



OPINION 6 FINDING FAULT WITH THE US FOR INTERNAL FAILURES

WORLD 9 FBI PROBING TRUMP CAMPAIGN CHARGE OF HACKING BY IRAN

MONEY 10 SENSEX TUMBLES NEARLY 700 POINTS

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WE DIDN'T EVEN GET DESIRED COACH: ASHWINI 12 SPORTS

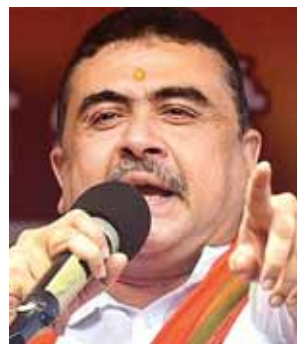
## CBI TO PROBE KOLKATA'S BESTIAL RAPE AND MURDER CASE

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a verdict welcomed by the medical fraternity which was fearing destruction of evidence by the State police in the brutal rape and murder of a resident doctor of RG Kar Medical College Hospital, Kolkata, in the medical college's seminar hall, the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered a court-monitored probe by the CBI into the crime. Ironically, R G Kar Medical College Hospital was considered till a few years ago the best medical college in eastern India. The Bench of Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharya, hearing five public interest litigations (PIL) and a private plea, in its order directed the Kolkata Police to immediately hand over the case diary to the CBI official present in the court. Other related documents are to be handed over to the Central agency by 10 am on Wednesday. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had on Monday set the State police a deadline till Sunday to crack the case failing which, she warned, she would consider transferring the case to the Central agency. The agitators demanding justice for the 31-year-old victim, however, took the Chief Minister's decision with a pinch of salt wondering whether she was giving the



police some extra bit of time to tamper with or destroy evidence. They also questioned her move to transfer Sandip Ghosh the principal of the RG Kar Medical College to the NRS Medical College. "While passing the order, the court was particularly perturbed at the facts that the college authorities did not lodge any FIR and tried to let the crime pass as a suicide case whereas the police registered an unnatural death (UD) case, ..."there was clearly something in it and some people (the authorities) were trying to protect which could not escape the High Court justices' notice," Kautav Bagchi, a BJP leader and a lawyer who is also one of the petitioners said.



The post-graduate student who was sleeping inside the seminar hall at the medical college after completing 36-hours of work was on Friday morning found dead with her body in a semi-nude condition setting off massive protests by doctors across the State. Later,

resident doctors in several cities in other States, too, joined the agitation for bringing the culprit/culprits to justice. Apparently, in a damage control exercise, the Kolkata Police immediately set up a special investigation team, and arrested one Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer. However, the resident doctors said there were other insiders with high connections involved in the crime. They also attacked the principal for calling him the fountainhead of "everything that is bad and deplorable in the college". The court on its part wondered why the Health Department transferred Ghosh to the NRS Medical

College within hours of his resigning from his post following intense public outcry. The judges directed the Health Department to force the principal to go on long leave which he did by the end of the day. The medical students across the State, including those of the RGKMCH, however, said they were not immediately calling off the 'cease work' stir and would take a decision only after a general body meeting. Welcoming the court order, Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said his "next step would be to demand the resignation of the Health Minister Mamata who is also the Chief Minister." He said, "The BJP MLAs will start a dharna at the State Assembly from tomorrow seeking her resignation... because she had gone to the victim's house not to express her sympathy but to 'manage' her family... this Ghosh who is a real racketeer and is close to Dr SP Das, the family physician of the Chief Minister, and so he does whatever he wants... the principal and the TMC students union have held the college to ransom... the situation is almost the same in other medical colleges of the State... these are a den of corruption and everyone knows where the money goes... so Mamata gave the principal a reward posting him elsewhere after he resigned."



Junior doctors take part in protest at the Rani Chennamma Circle against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, in Hubballi, on Tuesday



Doctors and medical students protest against the sexual assault and killing of a Kolkata based post-graduate trainee doctor, at Nair Hospital in Mumbai, on Tuesday

### National Fury: How we treat our women, our saviours, a Doctor!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Medical services such as working of Outpatient Departments (OPDs) and non-emergency surgeries at various Government hospitals across the country, including the national Capital, continued to remain paralysed on Tuesday as the resident doctors' agitation against the rape-murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata. On Tuesday, more resident doctors joined the strike led by the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA). The incident has sparked widespread protests, with over three lakh junior doctors and healthcare

workers expressing deep concern over their safety. Amid the strike led by the FORDA, which said "the strike will not be lifted until justice is done and our demands are met", the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the West Bengal Government and the State's police chief in the matter. The commission on Tuesday said it has sought the reports from these authorities in two weeks. However, acting tough, as the Delhi AIIMS' Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) continued their indefinite strike on Tuesday too, the hospital administration warned them against holding any demonstration

on or around the hospital campus stating it was in violation of High Court directions and amounts to contempt of court. The administration issued an office memorandum drawing the attention of all resident doctors to the "Code of Conduct" as laid down by the High Court. It further stated that the violation of the High Court orders by the individual/students/employees/group of employees, students/Resident Doctors/Associations/Unions etc will be in contravention of the directions of High Court and make them liable for disciplinary actions and also for contempt of court. Continued on Page 8



Union Health Minister JP Nadda speaks on the RG Medical College rape and murder incident, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

### Union Health Minister JP Nadda in damage control mode

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the tragic sexual assault and murder of a post-graduate student at a medical college in West Bengal triggering nationwide agitation, Union Health Minister and BJP national president JP Nadda on Tuesday condemned the incident and hoped that the CBI probe will bring out the truth in the case. However, Nadda did not commit to implementing new laws related to the safety of doctors, a key demand of the medical community which under the banner of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) has been on strike, disrupting medical services in the hospitals. He, however, assured that the Central Government would take necessary actions against those involved in the incident and promised to address the broader concerns raised by doctors. Nadda said the incident that took place with the young woman, a PG student in West Bengal, is really heart-wrenching and has shaken the world and the country. "I condemn it and feel sorry that such an inhumane incident has happened. The way the incident took place and the way the Government has tried to hush it up, no amount of condemnation will be enough. Bengal has become a State where there is no such thing as law and

order. Lawlessness is at its peak and the sad thing is that atrocities on women are increasing day by day and all this happening despite the State having a woman Chief Minister. This is even more worrying. "I would also like to say the way the West Bengal Government has tried to hush up and suppress this case, is condemnable in the strongest terms. I welcome the decision of the High Court for the CBI enquiry. The CBI enquiry will bring out the truth." Regarding his meeting with the delegations of Doctors' Association in the last two days, he said he has assured them that the Central Government will take action against anyone connected with this incident. "I will definitely find a remedy for this and I am sure that whatever steps are necessary for this, the Government and the Ministry will take them." Meanwhile, the National Medical Commission (NMC), as directed by the Health Minister, issued advisory to all the medical colleges to ensure a safe working environment for doctors across the country. The advisory said, "Incidents of violence against doctors in medical colleges have been reported in recent past. All medical colleges are requested to develop a policy for creation of a safe work environment within the college and hospital campus for doctors. Continued on Page 8

