



**CITY 3**  
MAYA QUESTIONS CONG SILENCE ON 'CREAMY LAYER' ISSUE

**WORLD 6**  
ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE ON GAZA SCHOOL KILLS 80 PEOPLE

**SPORT 7**  
SREEJESH A LEGEND OF HOCKEY: TEAMMATES

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



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

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

In a heart-touching show of solidarity and camaraderie, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday assured the people and the Government of Kerala that the entire nation and the Union Government stand by the State in its efforts to rebuild the Wayanad areas devastated by the recent landslides and deluge. "Money will not be a problem for the reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Wayanad. We have to stand by the youth who have lost everything and help them realise their dreams," said

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

a volunteer in the rescue and rehabilitation team during the 1979 Machchu Morbi dam disaster in which more than 2,000 lives were lost. He asked the medical doctors attending to the survivors to counsel them and those who lost their near and dear ones in the tragedy. All that the State Government has to do is to submit a detailed report about the losses suffered by the people, the scale of fatalities and destruction in the region as also a comprehensive plan by the Kerala Government about the proposed resettlement scheme.

Earlier, the Prime Minister made on-the-spot assessment of the destruction and interacted with the soldiers of the Indian Army and the National Disaster Rescue Team who led the rescue operations in Mundakkal, Panchirimattam Churalmala regions which bore the brunt of the nature's fury. He also visited various hospitals in the district where the injured are undergoing treatment, interacted with them and enquired about their wellbeing. "The Prime Minister asked me about my health and assured of all possible help from the Government. His

words were soothing and reassuring," said Arun, a youth who had a miraculous escape from certain death after he was taken out from underneath tonnes of mud, soil and rocks fallen on him during the landslide. Modi was accompanied by Governor Mohammed Arif Khan, Union Minister of State for Tourism Suresh Gopi, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and senior IAS and IPS officers of the State. It was clear from the body language of the Prime Minister that he was moved by the stories recounted by the victims who had lost their loved ones, houses and sources of life. Since Friday evening, the Kerala media was agog with reports that the Centre was likely to offer ₹2,000 crore comprehensive rehabilitation package that includes construction of a safe and secure township. A grim-faced Vijayan, who accompanied the Prime Minister throughout the aerial survey and interaction with the victims, did not speak anything other than reminding Modi that the State was waiting for the ₹2,000 crore which the Centre must allocate. The basis of the ₹2,000-crore package demand has been explained neither by the Chief Minister nor the Chief Secretary Venu. **Continued on Page 5**

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

At least two Army personnel, who were critically injured during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, succumbed to their injuries late Saturday evening. Three other injured soldiers have been rushed to the hospital. The Indian Army is yet to confirm the fatalities. However, agency reports claimed two soldiers succumbed to their injuries while three others also injured in the ongoing operation are undergoing treatment. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Ahlan Gagarmandu in the Kokernag area of the south Kashmir district following information about the presence of terrorists there. The gunfight broke out after the terrorists opened fire at the search party personnel, who retaliated, the officials said. The site of encounter was located deep inside the forests, around 10 kms from the nearest motorable road. In the exchange of fire, two Army personnel were injured. "Based on specific intelligence input, a Joint Operation was launched by the Indian Army, @JmuKmrPolice & @crpf\_srinagar today in the general area Kokernag,



FILE PHOTO

Anantnag. Contact was established and a firefight ensued," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Indian Army said in a post on X. "Two personnel have been injured and evacuated from the area," it said. Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released sketches of four dreaded Pakistani terrorists who were last spotted near dhoks (temporary mud houses) in the upper reaches of Malhar, Bani and Seojdhar forests of Kathua district. The sketches were released almost a month after a group of terrorists ambushed two vehicles of the Indian Army in which five soldiers were killed in action and five others received injuries in the Machhedhi area of Basohli in Kathua district on July 8. Since then the security forces

have launched massive search operations in the area to flush out these terrorists hiding in the area. So far no major success has been achieved in the ongoing operations. On Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir police also announced a cash reward of ₹20 lakh for credible information about the whereabouts of these terrorists. In a post on X, J-K Police released sketches of four terrorists who were last seen in 'dhoks' of Malhar, Bani and Seojdhar forests in the upper reaches of the district. "...a reward of Rs 5 lakhs (has been announced) on each terrorist for actionable information. Anyone with credible information on terrorists will also be suitably rewarded," Kathua police said in its post. **Continued on Page 5**

## Bangladesh Chief Justice forced to resign

**PTI ■ DHAKA**

Bangladesh's Chief Justice Bobaidul Hassan on Saturday tendered his resignation, five days after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime amid massive street protests and students marching towards the apex court demanding a revamp of the judiciary. The 65-year-old top judge revealed his decision around 1 pm after protesters of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement gathered at the apex court premises. The students had issued an ultimatum to him and the judges of the Appellate Division to resign by 1 pm. "I feel it is necessary to share a special news with you. Our Chief Justice resigned a few minutes back. His resignation letter has already reached the law ministry," law adviser, equivalent to the Minister of the newly-installed interim Government, Prof Asif



Nazrul said in a Facebook video message. Nazrul added that the resignation letter would be sent to President Mohammad Shahabuddin "without delay for taking necessary measures" and he was expecting the process to be completed very soon. "We have received only the resignation letter of the Chief Justice. There is no update

about (resignation) of others," Nazrul added. Chief Justice Hassan earlier on Saturday said he had decided to step down from his position. "I have made a decision to resign after speaking with Dr Asif Nazrul," he said. Earlier, the full court meeting of the Supreme Court got cancelled as students issued a two-hour ultimatum for the

resignation of the Chief Justice and other justices of the apex Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of unitary Bangladesh. In the face of student protest, Chief Justice Hassan postponed the meeting and later said he would step down. Hasnat Abdullah, a coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, issued the ultimatum at 11 am, asking the Chief Justice and other justices to leave their posts within 1 pm today. Bangladesh Army personnel were deployed at the Supreme Court premises as hundreds of protesting students gathered. Around 1 pm, Army personnel were stationed in the main building, annexe building, and other areas around the Supreme Court. They urged the protesters to maintain peace and called on them to avoid damaging property.



Paris Olympic Bronze medalist Indian Hockey players pose for photos on their arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi, on Saturday

## Indian Hockey team gets grand welcome

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Hundreds of fans lined up to garland and cheer for them as members of the Indian men's hockey team, including captain Harmanpreet Singh, touched down in the national Capital on Saturday after winning a second successive Olympic bronze medal in Paris. The Indian team extended its record overall Olympic medal haul in the sport to 13 with a 2-1 victory over Spain in the third place match in Paris. However, not all

members of the winning team made their way back home as a few vital cogs remained in the French capital for the closing ceremony on Sunday. Celebrated goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who retired at the end of India's campaign, is the joint flag-bearer of the ceremony along with double-medallist Manu Bhaker. He remained in Paris along with Amit Rohidas, Raj Kumar Pal, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Sanjay. This batch is slated to return after the closing ceremony.

## No relief from rain mayhem for Delhiites

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Heavy rain lashed Delhi-NCR for the second consecutive day on Saturday, causing waterlogging and traffic jams. In Dwarka, two people sustained injuries due to the collapse of a wall of a school after a tree fell on it while a two-storey house collapsed in northwest Delhi's Model Town area during heavy afternoon rain. With the help of the local police and other rescue team members, three people were taken out of the rubble and sent to a nearby hospital. Two of them are in critical condition, the official said. Waterlogging was reported in several places in East Delhi, South East Delhi and Central Delhi. The Public Works Department (PWD) said it received 20 complaints of waterlogging during the day, while the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) received five complaints of similar nature as well as uprooting of trees. The national Capital on Saturday recorded 20.4 mm



rainfall. Palam recorded 30.1 mm rainfall, Lodhi Road 20.6 mm and Ridge 22 mm rainfall on Saturday. Choked drains led to waterlogging which in turn caused traffic bottlenecks, slow-moving traffic, and consequent traffic congestion. Rohtak Road, the highway that connects the city to Haryana, saw heavy jams in the wake of the rain. Kashmir Gate ISBT also witnessed heavy traffic jams. **Continued on Page 5**

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# District admn gears up for I-Day

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar reviews preparations for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations. Emphasising the need for a traditional, grand, and dignified event, Gangwar outlined the plans for the 77th anniversary of Independence. This year, the main celebration will take place outside Vidhan Bhawan, similar to last year's event. Freedom fighters, army and paramilitary forces, and police force dependents will be honoured. The programme will feature cultural performances themed around patriotism. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to address the public and hoist the flag. Additionally, a flower shower from a helicopter will be conducted during the flag-hoisting ceremony. The Culture department officials said that the Independence Day event would include performances

by over 150 artistes from six different states and six teams from Uttar Pradesh, all showcasing cultural programmes under the theme 'Sanskriti se Samridhhi'. Real-time rehearsal will be held at 9 am August 12 in front of Vidhan Bhawan. Full dress rehearsal will be held at 9 am on August 13. Gangwar directed the Lucknow Municipal Corporation and LDA to ensure lighting and decoration arrangements, while government offices have to be decorated with a tri-colour theme. He said schools should be encouraged to hold essay writing, sports, and debate competitions to foster national unity and harmony. An inter-faith prayer meeting for martyrs will be held at Gandhi Bhawan near Shaheed Smarak from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. A cultural programme will follow from 7 pm, and awards and certificates will be presented during the event.



Vidhan Sabha Marg being decked up in the lead-up to Independence Day

Pioneer

# Wife of retd sub-inspector robbed of gold chain

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The wife of a retired sub-inspector was robbed of her gold chain in Damodar Nagar under Krishna Nagar police station on August 4. The incident, which came to light on Saturday, raised concerns among local residents. Saraswati Devi, the victim, was standing at her gate when the robbery took place. Her husband Ranvijay Singh, a retired inspector from the CID, said that she has mobility issues due to a leg problem, making her particularly vulnerable. Describing the sequence of events, he said that Saraswati was outside the house when a local resident approached her, inquiring about her well-being. As she stepped out to speak with him, two individuals wearing helmets on a motorcycle arrived and swiftly snatched a gold chain from her neck. "The whole incident happened so quickly that no one could react in time. By the time anyone understood what had hap-

pened, the miscreants had already fled the scene," Singh said, recounting the chaos that ensued. Hearing his wife's cries, Singh rushed outside but found her too distressed to provide immediate details. Eventually, she was able to recount the incident to him. Singh promptly reported the robbery to the Krishna Nagar police. The police registered a case and are currently using CCTV footage to track down the culprits. Inspector Incharge, Krishna Nagar, PK Singh said efforts were underway to apprehend the suspects. In a separate incident, Shohit Singh, a senior clerk from the Minority Welfare department posted in Firozabad, was targeted by robbers in Chinhat on the night of August 4. Singh was returning home and had taken an autorickshaw from Matiyari. During the ride, he noticed that four individuals were already in the auto, but he did not suspect any danger.

However, around 11 pm, the auto driver abruptly diverted the vehicle towards an Inter college in Shivpuri, near Rashtriya Udyog Ashram. Once there, the situation took a violent turn. One of the robbers brandished a pistol while another demanded that Singh hand over his cash, gold ring, ATM card, and mobile phone. The robbers used abusive language and, after forcibly taking the items, threw Singh out of the vehicle before fleeing the scene. Stranded and distressed, Singh sought help from a passerby to contact his family. After his family arrived, he proceeded to the Matiyari police post to report the crime. However, he found only two policemen present and was told to come back the next morning to file a formal complaint. The police registered a case and launched an investigation into the robbery. They are currently reviewing CCTV footage to identify and apprehend the suspects.

# Atal Residential School students 'explore' universe with ISRO

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a continued effort to enhance technical education in Uttar Pradesh, the state government recently organised a 15-day academic and activity programme at Atal Residential Schools. The initiative aimed to introduce students to new technologies by inviting subject experts to the schools. As part of the programme, a space art and best product development competition was held, with the winners earning the opportunity to visit the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and meet with its scientists. During the programme, the students were educated on the mysteries of space and India's accomplishments in space exploration. They were also

given foundational knowledge in areas like machinery, coding and sensor technology. Through hands-on experience, the students were introduced to modern technologies. Impressively, the students showcased their newly acquired skills by creating advanced technical models, including an automatic light, a smart blind stick, a smart dustbin, and a fully functional rover drone. Board secretary and chief executive officer Gazal Bhardwaj highlighted that the Atal Residential School initiative, a key project of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is dedicated to providing students with both quality and modern education. The programme has already yielded impressive results. As part of the recent 15-day

Utkrishi Atal Programme, efforts were made to further enhance the students' talents and skills. Notably, there are plans to send the winners of the space art and best product development competition to ISRO, with one student being selected from each school for this unique opportunity. Atal Residential Schools were established by the state government in all 18 divisions of Uttar Pradesh to offer quality education to the children of construction workers and those who lost their parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the initiative 'Exploring the Universe with ISRO', students with a passion for science and technology were given a rare opportunity to delve into the mysteries of space. The programme introduced stu-

dents to the fundamental principles of space exploration, covering the history of astronomy and the intricacies of modern space missions. A major highlight was ISRO's space exhibition, where students explored India's space journey through interactive exhibits, models and presentations showcasing advanced space technology. In the space art competition, the students expressed their visions of space through art. Additionally, ISRO experts conducted a Hydro Rocket Workshop, allowing students to build and launch hydro rockets, fostering creativity and a scientific mindset. This initiative not only heightened students' interest in space science but also instilled a sense of pride in India's remarkable space achievements.

# Lokdal leader joins RLD

Lucknow (PNS): Lokdal state president Rao Iqbal Mohammad Khan joined the Rashtriya Lok Dal on Saturday. Giving this information, RLD secretary Anupam Mishra said Rao was in touch with him for a long time and he reached the RLD office in Lucknow on Saturday and said he was joining the party. "Rao is warmly welcomed in RLD. It is like his homecoming as earlier Rao was in RLD. His return to the RLD will not only give us political strength but will also help in uniting our scattered family," Mishra said. "For the past few months and since the RLD alliance with the National Democratic Alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party as its big partner, there has been a queue of political leaders of different political parties keen to join the RLD. This is because of Jayant Chaudhary's charismatic personality and his magnetic appeal among the youths," Mishra said.

# Mystery shrouds man's death

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Vibhuti Khand police station area on Saturday. According to reports, local residents alerted the police about a man lying lifeless in a drain near the DLF building. A team arrived at the scene and transported the man to RML hospital, where he was declared dead. Deputy Commissioner of Police, East, Shashank Singh identified the deceased as 20-year-old Sarthak Mishra from Triveninagar, Aliganj. Mishra was identified by his family, who were contacted by the police using a contact number found among the deceased's belongings. Singh explained that the police were informed about the body through the control room. Sub-Inspector Pramod Kumar was despatched to the location for investigation. Upon arrival, the police retrieved the body and sent it to the hospital, where doctors confirmed the death. Following inquiries with

local residents, Mishra was identified by his father Deependra Mishra. Initial investigations revealed that Sarthak Mishra had attended a party at the DLF building on Friday evening to celebrate the first anniversary of a friend's shop. The police are currently reviewing CCTV footage and interviewing guests who attended the party to gather more information. While the police did not disclose further details, sources said that the investigation was exploring two possibilities: whether Mishra was attacked by acquaintances and subsequently thrown into the drain, or if he accidentally fell into the drain himself. The family reported that Sarthak left home around 6 pm on Friday and did not return. The body has been sent for autopsy, and further investigation is ongoing.

molestation. The teacher, who is employed at a local coaching centre, has filed a complaint with the police, who are now searching for the suspects involved. The victim, residing in a village within Banthra, was attacked on the evening of August 8 while returning home from her coaching centre. According to reports, Golu Singh made an inappropriate comment towards her during her walk back home. When she confronted Singh and denounced his behaviour, he reportedly threatened to "teach her a lesson." The situation escalated when Singh, accompanied by his mother and grandmother, reached the teacher's home. The trio entered her house, where they allegedly subjected her and her family to verbal abuse before physically assaulting her. As neighbours, alerted by the commotion, rushed to her rescue, the accused threatened the teacher again before fleeing the scene. The Banthra police have registered a case based on the teacher's complaint.

## WOMAN TEACHER THREATENED ASSAULTED

In a disturbing incident in the Banthra police station area, a woman teacher was assaulted after she reported a case of

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

I have Changed My Name From Md Ali Zinna To Mohammad Ali. S/O Saheb Hussain R/o A-27 Awaz Vikas Colony Unnao

### NOTICE

I Ambar Kumar Verma R/o K-511/1, World Bank Barra, Kanpur. Have Changed my daughter's name from Aadhya To Aadhya Verma. Vide Affidavit No.93AE687461 Dated 6.Aug.24 before Kanpur Court (U.P.)

### NOTICE

My son's name is Mohammad Anzal, in his school's record, parents name is incorrect, Father - Mohd. Amir & Mother- Shahina. The name should be updated according to Aadhaar and pan card i.e., Father- Mohd. Amir Gauri & Mother - Shahina Sattar. R/o 95 A, block D, Defence colony Jajmou Kanpur nagar. In school record correct name should be mentioned.

