentions in detail how Modi managed to achieve the goal that he set out for himself.

The publishers said the book, which is scheduled to release this month, "chronicles, what is inarguably the greatest constitutional feat in India's history and tells the inside story of how Prime Minister Modi managed the seemingly impossible".

"delves into multiple blunders at the time of Independence culminated into the unjust regimen of Article 370.

It discusses the social, political and economic ramifications of Article 370 since its inception in 1949", a statement by Penguin said on Monday, which marks five years of revocation of Article

"It sheds light on the historical reluctance to challenge this provision and the eventual paradigm shift brought about by its abrogation in 2019...," it said. However, the reality is starkly different," he said. Since 2019, there have been 683 fatal

Bill on quota for STs in Goa Assembly tabled in LS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Monday introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha to provide reservation to Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Goa Legislative Assembly. As of now, the ST community has no Assembly. The Bill is titled Readjustment

Representation Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024 and will empower the commissioner to notify the population of STs in Goa. According to the Bill, the population of the Scheduled Tribes has increased considerably in Goa as per 2011 census vis-à-vis 2001 census figures. It noted that a "peculiar situation" has arisen in the State, wherein the population of the STs there



vis-à-vis the population of SCs is considerably higher -- as per the Primary Census Abstract, 2011 for Goa. The total population was 14,58,545; the population of SCs was 25,449 and the population of STs was 1,49,275. "But no seats are reserved for the STs and they are unable to avail the constitutional benefit of reservation..."

As there is no power with the Election Commission to determine the number of seats

for SCs and STs in any State prior to the next census, the Bill was being brought to enabling provide provisions. The Bill will empower the census commissioner to notify the population of STs in Goa. Based on it, the Election Commission will amend the and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008, to make way for ST reservation in the 40member Goa Assembly. The EC will take into

consideration the revised population figures of STs and readjust the Legislative Assembly constituency once the Bill becomes a law. The proposal to bring the Bill was cleared by the Union Cabinet in March this year. As of now, no seat in the 40-member Goa Assembly is reserved for the ST community while one seat is reserved for Scheduled

SC seeks data on status of castes included in Bengal OBC list

GST was mopped up from

health insurance premium,

and another ₹ 963 crore from

health reinsurance premium.

In the 2021-22 financial year, GST of ₹ 5,354 crore was mobilised from health

and

To a question on whether

there is a demand from the

industry for withdrawal of

service tax, Chaudhary said,

"Representations have been

reinsurance premium.

insurance

insurance services."

PTI NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the West Bengal Government to provide quantifiable data on social and economic backwardness and the inadequate representation in public sector jobs of the castes that were included by it in the OBC list for granting quota benefits. The top court also issued notices to the private litigants who had moved the inclusion of 77 castes, mostly Muslims, in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list. The High Court on May 22 struck down the OBC status of several classes in West Bengal granted since 2010, finding such reservations to vacancies in services and posts in the State illegal. Issue notice, including on the application of stay (of the judgment filed by the State Government). The State of West Bengal shall file an affidavit before this Court explaining the process followed for classification of



77 communities as OBCs: (1) the nature of survey; (2) whether there was a lack of consultation with Commission (State backward panel) in respect of any communities in the list of 77 communities designated as OBCs," said a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra.

The bench also asked whether any consultation was done by the State for the subclassification of the OBCs. The State Government filed

the appeal against the verdict. "Religion indeed appears to have been the sole criterion" for declaring these communities as OBCs, the High Court had said and added that it "is of the view that the selection of 77 classes of Muslims as backwards is an affront to the Muslim community as a whole". In all, the High Court had struck down 77 classes of reservation given between April and September 2010, and 37 classes created on the basis of

Germany joins Tarang Shakti multilateral air

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

exercise

Ahead of the air exercise Shakti', Ambassador of Germany Philipp Ackermann Monday said this is the first time that the German Air Force is exercising together with the Indian Air Force, and this extensive exercise "deepens our security and political ties" with India.

The first phase of 'Tarang Shakti' -- the largest multilateral air exercise in the country -- is set to be held at Sulur in Tamil Nadu from August 6-14. It will see participation of four countries -- Germany, France, Spain and the UK -- with their assets."This is the first time that the German Air Force is exercising together with the Indian Air Force, and it is also the first time that it flies in India -- a truly historic moment. This extensive multilateral exercise deepens our security and political ties with India and the region. We are working on a security and defence partnership between our countries," Ackermann was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the German Embassy.

The IAF on July 31 had announced that 51 countries were invited to take part in the mega exercise, with officials saying that nearly 30 of them would be taking part in it. IAF's LCA Tejas, Mirage 2000, and Rafale are to take part in the exercise.Rafale from France, Typhoon from Germany, F-18 from Australia and F-16 from Greece, among others, would also be participating in the two-phase exercise." Tarang Shakti is our first exercise with the Indian Air Force in India. We have been working on this for a long time with our Indian partners and now the time

Hold elections in J&K as per SC-set deadline, says Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he Congress on Monday}}_{\text{demanded that elections}}$ in Jammu and Kashmir must be held according to the Supreme Court-set deadline, with party Chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleging that the BJP's policy on J-K and Ladakh neither respects 'Kashmiriyat' nor upholds 'Jamhuriyat'. Kharge's remarks come on

the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories of J-K and Ladakh. "BJP's policy on Jammu & Kashmir and neither respects Ladakh 'Kashmiriyat' nor upholds 'Jamhuriyat (democracy)," Kharge said in a social media

post. "The Modi Government had claimed that this move would help to fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir, boost economic development of the region and prevent terrorism and

separatism. However, the reality is starkly



terror attacks, resulting in the martyrdom of 258 security personnel and the loss of 170 civilian lives, the Congress Chief said.

Notably, 25 terror attacks have occurred in the Jammu region since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third oath, claiming the lives of 15 soldiers and injuring 27, he said. Kharge also claimed that targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits have become a norm in the past few years.

A staggering 65 per cent of Government department posts in Jammu and Kashmir remain vacant since 2019, he The unemployment rate in

Jammu and Kashmir stands at 10 per cent, with an alarming 18.3 per cent youth unemployment rate, he said. Despite the introduction of the New Industrial Policy in 2021, a mere 3 per cent of investments have materialised on the ground, Kharge said. He further claimed that 40 per cent of projects under the PM's Development Package, 2015, remain pending. "Jammu and Kashmir's net state domestic product (NSDP) growth rate has declined from 13.28% (April 2015-March 2019) to 8.73% post-2019," he said.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh yearn for normalcy, a sentiment they conveyed to Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Kharge said. "We demand that elections

are held according to the Supreme Court set deadline so that people can elect their own representatives, secure Constitutional rights and put a full stop to this mechanism of being 'ruled by bureaucracy," Kharge

asserted. The Indian National Congress stands firmly with the people of these regions, which are an integral part of India, he

Whenever Assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir, they will be the first since provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated and the erstwhile State divided into two Union Territories in 2019.

Last December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by



1st Bay of Bengal Initiative today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

 $E_{\text{Jaishankar will inaugurate}}^{\text{xternal Affairs Minister S}}$ the first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Business Summit here which aims to foster greater regional collaboration through robust trade and investment relations among the members of the seven-nation grouping.

The summit will be hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) from August 6-8, the MEA said in a statement on Monday.

The first edition of the Business Summit aims to foster greater regional collaboration through robust trade and investment relations among the member countries of the BIMSTEC, it said. It will be inaugurated by Jaishankar. Union Minister of Commerce and Industries Piyush Goyal and other

leaders will deliver keynote

addresses. Several ministers of the BIMSTEC member States from the ambit of trade, commerce and industry, as well as energy, along with high-ranking Government officials, policymakers, entrepreneurs and industry officials, associations will participate in the event, the MEA said.

The event will bring together more than 300 key stakeholders from across the Bay of Bengal region to facilitate economic collaboration and explore ways ahead in focus areas such as trade facilitation, regional connectivity, energy security, inclusive growth sustainable development.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Justice delayed

Chief Justice of India highlights frustration over court delays, calls for urgent reforms to address pendency

he Chief Justice of India has voiced a growing concern shared by many: the prolonged delays in Indian courts are causing immense frustration among the public, turning the judicial process into an unwelcome ordeal. In a recent statement, the Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud remarked, "People get fed up with protracted court proceedings, the process becomes a punishment." This stark observation brings to light the urgent need to address the pervasive issue of case pendency in India's legal system. The Indian judiciary is grappling with an overwhelming backlog of cases, which has long been a subject of public discontent and legal scrutiny. The Chief Justice of India's recent statement underscores the severity of this issue, highlighting how extended court delays are not only hindering justice but also eroding public trust in the legal system. As of recent estimates, over 40 million cases are pending across various levels of the Indian judiciary and may take 300 years to clear it at the going pace. This

staggering number includes civil, criminal, and administrative cases, many of which have been unresolved for years or even decades.

The backlog creates a bottleneck that prevents timely justice, leading to prolonged legal battles and increasing costs for the litigants. Extended delays can lead to a lack of confidence in the judiciary, with people perceiving the legal process as slow and inefficient. When cases languish in the courts for years without resolution, individuals begin to doubt the effectiveness and reliability of the judicial system. Knowing that legal proceedings are likely to be drawn out, many individuals may avoid seeking justice through the courts altogeth-

er. This reluctance is particularly pronounced among those who cannot afford prolonged litigation or who need prompt resolution due to personal or financial constraints. The inordinate delays can drive people to seek alternative, and often extrajudicial, means of resolving disputes. Moreover, businesses and investors rely on a robust legal system to enforce contracts and resolve disputes. Addressing these delays is crucial for maintaining the integrity and efficacy of the judicial system and ensuring that justice is accessible and timely for all citizens. Several factors contribute to the chronic issue of case pendency in India. A significant number of judicial positions remain unfilled. The legal procedures in India can be highly complex, often leading to unnecessary delays. Many courts lack the necessary infrastructure and technological support. But the biggest source of delay is the practice of frequent adjournments, often granted for frivolous reasons. A Bollywood film dialogue 'tareekh pe tareekh' sums it up succintly. Some issues have been dealt with in the amendments to the Indian penal code which are now called 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita' but a lot more needs to be done to expedite justice and establish a rule of law! As the saying goes, "Justice delayed is justice denied," and the legal system must cope with the needs of a fast-paced society that we have today.



People take a dip before performing rituals on the occasion of 'Aadi Amavasai', in Rameshwara

Grim prospects for peace in West Asia



The killing of Hamas leader threatens to derail any hopes for a ceasefire in Gaza further complicating efforts for peace in the region



srael seems to have eliminated Hamas leader Haniyeh, using an airborne guided projectile in an early morning attack. Haniyeh was in Iran for the Iranian president's swearing-in ceremony as a state guest and was staying in one of the residences for veterans. The events in the Middle East are shaping dangerously, the things as they are turning out to be, it's not out of the scope of imagination that soon Iran may be part of a major regional conflict.

We have already seen that a confrontation between Hezbollah and Israel is underway in Lebanon. However, Israel has still not taken responsibility for the strike. Israel has been accusing Iran of harbouring Hamas leaders like Haniyeh and has openly vowed to kill them. Israel not taking responsibility for the attack shows that it does not want a direct confirmation with Iran right now. It remains to be seen how things play out, there is also a section in Israel that is suspicious of Iran's state media's claim that Haniyeh has even been killed

Having said that there are little or no takers of the version that Israel is not responsible for the killing of Hamas's political leader. Palestinian Prime more complicated. It has Minister Mohammad Mustafa has condemned the assassina-

tion of Ismail Haniyeh and termed it a violation of the entire international rule of law. The act is a grave violation of Iran's sovereignty and the supposed security bubble of the Iranian capital. This is likely to have far-reaching consequences in the short and the long term. Haniyeh, normally based in Qatar, had been the face of international diplomacy for Hamas. He had been an important part of internationally brokered indirect talks on reaching a ceasefire in the Palestinian enclave. This killing appears to set back chances of any imminent ceasefire agreement in the 10-month-old war in Gaza and Lebanon. Vowing to retaliate, Iran declared three days of nation-

it directly responsible. The US itself has accepted that the risk of escalation is certainly up right now. The killing of Haniyeh has made the task of de-escalation, deterrence and dissuasion towards war, which is the goal of the UN and the international community, much

given a reason for those who

want things to escalate on

FOOD SECURITY VS RISING PRICES

Madam — Apropos "Modi reaffirms

India's role as Vishwa Bandhu, Aug 4.

al mourning. Iran has blamed

the U.S. for providing Israel

with the missiles that have

been fired, and hence holding

HEZBOLLAH WILL FIND LEGITIMACY IN TAKING ON ANY

> MILITARY. IRAN WOULD FIND IT CONVENIENT TO DIRECTLY USE SOME OF ITS MISSILES AGAINST ISRAEL AND THE YARDSTICK TO JUDGE ITS **EFFECTIVENESS** WOULD BE THE

> > NUMBER OF

CIVILIANS KILLED

POSSIBLE TARGET IN

ISRAEL, CIVIL OR

both sides to scuttle chances of peace and also provided them with the fodder to fuel further attacks on each other with impunity. The immediate consequences

of this escalation, Netanyahu will get support from the far right in Israel and he may push for attacks deeper into Lebanon. Hezbollah will find legitimacy in taking on any possible target in Israel, civil or military. Iran would find it convenient to directly use some of its missiles against Israel and the yardstick to judge its effectiveness would be the number of civilians killed. The Houthis will attack commercial ships in the Red Sea even more, leading to loss of business and livelihood across the world. Palestinians would cry on the streets for lack of food and medicine even more, but like always would only get lip service.
Oil prices will go up and some people will make even

more money. less time. More and more areas may become dangerous even for the media. Schools and hospitals may be targeted even more since all the terrorists are hiding there only. In the US leaders would keep

blaming each other for the escalation with each side doing what is required to be done to get votes. UN is likely to look even more helpless in the days to come.

Apart from this humanity would be disgraced for it does not feel ashamed of any act of inhuman violent behaviour anymore. Aircraft carriers from the US will be deployed to safeguard the territorial integrity of Israel. There will be calls for people to join hands in the name of religion, and they will, only humanity will be divided and more people will die.

