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Late City Vol.160 Issue 214 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable



BHAKER ARRIVES HOME TO ROUSING **WELCOME**

12 SPORTS

HEARTBREAK FOR INDIA AT PARIS OLYMPICS

In a shocking reversal of fortunes, Vinesh Phogat was disqualified on Wednesday from the Olympics after being found overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final here, leaving her medal-less within hours of coming

close to an unparalleled gold.
Vinesh had scripted history by
becoming the first Indian woman
wrestler to reach the gold medal bout in her category on Tuesday night. Before this morning, she was assured of at least a silver medal but will now be coming back empty-handed due to the disqualification.
The shattered 29-year-old had to be

taken to the polyclinic inside the Games village due to severe dehydration earlier in the day.

"She was found overweight by 100gm

this morning. The rules do not allow this and she has been disqualified," said an Indian

coach. Indian Olympic The Association requested privacy for the wrestler, who was competing in her third Olympics.
"It is with regret that the contingent Indian shares news of the disqualification of Phogat from the women's Wrestling 50kg class. Despite the best efforts by the team through night,

PM Modi crowns Vinesh Phogat Champion of Champions

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to Vinesh Phogat and called her a "champion among champions." He also asked the wrestler to come back stronger. Modi urged the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to lodge a strong protest with the organisers of the Paris Olympics and spoke with IOA chairperson PT Usha and asked her to explore options to help Phogat's case, sources said. The issue also echoed in the Lok Sabha. Usha met teary-eyed Phogat at hospital. "Phogat, you are a champion among champions! You are India's pride and an inspiration for each and every Indian. Today's setback hurts.

Continued on Page 8

weighed in a few grams over 50kg this morning," the IOA stated.

'No further comments will be made by the contingent at this time. The Indian team requests you to respect Vinesh's privacy. It would like to focus on the competitions on hand," it

International rules stipulate that any grappler found overweight at the time of weigh-in ends up at the bottom of the final standings. She had taken down defending champion Yui Susaki of Japan en route the finals on Tuesday

in a remarkable performance and was face American Sarah Ann Hildebrandt in the summit bout this evening. Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who lost to Vinesh in the semifinals, replaced the

disqualified Indian in the final.
"Vinesh failed second day weigh-in.
According to the article 11 of the
International Wrestling Rules, Vinesh will be replaced by the wrestler who lost against her in the Semifinal. Therefore Yusneylis Guzman Lopez will compete in the Final," the Paris Games organising committee said in a statement.

Continued on Page 8

Reformed Waqf Bill on Lok Sabha table

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, proposing sweeping changes to the Act of 1995, is likely to be tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. The legislation circulated to members aims to bring about far-reaching changes in the present Act, including ensuring the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies. The proposed legislation "omits Section 40 relating to the powers of governing Waqf Board to decide if a property is waqf property. The legislation is likely to be tabled in Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The Bill proposes to rename the Act as the "Unified Waqf Management," Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995" and seeks to ensure the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in Waqf boards, as well as the inclusion of "Aghakhani waqf" and "Bohra waqf" in addition to the existing Sunni and Shia Waqf boards. The Bill aims to empower women by securing their rights in welfare from Waqf and includes a clause related to the "welfare, maintenance of widow, divorced woman and orphan in such manner, as may be prescribed by the Central Government."

It also curtails the powers to declare a property as Waqf, stating that no person shall create a Waqf unless they are the lawful owner of the property and competent to transfer or dedicate such property. The Bill addresses the contentious provision related to the creation of "waqf-alal-aulad," clarifying that it shall not result in the denial of inheritance rights of heirs, including women heirs, of the Waqif. The term Waqf will be clearly defined by a person practising Islam for at least five years

DELHI WAKE BOARD दिल्ली वकफवोडे अने किंग

and having ownership of such property. According to its statement of objects and reasons, "Based on the recommendations of the High-Level Committee under the chairmanship of Justice (Retired) Rajinder Sachar and the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf and Central Waqf Council and after having detailed consultation with other stakeholders, comprehensive amendments were made in the Act in the year 2013.

Despite the amendments, it has been observed that the Act still requires further improvement to effectively address issues related to the powers of the State Waqf Boards, registration and survey of waqf properties, removal of encroachments, including the definition of the "waqf" itself," according to a statement of objects and reasons of the

Continued on Page 8

Chopper crashes in Nepal, 5 killed

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

 $F_{
m pilot}$ Chinese tourists and a Nepali when a helicopter crashed in the mountains northwest region Kathmandu. The crash took place in the border area between Kathmandu and Nuwakot districts.

A Nuwakot district police official said all five persons, including the pilot, on board the helicopter belonging to private airline, Air Dynasty, were killed in the crash.

The 9N-AJD helicopter crashed at the Shivapuri National Park area in Nuwakot district, some 30 km North-West of Kathmandu at around 2 pm local time, he said.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), the helicopter was heading towards Rasuwa's Syafrubesi area from Kathmandu with four Chinese

passengers.
The chopper took off from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport at 1.54 pm and lost contact with the tower just three minutes after take off, the CAAN said in a Press release. The chopper was piloted by captain Arun Malla. There were three male and one female Chinese nationals in the chopper.
The dead bodies were taken to

Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital at Maharajgunj in Kathmandu for postmortem, the airline's officials said. The crash comes just two weeks after a Saurya Airlines plane crashed at the Tribhuvan International Airport on July 24.

Supreme Court notes Constitution is Supreme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $\begin{array}{cccc} T^{he} & \text{Supreme} & \text{Court} & \text{on} \\ Wednesday} & \text{expunged} \\ \text{some} & \text{"scandalous"} & \text{and} \end{array}$ "unwarranted" observations made against the apex court by a single judge bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in a contempt case, saying it was "pained" by these remarks.

A five-judge special bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud took suo motu note of the remarks and said these observations of Justice Rajbir Sehrawat of the high court were a "matter of

grave concern."

Observing that no court including the High Courts and the Supreme Court is "supreme", the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Rov. said such observations were wholly unnecessary for the conduct of the proceedings before the high court and moreover, the Constitution is "supreme".

It, however, did not issue a and notice initiate proceedings against the high court judge for his "scandalous" observations at this stage.

"We, accordingly, expunge the observations which have been made by Justice Sehrawat in the order dated July 17, 2024 and expect a greater caution



should be exercised in future while dealing with orders of the Supreme Court and for that matter, the orders passed by a division bench of the high court," the bench said.

The top court noted it has been apprised that a division bench presided over by the high court's Chief Justice has taken suo motu notice of his observations and stayed his order.

It said every judge is bound by the discipline which the hierarchical nature of judicial system proposes on judicial functioning. "Judicial discipline in the context of the hierarchial nature of the judicial system is intended to preserve the dignity of all institutions whether district courts, the high courts or the level of the Supreme Court,"

the bench said.

Eyeless in Dhaka, Bangladesh gropes for normalcy

 $N_{ ext{Yunus-led}}^{ ext{obel laureate Prof Muhammad}}$ government in Bangladesh will take oath on Thursday, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said.

Wednesday, General Waker said the interim government is likely to be sworn in at 8:00pm on

Thursday. He also said the advisory council may have 15 members. Yunus, the 84-year-old economist,

was on Tuesday appointed as the head of interim Government by Mohammed President Shahabuddin, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country following deadly protests against her government over a controversial

quota system in jobs. Meanwhile, students carried out traffic management as volunteers for the second consecutive day on Wednesday in Bangladesh, as a top police official called on every member of the police force to resume their duties gradually and maintain law and order.

Chaos reigned supreme in Bangladesh after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina Government on Monday, with police absent from their duty to keep law and order or manage traffic, local media reports

Additional Inspector General of Police (AIG) AKM Shahidur Rahman, who was appointed as the focal person of the Bangladesh Police on Tuesday to handle the



Away from home, they pray for peace

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Initially happy at the fall of the "dictatorial" regime of Sheikh Hasina, most Bangladeshis who had come to Kolkata for medical or other reasons are now praying for peace to return. This because they are now a stranded lot as all the trains and bus services between the two countries have been stopped for indefinite period.

"How can we go back home because both Maitryee and Bandhan Express have been suspended and the buses too are not plying ... if we have to go we have to make break journey first by crossing the border on foot and then by taking auto-

To hoist or not to hoist: AAP and BJP squabble over August 15 protocol

rickshaws, local buses... and even that is not certain," says Saheb Kamal (name changed) a Bangladesh tourist who had come to India to visit relatives.

"I am waiting for peace to return so that I can go back home," he said, adding even flights have been cancelled between the two countries.

"We are stranded... we are sure of our families' safety back in Bangladesh... but we are really concerned about our minority friends who have often been so good to us often arranging for our stay in Kolkata... at present I have postponed my journey and will wait for the things to cool down," said Rafikul Rehman.

Continued on Page 8

Constitution and the national

member of the police force to resume their duties gradually and maintain public safety and law and The students, including members

of Bangladesh Scouts, were seen controlling the traffic movement at several places, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

"The police are friends of the people and work for the public. We cannot imagine a society without the police. Therefore, I request our police members once again to ignore rumours and return to their duties in a phased manner, ensuring tĥat security arrangements are properly in place," said Rahman, who has now been appointed as the Director General of RAB in a fresh reshuffle on Wednesday.

There were reports of attacks on police stations and facilities across the country on Tuesday, resulting in numerous police casualties, which have led to this unprecedented situation, the newspaper said.

The authorities reconstituted the top positions of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on Wednesday. "AKM Shahidur Rahman has been appointed as Director General of RAB while Md Mainul Hasan will replace Habibur Rahman as the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police," news portal Prothom Alo said.

India brings back non-essential staff from Dhaka mission, P5

Kejriwal present in CM house during Maliwal assault: Delhi Police

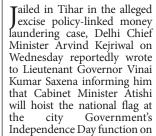
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In its chargesheet against Bibhav Kumar, a close aide of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi Police has said there could be a larger conspiracy behind the alleged assault on Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal at the CM's residence. The Delhi Police also said Kumar and Kejriwal were "together" at the CM's official residence "for a significant period of time" after alleged offence was committed. Kumar, who is in judicial custody, is accused of assaulting Maliwal on May 13 at the CM's residence. "The complainant, her in subsequent/supplementary



statement recorded after the bail hearing qua the accused before the Delhi High Court on July 10, 2024, had stated that the manner in which the entire AAP leaders and workers came in support of the accused (Kumar), against one of their own MP, shows that there is a larger conspiracy behind the attack and had urged the police to probe into

it," the final report said.



SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

August 15. Behind bars for long, the AAP chief has neither resigned from the Chief Minister's post nor named anyone as his replacement.

"Kejriwal has written to the Lthe attack and had he police to probe into final report said.

Continued on Page 8 Shiwai has Willed Will hoist the Tricolour on his behalf on August 15," an AAP statement said. Every year, the

Delhi Government's Independence Day function is held at Chhatrasal Stadium where Kejriwal has been unfurling the national flag and addressing the gathering since taking the reigns of Delhi. However, Raj Niwas officials

have claimed that no such letter has been received by Saxena. "With regard to the AAP claim regarding the flag hoisting on August 15, it is clarified that the LG Secretariat has not received any such communication whatsoever," an official said.

Prominent among the senior AAP leaders who have been at the forefront of party activities since Kejriwal was jailed on March 21, Atishi holds various portfolios, including that of Water Resources.



Rebuffing the AAP's statement, BJP's South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri requested Saxena not to allow Atishi to hoist the flag in Kejriwal's absence.

"In the Independence Day programme organised by the Delhi Government, only the Chief Minister can hoist the flag. If Kejriwal wants Atishi to hoist the flag, he should first resign from the post of Chief



Minister and then nominate her in his place," he stated. "This is not a personal choice of the CM to nominate someone or any of his Ministers to hoist the national flag in his place," Bidhuri said. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the letter proves that the AAP and its leaders

were anarchists yesterday and

remain anarchists today.

"Perhaps the framers of the

that one day, there would be a stubborn Chief Minister who would not resign even after going to jail," he claimed. The Delhi BJP chief called the letter 'anarchic' and said, "It brings back the horrific memories of his declaration to disrupt the Republic Day celebrations on Rajpath in 2014 by staging a sit-in protest." He said Kejriwal tarnished the dignity of Republic Day in 2014 and has now tarnished the dignity of

Independence Day in 2024. "During the Independence Day celebrations of the Delhi Government, only the Chief Minister of Delhi can hoist the flag. If he is unable to do so, then traditionally, the LG will

hoist the flag. From 1991 to 1993 and in 2014, when there flag protocol never imagined was no Chief Minister in Delhi, the LG hoisted the flag," said Sachdeva, adding that if he wants his Minister Atishi to hoist the flag, then he should trust her and resign, allowing her to take the oath as the Chief Minister. It is noteworthy that only Governors hoisted the national

flag in States till 1973 which was changed by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi who launched a campaign for the right to hoist national flag for the Chief Ministers. In February 1974, Karunanidhi wrote to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi demanding the right to hoist the national flag on the Independence Day.

Pathak: BJP workers to promote | Lucknow's State Museum to Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

 $B^{
m haratiya}$ Janata Party workers and leaders will promote the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign in every house dur-ing the Independence Day celebrations.

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak at a press conference on Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyaan here on Wednesday.

He said the BJP leaders and workers would actively participate in the programmes that would be held from the Independence Day and afterwards in the districts of the

"Independence Day is a day of pride for us because it was on this day that India had won its freedom. Every citizen steps out of the house on this day to participate in the various programmes which are organised to celebrate the day and also hoist the tricolour on his houses," he said.

He said that the BJP had prepared a detailed plan to promote the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhivaan'.

"This plan will be implemented at the district level and on



Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak (centre) addressing a press conference on Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyaan in Lucknow on Wednesday

August 8-9 meetings will be held at the divisional level on how to make the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign successful. On August 11,12 and 13 a Tiranga Yatra will be taken out in each assembly constituency by the BJP workers. The BJP members will participate in the yatra along with the residents of the area," he said.

He said that on August 12-14 a Swachhata programme will be carried out around the memorials of great leaders and the BJP workers would garland the statues of the martyrs and great leaders and pay tributes to them. "On August 13,14 and 15 the BJP workers will visit each house and encourage the residents to participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan," he

Besides, he pointed out that August 14 will be commemorated as 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Diwas' and seminars will be organised at the district level "On this day, silent marches will be taken out which will show that while on the one hand people witnessed freedom, on the other hand people had to flee from their homes and cross the borders and face innumerable problems. People were killed in Pakistan and trains were arriving full of dead bodies. On the occasion of Independence Day we will remember these lakhs and crores of people who lost their lives during the partition of the country," he said.

He said that on August 15 the BJP leaders would participate in the programmes to be held in

offer 360-degree virtual tour

PNS LUCKNOW

 Γ he Yogi Adityanath government is set to introduce a 360-degree virtual tour of the State Museum in Lucknow. This innovative 'Museum at Fingertips' project will enable people to explore all the artifacts, building floors, and high-lights of the State Museum from their gadgets. The Uttar Pradesh Museum

Directorate under Culture Department has entrusted the Uttar Pradesh System Development Corporation (UPDESCO) with this ambitious task. UPDESCO will execute the project on a short-term notice basis through preempanelled companies. The selection and allocation of the service provider agency, which will handle software development and other processes, has already begun. The goal is to complete this project within 90 days after the determination and allocation of the agency. It is worth mentioning that the

360-degree virtual museum tours are designed to offer an immersive experience, allowing users to navigate through the museum's halls and galleries

using panoramic images. This initiative is expected to enhance accessibility and provide a unique way to explore the rich cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh from the comfort of one's own place.

The upcoming virtual tour of the State Museum in Lucknow will feature cutting-edge panoramic and 360-degree capture technology, playing a crucial role in delivering an engaging visitor experience. This initiative will allow users to click or tap on any historical artifact to access detailed information, zoom in for a closer view, and sometimes even enjoy additional multimedia content such as description boxes.

The 360-degree virtual museum tour is designed to offer an interactive and visually captivating way for visitors to explore the State Museum from the convenience of their computer or mobile device. This technology will enable seamless navigation through various exhibits, providing an immersive experience akin to a physical visit to the museum.

The project aims to provide a dynamic and engaging virtual experience, allowing people from around the world to explore the museum's galleries, exhibitions and historical artifacts from the comfort of their homes

Notably, this project will provide an accessible and educational platform for diverse audiences to connect with art, history and culture. It will also promote the museum's online presence and global reach through a user-friendly interface that caters to a wide range of visitors.

Moreover, the virtual tour software will utilise panoramic images and videos, incorporating features such as floor plans, hotspots, and multimedia integration. High-resolution 360-degree photography and videography will ensure users can explore the museum from various angles, providing an immersive experience.

Key aspects of the user-friend ly interface will include clickand-drag navigation and artifact information points, offering detailed descriptions, historical context, and multimedia content such as video or audio clips. The virtual tour will be accessible across multiple devices, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and smartphones, allowing users to virtually roam and view the museum with ease.

CM hails Vinesh as India's pride Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, hailed Vinesh Phogat as a winner, a champion and India's pride as the celebrated female wrestler missed out on a medal following her disqualification from the wrestling championship finals at the Paris Olympics on the grounds of being 100 grams overweight. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath wrote on his official X account, "Vinesh Phogatji, you are a winner, a champion and India's pride. Please don't feel disheartened.... your exceptional performance in the Paris Olympics 2024 has brought great honour to Mother India on the global stage." He added: "I am fully confident that you will bounce back to the field even stronger than before. The whole nation is with

IMRT Law College, Lucknow Affiliated to University of Lucknow

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Librarian, Office Assistant, Computer Apply with testimonials and two otographs within 7 days.

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NOTICE

I have changed my name from SADIKA To SADIKA AHMAD for all future purposes, SADIKA AHMAD W/O MOHAMMAD ASHAR R/o 95/91, Ameenganj ka hata, Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I have changed my daughter's name from BEG MAHAM To SIDRA ALI BEG for all future MOHAMMAD ASHAR BEG S/O FARHAT ALI BEG R/o 95/91, Ameenganj ka hata, Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I have changed my son's name from MOHAMMAD ARSH BEG To MOHD ARSH BEG for all future purposes, MOHAMMAD ASHAR BEG S/O FARHAT ALI BEG R/o 95/91, Ameenganj ka

NOTICE

The original copy of the sale deed of property 111/94, Ashok Nagar, Kanpur Nagar - 208012, near Co-operative Bank, has been lost somewhere in Kanpur on 23/07/24. Use of the above sale deed by any other person / institution will be completely illegal. Sudhakar Nigam S/o Late Shyam Narayan R/o 128/217, H-1 Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur Nagar-U.P.

NOTICE

I have changed My name from Shatakshi Prajapati to khushi Prajapati D/o Madan Prajapati for all future purposes 3/A Bahadurpur kursi Road Lucknow. as per Affidavit number IN-UP39793357861563W and high School Marksheet. (2022)

NOTICE

To be informed that I have Been changed my Son's name Ansh to Ansh Verma in all future purpose. Rajiv Kumar S/o Shriram R/o Bhateura Majra Khetui Tehsil Sadar, dist-Hardoi

NOTICE

Smt. Shabana (Borrower) have agreed create mortgage in respect of House No. 99/308 (6) Colonalganj, Kanpur Nagar admeasuring 147.65 Sq. Mts. With DMI, Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd, and the Origin sale deed dated 28/03/1988 executed by Shamsudin, Sarfuddin and Safiudd through attorney Sadulla and Ameeruddin and Mohd. Iliyas and Raisuddin in favour of Mohd. Hanif which is registered in Book No. 1 Vol. No. 4535 on pages 1 to 8 a serial no. 18801 at the office of Su Registrar Kanpur Nagar AND Original sale deed dated 21/03/1988 executed by Shamsudin, Sarfuddin and Safiuddin through attorney Sadulla and Ameeruddi and Mohd. Iliyas and Raisuddin in favour of Smt. Rasheeda Hanif which is registered in Book No. 1 Vol. No. 4476 on pages 264 to 271 at serial no. 16804 at the office of Sub Registrar Kanpur Nagar are 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 Mudgal Adhivakta Bhawan Civil Court Kanpur Nagar Mob. 09839034426

सूचित हो कि कुछ अभिलेखों में त्रृटिवश मेरा नाम प्रदीप सिंह यादव गलत दर्ज हो गया है।जबिक सही नाम प्रदीप कुमार यादव है।अतः भविष्य में मुझे प्रदीप कुमार यादव पुत्र जयप्रकाश यादव निवासी पायरखास, शीतलगंज, मनकापुर, गोण्डा,उ० प्र० के नाम से जाना व

NOTICE

I Ajay Kashyap S/o Shri Mahaveer Kashyap Previously Residing At 108/15, Gandhi Nagar Kanpur 208012, Now has been shifted to 108/14,Gandhi Nagar Kanpur-208012

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Ajay Kumar Kashyap To Ajay Kashyap for all future purpose, Ajay Kashyap S/o Shri Mahaveer /o 108/14 Gandh Nagar Kanpur-208912

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Subhash Chandra to Subhash Chandra Yadav. In Future I should be known by this name only. Subhash Chandra Yadav S/o Raj Kumar R/o 115, Malin Basti Hansnagar, Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I, No-17033998F, Rank-CFN, Heera Lal Chauhan 19 Dogra S/o Lurkhur Chauhan Vill-Nasiruddinpur, Post-Khetabpur, Teh-Kasimabad, Distt-Ghazipur, U.P. Pin-233230. Declear that my Mother Name Wrongly Entered as Indravati Devi in my Army Record instead Correct Name is Indrawati Devi. Affidavit No-93AE 398903.

THE PIONEER ()

CHANGE OF NAME

I Radhe Shyam Singh S/o Shankhdhar R/o-67, Village l-Karchhuli Kalan Thana Mahraj Ganj Kandhi Jaunpur U.P.-222141 changed my minor Daughter's name Manasi Singh to Jiya Singh aged-16-Years.

PD(655)A

I Rohit Choudhary S/o Ashok Choudhary R/o Nathupur Bhulanpur Pac Varanasi Uttar Pradesh-221108 changed my name to Rohit Singh.

I Pratima Shukla alias KM Pratima Shukla D/o Sanjay R/o Keshavpuram Avas Vikas-1 Kanpur Nagar Uttar Pradesh-208017 changed my name to Kashvi Shukla.

PD(657)A

Man rapes friend's wife

PNS LUCKNOW

A man raped his friend's wife by promising her a decent job in Bijnor police station area. The shocking incident came to light on Wednesday. Both the accused and victim's husband are close friends. The woman was trapped by the accused in the name of a job which she was desperately looking for to stabilise the finances of her family.

According to reports, the woman, a resident of PGI area, was looking for a job and she disclosed this to her husband's friend Abhimanyu Singh. Abhimanyu, who is a hotelier,

told her that there was a vacancy of caretaker in his hotel and asked the victim to take up a job there. The woman, convinced that her husband's friend would give her a job, went with him to the hotel located in front of CRPF Gate in Bijnor at around 3 pm on Tuesday.

The accused welcomed her warmly and asked to sit in a room. He offered her a soft drink. Soon after consuming the soft drink, the woman became

When the woman regained her consciousness, she found Abhimanyu having physical relations with her. He had made an obscene video of her by then. On realising that she had been sexually assaulted the woman threatened to complain to the police. However, the accused threatened to kill her and said that if she complained to anyone, he would make her video viral. The victim filed a complaint with the Bijnor police. The police are investigating the case and collecting evidence against the accused.