## New Bangladesh regime reaches out to Hindus

PTI ■ DHAKA

Reaching out to the distressed Hindu community members at the famous Dhakeshwari Temple here, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday urged the people to "exercise patience" before judging his Government's role. Yunus, who took charge as the Chief Advisor of the interim Government on August 8 amid ongoing violence and vandalism, including against the minorities, also said each one's rights should be ensured and blamed "institutional decay" for the predicament that his country



Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus with Hindu community members at the famous Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka, on Tuesday

has fallen into. The meeting comes close on the heels of attacks on the minority Hindu population, vandalism of their business and properties and devastation of Hindu temples hours in the violence that ensued for days following the ouster of Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5. Dhakeshwari temple is one of the prominent shakti peethas. Meanwhile, the apex body of Hindus in Bangladesh on Tuesday said the minority Hindu community faced attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since the fall of the Hasina-led Government on August 5 and termed it as an "assault on the Hindu religion." The Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance members also pointed to the increase in attacks in recent times and asserted, "We too have rights in this country, we were born here." Continued on Page 8

### Sheikh Hasina booked for murder

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and six others, including two senior Ministers of her Cabinet and the sacked police chief, would face trial on murder charges, court officials said on Tuesday. The murder case filed against 76-year-old Hasina is the first so far against her since she resigned and fled to India on August 5. She and six



others over the death of a grocery shop owner during last month's violent clashes that led to the fall of her Government. Continued on Page 8

## Delhi LG nominates minister Kailash Gahlot to hoist national flag on I Day

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Uncertainty over who will hoist the national flag in the absence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, ended on Tuesday after Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena nominated Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot to hoist the national flag at State Government function on Independence Day at Chhatrasaal Stadium. A controversy erupted with the jailed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal directing Cabinet member Atishi to do the same. "Lieutenant Governor is pleased to nominate Minister (Home), GNCTD,



Delhi LG VK Saxena with Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot during foundation stone laying of multi-level electric bus depot, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Kailash Gahlot to unfurl the National Flag at the State level Independence Day celebrations at Chhatrasaal Stadium. Necessary arrangements may be made accordingly," Lieutenant Governor's principal

secretary Ashish Kundra said in a written communication to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar. Contrary to Kejriwal's wish, Atishi won't be able to hoist Tricolour during the State Government function on the occasion of Independence Day. This year, because Kejriwal has been in custody since March in connection with the excise policy case, the AAP convener, nominated Atishi to replace him in a letter to the Lieutenant Governor on August 6. This is the first time both AAP and Delhi BJP are on the same page and welcomed the LG's decision. Continued on Page 8

## Supreme Court closes contempt case on Baba Ramdev

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to yoga guru Ramdev, his aide Balkrishna and Patanjali Ayurved Limited, the Supreme Court on Tuesday closed the contempt proceedings initiated against them for "violation" of the undertakings given before the court in the misleading advertisements case. While the apex court accepted their apology and closed the matter, it cautioned them to strictly abide by the terms of

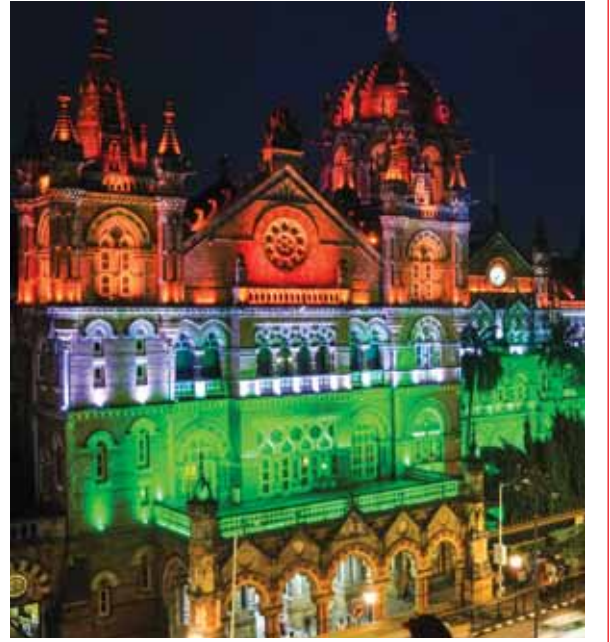
their undertakings. "Any future intransigence on their part, whether by act, deed or speech that could tantamount to violating the orders of the court or dishonouring the terms of the undertakings, shall be viewed strictly and the ensuing consequences could indeed be grave," a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said. "In that eventuality, the sword of contempt that has now been returned to rest in its sheath,



shall be flourished as swiftly as these proceedings were originally initiated," the bench said in its 41-page verdict. The contempt proceedings were initiated by the top court which is hearing a plea filed by the Indian Medical Association alleging a smear campaign against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine. In its November 21, 2023 order passed in the matter, the top court had noted that the counsel representing Patanjali

Ayurved had assured it that "henceforth there shall not be any violation of any law(s), especially relating to advertising or branding of products manufactured and marketed by it and, further, that no casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any system of medicine will be released to the media in any form". The top court had said Patanjali Ayurved Ltd is "bound down to such assurance". Continued on Page 8

### Illuminated ahead of I-Day



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus illuminated ahead of the Independence Day, in Mumbai, on Tuesday

## Labourer falls to death from 9th floor of building

**Lucknow (PNS):** In a tragic accident, a labourer fell from the 9th floor of a high-rise building in Sushant Golf City area on Tuesday morning. The labourer, identified as Vishal Kumar Yadav (25) from Sitapur, succumbed to injuries at RML hospital, where he was rushed for treatment. According to police, Yadav worked as a labourer and resided at the site with other labourers. SHO, Sushant Golf City, Anjali Kumar Mishra said that Yadav lost his balance while working on the 9th floor and fell. The body was sent for the post-mortem examination by the Vibhuti Khand police. Yadav is survived by a son. Meanwhile, the joint team of crime/surveillance (DCC, North) and Itaunja police claimed to have worked out a murder case in Itaunja area. The accused, Anil Verma from Kesarnau, Itaunja, was apprehended following the murder of a youth named Ashish. On August 11, Deshram Lodhi reported to the police that his son Ashish had been murdered, and his body was found in the area. During the investigation, the focus shifted to Anil Verma, who was called in for questioning at the Mahona police outpost. During interrogation, Verma

confessed that on the night of August 8, he and Ashish had consumed country-made liquor near a tube well at Kesarnau intersection. Both men were heavily intoxicated when Ashish began to abuse and assault Verma. Verma fled the scene, with Ashish pursuing him. They eventually reached Gohna Khurd Road, where Verma strangled Ashish with a rosary and the victim's own t-shirt. After the murder, Verma discarded Ashish's clothes and hid the naked body in the bushes.