Some people in India may find this killing of Haniyeh a great act of bravery, and they may even ask the political hierarchy to take lessons or even replicate this kind of attack.

Little do they realise that Israel has been fighting for existence, and are not at peace with themselves, peace has eluded them since their More arms would be sold and existence. However, we as a better technology would be country are at peace and no used to kill more people in one can dare challenge our existence, and hence we should never think of acting whimsically.

(The writer is expert on geopolitics and international Affairs. The views expressed are personal)

Handling disrespect and finding inner peace



We should recognise the value of pausing and reflecting, to determine whether our reactions to perceived insults are genuinely justified

read a beautiful story by a well-known Indian author about a middleclass household. The lady of the house locks herself in an earmarked dark room whenever she feels unloved and uncared for by her family. We too retreat to our inner self, the equivalent of our dark room, sometimes in our lives.During a recent vacation, my wife's friend compared me to a beast of

used by parents admonishing their good-for-nothing sons. The word is probably also applicable to all husbands. I sulked till a couple of hours later, I gave it back to her.

This time my wife objected, forcing me into another sulk. They had probably expected a better sense of humour. I was not amused. A friendly neighbour objected to my entrance to attend a meeting in a rather loud stage whisper for reasons I was unaware of. I was asked to wait outside. It turned out that he was retaliating to an earlier fight with another neighbour. He had probably expected

The adjective is also often me to empathise with his unexpressed anguish. I felt insulted. Another time, a

neighbour acting as an observer in society elections, got up rather aggressively, started shouting at me, and asked me to get out, on the grounds of some rules not mentioned anywhere.

A couple of hours later, he even know the rules."

came out and shook hands with me. I tried to mend fences by putting on my best smile. He rudely turned his face away, telling anyone who cared to listen,

"He is a writer; he does not I could not understand the relationship between a

thinking about the incident a day later, I thought he was probably venting his frustration about inadequate writing skills. It was no consolation.

I faced several unpleasant events in my professional life. I took them in my stride. One such incident happened within a few weeks after I had joined my first working post in the railways.

I sat in the senior foreman's office after my usual morning round of the maintenance shed, when I was interrupted in my discussions by the entry of 30 odd staff led by a union leader. Listening to the problems, was startled by the landing of an earthenware teacup on the table.

They were trying to gauge my reaction. I took it as a management challenge, not an insult.I witnessed a catfight between two young ladies in an upmarket shop in Delhi. One lady had tried to get ahead of the other at the payment counter.

I was relieved that it writer and knowledge of remained a verbal duel,

unwritten rules. Rationally rather than turning into a fisticuff. In another incident, a mother trying to help her teenage son choose clothes was rudely snubbed by the latter, "Do not talk like a fool." The mother had tears in her eyes as she surreptitiously looked around, and then fussed some more over her child. I too looked the other way, embarrassed at the rude snub in public to a mother's affection. There are many such inci-

dents that we face in our lives. We take a few more seriously than the others, while others we shrug off. The line between a perceived insult and rational logic is often blurred.

It is easy to cross this line without even realising it.It may save a visit to the inner dark room, if we do not react, but pause, reflect, and remember the Greek philosopher, Epictetus, "It is not he who reviles or strikes you who insults you, but your opinion that these things are insulting."

The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal) According to him, Inda has become a food surplus country and second largest producer of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables etc. But the high prices of cereals, pulses, edible oils, vegetables and fruits etc. has indeed impacted households across the country and made them beyond affordability of many. According to the Economic Times, since

November 2023, food inflation in the country has persisted at around 8% yearon-year. The Opposition too raises repeatedly about high food inflation. Percapita consumption of pulses, fruits and vegetables in India are one of the lowest in the world. Low consumption of them affects overall health, leading to deficiencies in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants and accordingly Indians are deficient in them, particularly in children it is a grave concern. Vegetarianism is a major dietary choice in India, therefore, plant-based food must be available at affordable prices in adequate quantities for a healthy nation. O Prasada Rao Hyderabad

INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM EXCELS

Madam—Who could have asked for more intriguing and a close contest in Sunday that added yet another unforgettable moment to India's hockey history that snatched victory from the jaws of defeat

that once loomed large After surprising world class Australia in a span of 52 years, India continued their winning streak by defeating England 4 2 in a nail biting finish in Olympics Hockey that kept millions of fans glued to their t.v. sets. With this resounding win, India enter into the semi finals.

The national game of India Hockey is again in the limelight as India produced a real fitting spirit especially at a critic moment when the odds are stacked against them as they were reduced to 10 . This also could not dampened their spirit as Veteran Goalkeeper P.R Sreejesh saved one goal after to showcase her

Quota within quota

E EDITO



Upholds Quota Within Quota" (August 3). The Supreme Court's historic verdict now allows states to sub-categorize Scheduled Castes (SCs) for reservations. This sub-categorization is crucial as many SCs, particularly marginalized groups like the Balimiki in North India, Madiga and Arunthathiyar in South India, and Mang in Maharashtra, have been left behind in accessing benefits meant for SCs. Previously, states struggled to ensure their share of benefits due to an

Chinnaiah case. However, the recent Supreme Court ruling has highlighted the political dilemma faced by parties. During the assembly elections in Telangana last year, Prime Minister Modi announced a committee to examine the Madigas demand for sub-categorization. Implementing this sub-categorization is challeng-

earlier Supreme Court judgment in the EV

ing in many other states, as it faces opposition from NDA ministers like Chirag Paswan and Ramdas Athawale. Sub-categorisation could affect the interests of dominant castes such as Paswan in Bihar, Mahars in Maharashtra, and Jatavs in UP, Rajasthan, and Delhi. Will the BJP risk losing Paswan's support in Bihar? Additionally, the BJP is seeking to gain Jatav votes in UP, traditionally supporters of the BSP. Therefore, it will be interesting to see the BJP's stance on the Supreme Court's decision.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

prowess that even saved penalties to see India remain in contention for a medal. This achievement has added yet another feather in the cap of Indian hockey since the 1972 Munich Olympics that India reached the semifinals in back to back games, followed the bronze medal in

The English team could not penetrate the Great wall of India as Indian players fought like warriors throughout the match and took it to the penalties. It seems that the golden era of Indian hockey is returning No matter what the outcome of the forth coming matches, but one positive is the world class overall performance and team coordination, cooperation, fighting spirit until the last, hard work has really won hearts of millions.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

Madam — A bulletin issued by the World Health Organization explores the increasing smoking among women and its health effects on children or unborn babies. A shocking reality has come to light.

Children's lungs are affected by women who smoke. Also, such children have weak immune system and children suffering from diseases like asthma are struggling with lung related diseases throughout their life. In adolescence and old age, such children's immunity decreases. It has been

Women are also suffering from various lung diseases due to the addiction of v-cigarettes and e-cigarettes. The major disease in these patients is asthma. It has been observed significantly. Also, children in such households are constantly sick due to various reasons. Increasing smoking among women affects the infant and children born with smaller lungs and weak immune system. It has been found that India has Also, the warning given by the World Health Organization must be taken seriously. The problem of babies born with small lungs due to smoking is a big chal-

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FIRST COLUMN

STRATEGIES TO COMBAT CHRONIC STRESS

Understanding and managing stress effectively is essential for a healthier life



•he human body is designed to experience stress. The 'fight or flight response' otherwise thought of as an 'acute stress' response are inbuilt mechanisms that allow an individual to deal with threats to survival. Stress at the workplace can arise from various factors, often stemming from the demands of the job, the work environment and individual characteristics. Chronic stress is a state of ongoing, persistent stress that can develop when a person faces prolonged challenges or pressures without adequate periods of relaxation or recovery. Unlike acute stress, which is short-term and can even be beneficial in certain situations (like a deadline or a sudden challenge), chronic stress lasts for an extended period and can have deleterious effects on both physical as well as mental health.

Signs of chronic stress at the workplace can manifest in various ways, affecting an individual's physical health, emotional well-being, cognitive abilities and behaviour. Cognitive-behavioural approaches, mindfulness training and resilience-building programs have been shown to help employees manage stress more effectively. These strategies can enhance employees' ability to cope with stressors and reduce the negative impact of stress on their health and performance. It can lead to significant economic costs for employers, including healthcare expenses, lost productivity, absenteeism and turnover. Organizations through interventions such as job redesign, flexible work arrangements, employee wellness programs and stress management training can reduce chronic stress as these interventions aim to reduce job



demands, increase job control and provide employees with the resources they need to cope effectively with stress. Recognizing these signs early can help in addressing the underlying issues before they escalate.Research shows that in the United States, the American Institute of Stress (AIS) has estimated that around 40% of worker turnover is due to stress and the cost of stress in the workplace has been estimated to be over \$300 billion per year.

Studies also show that perceptions of stress and coping mechanisms can vary across cultures. The shift to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new stressors related to work-life balance, isolation and digital overload. Ongoing research is exploring how these changes affect chronic stress levels and what interventions are most effective in this new work environment. Furthermore, studies highlight the role of leadership in either mitigating or exacerbating stress. Supportive leadership styles, clear communication and recognition of employee efforts can reduce stress, while authoritarian or inconsistent management can increase it. There is no denying the fact that different industries have unique stressors. For instance healthcare professionals often face stress due to high-stakes decision-making and emotional demands, while employees in tech industries might experience stress from rapid changes and constant innovation.

This type of stress can lead to individual burnout, which is when the body's budget is depleted. Unlike acute stress, which is short-term and can even be beneficial in certain situations such as a deadline or a sudden challenge, chronic stress lasts for an extended period. It can have detrimental effects on both physical and mental health. It is the chronic stress that comes from any area of our lives that can lead to a place of exhaustion and demotivation. It's tough, but the individual needs to find the will within self to get inspired and take recovery into their own hands. Understanding the sources of stress is crucial for both employees and employers to develop strategies to manage and reduce stress, thereby creating a healthier and more productive work environment.

(The writer is an educator, views expressed are personal)

Japan's defence dilemma: Pacifism vs security



As the world commemorates the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan contemplates pivotal shift in its defence policy



s the world commemorates the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a profound moment of reflection intersects with a pivotal shift in Japan's defence policy.

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan were devastated by atomic bombs dropped by the United States, marking a pivotal moment in World War II and the history of warfare. The bombings resulted in the immediate deaths of tens of thousands of people, with the total number of casualties, including those from radiation sickness and injuries, rising to over 200,000. Hiroshima, targeted first, saw the "Little Boy" bomb obliterate much of the city, while Nagasaki was struck by the "Fat Man" bomb three days later.

The immense destruction and loss of life precipitated Japan's surrender on August 15, 1945, effectively ending World War II. These events also ushered in the nuclear age, highlighting the devastating power of atomic weapons and sparking global debates on nuclear ethics, warfare, and disarmament. The bombings remain a somber reminder of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear conflict and the importance of striving for peace and international cooperation.

The devastation, which claimed the lives of civilians, imprinted an indelible mark on the nation's collective consciousness and laid the foundation for its pacifist constitution. In the aftermath of these horrific events, Japan adopted a policy of defensive neutrality, enshrined in Article 9 of its constitution, renouncing war and prohibiting the maintenance of armed forces for combat.

This commitment to pacifism became a cornerstone of Japan's identity, earning it a place of respect in the global community and even frequent nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. However, as



JAPAN'S NEW NATIONAL SECURITY **RESPONSE TO** THE GROWING TENSIONS IN THE

REGION. NORTH KOREA HAS **ALREADY** CONDUCTED MISSILE TESTS CAPABLE OF REACHING JAPANESE TERRITORY, WHILE CHINA'S **INCREASING** ASSERTIVENESS IN THE SOUTH

the world grapples with evolving geopolitical threats, Japan has announced a significant shift in its defence policy.

The government has decided to allocate 2% of its GDP to defence spending, marking a departure from its longstanding pacifist stance. This decision, driven by perceived threats from North Korea and China, positions Japan as the second-largest arms importer globally, following Saudi

Japan's new national security strategy is a response to the growing tensions in the region. North Korea has already conduct-STRATEGY IS A ed missile tests capable of reaching Japanese territory, while China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea and its broader regional ambitions have raised alarms in Tokyo. These developments have

prompted Japan to reconsider its post-World War II defence posture. Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a staunch advocate for revising Japan's pacifist constitution, argued that the nation must strengthen its military capapilities to counter regional threats. Although Abe's tenure saw some legislative changes allowing for a modest selfdefence force, widespread public opposition prevented a complete overhaul of Article 9. Nonetheless, Abe's vision of a robust Japanese military continues to influence current policies. Current Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, with the backing of both the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives, has CHINA SEA pressed forward with this new defence agenda. However, public

these changes. According to a Kyodo News Agency survey, 80% of the population opposes the government's constitutional amendment efforts, reflecting a deep-rooted commitment to pacifism among the Japanese

The decision to shift defence policies on the anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is particularly poignant. The memories of the atomic bombings serve as a stark reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of peace. The destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not just a military strategy but also an unprecedented human tragedy. The bombings, justified by the U.S. as necessary to end the war, were, in reality, cruel scientific experiments that unleashed untold suffering and long-term conse-

quences. The atomic bombings forced Japan to adopt a peace-oriented constitution, promoting disarmament and dialogue over conflict. Article 9 has been a symbol of hope and a testament to Japan's commitment to ensuring that such devastation never occurs

The policy shift, therefore, raises important questions about the future of pacifism in Japan and its role in international peace and security. As Japan increases its defence budget and modernizes its military capabilities, it steps into a complex and competitive arms race.

The nation that once stood as a beacon of pacifism now finds itself at a crossroads, balancing its historical commitment to peace

sentiment remains largely against with the pressing need to address contemporary security challenges. The legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki endures, reminding the world of the catastrophic consequences of war and the enduring value of peace.

As Japan navigates this new defence trajectory, it must reconcile its past with its present, ensuring that the principles of peace and humanity remain at the forefront of its national identity. In the shadow of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan's defence policy evolution marks a significant chapter in its history. The world watches closely as Japan seeks to uphold its commitment to peace nile safeouardino its future in an increasingly uncertain global landscape.