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow

University is the first state uni-

versity in the country to offer

multiple entry option under the New Education Policy for its

undergraduate and post-graduate courses for the academic

LU Dean Academics Geetanjali

Mishra said that they were finalising the modalities of

admission and would inform

Giving a backgrounder, Geetanjali Mishra said that

University Grants Commission

in its NEP document envisaged

the students soon about it.

session 2024-2025

Meanwhile, a youth stopped a 19-year-old girl student and tried to force her to marry him in the Nigohan police station area of Lucknow. As per reports, the victim studies in a college in Mohanlalganj. A youth identified as Avnish Singh was stalking her for a long time and trying to befriend the girl. When sweet talks did not work, he caught her hand and forced her to accept his marriage proposal when she was returning from college in the afternoon on Wednesday. When the girl cried for help, the accused took to his heels. The student alleged that the accused youth, Avnish Singh, stopped her on the way, held her hand, molested her and forced her to accept his pro-

3 EXTORTIONISTS **ARRESTED**

The Thakurganj police arrested three criminals who used to extort money from businessmen by threatening to kill them or frame them in a police case.

The accused used to extort money from businessmen by threatening to get their factories sealed and to get false cases filed against them. A businessman from Saadatganj had complained about this to the police and their arrest came in connection with this case.

According to reports, Harshit Gupta of Alambagh Road Bawali Chowki Saadatganj, runs a food products factory. Harshit filed a complaint on Monday that three people came to him and started demanding money, threatening to get his factory sealed. When he protested, they threatened to implicate him in a fake murder case and send him

LU to offer multiple entry

multiple entry and exits.

"So when we framed the ordi-

nance, UG as well as PG mul-

tiple exit was a part of it and

some students have availed the

option and have decided to exit

with a certificate or diploma or

a PG diploma. However, we

had not mentioned the rules of

entry because the UGC had

itself not notified them at that

time. The UGC later came up

with the guidelines of multiple

entry. It stems from the idea

that the student who exits from

a course will have his credits

put on the Academic Bank of

in its UG, PG courses

to jail and demanded Rs 2 lakh. When he refused to pay the extortion money, the accused attacked him, causing serious injuries to him. Considering the seriousness of the case, a police team was formed and asked to investigate the matter. On Tuesday, Syed Rehbar Mehnd alias Shan Mehndi (43) of Naubasta in Saadatganj, Gaurav Malhotra (42) of Navagaon West, Saadatganj and Ritesh Rastogi (39) of Garhi Kanaura, Alambagh were arrested from Malpur Ring Road for extortion and for attacking the

FRAUD CASE **ACCUSED HELD**

The prime accused in the Rs 120 crore fraud case concerning Dr Abdul Kalam Technical University was nabbed on Wednesday. The accused, Anurag Srivastava of Haraiyya in Basti district, had posed as an AKTU official while talking to the Union Bank officials regarding investment of AKTU fund as fixed deposits at attractive rate of interest, and as branch manager of Union Bank's Vidhan Sabha Marg branch, while talking to the AKTU officials to convince them to invest money in FD for financial gains. He, with the help of his aides, had succeeded in getting AKTU money transferred from its Jankipuram branch to Vidhan Sabha Marg branch and then got the money transferred to the bank account of a Gujarat based non-governmental organisation. As the fraud was exposed in time and police succeeded in getting the bank account of the NGO freezed

Woman who made immolation bid critical

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has taken a serious note of the incident in which a woman of Unnao tried to immolate herself in Gautam Palli police station area on Tuesday.
The Unnao police officials reached Lucknow on

Wednesday morning and met with the Lucknow police commissionerate officials at Gautam Palli police station. Though the official remained tight-lipped about the meeting, sources said they exchanged information about the incident and about the woman's complaint and also the circumstances which made the woman come to Lucknow and take the extreme step.
Meanwhile, one Sunil Kumar

of Purva (Unnao) was booked for abetting her immolation

On Tuesday, it could not be ascertained if the woman reached the chief minister's Janata Darshan programme to air her grievance.

"In this meeting, a report has been prepared on the action taken so far and the steps to be taken. It was also investigated if policemen remained negligent. A detailed report has been prepared on this," the sources said.

Meanwhile, her child is in the custody of the Child Welfare Committee and will be handed over to the family members if they claim so.

The woman was severely burnt in a few seconds and the police are probing if she was incited by any person.

On Tuesday, Anjali, of Unnao, had set herself on fire by sprinkling some inflamma-ble liquid on herself near the chief minister's official residence. During the incident, frantic efforts were made to douse the fire with blankets and water, despite this, the woman suffered serious burn injuries. She was immediately brought to the nearby Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Civil) Hospital where doctors referred her to King George's Medical University Trauma Centre in view of her critical condition. The doctor attending to her said every part of her body was burnt except the waist, while eyelids were completely scorched. The doctors said she suffered more than 85 per cent burns.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website-www.pspscl.ir Mobile No. 96461-22067 E-Tender Eng. No. 7591/P-3/EMP-12761 dated 06.08.24

Dy.Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_125048_1 for Procurement of MSRL tank for Storage of HCL acid in DM Plant Stage-II at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 07.08.2024/ 01.00 PM onwards. Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

76155/12/3254/2023/36472 Dated CHD :- 8/7/2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspscl.in Mobile No. 96461-22067

Short Term E-Tender Enq. No. 7586/P-1/EMP-12751 dated 05.08.24 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar nvites E-Tender ID No. 2024 POWER 124984 1 for Procurement of Special purpose Welding Electrodes for the year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 06.08.24/ 02.00 PM onwards. Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-80/24

76155/12/3240/2023/36455 Dated CHD :- 8/7/2024

मोहिनी बी0 मनवाणी गर्ल्स डिग्री कालेज

(अल्पसंख्यक संस्थान) सम्बद्ध – छत्रपति शाहू जी महाराज विश्वविद्यालय, कानपुर गवास विकास नं0−3, पनकी कल्यानपुर रोड, कल्यानपुर, कानपुर–208017

प्रवेश एम0एड0 सत्र 2024-26

अल्पसंख्यक संस्थान में अल्पसंख्यक प्रबन्धकीय कोटे के अन्तर्गत एम०एड० सत्र 2024–26 में प्रवेश तु आवेदन आमंत्रित हैं, अर्हता, छत्रपति शाहू जी महाराज विश्वविद्यालय, कानपुर के मानकानुसार ोगी। इच्छुक अन्यर्थी एम०एड० 2024–26 प्रवेश परीक्षा फार्म महाविद्यालय के कार्यालय से नि:शुटक् गुप्त कर दिनांक: 18 / 09 / 2024 तक महाविद्यालय में जमा कर दें परीक्षा दिनांक: 25 / 09 / 2024 के कालेज परिसर में होगी। एमoएडo 2024–26 की प्रवेश परीक्षा में प्रतिभाग करने वाले अभ्यर्थियों क विश मेरिट के आधार पर होगा। अल्पसंख्यक अभ्यर्थियों को वरीयता दी जायेगी। डाक व कोरियर द्वार नेजे गये फॉर्म स्वीकृत नहीं होंगे। यदि प्रवेश परीक्षा तिथि में कोई परिवर्तन होगा तो इसकी सूचन नहाविद्यालय वेबसाइट www.mbmgdc.in पर अपडेट कर दी जायेगी।

VPO Kharkan, Una Road, Hoshiarpur (A State Govt. University, Approved by UGC) LA State Gove, omnocional Phone No. 01882-282326, email: registrargraupu Mahsite-, www.graupunjah.org Advertisement

lications from the eligible candidates are invited for the following posts on conti basis in the University. The applications must reach through registered post, spee post or by hand in the University on or before 22-08-2024 upto 5 PM.

GURU RAVIDAS AYURVED UNIVERSITY PUNJAB

Name of Post Last basic pay drawn basic pension + DA 49,000/- Lum sum

Maximum age:- 62 years

Tenure: 2 years subject to annual appraisal Applications forms along with *Detailed instructions" containing qualification and erience can be downloaded from the University website www.graupunjab.org NA/12/24618/2023/36423 Dated CHD :- 8/7/2024

Address: Near Devki Cinema, Kakadeo, Kanpur Nagar PUBLIC NOTICE

Here by this is to inform that under named borrower has not repaid principal and interest thereon of the loan. Therefore the loan became NPA on below dated. A notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and was issued at last known address, which was returned undelivered Therefore we again inform to under named borrower/ guarantor by this public notice to repay the loan amount due including interest and other expenses as mentioned in this notice within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise the bank will be free to invoke section 13(4) of the above Act and the bank will take action u/section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets, that after publication of public auction/inviting quotation/tender/private treaty your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.

Name and Address of Borrower/guarantor and Security agreement with brief description of securities/NPA date & outstanding amount as per Demand Notice

Borrower: M/s Jyot Armoury Prop. Mr. Baljeet Singh S/o Mr. Manjit Singh R/o 39/11 Top Khana Bazar, Meston Road, Kanpur - 208001 & Mr. Baljeet Singh S/o Manjit Sing R/o 120/402, Plot No. 37, Lajpat Nagar, Hans Nagar, Kanpur- 208005.

Guarantors: Mrs. Amrit Kaur W/o Hardeep Singh Sehgal, Mrs. Manpreet Kaur W/o Baljeet Singh & Mr. Hardeep Singh Sehgal S/o Manjit Singh all R/o 120/402, Plot No. 37, Lajpat Nagar, Hans Nagar, Kanpur - 208005

Account number: 56710400000047 & 56710600002579 NPA date: 12.07.2024 Demand Notice Date: 24.07.2024

Description of Mortgaged property: All the part & parcel of Property situated a 120/402 Plot No. 37, Lajpat Nagar, Hans Nagar, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Mr Baljeet Singh S/o Mr. Manjit Singh, Mrs. Manpreet Kaur W/o Baljeet Singh, Mr. Hardeep Singh Sehgal S/o Manjit Singh & Mrs. Amrit Kaur W/o Hardeep Singh Sehgal **Area**: 167.22 sq. meter. Bounded on or towards the East: premises No. 120/401 on Plot No. 38, on or towards the West: premises no. 120/403 on plot No. 36, on or towards the North: premises on Plot No. 23, on or towards the South: 30'ft wide road

O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 63.86.998.00 (as on15.07.2024) + Intt.

Authorised Officer, Baroda U.P. Bank

O Level, Triple C computer courses to BC students

2024-25.

In a significant move towards empowering students from Backward Classes, the Yogi Adityanath government has announced the launch of O Level and Triple C Computer Training Scheme, an employment-oriented training programme aimed at enhancing job prospects for them. The online application process for the two courses has already started for the financial year

This scheme is specifically

designed for the unemployed youth of Backward Classes, providing them with crucial technical education. The primary objective of this programme is to offer better employment opportunities to the educated, but economically weaker sections of the Backward Classes.

To qualify for this scheme, candidates must have completed their intermediate education, and the annual income of their parents or guardians should not exceed Rs 1 lakh. The training will be conducted by institutions recognised by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT). Minister of State for Backward

Credits site and theu will be

valid for seven years. So, some-

body who has exited for any

reason, which could be person-

al or financial or health, and

has secured a certificate after

one year of UG and after 2-3

vears wants to re-enter the

academic scene he can seek re-

entry into the institution right

into the third semester or what-

ever is due. A student can re-

enter in semester 3, 5, 7 of UG

and semester 3 of PG and can

complete their education,"

Dean Academics Geetanjali

Mishra said.

Welfare and Classes Divyangjan Empowerment (Independent Charge), Narendra Kashyap, mentioned that interested candidates can apply online on the computer training portal obccomputertraining.upsdc.gov.in by visiting the Backward Classes Welfare Department, Uttar Pradesh website backwardwelfareup.gov.in until August 12,

cational and other required

documents with the application, a hard copy must be submitted to the office of the District Backward Classes welfare officer concerned. The original deadline of submitting application was August 5, 2024, but it has been extended to August 12, 2024, considering the interests of the students. Training for the selected trainees will start from August

He further informed that while

it is mandatory to upload edu-

Neighbourhood in flames, Hindus | CM: Display list of top 10 being targeted selectively: Yogi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on, Wednesday, said that a troubling global scenario was being witnessed today, "where India's neighborhood was in turmoil, temples were being destroyed, and Hindus were being selectively targeted" He called for unity to fight the threat against Sanatan Dharma. "Today, all the neighbours of India are burning. Temples are being demolished. Hindus are being selectively targeted and even then, we are not trying to find those layers of history as to why such an unfortunate situation has arisen there," the chief minister said.

Referring to the violence in Bangladesh following Sheikh Hasina's resignation after a month-long anti-government protest, Yogi Adityanath said, "We should remember that if a society does not learn from the mistakes of history, its bright future is also eclipsed. There is a need to work together again to deal with the threat to Sanatan Dharma. There is a need to fight together for this," Referring to the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya after 500 years of wait, he said it was not just a destination but a milestone. "This milestone has to be continued further because the strength of Sanatan Dharma gives a new momentum to all these campaigns," he said. "We have to establish a society free from casteism, untouchability and discrimination for which Lord Shri Ram dedicated his entire life," the chief minister added. On the second day of his Ayodhya visit, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid tribute to the first Shri Ram Janmabhoomi



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid tributes to Brahmalin Paramhans Ramchandra Das on his 21st death anniversary in Ayodhya on Wednesday

Teerth Kshetra president Paramhans Brahmalin Ramchandra Das on his 21st death anniversary. He also unveiled a statue of Paramhans

Ramchandra Das. Earlier, Adityanath paid floral tribute at the memorial 0f Paramhans Ramchandra Das. Several devotees also joined him in paying homage to Brahmalin Paramhans Ramchandra Das, who was a prominent leader of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. Yogi Adityanath reached the memorial at Sarvu Ghat/Ramkatha Park and paid his respects. The chief minister said that since the 1940s. Gorakshapeeth Gorakhpur and Digambar Akhara Ayodhya had worked in harmony. From a young age, Ramchandra Das Maharaj had a deep connection with Gorakshapeeth. The Ram Janmabhoomi movement progressed under the guidance of

Mahant Digvijaynath, he pointed out. "Following the manifestation of Ram Lalla in 1949, Gorakshapeeth and revered saint Paramhans Ramchandra Das Ji Maharaj jointly fought against the then government's attempts to remove the statue, taking their battle to the streets and the courts. This tireless effort culminated in a 500-year wait, with Ram Lalla being enthroned in Ayodhya," he stated. CM Yogi Adityanath highlighted the significant efforts made in Ayodhya, which have elevated the pride of its saints and enhanced the city's recognition. He emphasised the need to uphold this respect and ensure that these efforts continue to be fruitful, securing long-term respect for Ayodhya. The doubleengine government is playing a crucial role in this process. On the one hand, the construction of the Ram temple in the Ram gressed under the guidance of the then Gorakshapeethadhiswar, Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra

Trust turning public sentiment into reality through public support. On the other hand, Ayodhya is being transformed externally, with notable improvements such as establishment of an international airport, enhanced connectivity, and upgraded railway facilities. The city also sees beautification efforts around Ram Ki Paudi and various temples. The chief minister stated that the goal is to create a society free from casteism and untouchability, a vision that Lord Shri Ram dedicated his life to. New traveller rest houses in Ayodhya are named after Nishad Raj, and an international airport is named after Maharishi Valmiki, The kitchen set up for passengers at the bhandara is named after Mata Shabari..The event was attended by several dignitaries, including UP minister Surya Pratap Shahi, and Mahant Suresh Das. Yogi Adityanath also visited Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra chief Nritya Gopal Das Maharaj and enquired about his well-being.

criminals at police stations

...take action against land mafia

PNS AMBEDKAR NAGAR/

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Wednesday that the list of the top 10 criminals in the district should be displayed in police stations and effective action should be taken against copying, cattle, mining and land mafia. During his one-day visit to Ambedkar Nagar following a two-day tour of Ayodhya, the chief minister reviewed the development works and law and order in the district.

Emphasising the need to maintain a fear-free environment, the chief minister highlighted that the safety of women should be a top priority. He instructed the reactivation of the Anti Romeo Squad team and directed district-level officers to ensure public hearings and communication. Additionally, he stressed the importance of the timely and quality resolution of complaints received on the IGRS and Chief Minister Helpline Portal, with satisfaction of complainant being a top priority. Additionally, the chief minister mentioned that the Trinetra Abhiyan should be successfully implemented and extended to everybody and gram panchayat. In the meeting held in the Collectorate auditorium, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to improve the functioning of the medical college and conduct regular reviews. He also directed them to submit proposals for tehsils lacking fire stations.



Chief Minister Yogi emphasised the importance of advance flood preparations, ensuring no compromise in the quantity and quality of relief materials provided to flood-affected individuals and families. Regarding the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, he stated that the Indian flag should be hoisted on every house, and voluntary organisations should be involved.

Additionally, he mentioned that the Kakori Train Action Centenary Festival should be celebrated on August 9, 2024. During this time, he instructed the superintendent of police to maintain excellent law and order in the district for the event.During the review meeting, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the district. He a transformer failure, it should be replaced within a maximum of 24 hours in rural areas and 12 hours in urban areas. The district magistrate was instructed to regularly review the power supply situation. The executive engineer of Jal Nigam was instructed to expedite the completion of works in all rural areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal Yojana) and to ensure that all road cutting works related to this scheme are 100 per cent corrected. The chief minister also reviewed the Animal Husbandry Department's efforts regarding animal vaccination and other arrangements. He directed the department to ensure that no animal was found roaming on providing green fodder for animals, maintaining cleanliness in animal shelters, and ensuring other necessary facilities. In the meeting, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the

chief medical officer to proactively prepare for awareness campaigns, fogging, and anti-larvae spraying to effectively control malaria and dengue under communicable disease management. The district basic education officer was directed to complete the enhancement of basic infrastructure in the remaining council schools in the district according to Operation Kayakalp parameters and to address the teacherstudent ratio at each school. Additionally, the district school inspector was instructed to conduct regular visits to schools to ensure a high standard of education.

Rizvi condemns attack on Hindus in Bangladesh

PNS LUCKNOW

All India Minorities Forum for Democracy president Dr Ammar Rizvi has condemned the recent attacks on Hindu minority and their places of worship in Bangladesh. He said that during Pakistan army rule both Muslims and Hindus had suffered equally.

"Both communities were targeted, killed and their houses were burnt. The Pakistan army junta did everything to silence the voice of freedom," Rizvi said in a press statement.

"The Bengali people under the leadership of Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rehman fought pitched battle against the Pakistan army. With the help of the Indian army Bangladesh was created. Pakistan was defeated. Ninety-three thousand Pakistani soldiers surren-dered. They were kept in India as prisoners of war. Later on they were released," he said. He said the treatment of minority (Hindus) in the neighbouring country was most deplorable and attack on their places of worship was unforgivable. Dr Rizvi appealed to the prime minister of India to use his good offices in persuading the Bangladesh's president to restore normalcy immediately.

Nishad community representatives laud action in gang-rape case

Representatives of the Nishad community met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Ayodhya on Wednesday morning and expressed their satisfaction with the actions taken by his government in the gang-rape case of Bhadarsa town.

During the 15-minute meeting, the chief minister assured the community that the per-petrators of the heinous crime against the girl would receive the strictest possible punishment, with no leniency.

The Nishad community representatives expressed their support for the measures being taken against the accused Samajwadi Party leader.

In the Bhadarsa town gangrape case involving a minor, SP leader Moid Khan, a close aide of Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad, and his servant Raju have been arrested by the police.

It is worth noting that during the recent monsoon session of the UP assembly, Yogi Adityanath had condemned the incident and promised that the perpetrators would face justice. He also criticised

Safety of victim, family top priority: CM Yogi

 $F_{\text{the Nishad community del}}^{\text{ollowing the meeting with}}$ egation in Ayodhya, Chief nister Yogi Adityanath emphasised that the safety of the victim and her family is the government's top priori-

On social media platform X, Yogi stated, "Today, a social delegation met with us in Shri Ayodhya Dham regarding the minor victim from the Bhadarsa area. Rest assured, we are committed to ensuring justice for the victim in every circumstance. The safety of the victim and her family remains our highest priority. Our government stands with the victim's fam-

The chief minister met the victim's mother and assured her of stringent action against those responsible.

Following the chief minister's instructions, a member of the State Child Protection the Samajwadi Party for being lenient towards the accused. Commission visited the victim and her family to offer sup-

ED attaches properties of prime

accused in paper leak case



ily with utmost dedication and sensitivity. The strictest action will be taken against the culprits of this incident, which has brought shame to humanity."

port. Additionally, a financial aid of Rs 5 lakh was provided by the chief minister to assist the victim's family. The Bharatiya Janata Party's representative board also met the victim's family and assured them of firm action against the culprits by the Yogi gov-

ernment. In light of the seriousness of the incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the suspension of Purakalandar police station in-charge Ratan Sharma and Bhadarsa outpost in-charge Akhilesh Gupta. An investigation into the properties of the main accused, SP leader Moid Khan, was also initiated. The Revenue Department has since identified about half a dozen illegal properties belonging to Khan.

Additionally, the Yogi government has taken action against illegal construction at Khan's bakery, with a bulldozer demolishing the unauthorised structures. It is anticipated that further demolition of Khan's other properties may follow. Moreover, a case has been registered against three individuals, including the chairman of Bhadarsha Nagar Panchayat, for threatening the

victim and her family.
The representatives of the Nishad community who came to thank the chief minister for the assistance provided to the gang-rape victim and her famincluded Mahant Ramsevak Das Nishad, Anju Nishad, Durga Prasad Nishad, Sandeep Nishad, Manjeet Nishad, Asharam Nishad and

the road or in public places.

Special attention is to be given to

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the SecurityInterest Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealir with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for a amount detailed below and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of tim

S.	Loan No/Borrower(s),	Demand	Date of	Secured Asset	Date of
No.	Co-Borrower	Notice Amount	Demand Notice		Affixation
1.	0LKW190900005023055, & 0LKW2111000005040781, Mohd Zahid, Shakeela Bano	1,92,257/-	20-05-2024	H.No. 348/35 KA, Plot No. 101, Part/ Minjumla of Khasra No. 85, Bairagi Tola Old Tikaitganj, Old Haiderganj Bhadeva Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 225001	05-08-2024

Authorized Officer, SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COMPANY LTD. PLACE:- GURGAON DATE :- 07-08-2024

Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region: 118/330 Bank of Baroda 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012 Possession Notice | Branch : Lalitpur Main, Lalitpur

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and Out Standing Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date

Borrower: Shri Sudheer Kumar S/o Shri Satya Narayan, R/o: Raghunathpura Road, Jamunapuran Colony, Village Panari, Tehsil & Distt. Lalitpur.