### RANSOM CALLS TO GIRLS' PARENTS TURN OUT TO BE HOAX

The Nigoha police were on their toes on Tuesday due to a series of ransom calls targeting the parents of several girl students. The caller threatened to kill the girls unless a ransom was paid, creating a panic-stricken situation for the families involved. The incident came to light after the parents received WhatsApp calls demanding a ransom of Rs 50,000 and threatening the lives of their daughters if the money was not paid. The accused used a police officer's display picture and played a recording of a girl crying to make the threat appear genuine. The calls, made to the families of about half a dozen students, claimed that their daughters had been kidnapped on their way to college. The caller instructed the parents to pay between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1 lakh and warned that their daughters would be harmed if the ransom was not sent immediately. In a frantic response, the parents rushed to the college and were relieved to find their daughters safe. They then went to the Nigoha police station, providing the phone numbers from which the threats originated and filing a complaint. The police have involved cybercrime experts to investigate the case and track down the perpetrators.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

### NOTICE

My Son's Name is Written as ANJANEYA SRIVASTAVA in the School records which is wrong, the correct name of my son is ANJANEY SRIVASTAVA. Saurabh Srivastava S/O Radhe Shayam Srivastava R/o-14/A Saket Vihar Khurram Nagar Vikas Nagar Lucknow.

### NOTICE

That my house no 53, A satyanagar raebareli said house is purchased from sewaram son of motamal and bhagwati wife of gopichand rajpal they purchased through sale deed 2.2.1976 reg on sro sadar raebareli at book no 1 vol 593 page 116 to 120 s n 138 original sale deed fell down on 4 may 2021 while going for photocopy near ghanatagar raebareli

### NOTICE

In the school record of my daughter Sayma Ansari, her date of birth is erroneously recorded as 11.06.2008, whereas her correct date of birth is 11.10.2009, hence the correct date of birth should be mentioned. Abdul Jabbar, H.No. 346/407, Mehdiaganj, Lucknow.

### NOTICE

This is certify by Myself Ajay Kumar son of late Shree Ram mohan that spelling of my wife name is "ANSHU MALNI". This spelling is registered in her academic record and adhar card. Also Spelling of my Son's name is "DIVY PRAKASH", which is also registered in his birth certificate and adhar card. This spelling will remain in future. (Ajay kumar)

### NOTICE

I, SHIVANG holding Indian Passport No: T2197839 issued at DUBAI on 01/10/2020, Permanent Resident of SRA 15C SHIPRA RIVIERA GYANKHAND 111 INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD PIN 201010 UTTAR PRADESH INDIA, presently residing at DUBAI UAE do hereby change my name from SHIVANG to SHIVANG (Given name) MAJUMDAR (Surname) with immediate effect

### NOTICE

Notice  
It is inform to everyone that Central Bank of India, Branch Barra, Kanpur Nagar will mortgage the property mentioned below regarding finance facility to be provided by Central Bank of India, Branch Barra, Kanpur Nagar. The Bank has already obtained all original documents regarding said property except sale deed dated 08-03-2013 executed in favour of Mr. Chandra Kumar Chaturvedi, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Awasthi, which was duly registered at the office of Sub-Registrar in Book No. 1 Vol No. 13268 on Pages 299 to 352 at Serial No. 3035 on dated 08-03-2013. The said sale deed has been lost somewhere and not found after colossal efforts if any person is having interest, charge liability, dispute over the said property OR the said property has been mortgaged at any Bank, financial institution, Govt. Body or Semi Govt. Body or any dues pending regarding this property, please be inform within 30 days of this publication. After expiry of said notice period, no claim or demand will be admissible and my client will have no liability. Details of Property: House constructed over Plot No. 36 & 37 admeasuring 192.309 Sq. Mts. Forming part of Land No. 1255, Naubasta, Kanpur Nagar Yogendra Kumar, Advocate Chamber No. 58B, II Floor, Shatabdi Gate, New Building, Civil court Compound Kanpur Mob.No.9628334455

### NOTICE

I POONAM SINGH spouse of AJITPAL SINGH resident of vill-BAJURA Post Office - BIHAR Teh - bighapur Distt- Unnao State -uttar Pradesh has changed my Name from PUNAM to POONAM SINGH .

### NOTICE

I Service No 14437480W Rank Hav (Gnr )Name AJIT PAL SINGH Unit 339 Med Regt.c/o 56APO do hereby declare that my Son name is wrongly written as AIYUSH PRATAP SINGH in my service record instead of correct Name is AYUSH PRATAP SINGH which appear in Aadhar card and High school certificate .

## 22ND CONVOCATION OF Dr ABDUL KALAM TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

# Work to advance AI, cybersecurity: Governor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Governor Anandiben Patel called on Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) to play a pivotal role in advancing artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity during the 22nd convocation held on Tuesday.

Highlighting the rapid evolution of technology, Patel emphasised the need for AKTU to collaborate with the corporate sector and research organisations to spearhead advancements in these fields. Patel addressed the graduating students, noting that the 21st century is characterised by breakthroughs in information technology, telecommunications, and other technological domains.

"The world is moving toward limitless possibilities with a focus on knowledge power, knowledge banks, and think tanks," she said.

She urged AKTU to contribute significantly to AI and machine learning, fields that have immense potential but are still in their early stages in India. "Artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and robotics offer vast possibilities. AI has advanced globally but remains in its nascent phase in India. The Indian AI Mission, launched in March 2024, aims to build a robust AI ecosystem in the country," Patel explained. She also pointed out that cybersecurity and robotics are areas needing significant development. The Indian government has allocated Rs 1,550 crore in the Union budget to bolster AI and cybersecurity, reflecting the critical need for progress in



Governor Anandiben Patel and others with the students who were awarded degrees and medals at the 22nd convocation of AKTU in Lucknow on Tuesday

these areas. She acknowledged that AKTU is already utilising AI for examination paper preparation to ensure confidentiality. However, she emphasised the importance of implementing AI solutions beyond this single application. "AKTU should not only consider these technologies but actively implement them," she asserted. Addressing the graduating students, Patel highlighted the high expectations placed upon them as they transition from university to their professional lives. She reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's faith in youth power and his vision for a self-reliant India. Patel encouraged students to

review the budget allocations for research and innovation and to develop projects that align with these financial provisions. She also urged technical universities to enhance their skilling programmes. "The state government has a scheme to skill 20 lakh students. Take advantage of it," she advised. However, Patel expressed disappointment that AKTU had not yet sought NAAC grading, despite its technological advancements. She noted that affiliated colleges had received NAAC accreditation and urged the university to pursue this accreditation to enhance its standing. Patel concluded her address by encouraging participation in the 'Har

Ghar Tiranga' campaign and urged people to plant trees to address environmental concerns, reflecting on the situation in Wayanad. Minister of Technical Education Ashish Patel emphasised the need for students to contribute towards realising PM Modi's vision of transforming India into a \$5 trillion economy. Rajiv Chaba, CEO of Emirates-JSW and MG Motors India, who was a special guest, shared four essential skills for students. "First, interpersonal contact is crucial, as social media has diminished face-to-face interactions. Second, collaboration is key since one cannot achieve everything alone. Third, effective