### NOTICE

I Akhilesh Kumar s/o Kamlesh Chandra Katiyar 58, Panchvati, Vinayakpur, Naveen Nagar, P.O.- Naveen Nagar, District - Kanpur Nagar, State - Uttar Pradesh, Pin Code 208025 have changed my name to Akhilesh Katiyar for all future Purposes.

### NOTICE

Inform That, I Ram Jiyawan S/o Late Chhedi Lal Service No. JC375799P Rank Ex Subedar. R/o H.No. 769N V.I.P. Colony Civil Lines Fatehpur UP 212601. I Declare that in my Military Record My Wife's Name CHANDRAMA & D.O.B. 15/07/1967 Which are Wrong. Correct Name CHANDRAMA DEVI & Correct D.O.B. 01/09/1963 all Concerned. Please note this.

### NOTICE

I Ambar Kumar Verma R/o K-511/1, World Bank Barra Kanpur. Have changed my daughter's name from Saanvika To Saanvika Verma. Vide affidavit No.93AE687460 Dated 6.Aug.24 before Kanpur Court (U.P.)

### NOTICE

My first name was Priya Bisariya, whom my name Insha at the time of marriage Later after being registered under the Special Marriage Act, it was change back to priya Bisaria. Priya Bisariya W/o Syed Mohammad Kashif R/o R-113 Sanjay Gandhi Puram Faizabad Road Lucknow

### NOTICE

I, Zareen Fatima Hussaini, aged 41 years, W/o- Sayed Wasi Haider Kashif, R/o 444/615, Ali Colony Radha Gram, Baraf Khana, Babu Sweet House, Thakurganj, Lucknow have changed my daughter's name from Zainab Haidar to Zainab Haider for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

Be informed that my son Ojas tripathi is student of IX-A in City Montessori School Indirnagar Lucknow. By Mistake his father's name mentioned in school records as Satish Tiwari/Satish Tripathi, while real name is Satish Kumar Tiwari. It is necessary to mention real name of father of Ojas Tripathi as Satish Kumar Tiwari. -Satish Kumar Tiwari Son of Sri Lalmani Tiwari R/o 131 Tulsi Awaz Main Road, Rajkishore Nagar, District- Biliaspur (Chhatisgarh)

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Yuddhveer Singh Sirohi alias Yuddh Bir Singh S/o Surajmal Singh Sirohi R/o-202 Type-4 32-Battalion PAC Kanpur-Road Lucknow U.P.-226023 changed my name to Yuddhveer Singh Sirohi. PD(665)A

# CII discusses tech advancements in road construction in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In response to the ongoing infrastructure development in Uttar Pradesh, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised a conference on roads and highways on Saturday. The event aimed to explore the technicalities, opportunities, and future directions in the road sector. VK Singh, technical advisor to the PWD minister and former engineer-in-chief of UP PWD emphasised the need for adopting advanced technologies over conventional meth-

ods for road construction. He highlighted the importance of focusing on long-term maintenance and recycling of roads while considering cost, methodology, and environmental protection. Dharamveer Singh, professor of transportation systems engineering at IIT-Bombay, noted the significant technological advancements in road construction aimed at meeting international standards. However, he pointed out that there remains considerable potential for further technological upgrades in the sector.

Smita Agarwal, chairperson of the CII UP State Council, discussed the positive impact of Uttar Pradesh's expansive expressway network on the state's economic growth. "These expressways, developed under the Bharatmala project, have not only enhanced the state's road infrastructure but also contributed significantly to economic and social development. They have improved freight and passenger movement and facilitated better market access, thus driving overall progress," she remarked.

# 42 gold medals to be given away at 22nd AKTU convocation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The 22nd convocation of Dr TAPJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) on August 13 will recognise academic excellence by awarding 98 medals and 45 PhD degrees. This decision was confirmed during the 72nd Vidya Parishad meeting chaired by AKTU Vice-Chancellor Prof JP Pandey. AKTU spokesperson Pawan Tripathi announced that 45,179 students would receive degrees across various courses at the convocation ceremony.

Among the medals awarded, there will be 42 gold, 28 silver, and 28 bronze medals. Additionally, 45 students will be conferred PhD degrees. Jhalak Jain, a student from BTEch Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science) programme at Meerut Institute of Engineering and Technology, has achieved the top position and will receive the Chancellor's Gold Medal from Governor Anandiben Patel. Jain will also be awarded Rs 50,000 by the Bank of Baroda. Shruti Singh from Krishna Institute of Engineering and Technology, Ghaziabad, who has achieved the highest posi-

# Invest UP tapping MotoGP to attract investment, promote 'Brand UP'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In its pursuit to transform Uttar Pradesh into a trillion-dollar economy, the state government, is set to host business conclaves aimed at promoting 'Brand UP' and exploring investment opportunities at international MotoGP venues. The action plan includes hosting promotional events across different regions of India to showcase both the race and 'Brand UP'. Additionally, an annual business conclave will be held at one of the international MotoGP locations to boost global recognition of 'Brand UP', raise awareness about the state's investment policies, and attract international investors. This initiative is significant as MotoGP features three racing categories - MotoGP, Moto2, and Moto3 - spanning 20 Grand Prix events across five continents. The races attract the world's top 22 racers, who compete on superbikes reaching speeds of up to 360 km/h and lean angles exceeding 60 degrees. The MotoGP race, with its massive global fan base, is a strategic focus for the Yogi government, aiming to leverage this audience and attract international investors to Uttar Pradesh. To facilitate the organisation of promotional events and business conclaves tied to MotoGP, Invest UP has initiated the process of selecting and assigning an agency. This process will span three

years, during which the chosen agency will be responsible for various tasks, including organising one-on-one and B2G sessions during the business conclaves. The second edition of the UP International Trade Show (UPITS) is set to take place from September 25 to 29 at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida. This five-day event aims to highlight investment opportunities and prospects across various sectors in Uttar Pradesh. With global attention on the rise, the trade show is expected to attract over 50,000 business representatives, industry leaders, policymakers, and other key stakeholders. The first UP International Trade Show, held from September 21 to 25 last year, marked a significant milestone in global trade. It was inaugurated by the President of India, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in attendance. The first edition saw participation from 1,914 exhibitors across 60 countries, 70,000 B2B visitors, over 100,000 business heads, and 500 foreign buyers. For this year's event, extensive preparations are underway. Invest UP will act as a key exhibitor, showcasing Uttar Pradesh's industrial landscape and featuring a pavilion with prominent investors.

an individual named Naveen Singh, operating under the YouTube account @Naveen SinghSketch, uploaded a video that edited the chief minister's motion picture in an indecent manner. Singh alleged that the video was manipulated with the intent to incite public hatred and disrupt social harmony. In his complaint, Singh stated, "This video was edited to generate animosity among the public and disturb social peace. We have screenshots and the video itself as evidence. The video has caused significant anger among the state's residents and deeply hurt our sentiments. I request that a case be filed against the YouTuber under the appropriate legal sections and that strict action be taken." Following the complaint, the Hazratganj police registered a case in this regard and started investigations into the matter.

# SP MP calls Maneka 'frustrated', BJP hits back

Sultanpur/Lucknow (PTI): Samajwadi Party MP from Sultanpur Ram Bhuwal Nishad on Saturday referred to former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi as "frustrated", with the BJP hitting back at him for the disparaging remark. When asked by reporters about the petition filed against him by Maneka Gandhi in the high court challenging his election as MP, Nishad responded by comparing her to a "hissing cat scratching a post" (a Hindi idiom implying frustration). Nishad said, "the people have defeated her (in the election), she should accept it." He said that if Gandhi had any objections, she should have raised them during the scrutiny of nomination papers. "The petition she has filed after the seven-day deadline holds no merit," he said. Nishad had defeated BJP candidate Maneka Gandhi in the recent Lok Sabha elections from the Sultanpur constituency. The BJP was quick to respond to Nishad's comments. The party's state spokesperson Harish Chandra Srivastava told PTI, "This kind of indecent comment towards a senior leader is condemnable. Instead of making inappropriate remarks, Ram Bhuwal Nishad should respect the judicial process."

# Oppn tight-lipped on persecution of Dalits in Bangladesh: CM Yogi

PNS ■ AYODHYA

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, said that 90 per cent of the Hindus being tortured in Bangladesh were Dalits but the opposition was tight-lipped on their plight because they were not their vote bank. "Those who see vote bank even in atrocities can't be your well-wishers. Ninety per cent of Hindus facing persecution in Bangladesh are Dalits but the opposition is tight-lipped because they are not their vote bank. It is our responsibility to protect the Hindus of Bangladesh; no matter what the circumstances, our values remain unshakable," Yogi Adityanath said while addressing a public meeting. Leveling the charge against the opposition while addressing the public meeting during the installation of the grand statue of the revered acharyas of Shri Ram Darbar and Asharfi Bhawan Ayodhya Dham at the Ayodhya Vidyapeeth campus in Milkipur, Yogi questioned "how can those who view even atrocities through the lens of vote bank politics be well-wishers of people?" "It is our duty to protect the Hindus of Bangladesh and support them in times of distress, and we will always stand by them. No matter the circumstances, our values remain unshakable. Being a Hindu in Bangladesh is not a mistake, but a blessing," the chief minister said. "The negative forces, who neither believe in Ram and Krishna nor respect Bharatiya Sanatan values, remain tight-lipped when Hindus are persecuted anywhere in the world. They fear that speaking out might jeopardise their vote bank," he said. He questioned how those who prioritise vote bank politics over condemning global atrocities can genuinely be well-wishers. The chief minister exhorted people to remain prepared to



confront demonic forces, emphasising that the future can only be secure if their freedom is protected. He urged people to recognise their interests and threats as well as their friends and foes so that they do not earn the wrath of the future generations. "Ayodhya has got a new identity in the last seven years. This identity was not achieved easily, but through a long struggle, and it is now the responsibility of the people of Ayodhya to protect and preserve it," he said. Chief Minister Yogi, in reference to the centenary celebration of the Kakori train action, paid homage to the patriotism of Pandit Ramprasad Bismil, Rajendranath Lahiri, Thakur Roshan Singh, Ashfaqullah Khan and Chandra Shekhar Azad. He urged everyone to display the tricolour in every home from August 13 to 15 and to participate in tricolour yatras. "The chief minister expressed his joy at the honour of installing the sacred idols of Shri Ram Darbar and the statues of revered saints on the holy land of Ayodhya Dham.

He noted that the installation of the statues of revered Swami Madhusudan Acharya Ji Maharaj and Jagadguru Ramana Maharaj - who led the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement with their spiritual guidance - has been accomplished. He added that to bring the spiritual practices of these revered saints to fruition, not only has a massive programme of religious awakening been initiated through Ayodhya Vidyapeeth, but efforts are also being made to provide modern education. The chief minister stated that when the spiritual efforts of saints take tangible form, creation of such institutions is witnessed. "Madhusudan Ji Maharaj contributed to the development of various regions across the country, including Ayodhya Dham. Although the tenure of revered Swami Madhavacharya Ji Maharaj was brief, his spiritual practice profoundly impacted people's lives," he said. Chief Minister Yogi also recalled the public welfare initiatives carried out through

Ayodhya Vidyapeeth during the pandemic. He emphasised that while the world was engulfed in despair, India's religious institutions, revered saints and such organisations played a crucial role in the campaign for public welfare. Jagadguru Ramanujacharya, Swami Shridharacharya Ji Maharaj, Saint Shri Ram Sharan Das Ji Maharaj of Rang Mahal, Mahant Bharatdas Ji Maharaj, Swami Anant Acharya Ji Maharaj, Mahant Ramlakhan Das Ji Maharaj, Karunadas Ji Maharaj, Swami Ramdas Ji Maharaj and other saints were present at the installation programme. Prominent among those present were Cabinet minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Minister of State Satish Chandra Sharma, former MP Lallu Singh, MLA Ramchandra Yadav, Mayor Mahant Girishpati Tripathi, District Panchayat Chairperson Roli Singh, Bharatiya Janata Party district president Sanjeev Singh, former MLA Gorakhnath Baba, Ayodhya Vidyapeeth officials, devotees of Asharfi Dham, students and parents.

# 'Ensure welfare schemes reach those eligible'

Gorakhpur (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a Janata Darshan in the Mahant Digvijay Nath Smriti Bhawan auditorium within the Gorakhnath temple complex on Saturday where he listened to the grievances of around 400 people and instructed officials for their prompt resolution. The chief minister directed officials to help those in need, ensuring that the benefits of government welfare schemes reached the eligible individuals without any delay. Chief Minister Yogi made it clear that negligence in people's service would not be tolerated. He said: "Any issues at any level should be promptly identified and resolved. If a case is intentionally delayed, accountability must be established and appropriate action taken against the responsible individual." Chief Minister Yogi also reassured those who approached him with their concerns. He calmly listened to each person and assured them that their problems would be addressed effectively. He also instructed the administration and police officials to resolve public issues in a timely, fair and efficient manner. In response to complaints about land encroachment, Chief Minister Yogi directed officials to take strict legal action against land mafias and bullies involved in such activities. He emphasised that no one would be allowed to act with impunity and that justice would be ensured for all. For specific cases, he instructed officers to investigate whether there was any lapse in administrative support and to ensure that every victim received immediate assistance. As in previous Janata Darshans, many individuals sought financial aid for medical treatment. The chief minister instructed officials to expedite the cost estimation process for the treatment and submit it to the government promptly. He assured that adequate assistance would be provided from the chief minister's discretionary fund for those in need of medical care.

# Maya questions Cong silence on creamy layer judgement of SC

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Saturday questioned the "silence of the Congress" on the August 1 judgment of the Supreme Court directing the states to evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. She also said the reservation which has been rendered "ineffective", should be made "effective" and for this, a session of Parliament should be convened soon. In a press conference here on Saturday, the BSP chief said the Bharatiya Janata Party government and the rest of the parties should clear their stand on this issue. On August 1, four out of the six Supreme Court judges who agreed that states are empowered to make sub-classifications wrote in their separate judgments that those in the creamy layer must be excluded from enjoying the benefits of reservation. Justice BR Gavai had said the states must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even among the SCs and STs, and deny them the benefit of reservation. "Why is the Congress silent till now over the August 1 judgment of the Supreme Court on SC-ST reservation? Why is the Congress not making its stand clear in the states, where it has its government? In other words, why is this party (Congress) sitting silent even there? Or should this be said that the Congress party accepts this decision, and implements this?" Mayawati said. She also asked the Aam Aadmi Party, which has governments in Delhi and Punjab, to clear its stand on the issue. Urging the people of the SC and ST communities to be cautious about the hidden agenda of these parties, Mayawati said, "Those (parties), which in the name of saving the Constitution and reservation, garnered the votes of these communities in the 18th



Lok Sabha elections, and gained most of the seats, and damaged the only party (BSP), which is their (SCs and STs) well-wisher. "I request all the parties to clear their stand about the decision in front of crores of SCs and STs of the country, so that the correct situation emerges before these sections," she said. Apparently hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who used to show a copy of the Constitution during his election rallies, Mayawati said, "They used to speak big during the elections about saving the Constitution and reservation. Now, they are not showing the Constitution to anyone. Now the Congress party and company are not talking about reservation." Attacking the BJP, she said, "An assurance has come from the BJP. An assurance has come from the prime minister. Assurance will not work. They should take a stand on the losses that the SC-ST people will have to face because of this decision. "On Friday, they adjourned the Parliament session sine die. It would have been better if the session had continued, and after five-six days present an amendment Bill in Parliament in this matter after full preparation, but it was not brought." "I would like to tell the prime minister that if your intention is clear about these sections, then you had convened the House on other issues before time. You can convene the House anytime, prepare for it. Make the August 1 decision of

the Supreme Court null and void. Call the House, and it will be known in the House the stand of all the parties," she said. "The reservation which has become ineffective, in order to make it effective, Parliament session should be called soon on a short notice. The BJP government should clarify its position. The other parties should also clarify their stand," she said. The Union cabinet on Friday had asserted that there was no provision for a creamy layer in the reservation for SCs and STs in the Constitution. The Union cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, held a detailed discussion on the Supreme Court judgment on the sub-categorisation of reservation for SCs and STs as granted in the Constitution. "It is the well-thought view of the Union Cabinet that the NDA government is firmly committed to the provisions in the Constitution given by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had told reporters in Delhi. He said there was a detailed discussion in the Union cabinet meeting on a recent Supreme Court judgment that made certain suggestions on the reservation for SCs and STs. "According to the Constitution given by BR Ambedkar, there is no provision for a creamy layer in the SC-ST reservation," Vaishnaw had said. He asserted that the provision for SC-ST reservation should be in accordance with the Constitution.