The devastating bombings marked a turning point in World War II, leading to Japan's surrender and the end of the conflict. These tragic events imprinted a commitment to pacifism in Japan's national consciousness, enshrined in its post-war consti-

However, with rising geopolitical threats from North Korea's missile tests and China's regional ambitions, Japan has no choice but to reconsider its pacifist stance and increase its defence spending, sparking a national debate on the future of its longheld commitment to peace.

(The writer is an asssociate professor Centre For South Asian Studies, School of International Studies & Social Sciences Pondicherry Central University; views are personal)

Bangladesh's political shakeup: A diplomatic setback for India

The resignation of Sheikh Hasina poses a significant challenge for New Delhi, as it now faces an uncertain political situation in its neighbouring country

Thile Bangladeshis may be celebrating the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after she was forced to resign and flee the country on Monday, her removal is a huge blow to India. Not only had New Delhi-Dhaka ties flourished under her prime ministership but the Awami League leader had been mindful of India's strategic interests. She had even tried to keep India's strategic interests in mind vis-à-vis China while adroitly balancing relations with both. During her 15 years of unbroken rule, New Delhi-Dhaka ties enjoyed both stability and mutual trust.

But with the army taking charge in Bangladesh and an interim government set to



worry about. For one, it now has to deal with a new dispensation after having built very comfortable working relationship with the Sheikh Hasina government over the last 15 years. Secondly, it will also have to contend with the fact that it is the army that will be exercising actual control even with an interim government in place. Thirdly, India will be dealing take over, India has a lot to with an entirely new politi-

cal set-up if and when elections are held in Bangladesh to install a new government. With India having thrown all its weight behind Sheikh Hasina, it may be faced with a huge challenge to build ties with the Opposition parties. India could also be in deep trouble if the pro-Pakistan Bangladesh National Party (BNP) returns to power. It had recently triggered antisentiments in Bangladesh by carrying out an 'India Out' campaign which fortunately fizzled out early. Opposition parties can fan the simmering of these sentiments again, especially given how closely New Delhi

was identified with her government. Indeed, for New Delhi, ties with Dhaka had been a "son-

ali adhayay" (golden chapter) under Sheikh Hasina who delivered on New Delhi's expectations, while choosing to downplay India's inability to deliver on the important Teesta waters sharing agreement. But with a new government in power, all this might change. New Delhi, therefore, will have to deftly manoeuvre its way through a tricky diplomatic situation now. It has no choice but to do so given that it has vital stakes in the stability of Bangladesh, ranging from the economic to the strategic, in a country with which it shares a 4,096-km long bor-

It will also be hoped that the situation in Bangladesh will stabilise soon, knowing well that prolonged instability



there can have serious security and economic ramifications for India. For instance, taking into account New Delhi's security concerns, Sheikh Hasina had cracked down on northeast insurgents sheltering in Bangladeshi territory early on in her second stint as PM.

Her government's relentless

pursuit of the pro-Pakistan

BNP as well as its ally JeI, influx could pose a huge also helped India's security security challenge for the interests. Equally worrying for India has been the rise of other radical Islamist outfits like the Hefazat-e-Islam in Bangladesh, which had organised anti-India protests ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit there. The over one million

Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar and are sheltering in Bangladesh too have been a security concern for India. Already home to a sizable

number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, India would also be concerned about a further influx of refugees seeking to flee their troubled country. With five Indian states in the northeast sharing a border with Bangladesh, any such

security challenge for the region.

Additionally, prolonged turmoil there could hurt Indian efforts to boost connectivity to the NE via Bangladesh using rail links and the sea route. India has for long been seeking alternative routes to bypass the vulnerable Siliguri corridor, which if blocked can cut off land access to its entire NE. The push for shorter routes to the NE via Bangladesh, which would cut down time and costs for the movement of goods, could also receive a

The quota stir has already hit bilateral trade after the movement of trucks was stalled at the land ports. While cross-border trade

has now resumed, there have been huge economic losses on either side. Prolonged turmoil can only worsen trading ties between the two countries. Bangladesh is India's biggest trading partner in South Asia. In FY 2022-23, the bilateral trade was \$15.9 billion, though it remains heavily skewed in favour of India. A lot is at stake for India as its close neighbour witnesses some tectonic changes in its governance and political landscape. It means it will have to put in all its diplomatic and political heft into its outreach to whoever is in charge of the dispensation in Bangladesh.

(The writer is a senior New Delhi-based journalist writing on foreign affairs)

Wayanad death toll crosses 400; 127 unidentified bodies buried

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

As the disaster caused by last Tuesday's landslide completed seven days on Monday, death toll crossed 400 according to unconfirmed reports. On Monday 27 unidentified dead bodies and 120 mutilated human organs were buried amidst chanting of all religious prayers by Muslim, Christian and Hindu

More than hundred persons who went missing following the landslide and deluge remained missing while the soldiers of the Indian Army and NDRP scan the region for traces of any signals from human beings.

According to Kerala Government, 222 persons have lost their lives in he disaster notwithstanding the fact that dismembered and mutilated body organs numbering more than 200 were retrieved from Chaliyar River and underneath the rock boulders.

M B Rajesh, minister for local self-government said on Monday that those who suffered losses and left without a roof over their shoulders would be offered certificates by the authorities that they were victims of the landslides and flash flood. He said the



documents would facilitate the victims to approach anybody in the country seeking help and aids for building houses or to get a livelihood. Meanwhile a statement of war

erupted between Kerala Government and Bhupender Yaday, the Union Minister for Environment and Forests over the cause of the devastating landslide and deluge in Wayanad. The Union Minister in an interaction with the media at New Delhi made some disclosures which were unpalatable to the ministers belonging to the CPI(M). 'Though Kerala

forewarned about consequences of massive quarrying, mining deforestation in ecologically fragile Wayanad region, the political parties seenm to have ignored the same and went ahead with whatever was not advisable in the region. Taking into

repercussions on Wavanad's environment, the Centre has not allowed any projects during the last ten years," Yadav had said. What he told was what Prof Madhav Gadgil, noted environmentalist, had said in his expetrt committee report on Western Ghats.

But ministers Rajesh and finance minister K N Balagopalan, belittled what Union Minister Yadav had said. "He should know what he is speaking and he does not know anything on environment and ecology," said Raiesh.

Balagopalan said Yadav should study the facts before making such comments as it has the potential create misunderstanding in the minds of the people. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had said during his media briefing that the Madhav Gadgil Committee report does not deserve to be considered Ajit to embark on Statewide yatra from Nashik from August 8

After his party's debacle in the recent Lok Sabha polls, Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and NCP (AP) chief Ajit Pawar will hit the Statewide campaign trail from the onion-belt of Dindori in Nashik district of north Maharashtra from August 8. In the most extensive

outreach programme "Jan Samman Yatra" being undertaken by him since he engineered split in the Sharad Pawar-led united NCP, walked out of the party and joined the BJP-led MahaYuti government, Ajit Pawar will tour all the five regions in Maharashtra and also address rallies in Mumbai. During the tour that will take

him Western Maharashtra, Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha Mumbai-Konkan regions, Ajitdada - as Ajit Pawar is known in the state political circles – will speak on the various populist programmes that he – as the Finance Minister – announced the State Budget for 2024-25.

It may be recalled that Ajitdada rebelled against Sharad Pawar, walked away from the parent party, founded his own party and



joined the BJP-led Eknath Shinde government on July 2 last year. Later, the Election Commission of India (ECI) declared the Ajit Pawar-led group as the "real NCP" and allotted the clock symbol which used to be the symbol of the united party.
In the Lok Sabha polls, the

NCP (Ajit Pawar) contested four Lok Sabha seats of which the state unit President Sunil Tatkare won only one seat of Raigad. Sunetra Pawar, Ajit Pawar's wife, unsuccessfully contested the Baramati seat against Sharad Pawar's daughter and sitting MP Supriya Sule. However, the ruling MahaYuti sent Sunetra Pawar to Rajya Sabha.

The NCP (Ajit Pawar) is part of the ruling MahaYuti. Apart from the NCP (AP), the two other constituents in the MahaYuti are the BJP and The ruling MahaYuti has not yet finalised the seat-sharing arrangement for the Maharashtra Assembly polls to be held in October this

Addressing a joint news conference with party's National Working President Praful Patel here, State NCP president Sunil Tatkare said that Ajitdada will spend five days in north Maharashtra and address rallies in the Assembly constituencies of Dindori, Devlali, Sinnar, Niphad, Yeola, Kalwan, Chandwad, Dhule, Amalner, Kopargaon and Malegaon Tatkare said that Jan Samman

Yatra would cover the entire Maharashtra, Western Mumbai and Vidarbha in its first phase which will end on August 31.

"Our Jan Samman Yatra is not limited to constituencies of NCP MLAs and the Yatra will also cover the seats by Shiv Sena (Eknat Shinde) and the Patel said that during his

Yatra Ajitdada would meet party workers to boost the morale of his party workers. "He will also meet the workers of Maha Yuti's alliance partners' BJP and Shiv Sena as we have to win the upcoming together," he said.

Vijender elected new leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP's Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta was on Monday declared by the party as the new leader of opposition in the Delhi Assembly, a statement said. Gupta, a former Delhi BJP president, will succeed Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who resigned from the post after being elected to the Lok Sabha.

A meeting of the legislative party at the State BJP office elected Gupta as the new Leader of Opposition, the statement said. All seven BJP MLAs, Delhi BJP co-incharge Alka Gurjar, president Virendra Sachdeva and general secretary

(organisation) Pawan Rana were present in the meeting. Gupta's name was proposed by the party's chief whip in the assembly Ajay Mahawar. His election was unanimous, the statement said and added that his name for the post was declared by the Delhi BJP president.

Gupta held the post of leader of opposition from 2015 to 2020. He will have a short tenure of a few months as Assembly polls in Delhi are



due early next year.

"I want to express my gratitude to the party leadership for giving me this opportunity once again. This responsibility comes at a critical time when governance in Delhi has completely failed under the AAP Government. The people of Delhi feel betrayed and see the BJP, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, as the only party capable of providing pro-people and clean We governance. committed to exposing the failures of the AAP Government at all levels and voicing the concerns of the people on the floor of the House. We will demand the convening of the Assembly Session, which has been stalled by the AAP Government," he said.

Huge shortage of staff at Asha Kiran, says House panel

The Committee on Petitions of Delhi Assembly on Monday claimed "huge shortage" of staff at the Asha Kiran shelter home in East Delhi's Rohini where 14 inmates died last month while alleging that a corrupt officer was appointed as the administrator of the shelter home under Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena without consulting the Delhi government. The committee, chaired by AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar, also held a meeting with the officers of the Asha Kiran shelter home in the assembly. Alleging that the Assembly on Monday. "In the officer was corrupt, Kumar meeting, information was "An officer previously suspended for five years after his arrest by the CBI had been appointed as the shelter home's administrator on the direction of Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena."

'The LG office has been issuing false statement over the appointment of no officer was punished for administrator of the shelter negligence leading to the home. The administrator was appointed on October 4, 2022



by the LG without any involvement of the minister in charge of the social welfare department," Kumar claimed. Kumar said that after visiting the shelter home on Saturday, the Petition Committee of the Delhi Assembly also held a meeting with the officials of the shelter home in the Delhi om the officials about the reasons for this incident in the shelter home," he said. Kumar said there is a "huge shortage" of staff at the shelter home, saying the committee will write a letter to the LG seeking his explanation on the

vacancies and the reason why

deaths of 14 inmates of the

facility in July.

BJP presses demand for Kejriwal resignation

 $T_{
m demand}^{
m he~BJP}$ reiterated its demand for resignation of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in light of the high court verdict on Monday upholding his arrest by the CBI in the alleged excise policy scam. Both the decisions — the Supreme Court's order on nomination by the lieutenant governor and the Delhi High Court's verdict in excise policy case — are victories of the people of Delhi, BJP state president Virendra Sachdeva said in a press conference.

"The question now is whether Kejriwal has the moral authority to remain the Chief Minister of Delhi," Sachdeva said and added the administration was "paralysed" and no AAP overnment minister was ready to be accountable for it. The high court order has vindicated BJP's allegations that AAP and the Kejriwal government looted Delhi in the excise policy scam," he charged. It has become necessary that Kejriwal steps

down as Delhi Chief Minister

and someone else comes

forward to take responsibility

and bring administration



back on tracks, Sachdeva said The Delhi High Court upheld the chief minister's arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the corruption case stemming from the alleged excise policy scam, dealing a massive blow to the AAP leader. The high court also disposed

of the AAP national convenor's bail plea and granted him liberty to approach the trial court for relief.BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj said that while upholding Kejriwal's arrest, the court noted "it can not be said that his arrest was unjustifiable or illegal." The "whimsical insistence of Kejriwal to run the government from jail has led to "zero governance and complete policy paralysis" in Delhi, she charged. Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI on June 26 from Tihar Jail, where he was lodged in judicial custody in a connected money laundering case filed the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

BJP, TMC unite as no-partition of Bengal resolution passed

Tn a rare show of unanimity amid a daggers-drawn-out atmosphere the Bengal Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution against any attempt Monďay to partition the State.

The development comes days after BJP leader Nishikant Dubey proposed declaring minority-dominated districts of Murshidabad and Malda a Union Territory while his party colleague and Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar demanded inclusion of North Bengal districts into North East Council to facilitate its development --- circuitously pouring fuel to demands of partitioning the State.
Opposition BJP has a greater organisatinoal base in North Bengal.

The resolution was discussed for the past two-three days and passed on Monday with Chief Minister telling the House that she and her Government would never allow partition of Bengal.

We believe in cooperative federalism. We are opposed to any attempt to divide the state, the Chief said while speaking on the motion. With speaking on the motion. With little maneuvering space Leader of Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, offered support but proposed adding one line we want overall development of united West Bengal before insisting his party too was against dividing the State.

We are against any attempt to divide West Bengal he said even as the Chief Minister accepted his proposal leading to the unanimous passing of the resolution.

The resolution which was moved under Rule 185 finally read "we will protect Bengal without demanding any division" and "We will work for the development in Bengal."

Adhikari subsequently said that there was no question of any deviation or any difference because the BIP had always stuck to its stand demanding development of the State.