## Toppers look forward to working for country

**Lucknow (PNS):** The toppers at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University's (AKTU) 22nd convocation, held on Tuesday, expressed their joy and future ambitions. They shared their plans for contributing to the country and advancing their careers. Jhalak Jain, recipient of the Chancellor's Medal and currently employed at a multinational company in Noida, was thrilled about her achievement. "I feel this is the result of all the hard work I put in over the four years of my B'Tech," she said. She attributed her success to consistency, family support, mind mapping, and critical thinking. Jain, who specialises in data sciences, is considering the Civil Services examination in the future but is currently focused on gaining experience in her job. She expressed a desire to improve literacy in India, particularly addressing the issue of families not supporting higher education for girls. Shruti Singh, who earned the

Kamal Rani Varun Medal, also expressed happiness about the honour. She emphasised that consistency and hard work were crucial to her success. Singh, who will soon join a private company, plans to contribute to environmental causes by working with NGOs dedicated to this area. Amandeep Singh, who received a gold medal in BArch, was excited about his achievement. He plans to start his own architectural firm. "Having a goal and dedication, along with support from faculty, friends, and family, were key to my success," he noted. Singh emphasised the importance of sustainability and innovative design in architecture. His thesis titled 'Taj Orientation Centre' involved creating a space where tourists could learn about the Taj Mahal and its amenities. Looking ahead, he aims to design spaces that are sustainable, use green building materials, and meet the needs of users.

vice communication is vital. Lastly, adaptability is important due to AI's impact on job roles," Chaba said. He also highlighted the importance of respect, trustworthiness, empathy, and treating women with equality in the workplace. Vice-Chancellor JP Pandey discussed upcoming changes at

AKTU, including curriculum updates to incorporate skill courses and entrepreneurship. "The university aims to establish one incubation centre per district, with 163 centres in development through the Innovation Hub. The Kalam Patent Centre will offer free patent services to boost innovation," he said.

## Medicos join strike for Kolkata rape victim

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Resident doctors across city hospitals joined the nationwide strike on Tuesday to support the Kolkata rape victim. They participated in candle marches and protests, highlighting their demands for enhanced security measures and swift justice.

Secretary of Resident Doctors' Association at SGPGI Dr Sanjay Chaudhary explained that doctors refrained from attending outpatient departments (OPDs) as part of the protest. "We organised a candle march to express our profound shock and outrage over the tragic incident involving one of our colleagues. We demand a CBI inquiry, which has already been announced, the arrest of the perpetrator,

and improved security installations in hospitals," he stated. Similarly, Dr Ranvijay Patel, a member of the Resident Doctors' Association at KGMU, echoed these sentiments. "We are devastated and outraged by the brutal rape and murder of a fellow doctor on duty. We stand in solidarity with our colleagues nationwide," he said. Dr Patel called for functional CCTV installations at all hospital exits and entries, separate rooms for female residents, increased security guards, better lighting, and the establishment of a student-teacher panel. "We urge the government to take swift and decisive action," he added. Vineet Mishra, President of Resident Doctors' Association at RML Hospital, said that res-

idents boycotted elective duties and participated in a candle march. "The horrific incident has deeply affected us, particularly because it occurred in a working environment. We demand proper security at hospitals and expedited justice for the victim. Additionally, we seek government support for the victim's family," he said. In response to the incident, the National Medicos Organisation, Awadh Prant, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing shock over the rape and murder of a postgraduate student at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata. "This heinous crime has not only shocked the medical community but also raised serious concerns about the safety and security of healthcare profes-

sionals in our institutions," the letter stated. The strike led to significant disruptions in city hospitals. According to a spokesperson from RML Hospital, elective procedures were affected, though emergency services continued, and minimal operating theatres (OTs) functioned without resident support. "Important cases were addressed, but routine cases were impacted. The timeline for the end of the protests remains uncertain," the spokesperson said. Similarly, at SGPGI, the strike affected operations, with a spokesperson noting that while old patients were seen, new registrations were limited. "OPD services continued with adjustments to accommodate the situation," she added.

## DGP issues guidelines for I-Day

**Lucknow (PNS):** To ensure a peaceful Independence Day celebration, Director General of Police Prashant Kumar issued guidelines on Tuesday. He emphasised the need for robust security and traffic arrangements for all major events, including tiranga yatras, prabhat pheris, and tableaux. Anti-sabotage checks must be conducted prior to these events, with special attention to entry and exit points at venues. Enhanced security should be implemented at gates, rooftops, and in traffic management plans. Special security measures are required at vital installations like railway stations, metro stations, bus stations, cinema halls, multiplexes, entertainment venues, shopping malls, hotels, dharamshalas, guest houses, crowded areas, and religious sites. In addition to existing security, the functioning of CCTV and drone cameras should be verified, with continuous monitoring as needed. Effective checks should be maintained on all entry routes into the state and districts. All checkpoints and barrier duties must be fully operational and well-briefed. Surveillance of microflight aircraft, paragliders, hang gliders, drones, and other unmanned aerial vehicles should be rigorous, utilising modern technology. Adequate security and traffic measures should also be ensured around schools and colleges. The district intelligence system should be enhanced, with strict monitoring of anti-national and anti-social activities.

## Farmer's wife held hostage by thieves

**Lucknow (PNS):** Thieves held a farmer's wife hostage on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday and decamped with cash and jewellery, in Banthra police station area. Buddhi Lal, a resident of Nanama village, told the police that his wife Meera was sleeping near the main door while other family members were resting in separate rooms. Around 2 am on Tuesday, unidentified miscreants surrounded Meera and threatened her with violence if she did not unlock the main door. Two of the miscreants entered the house while two others stayed outside. One of them climbed the roof, while the other retrieved a trunk from inside. The thieves fled with Rs 28,000 in cash and jewellery worth around Rs 1 lakh from the trunk. Meera raised an alarm, prompting a crowd to gather. The Banthra police reached the scene and questioned the family members. During the investigation, villagers informed the police that three other houses in the locality were also targeted on the same night. It was discovered that thieves had struck two additional houses in Nanama and one in the nearby Kanni Kheda village. In Nanama, Prabhudev's house was burgled through the roof, with thieves making off with jewellery valued at about Rs 4 lakh and Rs 2,000 in cash. Another house in Nanama, belonging to Ramesh, was burgled and jewellery worth Rs 5 lakh and Rs 60,000 in cash were stolen. Additionally, Vinod Kumar Patel's residence in

## Govt official duped of ₹4L

**Lucknow (PNS):** A government official was defrauded of Rs 4 lakh in Ashiyana by a con-man posing as a CBI officer, who claimed that the victim's identity had been used to send illegal items to a foreign country. The accused convinced Shiv Prasad, a resident of Ashiyana (Sector-K) that he was at risk of arrest and could avoid legal trouble by paying the money. According to reports, the accused contacted Shiv Prasad on August 2, introducing himself as a CBI inspector from Delhi. The fraudster told Prasad that his identity had been misused to send a parcel containing illegal items and warned that he could face imprisonment unless he paid to resolve the matter. Terrified by the threat, Prasad followed the fraudster's instructions. "My mind simply stopped working. I had never encountered a situation involving a police case before. I couldn't understand how my identity was used for illegal activities. The caller seemed authoritative, and I did not verify his claims before transferring the money," Prasad told the police. He said he grew suspicious and decided to call back the number from which he received the initial call, only to find that it was switched off. Realising he had been duped, he promptly reported the incident to the police and the cyber cell. The miscreant managed to convince Prasad to transfer Rs 4 lakh in two installments to a bank account, purportedly to prevent legal action and other complications. A case was registered at the Ashiyana police station based on Prasad's complaint.