Demand Notice Date: 14-05-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 06.08.2024 Property: Land & Building Sitauted at Land No. 1539 Mi, Raghunathpura Road, Jamunapuram Colony, Village Panari, Tehsil & Distt. Lalitpur in the name of Shri Sudheer Kumar S/o Shri Satya Narayan, Area: 92.88 Sq. Mtr. Bounded-North: Plot of Bhupendra Singh, South: 6 Mtr. Wide Road

East: Property of Sahu Ji, West: Krishna adi Ka Plot. Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 28,38,700.00 + Intt. +Others Charges

Total Dues Amount as present: Rs. 29,02,188.00 + Intt. +Others Charges Date: 08-08-2024 Place : Lalitpur **Authorised Officer**



available to redeem the secured assets

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India

"CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911

Regional Office: First Floor, B.K.D. Campus, Gwalior Road, Jhansi U.P. 284003, Ph: 0510-2444044 POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security, Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the Powers conferred

under section 13(12) and read with rule 8 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notice as detailed here in below with our Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices. The borrowers/guarantors having failed to pay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with be subject to charge of Central Bank of India. The borrowers attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors

BORROWER 1 Mr. Amar Singh Kushwaha S/o Kanhaiya Lal Kushwaha H.No.62/3 Inside 07.08.2024 Bhanderi Gate Jhansi-284202 2. Mr. Kalicharan Kushwaha S/o Kanhaiya Lal Kushwaha H.No .62/3,inside Bhanderi Gate Jhansi-284202 3. Mr. Suraj Singh Kushwaha S/o Kanhaiva Lalkushwaha H.No.62/3, inside Bhanderi Gate Jhansi-284202 4. Usha Kushwaha W/o Suraj Singh Kushwaha H.no.62/3, inside Bhanderi Gate Jhansi-284202

Notice Date | Amt. Outstanding (Rs.) Rs. 11,99,477.00 on Date 01.05.2024 + Interest thereon other expenses

Possession Date of Demand Notice

1. All that part and parcel of the Property Consisting of H.No. 107 (Basement) Agarsen Market, Near Hanuman Mandir, Dixit Bagh, Jhansi Admeasuring: 85.18 Sq. feet, within the Registration District Jhansi. Property Owner: Amar Singh Kushwaha S/0 Kanhaiya Lal Kushwaha

BOUNDED: NORTH: Common Passage, SOUTH: House of Purohit, EAST: Shop of Seller, WEST: Shop of Purohit 2. All that part and parcel of the Property Consisting of H.No.33 Ward No 59 Taksal Near Kotwali Civil Hospital, Jhansi Admeasuring: 56.32 Sq. feet, within the Registration District Jhansi. Property Owner: Kalicharan Kushwaha S/o Kanhaiya Lal Kushwaha

BOUNDED: NORTH: Shop Of S K Mobile, SOUTH: Steps Platform 2.13m Wide Common Gallery Followed By Main Road, EAST: Shop of Sri Shabaz Ali Followed By Lane, WEST: Shop of Purohit

Date: 08.08.2024 Authorised Officer, Central, Bank of India

PNS LUCKNOW In a major action, the sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate have provisionally attached movable and immovable property worth ₹1.02 crore belonging to Rajiv Nayan Mishra and Subhash Prakash, the main accused in the paper leak cases. They are the main accused in the Uttar Pradesh Police constable recruitment exam leak and Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) RO/ARO

exam paper leak cases. This action has been taken under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). After arresting Rajiv Nayan, the mastermind of the UP constable recruitment exam paper leak, the STF intensively interrogated him. During this, he had confessed that he had leaked the paper in the Review Officer and Assistant Review Officer examinations as

also arrested. Raiiv Navan is the owner of Arogyam Hospital in Naini, Prayagraj. About 48 lakh randidates had appeared in the UP Police Constable Recruitment Examination, but due to paper leak, this examination had to be cancelled. After this, the noose was tightened around the accused of the paper leak case and the ED has now taken action under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The government indicated very strict action regarding paper leak and solver gangs. A case under Gangsters Act was registered against Rajiv Nayan Mishra and others. RO-ARO recruitment exam was held in many cities of UP and Rajiv Nayan Mishra earned lakhs of rupees by leaking its paper. The accused of the paper leak case are lodged in different jails and now the ED will take action against them

Meanwhile, the Enforcement well. After this, other accused were Directorate will soon register a case

About 48 lakh candidates had appeared in the **UP Police Constable** Recruitment **Examination, but** due to paper leak, this examination had to be cancelled

against three-time MLA from Khuthan and former Bahujan Samaj Party MP from Machhlishahr ,Umakant Yadav, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The Azamgarh police have handed over the information of the cases and properties related to Umakant to the ED.

Lucknow had recently written a letter to the superintendent of police of Azamgarh seeking information. Along with this, they also sought details of the cases registered against Umakant and his son Ravikant. According to sources, the ED officials have started studying the information received from the Azamgarh police and the possibilities of registering a case of money laundering are being explored. The first criminal case against Umakant was registered in 1977. After this, 36 criminal cases were registered in Azamgarh, Lucknow and Jaunpur against him, including cases of fraud, robbery, murder and damage to public property. Not only this, two years ago, seven people, including Umakant, were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Government Railway Police constable's murder case. Apart from BSP, Umakant has also been in Samajwadi Party.

According to reports, the officials

of the zonal office of ED in

Flood situation turns grim in Ballia Harishchandra. As a large number of devotees, including saf-

The flood situation has turned grim in Ballia, a downstream UP-Bihar border district of Purvanchal (eastern UP) as the rising water level of Ganga has already crossed the warning level and is all set to cross the danger mark by Thursday. According to the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), the Ganga is flowing above the warning level of 56.61 metres as it was recorded in Ballia at 56.78 metres at 8 am on Wednesday. As the water level of river is increasing by 50 mm per hour, the level will be at 57.73 metres against the danger mark of 57.61 metres by Thursday morning. In downstream Ghazipur where

the river is rising at \bar{a} speed of 80 mm per hour it was at 60.56 metres against the warning level of 62.10 metres. In Varanasi, the rising Ganga has increase the worries of residents of several localities located on both sides



reverse flow soon if the rising trend continues further as the water level of Ganga reached 68.02 metres and has increased by 56 cm in 24 hours rising from 66.46 metres a day ago. The river was increasing by about eight cm per hour. The water level of the river continued to rise right from Prayagraj of Varuna as the river will start to Ballia, including Mirzapur,

Varanasi and Ghazipur. Though it was steady at upstream Phaphamau which showed that maximum water in recent rise in the Ganga river is coming from Yamuna river side in Prayagraj. In the city, Ganga water has already entered the famous Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dasaswamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple

through the water. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged in the water. Dozens of low-lying temples located at the internationally famous 84odd ghats are either submerged in the water fully or partially. The people are finding it difficult to consign the bodies to the flames at two cremation ghats of Manikarnika

ing here daily in this auspicious month of Shravan, the NDRF and River Police personnel are keeping a close watch on the bathers at Dashashwamedh and adjoining ghats. As ghat-to-ghat links have already been cut off, the devotees are reaching the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham from Ganga Dwar (river side) through nearby lanes of Lalita Ghat. However, the residents of several villages of Daab areas surrounded by Ganga and Gomti rivers have heaved a sigh of relief as the water level of Gomti has also recorded steady at Jaunpur. Meanwhile, good rain with high intensity paralysed normal life badly especially in the afternoon hours for second continuous day on Wednesday, leaving many areas waterlogged in the city areas. The rain left several localities like Andhrapul, Teliabagh, Nagwa, Samneghat, Dashashwamedh, Godowlia, Luxa, Nai Sarak and many other markets and colonies waterlogged.

fron-clad Kanwariyas are arriv-

Stress on protecting students

Tn line with the instructions given by Ithe state government, the Health department has issued a letter to all private, government, government- aided schools through the District Inspector of Schools (DIOS) and Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) and directed that the students should come to school wearing full-sleeved shirts, full-length pants, shoes and socks every day.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that in the current transmission period of dengue and malaria, all the teachers need to ensure this responsibility at their level to protect the students from mosquito-borne diseases like dengue, malaria etc. He has appealed to all the principals to instruct the students to come to school wearing clothes covering the whole body every day, such as full-sleeved shirts and full pants, socks, shoes. For this, instructions have been sent to all the block education officers and headmasters of the district, so that serious diseases like dengue, malaria, etc. can be prevented.

The CMO said that all government,

from dengue, malaria non-government, unaided schools (all boards) should issued instructions at their level to ensure compliance with the guidelines of the Principal Secretary (Medical and Health) and Director of Education (Basic) Uttar Pradesh, along with this, all school managements have been requested that there should not be waterlogging in the school premises, proper arrangements for disposal of waterlogging in the premises and cleanliness should also be taken care of, so that mosquito breeding conditions do not arise. "Empty the water of the coolers every week and keep a strict watch on pots, junk and other containers, so that mosquito larvae cannot be produced anywhere", the CMO said, adding that the members of the school management committee should be sensitised on brain fever and other vector-borne diseases and water-borne diseases in their monthly meeting. "If a large number of students in the school are suffering from fever, then immediately contact the nearest health centre and hospital and call the doctor and get all the students suffering from fever medically examined and arrange for proper treatment", he said.

DRM conducts safety inspection Varanasi (PNS): DRM of North alignment, caution order and track fitti

Eastern Railway (Varanasi Division) Vineet Kumar Śrivastava conducted a window trailing safety inspection of Siwan-Hathua-Panchdeori rail section on Wednesday. The DRM inspected the underpass (limited height subway) built at a level crossing gate and directed the concerned to find a

permanent solution to the water logging. He directed the officials concerned to clear the thick bushes along the railway track as soon as possible for clear visibility of signals for smooth operation of trains. Thereafter, reached = Srivastava

Panchdeori station in his inspection vehicle and conducted a thorough inspection. He directed the concerned to develop the five-bed Guard/Loco Pilot Running Room built at Panchdeori. He also directed to make a separate path for the passengers to go to the platform. He checked the safety in operation on this rail section, passenger amenities, cleanliness, availability of drinking water, compliance of temporary caution orders and refresher training of safety related employees including competency certificates and PME certificates. He also checked the safety of the rail track, rail ballast, track screening, overhead traction, alignment, caution order and track fittings of the section. Prior to this, Srivastava conducted a window trailing safety inspection of Chhapra-Siwan rail section and inspected the development works of passenger amenities going on under ABSS and safety on this rail section. He conducted a thorough inspection of Siwan railway station

panel, station building, plat-forms, passenger sheds, foot overbridge, food and vend-ing stalls, waiting room, circulating area, entry and exit route, cleanliness and maintenance etc and reviewed the progress of ABSS work and directed the concerned offi-

cers to complete the work within the time limit. After this, the DRM inspected the Malgodam (warehouse) and instructed the concerned officers and supervisors for maximum loading of goods. He inspected the relay room, IPS room, points crossing, key transfer, maintenance register, cancellation counter and register etc related to safety and instructed to strictly follow the safety rules. Senior Divisional Engineer-I Rishi Shrivastava, Deputy Chief Engineer (Gati Shakti) IC Subhash, ADE (Siwan) Rajesh Kumar Mishra, AOM (Coaching) Heera Lal, PRO Ashok Kumar along with senior supervisors and railway employees were present.

Ganga, Yamuna in spate in Prayagraj



People at a flooded area after increase in the water level of Ganga and Yamuna rivers following heavy rain in Prayagraj on

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

Ganga and Yamuna are in Prayagraj. The water level is rapidly increasing due to heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The effect of about 1.5 lakh cusecs of water released from Mata Tila Dam into the Ganga is also visible. As a result difficulties have started increasing in the lowlying areas. People are taking shelter in safer places. The impact of flood is being seen in the areas across the Ganga and Yamuna. Many villages, including Badra Sonaoti, have been hit by flood. Police force has been deployed for relief and rescue work. The water of Sasurkhaderi river has filled up in Kareli area. Flood water has entered more than half-adozen villages, including Badra Sonaoti located on the banks of Ganga in Jhunsi. Due to this, people are facing a lot of problems andhave to wade through knee-deep water to reach their homes. Flood water has come on the road at Dashashwamedh Ganga Ghat. Kanwariyas collect water from this ghat to offer water to Kashi Vishwanath and other temples. Shopkeepers have packed their goods and moved away.

As per the flood control room the water of twin rivers will increase further in the days to come. According to the data released by the Flood Control department, in the last 24 hours (from 8 am on Tuesday A priest performs 'aarti' at Bade Hanumanji temple flooded after rise in the level of

the Ganga river in Prayagraj on Wednesday

to 8 am on Wednesday) the water level of Yamuna in Naini increased by 2 metre and Ganga 10 cm. Whereas, the water level of Ganga in Phaphmau increased by only 8 cm. At 8 am the water level of Ganga in Phaphmau was 78.62 metres, in Chhatnag 80.91 metres and the level of Yamuna in Naini was 81.66 metres. Meanwhile flood water of Ganga entered Bade Hanuman

Temple located at Bundhwa,

Sangam on Wednesday. As

soon as Ganga water entered the temple after the continuously rising water level, the chants of Har Har Mahadev, Jai Bajrang Bali and Jai Maa Gange started resonating in the tem-ple. Mahant Balveer Giri worshiped Maa Ganga as per the rituals and then performed aarti. Thousands of devotees had reached the temple since morning to see this scene. The continuously rising Ganga

Temple on Wednesday and bathed Hanumanji. On reaching the door of the temple, Mahant Balveer Giri Maharaj welcomed Maa Ganga and performed Ganga Aarti after worshiping as per the rituals. After this, Ganga water entered the temple. On the entry of Ganga water into temple premises, Mahant Balveer Giri welcomed Maa Bhagirathi by offering aarti and milk. Maa Ganga was worshipped with rituals. Maa Ganga enters the temple almost every year. There is a huge crowd of devotees for darshan. Meanwhile the work of all the under-construction ghats, the river front road being built in the Ganga Kachar, the Bade Hanuman temple Corridor etc. was stopped as the Sangam area was flooded.

SNAKEBITE DEATH: A 12year-old boy died due to snakebite late on Tuesday night in Mahuli village under Koraon police station area in Meia.

Novel water purification process developed

trains of microalgae, leading to (NCBI) in the USA. He the development of a novel water purification process for urban wastewater. Under the leadership of Dr Vishal Mishra, Assistant Professor at the School of Biochemical Engineering, and research stu-dent Vishal Singh, this purifica-tion method integrates prima-ry, secondary, and microalgaebased tertiary treatment into a sustainable system. This system not only cleans dirty water but also produces valuable microalgae biomass, which can be used for biofuel, protein supplements, and animal feed, making the process economically beneficial. This research has recently been granted Patent Certificate number 520076 by the Patent Office, Government of India.

Dr Mishra shared that his research team collected several algae samples from the Ganga river near Ravidas Ghat and discovered two new strains of microalgae, named Chlorella sorkiniana VSVM1 and

Tetradesmus arenicola VSVM2. for urban areas struggling with These names have been regisexplained that this advanced water purification system is particularly beneficial for the general public as it effectively removes harmful substances like ammonium, nitrogen, and phosphate from wastewater, keeping water bodies clean. This is crucial for preventing pollution in rivers and other water sources, contributing to a healthier environment. The purified water can be used for agriculture, irrigation, and other purposes. He also mentioned that the produced microalgae biomass can be used to generate biofuel, reducing dependence on conventional fuels and providing a sustainable energy source.

By implementing this system, municipalities and industries can significantly improve waste-water management, enhancing public health and environmental sustainability. The continuous operation of this process ensures efficiency and reliability, making it a practical solution

wastewater. This invention is a The researchers at IIT (BHU)
have discovered two new for Biotechnology Information

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Two houses burgled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Two houses were burgled in Ghatampur late on Tuesday night. Miscreants stole jew-ellery worth lakhs of rupees apart from cash of ₹50,000 from there. The incident came to light when residents woke up on Wednesday morning. Police have started a probe in the mat-

Reports received here said that Kripal Singh and Rajesh Singh of Raipur village, Sadh, in their complaint lodged with the police said on Tuesday night when all the family members were sleeping in the verandah situated outside their house, miscreants broke into their and committed the theft. Station Officer (SO) KP Singh said around 2 am, he was himself on patrolling and took two rounds of the village when he did not find any suspicious person nor anybody wandering in the village. He claimed that somebody of the village was involved in the theft. A probe was on and the crime will be worked out soon, he said.

Meanwhile a youth, who was found unconscious in his car near gate No 2 of the Transdied during treatment on Wednesday. Police have start-

ed a probe in the matter. According to a report, Anoop Sharma (38), son of Ramautar Sharma of Srinagar, Poni Road, Shuklaganj under Gangaghat police station, Unnao, was a furniture contractor. Late on Tuesday evening, he was found in an unconscious state in his car near gate No. 2 of the trans-Ganga city on the Ganga Barrage road. Evening walkers informed the Gangaghat Kotwali police and PRV rushed to the spot and sent the youth to the district hospital by an ambulance where he suc-cumbed to his illness on Wednesday. The deceased is survived by wife Sandhya and three daughters Shrishti, Sanskriti and Smriti.

Inspector Gangaghat Anurag Singh said with the consent of the kin, panchayatnama of the body will be carried out. However, a probe was on in the matter, he said.

Trees crucial component of environment: Prof Paroha

entered the Bade Hanuman



NSI Director Prof Seema Paroha planting a sapling with the chief guest, Vice-Chancellor, CSJMU, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Under the leadership of the Director, National Sugar Institute (NSI), Prof Seema Paroha, more than 1,500 trees of various species, including mango, neem, peepal, amla, jackfruit and peepal, were

planted in the institute premises. On the occasion Vice-Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMÚ), Prof Vinay Pathak, was present as the chief guest, along with Divya, Regional Forest Officer, who attended the event at the institute premises. The guests were pleased to see the enthusiasm of the students, staff, officers, and daily wage workers towards tree plantation.

In her address, Director Prof Seema Paroha, said, "trees are a crucial component of the environment and imagining life without them is impossible. The Vedas and Puranas testify that our culture has been of deep forest traditions. Our ancient Gurukuls were located amidst dense forests, away from the general public, where eager students acquired knowledge through oral traditions from wise sages and rishis. Mahatma Buddha attained enlightenment under the Ashvattha tree. Today, science has proven that studying under

trees in a serene environment allows for quicker memorisa-tion of any subject. The glory of trees is infinite. From birth to death, trees are our companions. Therefore, it is our sacred duty to preserve and promote

the growth of trees". Chief guest Prof Vinay Pathak, while appreciating Prof.Seema Paroha and her team for organising the extensive tree planting programme said in a crowded city like Kanpur, places that have preserved trees include the National Sugar Institute, Indian Institute of Technology, Allen Forest, the zoo, the university and HBTU etc. He said, with the increasing conversion of forest land into agriculture and construction land, the adverse effects are beginning to manifest. Nature, which nur-tures us like a mother, does not prohibit us directly, but when she gives punishment, it results in immense loss of life and property, as seen in disasters like Kedarnath or Wayanad. We do not even get chance to save human life. It is in our collective interest to plant as many

trees as possible". Regional Forest Officer Divya said whenever she gets an opportunity to visit the NSI or the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), it feels as though she has entered a different state. The atmosphere and

temperature here create a sense of being in a different place, even with closed eyes. Seeing the greenery of the NSI premises reminds her of the beauty of a forest region. In the extensive tree plantation programme institute's former Director, Prof D. Swain, and Manmohan Sachdeva, Chief Consultant (Cost), Prasenjit Deb, Consultant (Cost), and PK Mishra, Assistant Director (Cost) from the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution, New Delhi, also represented the ministry by participating in the tree planting efforts to enhance the beauty of the earth. The programme coordinator Mallika Dwivedi, Assistant Director (OL) thanked everyone and expressed gratitude to the participants.

RARE HONOUR

Prof Narendra Mohan, former director, National Sugar Institute, will be on South Africa visit from August 11 to 17 to advise on various issues related to growth and development of sugar industry there. It is a rare honour extended by the South African Sugar Industry to an Indian sugar technologist. Prof Mohan will firstly visit Sugar Milling Research Institute to advice on role it can play in providing trained manpower to the sugar industry and on areas of research. He will then deliver the keynote address during the congress of South African Sugar Association on the topic, "Sustainability of Sugar Industry by Diversification". The congress is to be attended by delegates from about 30 countries. During his stay the South Association will also interact with Prof Mohan to seek his advice on measures required to

Technologists African Sugar be taken to make sugar industry economically sustainable. Prof Mohan will share details of initiatives taken by the Indian sugar industry over the last year for achieving sustainability by taking up production of bio-ethanol, compressed bio-gas, bio-electricity and other bio-products.

National Deworming Day to be observed on Aug 10

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $T^{\text{he National Deworming}}_{\text{Day will be observed on}}$ August 10 in the district to help the children and adolescents aged between one and 19 years get rid of stomach worms. More than 19 lakh children between one to 19 years in the district will be given 'Albendazole', a medicine to remove stomach worms, to get rid of worms, informed Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary. The CMO said a target has been set to feed medicine to remove stomach worms to more than 19 lakh children in the district on August 10 when all the registered children from one to five years along with all the school going boys and girls from 6 to 19 years will be given medicine in their schools. For this, he said cooperation will be taken from private, govern-

ment, government aided, madrasas, Sanskrit schools and Kendriya Vidyalayas of the district. In the campaign, those children who do not go to schools will also be given medicine. Also, children of workers working at brick kilns will also be given medicine at Anganwadi centres. This campaign is run twice a year, he added.

ACMO and Nodal Officer of the programme Dr Sanjay Rai said that a mop-up round will be organised on August 14 for the children who missed taking medicine on National Deworming Day on August 10. Efforts will be made to cover the children who missed the medicine on the day and achieve the target 100 per cent, he said, adding that children become malnourished due to worms in the stomach and they suffer from anaemia, due to which children start becoming weak.

Investiture ceremony of Patanjali Rishikul held PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Investiture ceremony of Patanjali Rishikul was held here on Wednesday. The investiture ceremony is a significant event that showcases the essence of leadership and responsibility. To encourage and inculcate leadership qualities the ceremony successful-ly inducted members of the newly selected school's prefectorial board.

The new School Council received its badges from the prestigious guests. The chief guest of the event was Brig HS Bainsla and guest of honour was Dr Manish Singh, scientist, DRDO. The ceremony was held with zeal and enthusiasm at the school's Assembly Hall. It commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by the motivational Vidyalaya Geet – "Rishiyoan ki Nagari mein Rishikul Pyara Pyara", sung by choir of students, creating an ambience of reverence and commitment to the institution's values.



As the ceremony proceeded, Principal, Patanjali Rishikul, Nityanand Singh took to the podium to address the gathering. He congratulated the new Student Council members. Advising them, he said leadership is not only about skills but about attitude and values. Students' Council body of the school represent values of hon-esty, integrity, valour, self-dis-cipline, humility and empathy.

The cultural programme witnessed a Kathak dance performance by students of junior wing. The oath to all the officebearers was administered by the Head girl and the Head Boy. They pledged to carry out duties assigned to them with sincerity and efficiency.

Anushka Bajpai of XII-B was made the new Head Girl and Animesh Kumar the new Head Boy of the school.

WAVE OF SYMPATHY FOR VINESH PHOGAT

President, VP, MPs back wrestler

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed strong support and admiration for Vinesh Phogat who was disqualified at Paris Olympics. President Murmu lauded Phogat's achievements and resilience saying her "extraordinary feats at the resilience Paris Olympics have thrilled every Indian and done the country proud." She said "While we all share her disappointment at the disqualification, she remains a champion in the hearts of 1.4 billion people. Vinesh indefatigable spirit of Indian women, and her epic fortitude and resilience are already inspiring future world champions from India. I wish her many laurels in the future," in a social media post. Vice President Dhankhar

echoed similar sentiments

while pointing to Phogat's indomitable spirit and contribution to Indian sports. "Vinesh Phogat's remarkable performance at the Paris Olympics has made India proud. We all share her pain and disappointment at the setback she suffered. Her undaunted spirit remains a testament to courage, conviction, and perseverance. She will remain a champion in the hearts of people of this country. I wish her continued success and many more accolades in life," Dhankhar said.

Members of Parliament, cutting across party lines also backed wrestler Vinesh Phogat and praised her hard work and dedication to the sport. Lok Sabha members demanded accountability and a review of the decision.

In a shocking turn of events, Phogat was disqualified from the Paris Olympics for being found overweight ahead of her women's 50 kg final.



Speaking outside Parliament, RLD MP Jayant Choudhary said, "It was very saddening to see Vinesh Phogat being disqualified. Watching her yesterday...All the hard work and dedication she has put in to reach this point". "The effort and dedication that athletes and soldiers put in is beyond the reach of ordinary people. The entire nation is with her, and I believe the Indian Government is also prioritising this. The Prime

Minister has taken notice of it and has given directions. The appeal process will be carried out," he said.

Congress MP Selja raised questions about the team management, "Managers are there, it is their job. All our athletes and sportspersons go there, and every little thing of theirs is monitored." "Their diet is watched over, what they are drinking, what they are eating and the type of food they are

increased? Who didn't pay attention? This has to be answered," she said. "We were answered," she said. "We were hoping since morning that this girl would bring home the Olympic gold medal, who has struggled on the streets, and today, this has happened to her. Why did it happen?" the Congress leader asked.Congress MP Deepender Hooda called for a review of the decision that led review of the decision that led to Phogat's disqualification. When the entire nation was sitting for Vinesh's final bout, hoping for her to win the gold medal, the whole country was stunned. Everyone feels the pain in their hearts, but Vinesh was, is, and will remain a champion for the entire nation. She worked very hard to reach the final," he said. "While all the other players were practicing, she was sitting in a protest for justice, and then worked hard to reach here. In the eyes of

consuming. So, what was the reason for this girl's weight is a true champion," the MP said. Hooda said yesterday, her weight was correct in all three bouts, so she should be considered for the silver medal in the final.

While Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said, "I salute the struggle she has fought", Congress MP Jothimani questioned the circumstances surrounding the disqualification. "It is heartbreaking to hear the news. Just for a 100-gram difference, something is not

in a day, how can this happen," she questioned. BJP MP Dinesh Sharma expressed unwavering support for Phogat and said, "It was very sorrowful." "She was a champion, is a champion, and will remain a champion for the people of India. It was unfortunate. There will be

new efforts and new records

will be made," he said

adding up. Someone who

defeated her opponent thrice

Support pours in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

From fans to athletes and public figures to business tycoons India is reeling from the shocking disqualification of Vinesh Phogat, who was found 100 grams overweight ahead of her overweight ahead of her 50kg wrestling final at the Paris Olympics.
This unexpected setback,

just before what was expected to be a historic gold medal match, has been described as the "biggest heartbreak" of the games, with widespread anger and disappointment expressed across social media and among celebrities.

Cricketer Sunil Gavaskar and wrestler Sakshi Malik, among others, have called the situation "unfair" and "devastating," while AAP MP Sanjay Singh has disheartening en demanded a boycott of the Olympic journey.



incident as a grave injustice to India. Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra & Mahindra expressed shock as he wrote: "NO! NO! NO! Please make this a bad dream that I will wake up from and find it isn't true...." Bollywood stars like Farhan Akhtar and Taapsee Pannu have also expressed their solidarity, praising Phogat's

achievements despite the disheartening end to her

India brings back non-essential staffers from Dhaka mission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $N_{\text{Indian High Commission}}^{\text{on-essential staffers at the}}$ in Dhaka and their family members returned to India on Wednesday on a voluntary basis through commercial flights, official sources said.

However, all Indian diplomats at the mission are operating from the Bangladesh Capital, they said adding the Indian High Commission remains functional.

The non-essential staffers returned home as various parts of Bangladesh continued to report clashes. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned from the post on Monday and landed at the Hindon air base near Delhi following unprecedented anti-

Government protests. It is learnt that non-essential staffers at other Indian finalised after consultations missions in Bangladesh are with various political parties, also likely to return to India. the President's press secretary In addition to the High Commission in Dhaka, India Assistant Commissions in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet. Sources said around 20-30 senior staff are left at the High Commission in Dhaka.

Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved Parliament on



Tuesday and appointed Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus as the head of an interim Government.

The decision was made in a meeting President Shahabuddin had with Chiefs President of the three services and a 13member delegation of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement at Bangabhaban (Presidential palace), President's Press Secretary Md Jovnal Abedin said late Tuesday night.

The other members of the interim Government will be finalised after consultations said.

On Tuesday, External Affairs around 10,000 Indians were presently residing Bangladesh and Government was in "close and continuous" touch with the community through diplomatic missions. "The situation in Bangladesh

is still evolving... We are in close and continuous touch with Indians in Bangladesh through our diplomatic community," Jaishankar said in Parliament.

Addressing MPs in Parliament during an all-party meeting, Jaishankar said the situation in Bangladesh was not that alarming to require the evacuation of the 10,000 Indians in the violence-hit

Of particular concern for India has been the attack on houses and temples of the minorities in Bangladesh. With an interim Government still to be formed, widespread vandalism and looting of homes have been reported. The interim Government will be headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

The neighbouring country plunged into chaos after a controversial quota system for Government jobs saw massive street protests and violence, leaving over 400 dead and hundreds more injured.

quit as Prime Minister and fled to India as protesters stormed her residence and vandalised it. After her departure, the Awami League's main office was set on fire and several leaders were targeted by the protesters.

Establish Sri Nankana Sahib Corridor, clean public utilities: MPs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{aghav Chadha (AAP) on}}_{\text{Wednesday demanded}}$ establishment of a corridor to Sri Nankana Sahib in Pakistan's Punjab province to facilitate the visit of Sikh devotees to the sacred birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev.]

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Chadha urged the Government to take the diplomatic route and make the dream of crores of Punjabis and followers of Guru Nanak Dev come true. In this regard, he made three suggestions.

He suggested that the Governments of the two countries work together in establishing Sri Nankana Sahib corridor, on the lines of Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. Also, there should not be any mandatory requirement of

cumbersome forms for the devotees. Chadha also said that no fee should be charged from the devotees. The third suggestion related to a safe road passage starting from Amritsar (Attari-Wagah Border) till Sri Nankana Sahib



In her Zero Hour mention, Priyanka Chaturvedi (Shiv Sena UBT) expressed concern over gender disparity in access to public utilities.

"It is a matter of serious concern that with nearly a decade of Swachh Bharat Mission, the disparity in women's access to clean public utilities and conveniences is very prominent. So we have 48 per cent of the

country's population, yet clean public toilets have still not been adequate and hygienic enough for us to be able to feel comfortable," she said. Referring to

representatives visiting various constituencies during elections and public works, she said they have faced challenges to find access to

Constitution's Preamble not dropped from NCERT books: Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday said the Preamble to the Constitution is very well there in NCERT textbooks of Class VI as he refuted charges made in this regard by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. Earlier, Opposition Congress party raised in the Rajya Sabha the issue of dropping Preamble from certain NCERT textbooks, saying this was an attempt to impose communal ideology on the country a claim which Union Minister JP Nadda countered saying the Government was committed to protecting Constitution.
During Zero Hour, Leader of
the Opposition and Congress
President Kharge said
Preamble, which is the soul and foundation of Indian Constitution, used to be published in NCERT textbooks. Soon after Zero Hour, Pradhan said Kharge nas made certain remai regarding NCERT books of the education department. "I want to humbly put the facts

in the House," he said. The Minister informed the House that till now textbooks for classes up to 7th have been



"Leader of the Opposition was saying that earlier there used to be Preamble (in the textbooks).

In the new textbooks of Class VI, there is Preamble. Not only Preamble, there Fundamental Duties, Fundamental Rights, and National Anthem (in the books). These also represent

core values of the Constitution

and they are in the books. What he said was not a fact," Pradhan said. In Zero Hour, Kharge said, every citizen especially the future generation needs to be educated about foundational principles and values of Indian as well as the sacrifices made by freedom fighters such as

Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal

Nehru, BR Ambedkar, and

He then went on to make a Statement on shifting of statues of Gandhi and statues of Gandhi

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Ambedkar in the Parliament complex -- which was objected to from the treasury benches, and Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said Kharge was deviating from the subject. "RSS and BJP are trying to

impose their communal ideology on people by tampering with curriculum. And the step taken by NCERT is not right," he said amid protests from the ruling side. At this point, Dhankhar ordered that nothing will go on record and he would "look into what has to be deleted... Last four minutes to be deleted."

"You are digressing from the issue," he told Kharge. Kharge demanded Government clarification on the issue, present facts before the House and withdraw the move to drop Preamble from NCERT textbooks."Undoubtedly all of us are committed to the Constitution and any perception to the contrary will Dhankhar said Leader of the House and BJP President JP Nadda said though he has not seen either NCERT textbook or the change but can with all authority State that there is no

question of any needling of the

Constitution.

Appropriation Bill 2024 introduced in RS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $F_{ ext{Sitharaman on Wednesday}}^{ ext{inance Minister Nirmala}}$ introduced the Appropriation (No 2) Bill 2024 in the Rajya Sabha which authorises certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services in 2024-25. Sitharamam also introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024 in the Upper House. The Lok Sabha passed the two legislations last week.

Initiating the discussion on the bills, Digvijaya Singh (Congress) Stated that the focus of the Government should be on reducing the disparity between rich and poor, tackling price rise and employment. treatment drugs and machines

Attacking the Government, he said for the last decade the Government has just worked for the benefit of big corporations.

He stated that household

savings have come down in

the country signalling that

poverty is on the rise. He said while price increase is there, earnings remain at the same level as was the case 10 years number ago."The billionaires has risen the most during the Modi Government. Poor have become poorer, the rich have become richer," Singh stated. He also advocated levying a 2 per cent wealth tax on the top 300 rich families in the country. Singh also asked the Finance Minister to make all cancer

involved in the treatment free from customs duty. He also sought doing away with the 18 per cent GST on health

insurance. Derek O'Brien (TMC) also asked the Finance Minister to roll back 18 per cent GST on health insurance and life insurance. "This was a provision introduced in 2017. senior cabinet Minister has

Our humble appeal to the FM through you. No one saw this maybe from 2017 to 2024. In the last two weeks it has been

brought up in Parliament. The Chief Minister of West

Bengal has written a letter.

Yesterday there were 350 MPs

from 20 parties, we all are

together in this," he stated. A

also written a letter to the Finance Minister in this regard, O'Brien said. O'Brien commenced his speech by lauding wrestler Vinesh Phogat. "Medal or no medal, we salute you. You are our hero Vinesh Phogat. Thank you for what you have done for India," the TMC leader Stated in the Upper House. V Vijaysai Reddy (YSRCP)

asked the Government to make pension tax free. He also pointed out that the interest on small saving schemes like PPF remain low thereby encouraging people to invest in risky stock markets. Bhubaneswar Kalita (BJP) cited various developmental works taken up by the union Government, especially in the North East region.

partnership exercise with German Navy PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

INS Tabar conducts maritime

NEW DELHI

Tndian Navy's frontline Ifrigate, INS Tabar during her return leg from St Petersburg, Russia conducted Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with German Navy off Kiel Canal on Monday, navy said here on Wednesday. Giving details, officials said

INS Tabar had earlier visited Hamburg, Germany from July 17 - 20. These engagements are aimed at strengthening the maritime relations between both the nations. The conduct of MPX between Indian Navy and German Navy off Kiel Canal signifies Indian Navy's outreach and sustenance efforts, also marking a significant milestone in the maritime cooperation between the two



of 3rd Squadron Naval Air Wing 5(MFG5) of the German Navy involved a series of advanced maritime operations such as Ship Controlled Approaches, Winching exercises and VERTREP serials. Units from both the navies demonstrated high levels of professionalism commitment to enhance

collaborative efforts. India and Germany share a relationship built on a foundation of shared values, democratic principles and a commitment to global peace and security. The Indian Navy remains committed to fostering partnerships with navies across the world. The MPX with the German navy reinforces the strong bilateral naval ties and our ability to work together in

maritime security operations.

Surge in dogbite cases make India's goal of eliminating rabies by 2030 difficult

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

rndia's goal of eliminating rabies by 2030 appears increasingly difficult to achieve dog bites and 286 deaths amid surge in dog bite cases, nationwide. "If this figure is which rose from 1.7 million in 2021 to over 3 million in 2023. According to the Government data, the number of reported dog bites escalated from 1,701,133 in 2021 to 2,180,185 in 2022, and further to 3,043,339 in 2023.

This troubling follows a period of significant decline in reported cases from 2019 to 2021.

The issue has gained

prominence in Parliament too, with Ghaziabad MP Atul Garg recently highlighting alarming figures: 30.5 lakh correct, then in Ghaziabad alone, 35,000 people have been bitten by dogs in a year. Small kids are becoming victims of this...", said Garg urging the Government to form a panel to address the imbalance between animal increase welfare laws and human safety, emphasising the terror among children and families. Garg

someone, a person could be held responsible but no dog lover came forward to save the person being attacked if it was a stray dog. "... Children cannot play, an atmosphere of terror has been created within the city. So it is my request that a committee be formed and the matter be taken up? he said, adding that there is an imbalance in the laws between love for animals and human freedom, the MP noted.

Dr Khyatee Arora, physiotherapist from Ghaziabad who has been



about basic life support in mishaps. "If bitten by a dog, such situations, emphasised clean the wound with soap that it is crucial to educate and water, apply antiseptic, said that if a pet dog bit actively raising awareness people on how to handle such and seek immediate medical

attention for potential rabies treatment. Check the dog's vaccination status and report the bite to authorities if the dog is stray or its status is unknown. If unvaccinated, get 5 doses on Days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28," said Dr Arora, exsenior research officer with AIIMS Delhi.

So much the menace has spread across the States, that in a first-of-its-kind compilation of startling figures, Chhattisgarh State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) recently took cognisance of the issue as it noted that a total of 1,19,928

dog bite incidents registered across the State in 2023. It has asked the State to collate information on the number of dog bite cases registered in each district of Chhattisgarh, the vaccinations carried out and if the deaths were reporting.

The Centre on its part has asked the State health authorities to provide quality data on the number of animal bites from all primary health centres, community health centres, district-level

hospitals and tertiary care facilities with specific details on bites by pet dogs and stray

dogs. Separate records have to be maintained for new and follow-up patients in the animal bite exposure register. The Centre has also recently introduced the Animal Birth Control Rules 2023 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, replacing the previous Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001. According to the WHO, dogmediated rabies causes an estimated 59,000 human deaths globally each year, with India accounting for 20,565 (35 per cent) of these deaths. This data is derived from a 2004 study.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Finance Minister yields

Facing a backlash over changes to the property transaction taxation, the FM has given some concessions to homeowners

owing to the popular pressure and critiques from MPs within the NDA coalition, the Central Government has relented to grant some relief for property transactions. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the budget that the tax on long-term capital gains was reduced from 20% with indexation benefits to 12.5% but without indexation benefits. However, following significant opposition, an amendment is being made to The Finance Bill, 2024. For the transfer of a long-term capital asset such as land or a building acquired before July 23, 2024, the taxpayer can now choose to calculate their tax either at 12.5% without indexation under the new scheme or at 20% with indexation under the old scheme and pay whichever amount is lower. Indexation adjusts purchase price for inflation, reducing tax liability on gains from investments like debt funds. The government eliminated indexation benefits on long-term capital gains, increasing taxable gains. It prevents infla-



tion from eroding returns on long-term investments. This adjustment marks a significant reversal from the government's firm stance on the issue after the

The ministry officials had argued that the new tax rate structure, with a lower tax rate minus the indexation benefits, would benefit people in almost all cases. However, the industry experts had different opinions. Industry bodies had sought to rethink the proposal, observing that the removal of indexation benefits amounted to a retrospective tax change for those who had bought properties earlier. They pointed out that this would particularly hurt those who

had invested in assets that had delivered lesser appreciation in value over the years. It was widely feared that the removal of indexation benefits on long-term capital gains would slow down property transactions in the Mumbai real estate market, and the real estate engine of the country and could have cascading effects throughout the country. Besides, several MPs also urged the Government to reconsider the proposal. During the debate on the Finance Bill in the Lok Sabha, TDP MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu echoed the concerns of other MPs, emphasising that this issue involves taxpayers' hard-earned money and impacts middle-class people the most. He noted that the middle class views real estate as a safe investment and and so should be protected. Indeed he had a point, as the middle-class is facing the pinch of price rise and rising unemployment. If their small investments and savings are wiped off they would have nothing to fall back upon. Providing taxpayers with the option to choose between the two tax regimes would address some of their concerns. Thankfully the finance minister yielded to allow for the second option. This would indeed give some relief to small and middle-class homeowners, providing a more balanced approach to long-term capital gains taxation in the real estate sector.



The evolution of Rahul Gandhi



It may be premature to assess Rahul Gandhi's effectiveness as the new Leader of the Opposition, but his initial performance is promising

t might be too soon to judge how well Rahul Gandhi is doing as the new Leader of the Opposition. The current budget session ends in just a few days, so we'll need more time to understand his leadership fully. But he has begun well. After winning in the Lok Sabha

polls, Rahul has been confident and strong both inside and outside the house, which is appropriate for an opposition leader. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen recently discussed Rahul's evolution since their days at Cambridge University. Sen underlined that Rahul has significantly matured over the years and underscored that his true test lies in how he steers the Opposition in Parliament.

Rahul stepped into the shoes of the Leader of the Opposition, a quarter of a century after his political debut in 2004. The Lok Sabha had been without a Leader of the Opposition for a decade, as no opposition party had the requisite number of members to stake the claim in the last two Lok Sabhas.During the recent budget session, the first after Rahul became the LOP, he took a vital leadership role in his party and the Opposition. Since becoming the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi has taken on more responsibilities.

He now leads and represents the

Opposition's viewpoint on various subjects. This is a new role for him. He organised protests, delivered powerful speeches against the Modi government, and worked closely with allies to coordinate their efforts on the floor. He also focused on critical issues for the people and made himself more accessible.In the recent budget session, Rahul Gandhi, as the Leader of the Opposition, took on an important leadership role within his party and the Opposition. He Leader of the Opposition for as organised protests, delivered powerful speeches against the Modi government, and worked closely with allies. Additionally, he has focused on critical issues for the people and made himself more accessible.Rahul Gandhi's backroom office has a



team of about twelve key

members. This team, led by General Secretary K.C. Venugopal and including Sam Pitroda, Sunil Kanugolu, K. Buju, B. Srivatsa, Manickam Tagore, Alankar Sawai, and Kaushal Vidyarthi, plays a vital role in managing Gandhi's political activities and election strategies, including logistics and social media.Rahul's growth and evolution in the political arena have transformed him into a more confident leader, marking a significant departure from his previous image as a reluctant politician. This change has been compelling to witness in his polit-

ical journey.Rahul finds it easier to take on a more assertive role now, with a substantial number of opposition members in the 18th Lok Sabha. Furthermore, the success of united allies in the 2024 polls has made them realise the power of unity. When Rahul spoke as the the first time, he said, "While the government has political power, the Opposition also represents the voice of the Indian people. This time, the Opposition represents significantly more of the Indian people's voice than it

DESPITE BEING AN MP FOR THE PAST TWO DECADES, RAHUL WAS NOT CONSIDERED A GOOD PARLIAMENTARIAN. HE ASKED ONLY 99 QUESTIONS, PARTICIPATED IN 26 DEBATES, AND WASN'T ALWAYS PRESENT AT CRITICAL TIMES

did last time."Rahul Gandhi's criticisms of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have caused strong reactions from the ruling party. During Rahul's maiden speech as LOP, PM Modi spoke up for the first time in 10 years.

Modi accused Rahul of saying that the entire Hindu society is 'violent'. The Prime Minister stated, "Democracy and the Constitution have taught me to take the Leader of the Opposition seriously.' Modi's responses to Gandhi's criticisms show an acknowledgement of the changed situation and the resulting tension in the Parliament. Rahul Gandhi has been speaking out against the Modi government's decision to arrest AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and JMM chief Hemant Soren. He opposes the BJP's attempts to silence opposing

viewpoints. This has caused increased tensions in Parliament for the ruling party.During his Lok a small red pocket edition of the Constitution at public meetings. This move effectively highlighted what he called the perceived threat to the Constitution from the

Justice delayed is justice denied

His use of the Constitution helped him gain support from reservation beneficia-

Despite being an M.P. for the past two decades, Rahul was not considered a good Parliamentarian. He asked only 99 questions, participated in 26 debates, and wasn't always present at critical times. Since 2014, he has been noticeably absent during budget sessions, only appearing occasionally. He also frequently went abroad, leaving the party in a crisis.Rahul is doing well as the Leader of the Opposition

His success will depend on his political planning. He missed some opportunities in the past, like becoming a minister in Manmohan Singh's cabinet or strengthening the party as the Congress President.

However, his current role shows his potential. He must use this opportunity to face Sabha campaign, Rahul future political challenges Gandhi strategically showed confidently. Rahul's belief in the power of the LOP to raise its voice in Parliament gives hope and optimism to the

> (The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

Renewable energy: Paving the way for a sustainable future



PRABHUMIRASHI

By 2030, India plans to achieve 500 GW of installed capacity from non-fossil fuels, marking a significant shift towards sustainability and energy security

▼ndia's growth story over the past two decades has been marked by vibrant economic progress, largely driven by service exports and rising domestic consumption. As of 2024, the economy appears robust, poised to replicate its service sector success by transforming into a global manufacturing hub to leverage its demographic dividend.

A robust manufacturing sector necessitates significant resources, with power being a crucial component. Despite this, India's per capita electricity consumption remains low compared to global averages. As the country embarks on its manufacturing-focused era, electricity demand is expected to rise significantly. To meet this demand while adhering to climate commitments, India plans to add new electricity generating capacity primarily from non-fossil fuel sources. The goal is to achieve 500 GW of installed non-fossil fuel capacity by

By May 31, 2024, India's nonfossil fuel-based power generation capacity stood at 201.7 GW, with renewable energy, including small hydro pro-



jects, contributing 146.6 GW. To meet growing demands, a significant increase in renewable energy capacity is anticipated, supported by the renewable energy procurement roadmap from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), which targets 50 GW of bids annually from FY 2023-24 to

FY 2027-28. Regulatory policies for the renewable energy sector are governed by both central and state governments, as electricity is part of the concurrent list. Key aspects of central government policy include promoting domestic manufacturing of solar modules and electrolyzers, safeguarding domestic manufacturing, and domestic content requirements, and implementing policies to encourage specif-

ic types of electricity genera-

tion like rooftop solar and offshore wind.

India's renewable energy policy framework adopts a holistic approach, addressing multiple factors. For example, the Ladakh region, with excellent irradiation levels, lacks sufficient infrastructure to integrate its power into the grid. To tackle this, the government announced the green energy corridor. Furthermore, the government identified states with offshore wind potential and introduced a viability gap funding scheme with an outlay of Rs 7,453 crores for installing 1 GW of offshore wind projects. Regulatory policies also aim to enhance self-sufficiency in the energy. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, with an outlay of Rs. 24,000 crores, targets achieving gigawattscale manufacturing capacity of high-efficiency solar PV modules. Additionally, the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Program, with an outlay of Rs. 17,490 crores under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, supports domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and green hydro-

gen production. These investments are expected to generate numerous direct and indirect jobs while ensuring energy security.

The government has also introduced schemes to promote distributed solar generation at the household level in both rural and urban areas. The PM-KUSUM scheme aims to reduce the agricultural sector's reliance on diesel and boost farmers' incomes by providing central government subsidies of up to 50% for installing standalone solar pumps and solarizing existing grid-connected agricultural pumps. Farmers can alsoinstall grid-connected solar plants on barren land and sell electricity to local distribution companies (DISCOMs). In the interim budget for FY 2024-25, the government announced the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, which offers subsidies covering up to 40% of solar panel installation costs. This scheme aims to equip 10 million homes with solar panels, saving INR 75,000 crores in electricity

(The writer is a managerinvestments at AMPIN Energy Transition, views are personal)

PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT

Madam — President Droupadi Murmu embarked on a six-day state visit to three nations: Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste a couple of days ago. I wonder why the President has undertaken this visit? How will engaging with these nations benefit India? Fiji and Timor Leste are almost unheard of countries in India. What is the government's agenda really? As both Fiji and New Zealand are approximately 11,000 kms and Timor Leste is about 6.5000 kms away, it goes without saying that a to and fro visit to these countries would cost our nation a humongous sum. Besides, the President who would be travelling by a state aeroplane (read, like a private airliner) would leave a heavy carbon footprint. Will a RTI query in respect of the purpose and cost of the tri-nation jaunt be answered, if at all?

Avinash Godboley Dewas

BLINDING HEADLIGHTS CAUSE ACCIDENTS

Madam— Blinding headlights are one of the important causes of road accidents in India. A driver can be blinded by the opposite vehicles as well as the rear ones. On an average, glaring headlights are direct or contributory causes of 75 percent of vehicular collisions in India. Of course high beam lights are useful in low visibility when there are little or no street lights. However, rules say high beams can be employed by the drivers only if there are no oncoming vehicles but not many drivers are sticklers for rules. Rear vehicles can distract the front drivers' vision by using bright lights within 60 metres.