# Yogi extends financial aid to 2 widows

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath extended financial assistance to two widows at Gorakhnath temple on Saturday morning. He handed over the cheques to them and assured their families that the government would stand by them in their times of grief and crisis. Chief Minister Yogi presented the cheques from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to late Dharmatma Singh's widow Kamlesh Singh and late Siddharth Shankar Mishra's widow Krishna Arundhati Mishra. Kamlesh Singh and Krishna Arundhati Mishra were residents of Belvadahi in the Khajni area and Surajkund Colony in Gorakhpur respectively. While handing over the financial assistance, the chief minister also took the time to enquire about the condition of the widows, reaffirming that his government was always ready to provide support during difficult times. Sahajanwa MLA Pradeep Shukla and Gorakhpur Rural MLA Vipin Singh were present on the occasion. Additionally, at Gorakhnath temple, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath presented a cheque of Rs 1.5 lakh to Chandan Jaiswal, son of Dayanand Jaiswal of Ward No. 11, Pipraich, for the treatment of a serious illness. This assistance was provided from the chief minister's discretionary fund.

# UP to become agriculture sector's powerhouse

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh set to become the powerhouse of India's agriculture sector. With natural resources like fertile land, abundant water, a large labour force and a robust market, the state is well-positioned to achieve this goal. However, to fully realise this potential, additional efforts are required, including timely field preparation, reliable irrigation, expert guidance for crop protection and fair pricing for harvests. Since its first term, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government has consistently addressed key agricultural issues. A landmark achievement of the first term was the waiver of Rs 36,000 crore loans of 86 lakh small and marginal farmers, accomplished without external aid. This significant relief was provided even when the state's treasury was nearly depleted due to mismanagement during the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party regimes. From that point on, the government has maintained a steadfast commitment to farmers' welfare, with continuous support from the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. Despite the Yogi government's waiver of loans of small and marginal farmers, these farmers continued to face a significant cash crunch during the crop season. The lack of cash made it challenging for them to prepare their fields on time, and to secure essential inputs like fer-

tilisers, seeds and irrigation resources. Given Uttar Pradesh's large population and heavy reliance on agriculture, these farmers were particularly hard-hit by these difficulties. To address this ongoing challenge, the Central government launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Under this scheme, all eligible farmers receive Rs 2,000 directly in their bank account each crop season - Rabi, Kharif, and Jayad. Farmers in Uttar Pradesh have been among the biggest beneficiaries, with a total of Rs 74,376 crore deposited in the bank accounts of over 2.80 crore farmers across the state so far. Following the investment in agricultural inputs, the critical challenge of irrigation emerged. As the saying goes, crops can wait for everything except water. With climate change leading to unpredictable rainfall, ensuring timely irrigation has become a pressing need and challenge. To address this, the Yogi government prioritised expanding irrigation capacity urgently. The administration tackled long-pending irrigation projects by allocating funds promptly and overseeing their progress rigorously. Over the past seven years, 38 irrigation projects have been completed, adding irrigation capacity for 23.23 lakh hectares. Notably, the Saryu Canal Project alone has contributed approximately 14 lakh hectares to this capacity.

To make irrigation more affordable and reduce dependence on electricity while conserving diesel and protecting the environment, the Yogi government has promoted the installation of solar pumps through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana. Over 63,000 solar pumps have been installed across the state under this scheme. Additionally, the government has lifted restrictions on installing tube wells in dark zones and offers a 100 per cent discount on electricity bills for private tube wells. Future plans include connecting both government and private tube wells to solar systems. As a result of these efforts, approximately 86 per cent of land in Uttar Pradesh is now irrigated. A significant challenge for farmers has been securing fair prices for their produce. To address this, the Yogi government set ambitious targets for purchasing sugarcane, paddy and wheat, expanded marketing centres, and implemented a timely payment system. These efforts have led to record-breaking achievements in procurement and payment each year. For instance, over Rs 2.53 crore has been disbursed to sugarcane farmers. Additionally, around Rs 41,301 crore has been spent on procuring wheat from approximately 48,00,000 farmers, and about Rs 7,500 crore has been paid to roughly 62,00,000 paddy farmers under the minimum support price scheme.

# Four bodies found in Gonda in 24 hours

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gonda: Four people, two of them women, were found dead at separate locations within a period of 24 hours in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district, police said on Saturday. The two women were found hanging at their homes, a man was found dead inside a hotel, while another's body was found in a canal in the district, they said. Superintendent of Police (SP) Vineet Jaiswal said the first body was found Saturday morning in Mankapur town in a hotel. The deceased was identified as 26-year-old Mukesh Prajapati. "He was a resident of Bangawan in Khondara police jurisdiction and had been missing for five days. He was discovered hanging in his hotel room,

where he had checked in three days earlier," Jaiswal said. Mukesh's family had filed a missing person report on August 5 after he left home on a motorcycle and never returned, he added. The second body was found floating in a canal near Elanpur Grant village in the Mankapur area on Saturday morning. Hansraj Verma, 62, a resident of Firozpur village's Dhanwa Dihwa hamlet, had left home on a bicycle following a fight with his family on Friday afternoon, the police said. The third body, Poonam, 24, was discovered on Saturday morning in the Katra Bazar area's Chhitnapur village. Poonam, who had got married in 2021,

was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her room, according to police. Her father, Shivnath, had filed a complaint, the police said. The fourth body, found on Friday evening, was that of Garima Singh, 26, a resident of Kot Khas village in Khondara. Garima allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan, police said. Garima's mother, Poonam Singh, said her daughter had married Vishal Singh of Ram Purva village in Deoria district last November. A case has been registered based on the complaint, the police added. The bodies have been sent for post mortem, and investigations are ongoing in all four cases, according to the police.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old man was allegedly shot dead in the Bisanda area here, a police official said on Saturday. The incident took place in Adhrovi village when Pramod Kushwaha was at a grocery store to buy some goods and Atul (27) of the same village allegedly shot at him with a pistol, Banda Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Laxmi Niwas Mishra said. Samajwadi Party's district unit chief Madhusudan Kushwaha alleged that the man was shot dead around 9 pm on Friday but the police reached the spot around 10 am on Saturday, despite Kushwaha's family members informing the police immediately after the incident. PTT

# Shanty-dweller attacked, called infiltrator

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ghaziabad: Members of a Hindu right wing outfit assaulted a group of people living near a railway station here and destroyed their shanties, claiming that they were Bangladeshi infiltrators, police said on Saturday. Officials said an FIR has been lodged against the leader of the outfit and 20 others for rioting, hurting religious feelings and other offences and stressed that those attacked are not Bangladeshis. Some of the residents were injured in the incident that occurred around 7.30 pm on Friday, according to the police. Ghaziabad Police

Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra told PTT, "Those living in the shanties are from Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), not Bangladesh." "The police are contemplating invoking the National Security Act (NSA) against the attackers in the case," Mishra added. The incident occurred near Guldhara railway station when Bhupendra Chowdhary, also known as 'Pinky', the president of the Hindu Raksha Dal, reached along with 20 of his supporters, according to the police. The group accused the residents of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants and

went on to vandalise their temporary shelters, the police said. According to ACP (Kavinagar) Abhishek Srivastava, on receiving information about the incident, an investigation was conducted which revealed that the victims were not Bangladeshi nationals. Sub-Inspector Sanjiv Kumar, who was on duty in Sanjay Nagar Sector-23 at the time, filed the First Information Report (FIR) at the local Madhuban Bapudham police station. In his complaint, Kumar alleged that after hearing some commotion, he along with his police team arrived at the scene, where they observed Pinky and

his supporters abusing and assaulting some Muslims while shouting anti-Bangladeshi slogans. The group also demolished the shanties. "I tried to explain to them that these people are not from Bangladesh, but they continued beating them and damaging their shelters," Kumar recounted in his complaint. The FIR has been lodged against Pinky and 20 unidentified individuals under relevant provisions of the law, the police said. ACP Srivastava said that legal action will be taken against those involved and the culprits will be apprehended soon. PTT

<p><b>यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया</b> Union Bank of India</p> <p>Regional Office : 117/HI-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhawan Marg, Nariman Point Mumbai</p>	
<p><b>SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES   Date of e-Auction : 29-08-2024</b></p> <p>E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.</p> <p>Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price &amp; the Earnest Money Deposit or also mentioned hereunder.</p>	
<p><b>Branch Name : Sadar Bazar, Jhansi • Address : 341-G, Sadar Bazar, Jhansi, Branch Head : Shri Naresh Ratnakar • Mob. : 9506849123</b></p> <p><b>Borrower : Shri Jitendra Parihar S/o Shri Babu Lal, R/o : 381, Ekta Public School, Bhatta Gaon, Near Nala (Govt. Toilet), Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Rajkumar S/o Shri Ghan Shyam, R/o : 307, Outside Sayanar Gate, Jhansi</b> O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : <b>Rs. 4,41,050.37</b> + Intt. + Other Charges <b>Property : Land &amp; Building situated at Ward No. 4, Mauza Talpura Abadi, Bhatta Gaon, Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Jitendra Parihar S/o Shri Babu Lal, Area : 754 Sq. Ft., Bounded : North- Plot Seller, South : Rasta, East- Plot Smt. Rani, West : Rasta.</b> <b>Date &amp; Time of E-Auction : 29-08-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm</b> <b>Reserve Price : Rs. 7.53 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 0.753 Lac.</b> For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <a href="https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx">https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx</a></p>	
<p><b>Borrower : Shri Subhash Chand S/o Shri Deep Chand &amp; Smt. Rama Devi W/o Shri Subhash Chand and Shri Deep Chand S/o Shri Lala Ram, All R/o : 58, Idgah, Puliya No. 9, Near Power House, Tehsil &amp; Distt. Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 9,30,387.70</b> + Intt. + Other Charges <b>Property : Residential House No. 58, Idgah, Puliya No. 9, Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Deep Chand S/o Shri Lala Ram, Area : 61.68 Sq.Mtr., Bounded : North- Rasta 5 Ft., South : House of Ram Swaroop Kansoria, East- Kachha Rasta 10 Mtr., West : Rasta 5 Ft.</b> <b>Date &amp; Time of E-Auction : 29-08-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm</b> <b>Reserve Price : Rs. 12.40 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.240 Lac.</b> For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <a href="https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx">https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx</a></p>	
<p><b>Borrower : Shri Jaipal Singh S/o Shri Than Singh, R/o : Near Vipesh Inter College, Rashgarh, Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Prabhu S/o Shri Ganesh Prasad, R/o : 538, Indira Nagar, BHEL, Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 3,49,172.00</b> + Intt. + Other Charges <b>Property : Residential House Situated at Rashgarh, Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Jaipal Singh S/o Shri Than Singh, Area : 1296 Sq.Ft., Bounded : North- Plot of Garibey, South : 10 Ft. Wide Rasta, East- Plot of Seller, West : House of Devi &amp; Jagdish</b> <b>Date &amp; Time of E-Auction : 29-08-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm</b> <b>Reserve Price : Rs. 9.50 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 0.950 Lac.</b> For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <a href="https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx">https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx</a></p>	
<p><b>Branch Name : Nagar Nigam Jhansi • Address : Nagar Nigam Premises, Jhansi, Branch Head : Shri Shivam Gupta • Mob. : 9935157041</b></p> <p><b>Borrower : Shri Shrif Bux S/o Mohd. Haneef &amp; Smt. Nargis W/o Shri Sharif Bux and Mohd. Haneef S/o Shri Raheem Bux, All R/o : 111/1, Singara, Bhatta Gaon, Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Suheb Khan S/o Shri Rasool Khan, R/o : 1/8, PWD Colony, Jhansi.</b> O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : <b>Rs. 10,23,541.80</b> + Intt. + Other Charges <b>Property : Residential House situated at Part of Arazi No. 6, Mauza Singara, Bhatta Gaon, Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property : Smt. Nargis W/o Shri Sharif Bux, Area : 1344 Sq. Ft., Bounded : North- Road, 15 Ft., South : Land of Ajeet, East- Plot of Mohd. Saifqeeq, West : Plot of Seller.</b> <b>Date &amp; Time of E-Auction : 29-08-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm</b> <b>Reserve Price : Rs. 19.38 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.938 Lac.</b> For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <a href="https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx">https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx</a></p>	
<p><b>Borrower : Shri Manoj Pandey S/o Late Shiram Bahadur Pandey and Smt. Hemlata W/o Shri Manoj Pandey, Both R/o : House No. 332, New Pal Colony, Simradha, Ice Factory, Distt. Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Kailash Chandra Kushwaha S/o Shri Ram Charan Kushwaha, R/o : 336, Outside Datia Gate Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 5,42,822.38</b> + Intt. + Other Charges <b>Property : Residential Building Situated at Plot No. 332, New Pal Colony, Simradha, Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property : Smt. Hemlata W/o Shri Manoj Pandey, Area : 1027.11 Sq. Ft., Bounded : North : House of Mahesh Chandra Raikwar, South : Plot of Shri Ramesh Pandey, East : Steel Mills, West : 10 Ft. Wide Way. Date &amp; Time of E-Auction : 29-08-2024 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm,</b> <b>Reserve Price : Rs. 9.72 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 0.972 Lac.</b> For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <a href="https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx">https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx</a></p>	
<p>For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <a href="https://ebkay.in">https://ebkay.in</a></p>	
<b>Date : 09-08-2024</b>	<b>Place : Jhansi</b>
<b>Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India</b>	

# Low-lying areas still facing flood-like situation

PNS ■ VARANASI

Despite the water level of river Ganga receding for the second continuous day on Saturday, the residents of low-lying areas not only in Varanasi but also in Chandauli, Ghazipur and Ballia in this belt of Purvanchal are still facing flood-like situation. Seeing the high water level of the Ganga, the heartbeats of thousands of residents living in dozens of colonies on both sides of river Varuna in the northern part of the city apart from many localities close to the river Ganga near Samne Ghat in the southern part have increased as they have had bitter experiences of flood havoc in recent years. Though as per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC) the water level of river Ganga is falling by 20 mm per hour, it is still at high point. It was recorded at 68.92 metres at 8 am on Saturday against 69.3 metres a day ago – very close to the warning level (70.262 metres) in this holy city. Despite the receding trend, the situation in downstream Ghazipur and Ballia districts is still grim. In UP-Bihar border district Ballia, the river Ganga was still flowing above the danger mark while in Ghazipur it was above the warning level as recorded in the morning. The water level of the river was recorded at 58.79 metres against the danger mark of 57.615 metres in Ballia. Though steady, it is expected to start falling by Sunday morning. In Ghazipur, the river was recorded receding by 20 mm per hour and it was at 62.36



The Ganga river still flowing at a high level despite declining trend in Varanasi, on Saturday

metres against warning level of 62.105 metres. In upstream Mirzapur, the water level of the river was 74.28 metres against warning level of 76.724 metres and it was receding. Though the rising trend from Ganga side was checked as the river was steady at Phaphamau, it continued to fall from the Yamuna side in Prayagraj. In Varanasi, as the water level of the river was still high, the residents were seen swimming

at Subeh-e-Banaras venue at Assi Ghat while the stairs of Namu Ghat, the dream project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have already been submerged in the water near Rajghat Bridge, though the visitors are coming to the park area there to see the rising water of river Ganga. As a large number of devotees, including saffron-clad kanwariyas, are arriving 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. In the city, the Ganga water has already entered the famous Sheetla Mata Mandir at old Dashashwamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to wade through the water to reach the temple. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have already been submerged in the water. Dozens of low-

lying temples located at the internationally famous 84-odd ghats are fully or partially submerged in the water. The river Gomti has also started rising at upstream Sultanpur, though it is steady at downstream Jaunpur, adding to the worries of the residents of several villages of doab areas surrounded by rivers Ganga and Gomti near their confluence at Kaithi, about 20 kilometres from the city.

## DM inspects Salarpur area



PNS ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate S Rajalingam visited the flood affected Salarpur area here on Saturday and instructed the nagar nigam officials to ensure regular cleaning and spraying of insecticide there. He said when the flood water recedes, proper cleanliness should be ensured in the area. During his visit, the DM also inspected the flood relief camp at Salarpur primary school.

He took information about medical arrangements, ration distribution and relief work from the flood victims. He said that the flood victims residing in the camp should not face any inconvenience. He also talked to the people and got information about the facilities being provided in the relief camp. The DM directed the officers present that breakfast and food should be provided to the people in the relief camp on time and there should be no laxity

in this regard. He also directed the officers to keep an eye on the flood-affected areas. People expressed satisfaction over the arrangements. A day earlier, the DM, along with Additional Commissioner of Police S Chinnappa and NDRF personnel visited the flood-affected areas from Namu Ghat to Purana Pul by motor boat and took stock of the situation apart from inspecting the relief camp at Saraiya primary school.