## Govt official duped of ₹4L

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## 'Sisters' to get free UPSRTC bus rides on Rakshabandhan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In keeping with its new tradition, the Yogi Adityanath government has announced free bus rides for the 'sisters' of Uttar Pradesh on the occasion of Rakshabandhan once again this year. The offer will be available to the female passengers of Uttar Pradesh on August 19-20 in Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) buses. The government has also issued instructions for making arrangements for additional transport on the occasion. Notably, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, at a high-level meeting recently, directed officials to arrange free rides for women during the Rakshabandhan festival as many of them have to travel to different places to tie rakhi to their brothers. Subsequently, UPSRTC has issued orders to all its regional managers, service managers, and assistant regional managers to ensure the implementation of this initiative. Additionally, UPSRTC has been instructed to provide additional transport to accommodate the expected surge in passengers during Rakshabandhan. To manage the increased demand, the maximum number of buses will be in operation over an extended period of eight days, from August 17 to 22. The Transport depart-

ment is also implementing a special incentive scheme to boost bus operations during this period. In addition, all employee leaves have been cancelled. No leave, weekly rest, or DDR will be granted to officers, supervisors, drivers, conductors, and other bus operation staff, except in exceptional cases such as a family death or personal illness. No officer posted in the area is permitted to leave their work zone during this period. Duty rosters will be prepared and displayed on the notice board, informing drivers, conductors, workshop staff, and operation branch employees and supervisors of their schedules. Additionally, all buses have to remain in operation, with no leaves approved during this time. As in previous years, each area has been instructed to run additional services to various destinations, such as Lucknow and Kanpur, based on passenger demand.

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY**  
e-Tender Call Notice No. EM/PED-21/2024  
No. EM/PED/TECH-30/2023/269  
Date: 09/08/2024  
Name of the work: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 23 Nos. High Mast Lighting Tower inside the Port prohibited area. Estimated cost: Rs.2,91,96,112/- Last date & time of submission of bid: dt.30/08/2024 up to 18:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), PED-I  
PPA/PR/28/2024-2025 dttd.12.08.2024

**Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar**  
Tender Notice Reference No.GNDU/Gen/56-68/2024  
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Allotment of Canteens	5
2	Allotment of Shops	8

Closing Date & Time: 23-08-2024 at 5:00 P.M.  
For details log onto [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in)  
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.  
Assistant Registrar (General)  
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar  
NA/12/24732/2023/36618 Dated CHD - 8/13/2024

**Can Fin Homes Ltd**  
Regd. Off : No. 29/1, 1st Floor, Sir M N Krishna Rao Road, Near Lalbagh West Gate, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004. | Web: [www.canfinhomes.com](http://www.canfinhomes.com)

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Can Fin Homes Ltd, a Housing Finance Company requires space of 800-1000 sq. ft in Ground /First/ Second Floor in a good locality on lease for 5 to 10 years at the following location:

Sl. No.	Location	Contact Person & Designation	Contact No. Mob. & Landline
1.	Muradabad (Uttar Pradesh)	Mr. S.P. Srivastava (Deputy General Manager)	Mob - 96060 84363 011 - 26435815

Interested Premises Owners may send their offers in a closed envelope to CAN FIN HOMES LTD, DDA Building, 1st Floor, Near Paras Cinema, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 as per our format in our website [www.canfinhomes.com](http://www.canfinhomes.com) on or before 23rd August, 2024. Premises should be ready for occupation with all facilities/ amenities. Offers from the brokers/ intermediaries will not be entertained. Can Fin Homes Ltd. reserves the right to reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever. Cancelling in any form will disqualify the offer. No brokerage will be paid.

Place : New Delhi Sd/-  
Date : 14.08.2024 Deputy General Manager

# Yogi: 'Khata-Khat' people went on picnic as polls concluded

## 1,036 candidates get appointment letters

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a jibe at the opposition INDIA block, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday that the 'Khata-Khat' people once again disappeared for a 'picnic' as soon as the elections concluded.

Speaking at the appointment letter distribution event for 1,036 candidates selected through a fair and transparent recruitment process by the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Service Selection Commission at the Lok Bhavan Auditorium, the CM said: "During the Lok Sabha elections in April-May, you might have heard about the 'Khata-Khat' scheme. People were required to sign bonds of Rs one lakh each with a promise of receiving Rs 8,500 every month."

"Elections concluded and Khata-Khat people are nowhere visible; they vanished for a picnic. When the election season arrives again, these same individuals will return with new deceptive ideas to sow seeds of division and unleash chaos in society," the CM said.

Yogi emphasised that today, securing a government job in Uttar Pradesh is possible without needing any recommendations or quid pro quo.

"For the past seven and a half years, our government has been issuing appointment letters to the youth in strict adherence to reservation rules," Yogi said.

Highlighting the differences in recruitment statistics between previous and current administrations, the CM noted that between 2012 and 2017, the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Selection Commission completed appointments to 26,394 posts, with 13,469 positions filled by general candidates, 6,966 by OBC candidates, 5,634 by SC candidates,



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handing over appointment letter to a newly-selected candidate at Lok Bhavan in Lucknow on Tuesday

and 327 by ST candidates. The percentage of OBC candidates during this period was only 26.38%, he noted. "In contrast, under the current administration, the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Selection Commission has conducted 46,675 recruitments. Of these, 17,929 OBC candidates were selected, representing 38.41%", he pointed out. "Combining OBC, SC, and ST candidates, over 60% of the appointees under the double-engine government belong to these categories," he added. Yogi said that during the previous government, a total of 19,312 candidates were selected between 2012 and 2017 through the Subordinate Services

Commission, whereas under the double-engine government from 2017 to 2024, over 42,409 youth had been selected. "Our government has issued appointment letters to these candidates in strict accordance with the reservation system established by the Constitution. Today, these individuals are actively contributing to the state's development. The recruitment process is now being conducted transparently and fairly," the CM said. Issuing a stern warning, CM Yogi stated that anyone jeopardising the future of the state's youth under the double-engine government would face severe punishment, setting an example for the nation and the world. He added that those sit-

ting idle were spreading rumours and misleading the youth.

Highlighting the significant changes since 2017, Yogi remarked, "Previously, the youth of Uttar Pradesh faced an identity crisis, with the state's economy ranked sixth or seventh in the country. Today, when Uttar Pradesh youth travel to other states, they proudly identify themselves as being from Uttar Pradesh. The state's economy now ranks second nationally, showcasing the best economic progress compared to any other state."

He also noted that the resolutions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were being rapidly implemented.