It has become a fashion for several youngsters, especially in small towns and cities with none to keep a hawk's eye on them, to use ornamental illumination like flashy headlights. Flickers, Light emitting diodes(LED), and its variants, are freely used by irresponsible drivers. Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act (MVA) has explicitly detailed the proper and improper use of headlights. Many drivers, especially the non-professional ones, are oblivious to the correct usage of headlights and



"Justice Delayed". The Chief Justice of India's deep concern over the excessive delay in disposing of cases, as noted in the

his is wtih reference to your editorial

this can mainly be blamed on poor quality of driving schools and doling out licences without proper application of

Ganpat Bhat | Akola

TURMOIL IN BANGLADESH

Madam — Sheikh Hasina's resignation as Prime Minister of Bangladesh is a result of socio-political upheaval of her own making. Every nation is an enterprise owned and run by its people who elect a government to run it as also simultaneously place an Opposition as the auditor. So long as the auditor is facilitated by the government to put up dissenting notes and is willing to correction, the shareholders let the checks and balances play out. When the government fails to give credence to the opposition, a plethora of public fora and institutions come in to press an alternative narrative. Should the government resort to suppressing them too , the people step in as suo- moto auditor. The likes of social media then expound dissent and if this too goes unheeded, people act as regulators leveraging electoral

editorial is a concern shared by all. The staggering fact that 44 million cases are pending and could take 300 years to resolve at the current pace should prompt the ruling government to seek a tangible solution. Currently, filing a case itself feels like a punishment for both parties involved.

Even after winning a case, the appeals process undertaken by the losing party makes the entire affair extremely frustrating. There is a pressing need to increase the capacity of courts at all levels to handle and dispose of cases in a timely manner. However, it is unfortunate that even the existing courts are forced to operate with severe manpower shortages. Simply changing the Acts and their names is not the change people desire; what is urgently needed is systemic and infrastructural improvement.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

platforms to tone down aberrations in governance by impinging on electoral standing of the ruling dispensation. Should a government seek to neutralise the process of such franchise itself, as has been in many nations across the globe, people take to roads to convey the message. An extremely recalcitrant government could then compel people to set up tribunals and don the robes of judge and jury. Bangladesh has apparently slipped into this unhappy final phase. It's military may yet be sagacious enough to restore law and order and enable the nation to reclaim governance and eschew going the Myanmar way. There is a lesson for every progressive democratic nation. Stifling the elected opposition and relentless and heavy handed suppression of dissent per se in hubris of power, is bound to heavily set back economic progress while the socio political fabric stands frayed beyond repair.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Praying, Chanting, meditation and other such practices can transform your life



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

e are forever doing material acts like eating, sleeping, 'vihar' (entertainment) and, yes, work. Some of us may be doing some spiritual practices as well. Why is there such a mismatch? Because most people do not realize how beneficial spiritual practices are for a human being. Read on and you will agree. I have chosen ten common spiritual practices for this article. They are simple to do and almost everyone can benefit by doing them. Beginning with praying, what is so difficult to do it? Someone is not well in a family, and a family member prays for his or her quick recovery. Even small children pray for their mother when she is unwell. What happens then? God hears them, as He has eyes and ears everywhere. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 13.13)

What is God's response? He has to consider several factors like what does the person prayed for deserves, what effect it will have on other family members, who is praying, etc. There will be a response, which will be appropriate taking into consideration everything. Let us remember that God knows 'The Big Picture', which includes the past, present and future also.

Whatever God may decide, the act of praying sincerely curbs ego, which helps one to become humble - a necessary quality to be able to deal properly with others. Praying is also a good start for taking shelter from God – the topmost spiritual activity. Chanting of God's names and mantras is quite common across all religions. Many studies have been done to see the effects of chanting on the brain. They have found that chanting stimulates positive changes in the brain. Mantras with the sound 'Ohm'



are especially useful. God's names bring similar benefits. When we take God's name, He must respond. Didn't Lord Krishna respond to calls of Draupadi - "Krishna, Krishna, Krishna"? How the Lord respond to us depends again upon what we deserve and what will be good for us. 'Darshan' - seeing God's 'murti' in Deity form or a photo of one of God's incarnations like Krishna, Rama, etc. is very useful. This is my favourite spiritual act. I have hung a large photo of Lord Krishna on the right side of my bed. All I do is to sit or lie comfortably and look at the Lord's attractive face. Lord Krishna has allowed gaining spiritual knowledge to be pleasing in doing. (9.2) What better company than of God there can be? My Lord has become my own. And He rewards me in many ways. 'Atmabala' (inner strength) flows into me. This strength the mother of all strengths has made me stronger mentally. I am also able to tolerate the inevitable miseries of this world better. Meditation is getting quite popular worldwide.

People are beginning to see the enormous benefits of this spiritual practice. Lord Krishna has recommended it strongly. In verse # 6.35, the Lord says, "Mind can be brought under control by practice." In verse # 12.8, He tells us where our mind should be fixed, i.e. in Him only. (12.8) In verse #18.65, the Lord asks us to develop His consciousness. Then, what will happen? We will be in God, i.e. become part of Him. (9.29) Could anything be better than that? Hearing about God is another great activity. Lord Krishna goes to the extent of indicating that those devoted to hearing from others will also benefit greatly. (13.25) There are many, who are conversant with spiritual truths. Satsang is a meeting of persons, who are conversant with spiritual truths. "And preachers of supreme knowledge (spiritual benefits) amongst My devotees please Me the most." (18.69) This is the highest devotion towards God. Remembering God and thanking Him whenever some good happens to us are immensely beneficial; they make us deserving of more such rewards. Why don't we do such activities? Because we are almost entirely focused on material acts. We can all do spiritual acts - the givers of great benefits both spiritual and material.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

Negligence and tragedy: The price of complacency RAJDEEP PATHAK



The death of three IAS aspirant highlights severe systemic negligence by coaching center management, property owners, and municipal authorities



•n reflecting on the powerful speech delivered by Mark Antony following the assassination of Julius Caesar, one cannot help but recall his stirring words: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." Antony's oration skillfully ignited the Roman populace, who were initially ambivalent towards Caesar's murder. Through his use of rhetorical questions and ironic praise for Brutus and the other conspirators, Antony incited the crowd to question the motives behind the assassination. <

By revealing Caesar's will, which generously bequeathed wealth and public parks to the citizens, Antony further endeared Caesar to the people and painted the conspirators as traitors. The crowd, now convinced of Caesar's benevolence and the conspirators' treachery, erupted into chaos, leading to a violent riot. This turmoil precipitated a civil war, ultimately overthrowing the existing order and paving the way for the rise of the LAPSES. SUCH AS Second Triumvirate' (all sought revenge for the murder of Julius Caesar) and the end of the Roman Republic.

A tragic incident in the Capital City of India echoes this (Shakespearean) historical upheaval, where the death of three students (IAS aspirants) has incited public (students') outrage. On Saturday, July 27, 2024 evening, a supposed drainage burst led to flooding in the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar used as a library where approximately 35 students were present when rainwater began to inundate the basement, creating a panic-stricken atmosphere. Despite attempts to evacuate, three students were trapped and subsequently

This disaster has cut short the dreams of the parents of three students. Unlike Bhola Baba - who philosophically dramatized death as an inevitable part of life following the Hatras stampede tragedy - the negligence displayed by the coaching centre owners in this instance cannot be so easily dismissed. The failure to ensure proper evacuation facilities has underscored the mismanagement of the institution.

Although the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has stormed into action, they

cannot fully absolve themselves of responsibility. More than anything else, the basement, intended for parking and storage, was illegally repurposed as a library. As the news became the talk of the town, sentiments of anger and frustration poured amidst huge grief and loss. The incident in Old Rajinder Nagar underscores a pervasive pattern of systemic negligence among various stakeholders, including coaching centre management, property owners, and municipal authorities. The illegal conversion of the basement into a library, without proper safety measures reveals a severe disregard for student safety. Compounded by chronic infrastructure deficiencies such as inadequate drainage systems, this negligence is exacerbated by municipal authorities' failures.

Regulatory lapses, such No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) without thorough verification and compliance checks, further point towards significant enforcement

shortcomings.
The Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) delayed actions in sealing other illegally repurposed basements reflect a reactive rather than proactive enforcement strategy. Additionally, the coaching centre's lack of an effective emergency plan, including proper drills and protocols, significantly contributed to the chaos and heightened the tragedy, demonstrating a critical need for better emergency preparedness, stricter regulations and oversight to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Accounts from traumatized students reveal harrowing experiences. Whether it is Aishwarya Rai, a 30year-old UPSC aspirant from Kanpur, Nakul Tiwari, or Shreya, the very fact that they have been rescued from the terrifying moment of being drowned to death will linger

in their psyche for years to come. The question arises: why does it take such disasters for the administration to take action? The arrest, bulldozing of illegal con-

structions and other preventive and punitive measures often come only after tragedy strikes. Videos now emerging tell tales of utter mismanagement and illegal use of properties, breaking all norms. Why are the students only now flagging these issues? Another question is why their seniors, who have perhaps lived and studied in these conditions and are either IAS aspirants or have cleared their examinations, did not raise such issues of negligence in the past. Moreover, if a few of them have become Civil Servants from these coaching centres, why didn't they, over the years, bring this to the notice of the local administration? Another crucial issue is that the commercialization of education, driven by the high demand for competitive exam preparation, should not compromise safety standards, which in this case has resulted in unsafe and overcrowded condi-

The commercialization of education, characterized by the increasing influence of profit-driven motives, brings both benefits and drawbacks to student welfare. On the positive side, it often leads to improved infrastructure, better resources, and innovative teaching methods that enhance the learning experience. Private institutions do attempt to provide advanced facilities and extracurricular activities, fostering a more dynamic and engaging educational environment. This recent incident must become an eye-opener. It critically highlights the need for enhanced regulatory oversight and stricter enforcement of building codes and safety regulations, emphasizing regular inspections and audits to ensure compliance. Investment in infrastructure, particularly drainage systems, is crucial to mitigate flooding risks, especially in flood-prone areas like Old

Rajinder Nagar. Additionally, educational institutions, particularly coaching centres, should be mandated to develop and regularly practice emergency evac-uation plans, as safety drills can significantly improve preparedness and reduce panic during emergencies. Increased public awareness about safety regulations and accountability mechanisms is necessary, encouraging students and residents to report violations and demand action from authorities. Moreover, the process for obtaining necessary permits and NOCs should be transparent and stringent,

from approved plans. Public awareness and advocacy are crucial. Educating students and residents about safety standards and rights is another key factor. Further, creating platforms for community engagement and empowering residents with safety mecha-

with severe penalties for deviations

nisms is crucial. More than anything else, authorities should respond promptly to such reports and take corrective action. While this is a sad moment for all of us to have lost young budding talents of our country in this manner, it is time we foster a culture of accountability, in our endeavour to safeguard the dreams and lives of countless students who come to Delhi in pursuit of their aspirations. The path forward requires a collective effort from authorities, institutions, and the public to prioritize human safety over commercial interests and ensure that such a tragedy never

(The writer is programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

Indian cardiologist sparks global debate on mind-based medical protocols

REGULATORY

ISSUING NO-

OBJECTION

WITHOUT

THOROUGH

VERIFICATION

COMPLIANCE

FURTHER POINT

CHECKS,

TOWARDS

SIGNIFICANT

ENFORCEMENT

SHORTCOMINGS

CERTIFICATES

In a groundbreaking challenge to conventional medical practices, Prof B M Hegde has called for a paradigm shift in the treatment of serious ailments

he world of medicine is all set to see an intense debate on the medical protocol to be employed in curing serious ailments thanks to an Indian

An internationally reputed cardiologist Prof B M Hegde who is based in Mangalore in Karnataka has challenged the existing diagnostic system in the field of physical ailments practiced across the world and has called for a shift to mind-based cure

protocol. Dr Hegde says that if one wants to live a life free of ailments like cancer and other serious medical issues, all one needs to do is to love all and hate none. "The more



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

medical constitution in your body gets deteriorated," he told The Pioneer. "Although there has been a lot of thinking going on in medical circles about the role of the mind in psychological disorders, much needs to be done in the field of physical ail-

Recent data on the important role played by the you hate people and human mind in the causaabuse/criticize them, the tion of major physical ill-

nesses like heart attacks and cancer have rekindled our interest in the intricacies of the working of the human mind vis a vis the human body. In the 17th century itself, William Harvey had clearly indicated that in all bodily afflictions there is a mental basis.

As there is no big money involved in this kind of research unlike the gold rush in the field of epidemiology and interventions, the field did not until very recently attract good researchers," writes Prof Hegde, who is also the chief editor of the "Journal of Science of Healing Outcomes", a super peerreviewed scientific publication.Interestingly, Prof Hegde, a former visiting

professor of cardiology at, the University of London, always had strong reservations about the treatment protocol for cardio vascular diseases and cancer. In the editorial of the July 2024 issue of the JSHO, he quoted from the Journal of American Association which has published a large study on the connection between life stresses and their role in the

causation of coronary artery He said the JAMA study focused on the immediate and long-term effects of various emotional stressors that are a part of life in the modern rat race of the monetary economy.Prof Hegde with more than five decades of medical research and prac-



tice to his credit has found that hostility, anger, frustration and bereavement come up on top among the negative emotions.

"Love, compassion, social support and job satisfaction have control over one's situation, negative emotions acutely raised the blood

pressure as also the heart rate and the breathing rate," said the octogenarian professor who has been honoured with Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan by the President of India for the scintillating works he has done over the decades.According to Prof

Hegde's experience, chronic stress does take its toll leading to killer diseases. "Emotions play a major role in one getting afflicted with such ailments. Scientists, business barons, professionals and politicians should bear this in mind.

When the competition becomes too intense, chances of one losing control shoot up and there can be no coming back to normalcy,"

Dr Hegde pointed out the debates in Parliament and election campaigns to drive home the point that one should be elegant and coolheaded during the battle for power. "Even military officers behave in a disciplined manner while they are engaged in fighting the ene-

This is what we should learn to stay cool and free of ailments," he said. For the uninitiated, Prof Hegde is the author of many books and has written the preface for medical books published by medical scientists. His seminal work "What Doctors Don't Get to Study in Medical School" is widely read in the world of medicine and many doctors rate it as the Holy Bible of

Modern Medicine. If we stay away from unhealthy competition for wealth and power, we can keep serious ailments like heart disease and cancer miles away from

The only losers would be pharma companies that charge a fortune for a course of medicine. The JSHO has the whose-who of the world of medicine and science working as its editorial staff and board. This includes Prof Joanna Floros, and Evan Pugh Professor of Paediatrics and Obstetrics, Penn State University Hershey, USA, who is the co-editor in chief.

(The writer is a special correspondent with the Pioneer, views expressed are

SC judgement on aldermen calls for introspection by AAP Govt: LG's office

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's office on Wednesday said the Supreme Court judgement on aldermen appointment in the MCD calls for "soul searching and introspection" by the city Government even as it expressed hope that the civic body will expedite the process of formation of the standing committee. This is the first reaction from the LG's office after the Supreme Court gave its verdict, which had been reserved for 15 months, on

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala on Monday rejected the Delhi government's plea that the LG is bound to act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers in nominating 10 aldermen to the MCD.

'The Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena has expressed the hope that with the Three-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court having categorically ruled in the matter of appointment of Aldermen, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will expeditiously take steps to put into place statutorily required bodies and process-es, hitherto lying pending for the past about 19 months," a



statement from the LG Secretariat said. Accusing the Delhi government of getting into "pointless litigation", the LG office said that the government not only wasted the time of the apex court but also 'deliberately" crippled the

"This judgement calls for a soul searching and introspection by the government in power and its leaders. Public interest is paramount and cannot be sacrificed on the altar of turf battles," the statement added. The LG office said the works pending in the corporation due to the non-formation of the standing committee, the highest decision making body of the MCD, could have cleared if the statutory committees were put in place well in time after the LG's decision on the appointments in January last year.

It said that the LG had noted in his file on the matter that he made the appointments in pursuance of the power vested upon him as per the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, (1957), adding that the same was observed by the apex court in its ruling. "The Lt. Governor in his noting on file in the matter of appointment of Aldermen had expressly written, "in pursuance of Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act,

The Supreme Court while dismissing the Writ Petition filed by GNCTD against the office of the Lt. Governor, has observed "we are of the opinion that the section of the DMC Act is a parliamentary

1957, read with Article 239AA

of the Constitution... I nom-

inate following 10 persons in

the Municipal Corporation of

enactment vesting the power of nomination... with the Lt Governor," the statement read. "It is a matter of concern that despite the point of law and constitutional position being as clear as it were, the GNCTD decided to get into pointless decided to get into pointless litigation, in the process not only wasting the time of the Court and public money in terms of litigation fees, but also deliberately crippling the MCD, which could have done the required works had the statutory committees been put statutory committees been put in place well in time after the LG's decision in January, 2023, the statement said. The LG Secretariat further

alleged that the ministers of the Delhi government have also engaged in similar "violations of due processes" by means of "motivated and pointless litigation" in the apex court in various others routine matters. It said that the constant "shadow boxing" by the Delhi government has brought crucial public services to a "grinding halt". "Similar violation of due processes by means of motivated and pointless litigation in the Apex Court, have also been done by Ministers of the current Government in various other routine matters, wherein the position of law has been clear ever since NCTD came into existence in 1993.

CPM raps State Govt for Wayanad coverup

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan-led cabal in the CPI-M in Kerala suffered a major setback on Wednesday as a widely respected party ideologue came out in the open lambasting the State Government for covering up its failures and blaming the Center for last Tuesday's landsides and floods in Wayanad district. More than 400 lives were lost and hundreds were rendered homeless. G Shakthidharan, known as a copybook communist and who was a senior editor of party organ Deshabhimani said in his social media post that what Kerala received as disaster relief from the Center during the current crisis is the best help which it

has got from the past Governments.
"The hour-long speech delivered by Home Minister in Parliament is an excellent proof of how the Control has been a larger of of how the Centre has been alerting the State administration about an impending disaster days before the landslide struck Wayanad. The way the Prime Minister and

mishap shows the Centre cares and Modi deserves full credit for the kind of help being offered to the State," said Shakthidharan with a plea to the journalists and intellectuals in the State not to categorize him as a Sanghi (part of the RSS Parivar). He was blunt in stating that no other

Central Govts have shown the kind of attention and care the Modi Govt is showering in Kerala. "But the Vijayan-led government, enmeshed in corruption, favoritism and misdeeds of all kind wants to save its skin from charges of mismanagement and carelessness," he

The Marxist ideologue asked what prevented the Government from having a discussion with Prof Madhav Gadgil who headed the UPA Government appointed Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel that made serious study of the status of the ecologically fragile Western Ghats of which

the Home Minister responded to the Wayanad is a part. Prof Gadgil had warned of major natural disasters if the State government wemt ahead with quarrying, mining and construction activities. Pinarayi Vijayan, while briefing the media on 30th July, the day the district was devastated by the landslide scoffed at the WGEE Panel report and described the same as trash.

Though a CPI(M) follower, Shakthidharan never hesitated to speak his mind out. "Prof Gadgil had warned the State

many times about the impending natural disaster. But why the CM Vijayan is reluctant to meet him and discuss with him the solution available to save Wayanad and other such regions in the State. His reluctance has its epicentre on Vijayan's ego and arrogance. Moreover there are dacoits who masquerade as politicians and have made it to the inner chamber of the chief minister's residence and office," said Sakthidharan.

Bangladesh turmoil matter of concern for NE: Himanta

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said the situation in Bangladesh is a matter of concern for the northeastern states, apprehending that the neighbouring country may again become a hub of insurgents and people from there may enter the region illegally.

Sarma said he was hopeful that the Centre would continue with dialogue with the new dispensation in Bangladesh and that concerns of the northeastern states

"We are concerned about the recent developments in

Bangladesh and if the trouble continues, we fear that it will affect the region from two angles," the chief minister told reporters on the sidelines of an event in Dergaon. The border between the two

countries has to be protected "people from the neighbouring country may try to enter the region through the India-Bangladesh boundary", he said.

'During Sheikh Hasina's regime, insurgents from the northeast region were forced

to leave Bangladesh. It will be a matter of concern for us that the neighbouring country may again become a hub of insurgents," the chief minister said. There is no doubt that with the cooperation of the Nobel laureate Mohammad previous Bangladesh government, 'we have been successful in curbing extremist activities in North

maintain cooperation', he said. The death toll in the anti-

government protests

East India. I have full

confidence that the new

neighbouring country will

in

government

Bangladesh on Tuesday climbed to 440, according to local media, even as efforts were on by the army to bring the situation under control in the violence-hit nation.

Yunus was on Tuesday appointed as the head of Bangladesh's interim government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country following deadly protests against her government over a controversial quota system in

Modi Govt's responsibility is to save Hindus in Bangladesh, claims Uddhav

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the chain of events in Bangladesh, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said that if India could give temporary shelter to former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, it was equally the BJP-led NDA Government's responsibility to intervene and protect the Hindus in the neighbouring country from the ongoing atrocities on them.

Talking to media persons in the national capital where he is currently on a three-day visit, Uddhay said: "We have not heard anything from Modi over the developments in sent at the all-party meeting on Bangladesh held yesterday. If he could stop the war between Russia and Ukraine, he should display courage, intervene in the situation in Bangladesh and stop the ongoing atrocities on Hindus there".

"Since India gave shelter to Hasina Shaikh after she fled Bangladesh, it is equally the responsibility of New Delhi to take necessary steps to protect the Hindus from being killed and attacked in Bangladesh," the Sena (UBT) chief said.

Uddhav said that the recent events in Bangladesh, Israel and Sri Lanka had proved that "the common people are strong and powerful and the powersthat-be should not test their patience"



If we see what is happening around the world, we are realising that the patience of people is fast running out. Thousands of people came out Hindus are being killed and on the streets in Israel recently to demand the resignation of ime Minister F Netanyahu. We witnessed similar people's unrest in Sri Lanka. We saw similar developments in Bangladesh," he said.

"The common people are supreme. The rulers should not do any such thing that would erode their patience. Ultimately it is the people's court that matters most. Just a few days ago, we witnessed what happened in Bangladesh. The people have delivered their verdict...people were called 'aatankwadis' and 'razakars'. There is a limit to the patience of people," Uddhav said.

Such things can happen anywhere, anytime.. Hence, the powers-that-be must take serious note of what's happening around the world and not consider themselves as above God,"

the Sena (UBT) chief said. The situation in Bangladesh is akin to the problems in Kashmir and Manipur. The subjected to atrocities by majority Muslims. If Modi and Shah cannot go to Manipur they should show courage and at least go to Bangladesh now to ensure the well-being of our

"If late Indira Gandhi could extend military support to people during the 1971 liberation war against Pakistan, and paved the way for the creation of Bangladesh, what's holding the Modi government from protecting the affected Hindus in Bangladesh?," the Sena (UBT) chief asked.

Hindus there, and stop the vio-

lence in that country," Uddhav

Meanwhile, during his ongoing visit to the national capital, Uddhav will meet all leaders of the Opposition INDIA block, including Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

WB Govt orders watch on travels across border

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There being a likelihood of The ripples of Bangladesh spreading to this side of the hedge the Bengal Government has directed the district administrations along the international border to keep a close track of people entering and leaving India via border points.

"A list of the identity of all the people crossing the border — coming in and going out — must be maintained ... the Government has told the district administration, particularly along the border," a senior The instructions were issued

following a review meeting held by Chief Minister Baneriee on Mamata Wednesday. Top bureaucrats including the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and the Director General of Police were present in the meeting and were asked to "collect continuous feedbacks on a daily basis," officials said adding the State administration was vigilant and was strictly following the instructions issued by the Centre. Earlier the Chief Minister had asked the people of the State to "act responsibly despite provocations" and "maintain peace and harmony in Bengal She said "with folded hands I maintain a communally peaceful behavior... we all are brothers and sisters and so we should keep peace and harmony in spite of the concern that we have for the situation in Bangladesh," adding "She said, "if our brothers and sisters are in trouble then the Government of India will look into it ... the national government is will take decisions and we will abide by those decisions ... but in any case there should not be any breach of peace and people should not spread disinformation neither they should get provoked by such campaigns."