## 15-yr-old girl jumps into river, feared drowned

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A 15-year-old girl named Sheeba was feared drowned after she jumped into the Yamuna river at Joghat in Dariyabad, Prayagraj on Saturday morning. Witnesses saw Sheeba jump into the river and immediately alerted others, but despite efforts by divers, she could not be located. CCTV footage showed Sheeba walking quickly towards Joghat around 5:14 am. Despite hectic search efforts, she could not be traced. The local community is concerned, and her family is distraught. It is reported that Sheeba had a conflict with her younger brother the previous night, followed by severe reprimand from her family, which may have led to her drastic action. Sheeba, a resident of Kathara Dariyabad, has lost her father, and her mother Shabina is the sole breadwinner for the family. Her maternal uncle confirmed from CCTV footage and witness accounts that Sheeba indeed jumped into the Yamuna river even as

search operations are ongoing. Kydganj Inspector Sanjay Kumar Singh confirmed that the search for Sheeba in the river was underway. Meanwhile, a 25-year-old man from Atarsuiya area allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the new Yamuna bridge late Friday night. After receiving the report, the water police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team conducted a thorough search for about five hours but were unable to locate him. The police were informed around 8 on Friday that a man had jumped from the new Yamuna bridge. The Kydganj police, along with the water police and SDRF, arrived at the scene but found no trace of the man. During the search, authorities discovered an unattended motorcycle on the bridge, identified as belonging to Sagar Singh. Witnesses said that the man had jumped into the river after a phone conversation. The police took statements from the family, who were unsure of the reasons behind his drastic step. A renewed search effort was

conducted on Saturday morning, but the body has yet to be recovered.

### BANK MANAGER THREATENED

A female branch manager of the State Bank of India in Kareli filed a police complaint stating that she was receiving threat calls from multiple numbers. Calls from various phone numbers and WhatsApp messages warned her of serious consequences if she did not meet him. The branch manager alleged that she had received threats from approximately 24 different mobile numbers. Despite blocking some of the numbers, the caller continued to harass her using new numbers. Anu R Verma from Kunde Rampur, Fatehpur, has filed a complaint with the Kareli police, providing a list of the numbers. Kareli Inspector Amarnath confirmed that a case had been registered against the unidentified accused based on the branch manager's complaint, and further investigation was underway.

### Jewellery, cash stolen from house

Prayagraj (PNS): The Kotwali area in Meja, Prayagraj, is experiencing a surge in theft cases even as police are struggling to work them out. Late on Friday night, thieves broke into the house of Ratan Tiwari, son of Prem Shankar Tiwari, in Mawaiya village, under the Sira police post of Meja police station. They stole jewellery valued at approximately Rs 70 lakh, along with cash. According to Ratan Tiwari, the thieves entered the house between midnight and 2 am. They initially secured the doors to his room and his mother's room from the outside. The locks on these rooms were then cut. The thieves broke open a cupboard and box, taking the valuable jewellery stored inside. They also stole Rs 2 lakh in cash from his aunt and an additional Rs 1 lakh intended for the Prime Minister's Agricultural Irrigation Farmers Share payment. Police arrived at the scene after being alerted via Dial 112, but their visit was limited to paperwork. In the morning, Tiwari filed a formal complaint at Meja police station, demanding action against the culprits.

## Deworming Day observed at AMIC

PNS ■ VARANASI

Mayor Ashok Tiwari inaugurated the National Deworming Day programme at Arya Mahila Inter College, Chetganj here on Saturday. On the occasion, the mayor, along with Chief Medical Officer Dr Sandeep Chaudhary, ACOMO Dr Sanjay Rai, school Manager Amulya Sharma and principal Dr Pratibha Yadav administered medicine (Albendazole) to the girl students to remove stomach worms. About 1,200 girl students were given deworming medicine. Addressing the function, Tiwari said that for a healthy future and better health, along with cleanliness, education and sports were also very important. "In Kashi, full emphasis is being laid on education, health, sports, culture and cleanliness. Many schemes are being run for the development of Kashi," he said. He said worms in the stomach were caused by defecating in the open, eating without washing hands, not cutting nails and lack of cleanliness and to prevent it everyone should wash hands properly before eating food and keep nails clean.



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that to prevent stomach worms, medicine was given to all children from one to 19 years of age, so that they could get relief from worms and their physical and intellectual development continued. The deworming pill is given once every six months. He said that children become malnourished due to worms in the stomach and they suffer from anaemia, due to which children start becoming weak. He said getting rid of worms was necessary for better health and this was possible only when children and adolescents

were given deworming medicine on time. The CMO said that National Deworming Day was observed every year on 10th of August. ACOMO and nodal officer of the programme Dr Sanjay Rai said that on the day, about 12 lakh children and adolescents were given medicine in the district and for those children who missed taking medicine on the day, a mop-up round would be organised on August 14. School manager Amulya Sharma and principal Dr Pratibha Yadav encouraged the students. Bal Sabha and Kajri Utsav were also organised, in

which 20 teams from different classes presented folk songs and devotional music. The programme was conducted by Chhaya Khare. On the occasion, MOIC Dr Ishita Pathak, DCPM Ramesh Prasad Verma, Manish Singh from Evidence Action, teachers Dr Geetika, Gayatri Dwivedi, Shruti Mishra, Chhaya Singh and Sudha Rani Pathak, staff nurse Kishan Vishwakarma, Anjali Maurya, LT Abhishek Singh, Sangeeta Singh, Asha Preeti, Kanchan, Ranjana and a large number of school students and others were present.

## Nandi reviews progress of Ganga Expressway



PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi on Saturday conducted an inspection of the Ganga Expressway project, which extends from Meerut to Prayagraj. The inspection focused on the construction site at NH Chainage (601-457 km) in Askaranpur Jhingoor village, Kunda, Pratapgarh. Nandi reviewed the progress and quality of the work, instructing officials to adhere to the project timeline and maintain high standards. The 596-km Ganga Expressway, connecting Prayagraj and Meerut, is slated for completion by December this year, in time for the Maha Kumbh Mela in 2025. During the visit, top officials briefed Nandi on the construction status and ongoing efforts.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held at the Prayagraj Mela Authority to strategise for the Maha Kumbh-2025. The focus was on managing crowds, enhancing traffic control, and ensuring robust security. Presentations covered security plans, traffic management, police coordination, and logistical needs. Following the meeting, Nandi inspected the Kumbh Mela SSP office. The review involved key figures such as Additional Director General of Police (Prayagraj Zone) Bhanu Bhaskar, ADGP (Traffic and Road Safety), Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba, and other senior officials from police and administration. The combined efforts aim to ensure the successful completion of the expressway and effective management of the upcoming Maha Kumbh.

## Purabi selected for Vigyan Yuva Award

PNS ■ VARANASI

Banaras Hindu University is thrilled at the selection of Dr Purabi Saikia, associate professor at botany department of the Institute of Science, for the prestigious Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for the year 2024. She has been conferred the award for her remarkable contribution in the field of environmental science. Her areas of research are plant ecology, biodiversity conservation and soil ecology. Institute of Science Director



Prof Sanjay Kumar, Science Faculty Dean Prof SM Singh and members of the scientific fraternity of BHU have con-

gratulated Dr Saikia on her selection for the coveted honour. She recently joined the BHU family as associate professor. Previously, she was working with the Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi. The Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award is presented to recognise and encourage young scientists who have made an exceptional contribution in the field of science and technology. The announcement of the awards for the year 2024 was made by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.

### AWARDED

The International Indo-Japan bilateral grant funded by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has been awarded to Dr Prashant Kumar Srivastava of the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IHU) in collaboration with Dr Ram Avtar from Hokkaido University, Japan. This joint proposal will study the different soil moisture retrieval techniques and its various applications especially for agriculture and forest.

## US varsity keen for exchange programme with SSU

PNS ■ VARANASI

Sampurnanand Sanskrit University Vice-Chancellor Prof Bihari Lal Sharma said that a proposal for memorandum of understanding (MoU) had been received from the Commonwealth University, Lock Haven Campus, Pennsylvania, USA. According to Prof Sharma, the US university has proposed an agreement based on global interest in exploring Indian knowledge tradition. In this direction, a delegation of the US university met the vice-chancellor of Sampurnanand

Sanskrit University for an agreement. "This exchange programme will prove effective in promoting inter-cultural understanding and providing educational cooperation. Besides, it will promote educational and cultural exchange between the two institutions," Prof Sharma said, adding that science is also a valuable part of Indian knowledge tradition, and computers and Sanskrit are able to understand each other's language. "After the agreement, there will be an exchange of teachers, researchers and students of

both the institutions and they will be allowed to participate in lectures, seminars, conferences and workshops. They will also get the benefit of each other's library," Prof Sharma said, adding that the MoU will be signed after the proposals of both the places are legally agreed and edited and this agreement will remain in force for five years from the date of signing it. According to the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University vice-chancellor, a delegation led by Dr Richa Sharma of the US university, while giving its proposal, said

that Commonwealth University was interested in exploring the Indian knowledge tradition and apart from this, both the institutions would jointly work on research projects and share knowledge and experiences with each other. Dr Richa Sharma also invited the SSU vice-chancellor to the US in February next year to deliver a lecture on the elements of Indian knowledge tradition, for which the latter in-principle gave his consent. Director of the publication division of SSU Dr Padmakar Mishra and other representatives were also present.

## IRCTC to launch new Bharat Gaurav tourist train from August 14

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) will operate a new Bharat Gaurav tourist train from August 14 to September 23. This journey will take passengers to key destinations including Kolkata, Ganga Sagar, Baidyanath, Gaya, Puri, Konark, Varanasi, and Ayodhya. The tour highlights include visits to Baidyanath Temple in Jasdih, Vishnupad Temple and local temples in Gaya, Jagannath Temple and Konark Temple, Gangasagar Kali Temple in Kolkata, Kashi

Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, and Ram Janmabhoomi and Hanuman Garhi temples in Ayodhya. According to IRCTC, the tour will last for nine nights and ten days. The train will offer 767 berths across three categories: 2-AC (49 seats), 3-AC (70 seats), and Sleeper Class (648 seats). Passengers can board from Agra Cantt, Gwalior, Veerangana Laxmibai, Orai, Kanpur, Lucknow, Ayodhya Cantt, and Kashi. The package includes train travel in the selected class, breakfast, and vegetarian meals for lunch and dinner, as well as local tours by AC/non-AC buses.

## Namaste BHU app launched

Varanasi (PNS): For the over 40,000 strong community of Banaras Hindu University, several services and useful information about BHU are just a tap away through the university's mobile app Namaste BHU. The app was recently launched at the initiative of Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain with an aim to boost the digital connectivity within the university as well as make services and information more accessible and user-friendly. The endeavour marks a significant milestone towards offering a smooth and hassle free campus experience to students and faculty members, as reiterated time and again by Prof Jain. The app, which can be downloaded through the Google Play Store and Apple App Store, offers a series of services to students and staff besides providing important information to the users.

# Rahul pursuing politics of deception, deceit: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Addressing a Press conference at the party headquarters here, BJP National spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed the Congress Government in Karnataka has fulfilled just two out of a total of 59 promises that the party made during the State Assembly elections. "People of Karnataka are feeling cheated. Wherever the Congress is in power, people of the State are feeling cheated. People of Himachal Pradesh are feeling cheated. Rahul has become synonymous with politics of deception, propaganda, lies and deceit," he said. Bhatia also hit out at Rahul



while raising the issue of farmers suicide in Karnataka as he accused the Congress leader of pursuing "politics of pretense" to win votes. "He has time to meet the farmers delegation in Delhi but there are media reports that as many as 1,200 farmers have committed suicide in Karnataka. Why couldn't Rahul Gandhi spare even a minute to meet them or direct the Karnataka Chief Minister to



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

# Centre responded quickly to Wayanad tragedy: Officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

More than 100 ambulances along with doctors and other staff were deployed for medical support and treatment, they added as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Wayanad to take stock of the relief and rehabilitation work and meet survivors. The Indian Army, the sources said, erected a 190-foot Bailey bridge in Wayanad which was crucial in facilitating the movement of heavy machinery and ambulances. The bridge was completed in 71 hours, significantly enhancing rescue operations by allowing



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

The sources added that an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has been constituted by the Central Government to visit the affected areas. The Centre has always lent a helping hand to Kerala through timely provision of funds to meet the challenge of disaster, the sources said.

This year, the Kerala's State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) account had around Rs 395 crore on April 1. The first instalment of the central share of SDRF for the ongoing year of over Rs 145.60 crore was released in advance on July 31, they said. In the last five years, around Rs 1,200 crore has been released by the Modi Government as the Centre's share in SDRF out of the total State Disaster Response Fund of Rs 1,780 crore. In addition to this, the Government has also released Rs 445 crore for the State Disaster Mitigation Fund in the last five years, they added.

# Deadline for submission of Ravi-Beas tribunal report extended

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The most recent extension, as stated in the Government's notification, acknowledges the "enormous exercise" under-



taken by the tribunal in preparing its report. In consideration of the extensive work required, the Government deemed it necessary to provide additional time for the tribunal to complete its task.

This marks the latest in a long line of extensions, reflecting the complexity of the issues at hand and the ongoing challenges in resolving inter-state water disputes. The original deadline for the tribunal's report has been extended numerous times, with the latest amendment replacing the previous deadline of August 5, 2024, with the new date in 2025.

# NIDM explores use of AI for disaster mngmnt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is exploring the use of GIS, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning for improving disaster risk assessment and crop insurance, a Government statement said Saturday.

The institute, operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Friday celebrated the inaugural National Space Day with a workshop focused on 'Space Technology in Disaster Management' where presentations were given on the use of geographic information system (GIS) and AI in handling of disasters, it said. The event which was attended by Vivek Shrivastava, Director General of Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards, and Rajendra Ratnoo, Executive Director of NIDM, had panel discussions on the critical role of Government-private sector collaboration in advancing technological innovations for disaster resilience, it added.

K H V Durga Rao, Group Director of the Department of Space (NRSC), Chandrashekhar S, Deputy Director of LBSNAA, and Surya Parkash, Head of the GMR and CRBN Division at NIDM also participated in the national workshop, which drew over 300 attendees.

# Modi vows...

**From Page 1**  
Sources close to the Chief Minister said that the administration was dependent on the initial amount of Rs 2000 crore while the remaining Rs 1000 crore could be allocated at a later stage. Narayanan Namboothiri, senior BJP leader, told The Pioneer that he was yet to understand the logic behind the demand of Rs 2000 crore. After touring the disaster-struck region for more than four hours, Modi participated in a review meeting at Wayanad civil station attended among others by the Governor, Union Minister Suresh Gopi and Chief Minister Vijayan.

# PM to unveil 109 high-yield, resilient crop varieties today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release 109 high yielding, climate resilient and biofortified varieties of crops at Indian Agricultural Research Institute here on Sunday. According to an official statement, the Prime Minister will also interact with farmers and scientists during the event. The 109 varieties of 61 crops to be released include 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops, it added.

Among the field crops, seeds of various cereals, including millet, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, fibre and other potential crops will be released, the statement said. Among the horticultural crops, different varieties of fruits, vegetable crops, plantation crops, tuber crops, spices, flowers and medicinal crops will be



released, it added. Prime Minister Modi has always encouraged sustainable farming and adoption of climate resilient methodologies, the release said. He has also emphasised on promoting biofortified varieties of crops by linking them with the several Government programmes such as mid-day meal

free and Anganwadi, to make India free from malnutrition, it said. "The Prime Minister has stressed that these steps will ensure good income for the farmers along with opening new avenues of entrepreneurship for them. This step of release of 109 high yielding varieties is yet another step in this direction," it added.

# IAF returns after successful exercise in Malaysia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After successful participation in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 in Malaysia, the Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent returned on Saturday. The joint air exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) from 05 to 09 August at Kuantan, Malaysia. The IAF participated with Su-30MKI fighter jets. During the exercise, IAF's Su-30MKI fighter jets engaged in air combat missions alongside the RMAF's Su-30MKM fighters, enabling the crew of both air forces to familiarize with each other's operational protocols, thereby enhancing interoperability, commonality and overall effectiveness in Su-30 aircraft operations, IAF said here.

# Tricolour atop Africa's highest peak unfurled

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In run-up to 78th Independence Day, the Divyangjan expedition team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), under the aegis of Ministry of Defence, has unfurled 7,800 sq ft Indian national flag atop Uhuru Summit of Kilimanjaro, the highest peak of African continent. It was the first time an amputee climber successfully climbed the summit using crutches. The team led by Group Captain Jai Kishan, including Divyang Uday Kumar and others undertook Mission Kanchanjanga National Park to Mt Kilimanjaro (Mission K2K) to script another historic achievement, as for the first time an amputee climber successfully completed the endeavor using crutches, defence ministry said here on Saturday.



The team started their journey from the base camp, and reached Kibu Hut, situated at an altitude of 15,500 feet on August 7 where they proudly displayed the national flag, measuring 7,800 square feet, with the aid of ropes, ground nets and anchors. Taking into account the weather

conditions and the medical fitness of all members, the team began their ascent to Uhuru Peak at 0300 hours on August 8.