"Uttar Pradesh is now among the leading states in effectively executing schemes meant for the farmers, women, and the poor. Under PM Modi's guidance, appointment letter distribution programmes are being regularly conducted as part of Mission Rozgar in the state," he added. CM Yogi distributed appointment letters to a total of 1,036 youths, including 536 assistant research officers (statistics), 235 assistant statistical officers, 213 junior assistants, accounting clerks, mandi supervisor category-2, mandi inspectors, 15 draftsman/cartographers, and 37 cartographers. These appointments were made through a fair and transparent recruitment process conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission.

The appointed individuals will serve in various departments, including Medical Health and Family Welfare, Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Mandi Parishad, Fisheries, Economics and Statistics Division, Cooperative, Town and Country Planning, Tourism, Minor Irrigation, and Institutional Finance.

# India on way to becoming 3rd largest economy: CM

## Yogi flags off Tiranga Yatra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

India is steadily advancing towards becoming the world's third-largest economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday.

The progress is aimed at bringing prosperity to 140 crore Indians, he said while flagging off a 'Tiranga Yatra Bike Rally' under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign from his official residence in Lucknow on Tuesday. The chief minister also extended early greetings for the 78th Independence Day.

The 'Tiranga Yatra Bike Rally', organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha in Lucknow, was driven by strong national pride and drew thousands of enthusiastic participants.

"Two years ago, during the Amrit Mahotsav celebrating India's Independence, we had taken the 'Panch Pran'. In the Amrit Mahotsav year, through the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, we proudly displayed the tricolour, a symbol of India's pride and glory, in every home," Yogi said. He highlighted that in 2022-23, Uttar Pradesh made history by hoisting the tricolour at more than five



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence in Lucknow on Tuesday on the occasion of 'Tiranga Yatra Bike Rally'

crore houses. The previous year, around four and a half crore houses proudly displayed the national flag.

"Responding to PM Modi's call, the Uttar Pradesh government is once again committed to reaching four and a half crore homes this year," he said. Yogi expressed gratitude to BJP officials and workers, acknowledging their vital role in supporting PM Modi's vision and spreading the tricolour across every household

in the state. CM Yogi stated that in the past three days, enthusiastic workers from the BJYM had been leading 'tiranga yatras' across Uttar Pradesh. The participation and enthusiasm displayed by students, businessmen, and various social-cultural organisations offered a glimpse of the emerging New India, he pointed out.

"The tricolour represents 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat'. It will be hoisted at every house

from today until August 15," Yogi said.

He urged everyone to participate and help ensure that every resident state plays a crucial role in this initiative.

Earlier, Yogi walked from his residence, waving the tricolour and chanting "Bharat Mata Ki Jai."

He called upon people to embrace the spirit of nationalism, keep the nation first, and commit to 'Panch Pran' resolutions.

# BSP joins chorus for investigation into Hindenburg allegations

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) President Mayawati on Tuesday joined the opposition in calling for a high-level investigation into the allegations made in the Hindenburg Report concerning the Adani Group and SEBI chief, which has sparked renewed controversy. The entire opposition is already demanding a probe by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). In a statement posted on social media platform X, Mayawati said:

"The Hindenburg report regarding the Adani Group and SEBI Chief has once again become a major topic of discussion. The accusations and counter-accusations have escalated, impacting national interests. Despite the Adani Group and SEBI's attempts to clarify their positions, the controversy continues to grow rather than subside."

Mayawati further noted, "This issue is now affecting not only the ongoing debate between the government and opposition but also the credibility and trustworthiness of the Central government. It would have been more prudent for the Central government to initiate a high-level investigation, such as a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) or a judicial inquiry, to address the matter effectively."

In addition, Mayawati highlighted the need for enhanced protection and respect for women, citing recent incidents including a rape and murder in Kolkata. "The issue of safety and respect for women in both governmental and non-governmental sec-



tors, as well as in everyday life, is of paramount national importance. There is an urgent need for increased awareness and vigilance to prevent tragic and shameful incidents similar to that of the lady doctor in Bengal. To combat such heinous crimes nationwide,

both Central and state governments must implement sensitive measures and take prompt, strict action against perpetrators," Mayawati said. The former chief minister if UP also expressed concern over incidents of sexual assault and murder in Bihar. She condemned recent reports from Bihar detailing two tragic cases involving the brutal assault and murder of young Dalit girls. In Madhubani district, an 18-year-old Dalit girl was gang-raped and murdered by

Kamlesh Yadav and his associates. In Muzaffarpur district, a 14-year-old Dalit girl suffered a similar fate at the hands of Sanjay Rai (Yadav) and his accomplices. "The Bihar state unit of BSP has expressed deep concern and sorrow over these incidents. The Bihar government is urged to take these cases very seriously and ensure strict action against all those involved, with a special focus on the protection and respect for Dalits," Mayawati said.

# Candidates hail Yogi for fair process

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lok Bhavan auditorium was filled with smiles on Tuesday as candidates eagerly accepted their appointment letters, marking the culmination of a fair and transparent recruitment process conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission.

Many of the newly-appointed candidates expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the integrity and efficiency of the process, which has become a hallmark of the Yogi government since 2017, an official spokesman of the government said on Tuesday evening. Among the recipients was a candidate who

shared how receiving the appointment letter fulfilled a lifelong dream of his father, while others recounted their arduous journeys of hard work and perseverance.

"Most notably, the candidates highlighted their appreciation for the transparency that has been maintained in government job recruitments over the past seven and a half years," the spokesman said. He added that the Yogi government was working in mission mode to connect the youth of the state with jobs and employment. "CM Yogi personally oversees the filling of vacant posts across various departments, regularly seeking updates from officials and issuing directives to expedite the process.

This proactive approach has resulted in over 6.5 lakh youths securing government jobs since 2017. In addition to government employment, the Yogi government has successfully linked over 3.75 lakh youths with jobs through contractual positions. Furthermore, an impressive two crore individuals have found employment in the private sector and through Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These efforts have significantly impacted the state's unemployment rate, which has dropped from 16 per cent in 2016 to just 2.4 per cent today," the spokesman elaborated. Deepthi Rai from Varanasi, who was appointed as the state mandi inspector, thanked CM Yogi, calling the appointment a

"big gift before August 15." Rohit Srivastava from Pratnagar, another candidate selected for the post of mandi inspector, noted the difference between the current and previous governments. "Under previous governments, recruitment exams often faced delays, and results were uncertain. But under CM Yogi's leadership, exams and results are on time," he remarked. Ankit Gupta, newly appointed as mandi supervisor, emphasised the integrity of the recruitment process, stating that it was conducted without any form of corruption. "The examination was conducted with complete purity and fairness," he said, expressing gratitude to CM Yogi.

## UTTAR PRADESH BYPOLL

# Cong appoints observers to all 10 seats

Lucknow (PNS): With seat-sharing negotiations with the Samajwadi Party still unresolved, the Congress has started preparing for the upcoming by-elections by appointing observers to all ten assembly constituencies.