Hours after Banei ment the Trinamool Congress reacted sharply to Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari's "loaded statements" on possibilities of one crore displaced Hindus entering India in the backdrop of the present crisis.

Suvendu Adhikari's political compulsions are understandable but there could have been different occasions for such statements and not this one," said TMC leader Kunal Ghosh. "The leaders must hold their tongues in this hour of crisis ... there is no reason why internal politics should fall prey to political opportunism at the cost of safety, security of the people of the country ... certain provocative statements are better avoided," he said.

Congress confident of defeating BJP-led ruling alliance in Assembly polls

T N RAGHUNATHA

Maintaining that the people had not forgotten the MahaYuti's "sin of selling Maharashtra to Gujarat", State Congress president Nana Patole expressed confidence that "they will defeat the BJP-led ruling alliance in the Assembly polls to be held in October this year". Talking to media persons after a meeting of senior Congress leaders held at Gandhi Bhavan here, Patole said that despite the fact the "self-proclaimed Vishwaguru" (Modi) addressed as many as NDA suffered a big blow in the

recent Lok Sabha polls. Deputy Chief Minister and senior BIP leader Devendra Fadnavis is now saying that people forget the LS poll outcome, but the self-respecting people of Maharashtra have not forgotten the sin of selling Maharashtra to Gujarat committed by the Mahayuti government. The people will teach the BJP-led Mahayuti a lesson in the Assembly polls as well,"

Patole said. On the ongoing seat adjustment talks among the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders, Patole said: "There is no big or small brother in the Mahavikas Aghadi. The decisions on seat allocation will be based on merit. We are con-

testing this election as the Mahavikas Aghadi, and the decision on the chief ministerial post will be made after the election," he said.

'Our ally NCP President Sharad Pawar has also taken the same position. Today's meeting included preliminary discussions on seat allocation and various issues in the state," he said. Patole said that former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, who is the chairman of the manifesto committee, would prepare a manifesto that would meet the expectations of the people of the state, after consulting with various sections of

On Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's ongoing visit to New Delhi, Patole said: 'This is not for the first time that Uddhav Thackeray has gone to Delhi. He has visited

before as well". Defending Uddhav's proposed meeting with former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Patole said: "He (Uddhav) is meeting senior Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, in Delhi. There is no need to interpret this meeting differently. Sonia Gandhi is an important leader in the country, a symbol of sacrifice who refused the prime ministerial position. Under her leadership, the Congress-led UPA government was in power twice in the

which have been supportive of the government's agenda, have also expressed their reservation over proposed legislation. While the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has

ermed the proposed "unacceptable", Opposition parties Wednesday demanded that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill be sent to Parliament's standing committee for

scrutiny after introduced, with the government saying the Business Committee will take a call after assessing the sense of Lok Sabha. Notably, the department-

related standing committees of Lok Sabha are yet to be constituted. The House may form a separate panel in the absence of the standing committee to scrutinise the Bill in case the government decides on such a course of action. In the last two months, the government has consulted about 70 groups on the bill, sources said. The bill is aimed at providing justice to poor Muslims and Muslim women apart from freeing Waqf properties from illegal occupation.

After lands owned by government entities, including Railways and defence, Waqf accounts for the third-highest number of properties. However, the value of these lands and the revenue generated do no With properties valued in crores, the annual revenue does not cross Rs 200 crore.

The bill also proposes the establishment of a separate Board of Augaf for the Boharas and Aghakhanis. The draft law provides for the representation of Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, Agakhanis and other backward classes among communities. The bill also

aims to clearly define 'Waqf' as Waqf by any person practising Islam for at least five years and having ownership of such property". Any government property identified or declared as Waqf property, before or after the commencement of this Act, shall not be deemed to be a Waqf property," reads the new Bill.

Modi throws weight...

From Page 1

"I wish words could express the sense of despair that I am experiencing. At the same time, I know that you epitomise resilience. It has always been your nature to take challenges head on. Come back stronger! We are all rooting for you," Modi said in a social media post. In a statement in the Lok Sabha, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the IOA lodged a strong protest with the United World Wrestling Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Olympics and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked IOA chief P T Usha to take "appropriate action" in the matter, the government said on Wednesday.

Mandaviya said government had provided all possible assistance to Phogat according requirement which included personal staff. Over the Phogat issue, opposition parties walked out from the Lok Sabha.

"Repechage Yui Susaki vs Oksana Livach (Ukraine) will become Bronze Medal

Heartbreak for India...

Match," it added This means, that the 50kg category will offer only one bronze medal in the Games as against the usual four, which are decided after bouts between the losing semifinalists and the two repechage round winners.

Vinesh was not the only weight-related disqualification in the 50kg category. Tuesday, Italy's

Emanuela Liuzzi was also forced to forfeit her preliminary bout after being found overweight.

According to UWW (United World Wrestling) rules, wrestlers have the right, each in turn, to get on the scale as many times as they wish throughout the weigh-in period.

"If an athlete does not attend or fail the weigh-in (the 1st or the 2nd weighin), he will be eliminated of the competition and ranked last, without rank," the rule

contingent was expectedly distraught. Vinesh had stated before the Games that it would be her final outing in the quadrennial showpiece and it remains to

be seen if she would change her mind after this setback. "Everyone here is feeling as if someone in the family has died. We don't know what has struck us. Everyone is shocked," India's national women's coach Virender Dahiya said.

Cutting weight is a painful process that wrestlers have to endure if their natural body weight is higher than the division in which they compete.

Vinesh's natural body weight is about 56-57kg and it takes massive effort for her to get down to 50kg.

While in invitational tournaments, UWW allows for a grace of upto 2kg, no such relaxation exists for showpieces like Olympics, the world championships Asian Championships.

Athletes competing in contact sports go without food and even water two Indian wrestling days before the weigh-in.

Kejriwal present...

From Page 1 It said her statement was "rele-

request the people not to

vant for the present investigation in view of the complete U-turn being publicly taken by two responsible persons of the party regarding the same incident in the days following the commission of the crime". The charge sheet, which runs

into around 500 pages and has statements of about 50 witnesses, was filed in a city court on July 16 and its cognisance was taken on July 30. "Investigation has brought out the fact that the accused and the CM were together at the scene of crime i.E, the CM, Delhi residence, immediately after the commission of the crime for a significant period of time and, as such, the contrarian public stands taken by responsible public servants in the following days, also needs to be examined in its correct perspective to decipher if there was a larger conspiracy behind the brutal assault on the complainant/victim at the hands of the accused," it said.

The final report said that "selective footages" of CCTV cameras were leaked to the media before the relevant recording devices could be seized and this necessitated a probe to find whether

there was a "conspiracy" behind the offence.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi Police to file its response by August 21 on the plea of Kumar for grant of bail in the assault case. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, told a bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Újjal Bhuyan that he needed three weeks' time to file a reply. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kumar, opposed the grant of three weeks and said charge sheet has already been filed in the case. The apex court then asked Raju to file response by August 21 and posted the matter for hearing on August 27.

The top court had earlier come down heavily on Kumar saying "Is this kind of goon supposed to work in the CM's residence?" The bench said it was shocked with the details of the incident recorded by the Delhi High Court. Kumar has challenged the July 12 order of the Delhi High Court denying him bail in the case and claimed that the allegations against him are false. He has also said his custody is no longer required as the probe is

Away from home, they... From Page 1

Rehman come to India for treatment of his mother a heart and kidney patient.

With money drying up steadily he only hopes peace to return fast. "Still I can bank on my Hindu friends' relatives who have assured to host us but what about those who are putting up in hotels," he wonders appealing to powers that be for peace. "Here they are hosting us and there we are killing them ... it is shameful,"

But Ájit Biswas (name changed for the purpose of security) a member of Bangladeshi minority community is not so confident. He has left his kin back in Dhaka and wants to meet them urgently but there is no way he can go back lest he is killed en route.

"I want to return home immediately but I fear for my life ... the train and bus services have stopped and I have to cross over via Gede or Petrapol border and take autorickshaws and buses to Jessore or Khulna wherefrom I will be able to get a conveyance for Dhaka ... but that is too long a journey fraught with risks as I have come to know that some

of my friends have already gone missing ... either they are underground or they have been killed. Now I am standing

nowhere? Abdul Rehman Bulbul of Satkhira is a staunch baiter of Sheikh Hasina and immensely happy about her fall but he too feels stranded now. "I was happy but now with the situation going out of control in Bangladesh I too am not sure of reaching my home safely ... I don't know how our minority friends or those from the Awami League are," he says insisting "not all Awami League people are bad but the regime they backed was really, really dictatorial."

Fatima Biswas (name changed) is another student from Narayanganj who had come to see her friend in Kolkata too wants to return as "my tourist visa will end in a week's time," but is not sure how to get it extended as "it is extremely difficult to return as protestors have become animals ... If being a Muslim I am afraid to return home alone how must the minorities be feeling there ... I can only imagine their situation ... I have many of

Reformed Waqf Bill...

government's priority was to

get the legislation passed in

the Lok Sabha unanimously,

and it was also open to

sending it to a joint

committee for further

discussion. There is a strong

government may agree to

refer the Bill, which is being

opposed by some Muslim

Sources said some parties,

panel.

possibility

organisations,

parliamentary

Professor's journey to becoming Bangladesh head

ife has come full circle for Nobel laureate Professor Mohammad Yunus, ✓ who faced persecution during Sheikh Hasina's regime for embezzlement, is now all set to head of the interim government in Bangladesh after she resigned and fled the country.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved Parliament on Tuesday and appointed the 84-year-old economist as the head of an interim government. His decision was prompted by a demand by the Anti-Discrimination Student

Movement to make him the non-partisan head of the caretaker government. Yunus, globally recognised as 'The Father of Microfinance, is expected to return to Bangladesh from Paris on Thursday to take

Yunus, who started as a Professor at national and international Universities, earned the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for women's empowerment through poverty alleviation, and received multiple national and international awards over the years. But back home, he faced harsh scrutiny by the Hasina government for more than a

decade due to obscure reasons while authorities initiated a series of investigations against him after she came to power

Bangladesh authorities launched a review of the statutory Grameen Bank's activities in 2011 and fired Yunus as its founding managing director on charges of violating the government retirement regulation. Many people believe Hasina became enraged when Yunus announced that he would form a political party in 2007 when

the country was run by a military-backed government and Hasina was in prison. Yunus, however, did not follow through on the plan but at that time he criticised Bangladeshi politicians alleging they were only interested in money.

Meanwhile, over the years, he was charged under dozens of cases. In January, Yunus was sentenced to six months in jail by a court on charges of labour law violation. On June 10 this year, a Dhaka court prosecuted Yunus and 13 others - currently out on bail - for embezzling as it rejected a plea for the dismissal of charges by the accused. The prosecution accused Yunus and the others of embezzling Taka 250 million (about USD 2 million) from the workers welfare fund of Grameen Telecom, which owns a 34.2 per cent stake in Bangladesh's largest mobile phone operator, Grameenphone, a subsidiary of Norway's

telecom giant Telenor. "She destroyed the legacy of her father Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman. Bangladesh is liberated... We are a free country now," Yunus told an Indian portal from Paris after news broke out of Hasina fleeing the country amid civil

Yunus was in Paris for a minor medical procedure, as reported by local media, when the President agreed to make him the head of the interim government.

Notwithstanding the Hasina government's stand, Yunus continued to receive international accolades as was evident by the speech by Susanna B Afan, president of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, on June 27 this year at Manila.

In 1984, the then 44-year-old Yunus was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership for "his pioneering efforts in enabling rural men and women to become economically self-sufficient through sound group-managed

Ctudents carried out traffic

Smanagement as volunteers

for the second consecutive day

on Wednesday in Bangladesh, as a top police official called on

every member of the police force to resume their duties

gradually and maintain law and

order. Chaos reigned supreme in

Bangladesh after the fall of the

Sheikh Hasina government on Monday, with police absent from their duty to keep law and

order or manage traffic, local

Additional Inspector General of Police (AIG) AKM Shahidur

Rahman, who was appointed as

the focal person of the Bangladesh Police on Tuesday to

handle the current crisis, called

on every member of the police

force to resume their duties

gradually and maintain public

safety and law and order.

media reports said.



Stating that the work by Yunus, globally recognised as 'The Father of Microfinance' has not just inspired similar projects in Philippines, Indonesia and Pakistan but their respective founders too received the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded for his work in poverty alleviation and the empowerment of poor women through Grameen Bank where Yunus has "successfully melded capitalism with social responsibility" through the microcredit institu-

Born in pre-Independence India in 1940 in Chittagong, Yunus first studied at Dhaka University in Bangladesh, which was then East Pakistan; went as a Fulbright scholar to study economics at Vanderbilt University in the US and obtained PhD in economics in 1969.

The very next year, he became an assistant professor of economics at Middle Tennessee State University in the US but returned to Bangladesh to head the economics department at Chittagong

The bio published at the time when Yunus was awarded the Nobel lists his international achievements inkling from 1993 to 1995 as a member of the International Advisory Group for the Fourth World Conference on Women, a post to which he was appointed by the UN secretary general. He has also served on the Global Commission of Women's Health, the Advisory Council for Sustainable Economic Development and the UN Expert Group on Women and Finance, it adds.

Apart from multiple national awards, Professor Yunus is the recipient of numer-ous international awards for his ideas and endeavours from countries including Sri Lanka, USA, Jordan, Sweden, Japan, The Netherlands, and South Korea. Published on January 1, 1991, his auto-

biography, 'Banker to the Poor: Microlending and the Battle Against World Poverty, has been translated into at least a dozen languages including French, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Gujarati, Chinese and Arabic.

His sphere of influence was evident when in January, more than 241 global leaders, including over 125 Nobel Laureates and former US President Barack Obama, had expressed their concerns via an open letter to Hasina over Yunus' "continuous judicial harassment and potential jailing."

With the regime change, it remains to be seen what will be the fate of over 150 other cases, including the major corruption charges that Yunus faces. Earlier, those could have seen him jailed for years if found guilty while the economist has denied all the wrongdoing. When one clicks on Yunus' own website, the very first quote of the Nobel laureate

that greets you is, "If you imagine, Some day it will happen. If you don't imagine, It will never happen."
For a person who had dreamed of a pover-

ty-free Bangladesh, Yunus perhaps never had imagined that one day he would be heading his country.

Turkey to join genocide case against Israel in UN court

AP ANKARA

Turkey on Wednesday filed a request with a UN court to join South Africa's genocide lawsuit against Israel, the foreign minister said.

Turkey's ambassador to the Netherlands, accompanied by a group of Turkish legislators, submitted a declaration of intervention to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Turkey, one of the fiercest critics of Israel's actions in Gaza, becomes the latest nation to seek to participate in the case. "No country in the world is above international law," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Oncu Keceli said in a post on X. "The case at the International Court of Justice is extremely important in terms of ensuring that the crimes committed by Israel do not go

unpunished."
Turkish President Recep Tayyip

punished in international courts and criticized Western nations for backing Israel.

In May, Turkey suspended trade with Israel, citing its assault on Gaza. In contrast to Western nations that have designated Hamas as a terrorist organisation, Erdogan has commended the group, calling it a liberation movement.

South Africa brought a case to the International Court of Justice late last year, accusing Israel of violating the genocide convention through its military operations in Gaza.

Israel has strongly rejected accusations of genocide and has argued that the war in Gaza is a legitimate defensive action against Hamas militants for their Oct 7 attack in southern Israel that killed around 1,200 people and in which 250 hostages were taken. Nicaragua, Colombia, Libya,

Erdogan has accused Israel of genocide, called for it to be Mexico, Spain and Palestinian officials have sought to join the case. The court's decision on their requests is still pending. If admitted to the case, the countries would be able to make written submissions and speak at public hearings. Preliminary hearings have already been held in the geno-cide case against Israel, but the

court is expected to take years to reach a final decision. Keceli, meanwhile, called for the immediate implementations of precautionary measures ordered by the court, including a halt to military

offensive and an increase in humanitarian aid to Gaza. Former allies Turkey and Israel have experienced a volatile relationship since Erdogan took power in 2003, marked by periods of severe friction and reconciliation. The war in Gaza disrupted the most recent attempts at normalising ties.

The students, including members of Bangladesh Scouts, were seen controlling the traffic movement at several places, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

"The police are friends of the people and work for the public. We cannot imagine a society without the police. Therefore, I request our police members once again to ignore rumours and return to their duties in a phased manner, ensuring that security arrangements are properly in place," said Rahman, who



Chaos continues in Dhaka as authorities

People walk past a vandalised car in Dhaka on Tuesday

has now been appointed as the Director General of RAB in a fresh reshuffle on Wednesday. There were reports of attacks on police stations and facilities across the country on Tuesday, resulting in numerous police casualties, which have led to this unprecedented situation, the

newspaper said. The authorities reconstituted the top positions of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on Wednesday. "AKM Shahidur Rahman has been appointed as Director General of RAB while Md Mainul Hasan

will replace Habibur Rahman as the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police," news portal Prothom Alo said. The reshuffle comes hours after

Mohammed President Shahabuddin appointed Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus as the head of an interim government on Tuesday night. Attorney General Advocate Abu Mohammad Amin Uddin, who was appointed in October 2020,

resigned on Wednesday. Meanwhile, businesses on Wednesday demanded immed ate restoration of law and order to ensure the safety of their pro-

duction units amid incidents of arson attacks on factories over the last two days.

They said they opened factories today, particularly the garment units, but many cannot run properly fearing unrest and van-dalism, the Daily Star newspaper reported, citing a press conference by the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICC-B).

Six top officials of Bangladesh Bank including Deputy Governor Kazi Sayedur Rahman resigned as unrest erupted at Bank Bangladesh on Wednesday, the second day after offices reopened, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

It said that more than a hundred officials of Bangladesh Bank stormed the bank governor's office, forcing several deputy governors to leave the office claiming the duo was helping the bank looters.

Bodies of at least 29 supporters of Hasina's Awami League party were recovered across the country through Tuesday, taking the overall death toll to 469 in almost three weeks since the protest first started in July over a quota system in government

Media reports also flagged more and more cases of violence against minorities surfacing through Tuesday, prominent among them being the massive vandalism and destruction at popular folk band Joler Gaan's frontman Rahul Ananda's residence on Monday prompting the singer and his family to take shelter at a secret place.

The Daily Star quoted Saiful Islam Jarnal, one of Joler Gaan's founding members who described that the mob after broking the main gate, started ravaging the house taking whatever they could find for themselves - from furniture, mirrors to valuables and then torched the whole house along with Rahul Anand's over 3,000 musical instruments, which he designed and made over the

UK police prepares for more clashes

 $T_{\rm including\ those\ with\ spe-}^{
m housands\ of\ police\ personnel,}$ cialist training, are geared up as the so-called "standing army" of defence against an expected surge of far-right anti-immigration protests on Wednesday, this time targeted at immigration lawyers and their offices.

After a week of violent clashes on the streets of different cities across the UK, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer chaired his second emergency COBRA meeting on Tuesday evening with ministers, police chiefs and security experts to draft a detailed strategy to counter any further riots. A list of solicitors' firms and immigration advice agencies has been circulating online, inviting protesters to "mask up" and turn out – described by the government as "unacceptable".

"We're doing everything we can to ensure that where a police response is needed, it's in place, where support is needed for particular places, that is in place," Starmer told reporters after the Cabinet Office Briefing Room A (COBRA) meeting. "Obviously it's a difficult situation with disorder going on in a number of different places at the same time, but that is precisely why I held my second COBRA meeting to coor-

assurance that I want and need that we do have adequate police in place, that we are able to cope with this disorder," he said. Around 400 arrests have been

made, with around 100 charged and appearing before the courts for a sped up "substantive sentencing" process.

That should send a very powerful message to anybody involved, either directly or online, that you are likely to be dealt with within a week. Nobody, but nobody, should be involved themselves in this disorder," added Starmer, who pledged that all communities "will be safe". Stephen Parkinson, England's director of public prosecutions, has warned rioters that they could face terrorism charges. We are willing to look at terrorism offences. I'm aware of at least one instance where that is happening," he told the BBC.

În addition to more riot police being on standby, forces are also stepping up neighbourhood policing patrols, teams of detectives are drawing on CCTV, officers' body-worn footage and making use of retrospective facial recognition to identify perpetrators of violence, and intelligence teams are monitoring known influencers and organisers for

Act responsibly, UK govt tells Elon Musk

called on Elon Musk to act responsibly after the tech billionaire used his social media platform X to unleash a barrage of posts that officials say risk inflaming the violent unrest gripping the country.

Justice Minister Heidi

Alexander made the comments Tuesday morning after Musk posted a comment saying that "Civil war is inevitable" in the UK Musk later doubled down, highlighting complaints that the British criminal justice system treats Muslims more leniently than far-right activists and comparing Britain's crackdown on social media users to the Soviet Union.

"Use of language such as a civil war' is in no way acceptable, Alexander told Times Radio. "We are seeing police officers being seriously injured, buildings set alight, and so I really do think that everyone who has a platform should be exercising their

power responsibly.' Britain has been shaken by violence for more than a week, as police clashed with crowds spouting anti-immigrant and Islamophobic slogans in cities and towns from Northern Ireland to the south coast of England.

Khaleda Zia gets renewed passport

PTI DHAKA

nangladesh's former prime Bminister Khaleda Zia, who was released from jail after the ouster of her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina, has received a renewed passport, her party said on Wednesday. Zia, 79, was sentenced to 17

years in prison for graft in 2018 under the rule of Hasina, 76, who resigned as prime minister on Monday and fled to India in the face of massive protests against her government.

She has received a renewed passport, BNP media cell member Shairul Kabir Khan was quoted as saying by Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

The renewal process for her passport was completed on Tuesday. Subsequently, Zia's personal secretary ABM Abdus Sattar received her renewed machine-readable passport on her behalf later that night, it

The Bangladesh National Party (BNP) chairperson, currently undergoing treatment for various ailments, was released on executive order from President Mohammed Shahabuddin on Tuesday following the collapse of the Hasina-led Awami

League government. Zia had been imprisoned for more than two years. On March 25, 2020, the Hasina government suspended her sentence and granted her conditional release through an executive order. Subsequently, the government extended her sentence suspension and release period every six months, upon application. The rivalry between the two begums — Hasina and Zia has defined politics in Bangladesh for decades.

Deeply concerned about B'desh violence: US

PTI WASHINGTON

 $T^{\text{he United States has}}_{\text{expressed deep concerns}}$ about the continued violence in Bangladesh including attacks on members of religious or political groups, and said it will be vital for the new government to credibly investigate all such instances and provide justice to victims.

"We are deeply concerned about continued reports of violence in Bangladesh – including violence directed at members of religious or political groups. We are equally concerned about reports of violence against police and law enforcement," a State Department spokesperson told

PTI on Tuesday.
"We repeat our call for de-escalation on all sides and a return to calm. This is not a time for

retribution or revenge," the spokesperson said in response to a question.

"As a friend and partner to the Bangladeshi people, the United States will continue to support Bangladesh's democratic aspirations and promote respect for human rights for all," said the spokesperson.

Bangladesh is going through an unprecedented crisis with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was in power for 15 years, resigning and fleeing the country after a protest against a jobs quota scheme snowballed into a massive agitation against her and her government. More than 300 people have died during the past few tumultuous weeks. We are monitoring the situa-

tion in Bangladesh very closely. We have long called for respect of democratic rights in

Bangladesh, and we urge that the interim government formation be democratic and inclusive," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference.

"We commend the army for the restraint they have shown. We encourage all parties to refrain from further violence and restore peace as quickly as possible," she said.

We express our deep concern and sadness about the reports of casualties and injuries over the weekend and past weeks. We share our deepest condolences with those who lost loved ones and those who are suffering," said the press secretary. "It will be vital for the new government to carefully and credibly investigate all attacks and provide accountability and iustice for victims," she said.