After a grueling 10-hour climbing through treacherous terrain characterised by loose scree, a steep climb of 85 degree gradient and alpine desert, they successfully reached the summit of Uhuru Peak at 1300 hours, standing at an altitude of 5,895 meters (19,341 feet) and unfurled the 7,800 sq ft Indian national flag over the summit of Uhuru Peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The historic expedition serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder of what can be achieved through perseverance and support. It aims to inspire future generations of Divyangjan and other underprivileged youth to pursue their dreams, no matter how daunting they may seem.

# Social bonds key to big cats survival

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

On World Lion Day on Saturday, a study published in the University of Oxford has revealed that better-connected female big cats live longer. Analysing 30 years of data, researchers found that strong female bonds are crucial for protection against threats such as infanticidal males, territory defense, hunting, and cub rearing—all requiring cooperation. The research highlights the importance of social connections for lion survival. The research "Sex-specific social aging in wild African lions" published in 'Current Biology' also sheds light on the complex social lives of African lions, emphasising the significance of social connections for their survival.

Indeed, the insights from the study on African lions can serve as a valuable framework for researchers studying Asiatic

lions in the Gir Forest in India. About social connectivity and longevity, the researchers noted for females, strong bonds with other females are crucial. These connections provide essential support for various survival aspects such as defence against threats, hunting, and cub rearing. Females with robust social networks tend to live longer, they said. The study also gives insight into social ageing patterns noting that social connections change with age. Lead author Lauren Rudd from University of Oxford said, "The importance of close female bonds, particularly in early adulthood, could be because 'friends' can help protect against threats such as infanticidal males. They could also be valuable allies for territory defense, hunting, and cub rearing—all of which require cooperation. Combined these factors potentially explain why better-connected females live longer."

# T V Somanathan appointed Cabinet Secretary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer T V Somanathan was on Saturday appointed Cabinet Secretary, succeeding Rajiv Gauba. A 1987-batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, Somanathan is currently serving as Union Finance Secretary and Secretary, Expenditure. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of T V Somanathan, IAS, as Cabinet Secretary with a tenure of two years from 30.08.2024. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also approved the appointment of T V Somanathan, IAS as Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat from the date he joins the assignment till he takes over as Cabinet Secretary," an official order said. Gauba took over the charge of Cabinet Secretary five years ago on August 30, 2019.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The POP signifies not only the successful completion of initial training but also marks commencement of a new chapter for the Agniveers in the Indian Navy. While addressing the parade, Navy chief congratulated the trainees on parade and



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

# SC to hear Kavitha's bail plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on August 12 the pleas filed by BRS leader K Kavitha challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict denying her bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The high court had on July 1 dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both the cases, saying she was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. According to the cause list of August 12 uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan is slated to hear her petitions. While dismissing her bail pleas, the high court had said no case for grant of regular bail was made for now as the investigation is at a crucial stage.



# Kharge for legislation to nullify SC's sub-quota order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that the idea of denying reservation to SCs and STs on account of the creamy layer concept is "condemnable", Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the Government should have bought a legislation in Parliament to nullify the Supreme Court judgement on the issue.

Earlier this month, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud ruled in a 6:1 majority judgement that state Governments were permitted to sub-classify communities within the SC list based on empirical data.

Supreme Court judge Justice B R Gavai had said States must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) and deny them the benefit of reservation. "Who do you want to benefit by bringing a creamy layer? By bringing a creamy layer (concept) on one hand you are denying touchables and giving to those who have enjoyed privileges for thousands of years. I condemn this," Kharge told reporters here.

This issue of creamy layer that has been raised by the seven judges shows that they have not thought about SCs and STs in a serious manner, he said. "Till the time untouchability exists, reservation should be there and will be there. We will fight for it," Kharge said.

# No relief from rain mayhem for...

**From Page 1**  
Besides Nityanand Marg, Seelampur, Indralok, Rajouri Garden, Palam, Mehrauli-Badarpur road, Chirag Dilli, Laxmi Nagar, Kishan Ganj were also among the affected due to traffic jams and water logging. The Delhi Police issued a traffic advisory in response to the disruptions. Traffic has been diverted at Ch Fateh Singh Marg due to waterlogging,

shifting routes from Mall Road red light to Majnu Ka Tila. The traffic was also hampered on Old Kakrola Road, Najafgarh near Shyam Vihar Chowk, and Najafgarh-Nangloi Road due to potholes and collection of water, police said.

The weather department has predicted more rains in the coming days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had sounded an orange

alert for many parts of Delhi-NCR, predicting light to moderate rain or thunderstorms accompanied by gusty wind (30-40 km/hour).

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

# Wild plant on Gaya hills offers hope for diabetes: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A recent study has identified a variety of medicinal plants on Brahmayoni Hill in Gaya, Bihar, with Gymnema sylvestre, commonly known as Gurmar, standing out for its anti-diabetic properties. The researchers also noted that Gurmar is instrumental in the CSIR-developed ayurvedic formulation BGR-34, aimed at managing diabetes which is on the increase in the country due to changing lifestyle and unhealthy diet. Gurmar's effectiveness in reducing blood sugar is attributed to gymnemic acid, which interferes with sugar absorption in the intestine by blocking receptor sites. This action helps diminish cravings for sweets and lowers blood sugar levels. Additionally, Gurmar contains



flavonoids and saponins. Flavonoids offer antioxidant benefits, while saponins assist in lowering cholesterol and regulating lipid metabolism, according to the study by Magadh University professors. It is published in the International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT). The study highlights Gurmar among three medicinal plants

found on Brahmayoni Hill. In 2022, a study by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, also validated that the herbal formulation BGR-34 is effective in reducing obesity along with blood sugar levels. It also improves the body's metabolic system. Dr. Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director of Aimpl Pharma, said that the herbal formulation also includes other herbal components like Daruhadirra, Giloy, Vijaysar, Manjishtha, and Fenugreek. These have been proven effective in managing diabetes, Sharma said and pointed out the rising popularity of herbal Ayurvedic medicines in response to the increasing incidence of lifestyle-related diseases and a growing emphasis on preventive health.

found on Brahmayoni Hill, which has long been valued by traditional healers for its extensive range of natural remedies. Gurmar is particularly noted for its anti-diabetic effects. "Gurmar is a key ingredient in BGR-34, an ayurvedic formulation developed by CSIR and marketed by Aimpl Pharma," said the researchers in the study 'Ethnobotanical research on certain therapeutic plants

# Two jawans martyred in gunfight with...

**From Page 1**  
"The identity of the informer will be kept secret so that more and more people come forward to assist the police, as the public's help is crucial in preventing potential threats to national security," a police spokesperson said. Let's work together for a safer community, he said.

The ambush in Kathua was followed by another attack by a separate group of terrorists in Desa forest in Doda district on July 15, resulting in the killing of four army personnel including a captain. Police in Doda district had also released the sketches and cash reward of Rs 5 lakh each on four terrorists involved in the attack as efforts

are continuing to hunt them down. Earlier on June 9, nine passengers, including seven pilgrims returning from Shiv Khori temple, were killed by terrorists in Reasi district. The terrorists involved in the attack are also on the run despite a cash reward on their heads.

# Israeli airstrike on Gaza school kills at least 80 people

AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH

An Israeli airstrike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City early Saturday, killing at least 80 people, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest strikes in the 10-month-old war between Israel and Hamas. The Israeli military acknowledged the strike, claiming it hit a Hamas command centre within the school. Hamas denied that. The strike on the Tabeen school in central Gaza City also wounded 47 people, the Health Ministry said. The facility, like almost all of Gaza's schools, has been used as a shelter for people who have been forced to flee their homes by the war. Video from the scene showed walls blown out on the ground level of a large building.

Concrete chunks and twisted metal lay atop the blood-soaked floor, along with clothing, toppled furniture and other debris. A blackened car with the windows blown out was covered in rubble. Fadel Naeem, director of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, told The Associated Press that the facility received 70 bodies of those killed in the strike and the body parts of at least 10 others. The strike hit without warning in the early morning before sunrise as people were praying at a mosque inside the school, according to Abu Anas, a witness who worked to rescue people. "There were people praying, there were people washing and there were people upstairs sleeping, including children, women and old people," he said. "The missile fell on them without

warning. The first missile, and the second. We recovered them as body parts." Three missiles ripped through the school and the mosque inside, where about 6,000 displaced people were taking shelter from the war, said Mahmoud Bassal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defense first responders who operate under the Hamas-run local government. Many of the dead were unrecognisable, he said, adding that he expected the death toll to rise. Many of the casualties were women and children, he said. According to the United Nations, 477 out of 564 schools in Gaza had been directly hit or damaged in the war as of July 6. In June, an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in central Gaza killed at least 33 people, including 12 women and children,

according to local health officials. On Thursday Israel's military hit two schools sheltering displaced people in eastern Gaza City, killing at least 15 people, according to hospital officials. Israel has blamed civilian deaths in Gaza on Hamas, saying the group endangers noncombatants by using schools and residential neighbourhoods as bases for operations and attacks. Israeli intelligence indicated about 20 militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, including senior commanders, were using the Tabeen school compound to plan attacks on Israeli forces, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman said in a statement on the social media platform X. Izzat al-Rishq, a top Hamas official denied there were militants in the school.

Shoshani also questioned the casualty numbers issued by the Palestinian Health Ministry. Israel said the targeted school was located next to a mosque serving as a shelter for Gaza City residents. A cameraman working for The Associated Press said, however, that the mosque and the classrooms were in one building, with the prayer hall on the ground floor and the school above it. A missile appeared to have penetrated through the floor of the classrooms to the mosque below and then exploded, according to the cameraman. The strike came as American, Qatari and Egyptian mediators renewed their push for the two parties to achieve a cease-fire agreement that could help calm soaring tensions in the region following the assassination of

top Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut. Egypt, which borders Gaza and serves as a key mediator, said the strike on the school showed Israel had no intention of reaching a cease-fire deal and ending the war. Neighboring Jordan also condemned the attack, calling it a "blatant violation" of international law. Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 39,600 Palestinians and wounded more than 91,700 others, according to the enclave's Health Ministry. The war was triggered by Hamas' Oct 7 attack, in which militants from Gaza stormed into southern Israel, killing around 1,200 people and abducting 250 others.

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

AP ■ TEHRAN



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

Mohammad Eslami, 67, will continue his work as chief of Iran's civilian nuclear programme and serve as one of several vice presidents. Eslami's reappointment by President Masoud Pezeshkian comes as Iran remains under heavy sanctions by the West following the collapse of the 2015 deal that curbed Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief. Pezeshkian had said during his presidential campaign that he would try to revive the nuclear deal. The United Nations sanctioned Eslami in 2008 for "being engaged in, directly associated with or providing support for Iran's proliferation of sensitive nuclear activities or for the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems", when he was the head of Iran's Defense Industries Training and Research Institute. He was appointed as the chief of Iran's nuclear department for the first time by late President Ebrahim Raisi in 2021, before that, from 2018, in moderate former President Hassan Rouhani's era, Eslami served as Transport and Urban Development Minister. He has experience working in Iran's military industries, for years, most recently as deputy defense minister responsible for research and industry. Eslami holds degrees in civil

engineering from Detroit University of Michigan and the University of Toledo, Ohio. The US, France, Britain and Germany accused Iran of escalating its nuclear activities far beyond limits it agreed to in the 2015 deal and of failing to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran accused the US and its allies of continuing to apply economic sanctions that were supposed to be lifted under the deal, and insisted its nuclear programme is peaceful and geared towards generating electricity and producing radioisotopes to treat cancer patients and remains under constant oversight by the IAEA. Iran is building two nuclear power facilities to supplement its sole operational 1,000-megawatt reactor at the southern port town of Bushehr, which went online with Russia's help in 2011. Under its long-term energy plan, Iran aims to reach 20,000-megawatt nuclear electric capacity. The nation has in recent months faced country-wide power outages.

# Russia tightens security in area of Ukraine attacks

AP ■ KYIV

Russia on Saturday announced what it called a counterterrorism operation to increase security in the border region where an incursion this week by Ukrainian forces caught Russian troops off-guard and exposed its military vulnerabilities in the 2 1/2-year-old war. The Russian Defence Ministry said fighting was continuing in the Kursk region and that the army has conducted airstrikes against Ukrainian forces, including using a thermobaric bomb that both causes a blast wave and creates a vacuum that suffocates its targets. The measures announced for Kursk and for the neighbouring Belgorod and Bryansk regions that border Ukraine allow the government to relocate residents, control phone communications and requisition vehicles. The raid that began on Tuesday is the largest cross-border foray of the war and raises concerns about fighting spreading well beyond Ukraine. In neighbouring Belarus, where Russian troops are deployed but which has not sent its own army into Ukraine, President Alexander Lukashenko said Saturday that its air defences shot down unspecified objects launched from Ukraine that were flying over Belarusian territory.

there, killing 17. July saw the heaviest civilian casualties in Ukraine since October 2022, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said Friday. Conflict-related violence killed at least 219 civilians and injured 1,018 over the month, the mission said. Russia's Defence Ministry said reinforcements are being sent to Kursk to counter Ukraine's raid, with Russia deploying multiple rocket launchers, towed artillery guns, tanks transported on trailers and heavy tracked vehicles. The ministry reported fighting in the outskirts of Sudzha, about 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the border. The town has an important pipeline transit hub for Russian natural gas exports to Europe. There has been little reliable information on the daring Ukrainian operation and its strategic aims are unclear. Ukrainian officials have refused to comment on the incursion, which is taking place about 500 kilometres (320 miles) southwest of Moscow. Asked about Ukraine's incursion, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Friday the United States was "in touch with our Ukrainian counterparts" but that he would not comment until "those conversations are complete". "There's been no changes in our policy approaches," Kirby said when asked about US policy on use of weapons. "They're using it in an area where we had said before that they could use US weapons for cross-border strikes. The end goal here is to help Ukraine defend itself." Mathieu Boulegue, a defence analyst at the Chatham House think tank in London, said the Ukrainians appear to have a clear goal, even if they're not saying what it is. "Such a coordinated ground force movement responds to a clear military objective," Boulegue told The Associated Press. Also, the raid has spooked the Russian public and delivered a slap in the face to Russian President Vladimir Putin, offering Ukraine "a great PR coup," he said. The attack "is a massive symbol, a massive display of force (showing) that the war is not frozen," he said.

# 'Minorities faced 205 attacks after fall of Hasina govt in B'desh

PTI ■ DHAKA

Members of minority communities in Bangladesh faced at least 205 incidents of attacks in 52 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5, according to two Hindu organisations in the violence-hit nation. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council and the Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad on Friday presented the data in an open letter to 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who was sworn in as the head of an interim government. The Daily Star newspaper reported. According to the data, at least 205 attacks on members of minority communities in 52 districts have been recorded

since Monday, when Hasina, 76, resigned and fled to India following widespread protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs. "We seek protection because our lives are in a disastrous state. We are staying up at night, guarding our homes and temples. I have never seen anything like this in my life. We demand that the government restore communal harmony in the country," Nirmal Rosario, one of the three presidents of the unity council, said. Asserting that the situation was deteriorating, Rosario urged Yunus to resolve the crisis by giving it top priority and putting an end to the violence. The letter, signed by Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council General Secretary Rana

Dasgupta and Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad President Basudev Dhar, welcomed Yunus as the leader of a new era born from the unprecedented student-and public-led mass uprising aimed at establishing an equitable society and reform. "When people's victory is advancing towards its destination, we, with sorrow and heavy hearts, observe that a vested quarter is hatching a conspiracy to tarnish this achievement by carrying out unprecedented violence against minority communities," the letter said. It said that the ongoing communal violence has caused widespread fear, anxiety, and uncertainty among minorities in Bangladesh and has also resulted in international condemnation.

"We demand an immediate end to this situation," the report said, citing the letter. Kajal Devnath, a praesidium member of the unity council, said, "Those involved in attacking minorities must be brought to justice. If a minority individual is attacked for political reasons, it is still unacceptable. Anyone who commits a crime should be judged, but burning homes and looting will not lead to justice." Asserting that many Hindu community members are now taking refuge in others' homes, he said, "I, too, am forced to stay at a friend's house." On Friday, Yunus announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors after he was sworn in a day earlier as the chief advisor - a position equivalent to the prime minister.