The Congress has requested five of these seats from the Samajwadi Party to jointly contest the by-elections, following their recent success in the Lok Sabha elections where both parties achieved significant gains.

According to an official communication, Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajai Rai has appointed several observers for the by-elections. Member of Parliament (MP) Kishori Lal Sharma from Amethi will oversee Sisamau, MP Imran Masood from Saharanpur will be responsible for Meerut, MP Rakesh Rathore from Sitapur will handle Kundarki, MP Tanuj Punia from Barabanki will cover Ghaziabad, and MP Ujjwal Raman Singh from Prayagraj will monitor Phulpur. The only Congress MP yet to be assigned a role is Rahul Gandhi from Rae Bareilly. He will be tasked with overseeing any additional seat preparations. In addition, state and former legislators have been designated as observers for the remaining seats. MLA Virendra Chaudhary will oversee Majhwan, former MLC

# Battle lines drawn between BJP, INDIA

Lucknow (PNS): Even as the schedule for the bypoll to ten assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh is yet to be announced, battle lines have been drawn by the two main contenders—Bhartiya Janata Party and Samajwadi Party-led opposition INDIA block.

The BJP has finalised plans for the bypoll with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath having deployed 30 ministers — three each for the 10 assembly seats and 15 senior leaders as 'palaks' (caretakers). CM Yogi himself has taken the party's command in Milkipur and has been overseeing the poll preparations there. Yogi has already paid at least two visits to Milkipur in the run-up to the by-elections.

Besides Milkipur, he is also taking care of poll preparations in the Katheri assembly seat vacated by sitting SP MLA Lalji

Verma, who got elected to Lok Sabha from Ambedkar Nagar. The SP and Congress have also pulled up their socks to repeat their Lok Sabha feat in the UP bypoll. In order to take on the BJP head on, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has appointed party's PDA poster boy and Ayodhya MP Awadhesh Prasad as in-charge of the Milkipur assembly seat, which was vacated by him after getting elected to Lok Sabha, defeating BJP's sitting MP Lallu Singh. Akhilesh has appointed his uncle Shivpal Yadav as in-charge of the Katheri assembly seat. Apart from Milkipur, Akhilesh Yadav has taken the overall command of the bypoll. As per the SP insiders, one or two seats could be given to ally Congress. SP's Chandauli MP Virendra Singh has been appointed as in-charge of the Majhwan seat in Mirzapur district, former UP

minister and Akhilesh's close associate Chandradev Singh Yadav has been given the responsibility of Karhal, the stronghold of the SP. SP MLA Indrajeet Saroj has been made in-charge of the Phulpur seat in Prayagraj district. Similarly, MLA Rajendra Kumar has been entrusted with the responsibility of Sisamau, the seat which got vacated due to the disqualification of SP's sitting MP Irfan Solanki. As per SP sources, the party in-charges on the remaining four seats, including Kundarki in Moradabad, Khair in Aligarh, Meerapur in Muzaffarnagar and Ghaziabad Sadar, would be announced shortly. Of the 10 seats up for grabs, Kundarki, Milkipur, Katheri, Karhal and Sisamau have been vacated by the SP while Meerapur had the sitting MLA of RLD.

Naseemuddin Siddiqui will cover Katheri, former MLA Akhilesh Pratap Singh will handle Milkipur, former MLA Rajkumar Rawat will be responsible for Khair, and Ramnath Sikarwar will oversee Karhal. This preparation follows the Samajwadi Party's earlier appointment of observers for six constituen-

cies. As the by-elections draw near, an agreement on seat distribution between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party remains pending. The Congress has staked a claim to five of the ten seats, arguing that the Samajwadi Party won those seats in the last assembly election and should, therefore, be excluded from the

contest on the seats which they lost. The Congress is advocating for the remaining five seats, with a final decision still awaited from the central committee. Building on the favourable outcome of the recent Lok Sabha elections, the Congress aims to secure at least four of the ten seats.

BARODA U.P. BANK POSSESSION NOTICE					
Regional Office: 117/N/26, Kakadeo, Kanpur					
Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of Baroda U.P. Bank under the SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 And in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of security interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower to repay the amount in 60 days from the date mentioned in the said notice.					
The owner of below mentioned property and others having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantors in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken constructive possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the rule 8 of said rule.					
The borrowers/guarantors in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property, and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Baroda U.P. Bank. The borrowers/guarantors will be required to hand over actual vacant possession of the under mentioned properties as and when demanded by the authorised officer in the case the borrowers/guarantors fails to handover actual vacant possession as and when demanded, the authorised officer will proceed for actual and vacant possession with the assistance of District Magistrate/C.M.M. under section 14 and for further action under other provisions of the act.					
Sl. No.	Name of Address Borrower & Guarantors	Owner of the Property	Description of the Mortgaged Property	Outstanding Dues Rs. Demand Notice	Date of symbolic Possession
<b>SANIGAWAN BRANCH</b>					
1.	Borrower: Jyoti Singh W/o Jitendra Singh R/o H.No. 146A, Nauraiya Kheda, Dada Nagar, Udyog Nagar, Kanpur-208022 Guarantor: Jitendra Singh S/o Ram Chandra Singh R/o H.No. 146A, Nauraiya Kheda, Dada Nagar, Udyog Nagar, Kanpur-208022	Mrs. Jyoti Singh	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Residential Flat no. C-11/13 on Third Floor on Aravali Sulabh Avas Type-3, Shatabdi Nagar, Phase 4A, Panki Gangaganj, Kanpur Nagar. Covered Area 28.70 sq. meter with 12.30 sq. meter undivided Land share. Bounded: On the North by: Block no. C-10 On the South by: Flat no. C-11/16 On the East by: Flat no. C-11/14 On the West by: 7.50 meter road	Rs. 4,48,120.74 (Outstanding upto 14.05.2024) + Intt. Demand Notice 21.05.2024	09.08.2024
Date: 13.08.2024					Authorised Officer, Baroda U.P. Bank

S. No.		Name of the Borrowers	Name of Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Outstanding Amt.
1.		Shri Vinak Singh S/o Shri Ham Raj Singh	Shri Vinak Singh S/o Shri Ham Raj Singh	All that Part and Parcel of Land and Building situated at E-10(EWS) Yojna Mirzapur, Ratanpur Vistar Part-1, Kanpur Nagar Area of the Property: 27 sqmtr. Owner of the Property: Shri Vinak Singh S/o Shri Ham Raj Singh Bounded by: East: House No E-11, West: Plot No E-9, North: Other Land, South: 7.5 mtr Road	30.04.2024	09.08.2024	Rs. 7,77,427.00 (Rupees Seven Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Seven Only) as on 08.08.2024 with further interest w.e.f. 09.08.2024, charges and other expenses thereon
Branch: Kanpur Main		Mob.: 9953698146		Place: Kanpur		The Authorized Officer: Indian Bank	
Date: 14.08.2024							