China, Saudi, UAE agree to roll over cash-strapped Pak's USD 12 bn debt for one year

PTI ISLAMABAD

Thina, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have agreed to roll over cash-strapped Pakistan's USD 12 billion debt for one vear, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is likely to approve its USD 7 billion bailout package later this

month. After a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance on Tuesday, Finance Muhammad Minister Aurangzeb told reporters that there was no delay in the IMF Executive Board meeting, which is going to take place by the end of this month to

Wednesday.

The Executive Board is scheduled to meet on August 28 to approve the USD 7 billion package, the report said, quoting government officials.

The development marks an end to the uncertainty over the timing of the Executive Board meeting, which was contingent upon the rollover of debts by Pakistan's three traditional creditors, it said.

Aurangzeb said the USD 12 billion cash deposits by China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would be rolled over for one year, like last time. Earlier, he had said that approve the USD 7 billion the IMF had asked for the Extended Fund Facility, the rollover for three to five years

Express Tribune reported on before the Executive Board

meeting. However, he clarified that the requirement was to secure the rollover for one year but the government was trying to have these rollovers for three to five years. He added that the three bilateral creditors had agreed to roll the loans over on the existing terms and conditions.

The IMF announced a stafflevel agreement for USD 7 billion last month subject to the approval of the Executive Board and securing financing commitments from the bilateral and multilateral creditors. The finance minister said there was no point in asking for an increase in the interest rates on these loans when the country's

foreign exchange strengthened compared to a year ago. The IMF, he added, had identified only a USD 3-5 billion financing gap over the three-year programme period, which was quite

manageable. "Pakistan has also received an offer from a foreign commercial bank but we are waiting for the IMF Board approval to ask the lender to cut the offered interest rates," said Aurangzeb. The offer had come from a non-Gulf and non-Chinese commercial bank, he added, without disclosing the name.

A finance ministry official said that Standard Chartered Bank had offered a less than USD 400 million loan but it was asking for a double-digit interest rate that the government could not afford to

pay. Aurangzeb said the government would wait for the IMF Board's approval to get the commercial bank to cut its offered interest rates. The finance minister said two important develop-ments had taken place in the last few days which showed that Pakistan was well on its way to achieving macroeconomic stability. He described the Fitch

rating agency's decision to improve Pakistan's credit rating by one notch and the central bank's decision to cut the interest rates by 1% as "very critical elements for achieving macroeconomic stability".

When asked as to why Standard and Poor's had not improved Pakistan's CCC+ rating, the minister stated that raising a CCC+ rating to a B negative one would have been

a big jump. He hoped that the three rating agencies would improve Pakistan's standing to B negative by the end of this year, a grade where it can venture into the international capital markets to float sovereign bonds at relatively lower rates than offered at the current CCC+ ratings.

The three international credit rating agencies have given below investment grade to Pakistani bonds due to their weak economic position and huge external financing requirements. However, Fitch last week improved the rating by one notch — from CCC to CCC+ — which was still below

the investment grade. The finance minister said the government was trying to issue the Panda bond in the Chinese markets and had engaged a Chinese financial adviser firm to complete the transaction either by the end of this calendar year or in early 2025. Aurangzeb said the govern-

ment was also contemplating hiring another Chinese financial adviser to secure the energy debt rollover. He said that Pakistan had requested up to a five-vear extension in the energy debt but it would take time before any agreement was reached. He said that even the conversion of the Chinese power plants from imported to local coal would take at least two to three years.

The finance minister also said that to cut expenditures, the government had undertaken the privatisation programme and an exercise was ongoing to close ministries or merge them. "It is about time to right-size the federal government," Aurangzeb said.

Stock markets snap 3-day slump

PTI MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Niftv **B**Sensex and Nifty bounced back sharply on Wednesday after three straight days of slump following a rally in global peers and value-buying in metal, IT and oil shares at lower levels.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 874.94 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 79,468.01 with 25 of its constituents ending with gains and five with losses. During the day, it

jumped 1,046.13 points or 1.33 per cent to 79,639.20. The NSE Nifty jumped 304.95 points or 1.27 per cent to 24,297.50. Intra-day, it surged 345.15 points or 1.43 per cent to 24,337.70.

Among Sensex firms, Adani Ports & SEZ rose the most by 3.42 per cent. Power Grid climbed 3.39 per cent, Tata Steel by 2.4 per cent and JSW Steel by 2.61 per cent. Infosys, HDFC Bank, ITC, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, and Larsen & Toubro also advanced.

IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever, Tech Mahindra and Titan were the laggards.

Most sectors contributed to the upward movement, with

BSE SENSEX AUGUST 7, 2024 CHANGE: +893.68 (+1.14%) 79,486.75 Today's **Previous Day** 78,593.07 .

metals, energy, and pharma being the top performers.

"Global markets experienced a notable rebound after the BoJ's Deputy Governor reassured that the central bank would not raise interest rates during a period of financial instability. The Indian market also witnessed broad-based buying across sectors, with the realty sector seeing a relief rally due to the reinstatement of indexation benefits," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 2.63 per cent and smallcap index climbed 2.39 per cent. All indices ended in the positive territory. Oil & Gas jumped 3.75 per cent, metal

surged 3.44 per cent, energy (3.32 per cent), capital goods (2.89 per cent), telecommunication (2.80 per cent), services (2.53 per cent), commodities (2.49 per cent), healthcare (2.03 per cent). Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said that markets experienced a breather after the recent decline, gaining

over a percent, driven by strong global cues. As many as 2,985 stocks advanced while 948 declined and 98 remained unchanged. Asian markets settled in the positive territory, where Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong significantly higher. European markets rallied.

Sebi issues ₹25 cr notice to Karvy Stock Broking, Parthasarathy

Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday sent a notice to Karvy Stock Broking Ltd (KSBL) and its CMD C Parthasarathy asking them to pay around Rs 25 crore within 15 days in a case pertaining to misappropriation of clients' funds by misusing the Power of Attorney.

The notice came after they failed to pay the fine imposed on them by the Securities and Exchange Board of India

Sebi in April 2023 barred KSBL and Parthasarathy from the securities market for seven years and also imposed a penalty of Rs 21 crore on them for misappropriating clients' funds by misusing the Power of Attorney given to the broking firm.

Individually, the regulator had levied a fine of Rs 13 crore on KSBL and Rs 8 crore on Parthasarathy, promoter-cum-managing director.

In its fresh notice, the regulator has directed KSBL and Parthasarathy to pay Rs 15.21 crore and Rs 9.36 crore, respectively, which includes interest and recovery cost,

In the event of non-payment of dues, the markets regulator will recover the amount by attaching bank accounts, attaching as well as selling the entities' moveable and immoveable property. Besides, Parthasarathy may face "arrest

and detention in prison". The case relates to KSBL's massive asset mobilisation drive followed by raising of huge funds from financial institutions by using the securities mobilised from the clients with a promise to pay

them interest.

funds These misappropriated and diverted to KSBL's connected entities, thereby defaulting in its obligations to settle the securities and funds with the clients as per regulatory instructions.

In its order passed in April last year, the regulator found that KSBL was raising funds by pledging clients' securities and by misusing the Power of Attorney (PoA) granted to it by its clients. Further, the funds by KSBL were being diverted to its group entities thereby violating various

Rupee settles 4 paise lower at 83.96 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

 $T^{\text{he rupee consolidated in}}_{\text{a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 4}}$ paise at 83.96 (provisional) against US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by a recovery in the US dollar and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Forex traders said the Indian rupee depreciated on Wednesday on a strong US dollar and positive crude oil prices. However, strength in domestic markets cushioned the downside.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.86 and touched an intraday low of 83.97 against the dollar

during the session. It finally settled at 83.96 (provisional) against the American currency, down 4 paise from its previous

On Tuesday, the rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled for the day 17 paise higher at 83.92 against the US dollar.

The local unit had slumped 37 paise to settle at an alltime low of 84.09 against the US dollar on Monday.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on a recovery in the US dollar and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. However, positive global equities may support the rupee at lower said levels, Anui Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by

BNP Paribas. Any further intervention by the Reserve Bank may also support the rupee. Investors may watch out for RBI's monetary policy decision. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range

Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, gained 0.31 per cent to

of Rs 83.75 to Rs 84.20,

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.22 per cent higher at USD 77.41 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 874.94 points, or 1.11 per cent, to close at 79,468.01 points, while the Nifty advanced 304.95 points, or 1.27 per cent, to 24,297.50 points.

Institutional Foreign Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,531.24 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel started its three-day deliberations for the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy on Tuesday amid expectations of no change in benchmark interest rate in view of concerns on inflation and economic growth remaining steady. The decision of the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Dasheaded six-member

Monetary Committee (MPC) will be announced on Thursday.

Goyal urges BIMSTEC group to relook at progress of FTA talks

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday suggested the seven member countries of the BIMSTEC bloc to relook at the progress of Free Trade Agreement talks which are moving at a very slow pace. He said that the members can think of negotiating a preferential trade agreement instead of a full-fledged free

trade pact.
BIMSTEC stands for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. Its seven members are five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka) and two Southeast Asian countries (Myanmar and Thailand).

bloc negotiating a proposed Free something is holding back Trade Agreement (FTA) since 2004. So far over 20 rounds of talks have been held. The last can be the non-trade barriers one was held in 2018.

the possibilities of making this FTAs on the BIMSTEC this FTA a reality," Goyal said here at CIIs BIMSTEC the delay. Business Summit 2024.



He said that so far 22 rounds of talks have been held for the agreement and this itself raises a question on whether 'we need to pause and have a relook at the track where we

are going". The last round negotiations took place some

or trade barriers coming in "I would like to raise a few the way of normal trade, he fundamental issues about said adding the possible where we stand and what are impact of other regional

"It could be the trade

practices or current trade relationships that could be a reason for this FTA not taking place," the minister said. He also asked the business leaders of the seven countries to think whether they need this agreement.

further minister has been six years ago, which means suggested the member nations to consider trade in ocal currencies to balance out trade imbalances. "I would urge business leaders also to give honest

feedback of what you feel about the potential BIMSTEC FTA. Do you see merit in it, Do you see value in it," he said

Feedback from the business community would help the political leaders to take a decision on this. He asked the CII to take the lead and discuss about the proposed pact and come out with their recommendations by next year's Summit.

"Maybe, we can begin with a PTA (preferential trade agreement) if not a full flown FTA...But let's examine the realistic possibility and move forward on a fast track basis," he said. Representatives from the member countries including Sri Lanka, Myanmar and,

Thailand talked about the early conclusion of FTA negotiations as it would help boost trade and investments in the region. Overall, India's total trade

with BIMSTEC countries amounted to USD 44.32 billion in 2023-24. On Bangladesh, Go all deeply

about the concerned evolving situation Bangladesh and we wish the people of Bangladesh well and we will convey our best wishes for a smooth transition and bright future for the people Bangladesh".

Pan masala makers to pay ₹1 lakh penalty from Oct 1 for failure to register machines with taxmen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

provisions of law.

The government has notified October 1 as the date for implementation of the penalty provision for manufacturers of pan masala and similar tobacco products, if they fail to register their packing machinery with GST authorities. The GST Network had earlier

in May and June notified two forms GST SRM-I and II for registering machines used by such manufacturers and to report inputs procured and corresponding outputs with tax authorities.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on August 6 notified October 1, 2024, as the date for levy of up to Rs 1 lakh penalty for failure to register their packing machines with GST authorities. In January, the Central Board

had announced the introduction of a new registration and monthly return filing procedure to improve GST compliance for manufacturers of pan masala and tobacco products effective April 1. The date was later extended



registration, record-keeping, and monthly filing of such businesses was aimed at improving Goods and Service Tax (GST) compliance for manufacturers of pan masala and tobacco products.

Via the Finance Bill 2024 in February, the GST law was amended to say that Indirect Taxes and manufacturers of pan masala, gutkha and similar tobacco products will have to pay a penalty of up to Rs 1 lakh, if they fail to register their packing machinery with GST authorities with effect from

The procedure was to be applicable for manufacturers of pan-masala, unmanufactured tobacco

without brand name, 'Hookah' or 'gudaku' tobacco, smoking mixtures for pipes and cigarettes, chewing tobacco (without lime tube), filter khaini, jarda scented tobacco, snuff and branded or unbranded 'Gutkha', etc.

The manufacturers of such tobacco products are required to furnish the details of packing machines being used for filling and packing of packages in Form GST SRM-I, electronically within 30 days of the notification coming into effect i.E., April 1, 2024.

The input and output statement GST SRM-II needs to be filed by the 10th of the succeeding month.

Amazon partners with 45 Govt emporiums, NGOs, trade bodies to empower local artisans

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $E_{\rm Amazon}^{\rm -commerce}$ India on Wednesday said that it has partnered with over 45 government emporiums, NGOs, and trade bodies in India to bridge the gap between artisans and providing customers, economic opportunities for marginalized weaving communities.

"Customers can shop for over 1.5 lakh products featured from 25 states depicting regional various crafts of India.

"Amazon will also launch a showcase of selection from over 35 State emporiums including Biswa Bangla, Panthoibi, Garvi Gurjari, House of Himalayas and more," said a company statement.

More than weavers, co-operatives, artisans and government organisations under various ministries like Textiles, Cottage Industries, and Tribal Welfare, among others have been onboarded on Amazon.In to sell online, according to the statement.

TRAI to review, tighten regulations to curb spam calls: Lahoti

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator will review and strengthen regulations to curb pesky, spam calls, TRAI Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said on Wednesday. The crackdown on pesky calls

has figured high on the agenda of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, and the regulator has been hardening its stance on the issue, amid rising consumer complaints around unsolicited communications from unauthorised telemarketers.

"We had an interaction with service providers on spam calls and that is the next thing on our table. We will work seriously...We will plug any loopholes that people are regulators is working finding on existing collectively to address the finding on existing regulations to tighten (the checks on) spam call issue," Lahoti said on the sidelines of India SatCom 2024 organised by Broadband India Forum (BIF).

TRAI on Tuesday held a meeting and conveyed a strong message to service providers and their telemarketers to take effective measures to curb bulk communications using voice

As part of the crackdown, the regulator has sought proactive action from all the stakeholders specially access



their delivery telemarketers. The immediate action sought implementing includes solutions for technical traceability and preventing bulk calling by enterprise customers using 10-digit numbers.

Asked about the rising instances of fraud and scams over calls, and actions that are being proposed, Lahoti said that a joint committee of issue.

"The role of TRAI comes in controlling spam calls. Where it is fraudster or scammer...It also becomes an issue of law enforcement where Ministry of Home Affairs... And financial sector regulator also

plays a role," he said. Asked if raising the criminal liability could serve as an effective deterrent, he said, "We will review regulations to make it strong and very strict as far as control of spam is concerned...As far as the scam is concerned that falls in the domain of law".

Jio's share of data traffic in India rises to about 60% in FY24: RIL annual report

till May 15.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom major Jio's share in the overall data traffic in India increased to about 60 per cent in 2023-24, according to the annual report of parent firm Reliance Industries Limited.

ahead-of-the-curve lio's investments in next-generation network and technologies would sustain a competitive edge and market share gains, it said and added this will ensure strong and consistent shareholder return

over the coming years.
In the annual report, Reliance
Industries' Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani said Jio turned a "Data Dark India" into a "Data Rich" nation with affordable, highspeed 4G data, and followed it up with a 5G network rollout across India in world-record

According to the annual report, the rollout of the next-generation fixed wireless networks would catalyse demand for high-speed fixed broadband. Rural areas are expected to see a higher uptake of these services due to limited last-mile infrastructure currently.

The report further said Jio's indigenously developed technologies are being deployed at scale in India and will subsequently be taken to the rest of the world.



With highest average per capita data usage at 28.7 GB per month in the March 2024 quarter, the company has recorded a 31 per cent yearover-year increase in overall data traffic to about 149 exabytes during FY 2023-24 with increase in 5G user base as well as its fixed broadband connections.

An extraordinarily large unit of digital data, one exabyte is equal to one billion gigabytes. "Jio has built enough data capacity to serve over a billion Indians for their digital needs at homes, offices, and on-the-go. Jio's share of data traffic in India has increased to about 60 per cent, making it the most preferred broadband network," the RIL annual report said. The company leads the Indian

telecom market both in mobile

total subscriber base of 48.18

users and 1.2 crore fixed broadband users.

"The Jio True5G network now carries almost 30 per cent of Jio's mobility data traffic, and the entire 5G data is now carried on Jio's own 5G+4G combo core. Jio is the only operator in India rolling out 5G on Standalone architecture," the report said.

Highlighting the opportunities, it said Jio's all-India True5G network is "strongly positioned" to lead the progress towards 5G in India. Jio's deep fiber presence and rollout of fixed wireless access services are primed to connect 100 million premises with digital solutions, it said emphasising that Jio's connectivity and compute infrastructure would drive market share gains.

On the threats landscape, the and fixed line segment with a annual report said that technological disruptive changes could make current crore comprising 10.8 crore 5G

technologies obsolete and that entry of a new disruptive player or price competition could impact long-term returns.

"Jio's ahead-of-the-curve investments in next-generation network and digital technologies would sustain a competitive edge and market share gains. This will ensure strong and consistent shareholder return over the shareholder return over the coming years," the report said. The company is also making concerted efforts in building capabilities in evolving technologies such as AI/ML (A r t i f i c i a l Intelligence/Machine AR/VR Learning), (Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality), robotics, natural

processing. Ambani said the world is increasingly recognising India as an innovation hub, and asserted that Jio will continue to play a stellar role in building the nation's digital infrastructure and capabilities.

language recognition and

"With the launch of Jio 4G in 2016, we set out on a journey to make digital inclusion in India a reality. Jio turned a Data Dark India into a Data Rich nation, supplying every Indian home with affordable, high-speed 4G data, and this year, Jio has further enhanced the country's digital infrastructure by rolling out its digital True5G network across India in world-record time," he said.

Bangladesh unrest: Buyers hesitant to place orders in India unless Govt tweaks policies, says AEPC

PTI NEW DELHI

Amid the civil unrest in Bangladesh, buyers will remain hesitant to place their orders in India unless the Modi government tweaks its import policies to allow greater and easier access to imported man-made fabrics, trims and accessories, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said on Wednesday.

AEPC also stated that buyers are "very concerned" with the escalation of the civil unrest in Bangladesh and have no option but to pull out their orders from the nation and place them elsewhere at least in the short term.

According to AEPC Chairman Sudhir Sekhri, most of these orders are in man-made fabrics, purchased from buyer nominated sources in China, Korea and even Europe.
"Shifting these short-delivery

orders using special imported fabrics to India is not viable, given India's current import policies. Only orders in fabrics of Indian origin are expected to be shifted to Indian factories," he added.
The AEPC Chairman

observed that buyers will continue to be hesitant to place their orders in India unless Government of India tweaks its import policies to allow greater and easier access to imported man-made fabrics, trims and accessories.



"In the long term, buyers will remain skeptical of being overly dependent on Bangladesh. Even before the current turmoil in Bangladesh, buyers were already looking for capacities elsewhere, due to capacity saturation in Bangladesh. The recent turmoil will expedite their plans. Indian factories will get a piece of the cake only if they ramp up capacities," Sekhri stated. Bangladesh is facing its worst political crisis since

Independence in 1971. The neighbouring country has plunged into uncertainty after street protests over job quota forced Sheikh Hasina to quit as prime minister and

"Buyers are very concerned with the escalation of the civil unrest in Bangladesh. In the short term, fast fashion buyers have no option but to pull out their orders from Bangladesh and place them elsewhere," the AEPC Chairman said.

I THINK IT MIGHT BE SABOTAGE: BOXING ICON VIJENDER ON VINESH'S DISQUALIFICATION

ndian boxing stalwart Vijender Singh has alleged that wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Olympics final might be a case of sabotage as elite athletes like her are well-versed with the techniques of cutting weight before major competitions.

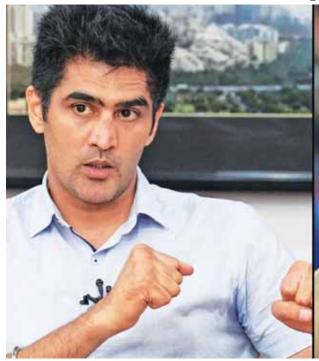
Vijender, who is India's first and only male boxer to have won an Olympic medal, knows a thing or two about maintaining weight before major bouts and he said it is shocking that Vinesh was 100gm over in the weigh-in

before an Olympic final.
"I think it might be sabotage.
100gm, you have got to be kidding me. We athletes can shed 5 to 6kg overnight. It is difficult no doubt but we know how to control our hunger, thirst, and exert to the extreme," the middle-weight (75kg) boxer told PTI.

(75kg) boxer told PTI.

"And when I say sabotage I mean people who are not happy to see India rise as a sporting nation. This girl has been through so much, your heart breaks for her. What more could she have done? Which other test?" he wondered wondered.

Vinesh was the face of a lengthy protest against former Wrestling Federation of India head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment and intimidation by women wrestlers. She had endured police detention, nights on the



making it here. highlight of her remarkable performance at the Olympics was the opening win over defending champion Yui Susaki of Japan who came into the competition undefeated in her international career.

"I can't believe that Vinesh would make a mistake like this. She has been an elite athlete for so long that she knows, there has to be something more to it. I am worried for her, I hope she is fine. What has happened is not good at all," said Vijender, a trailblazer in Indian boxing.

are held as per weight categories, have to go through the painful process of staying within their divisions.

It involves going hungry for hours, avoiding even liquids and in some desperate situations, stay huddled inside lavers of blankets to sweat out the extra weight.
"There have been times when I

have spat out saliva continuously so that nothing goes inside, you know. One can't imagine this extreme exercise. There are special Sauna suits that we wear, they feel like a furnace and there are

It's an extraordinary exercise that takes a physical and mental toll on athletes and in 2018, six-time world champion woman boxer M C Mary Kom, in an interview to PTI, had revealed how she lost 2kg in a matter of four hours. Mary Kom had landed in

Poland for a tournament, where she eventually picked up her third gold of that year. But hours before she was to take the ring, she had gone through the strenuous process of shedding weight just to be eligible to fight.

"We landed in Poland at round 3-3:30 in the morning and the around 7:30am. I was a couple of kilograms above 48kg, the

on Thursday.

round.

'lightening' appearance on the

stake on Thursday.

of kilograms above 48kg, the category I compete in, at that point," she had said.
"So, I had roughly four hours to shed that or I would have been disqualified for being over-weight at the time of general weigh-in. But I did skinning for an hour at a skipping for an hour at a stretch and just like that, I was

"Thankfully, the flight we travelled in was nearly empty so I could sleep with my legs outstretched, ensuring that I was not stiff on landing there. Otherwise, I don't know how I would have been able to

Harrington's final drew thousands of Irish fans to the famed tennis arena where she clinched her gold. They waved flags, chanted her name and

me feel like I wasn't tired and I was

(Finland; 1920 and 1924), Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and after winning a silver medal at His stunning monster throw of 89.34m in the qualification round made quite a statement but a tough challenge awaits defending champion Neeraj Chopra as he seeks another piece of history in the Paris Olympics mens javelin throw final round here on Thursday. Thorkildsen Andreas (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the only ones to have defended the men's javelin gold medals

Tough challenge awaits Chopra

in bid for another piece of history

in the Olympics.

If he wins gold, and for that matter a medal, he will become the most decorated Indian in Olympics in individual sport. Shuttler PV Sindhu (one silver, one bronze), wrestler Sushil Kumar (one silver, one bronze)

on Thursday.
Just like he did at the same stage in the Tokyo Olympics three years back, Chopra needed just a few seconds to top the qualification round with his opening throw but the similarity ends there.