# Brazilian authorities probing cause of plane crash that killed 61

AP ■ VINHEDO

Brazilian authorities worked Saturday to piece together what exactly caused the plane crash in Sao Paulo state the prior day that killed all 61 people on board. Local airline Voepass' plane, an ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop, was headed for Sao Paulo's international airport in Guarulhos with 57 passengers and 4 crew members when it went down in the city of Vinhedo. Images recorded by witnesses showed the aircraft in a flat spin and plunging vertically before smashing to the ground inside a gated community, and leaving an obliterated fuselage consumed by fire. Residents said there were no injuries on the ground. Rain drizzled down on rescue workers as they recovered the first bodies from the scene in the chill of the Southern Hemisphere's winter. Some residents silently left to spend the night elsewhere. It was the world's deadliest airline crash since January 2023, when 72 people died on board a Yeti Airlines plane in Nepal that stalled and crashed while

making its landing approach. That plane also was an ATR 72, and the final report blamed pilot error. A report Friday from Brazilian television network Globo's meteorological center said it "confirmed the possibility of the formation of ice in the region of Vinhedo," and local media cited experts pointing to icing as a potential cause for the crash. An American Eagle ATR 72-200 crashed on October 31, 1994, and the United States National Transportation Safety Board determined that the

probable cause was ice buildup while the plane was circling in a holding pattern. The plane rolled at about 8,000 feet and dove into the ground, killing all 68 people on board. The US Federal Aviation Administration issued operating procedures for ATRs and similar planes, telling pilots not to use the autopilot in icing conditions. But Brazilian aviation expert Lito Sousa cautioned that meteorological conditions alone might not be enough to explain why the plane fell in the manner that it did on Friday.



"Analysing an air crash just with images can lead to wrong conclusions about the causes," Sousa told the AP by phone. "But we can see a plane with loss of support, no horizontal speed. In this flat spin condition, there's no way to reclaim control of the plane." Speaking to reporters Friday in Vinhedo, Sao Paulo Public Security Secretary Guilherme Derrite said the plane's black box had been recovered, apparently in a preserved state. Marcelo Moura, director of operations for Voepass, told reporters Friday night that, while there were forecasts for ice, they were within acceptable levels for the aircraft. Likewise, Lt. Col. Carlos Henrique Baldi of the Brazilian air force's centre for the investigation and prevention of air accidents, told reporters in a late afternoon press conference that it was still too early to confirm whether ice caused the crash. The plane is "certified in several countries to fly in severe icing conditions, including in countries unlike ours, where the impact of ice is more significant," said Baldi, who heads the centre's investigation division.

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

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's King Charles III has praised the "community spirit" of the peaceful counter-protesters in a call for unity after the "aggression and criminality" of the far-right riots that broke out across different cities in the country and have resulted in over 700 arrests. According to Buckingham Palace, the 75-year-old monarch had several phone calls on Friday evening to express his thoughts, including a call with Prime Minister Keir Starmer and the police chiefs tackling the response to the violent clashes. A palace spokesperson said the King spoke to Starmer and held a joint call with the chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, and UK Gold Commander Ben Harrington, Chief Constable of Essex. The disorder initially began in the wake of a mass stabbing attack in Southport that killed three little girls on July 29 and injured several others after misinformation about the immigration status of the sus-

pect spread across social media. In these calls, His Majesty was updated on the current situation and expressed his heartfelt thanks to the police and emergency services for all they are doing to restore peace in those areas that have been affected by violent disorder," the spokesperson said. "Additionally, the King shared how he had been greatly encouraged by the many examples of community spirit that had countered the aggression and criminality from a few with the compassion and resilience of the many. "It remains His Majesty's hope that shared values of mutual respect and understanding will continue to strengthen and unite the nation," the spokesperson added. It emerged that the monarch has also been holding private calls to be kept updated on the situation and expressed his "heartfelt" gratitude to the police and emergency services for their work to restore peace in the areas that have been affected by violent disorder. It comes as police forces across the UK remain on high alert amid fears of further unrest over the weekend.

# Harris makes an immigration pitch

AP ■ GLENDALE

Vice President Kamala Harris drew on her prosecutorial background to make her first expansive pitch on immigration to border-state voters as she and her new running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, attracted thousands to a campaign rally in Arizona during their tour of battleground states. Harris, the former attorney general of California, reminded the crowd that she, as a law enforcement official, targeted transnational gangs, drug cartels and smugglers. "I prosecuted them in case after case, and I won," Harris said in front of a crowd of more than 15,000 in Glendale, a suburb of Phoenix. "So I know what I'm talking about." Harris promoted a border security bill that a bipartisan group of senators negotiated earlier this year, which Republican lawmakers ultimately opposed en masse at Republican nominee Donald Trump's behest. "Donald Trump does not want to fix this problem," Harris said. "Be clear about that: He has no interest or desire to actually fix



the problem. He talks a big game about border security, but he does not walk the walk." Her effort to address immigration — a political liability that has dogged Harris for most of her vice presidency — head-on in the critical battleground state is part of a broader push from her campaign to make gains in Sun Belt states that had become increasingly out of reach with Joe Biden at the top of the ticket. Trump and his allies, who had long hammered Biden over the influx of migrants

during his term, are now shifting their attacks to Harris. Kari Lake, who is running against Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego for the open Senate seat in Arizona, bashes Gallego in a recent ad for supporting Biden's and Harris' "radical border agenda," featuring repeated clips of the vice president chortling. "It's very easy for us to segue and switch our sights and focus on her," said Dave Smith, Pima County's Republican party chairman. But Harris has been courting the state's fast-growing Latino population and released a new ad of her own, highlighting how Harris, the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica, rose to the highest echelons of American politics. And, as she has done in other campaign stops, Harris during the rally infused the theme of "freedom" throughout her remarks, especially as it came to voting rights, gun safety, LGBT rights and access to abortion. "Arizona, ours is a fight for the future and it is a fight for freedom," Harris said, who had walked out on the stage as Beyoncé's "Freedom" blared throughout Desert Diamond Arena.

# Trump looks to young voters

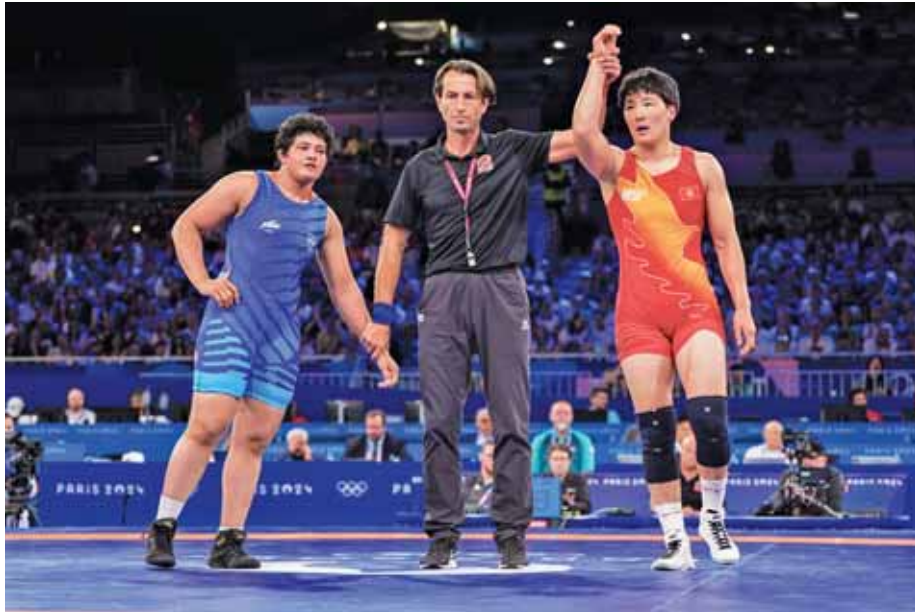
AP ■ WEST PALM BEACH

As Donald Trump adjusts to the reality of his new race against Kamala Harris, his campaign is counting on younger male voters to give him the edge in November in a presidential contest they insist is his to lose. Trump and his Republican campaign now face a dramatically different race than the one just three weeks ago, before President Joe Biden abandoned his bid. While they acknowledge polls have tightened with Harris as the Democratic nominee, they maintain that the fundamentals of the race have not changed, with voters deeply sour over the direction of the country, and particularly the economy. "What has happened is we are witnessing a kind of out-of-body experience where we have suspended reality for a couple of weeks," Trump campaign pollster Tony Fabrizio told reporters during a briefing in West Palm Beach on Thursday of the current state of the race. It was a message echoed by Trump during a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago club. "The honeymoon period's gonna end," he insisted while minimising the size of the



crowds Harris has been drawing and lashing out at his new opponent. "Let me tell you: We have the enthusiasm." Campaign officials acknowledge that Harris had energised the Democratic base and that her team has taken the lead on fundraising. But they insist they have more than enough to do what they need to win. Trump's campaign and its affiliates reported raising USD 138.7 million in July — far less than the eye-popping USD 310 million sum reported by Harris. Her campaign began August with more cash on hand.

With less than three months to go, senior campaign officials are focused on a group of persuadable voters that they believe is key to victory. The targets, which they say comprise about 11 per cent of the electorate in key battleground states, skew younger and are disproportionately male and moderate. While more than half are white, they include more nonwhites, especially Asians and Hispanics, than the broader electorate. They are especially frustrated by the economy, including their personal finances, and are pessimistic things will improve. "It's a very narrow band of people that we are trying to move," Fabrizio said of the efforts. Since these voters don't engage with traditional news outlets and have traded cable for streaming services, the campaign has been working to reach them in novel ways. "There is a reason why we're doing podcasts. There is a reason why we're doing Adin Ross," Fabrizio said, referring to the controversial internet personality who ended his interview with the former president earlier this week by giving him a Tesla Cybertruck wrapped in images of Trump raising his fist after his assassination attempt.



## REETIKA LOSES QUARTER-FINAL BOUT AGAINST MEDET

PTI ■ PARIS

Indian wrestler Reetika Hooda lost a close quarter-final bout against Aiperi Medet Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan in the women's 76 kg freestyle category at the Paris Olympics here on Saturday. The wrestlers were locked 1-1 after six minutes of top-

quality defensive wrestling but the Kyrgyz won having logged home the last equalising point as per rules. Both wrestlers played a defensive game and the solitary point each was scored through passivity across the two periods. Reetika will now wait for Kyzy to enter the final which will

give her a shot at competing in the repechage round. If she doesn't then India's Paris Games campaign will end with six medals and without a gold. Earlier, Reetika displayed power and skill in equal measure while outclassing Bernadett Nagy of Hungary 12-2 in the pre-quarterfinals.

## Chopra, Nadeem look to popularise javelin throw

PTI ■ PARIS

With their "healthy competition" on the field and "strong friendship" off it, javelin superstars Neeraj Chopra and Arshad Nadeem have set out to fulfil their common mission of inspiring youngsters of India and Pakistan and getting them hooked on the sport. Nadeem won the men's javelin gold in the ongoing Paris Olympics with a stunning 92.97m throw — which was also an Olympic record — while Chopra, who was defending his title, took the silver with a season's best effort of 89.45m. "It's already grown a lot. We're already seeing more talented javelin throwers in India. The same is happening in Pakistan," Chopra said when asked whether their success will lead to a boom in athletics in both India and Pakistan. "When we went to the Asian Games and Arshad couldn't compete due to a knee injury, his replacement, Yasir Sultan, threw very well. The medal Arshad just won will inspire more kids to follow, which is great," Chopra said on Jio Cinema. He was referring to last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, where he had won a gold. Asked whether the India-Pakistan rivalry will switch from cricket to javelin, Chopra said, "That'll be possible if we had more competitions like in cricket. We have two major competitions: the Olympics every four years and the World Championships every two years. "If we had more competitions, more



people would watch, like the Diamond League and some others," said the 26-year-old from Khandra village near Panipat. The 27-year-old Nadeem also spoke about the significance of Pakistan and India winning gold and silver in Paris Olympics. "I'm really happy. Out of the hundreds of countries participating, Pakistan and India have performed really well. Neeraj won gold at the (2023) World Championships in Budapest, and this is a golden moment for me," he said.

"Our friendship is really strong, and I wish it continues for a long time." Asked how many times he's watched the clip of his Olympic record throw that fetched him the gold, he said, "I've watched it a few times, and I feel I have the capacity to do even better. One day I hope I can showcase this capacity." Chopra hoped that the competition with Nadeem would continue to grow. "It was a very healthy competition, with Arshad doing a great job and breaking the Olympic record. Big congratulations to him. I wish our

competition continues to be this strong. "We will keep working hard and give javelin support in our countries while motivating kids who may want to take up the sport." On his efforts to breach the elusive 90m mark, Chopra said, "I've wanted to cross that mark since the 2018 Asian Games where I threw 88m. I feel like I'll cross 90m, but there are technical and injury reasons behind why I'm struggling to hit my maximum reach. "I have to work harder for that and keep myself fit."



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Just-retired India goalkeeper JPR Sreejesh is a legend of the game and will inspire the next generation of hockey players in the country, said his teammates on Saturday, after returning from Paris Olympics with a second successive bronze medal. Olympic champions India clinched a bronze medal in Paris, beating Spain 2-1 in the play-off match. The last of India's Olympic hockey golds came in 1980. "Sreejesh is the best person, a legend, and India calls him the 'Great Wall', amazing, that is all I can say he played his best hockey, and he has contributed to the country by playing hockey, and the standard he has set as a goalkeeper, it will inspire the next generation," forward Lalit Upadhyay said during a felicitation ceremony here. "I would like to thank the entire country because of the overwhelming support you have given to hockey, like the last time but even more so now, hockey is still in the hearts of people, they continue to love the sport and continue to support." Lalit was also full of praise for inspirational skipper Harmanpreet Singh, who scored 10 goals to emerge as the highest scorer of the tournament. "The country has given him (Harmanpreet) a new nickname (Sarpanch). I am glad that the country gave him this nickname, the ones who love hockey, as a great captain,

he has shown his character and to be the top scorer of the Olympics is a big achievement. "He is a legend, there is much more to do now, and our vision is that we move forward and we can change the colour of the medal and achieve our dream." Lalit recollected the fighting spirit shown by the side against Great Britain in the quarterfinal when they were down to 10 men for more than 40 minutes of the match but eventually came out winners. "I would like to thank the coaching staff and all the players, we played like a cohesive unit and showed the character of the team, we had to give it our all, because in that moment we had no option to back down. That was the match and I cannot say more," he said. Defender Jarmanpreet Singh wished Sreejesh luck following his retirement from hockey. "I do not need to say anything about Sreejesh, the entire country praises him and has seen him play, they all call him the 'Wall', he is a legend and a great player. I had a lot of fun playing hockey with him, and I wish Sreejesh continues to do good work for hockey," he said. He also praised skipper Harmanpreet's effort in the tournament. "Harmanpreet is a goal machine of the team and we receive a lot of help from him he is the 'Sarpanch'. Jarmanpreet was happy with his own performance in his maiden Olympics. "I enjoyed myself at this year's Olympics, this was my first Olympics, and my target was to perform well for my team and the country.

## Nadia breaks Africa's stranglehold on 10,000-metre podium

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS (FRANCE)

For three straight Olympics, nobody born outside of Africa had even come close to finishing on the podium in the women's 10,000 meters. Italy's Nadia Battocletti ended that streak Friday night at the Paris Games, claiming silver in an event that had come to be dominated by Kenyans, Ethiopians and runners from those countries representing other nations. Battocletti first served notice of her potential when she swept the 5,000 and the 10,000 at a home European Championships in June. But, there were no Africans in Rome. During the 5,000 at these Games, when Battocletti finished fourth, the Africans realized how competitive she was. Battocletti crossed fourth in that race, then was upgraded to

bronze when Kenya's Faith Kipyegon was disqualified for trading elbows with Gudaf Tsegay before Kipyegon had her bronze restored on appeal. "After the 5,000, they started greeting me, appreciating me. I received lots of compliments from the Kenyan and Ethiopian girls," Battocletti said. "I imagine they had a little bit of fear. ... I heard them talking in the last laps about who amongst them was about to sprint." When Beatrice Chebet of Kenya burst ahead in the final 100 meters of the 25-lap race, Battocletti was the only one who could follow her. Chebet won in 30 minutes, 43.25 seconds to complete a sweep of the 5,000 and 10,000; Battocletti crossed second a mere 0.10 behind, and Ethiopian-born Dutch runner and defending champion Sifan Hassan was third, nearly a full



second back. "In the last 500-600 meters, I kept my eyes wide open and I told myself, 'Don't let them run away,'" Battocletti said. "I tried to be as smart as possible, like a fox." And to think, this was only the fourth time in her career that Battocletti has run a 10,000. She's only 24 and distance runners tend to mature later in their careers.

Battocletti's parents were both runners. Her father, Giuliano, competed for Italy at eight world cross-country championships. Her Moroccan mother, Jawhara Saddougui, specialized in the 800. Battocletti is from the mountainous region of Trentino amid the Dolomites Range, an area better known for snow sports and near some of the venues for the 2026

Milan-Cortina Winter Games. "The event that changed my life was the historic Ciapolada della Val di Non, a snowshoe race that my father won for the third time in 2007," Battocletti said, thinking back to when she was six years old. "The organizers told me that if I wanted to, I could symbolically run the final stretch with him. That allowed me to cross the first finish line of my life." Beyond running, Battocletti also studies architecture, building and construction engineering at the University of Trento. Before the 10,000, Battocletti taped up one of her ankles due to an Achilles tendon issue. But, the tape peeled off as the race wore on and was dragging around her spikes. "At a certain point, I felt like I was skating," she said. "Then at the end, I heard the stadium exploding in celebration."