LG recommends Deputy Excise Commissioner suspension

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday recommended the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) the suspension of Deputy Commissioner of Excise Department Ramesh Chander Meena who was involved in a hit and run incident, under the influence of liquor.

DANICS Officer Meena, was driving his Creta car in an inebriated state and hit a bike and dragged it for two kilometer before the vehicles turned into fireballs. The bike rider had escaped with minor injuries. Further, a case has been registered by police under Section 281, 125(a) and 324(4) of BNS, 2023 was registered on Sunday at Karol Bagh police station in Central Delhi. The Medico Legal Case Sheet (MLC) issued by Ram (RML) Manohar Lohia Hospital, also confirmed consumption of alcohol by Meena. "In view of the above, Directorate of Vigilance proposed that the above act of DANICS amounts to serious misconduct and unbecoming of government servant," a statement said.

World Nature Conservation Day held at **GNDU**

PNS AMRITSAR

The Department Botanical Environmental Sciences at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, in collaboration with the Punjab State Council for Science & Technology celebrated World Nature Conservation Day 2024 on July 31, 2024. The event centered around the theme "Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation," Conservation," highlighting the critical importance conservation and raising awareness about the essential role nature plays in fulfilling humanity needs for survival.

The event marked beginning with inaugural address by Head,
Department of Botanical
and Environment Sciences, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. She enlightened the participants with the importance of b i o d i v e r s i t y conservation.

Security upped in Delhi after violence rocks Bangladesh



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Sheikh Hasina's resignation as Prime Minister and reports of her heading to the national Capital, the Delhi Police on Monday beefed up security at the Bangladesh High Commission and the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport in the national Capital. Hasina has resigned and an interim government is taking over, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced on Monday. A Delhi Police officer stated that the police have beefed up security by increasing barricades outside the High Bangladesh Commission. "More barricades have been placed outside the commission and the number of police personnel deployed there has been increased," he said.

Another police officer said that several senior police officers, including Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Devesh Kumar Mahla, visted the high commission to check arrangements.

Police have also tightened security outside the IGI Airport, in case the longest serving Prime Minister of Bangladesh lands in the national capital. There were unconfirmed reports that she was headed to a city in India. More than 100 people have been killed in the protests against the Hasina government in the last two days. The country has been witnessing fierce demonstrations over the

controversial quota system that reserves 30 per cent of jobs for the families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war.

NSA Doval meets ex-PM...

However, they said it was not immediately clear whether the military transport aircraft will take her beyond India or she will travel to London in a different plane. Hasina is likely to meet her daughter Saima Wazed, who is based in Delhi. Wazed is working as the World Health Organisation's regional director for South-East Asia.

Sources said India decided to provide a safe passage through the Indian airspace to Hasina's aircraft following a request from Dhaka. Indian Government sources said New Delhi is closely following the fast-paced developments in Dhaka. Hasina is likely to be moved into a safe house in New Delhi soon, where she will reside for a few days, it was learnt.

In Dhaka, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman said Hasina has resigned and an Gnterim government is taking over the responsibilities. "I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate," he said in a televised

Meanwhile, the Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday issued a "high alert" across all its formations along the 4,096km India-Bangladesh border in the wake of the developments in the neighbouring country, officials said.

BSF Director General (Acting) Daljit Singh Chawdhary and other senior commanders have landed in Kolkata to review the security situation, they said. The BSF chief toured the North 24 Paragans district and Sunderbans area to review preparations.

The force has directed all its field commanders to be "on ground" and "deploy all personnel on border duty immediately," it was learnt. An spokesperson for its South Bengal Frontier based in the

Kolkata headquarters said, "In view of the changed situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has issued alert all along Indo-Bangladesh border and the number of troops deployed along the border has been increased."

He added, "Leave of all the personnel posted along the Bangladesh border were cancelled in the last few weeks after Bangladesh witnessed massive protests and now all units have been asked to acquire an all alert posture." The BSF guards the Indian front on the eastern flank of the

country that runs along five states. West Bengal shares a total of 2,217 kilometres of its border with Bangladesh, along with Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Assam (262 km) and Mizoram (318 km). In a related development, the Delhi Police has further

strengthened security at the Bangladesh High Commission in Chanakyapuri here in the wake of developments in the neighbouring country.

Turmoil worries...

"He had connection till any level in the political and bureaucratic hierarchy... but now his phone has fallen silent for the past several days... he is not taking calls... We have heard some people have been killed in Pabna... We had asked them shift to India early last month but he would not listen to us... I am told by other relatives at Chittagong — but presently in Agartala that there will be a revenge campaign launched by the hardliners... my 90-year-old grandmother who lives with us

is verv tensed." With the train and bus services temporarily stopped medical tourists from Bangladesh too find themselves stranded in

"I had come to get my mother

From Page 1

notification proposals to treated for heart ailments... I Jessore.

"We are progressive people and have never backed the fundamentalists ... so some people are angry on us ... my father is a retired professor and alone now ... I have no information of him" he said.

Wayanad tragedy...

Since March 2014, this is a sixth one in the series, aiming to declare over 56,800 square kilometers of the Western Ghats across six states as ecosensitive. However, the final notification is still pending due to state objections. Yadav emphasised that the expert panel, formed in April 2022 and led by former director general of forests Sanjay Kumar, is actively engaging with states to address concerns. The recent draft includes designate

have been here for the past fortnight ... I keep coming for treatment but this time I am stuck here... my wallet is getting lighter by the day whereas there is no way I can contact my relatives there in Dhaka to fill the account ... I am in great distress," said a Dhaka resident and a college teacher. Shahriyar Joel Bulbul another resident of Bangladesh who had come to Kolkata for treatment in a private hospital near Ruby More in South Kolkata said his father is a heart patient and is alone in

9,993.7 square kilometers in Kerala including 13 villages as ecologically sensitive. These 13 villages in Wayanad are Periya, Thondernad, Thirunelli, Thrissilery, Kidanganad and Noolpuzha in Mananthavady taluka, and Achooranam Chundel, Kottappadi, Kunnathidavaka, Pozhuthana, Thariyod and Vellarimala in Vythiri taluka. Scientists have linked the disaster to forest cover loss, mining, and climate change. The draft covers a total of 56,825.7 square kilometers across the Western Ghats, including areas in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and

Man who killed woman, injured daughter held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police arrested a I man who killed a mother and severely injured her daughter after being confronted by them for making advances towards the daughter in West Delhi's Tilak Nagar. According to the police on Monday, the accused has been identified as Rahul, alias Tarun, who was in his late 20s. He was arrested from a jungle area near Santgarh Nala in Tilak Nagar's Sapera Basti. DCP West Vichitra Veer said, "On July 30, at approximately 2:30 pm, a call regarding a stabbing incident was received at police station Tilak Nagar. Upon arrival at the scene of crime, it was revealed that

Rahul had stabbed two women, namely 60 year old Veena (mother) and 35 year old Tanya (daughter), with a knife. When the police reached the spot, the accused had fled from the spot and both victims had already been taken to the hospital, where Veena was declared dead."

During the investigation, the DCP added that it has come to notice that Rahul had been making advances towards Tanva, with whom he was infatuated, which Tanya was not comfortable with.

"On the day of the incident, Tanya and her mother Veena visited Rahul's residence to complain about his behaviour to his parents.

Setback for AAP..

From Page 1

According to the bench, this authority with administrator of Delhi was neither a "relic of the past" nor an overreach of constitutional authority.

The Kejriwal government had approached the court seeking the quashing of notifications through which the Lt Governor nominated 10 members to MCD on his own initiative, instead of on aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The jdugement is expected to resolve the protracted impasse over the constitution of the

MCD's Standing Committee. The Delhi unit of the BJP on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court saying the AAP has developed the habit of questioning anything done by the LG. At a press conference here, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the power to appoint aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has been exercised by the LG for decades. Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh said the party "respectfully disagrees" with the Supreme Court decision and termed it a "big blow" to India's democracy.He said the SC's decision gives the LG the right to bypass the elected

Hasina: From record 4th consecutive term to dramatic ouster

PTI ■ DHAKA

Sheikh Hasina, who was elected for a record fourth consecutive term and fifth overall term this year, was always admired by her supporters as an "Iron Lady" before the dramatic development that abruptly ended her 15-year-rule in Bangladesh.

Hasina, who provided stability to the once military-ruled Bangladesh but at the same time criticised as an "autocratic" leader by opponents, was among the world's longestserving female heads of government. The 76-year-old daughter of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had been ruling the strategically located South Asian nation since 2009. She was elected for a record fourth consecutive term in January in an election boycotted by the main opposition party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of for-mer premier Khaleda Zia and

Born in erstwhile East Pakistan

became active in politics while studying at the University of Dhaka in the late 1960s. She served as her father's political liaison during his imprisonment by the Pakistani govern-

After Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan in 1971, her father Mujibur Rahman became the president and then prime minister of the country. However, in August 1975, Rahman, his wife and their three sons were assassinated in their home by military officers.

Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana survived the purge as they were abroad. Hasina, who spent six years in exile in India, was elected as the leader of the Awami League, a party founded by her father. In 1981, Hasina returned home and became vocal about democracy in the country ruled by the military, which placed her under house arrest on multiple occasions.

In the 1991 general elections, the Hasina-led Awami League (now in Bangladesh) in September 1947, Hasina rival Khaleda Zia of the BNP

became prime minister. Five years later, Hasina was elected prime minister in the 1996 general elections.

Hasina was voted out of office in the 2001 elections but returned to power with a thumping victory in 2008 polls. Khaleda Zia-led BNP has been left in the lurch since then. Hasina escaped an assassination bid in 2004 when a grenade exploded at her rally.

Soon after coming to power in 2009, Hasina set up a tribunal to try 1971 war crimes cases. The tribunal convicted some high-profile members of the opposition, sparking violent protests.

Jamaat-e-Islami, an Islamist party and a key ally of BNP, was banned from participating in elections in 2013. BNP chief Khaleda Zia was sentenced to 17 years in prison on corruption charges.

The BNP boycotted the 2014 elections but joined the one in 2018, which party leaders later said was a mistake, alleging that the voting was marred with widespread rigging and intimidation. In the 2024 elections,



League members, on the first day of the non-cooperation movement in Dhaka, on Sunday, August 4

the BNP and its allies boycotted the votes, demanding polls under a non-party caretaker government. They alleged that Hasina cannot deliver credible voting. The polls were fought by 27 political parties, including the parliamentary opposition

Jatiya Party. The rest were members of the ruling Awami League-led coalition, which experts dubbed as the "satellite parties." The BNP's boycott, however, raised questions about the credibility of the polls, which registered a low turnout.

Australia lifts

terror threat

'possible' to

The Australian government on Monday elevated the nation's terrorism threat alert level from "possible" to "prob-

able," citing concerns about increasing radicalisation

among young people and com-munity tensions over the Israel-

It is the first time the threat

level has been elevated to the

midpoint of the five-tier

National Terrorism Threat

Advisory System since November 2022. The level had been "probable" the previous

eight years.
But Prime Minister Anthony

Albanese added that while gov-

ernment officials think the

current climate makes terror-

ism an increased danger, they

didn't know of any specific threats. "I want to reassure

Australians probable does not mean inevitable, and it does not

mean there is intelligence about

an imminent threat or danger,"

acting on the advice of the

Australian Security Intelligence

Organisation, the nation's main

Albanese told reporters.

He said the government

level from

'probable'

AP MELBOURNE

Hamas war.

Six months after the elections, a massive protest erupted against her government over a controversial quota system that reserved 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971.

Over 300 protesters were killed in violence during the protests that led to her dramatic ouster. Hasina presided over one of the world's fastest-growing economies and improved living standards in the South Asian nation in the past 15 years. The NEWSNEXTBD.com dubbed her the "Iron Lady" several years back and since then it was used by the Western media to

refer to her. Her supporters credit Hasina with humming development projects and providing stabili-ty in the country, which has wit-nessed military rule for years. Hasina won praise for the handling of the world's biggest refugee crisis as over a million Rohingyas have taken shelter in Bangladesh after fleeing for their lives in neighbouring Myanmar to evade persecution after a 2017 army crackdown at their homeland.

Hasina is also credited for skilfully negotiating the rival interests of India and China as Bangladesh is virtually sandwiched between the two Asian giants. She got the support of both the big neighbours and Russia ahead of the elections Bangladesh's per capita income tripled since Hasina took power in January 2009 while its gross domestic product (GDP) clocked at a growth rate of 7.28 per cent last year.

The country of nearly 170 million people has achieved near self-sufficiency in food production and raised average life expectancy to levels higher than neighbouring India. People close to her used to say

that the premier is a "workaholic" and she performs the daily Islamic rituals.

Rising energy and commodity prices in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, however, forced her government to seek IMF support amid falling for-eign reserves.

The workers in Bangladesh's main export-earning garment industry were dissatisfied with a recent wage hike and lodged protests in recent years.

Political opponents described Hasina's government an "autocratic" and corrupt regime, while many civil society figures and rights groups accused it of rights abuses.

Kim marks delivery of 250 N-capable missile launchers to frontline units

North Korea marked the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units at a ceremony where leader Kim Jong Un called for a ceaseless expansion of his military's nuclear program to counter perceived US threats, state media said on Monday.

Concerns about Kim's nuclear program have grown as he has demonstrated an intent to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along the North's border with South Korea and authorised his military to respond with preemptive nuclear strikes if it perceives the leadership as under threat. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the launchers were freshly produced by the county's munitions factories and designed to fire "tactical" ballistic missiles, a term that describes systems capable of delivering lowervield nuclear weapons.

Kim said at Sunday's event in Pyongyang the new launchers would give his frontline units "overwhelming" firepower over South and make the operation of tactical nuclear weapons more practical and efficient. State media photos showed lines of army-green launcher trucks packing a large street with seemingly thou-sands of spectators attending the event, which included fire-

North Korea has been expanding its lineup of mobile short-



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, Kim Jong Un speaks during a ceremony to mark the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units, in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Sunday

in South Korea, while also pursuing intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to reach the US mainland.