This time the quality of the and shooter Manu Bhaker (two bronze) have won two Olympic medals each post Independence. This time, the quality of the field is better than Tokyo with nine throwers crossing the automatic final round qualification mark of 84m in Paris as against six in Tokyo. The tremendous effort, which was the second best of his career, also set aside concerns surrounding Chopra's fitness after he revealed that he had

been battling an adductor niggle in the build-up to the Games. His personal best continues to be 89.94m achieved back in 2022. Out of the nine, five made it to the final round with their first throws and thus will have a lot in their tanks for the medal His 89.34m throw may also raise hopes of millions of Indian fans to see Chopra The 26-year-old Chopra knows it too well, having been in the global circuit for more

in the global circuit than eight years.

"In the final, everyone has a different mindset and different situation. It will be a good Whoever the is the cross the elusive 90m mark on Thursday. His effort was also the second-best qualifying

the second-best qualifying throw at an Olympics after the 89.39m registered by the legendary Jan Zelezny at 2000 Sydney Games.
But there were some ominous signs coming out from the qualification round which Chopra will have to be wary of. The peaking of two-time world champion Anderson Peters (personal best 93.07m) of Grenada as well as immediate hitting of form by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem competition. Whoever qualifies automatically is the best in preparation," Neeraj told journalists after his He was in a hurry to go back to the Games Village and take rest to prepare for his best for the final round, as a lot is at Chopra will have a chance to Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem become only the fifth man in may indicate that the final Olympic javelin throw history round at Stade de France could

after winning a silver medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. A month before that incident, he had won the World Championships gold in Eugene, USA, after beating Chopra with a monster throw

of 90.54m. Grenadian, The interestingly finished third

when Chopra won gold in 2016 World Junior Championships in Poland, has gone past 90m four times in his career and he is one of the few who have beaten the Indian superstar. His season's best of 88.63m in the qualification round could be a precursor to something bigger. Nadeem, who beat Peters to win the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold with 90.18m, is unpredictable and he has pulled off big throws earlier also. After coming back from an elbow surgery, he claimed silver behind Chopra in the 2023 Budapest World Championships with a throw of 87.82m.

Nadeem has not beaten Chopra in 10 meetings since 2016 but he can spring a surprise.

Czech Republic's experienced thrower Jakub Vadlejch could also be looking to make the records with Chopra as he had ended up with a silver in Tokyo Olympics. He had beaten Chopra for the gold in Doha Diamond League in May.

Conditions on Thursday may also be different from the qualification round. The final is expected to be cooler as it? to defend the title.

Eric Lemming (Sweden; 1908 and 1912), Jonni Myyra

be a classic contest.

Peters, of the same age as against daytime during the qualification round.

streets and a tumultus Athletes who compete in times we run wearing them to qualification process before contact sports, where fights shed weight," he explained. general weigh-in was at compete," she had revealed. Kellie of Ireland wins second boxing gold and retires

Kellie Harrington is an unusual boxing champion. She is passionate only about the amateur version of her pro-dominated sport, and she has long claimed to have no ambitions of being paid to fight.

Minutes after she stepped onto the podium at Court Philippe Chatrier to have her second gold medal hung around her neck Tuesday night, Harrington announced her retirement from boxing. The money to be made from being a two-time Olympic gold medalist in a passionate fight nation like Ireland still isn't enough for Harrington to change her plans after her magical run at the Paris Games.
"I'm done and dusted," Harrington said.



"I'm going to go out a champion. That's the way I want to go out. I don't want to go out and lose a fight and then retire. I'll retire happy."
Harrington is the first Irish woman to

three years ago in Tokyo, she clinched her second gold with a remarkable charge through the Paris field, capped by her 4-1 victory over China's Yang Wenlu at Roland Garros.

Harrington pressured Yang more than enough to get the victory despite losing the third round. The champion's most impressive win in Paris likely was in the semifinals, when she spectacularly outboxed Brazilian IBF lightweight champion Beatriz Ferreira, whose physicality and aggression had made her look like a gold-medal favorite.

Harrington isn't the fastest or the most

division, but she might be the best ever

fantastic opponents," Harrington said. "Everyone who is here is the best of the best. Everyone deserves respect."

generally put on a party while their improbable boxing hero got her final job done.

"To have the support of the nation. It is just amazing," Harrington said. "The people here today lifted me. They made exhausted."

powerful woman in the lightweight Harrington danced in the ring after her victory, clearly thrilled to be fighting in front of her frenzied fans instead of in the mostly empty Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo three years ago.

AP ■ PARIS

All the favored teams in the first three men's basketball quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics had problems. Canada lost to France. Serbia erased a 24-point deficit to beat Australia. Germany had beat Australia. Germany had to shake off a double-digit deficit before beating Greece. So, going into the fourth and final game of the night, the U.S. Knew what it had to do. "We wanted to come out and make sure we were the aggressor," U.S. Coach Steve

They made it look easy, too. Devin Booker led a balanced front with 18 points and the Americans had little trouble with Brazil in the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics, winning 122-87 on

Tuesday. The U.S. (4-0) moves on to face Serbia (3-1) in Thursday's semifinals, while Germany (4-0) takes on France (3-1) in the other semifinal. Winners of those games will play Saturday

tournament, eases past Brazil 122-87 night for the gold medal; Thursday's losers will play Saturday morning for the

bronze medal. "Everybody expects us to win," U.S. Forward Jayson Tatum said. "But you don't take things for granted, right? Canada lost earlier. It's a different game. It's not like playoffs, where it's a series. We've got one game and a lot of (stuff) can happen in one game, especially over here."

If there was one issue, it was this: LeBron James left in the third quarter after catching an elbow around his left eye, struck by Brazil's Georginho

de Paula while going for a rebound. James went down,

eventually pressed a towel over the eye and left for the

locker room area later in the

US rolls into semifinals of basketball

third. Kerr said James needed four stitches. "I'm all right," James said. "Got hit with an inadvertent elbow

around the eye." Anthony Edwards scored 17 points, while Joel Embiid - points and nine assists. booed again in France, of Kevin Durant scored 11 points

course - had 14 points and seven rebounds in 12 first-half minutes for the Americans. Anthony Davis finished with 13 points and eight rebounds for the U.S. James had 12

U.S. Olympic career scoring leader, men's or women's. Leslie had 488 points in her four Olympic appearances, all of which ended with gold medals. Durant is trying to go 4 for 4 on the gold front as well; he's two wins away from well; he's two wins away from getting that done. "He's incredible. He was born to play ball and he's simply incredible," James said. "I'm happy for him. Congratulations to him. I'm super proud of him. And he's got more to go."

There was a moment where

and passed Lisa Leslie as the

There was a moment where Brazil might have thought it had a chance. It trailed the U.S. By only eight midway through the second quarter. A big deficit had turned into something rather manageable.

Demoralised India need to regroup quickly to win in bronze medal play-off

Aheart-wrenching defeat in semifinals notwithstanding, a demoralised Indian men's

hockey team will have to regroup quickly and aim for a second consecutive podium finish at the Olympics when it takes on Spain in the bronze medal play-off here on Thursday.

The Indians played bravely against Germany, putting their defence under pressure from the start and in the process took the lead in the seventh minute through a penalty corner conversion by skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

But the Germans came back strongly in the second quarter and fourth quarters to secure the close win, courtesy some silly defensive lapses from the Indians, especially Jarmanpret Singh.

The Indians too were guilty of wasting too many scoring chances, including as many as 10 penalty corners, while converting two, one directly and another through variation. The opposition teams seemed to have found out a way to deny one of the world's best drag-flicker Harmanpreet as he managed to be on target just once on Tuesday.
The over-reliance on

Harmanpreet and lack of innovative penalty corner variations seemed to be hurting India badly here as they don't have much options

in their hands. But the return of Amit Rohidas, who missed Tuesday's match after being shown the red card against Great Britain in the quarterfinal, should bolster the Indian defence and also give more chances from (against Germany). We had the chance to win gold, but now, we have to forget this semifinal



penalty corners as he is second best option from set pieces after Harmanpreet.

The Indians were looking to break a 44-year-old jinx to reach an Olympic final but it eluded them narrowly.
The last time India made the

Olympic hockey final was way back in 1980 Moscow Games, which, in fact, was their last of the eight gold medals at the quadrennial event.

À place in final would have at least assured India a silver medal after 1960 Olympics but that also slipped out of hands. But all is not lost for the Indians as they still have a chance to claim a podium finish if they beat Spain on Thursday in the bronze medal

match. For that, the Indians will have to leave the baggage of the semifinal loss behind and come out with a fresh mind to

get the better of Spain. Veteran India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who is playing his last international tournament, reminded his teammates that

all is not lost. "It's a heartbreaking loss for us and focus on the bronze medal match," he had said.

'It's a medal match and it's about the country. It's about those 19 players here, all the staff. And I think we all get a last opportunity to play, to get a medal for our country rather than worrying about what happened today (Tuesday).

These 19 players should play like this is our last opportunity as a player to get a medal for

our country."
Going by form and world ranking, the Indians are clear favourites to win the tie against Spain but in the end it will all boil down to the mental aspect of the side.

While India lost a close semifinal, Spain were thrashed 0-4 by Netherlands. In world ranking too, Spain are placed eighth while India are

currently at the fifth spot. But it would be easier said than done for the Indians as Spain, while not matching India's Olympic achievements, has made significant strides in recent decades.

The Spanish team has secured two European Championship titles and has consistently participated in World Cups

Echikunwoke changes countries Ohio and originally decided to represent Nigeria because that's where

This time at the Olympics, hammer thrower Annette Nneka Echikunwoke got to compete. Not only compete, but win a medal - for the United States.

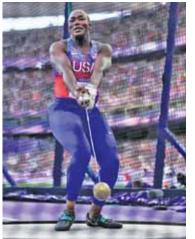
Three years ago, Echikunwoke arrived at the Tokyo Games ready to represent Nigeria, but she wound up needing to leave before even getting to take a throw. Nigeria was among a handful of countries deemed "high risk" by track's anti-doping regulators in the lead-up to those Olympics - forcing its athletes to

be subjected to more drug testing. Echikunwoke was among those from Nigeria who did not meet the requirement and so was not allowed to

her parents are from. But after the issues in 2021, she switched her Olympic country to the U.S., and on Tuesday night became the first American woman to earn Summer Games medal

in the hammer, getting a silver. Echikunwoke was in the early lead before Canada's Camryn Rogers won the gold on her second-to-last throw. "I think (this medal) could have happened three years ago, but I'm happy it's happening now," Echikunwoke said. "I feel like everything happens for a reason, even if it's bad or good or ugly or whatever the case may be. This is beautiful."

She remembers that time in Tokyo so participate. The 28-year-old was born in vividly, such as not being able to walk in



the opening ceremony. "Not the best feeling, as you could imagine," said Echikunwoke, who went to the University of Cincinnati.

Echikunwoke's application to change what country she would compete for finally came through at the last minute before the U.S. Nationals in 2022, and she earned a spot for the world championships that year.

Now, she's an Olympic medalist for the red-white-and-blue.

"It doesn't feel real right now," she said. "I can't really put it into words."

Echikunwoke led after the third round Tuesday with a throw of 75.48 meters (247 feet, 7 inches). Rogers, though, threw the hammer 76.97 (252-6) on her second-to-last attempt to overtake her. Bronze went to Zhao Jie of China.



HISTORY-MAKING BHAKER ARRIVES HOME TO ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION

Star pistol shooter Manu Bhaker landed back in the country on Wednesday after her historic feat of winning two medals in a single edition of the Olympic Games and was welcomed by hundreds of supporters and her family, who braved a steady

drizzle to give her a memorable reception here.

The Air India flight (AI 142), which brought Bhaker from Paris to Delhi, landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at around 9:20am, delayed by one hour.

waited at the airport long before her arrival despite the morning drizzle in the city, accorded her — and her coach Jaspal Rana — an enthusiastic reception.

The 22-year-old Bhaker won a bronze each in the women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event where she had paired with Sarabjot Singh — to script Olympic history for the country.

Before her, only British-Indian athlete Norman Pritchard had achieved the rare landmark for the country with his two silver

200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics but this happened in the pre-Independence era.

Before leaving for India, Bhaker had stated that she was looking forward to a grand welcome and she was not disappointed on Wednesday. The youngster was greeted with bouquets, garlands, and celebratory dhol after celebratory dhol after emerging from the airport exit. Flower petals were showered on her and Rana as soon as they came out amid significant police presence to manage the

Among those present were

Kishan and Sumedha — and sports enthusiasts and officials from her home state Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, the state to which Rana belongs. Rana's father was also there at the airport.
"It is a matter of pride for us

that a daughter of India is coming back after creating history by winning two medals in an Olympics. It has never happened before. She is only 22 years old," said former Uttarakhand Sports Minister and Rana's father, Narayan Singh Rana. "She is coming along with her

son. He brought glory playing for India in shooting. Jaspal Rana and Abhinav Bindra started it all," he added.

People gathered at the airport long before her arrival and they celebrated her feat with song and dance, holding banners with photos of Bhaker and

Bhaker will be meeting sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the afternoon. She will head back to Paris on Saturday to participate in the closing ceremony on Sunday where she will be one of India's flag-



Top surfers converge in Kovalam for final National Surfing Championship

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Covelong Classic, the final National Surfing Championship of the year, is set to kick off at Kovalam near here on Thursday, with over 75 surfers from across the country competing for top honours.

The event will happen across four categories — Men's Open, Women's Open, Junior Boys & U-16, and Junior Girls & U-16. The 2024 season started with the International Surfing Festival Kerala Varkala, followed by the Indian Open of Surfing in Mangalore, and the third stop — Mahabs Point Break Challenge — happening earlier this month in Mahabalipuram.

Covelong Classic will be a three-day surfing carnival organised by the Tamil Nadu Surfing Association under the aegis of the Surfing Federation of India, to be hosted by Surf Turf.

The competition has also received significant support from the Tamil Nadu Government and the Ministry of Youth Welfare and Sports Development.

Among the top surfers to participate will be Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D, Harish M and

Ramesh Budihal in the Men's Open categories.

Recently, Ajeesh, Harish and Srikanth were named in the Indian squad for the Asian Surfing Championship happening next week in Maldives. Additionally, Srikanth D will be looking to defend his title.

In the Women's Open category, Kamali P (ranked first) has championship title, making her performance at the Covelong Classic irrelevant. However, she is anticipated to face stern competition from fellow surfers Sandhya Arun (ranked second), Shrishti Selvam (ranked third), and Sugar Shanti Banarse (ranked fourth).

Kamali and Sugar have also been selected for the Indian been selected for the Indian squad competing in the Asian Surfing Championship, representing the Women's Open and Junior U-18 categories, respectively.

Local surfers Tayin Arun and Kishore Kumar will grab evelalls thanks to their recent

eyeballs, thanks to their recent performances and national rankings in the Junior Boys & U-16 category.

Additionally, fellow local surfer Harish P, having gained

recognition for his impressive surfing skills, will aim to defend his Covelong Classic championship title with

determination. In the Junior Girls & U-16 category, defending champion Kamali P will look to secure a double victory, as she is a strong contender for both the Women's Open and Junior Girls & U-16 titles at the Covelong Classic.

Meanwhile, Dhamayanthi Sriram (ranked second) and Saanvi Hegde (ranked third) will be putting forth their best efforts to claim the title.

Surfing Federation of India's president, Arun Vasu said, "As surfing calendar culminates with the year's final national championship, the Covelong Classic, the best surfers are set to compete in the Asian Surfing

Championship. I would like to extend my best wishes to all the surfers participating in this prestigious championship."

Apart from the medals and

trophies, victors in each will receive cash category rewards, with the overall competition champion being awarded a Jawa Yezdi

Refugee athlete's dream of taekwondo medal cut short

AP PARIS

Having overcome so many hurdles, the for refugee athlete Hadi Tiranvalipour as his dream of winning an Olympic medal was cut short when he lost in a taekwondo qualification bout on Wednesday at the Paris Games.

Tiranvalipour was up against Omar Ismail of Palestine in the men's under 58 kilograms competition and was handed a Iranian 2-0 loss in a lopsided match at the lavish Grand Palais venue on the first day of taekwondo events.

"I'm not satisfied with my performance, I don't have an answer for this. I wanted a good result, it's happening," he said. Before making the IOC

Refugee Olympic Team, Tiranvalipour fought for eight he lived in a forest for 10 days



national team, winning the gold medal at the 2015 Asian Junior championship back in 2015. But Tiranvalipour, who also worked as a TV presenter and

studied sports science, was forced to leave his country after speaking out in favour of women's rights, losing his job. In October 2022, he travelled to Turkey, then to Italy where years as a member of the and then slept three months

on a sofa in a shared accommodation that Iranian students had helped him find. "Our journey is too difficult," he said after his loss to Ismail. "Not for me, for all the refugee athletes. It's too difficult for

each of us to be here." Athletes from the refugee team compete under the same flag and come from different parts of the world. The team was created for the Rio Olympics in 2016 as a symbol of hope

and to call attention to the plight of refugees worldwide. After training alone in a park, Tiranvalipour finally federation, which helped him apply for asylum and settle for good in the country. In the build-up to the Games,

he trained at the Olympic Sports Center in Roma with the likes of Vito Dell'aquila, the defending Olympic champion.

After missing out on Olympic qualification during the European qualifiers in March, he was selected by the refugee Olympic team and had big expectations in Paris.

"I'm not satisfied because I had too much sacrifices about my losing weight process, my training. I'm really sad," he

"We passed so many difficult journeys. If you have a target, you have to keep going. Life is

US women's volleyball team advances to semifinal with straight-set win against Poland

The reigning Olympic champion U.S. Women's volleyball team posted a straight-set victory against P Tuesday night at the Paris Olympics. The Americans led throughout while taking the first two sets, 25-22 and 25-14. They fell behind 5-0 and 7-1 in the third set before rallying to close it out,

Next up is a semifinal date on Thursday with powerhouse Brazil, which swept the Dominican Republic earlier in the day. It's a rematch of the Tokyo Games

Turkev eliminated China with a 3-2 victory and was waiting on the result of Tuesday's late match between Italy and Serbia to learn its next opponent.
US coach Karch Kiraly said he was thrilled

to get his players off their feet sooner - and not have to play any extra sets, especially for setter Jordyn Poulter as she continues to regain her form in match play after coming back from a devastating left knee injury in December 2022 that required surgery.

"To be able to chip away and get back and tie it up at 13-all and get out with 3-0 instead



of 17-15 in the fifth, which happens so often, that's really big, especially for somebody like Jordyn Poulter who's on a really good recovery," Kiraly said.

"But to have less load here and more recovery before we play a really big Brazil team

was big." Kiraly made a lineup change after the team's five-set defeat to China on July 29 to open group stage play, moving veterans Jordan

Larson and Kelsey Robinson Cook to reserve roles and bringing in Avery Skinner and Kathryn Plummer. The Americans bounced back to beat Serbia wo days later. The new starting six are beginning to click.
"The first time we ever played with this

starting lineup was against Serbia, so now we've got three matches," Kiraly "Most other teams have been playing for

years with the same (lineup). We now have three matches, so things are coming together."

Andrea Drews had 13 points, while Plummer and Skinner contributed 12 apiece. Plummer credited the Americans for improving their service pressure and four-time Olympian Larson's boost off the bench to get them back in it.

"We started out the third set very slow, we tend to do that even when we have a 2-0 lead in the match," she said.

We got out of that first rotation and then I think we just got strings of points together, had a couple of big momentum swings with some big blocks, some big serves. ... The third set was a testament to what happens when we stay together and connected.

Sprint powerhouse Jamaica has had more injuries than medals and celebrations

 $T^{\text{he midpoint of the}}_{\text{Olympic track meet used}}$ to be time for Jamaican sprint stars - Usain Bolt, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and all the rest to catch their breath, recover from their victory parties, then start gearing up for more.

This year in Paris, there hasn't been much to celebrate, and there's a sense that it could be vears, not days, until the good times start rolling again for the Caribbean nation known for sun, sand and sprints.

After Tuesday, which marked the halfway point of the action at the Stade de France, Kishane Thompson's silver in the 100 meters was the only medal the Jamaican team had won on the track.

And in a twist hardly anyone on the island could have ever imagined, Jamaica actually had more medals from field events

(three) than from sprinting. "I know the world is used to Jamaica winning, and Jamaica always celebrating," said Asafa Powell, the Jamaican legend

who held or shared the 100-

meter world record for nearly

three years before Bolt broke it when he surged onto the scene in 2008. "But believe me, it's going to happen again."
It almost happened this time. Thompson's quest to become Jamaica's next Olympic male

sprint champ came a scant .005 seconds short. **JAMAICAN SPRINTING** WOMEN HAVE DEALT WITH INJURIES: For the women's WITH program, the problem has

simply been getting a contender to the starting line. Elaine Thompson-Herah, Shericka Jackson and Fraser-Pryce, all in their 30s, all pulled out of their Olympic sprints with injuries. They made up

the entire 100-meter podium in Tokyo in 2021.

The team that won 15 of the 24 Olympic medals in the women's 100 and 200 between 2008 and 2021 will go home with none this year. It will mark the first time since 1976 the country hasn't won a women's medal in either of those events.

"I think people appreciate us more when they see a down period like this," said Powell, who is in town hanging at the PUMA house, which used to be party central for Jamaica at the Olympics.

The pieces started crumbling on June 9, when Thompson-Herah, the two-time defending champion at 100 and 200 meters, hurt her Achilles at a meet in New York. Exactly a month later, Jackson,

the second-fastest woman of all time at 200 meters, pulled Olympic trials. It left 37-year-old Fraser-Pryce up lame in a race in Hungary.



She arrived in Paris, only to pull out of the 100 first, then the 200. Even had she raced, there were questions as to what kind of impact she would have had in the 200 given her pedestrian 22.29-second run at

as the only healthy member left from the group. But that ended Saturday when, shortly before the 100 semifinals, s he pulled out with an undisclosed injury, saying on social media it was "difficult for me to describe the depth of my disappointment."

WHO ARE THE NEXT TRACK?: Now, track fans await the lineup for Thursday's 4x100 relays.

Have the old guard healed enough to compete?
Or will the world see the likes

of Tia Clayton, 19, who finished seventh in the 100 final; Shashalee Forbes, 28, who finished sixth in the 100 semifinal; and Niesha Burgher, 21, who came in fifth in the 200-meter semifinal?

"It's a very young team," said Lanae Tava-Thomas, another relay candidate, who is 23 and finished fifth in the 200-meter semifinal. "We definitely have time to develop. It's going to be a very strong team when we get actually fully developed."

JAMAICA HAS A HISTORY **FINDING NEW SPRINTERS:** History shows there is hope for Jamaica. There was a time when

Merlene Ottey (three silver, six

eight Olympic medals, including three golds, over a stretch that covered 2004-16. In the weeks before the 2008 Beijing Games, vitriol flew at then-21-year-old newcomer, who then went by Shelly-Ann Fraser, from those who believed the spot she captured in the 100 was depriving Jamaica and "VCB" a sure medal.

Olympics with Jamaica)

seemed irreplaceable. Then

Campbell-Brown, who won

came

along

Veronica

Fraser won gold that year and again in 2012. She won eight medals and became one of Jamaica's all-time greats over the span of four Olympics before this year. If the next Fraser is out there,

she hasn't arrived yet, though Thompson's relatively quick emergence on the men's side -

he was a virtual unknown

STARS FOR JAMAICAN bronze medals over six outside the island before June shows how fast things can change. **EVEN** USAIN BOLT

STARTED SLOWLY AT HIS **OLYMPICS: FIRST** Remember this: Four years became an before he international celebrity, Bolt made his Olympic debut in the 200 meters in Athens. He went out quietly in the first round. Four years later, though, the 6foot-5 force of nature turned

the Olympic track into his own personal stage - 9-pointsomething seconds of running followed by a reggae-filled, dance-fest and capped off by his iconic bow-and-arrow victory pose.

At times during this Olympic track meet, it has felt like more than eight years have passed since Bolt reigned supreme. But Powell remains hopeful. "We will see Jamaica celebrating again," he said.

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