## Tamirat wins men's marathon to end Kenya dominance

AP ■ PARIS

Ethiopian runner Tamirat Tola won the men's marathon at the Paris Olympics to end Kenya's dominance of the race. Tola finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 6 minutes, 26 seconds, with Belgium's Bashir Abdi finishing 21 seconds behind and Benson Kipruto taking bronze for Kenya, 34 seconds back. Tola looked back as he neared the line and had time to soak up the applause. Two-time defending champion Eliud Kipchoge struggled throughout and was more than eight minutes behind Tola. The last non-Kenyan to win was Ugandan Stephen Kiprotich at the London Games in 2012.

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

AP ■ PARIS

Not even a tense tête-à-tête in the gold medal game could spoil the vibe at Paris' biggest beach party. Canada's Brandie Wilkerson and Brazil's Ana Patricia got into a finger-pointing shouting match across the net in the tiebreaking third set of the beach volleyball final of the Paris Olympics on Friday night. The referee tried to keep the peace, but it was the Eiffel Tower Stadium DJ who cooled tempers on the sand by playing John Lennon's "Imagine" over the PA system. The players laughed and clapped. The crowd applauded and sang along. Wilkerson was shown a yellow card. The top-ranked Brazilians left with the gold medal. "Were competitors and we are fighting for the same thing: There's only one gold medal," Wilkerson said during a post-match news conference in which the two laughed and jokingly put up their fists as if



they were going to brawl it out. "Immediately after the game, it's all love and respect," she said. "We bring out the best in each other, and I'm honored to play against this team." Ana Patricia and Duda rallied from an 11-5 deficit to take the first-to-21, win-by-two first set 26-24, and Canada won the second 21-12. Brazil opened up a 12-7 lead in the first-to-15 tiebreaker when, after a joust at the net, Wilkerson and Ana Patricia began pointing fingers at each other. The second referee, the one at

sand level, moved out to separate the two players, but Wilkerson continued to argue and picked up a yellow card. As the Brazilians got into position to serve for the next point, the DJ began playing "Imagine," the late Beatle's song calling for unity and peace. The message resonated with the players. "What a beautiful opportunity we have to play the finals under the Eiffel Tower against the best in the world," Wilkerson said. "Like, that, in of itself, is a win."

Wilkerson told reporters afterward that it was all a misunderstanding: She was responding to her family, cheering in the crowd behind the Brazilians, and Ana Patricia thought Wilkerson was taunting her. "We're pretty amped up, partners are coming in, refs are coming in. So it was a bit of a mess," Wilkerson said. "But after the game, and even right when they came to shake our hands, still on the court, there was an immediate hug and just kind of like, Hey, it's all good." When play resumed, it took Brazil only five more points to finish off Wilkerson and Melissa Humana-Paredes, kicking off a party the sport's spiritual home hadn't seen since hosting the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games at Copacabana. In Tokyo, the country was shut out at the Summer Games for the first time since beach volleyball was added to the program in 1996. Three years later, Brazil not only returned to the podium but climbed to its top step.



## Boxer Imane wins gold

AP ■ PARIS

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif has won a gold medal Friday at the Paris Olympics, emerging as a champion from a tumultuous run at the Games where she endured intense scrutiny in the ring and online abuse from around the world over misconceptions about her womanhood. Khelif beat Yang Liu of China 5:0 in the final of the women's welterweight division, wrapping up the best series of fights of her boxing career with a victory at Roland Garros, where crowds chanted her name, waved Algerian flags and roared every time she landed a punch. After her unanimous win, Khelif jumped into her coaches' arms, one of them putting her on his shoulders and carrying her in a victory lap as she pumped her fists and grabbed an Algerian flag from the crowd. "For eight years, this has been my dream, and I'm now the Olympic champion and gold medalist," Khelif said through an interpreter. Asked about the scrutiny, she told reporters: "That also gives me success a special taste because of those attacks." "We are in the Olympics to perform as athletes, and I hope that we will not see any similar attacks in future Olympics," she said.

Fans have embraced Khelif in Paris even as she faced an extraordinary amount of scrutiny from world leaders, major celebrities and others who have questioned her eligibility or falsely claimed she was a man. It has thrust her into a larger divide over changing attitudes toward gender identity and regulations in sports. It stems from the Russian-dominated International Boxing Association's decision to disqualify Khelif and fellow two-time Olympian Li Yu-ting of Taiwan from last year's world championships, claiming both failed an eligibility test for women's competition that IBA officials have declined to answer basic questions about. "I'm fully qualified to take part in this competition," Khelif said Friday. "I'm a woman like any other woman. I was born as a woman, I live as a woman, and I am qualified." The International Olympic Committee took the unprecedented step last year of permanently banning the IBA from the Olympics following years of concerns about its governance, competitive fairness and financial transparency. The IOC has called the arbitrary sex tests that the sport's governing body imposed on the two boxers irretrievably flawed.

## Netherlands defends women's hockey title

AP ■ COLOMBES (FRANCE)

The Netherlands defended its title in Olympic women's field hockey, rallying from an early deficit to beat China 2-1 in a shootout in the final at the Paris Games on Friday night. The victory followed the Dutch men's team taking gold a day earlier. The Netherlands became the first country to sweep the field hockey medals at the Games since the women's tournament was added in 1980. Much like the men, the women did so surrounded by a sea of orange, with Dutch fans filling Yves-du-Manoir Stadium and making for a festive atmosphere. Also like the men, it did not happen easily. The Netherlands fell behind 5:54 in when a defensive lapse in front



allowed Chen Yi to redirect Dan Wen's setup past goalkeeper Anne Veenendaal. After trailing for just six minutes all tournament until the final, the Dutch generated plenty of quality chances through three quarters, including Frederique Malta ringing one penalty corner shot off the left post and missing wide right on another. Yibbi Jansen tied it with 9:11 left in regulation by scoring on a penalty corner, setting off cheering, flag-waving and jumping in the stands. Pien Sanders, Maria Verschoor and Marijn Veen scored in the shootout to spark what could be an all-night party for the Dutch players and their fans. The second of back-to-back Olympic titles came with former coach Alyson Annan on the other side with China.

Annan, an Australian native who guided the Netherlands to gold in Tokyo in 2021, abruptly stepped down in early 2022 after a Royal Dutch Hockey Association investigation into team culture under her watch following complaints from players. The Netherlands improved to 21-0 against China over the past decade, with 15 of those wins being by multiple goals. Argentina took home women's field hockey bronze after beating Belgium in a penalty shootout. Argentina medaled for a second consecutive Games, taking silver in Tokyo for losing to the Netherlands in the final. "It's crazy," Argentina goalkeeper Cristina Cosentino said. "We're very happy."

# WRESTLER AMAN SEHRAWAT BECOMES INDIA'S YOUNGEST OLYMPIC MEDALLIST

PTI ■ PARIS

Grappler Aman Sehrawat became India's youngest ever Olympic medallist by clinching the 57kg free-style category bronze less than a month after his 21st birthday to complete a memorable Games debut and lift the sagging spirits of the controversy-hit national wrestling contingent here on Friday.

Sehrawat, who turned 21 on July 16, notched up a commanding 13-5 win over Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz in a high-intensity third-place contest.

Before him, the celebrated P V Sindhu held the title of being India's youngest Olympic podium finisher after she claimed a silver in the 2016 Games at the age of 21 years, one month and 14 days.

Sehrawat has not even completed a month since turning 21. His effort helped India win its sixth medal and move closer to the Tokyo Games tally of seven. The country has so far secured one silver and five bronze, including today's medal.

"It's been a long time since I won a medal for my country. I had to do something about it.

I would like to say to the people of India that I will definitely win a gold for you in 2028," the youngster, who was raised by his grandfather after losing his parents as a child, said after his triumph.

"The target was gold but I had to be content with bronze this time. I had to forget the semifinal defeat. I told myself, let it go and focus on next. Sushil pehlawan ji won two medals, I will win in 2028 and then in 2032 also," he added enthusiastically.

The U-23 world champion was the lone Indian male wrestler to qualify for the Paris Games and he did not disappoint. Wrestling has not missed a medal at the Olympics since 2008 and Sehrawat's effort ensured the streak remained unbroken.

Sushil Kumar broke the glass ceiling by winning the bronze in Beijing (2008), and since then Yogeshwar Dutt (2012), Sakshi Malik (2016), Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia (2021) have kept the tradition intact.

Coach Jagmender Singh and Virender Dahiya said they spent a sleepless night to monitor Sehrawat's weight.

"We took special precautions to reduce his weight. We kept checking his weight every



WINS 57KG FREE-STYLE BRONZE IN PARIS

hour. We didn't sleep the whole night," Dahiya said.

**LIFTS SPIRITS OF WRESTLING CONTINGENT:** A lot was expected from women wrestlers but Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), and Nisha Dahiya (68kg) could not reach the medal rounds in their respective categories.

On the other hand, Vinesh Phogat (50kg) lost despite entering the final as she was disqualified from the gold-medal bout for being 100gm overweight.

The disqualification led to a huge uproar in the country and Vinesh has challenged her ouster in the ad-hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The hearing concluded on Friday and a decision is expected by Sunday evening.

Teenager Panghal also landed herself in trouble for sending her sister to the Games Village on her accreditation card. She was deported along with her entourage on Thursday after a first-round loss.

**SHOWS OFF AGGRESSIVE MOVES:** It was a fast-paced bout with quick moves from the two rival wrestlers.

Once Sehrawat got a measure of his opponent, he did not give much of a chance to the

Puerto Rican. He built a healthy 6-3 lead by the end of first period with consecutive takedown moves. As is usually the case, Sehrawat, who thrives on a high-endurance game, first tried to wear down his opponent and then went for the kill.

With dominating technical-superiority wins over Vladimir Egorov and Zelimkhan Abakarov, the Indian wrestler stormed into the semifinals without conceding a single point but was no match for Japan's Rei Higuchi in the semifinals.

**TOUGH BEGINNING:** Having lost his parents at a tender age of 12, the famed Chhatrasal stadium — where his father had enrolled him in 2013 — became Sehrawat's second home.

The stadium that became his shelter was the one gave India four Olympic medallists — Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya.

And Sehrawat ensured that he joined the roll of honour as the youngest among the giants who did it before him.

Reetika Hooda (76kg) will be in action on Saturday, and if she wins a medal, India will match its Tokyo tally.



## Upton and boot camp with Mike toughened us mentally before Olympics: Harmanpreet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

From conceding goals under pressure to becoming mentality monsters, who pulled off clutch moments in the Olympics for a second successive bronze.

The Indian men's hockey team has come a long way and captain Harmanpreet Singh credits mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton and a three-day boot camp with Swiss adventurer Mike Horn for the fortitude that his players displayed during the campaign in Paris.

"Yes, definitely, the mental toughness of this side is totally different. We are a united bunch and we backed each other and motivated each other when chips were down," Harmanpreet told PTI after returning to the country on Saturday.

"From first to last (game), we played as a unit and backed each other in search of the gold medal. Definitely Paddy Upton has a big role to play in this. Even the three-day camp with Mike Horn before the Olympics made our bond more strong. So mentally we were in a good space," he added.

Upton, who has previously also worked with the 2011 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team, came on board in June last year.

It was his idea to have a camp with Horn before the team made its way to Paris. The three-day stay in Switzerland included activities like walking on a glacier with harnesses, cycling, climbing and rappelling down waterfalls.

The exercises were meant to foster team spirit and build a strong bond of trust among players.

Harmanpreet said all of it helped when the team was faced with nery situations like the quarterfinal against Britain in which it played with 10 men for more than 40 minutes after Amit Rohidas was red-carded for dangerous play.

The team didn't just manage to hold Britain to 1-1 in regulation time, it went on to win the shootout with star goalkeeper P R Sreejesh coming up with a brilliant performance.

It was a refreshing outcome for a side which had the reputation of being a late conceder.

Harmanpreet and his men managed to completely shed that image with the gritty show in Paris and Sreejesh could take a lot of credit for it thanks to his inspiring and reassuring presence in front of the goalpost.

The 36-year-old Keralaite retired at the end of India's campaign after another memorable performance in the bronze playoff which India won 2-1 against Spain, another high-pressure game.

Harmanpreet, who exchanged his medal with Sreejesh on the podium just as he did in Tokyo, wants the veteran goalkeeper to continue for some more time but said he understands his close friend's desire to go out on a high.

"Sreejesh and I are like brothers, we have played together for long. Yes, I want him to continue playing for some more years but at the end of the day it's completely his personal decision and we should support it.

"He is a legend and Indian hockey will only benefit when he joins the Indian junior team as coach," he said.

## Women's Olympic marathon in Paris records a 1st by running last instead of men's race

AP ■ PARIS

There was a time, not that long ago, when those in charge of the Olympics thought it was too dangerous for women to run a marathon.

On Sunday, in a break with tradition that stamps an exclamation point on how much has changed over the last 40 years, the women, not the men, will have the honour of closing out the Olympic track meet with the traditional 26.2-mile run.

Organizers of the Paris Games are using the Sunday women's marathon as another way to highlight the conquering of a long-sought benchmark at the Olympics; these are the first Summer Games to have an equal number of men and women competing.

In another nod to the historical significance of the moment, the marathon route traces the steps of the Women's March on Versailles. That was a seminal moment during the French Revolution when women in a Paris marketplace organized a march to Versailles to bring their complaints to King Louis XVI over the high price of bread.

Joan Benoit won the 1st Olympic marathon. Watching all this with interest will be Joan Benoit Samuelson, who won the first Olympic marathon, which wasn't run until the Los Angeles Games in 1984.

"All these years later, all these centuries later, women are again tracing routes that changed the course of history, and in this case, certainly for the positive," Samuelson said in an interview with The Associated Press.

For years, before Samuelson's history-making marathon, women were restricted to races of 800 meters or less. The 1,500 was added in 1972.

Some of the arguments against women running longer distances included the idea that they couldn't handle the psychological stress of long races, and also that the taxing runs could cause infertility.

In 1966, Roberta Gibb, after being denied entry into the Boston Marathon, hid behind a bush near the start line and ran the course.

Not until 1972 were women officially allowed in Boston, and it was another



12 years before the Olympics joined in. Carey Pinkowski, the executive race director for the Chicago Marathon, said that when he began working with the race in 1990, around 5% of participants were women. He said that now, 50% of the field for Chicago's race is made up of women.

**JOAN BENOIT RAN THE HIGHWAYS OF LA FOR THE FIRST MARATHON GOLD:** In 1984, the women's marathon took place on the first Sunday of the Olympic track meet, not the last. The route ran from Santa Monica and went mostly along freeway routes before ending at the LA Coliseum.

Samuelson, then known as Joan Benoit, was the world record holder, but not a favourite because she was coming off knee surgery.

Her main competition was the reigning world champion, Grete Waitz. Benoit started fast, finished strong, ran the distance in two hours, 24 minutes, 52

seconds and secured her mark in history as the first women's Olympic marathon winner.

"I sort of lived by the adage, Run your own race since that time," Samuelson said. "You can't run anybody else's race in life but your own."

**BILES AND LEDECKY SHINED, AND NOW A WOMAN MARATHONER GETS CENTER STAGE:** In an Olympics, in which Simone Biles, Sha'Carri Richardson and Katie Ledecky dominated the headlines, and where a toxic debate over gender in women's boxing drove a good portion of the hard news, women will own the spotlight to close out the track meet, the traditional centrepiece of the Games.

"That means most of the people will be watching as they wait for closing ceremonies," said two-time Olympic 5,000-meter silver medalist Hellen Obiri, the Kenyan standout who is the favourite and is drawing her own new

audience as the subject of a documentary titled "The Heart to Race" that's produced by the sportswear company "On."

"It's a great opportunity for millions of people to watch you. That's on your mind. I want to work extra hard to make these people happy," Obiri and the other 91 women, who entered the race, will find this journey through Parisian history to be far from an easy stroll.

The course is a bruising run, filled with winding inclines that reach grades as steep as 13.5% and is viewed as the most difficult the Olympics has seen. There were times on Saturday when the men, struggling to negotiate the hills, looked like they were jogging.

"It is simply the toughest course that's ever been for a major championship, and we believe that makes it the most interesting of tactical races," said Jon Ridgeon, the former sprinter who is CEO of World Athletics. "I think for the athletes, it makes it more unpredictable. It's going to be a fascinating mindset."

**FOR SIFAN HASSAN, THE MARATHON WILL BE HER THIRD RACE OF THE OLYMPICS:** If only the decision-makers from a generation ago - the leaders who thought women were too fragile to run long distances - could see what Sifan Hassan is doing this week.

Not 48 hours after winning the bronze medal in the 10,000 meters for her second distance bronze of the Paris Games, Hassan, the Ethiopian-born runner who competes for the Netherlands, will trade the track at the Stade de France for the brutal marathon course.

She also ran two 5,000-meter races and finished third in the final there. If Hassan can wind her way through this hilly tour of French history, then finally past the Esplanade des Invalides and across the finish line, she will have run more than 62 kilometres over nine days - more than any person, man or woman, at the Paris Games.