Kim's intensifying weapons tests and threats are widely seen as an attempt at pressuring the United States to accept the idea of North Korea as a nuclear power and to end USled sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear program. North Korea also could seek to dial up tensions in a US election year, experts say. Kim lately has used Russia's war on Ukraine as a distraction to further accelerate his weapons development. In

response, the United States, South Korea and Japan have been expanding their combined military exercises and sharpening their nuclear deterrence strategies built around strategic US military assets. In his speech at Sunday's event, Kim called for his country to brace for a prolonged confrontation with the United States and urged a relentless expansion of military strength. He justified his military buildup as a counter to the "increasingly savage" military cooperation between the United States and its regional allies, which he claimed are now showing the characteristics of a "nuclear-based mili-

"It would be our choice to either pursue dialogue or confrontation, but our lesson and conclusion from the past 30 years ... is that confrontation is what we should be pre-pared more thoroughly for," said Kim.

"The United States we are facing is not just an administration that comes and goes after a few years, but a hostile nation that our children and grandchildren will be dealing for generations to come and that also illustrates the necessity to continuously improve our selfdefense capabilities." Kim also said the decision to

hold the weapons ceremony while the country was trying to recover from disastrous flooding showed its determination to "push ahead with the strengthening of our national defense capabilities force without stagnation under any circumstances."

The floods in late July submerged thousands of homes and huge swaths of farmland in regions near the border with

Russia has offered flood aid to North Korea, in another sign of expanding relations between the two nations. Kim has made Russia his priority in recent months as he pushes a foreign policy aimed at expanding relations with countries confronting Washington, embracing the idea of a "new Cold War" and trying to display a united front in Putin's broader conflicts with the West.

domestic spy agency known as 'The advice that we've received is that more Australians are embracing a more diverse range of extreme ideologies and it is our responsibility to be vigilant," Albanese said.

"We've seen a global rise in politically motivated violence and extremism. Many democracies are working to address this, including our friends in the United States and in the United Kingdom. There are many things driving this global trend towards violence. Governments around the world are concerned about youth radicalisation, online radicalisation and the rise of new mixed ideologies." Australian authorities last declared a terrorist act in April, when a 16year-old boy was accused in the stabbing of a Sydney bishop while a church service was being livestreamed.

Hezbollah launches drone attack on northern Israel had not escalated into full-on Over the course of its nearly 10month offensive in Gaza, the

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said it launched a drone attack early Monday on northern Israel that the Israeli military said wounded two Israeli troops and set off a fire. The violence came as fears of an all-out regional war mount following the killings last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah said in a statement it targeted a military base in northern Israel in response to "attacks and assassinations" carried out by Israel in several villages in south Lebanon.

The attack did not appear to be part of a more intense retaliation expected in response to the killing of Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur in Beirut last

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged near-daily strikes for the past 10 months against the backdrop of the war in Gaza, but they have previously kept the conflict at a low level that

Last week's assassinations of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran's capital, Tehran, and Hezbollah commander Shukur in Beirut raised tensions in the region. Israel has been bracing for a retalia-tion from Iran and its allied militias. Gen. Hossein Salami, the head

of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, threatened Israel on Monday over the assassination of Haniyeh, warning that Israel was "digging its own grave" with its actions in its war against Hamas. They will see the result of their

mistake. They will see when, how and where they will get their response," Salami said in a speech. Israel returns more than 80

bodies to the Gaza Strip, Palestinian official says: A Palestinian official says Israel has returned more than 80 bodies to the Gaza Strip.
The identities of the deceased and the cause of death were not immediately known.

The Israeli military did not respond to a request for comment. Associated Press reporters saw the bodies being brought to a

military has exhumed remains

as it searches for the bodies of

hostages taken in Hamas'

October 7 attack, which ignit-

Weam Fares, a spokesperson

for the Nasser Hospital in

southern Gaza, says 84 bodies

were handed over at the Kerem

Shalom crossing on Monday and were taken directly for bur-

ial. The hospital did not pro-

vide further details.

ed the war.

cemetery in a container truck belonging to a private company. They were buried in a mass grave. The International Committee

of the Red Cross said it was not involved in the transfer. Meanwhile, The Israeli military said Palestinian militants fired at least 15 projectiles into Israel from Gaza, and first responders say one person was lightly wounded.

Concern over increasing arrests in Venezuela after disputed poll

AP CARACAS

Voices across the globe expressed concern Sunday over the growing number of arrests in Venezuela following last weekend's disputed elections. Pope Francis said Venezuela is "living a critical situation" in his traditional Sunday remarks at the Vatican, adding, "I appeal to all parties to seek the truth, to avoid all kinds of violence."

The remarks came hours after Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced Saturday that the government has arrestthat the government has arrest-ed 2,000 opponents. At a rally in the Venezuelan capital Caracas, Maduro pledged to detain more people and send them to prison. US Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer told CBS program "Face the Nation" Sunday that the Biden administration is worried

the arrests could spark wider unrest. "We are concerned about the prospect of instability, should there continue to be these detentions," Finer said. And in a statement, the leaders of several European countries including France, Spain, Germany and Italy said "the rights of all the Venezuelans, especially the political leaders, should be respected during this process. We strongly con-demn any arrests or threats against them."

Authorities have declared President Nicolás Maduro the victor in last Sunday's election but have yet to produce voting tallies to prove he won. The opposition claims to have tally sheets showing it won.
An Associated Press analysis

Friday of vote tally sheets released by the opposition coalition indicates that their candidate, Edmundo González, won

significantly more votes than the government claimed, casting serious doubt on the official declaration that Maduro won. Both González, a former diplomat, and opposition leader María Corina Machado — who was barred by the government from running — have gone into hiding, saying they fear they will be arrested or killed. Maduro and his cadres have threatened to lock them both up. The government arrested hundreds of opposition supporters who took to the streets in the days after the disputed poll. Machado braved the threats to speak at a massive opposition rally Saturday in Caracas, but was whisked away afterwards on the back of a

motorcycle. "After six days of brutal repression, they thought they were going to silence us, intimidate or paralyze us," Machado told the rally.

TikTok to withdraw rewards feature

AP ■ FRANKFURT

 T^{ikTok} has agreed to withdraw a rewards feature that raised concerns about its potential to encourage excessive screen time, particularly among children, the European Union's executive commission said Monday.

It was the first resolution of an investigation under the 27country EU's sweeping Digital Services Act, which went into effect in February and aims to ensure a "safe and accountable

online environment" by regulating large digital platforms. TikTok made the commitment without conceding the feature violated the Digital Services Act. officials said.

The commission has however ruled that the withdrawal is legally binding, which "sends a clear message to the entire social media industry," said Margrethe Vestager, European commission for digital affairs. Design features on platforms with addictive effects put the well-being of their users at

risk," she said in a statement. That's why we have made TikTok's commitments under the DSA legally binding."
The case involves TikTok Lite,

a low-bandwidth version of the app released in Spain and France. It allowed users to earn points for things like following creators, liking content, or inviting friends to join TikTok.

The points could be exchanged for Amazon vouchers and gift cards on PayPal. TikTok said rewards were restricted to users

18 years and older, who had to verify their age. Users could watch up to one hour a day of videos to earn rewards, which were capped at the equivalent of one euro (USD 1.09) a day. The commission opened an investigation in April due to concerns that TikTok has not done a diligent assessment required under the act of the feature's potential "addictive effect," especially for children, "given suspected absence of effective age verification mechanisms on TikTok."

Vietnamese biz tycoon sentenced to 21 yrs for duping stockholders

AP ■ HANOI

prominent Vietnamese Abusiness tycoon was found guilty Monday of defrauding stockholders of nearly USD 150 million by falsely inflating the value of his company, in a case that comes as the government cracks down on widespread corruption in the country.

The Hanoi People's Court sentenced Trinh Van Quyet, 48, to 21 years in prison after a twoweek trial that included 49 defendants who were named as accomplices, state-run VN Express reported. He was arrested in 2022.

The billionaire was the chairman and founder of the FLC Group, which owns the discount Bamboo Airways and has broad real estate holdings including hotels, resorts and golf courses, among other

assets. According to the indictment, Quyet fraudulently inflated the value of the group's general contractor subsidiary, FLC Faros, by reporting ficti-tious capital contributions, before taking the company public in 2016.

In the initial public offering, the company sold some 391 million shares to about 30,000 investors, defrauding them of 3.6 trillion Vietnamese dong (about USD 144 million) according to the indictment. Among Quyet's co-defendants were officials from Vietnam's State Securities Commission and Securities Depository Center, who were accused of being complicit in the scheme by approving and facilitating the initial public offering despite knowing of discrepancies in the figures. Details on the verdicts for the

co-defendants were not immediately released.

Quyet was arrested in 2022, as part of a crackdown on corruption instituted by Vietnamese authorities. The Communist Party's Blazing Furnace campaign began in 2013, but it wasn't until 2018 that authorities began scanning the private sector. Since then, several owners of Vietnam's fast-growing businesses have been arrested. The anti-corruption campaign had been the hallmark of Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam's top politician. who died last month at age 80, three days before Quyet's trial started. The ideologue had called corruption a grave threat to the party and vowed that the campaign would be a "blazing furnace" where no one was untouchable.

China's marriage registrations to fall record low this year **PTI** ■ BEIJING

China's marriage registrations in 2024 were set to register a record low since 1980, a demographic expert has warned after the marriage registrations in the first half of this year fell by 4.98 lakhs, heightening the country's looming demographic crisis.

The fall in marriage numbers was expected to add to the declining birth rates, which have been steadily falling over the years amid the rapid rise of the

ageing population.
The latest statistics from China's Ministry of Civil Affairs show that 34.3 lakh Chinese couples got married during the first half of 2024, a drop of 4.98 lakh couples compared to the same period from last year, state-run Global Times reported on Monday. It said that 1.27 million couples also got divorced. He Yafu, an independent demographic expert who tracks marriage registra-tion data, predicted that based on the present trend, the annual figure of marriage registrations in 2024 will drop to a record low since 1980. The decline in the number of marriage

registrations since 2014 was attributed to a decrease in the young population, the gender imbalance with more men than women among the marriageable population, the postponement of the age of first marriage, high costs of getting married, and changing attitudes toward

He said the continued decline in the number of marriage registrations in 2024 indicates that the number of new-borns will go downward again in

Due to factors such as the decrease in the young population and low child-birth intentions, the declining trend in China's birth rate, in the long run, will be difficult to fundamentally change unless substantial childbirth support policies are implemented in the future to address this challenge, the report quoted him as saying. China's population continued to decline

as the overall population fell by 20.8 lakh last year to 140.97 crore, down from 141.18 crore in 2022, as India overtook China to become the most populous country in the world in 2023, according to official data released early



this year.

China's population reported its first decline in six decades in 2022 after the birth rate hit a new low, resulting in decades of the child policy pursued vigorously by the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) to control population growth, with experts predicting a steeper decline in the coming years.
Researchers warned that the Chinese economy, which, in the past significant ly benefited from a demographic divi-dend, will have to tackle challenges including fewer working-age people, weaker spending power and a strained social security system as its population ages further. China's overall population is set to see

a steeper decline in the coming years, said Professor Peng Xizhe from the Centre for Population and Development Policy Studies at Fudan University. It's almost certain the population will go

on with negative growth, Peng told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post early this year. The demographic crisis was largely attributed to a decades-old one-child

policy that was scrapped in 2016, after which China permitted all couples to have two children.

In 2021, China passed a revised Population and Family Planning Law allowing Chinese couples to have three children and announced a number of incentives to encourage people to have more children, in an apparent attempt to address the reluctance of couples to have more kids due to mounting costs.

Sensex, Nifty nosedive nearly 3% to month low

Amid global equity rout on US growth concerns

¬tock market benchmark Sindices Sensex and Nifty crashed nearly 3 per cent on Monday following extremely weak trends in following global equity markets amid fears of a slowdown in the US

economy. The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024.
During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86.

The NSE Nifty slumped 662.10 points or 2.68 per cent to settle at 24,055.60. During the day, it tumbled 824 points or 3.33 per cent to 23,893.70. Nifty also saw its worst single-day fall since June 4, 2024, when markets crashed more than 5 per cent due to general election results.

An over 12 per cent plunge in Japan's Nikkei and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East dented market sentiment,



In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled sharply lower. Japan's benchmark stock index plunged 12.4 per cent on Monday, compounding a global market rout set off by investor concerns that the US economy could be headed for

A report on Friday showing hiring by US employers slowed last month by much more than expected convulsed financial markets, vanquishing the euphoria that had taken the Nikkei 225 to all-time highs of over 42,000 in recent weeks.

recession.

down 4,451.28 points at 31,458.42. It had dropped 5.8 per cent on Friday, making this its worst two-day decline ever. Its worst single-day rout was a plunge of 3,836 points, or 14.9 per cent, on October 19, 1987, a global markets crash that was dubbed "Black Monday" but proved to be only a temporary setback despite fears it might have augured a worldwide

European markets were also trading with deep cuts. The US markets ended significantly lower on Friday.

downturn.

From the Sensex pack, Tata On Monday, the Nikkei closed Motors slumped over 7 per Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,310 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

"The global market is reeling as bears enter with a cocktail of bad news. The fear of a reverse Yen carry trade, following an interest rate hike in Japan, was the initial catalyst. This was compounded by fears of a recession in the US after extremely poor jobs data, which spooked market sentiment," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude declined 1.93 per cent to USD 75.33 a barrel. In the broader market, the BSE

smallcap gauge dropped 4.21 per cent and midcap index plummeted 3.60 per cent. Amid widespread selling pressure, the BSE benchmark plunged 1.08 per cent on Friday. The broader Nifty of NSE dropped 1.17 per cent. In two straight sessions to Monday, Nifty and Sensex have corrected nearly 4 per

India's services sector growth eases slightly in July



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rndia's services sector growth recorded another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in June, largely supported by robust demand conditions and investment in technology, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index was at 60.3 in July, down only fractionally from 60.5 in June. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"Service sector activity rose at a slightly slower pace in July, with new business increasing further, primarily driven by

domestic demand. Looking ahead, services firms remained optimistic about the outlook for vear ahead," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at

New export orders increased at the third-strongest pace since the inception of the series in September 2014, amid strengthening demand for Indian services from across the world. Some of the sources of rising export orders men-tioned by panellists included Austria, Brazil, China, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands and the US. Favourable economic conditions and optimistic expectations for output supported recruitment among services firms, the survey said. On the price front, higher wage

and material costs continued to

HSBC, said.

with the overall rate of inflation quickening from June. Stronger cost pressures and positive demand trends contributed to the steepest rise in prices charged for the provision of services for seven years.

Looking ahead, services firms remained strongly optimistic about growth prospects. Around 30 per cent of the survey panel of the survey panel of the survey panel of the pert 12 put volumes in the next 12 months, while only 2 per cent expect a decline.

The overall level of sentiment rose since June and was aligned with its long-run average.

Anecdotal evidence suggested that confidence in the outlook for demand and sales, alongside improved customer engagement and new enquiries, boosted optimism. Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite Output Index posted 60.7 in July, down only fractionally from 60.9 in June and above the crucial 50.0 no-change mark for the thirtysixth month running.

"India's composite PMI recorded another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in

Rupee tumbles 31 paise to close at all-time low of 84.03 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slumped 31 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, following a sell-off in broader global markets amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and worries over recession in the US. Forex traders said the downfall in the domestic unit came on the heels of a sharp downturn in

the Indian equity markets and significant foreign fund

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.78 and touched an intra-day high of 83.76 and a low of 84.03 against the dollar during the session.

It finally settled at its record low level of 84.03 (provisional) against the American currency, down 31 paise against its previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled 1 paisa higher at 83.72 against

RUPEE ₹ VS DOLLAR \$ 1 USD = 84.03 INR* 83.73 (+5p) 83.73 83.73 August 1 August 2 August 5

trade.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in the global markets. Escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and outflows by foreign investors may further pressurise the domestic unit," said Anui Choudhary Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

However, a weak US dollar and declining crude oil prices may support the rupee at lower levels. Any intervention by the the US dollar in a range-bound Reserve Bank may also benefit the rupee, Choudhary added. Traders may take cues from US ISM services PMI data. Investors watch out for the RBI's monetary policy decision this week. USD/INR spot price is likely to trade in a range of Rs 83.60 to Rs 84.20, Choudhary

30-share Sensex 2,222.55 points, or 2.74 per cent, to settle at 78,759.40

points, and Nifty dropped 662.10 points, or 2.68 per cent, to 24,055.60 points. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's

cent to 102.54.

Bringing blueberries to Indian market

cent. Adani Ports, Tata Steel,

SBI, Power Grid, JSW Steel

and Maruti were the other big

laggards. However, Hindustan

Unilever and Nestle ended in

positive territory.
"The global markets were

jolted into a cautious mode by

recessionary fears in the US

following disappointing job

statistics and unwinding of

carry trade following the rapid rise of the yen. The effects were felt by the domestic market as well and are expected to impact in the near

term," said Vinod Nair, Head

of Research, Geojit Financial

PNS NEW DELHI

Camposol, Peru's largest blueberry producer joins forces with Walmart-backed Ninjacart, India's leading agri-startup that leverages technology and data to organise` global the agriculture ecosystem to bring blueberries high-quality to Indian to

consumers. Camposol and Ninjacart's strategic partnership is transforming the blueberry market in India through Ninjacart's marketplace, tech-enabled supply chain, cutting edge solutions, and a data-driven

approach. This collaboration aims to facilitate Camposol's market entry through a curated strategy, utilising Ninjacart's expertise and data systems to drive accelerated growth. Niniacart's Leveraging 100,000

Chaudhary further said to help customers recover the

loss on account of fraudulent

transactions, the RBI has

issued instructions to banks

on limiting the liability of customers in cases of unauthorised electronic

A customer need not bear any loss if the deficiency is on

the part of the bank and in

cases, where the fault lies neither with the bank nor

with the customer but lies

elsewhere in the system and

the customer notifies the

bank within three working

of receiving the

banking transactions.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI India's economy is expected to grow at 7-7.2 per cent in the current fiscal year driven by robust economic fundamentals and continuity in domestic policy reforms, Deloitte India said on Monday.

The August update of Deloitte's India Economic Outlook said several initiatives in the Union Budget 2024-25 toward improving agriculture productivity, creating jobs for the youth, and in manufacturing and addressing the challenge of access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), would help improve supply-side demand,

spending, especially in rural areas.

Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar said, India will witness robust growth in the second half after a period of uncertainty in the first six months of the year. "Key contributing factors include the continuity in domestic policy reforms, reduced uncertainties in the US post-elections, and more synchronous global growth within a low inflation

curb inflation, and prop up consumer

"Additionally, improved global liquidity conditions, as central banks in the West



at 7-7.2% in FY25, says Deloitte

Indian economy likely to grow

effectively addressing the urban-rural consumer spending gaps, inflation, and employment concerns can significantly enhance the affordability of aspirational rural consumers.

"The much-desirable policy pivot was evident in the Union Budget presented last month. Reducing the urban and rural spending gap in the coming years will ensure sustained consumer demand from a larger consumer base," it added. Deloitte India's growth projection is at par

with that of RBI, which projected FY'25 growth at 7.2 per cent. It is higher than Finance Ministry's Economic Survey which estimated GDP expansion between 6.5-7 per cent. The Indian economy grew

growth, private consumption spending has remained modest over the past five years. The pandemic, high global and poor agriculture output on rural demand

seem to have capped private consumption growth in India. But a Deloitte research showed that India

is witnessing distinct and broad-based shifts in consumption patterns. There is a broad-based shift in the composition of consumption towards more non-food and discretionary items, reflecting changing lifestyles and preferences that are here to

According According to the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, spending on discretionary goods and services (including conveyance) has gone up both in rural and urban India, with the former quickly catching up in spending on discretionary durable goods (including automobiles, electric and electronic goods) with the latter in just one decade.

'Demand for processed food has been among the highest in most states, suggesting a shift towards ready-to-eat options. Rapid urbanization, increasing women's participation in the workforce, and enhanced marketing and availability are driving these changing dietary habits, the report said.

According to Deloitte research, if increasing income in states results in a equitable distribution and higher rural spending, businesses can tap into a larger proportion of the state's population that resides in rural areas. This gives businesses access to a large consumer base and a sustainable consumer spending demand, as compared to states with a widening gap.

Sebi amends mutual fund rules to curb front-running, insider trading

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator the information has be Sebi has amended mutual made available to clients. fund norms requiring Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to put in place an institutional mechanism to identify and deter front-running and insider trading equivalent or analogous rank and Chief Compliance Officer in securities. Additionally,

management of AMCs will be responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the mechanism. institutional Also, the regulator has directed AMCs to have a whistle-blower mechanism. This came in the wake of Sebi's passing two orders regarding front-running cases involving Axis AMC and Life Insurance Corporation of raise concerns about India (LIC). In a gazette suspected fraudulent, unfair notification dated August 1, or unethical practices, Sebi said, "Asset management companies shall put in place an institutional mechanism, as may be specified by the Board, for the identification and deterrence of potential market abuse including front-running and fraudulent transactions in securities". Front-running refers to an illegal practice, where an entity trades based on

stock broker or analyst before the information has been

(CEO) or Managing Director (MD)or such other person of of the asset management company will be responsible and accountable for the implementation of such an institutional mechanism.

"The asset management company shall establish, implement and maintain a documented whistle-blower policy that shall provide for a confidential channel for employees, directors, trustees, and other stakeholders to or unethical practices, violations of regulatory or legal requirements or governance vulnerability, and establish procedures to ensure

adequate protection of the whistleblowers," Sebi said. To give these effects, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has amended mutual fund rules, which will come into force from November 1.

advanced information from a

As per the notification, the Chief Executive Officer

said. In the domestic equity market, the tanked

strength against a basket of six currencies, dropped 0.65 per

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.91 per cent to USD 75.34 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,310.00 crore, according to exchange data.

s much as Rs 177 crore

Awas lost on account of

credit, debit card and internet

banking frauds in the 2023-24 fiscal, Parliament was

informed on Monday.
In a written reply to the Lok
Sabha, Minister of State for
Finance Pankaj Chaudhary

said the amount of loss due to

cyber fraud has increased

from Rs 69.68 crore in FY23

The quantum of loss in FY22

was Rs 80.33 crore, it was Rs

50.10 crore in FY21 and Rs

44.22 crore in FY20.

to Rs 177.05 crore in FY24.

ease their monetary policy stance, will enhance capital flows and drive higher at 8.2 per cent in 2023-24 fiscal year. The report further said despite strong retailers, the investments, particularly in the private partnership ensures a reliable and consistent sector," Majumdar said. reliable and construction supply of high-quality blueherries, benefiting Observing that strong economic fundamentals would drive GDP growth between 7 per cent and 7.2 per cent in consumers and retailers FY25, the Economic Outlook report said



communication about the unauthorised transaction. Where the loss is due to the

customer's negligence, the customer has to bear the

entire loss until he/she

reports the unauthorised transaction to the bank. Where the fault lies neither with the customer nor with the bank and lies elsewhere in the system, and the customer reports between 4-7 working days of the unauthorised transaction, the maximum liability of the customer ranges from Rs 5,000 to Rs 25,000, depending on the type of account/ instrument. unauthorised the transaction is reported beyond 7 working days, the customer liability shall be determined as per the bank's Board approved policy.

on the bank," Chaudhary said. To facilitate the citizens to report any cyber incidents, including financial frauds, the Home Ministry has launched a National cybercrime reporting portal (www.Cybercrime.Gov.In) and a National cybercrime

unauthorised

Helpline Number '1930'. Further, customers can also report financial fraud on the official customer care website or branches of banks.

"The burden of proving customer liability in case of

banking transactions shall lie

RBI proposes regulatory principles for IndiGo to introduce business class seats management of model risks in credit

The Reserve Bank on Monday proposed to lay down principles for management of model risks in credit for banks and other regulated entities with a view to ensuring prudence and robustness.

Regulated Entities (REs) generally use various models as part of their credit management, including for credit appraisal, borrower scoring, pricing, and risk management, among others. Inherently, model outputs are exposed to uncertainties as they are based on assumptions which may not manifest in the envisaged ways and may take different forms in a real-world scenario, the RBI said in a draft circular on 'Regulatory Principles for Management of

Model Risks in Credit'. This potentially exposes REs to model risk, which has

implications on prudential aspects of credit risk management, compliance and reputational risk. With a view to ensuring prudence and robustness, in

the use of such models, RBI proposed to lay down certain broad regulatory principles which should be adopted by

"REs shall put in place a detailed Board approved policy with regard to model risk management framework for all models deployed, covering the entire model life cycle," the draft said. The policy should cover details

of governance and oversight

aspects commensurate with

model materiality; processes

around model development or selection; and documentation for models deployed.

It should also cover independent vetting / ongoing validation or review processes; change control; and the monitoring and reporting framework including role of internal audit function.

'Credit risk model' refers to any quantitative method that applies statistical, economic, financial, or mathematical principles and assumptions to process data into an output to be used for credit decisions. The models used by REs may

either be developed internally or sourced from external thirdparty suppliers, including under collaborative lending arrangements, or can be a mix of both as per the provisions of the policy, the draft said.

in select flights from mid-November



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IndiGo will introduce business class seats in Iselect flights on 12 domestic routes starting from November 14 and will also launch a customer loyalty programme, as the 18-year-old airline embarks on ambitious business expansion

Making the announcement at an event to mark 18 years of flying, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers on Monday said the business class seats will be open for booking from August 6 and added that business class passengers will be offered curated special meals.

There will be a total of 12 seats in the configuration of 4 seats in 3 rows in the A321 neo planes. These aircraft will have a total of 220 seats -- 12 business and 208 economy class, according to an official.

The seats will be introduced in the select

flights from November 14, the official added. The introductory one-way fare for a business class seat will be starting at Rs 18,018. Elbers said the business class seats will be available on busiest and business routes, and will start with Delhi-Mumbai flights.

leadership, will also be launching the customer loyalty programme 'IndiGo BluChip' which will go live in September.

The airline, which is focused on cost

On May 23, IndiGo announced that it will introduce business class in select routes this

Currently, Tata Group-owned Air India, Air India Express and Vistara offer business class

Elbers said the airline will launch flights to seven more international destinations in the current fiscal that ends on March 31, 2025.

INDIA WAITS FOR GOLDEN BOY NEERAJ TO SHIN

man of many firsts in And of many mote in Indian athletics, Neeraj Chopra would be eyeing another piece of history with his javelin when he takes aim at his second Olympics amid expectations of a golden finish yet again. His fabled consistency would be tested after a season that has seen him battle a nagging adductor niggle. He would begin his quest on Tuesday with the qualifications round from where the Haryana lad is expected to make the finals on

August 8. A top podium finish will make Chopra only the fifth man in Olympics history to defend his title and the first Indian to win two gold medals in an individual event in the

in an individual event in the multi-sporting spectacle. Eric Lemming (Sweden; 1908 and 1912), Jonni Myyra (Finland; 1920 and 1924), Chopra's idol Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and Andreas Thorkildsen (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the only ones to and 2008) are the only ones to

javelin gold medals in the Olympics.

He has competed in just three events this year but the 26-year-old world champion is back in full flow in a season where none of his global competitors have done exceptionally well.

After finishing second in the Doha Diamond League in May with a throw of 88.36m, which is his season's best, Chopra withdrew from Ostrava Golden Spike on May 28 as a precautionary measure after he felt "something" in his adductor (group of muscles located on inner thighs).

Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, made a strong comeback by winning gold at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland on June 18 with a throw of 85.97m.

He later opted out of the Paris Diamond League on July 7, insisting that the event was never a part of his competition calendar this year. His coach later dismissed



that his adductor has no issues now and his ward has been in high intensity phase of

training.
One of the most consistent javelin throwers in recent times, Chopra has sent his spear below 85m mark just twice out of his 15 competitions since winning gold in the Tokyo Olympics. Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Czech thrower Jakub Vadlejch, who beat Chopra in the Doha Diamond League, Germany's Julian Weber and former world champion Anderson Peters will once again be the Indian superstar's main rivals. The other Indian in fray in times, Chopra has sent his

The other Indian in fray in men's javelin is Kishore Jena, who booked an automatic berth with his 87.54m throw in the Asian Games last year, but has struggled to cross the 80m mark after that.