If she wins a medal, she will duplicate her feat from the Tokyo Games, when she won three medals in three distance events. That time, she ran the 1,500, not the marathon.

"Endurance on Sunday, that's not a joke," Hassan said.

## Afghan refugee breaker disqualified for wearing 'Free Afghan Women' cape at Paris Olympics

AP ■ PARIS

Refugee breaker Manizha Talash, or "b-girl Talash," was disqualified from the first-ever Olympic breaking competition on Friday, after she wore a cape that said "Free Afghan Women" during her pre-qualifier battle against India Sardjoe - known as "b-girl India."

The 21-year-old, originally from Afghanistan and representing the Olympic Refugee, team lost in the pre-qualifier battle against Sardjoe, and would not have advanced even if she hadn't been disqualified.

Political statements and slogans are banned on the field of play and on podiums at the Olympics. World DanceSport Federation, the governing body for breaking at the Olympics, issued a statement afterward that said she "was disqualified for displaying a political slogan on her attire during the Pre-Qualifier battle."

Talash sought asylum in Spain after fleeing Taliban rule in her home country in 2021.

"I'm here because I want to reach my dream. Not because I'm scared," she told The Associated Press before the Olympics from Spain, where she was granted asylum.

The one-off pre-qualifier battle between Talash and Sardjoe was added in May, when Talash was included in the Olympic roster after the b-girl from Afghanistan missed registration for qualifying events. The International Olympic Committee's executive board invited her to participate after learning of her efforts to defy the strict rule of the Taliban in her home country.

## India batter Mandeep moves to Tripura from Punjab ahead of upcoming domestic season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian batter Mandeep Singh on Saturday announced that he will play for Tripura in the upcoming domestic season, ending his 14-year stint with Punjab.

Mandeep played three T20 Internationals for India in 2016 against Zimbabwe.

"I have had the most amazing journey at PCA from junior level all the way to senior level whilst also having the best fortune of being the Winning Captain of the Syed Mushtaq

Ali Trophy for 2023-2024," Mandeep wrote in Instagram.

"However, after a lot of deliberation, I think it's time for me to open a new chapter in my career. I have decided that now is the right time to go ahead and play cricket for Tripura in the upcoming domestic season," he added in the social media post.

The 32-year-old thanked Punjab association and former cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh for the "constant support."

"I want to extend my



appreciation to Dilsher Khanna, secretary of PCA, Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh, for their constant support throughout the years. I would also like to thank the members of PCA Management and to the staff that have been by my side over the years," he said.

Mandeep said he wanted to achieve many more milestones with Tripura.

"I am excited for the new beginnings at Tripura and to celebrate the many milestones and achievements that are yet

to come," he added.

Mandeep made his debut for Punjab in 2010, and the experienced batter's presence will come handy for Tripura after wicketkeeper batter Wriddhiman Saha moved back to Bengal prior to the upcoming season.

Mandeep has made 6448 runs from 99 matches at an average of 47.76, including 15 centuries with a top score of 235.

Besides Mandeep, Tripura will also have the services of former Punjab batter Jiwant Singh this season.

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



# DELHI-DEHRADUN EXPRESSWAY DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH DAMAGE?

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

Uttarakhand has for long been a popular destination for pilgrims and tourists. While Haridwar is a major pilgrimage centre in the plains, the provisional State capital Dehradun hosts a number of prominent national-level institutions including the Survey of India and Indian Military Academy along with famous educational institutions, apart from being the gateway to the popular hill station of Mussoorie and other tourism activities especially in the mountainous regions of Garhwalin the State. Apart from long weekends and special occasions, the summer months frequently witness a large number of people arriving here especially from Delhi-NCR. Similarly, snowfall in the nearby hills also attracts a number of tourists from neighbouring regions. At present, people travel between Delhi and Dehradun/Haridwar by road, train or by air. The time taken to travel between Doon and the national Capital by road ranges from five to seven hours depending on the time when one travels and the location one is going to. Similarly, it takes about five to six hours by train and though the flight takes 40 minutes to one hour, one may spend more than an additional hour to get to the destination from the airport. This scenario is expected to be changed drastically in the near future with the completion of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project of the National Highways Authority of India. The completion of this 212-kilometre six-lane access controlled expressway with a project cost of Rs 14,000 crore, which is in its final stage of construction, will drastically cut down the travel time between Delhi and Dehradun/Haridwar to 2.5 hours. This expressway is also expected to be an example for the world as it also features a 13.8 kilometre elevated road, making it Asia's longest wildlife corridor. The authorities involved in the project state that the

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



stretch where the elevated road has been built has Rajaji National Park on the one side and the Shivalik Wildlife Reserve on the other. An average of 35,000 vehicles pass daily through this stretch. Widening the existing stretch of the highway between Ganeshpur in the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh and Asharodi in Dehradun would have been cheaper but might have ended causing more environmental damage and exacerbating human-wildlife conflict. Widening the existing highway would have entailed the cutting of about 1.5 lakh trees while about 11,000 trees had to be cut for building the elevated road. The Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) set up 80 camera traps on this stretch and studied wildlife movement here for three months. The movement of about 40 to 50 different wildlife species ranging from deer and wild boar to leopards and elephants was ascertained here in this duration. As part of the expressway project, the authorities will also work on an eco-restoration plan. Further, budget

has been allocated for the WII to place cameras on the 550 pillars to study wildlife movement on this corridor for a period of five years. Similarly, the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun will undertake a three-year Sal tree regeneration project in this area to enhance the environment. According to officials involved in the project, the elevated stretch is expected to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and also prove beneficial for the wildlife and environment. At present, the longest such wildlife corridor in India is about eight kilometres long and is located in Pench, connecting Madhya Pradesh with Maharashtra. While this project promises to bring about drastic changes not just in Dehradun and Haridwar but also in Delhi, there are many who have apprehensions about the impacts of this major development. Dehradun-based anthropologist and heritage expert Lokesh Ohri says that the project will certainly have benefits but questioned whether Dehradun and Mussoorie are prepared for what is to come. "The opening of

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

Human rights lawyer Reenu Paul who had also challenged the Ganeshpur-Asharodi stretch of the project in the Uttarakhand High Court for conservation of the Shivalik ecosystem, opined that damage to the Shivalik range will cause considerable damage to the

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



# CHARMING COONOOR PROMISES A TRANQUIL RETREAT!

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

BY SHARMILA CHAND

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

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

#### MAGICAL NIGHT

I wait for the spectacular night view when the sky is full of pretty stars in coherence with the lights of the



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

#### NILGIRIS ENDOWED WITH UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY

The Nilgiri mountains stretch over the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, connecting Western Ghats with the Eastern Ghats. Located at the convergence of both Ghats, lends Nilgiris vibrant flora and fauna. From Evergreen forests

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

#### INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY - THE TODAS

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

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

#### A CUP THAT CHEERS!

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

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

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

#### INTERESTING ATTRACTIONS TO VISIT

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

**Dolphin's Nose Point** — Located at an altitude of 1,500, it is set amidst the rolling hills, the tip of the peak of the enormous rock resembles the nose of a dolphin hence the name Dolphin's Nose. Gigantic ravines are on both sides of the place offering a view of inspiring Catherine Falls.  
**Lamb's Rock** - enjoy fascinating



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

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

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

#### KETTI VALLEY

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

#### GOURMET CHEESE

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

#### SHOPPING

Shopping in Coonoor is pretty good. From pretty embroidered shawls, apparels, Toda jewellery and handicrafts items to natural oils, fruit jams, homemade chocolates and of course, the huge variety of tea, shopping here is really good. Spend at least a week, soak in fresh crisp mountain air and come back rejuvenated till you return to the spectacular queen of hills.

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



## EXPLORING PARADISE

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Museum, Anthropological Museum, Fisheries Aquarium, Science Center, and Corbyn's Cove. The historic Cellular Jail will not only enrich your knowledge of history but also evoke a deep emotional connection as you learn about the struggles of lesser-known

freedom fighters and the inhumane torture they endured under British rule. To reach Shaheed Dweep (formerly known as Neil Island) and Swaraj Dweep (formerly known as Havelock Island) from Port Blair, you must travel by small ships,

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

Dweep are not to be missed. Scuba diving at Shaheed Dweep offers an unforgettable experience.

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

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

meet, or photograph these tribes. Respect their peaceful haven and adhere to the law.

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

Photos: Santanu Ganguly

As a dedicated disciple of Padma Bhushan Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Kaushalya Reddy, Adiva Agarwal has beautifully embodied the spirit of Kuchipudi. Her recent performance was a heartfelt expression of her growth and the profound influence of her esteemed gurus, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

## A DANCE OF DREAMS EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF KUCHIPUDI

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

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

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



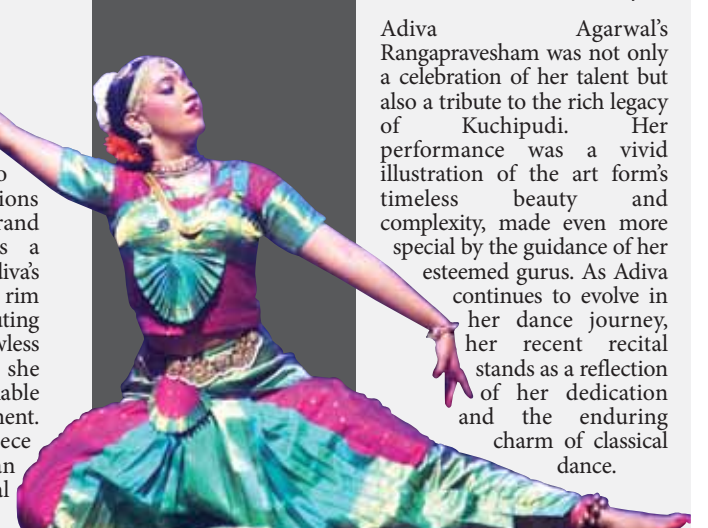
Photos: Pankaj Kumar

demonstrating Adiva's deep understanding of the form and its narratives.

The highlight of the performance was the "Tillana," a vibrant piece characterised by its rhythmic complexity and energetic movements. Adiva's ability to navigate the intricate patterns and maintain dynamic engagement with the audience was a showcase of her exceptional skill and stage presence. Her performance was a beautiful embodiment of Kuchipudi's essence, blending technical brilliance with artistic flair.

Adding emotional depth to the evening was "Chhaap Tilak Sab Cheeni," a devotional poem by

Amir Khusro. Adiva's interpretation of this piece was imbued with spiritual reverence, showcasing her ability to convey profound emotions through dance. The grand finale, "Tarangam," was a breathtaking display of Adiva's virtuosity. Dancing on the rim of a brass plate while executing intricate footwork with flawless synchronisation, she demonstrated a remarkable level of skill and commitment. This climactic piece beautifully capped off an evening of exceptional performances.



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

## Discovering Absence Through Visual Expression

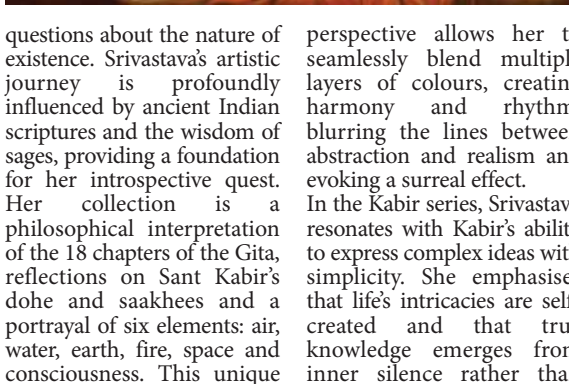
Antra Srivastava's latest exhibition challenges us to delve into the unseen, revealing the hidden depths of absence in our lives, says **TEAM AGENDA**



The allure of absence is a peculiar paradox; it quietly demands attention, shaping our perceptions and provoking our thoughts. Artist Antra Srivastava's exhibition, *The Inescapable Presence of Absence*, invites viewers on a profound journey of reflection. This solo exhibition captivates audiences with its surreal yet deeply philosophical exploration of what lies beyond the visible.

Antra Srivastava, a Dehradun-based artist, her experiences as an avid traveler deeply influence her work, resulting in paintings that capture the vibrancy and diversity of the world. Through her art, she blends surrealism with poetic expression, drawing inspiration from the vitality of nature and the profound energy that flows through her creative process. She describes herself as both a participant and a witness in this artistic journey, immersing herself in the boundless realm of creative energy.

The theme of *The Inescapable Presence of Absence* delves into the paradox where absence becomes a palpable presence. This theme challenges viewers to rethink their perceptions, urging them to reflect on the significant impact of what is not present. It invites an exploration of the unseen and the unheard, asking profound



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

perspective allows her to seamlessly blend multiple layers of colours, creating harmony and rhythm, blurring the lines between abstraction and realism and evoking a surreal effect. In the Kabir series, Srivastava resonates with Kabir's ability to express complex ideas with simplicity. She emphasises that life's intricacies are self-created and that true knowledge emerges from inner silence rather than

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

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

## A CANVAS OF WONDERS

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

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

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

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

*The Sun Chariot* is a fascinating work that pays homage to the Nalanga temple art. Artist meticulous rendering of the astronomical sundial, with its eight spokes representing the "prahars" of the day, is both educational and visually captivating. The painting serves as a reminder of the rich cultural heritage and architectural marvels that continue to inspire artists today. Her ability to capture both natural and architectural beauty with precision invites



viewers to appreciate the power of art and the beauty that surrounds us.

In *Anchored in Serenity* the artist depicts a tranquil boat scene that encourages reflection and peace. The painting's serene composition invites viewers to pause and consider the importance of finding calm amid the chaos of modern life. *The Bridge* similarly highlights the significance of connections and relationships, celebrating the beauty of bridges as symbols of unity and continuity. *The Power of Music*, celebrates music as a universal language of the spirit, while *Sunflowers*, presents a spiritual perspective on these bright blooms. These



artworks reflect the artist's thoughtful approach and emotional depth, conveyed through vibrant colors and delicate detail. The curation of the exhibition by Dr. Alka Pande further enhances the experience, providing context and insight into the themes and techniques that define Mahajan's work. Pande's expertise in Indian arts and

aesthetics brings an added layer of understanding, making the exhibition not only visually engaging but also intellectually stimulating. *This Beautiful World* is an exhibition that beautifully captures the essence of the world around us. Mahajan's paintings are a tribute to her talent and dedication and the exhibition as a whole serves as a reminder of the power of art to inspire, uplift and connect us to the world. The blend of nature, culture and emotion in her work offers a refreshing perspective and an opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary beauty that exists in the ordinary moments of life.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour teal  
Lucky day Monday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Turquoise  
Lucky day Sunday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Mint  
Lucky day Wednesday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

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

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Coral  
Lucky day Friday



**VRIGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Maroon  
Lucky day Thursday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Plum  
Lucky day Tuesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Lavender  
Lucky day Wednesday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Amber  
Lucky day Monday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

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

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Mauve  
Lucky day Friday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Olive  
Lucky day Tuesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

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

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Peach  
Lucky day Saturday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

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

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Charcoal  
Lucky day Monday

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**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Shakti trinity influences thought trends

It comes out from the previous issue that the primal source - the root of all creations - is beyond all limitations of creativity, knowledge, time, space, and laws of causation. Ordinary mortals, on the contrary, are in the first place, armed with limited creative ability. Second, the primal source is all-knowing, as it lends intelligence to all levels of creation, and also to all creations at the levels respectively due to each. But all manifest creatures, including human beings, lack all-knowingness. Consequently, one's scope of vision and thereby awareness level gets narrowed down, offering us a fractioned view of the world process. Third, for the above reasons, human beings are born with an inherent 'sense of want', which excites the urge to make up for the void. Thus, comes into play the sense of craving, desire, lust, possession and such other related tendencies. Fourth, unlike the creator, we are bound by the limitation of time, in the sense that we measure happenings in the frame of past, present, and future. As we are aware, all live existences

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



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

Finally, human beings are bound by the limitation of space. Here it needs to be appreciated that the primal source being a unified energy-field, its constituents can't be differentiated by any measure of space, and so free from

any such limitation. On the contrary, all form-existences including human beings are bound by space. We, therefore, identify ourselves with our gross body, differentiated from all others, and belonging to a particular place. With such an individualised sense of identity, the sense of essential unity underlying all diverse existences takes a back seat. The sense of all-inclusiveness thus getting lost, one gets tempted to differentiate one from the other, and begin to compare each other in relative terms. Consequently, a sense of divide comes into play. It is in this sense that out of many, one meaning ascribed to the word 'Maya' is the sense of measure. It is important to note here that the way a human being perceives, is how s/he would react, respond, or act upon in day-to-day life. And since human minds have limited perceptive and comprehensive abilities, an ordinary mortal is not able to have holistic understanding of the world process. Naturally, with a fractioned vision, one fails to perceive things in right perspective, and with obvious consequences

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

The issue continues.....

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