Chopra is expected to lift the sagging spirits of the Indian athletics contingent which is yet to register a performance of consequence in the showpiece's ongoing edition.

work out, train, and compete at

An exception, she says, might be something like ski racing, where the risk of a bad fall is

But in fencing, says the Boston-based Ackerman, there

is clearly protective padding for athletes, and in less

physically strenuous sports like archery or shooting, there's absolutely no reason a woman

can't compete.

It's not just an issue of physical fitness, of course. It is deeply emotional. Deciding whether and how to compete while

trying to also grow a family is a thorny calculus that male

athletes simply don't have to consider - at least in anywhere

Just ask Serena Williams, who

famously won the Australian

Open in 2017 while pregnant with her first child. When,

some five years later, she wanted to try for a second, she

stepped back from tennis - an

"Believe me, I never wanted to

have to choose between tennis

and a family," Williams - who

won four Olympic golds -

think it's fair. If I were a guy, I wouldn't be writing this because I'd be out there

playing and winning while my wife was doing the physical labor of expanding our family.

excruciating decision.

wrote in a Vogue essay

near the same way.

a very high level."

Triathlon mixed relay goes ahead with swims in the Seine amid water quality concerns

Olympic triathletes plunged into the Seine River Monday morning as the mixed relay event got underway after organizers said the bacteria levels in the long-polluted Paris waterway were at acceptable levels.

acceptable levels.

The plan to hold the swimming portion of the triathlons and the marathon swimming events in the Seine was an ambitious one.

Swimming in the river has, with some exceptions, been off-limits since 1923 because it has been too toxic.

Representatives from World Triathlon and the International Olympic Committee along with Paris Games organizers and regional and weather authorities met Sunday night to review water tests. The results indicated the water quality at the triathlon site had improved over the preceding hours and would be within the limits mandated by World Triathlon by Monday morning, they said in a statement. In a very close sprint finish, the team from Germany won the gold medal, with the United States taking silver and Britain clinching bronze.

The decision to allow the event to go forward with swims in the Seine came after Belgium's committee

Olympic announced Sunday that it would withdraw its team from the mixed relay triathlon after one of its competitors who swam in the river last week fell ill. It was not clear whether her illness had anything to do with her swim in the Seine.

Paris spent 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) on infrastructure improvements to clean up the river that flows through its center. That included the construction of a giant basin to capture excess rainwater and keep wastewater from flowing into the river, renovating sewer infrastructure and upgrading wastewater treatment plants.

Heavy rains that have fallen off and on during the Games have caused headaches for organizers as they result in organizers as they result in elevated levels of fecal bacteria, including E. Coli and enterococci, flowing into the river. Drenching rains fell Thursday night, but conditions had otherwise been dry except for light rain Saturday evening. The sun shone brightly as the race unfolded Monday and athletes said organizers reassured them said organizers reassured them that there were no concerns with water quality. Organizers have continued to

express confidence that warm temperatures and the sun's ultraviolet rays

combine to kill enough of the germs ahead of each event set to include a swim in the Seine. Athletes swam in the river for the men's and women's individual Wednesday, though the men's race had been delayed by a day because of the water quality. Elevated bacteria levels in the waterway have caused cancellations of the swimming portion of training sessions for the relay event.

American triathlete Taylor Spivey said the uncertainty was difficult.

"I mean, everyone watching can see what an incredible venue this was for, for the triathlon," she said, noting that organizers clearly chose the course location for the backdrop of Paris monuments, which included the Eiffel Tower and the Champs-Elysees. "But the constant question of the water quality, the water quality and the current, was very stressful for the athletes, I would say, because there the contingency plan was only to push the race back, not necessarily like a plan B location."

Her teammate, Morgan Pearson, said the last-minute changes in plans were unfair to the athletes and fans. He also was tired of talking about the water quality in the Seine: "I've been getting asked this question for the last year. I qualified a year ago, and I think, no pun intended, we're all just a little bit sick of the question." Brazilian triathlete Arnold Djenyfer said the water was fine Monday.

"There was really no difference about the quality of the water today compared to the first race," he said. "We already knew what we were going to face and it was all Vetle Bergsvik Thorn of Norway, who competed Monday, was one of several triathletes who fell ill after swimming in the Seine last Wednesday. He said he had a bad stomach illness for about 12 hours but said "it's hard to say if it's the river or just some ordinary food poisoning."

"It's been quite a few stressful days with not knowing if we can swim or not," he said. Swiss officials announced Saturday that triathlete Adrien

Briffod, who had competed in the Seine on Wednesday, would not compete Monday after falling ill with a stomach infection. On Sunday, they announced that Simon Westermann, who had been tapped to replace Briffod, also had to withdraw because of a gastrointestinal infection.
Westermann had not participated in any swims in

Motivated India eye German scalp to script | Pregnant Olympians push another historic chapter in men's hockey



Having displayed nerves of steel to be within touching distance of a second successive Olympic medal, the Indian hockey team will fancy its chances against familiar foe and reigning world champion Germany in the semifinal of the ongoing Games, hoping to better the bronze that it claimed in the Tokyo edition.

India won last of their eight Olympic gold medals way back in the 1980 Moscow Games. Paris provides them a great opportunity to make history.

semifinal win will ensure silver for India, which they last won in the 1960 Rome edition. The Indians displayed a tenacious performance against Britain in the quarterfinal at the iconic Yves-du-Manoir

Stadium on Sunday. Playing with 10 men for close to 40 minutes after Amit Rohidas was shown a red card for unintentionally hitting rival forward Will Calnan on his face, the Harmanpreet Singhled side defended stoutly to hold Britain 1-1 in regulation time and force a shoot-out, where it emerged 4-2 winner. Veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, playing his last international tournament, seemed to have saved his best for the last leg of his career as he made save after save, including two in the shoot-out, to seal India's second

consecutive Olympic semifinal

It was one of the bravest performances from the Indians as in modern day hockey, to play and win with a man down is a Herculean task.

And come Tuesday, Harmanpreet and his men would not only look to better the colour of their Tokyo medal but would also want to give a befitting farewell gift to the talismanic Sreejesh who will walk into the sunset after the Paris Games.

Nicknamed 'The Great Wall of Indian hockey, Sreejesh has been phenomenal in the Games so far, standing like a warrior in front of the post and enjoying every moment of his last hurrah at the Olympics.

Against Britain, Sreejesh made 10 spectacular saves from field shots. If that was not enough, he kept out 10 penalty corners. "When I stepped on this field today (Sunday), there were two

options for me. This can be my last match, or I got an opportunity for two more matches and I think, yeah, I got two more matches now," Sreejesh said later.

"See, whoever comes in the semis, we (will) just play our game. That's it, that's game. important, because now it's a different game, because we are one man down and we need to focus on that now."

But it won't be easy for the Indians as key defender and first rusher Amit Rohidas has been suspended from the a contentious red card against Olympic Games.

Britain, a decision which Hockey India has appealed. Rohidas' absence will also weaken India's options from penalty corners as he has been second to Harmanpreet from set pieces and the entire responsibility will now rest on

the skipper.

"Now, these things are not in our control. While it is a setback to not have Amit on the pitch for the semis, we are focused on the task at hand," said Harmanpreet, who has been India's leading scorer at the Games with seven goals. "On Sunday, what stood out in our performance was the team's ability to take on the added responsibility of a key position that Amit played.

Every player stepped up and even until the last minute, we were fighting back." Going by world ranking and recent head-to-head record, there is hardly anything to differentiate between current world champions and fourtime Olympic gold medallists Germany from India.

While Germany are ranked fourth in the world, the Indians are a rung below.

Germany, who beat Arge 3-2 in the quarterfinal, are familiar opponents for India in high-stakes tournaments, the most famous being the bronze medal match in Tokyo where India registered a thrilling 5-4 win, thanks a stunning lastsecond save by Sreejesh.

In the days leading up to the Paris Games, India had played Germany in practice matches and the Harmanpreet-led side won five out of those six contests.

India's most recent contests against Germany were in the FIH Pro League's London leg in June this year, where they defeated the Honamas 3-0 before losing 2-3 in the return

"We wanted to play Germany in the final. At least, that was what we had discussed amongst ourselves during semifinal match after receiving team meetings ahead of the

boundaries of possibility in Paris



Many Olympic athletes take to Instagram to share news of their exploits, trials, victories and heartbreaks. After her fencing event ended last week, Egypt's Nada Hafez shared a little bit more.

She'd been fencing for two, the athlete revealed - and in fact had been pregnant for seven "What appears to you as two

players on the podium, they were actually three!" Hafez wrote, under an emotional picture of her during the

"It was me, my competitor, &; my yet-to-come to our world, little baby!" Mom (and baby) finished the competition ranked 16th, Hafez's best result in three Olympics. A day later, an Azerbaijani

archer was also revealed on Instagram to have competed while six-and-a-half months Yaylagul pregnant. Ramazanova told Xinhua News she'd felt her baby kick before she took a shot - and then shot a 10, the maximum number of points.

There have been pregnant Olympians and Paralympians before, though the phenomenon is rare for obvious reasons. Still, most stories have been of athletes competing when they're far earlier in their pregnancies - or not even far enough along to know they were expecting. Like U.S. Beach volleyball star

Kerri Walsh Jennings, who won her third gold medal while, unknowingly, five weeks pregnant with her third child. When I was throwing my body around fearlessly, and

going for gold for our country, I was pregnant," she said on "Today" after the London Games in 2012. She and husband Casey (also a beach volleyball player) had only volleyball player) had only started trying to conceive right before the Olympics, she said, figuring it would take time. But she felt different, and volleyball partner Misty May-Treanor said to her - presciently, it turned out - "You're probably pregnant."

It makes sense that pregnant athletes are pushing boundaries now, one expert says, as both attitudes and knowledge develop about what women can do deep into

"This is something we're seeing more and more of," says Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, a sports medicine physician and cochair of the LLS. Olympic and chair of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee's women's health task force, "as women are dispelling the myth that you can't exercise at a high level when you're pregnant." Ackerman notes there's been little data, and so past decisions on the matter have often been arbitrary. But, she says, "doctors now recommend that if an athlete is in good

condition going into pregnancy, and there are no

Maybe I'd be more of a Tom Brady if I had that opportunity."
Williams welcomed Adira River Ohanian in 2023, joining older sister Olympia. And Olympia was the name that U.Ś. Softball player Michele Granger's mother reportedly suggested for the baby Granger was carrying when she pitched the gold-medal winning game in Atlanta in 1996. Her husband suggested the name Athena. Granger preferred

"I didn't want to make that connection with her name," said Granger to Gold Country Media in 2011. The baby was

complications, then it's safe to Boxer Imane calls for end to bullying after backlash over gender misconceptions

Olympic boxer Imane Khelif said the wave of hateful scrutiny she has faced over misconceptions about her gender "harms human dignity," and she called for an end to bullying athletes after being greatly affected by the international backlash against her.

The Algerian athlete spoke about her tumultuous Olympic experience on Sunday night in an interview with SNTV, a sports video partner of The Associated Press.

"I send a message to all the people of the world to uphold the Olympic principles and the Olympic Charter, to refrain from bullying all athletes, because this has effects, massive effects," Khelif said in Arabic.

"It can destroy people, it can kill people's thoughts, spirit and mind. It can divide people. And because of that, I ask them to refrain from

bullying."
The victories of Khelif and fellow boxer Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan in the ring in Paris have become one of the biggest stories of the Paris Games. Both women have clinched their first Olympic medals even as they have faced online abuse based on

unsubstantiated claims about their gender, drawing them into a wider divide over changing attitudes toward gender identity and regulations in sports.

The 25-year-old Khelif acknowledged the pressure and pain of enduring this ordeal while competing far from home in the most important event of her athletic

"I am in contact with my family two days a week. I hope that they weren't affected deeply," she said. "They are worried about me. God willing, this crisis will culminate in a gold medal, and that would be the best response."

The vitriol stems from claims by the International Boxing Association, which has been permanently banned from the Olympics, that both Khelif and Lin failed unspecified eligibility tests for the women's competition at last year's world championships.

Khelif declined to answer when asked whether she had undergone tests other than doping tests, saying she didn't want to talk about it. She expressed gratitude to the International Olympic Committee and its president, Thomas Bach, for standing resolutely behind her while the banned former governing body of Olympic boxing stoked a furor around her participation in Paris.

"I know that the Olympic Committee has done me justice, and I am happy with this remedy because it shows the truth," she said. She also has seen massive support at her bouts, drawing cheers when she enters the arena and crowds waving Algerian flags chanting her first name. She will fight again Tuesday in the women's 66-kilogram semifinals at Roland Garros.

Khelif repeatedly made clear she won't allow chatter or accusations to deter her from attempting to claim Algeria's first Olympic gold medal

in women's boxing.
"I don't care about anyone's opinion," Khelif said a day after beating Anna Luca Hamori of Hungary. "I came here for a medal, and to compete for a medal. I will certainly be competing to improve (and) be better, and God willing, I will improve, like every other athlete."

Although she is aware of the worldwide discussion about her, Khelif said she has been somewhat



removed. "Honestly, I don't follow social media," she said. "There is a mental health team that doesn't let us follow social media, especially in the Olympic Games, whether me or other athletes. I'm here to compete and get a good result."

Khelif started her Olympic run last Thursday with a victory over Angela Carini of Italy, who abandoned the bout after just 46 seconds. Carini later said she

regretted her decision and wished to apologize to Khelif.
That unusual ending raised the chatter around Khelif into a roar,

drawing comments from the likes of former U.S. President Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" writer J.K. Rowling and others falsely claiming Khelif was a man or transgender.
The IOC repeatedly declared her and Lin qualified to participate in the Olympics, and it has decried the murky testing standards and untransparent governance of the IBA, which was banished entirely from the Olympics last year in an unprecedented punishment for a governing body.
Khelif clearly felt the weight of the

worldwide scrutiny upon her, and her victory over Hamori on Saturday appeared to be cathartic. After the referee raised Khelif's hand with the win, she went to the center of the ring, waved to her fans, knelt and slammed her palm on the canvas, her smile turning to tears. "I couldn't control my nerves," Khelif said in the interview. "Because after the media frenzy and after the victory, there was a mix of

joy and at the same time, I was greatly affected, because honestly, it wasn't an easy thing to go through at all. It was something that harms human dignity."

She had competed in IBA events for several years without problems until she was abruptly suspended from last year's world championships. The Russian-dominated body which has faced years of clashes with the IOC - has refused to provide any information about the

Algeria's national boxing federation is still an IBA member.

Khelif is from rural northwestern Algeria, and she grew up playing soccer until she fell in love with boxing. Overcoming her father's initial objections, she traveled 10 kilometers (about 6 miles) by bus to train for fights in a neighboring town.

After reaching the sport's top level in her late teens, she struggled early in her career before reaching an elite level. Khelif has been a solid, if unspectacular, international competitor for six years, and she lost to eventual gold medalist Kellie Harrington of Ireland at the Tokyo Olympics.

Khelif's next bout in Paris is against Suwannapheng of Ianiaem Thailand. If Khelif wins again, she will fight for a gold medal Fridav.

Yes, this issue involves the dignity and honor of every woman and female," she told an Algerian broadcaster in brief remarks Sunday after beating Hamori. "The Arab population has known me for years and has seen me box in the IBA that wronged me (and) treated me unfairly, but I have God on my

WITH SO MUCH SPIN ON OFFER, GAME CAN TURN ON ITS HEAD: INDIA ASSISTANT COACH NAYAR

as it a shock? I would say yes," said India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar as he tried to make sense of the unexpected defeat to Sri Lanka in the second ODI, blaming it on the spin-friendly conditions that have the potential to completely alter the course of a match.

India's fragility against spin was once again on display as leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay wreaked havoc with a sixwicket haul to hand the visitors a 32run defeat in the second ODI here on

Sunday.
"...There is a surprise. But you anticipate and understand that in these conditions the game can turn on its head because there is so much spin on offer," Nayar said at the post-match press conference.

press conference.
India were chasing 241 on a pitch that had plenty of assistance for the spinners, and they ended up at 208 all out in 42.2 overs. In the previous game as well, the Indian batters barring

as well, the indian values barring skipper Rohit Sharma had struggled. "Even if you look at the last game, it was relatively easy to score against the new ball. As the ball got older, the conditions when batting second got slightly tougher. Sometimes in tough conditions, especially in the 50-over format, this happens," he added.

The assistant coach said the think-tank will reflect on what has gone wrong so



"We want to go back and understand, and rectify, why it happened twice in a row. The day before yesterday, we were

able to stitch partnerships but today we lost quite a few wickets in a bundle." India shuffled their middle order, promoting Shivam Dube (0) to the number four spot, while maintaining the right-left batting combination with Shreyes Iver (7) and KL Rabul (0) at Shreyas Iyer (7) and KL Rahul (0) at numbers six and seven, respectively.

"My belief is that in any sport, position only matters if you're playing in different areas of a game. We lost wickets in the middle phase, and that's where the middle order batters batted. It's not as if middle order batters batted

towards the end. "The thought process was right. When it doesn't work out, these questions are asked often. But I've always believed that if a middle order batter bats as a middle order batter, it is the right

decision," Nayar said. Navar feels there is more pressure on

the team batting second.
"When you are batting first, there is less pressure. When you are chasing, the pressure is more because you have to keep an eye on the run rate, wickets. "Whenever you bat first, you often have partnerships. Wellalage batted really well both in the lost agreement." really well, both in the last game and this game. They scored important runs in the lower order."



Dinesh Karthik appointed SA20 league ambassador

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Former India wicketkeeper Batter Dinesh Karthik was on Monday appointed the league ambassador of the SA20 League. Karthik, who is the first Indian

player to be associated with the South African tournament, retired from all forms of cricket earlier this year.

'The league has been electric in the first two seasons with some of the world's best players on show and exciting young media release.

"Karthik will be working very closely with fellow SA20 ambassador AB de Villiers and the management team to help strengthen the league's global fan base and reinforce brand awareness across key strategic markets in India and the United Kingdom," the release

Former South Africa captain league commissioner

talent putting up their hands on the global stage," Karthik was quoted as saying in a Graeme Smith expressed, "His exceptional cricketing talent and personality make him the perfect fit for our league and his involvement will undoubtedly elevate the league's status globally and in

> The SA20 comprises six franchises -- MI Cape Town, Joburg Super Kings, Durban Super Giants, Paarl Royals, Pretoria Capitals, Sunrisers Eastern Cape, all of which are owned by the owners of IPL



Former England batter Graham Thorpe dies at 55

 $F^{\text{ormer England and Surrey}}_{\text{batter Graham Thorpe has}}$ died aged 55 after battling a "serious illness" since 2022, the country's cricket board announced on Monday.

Considered one of the batters of his generation, Thorpe was hospitalised shortly after being named the head coach of Afghanistan in 2022 but the details of his medical condition are not known.

He is survived by his wife Amanda and four children, Henry, Amelia, Kitty and

Emma. "It is with great sadness that the ECB shares the news that Graham Thorpe, MBE, has passed away," ECB said in a statement, without giving the

exact cause of his death. "There seem to be no appropriate words to describe the deep shock we feel at Graham's death. More than one of England's finest ever batters, he was a beloved member of the cricket family and revered by fans all over the world," the statement read.

Thorpe began his Test career in 1993 with an Ashes century and repeated the feat on the CCC.

AP ■ VILLEPINTE (FRANCE)

Boxer Cindy Ngamba made the first

athlete competing as a refugee to

clinch an Olympic medal.
The 25-year-old originally from

Cameroon offered hope for the Refugee Olympic Team that was

created to call attention to the

plight of refugees across the world.

Ngamba's victory at the Paris

Games comes after a fierce bout

with French boxer Davina Michel

in the women's 75-kilogram

quarterfinals in front of a

Ngamba, who screamed and pumped her fist when she won, has

scored at least a bronze medal as

she advances to the semifinals

Friday night. She will face Atheyna

Bylon, who ensured that Panama

passionate French crowd.

February 1995. The left-hander was also instrumental in England's

back-to-back series wins in Pakistan and Sri Lanka during the 2000-01 season. A lynch-pin of England's middle order, he went on to

play 100 Tests for England between 1993 and 2005 and averaged 44.66 with 16 centuries.

He also represented the Three Lions in 82 ODIs, collecting 2830 runs at an average of 37.18.

Thorpe enjoyed success at the county level as well. He was picked at the under-11 level by Surrey and played for them for 17 years, scoring close to 20,000 runs for the team.

"Graham is one of the great sons of Surrey and there is an overwhelming sadness that he will not walk through the gates of the Oval again. He is a legend of Surrey and brought great pride to the Club wearing both the Three Feathers and the Three Lions.

"He made outstanding contributions to the Club as a cricketer, and as a man, and he will be so sorely missed," said Oli Slipper, Chair at Surrey

after Ngamba's fight.

would get its fourth-ever Olympic medal with her own win shortly

"It means the world to me to be the

first ever refugee to win a medal,"

Ngamba told reporters. "I want to say to all the refugees around the

world ... Keep on working hard, keep on believing in yourself."
She was a flag bearer for the 37 athletes making up the biggest Refugee Olympic Team since the

idea was born ahead of the 2016

Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. The International Olympic

Committee created the team as a

way for displaced athletes and

migrants to participate fully in the

Olympics without help from

Ngamba moved to the United

Kingdom at the age of 11 and said

she was granted refugee status in

national federations.

From 'monkey boy' to 'horse guy', Stephen is soaking up in limelight

Stephen Nedoroscik is leaning into his newfound stardom as a geeky, bespectacled, Rubik's Cubesolving video gamer who just won two bronze medals at the Paris Olympics.

Paris Olympics.

"It's still just surreal to me. I wake up in the morning, I'm like, Oh my gosh, I'm a two-time Olympic medalist!' It is so cool," he told The Associated Press. With both medals hanging around his neck, he beamed and laughed as he marveled at his rise to fame marveled at his rise to fame and the attention his specialty in gymnastics is receiving.

The 25-year-old U.S. Gymnast finished third in the pommel horse on Saturday, five days



after helping the American men's team earn bronze - its first Olympic medal in 16 years. Along the way, he's captured the hearts of Olympics viewers with his endearing personality and nerdy tendencies.

Images and clips of Nedoroscik

removing his glasses and centering himself before hopping on the pommel horse for a focused routine have gone viral. The memes and tweets have likened him to Clark Kent taking off his glasses and transforming into a hero.
"The memes are hilarious and have brought visibility to an eye condition called coloboma, which occurs when part of the tissue that makes up the eye is

tissue that makes up the eye is missing. Fans have approached him thanking him for being a role model for children who need to wear glasses. "Even just last week, for the first time, I met someone else who has the same eye condition as me," Nedoroscik said - a young boy whose mother said he really wanted to meet the gymnast. "It was also my first time meeting someone outside my family that has that outside my family that has that disease. That was so cool to see that. And, you know, he was just so happy."

were assured.



gold medal in thriller

AP SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES (FRANCE)

Cottie Scheffler was a model of calm and greatness as he delivered the greatest closing round of his career.

The final two hours were about charges and collapses, pure theater that ended Sunday with the Olympic gold medal fittingly draped around the neck of golf's No. 1 player.

It was only when Scheffler stood

on the top podium, when the final few bars of the national anthem belted out across Le Golf National, that he lost control. The medal dangling beneath his right hand fixed across his chest, Scheffler raised his left arm to cover the sobs.

Tears are nothing new for Scheffler. His latest trophy brought out his very best. Four shots behind to start the final round, six shots behind early on the back nine, Scheffler birdied five of six holes down the stretch and matched the course record with a 9-under 62 for a one-shot victory over Tommy

"It's been a long week. It's been a challenging week. I played some great golf today, and I'm proud to be going home with a medal," Scheffler said. "These

guys played tremendous golf and I think we should all be proud of the golf that we played this week." It was a show-stopper, the best of the three men's competitions since golf returned to the Olympic program in 2016 before 30,000 spectators that got their euros' worth.

The remarkable surge by Scheffler, who shot 29 on the back nine. The relentless play of Fleetwood (66) and Hideki Matsuvama, who had birdie chances on the final six holes and had to settle for pars for a 65 to win the bronze.

And there was a stunning collapse by Jon Rahm, who saw a four-shot lead disappear in two holes and his hopes vanish with a double bogey; by Rory McIlroy, one shot behind until hitting wedge into the water; and by Xander Schauffele, the PGA and British Open champion who had a chance to win another gold until playing a four-hole stretch in 4-over par.
Not to be overlooked was Victor

Perez of France, who hit the opening tee shot on Thursday and came within one shot of a medal on Sunday. He should know the lyrics to "La Marseillaise" if he didn't already. Fans serenaded him on just about every tee.

High jumper Yaroslava wins Ukraine's 1st individual gold of Paris Olympics Olympic champion. Once the medals

t was a night for war-torn Ukraine to reioice.

Thousands of Ukrainians watched on YouTube as high jumper Yaroslava Mahuchikh won gold for the country she was forced to flee, then celebrated with two teammates who also medaled at the Paris Olympics on Sunday. Iryna Gerashchenko shared bronze in the

high jump and Mykhaylo Kokhan then claimed a bronze in the hammer throw, too - doubling Ukraine's Olympic medal haul from three to six in the span of about

an hour. "Medals are very important for Ukraine because the people are having a very happy time, and they can cheer us and they can celebrate this with us and not think about the war for one day," Kokhan

Mahuchikh, who left her home due to the war with Russia, earned Ukraine's first

2021 because she could have been

imprisoned for being gay in Cameroon. She has said boxing has

been her escape from the chaos - it's also lifted her up to the

international stage.
She told reporters Sunday that she

struggled when she first moved to

the U.K., going from a bubbly kid

in Cameroon to an introvert as she learned English and adapted to her

new home. She said she found her

home in boxing and on the

"I had my family and my team by

my side every day," she said. "The

refugee team welcomed me with

Ngamba, who upset former world

champion Tammara Thibeault of

Canada in her first bout, entered

Olympic team.

open arms."



individual gold of these Summer Games, following a victory in women's team saber

She is from Dnipro, a city of nearly 1 million located only about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the front lines of the war. When Russia invaded, she piled as much as she could into her car and left town quickly. On her way out, she heard gunfire and could, at times, see shells raining down miles away.



fencing on Saturday.

The next time she returns, it will be as an



French boxer's swipes. Michel received deafening cheers from French fans, while Ngamba said she heard boos in North Paris Arena. "I think I only listened to boos as I her Sunday match aggressively against Michel, quickly dodging the walked into the ring," Ngamba said, adding that the spectators were just

another group of people who didn't believe in her throughout her journey to get where she is today. While some of the athletes on the refugee team have already won Olympic medals for their countries in past Games, Ngamba has been

sportsman (who) died in this war.

medal is "really for all of them."

They will never compete. They will never

celebrate. They will never feel this atmosphere," she said, adding that her gold

Mahuchikh succeeds Tokyo gold medalist

Maria Lasitskene, a Russian who - along

with everyone else from her country - has

been banned from track and field's

international events since the country

seen as the team's best chance at medaling in Paris. The success of Ngamba and other

Fleetwood.

athletes on the refugee team comes at a time of record migration and as 100 million people around the world have been forcibly displaced from their homes. The Refugee Olympic Team has nearly quadrupled in size since its debut. The team is "a symbol of inclusion, of equality, of achievement for a large community around the world of refugees and displaced people," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told the AP in an interview last week.

Grandi congratulated Ngamba, writing on X: "You do us all very, very proud! And now onward to

The refugee team was among the first Olympic delegations to cruise

along the Seine River in the opening ceremony last week. Ngamba's victory comes as women's boxing has drawn intense scrutiny in recent days as fighters Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan and Imane Khelif of Algeria faced a cascade of online abuse, with comments falsely describing them as transgender or men. Both boxers won their fights this weekend as the IOC backed both women and warned against turning the competition into a "witch hunt." Looking forward to her next match, Ngamba wants to keep sending a message of hope to refugees everywhere, saying that while she's got at least a bronze medal locked down, she's going for

gold. "Hopefully in the next round, I will get the job done - not hopefully.

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