# Minister inaugurates national flag sthal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Fee, Registration Ravindra Jaiswal inaugurated the National Flag Sthal, a symbol of the pride of the country at Ashapur crossing and hoisted the 100-feet-high national flag here on Tuesday. On the occasion the tune of patriotic songs was played by the personnel of the Army, PAC, NDRF and Police Band Party. A large number of people carried the huge national flag in their hands with respect in the procession due to which the entire atmosphere was filled with the message of the freedom struggle. On the occasion, District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Additional Commissioner of Police S Chinnappa, NDRF officials etc were prominently present. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that on Wednesday, a 100-feet-high national flag will be hoisted near the Traffic Police Lines and on the occasion of Independence Day on August 15 near Kachhari Ambedkar Park and Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. Apart from this, 100-feet-high national flags will be installed at Maldahiya and Lahurabir crossings, near Swami Vivekananda's statue in Cantonment, Uday Pratap College etc. For this, he has also approved about Rs 34 lakh from his MLA fund. According to him, local digni-



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal leading the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' procession before hoisting 100-feet-high national flag at Ashapur in Varanasi on Tuesday.

ties will also be nominated as sponsorship for the care of the national flag at these places. Adequate lighting and sound arrangements will also be ensured at these places. Patriotic songs will be broadcast continuously from these sound systems. In this way, 100 feet national flags installed at a total of 10 places in the city will keep giving the message of national unity and integrity as well as patriotism to the people. He informed that the 100-feet-high national flag to be installed in UP College will be inaugurated and hoisted on September 3. Jaiswal has appealed to the people to celebrate the Independence Day

programme with full enthusiasm and gaiety and hoist the national flag at their respective houses under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign being celebrated from August 13-15. While discussing the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' to be observed on August 14 before Independence Day, said that partition was no less than a horror for India. He said that August 14, 1947, is the date which can never be forgotten. On one hand the country was getting freedom from the chains of slavery, on the other hand its price was being paid in the form of division of the country. The pain of partition and pride towards the nation-

gotten. Due to hatred and violence, lakhs of people had to be displaced and even lost their lives. He said that in memory of those people, the decision to observe August 14 as Partition Horror Memorial Day was taken by the Modi government in the year 2021 and since then 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' is observed every year. The minister, referring to the country's only Bharat Mata Mandir located in Varanasi, said that people should come here and see undivided India. Bharat Mata Mandir is in the premises of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth. It was built in 1936 by Dr Shiv Prasad Gupta. There is no picture or statue of any god or goddess in this temple, but there is a three-dimensional geographical map of undivided India engraved on marble. Meanwhile under the leadership and guidance of General Manager (GM) Abhay Bakre, the employees and officers of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) hoisted the national flag in their homes in the Railway colonies with great enthusiasm and pride under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign here on Tuesday. This initiative further strengthened the feeling of patriotism among the employees. Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is a nationwide campaign launched by the Government of India, aimed at encouraging the spirit of patriotism and promoting respect and pride towards the nation-

flag. By participating in such campaigns, BLW employees not only feel proud of their nationality but also inspire their community and people around them to also take part in such campaigns and strengthen national unity by showing their respect and love for the country. Under the campaign, tremendous enthusiasm was seen among the officers and employees of BLW for 'Selfie with Tiranga'. After taking their selfies with the tricolour, they are proudly sharing these photos on the Har Ghar Tiranga website. Meanwhile, the colours of patriotism were seen at Namoh Ghat as dozens of people along with activists of Namami Gange joined the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign by carrying the tricolour in front of the Namaste sculpture. The slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai Ho' made the atmosphere more patriotic. Namami Gange Kashi Region coordinator Rajesh Shukla appealed to the people to take a pledge in this direction. The singing of Vande Mataram filled people with enthusiasm. An appeal was made to hoist the tricolour in every house to infuse the feeling of patriotism in people. Everyone took an oath for the cleanliness of the banks of the Ganga. Shukla said that with increasing public participation, the campaign has transformed into a mass movement and the feeling of national pride and unity has also become strong. Jaihind Singh, Suhasini Mishra, Suman Gupta, Deepak Sahni, Sujit Yadav and many others were also present.

# Appointment letters distributed to 7 AROs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Stamp and Court Fee, Registration Ravindra Jaiswal at Commissioner's Auditorium here on Tuesday distributed appointment letters to the seven assistant research officers (AROs) under the Health and Family Welfare department, selected through Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC). Earlier, the main programme organised in Lok Bhavan Auditorium, Lucknow was telecast live, in which Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath distributed appointment letters to the newly-selected 533 AROs. The CM emphasised on fair and transparent selection process and providing better employment opportunities to the youth. At a ceremony here, Jaiswal also congratulated the selected AROs for their bright future, honesty and hard work. Appointment letters were given to Arju Patel, Basant Kumar, Anuradha Verma, Karnika, Ram Singh Yadav, Naveen Kumar, all residents of Varanasi and Hitesh Singh, a resident of Mirzapur. Everyone's face lit up after receiving the appointment letters. In his address, the Minister said that the present state government is providing better



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal distributing job letter to newly-selected ARO in Varanasi on Tuesday.

employment opportunities to the youth. "The government is emphasising on recruitment of vacant posts in other departments, including Medical Health and Family Welfare. The recruitment process has been kept completely fair and transparent", he said, adding that the state government is moving forward strongly in the medical field. Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, MLCs Hansraj Vishwakarma and Dharmendra Singh, Pindra MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh, Sewapuri MLA's representative Ramvilas Patel, Pawan Singh (Pindra), District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, Divisional

Additional Director (Health) Dr Manjula Singh etc were present on this occasion and they also congratulated all the newly-selected AROs and wished them a bright future. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that research officers play an important role in the supervision, monitoring and evaluation of all the schemes of the Health department. They should discharge their duties with full honesty, integrity and impartiality, so that health schemes can be presented in a better way. The officers and employees of ICDS, Panchayati Raj, Education, Information and other departments were also present in the function.

# 'Har Ghar Tiranga' rally organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

'Har Ghar Tiranga' rally was organised by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit and Rovers Rangers of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai

Nagar, on Tuesday. The programme started by flagging off the rally by Principal Professor Anju Choudhary. Dr Saba Yunus, Programme Officer of the National Service Scheme Unit, said

the purpose of this rally is to inspire people to put the tricolour in their homes on August 15 and also to create awareness among the public and students and feeling of patriotism.

# Safety awards given to 9 rly employees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

General Manager, North Central Railway (NCR) Upendra Chandra Joshi conferred awards on staff for their alertness and contribution towards safety in train operations in the presence of his PHODs here on Tuesday. On the occasion the GM gave safety awards to nine railway employees. The awarded employees included- Omkar Singh, Station Master, Pahada, Prayagraj division, Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Loco Pilot/GMC/Prayagraj division, Subhash Kumar, Assistant Loco Pilot, /GMC/Prayagraj division, Mev Raj Meena, Loco Pilot/Tundla/Prayagraj division, Nilesh Ranjan, Assistant Loco Pilot/Tundla/Prayagraj division, Arvind Singh, Loco Pilot-Goods/Veerangana Laxmibai, Jhansi division, Mahesh Kumar Diwaker, Loco Pilot-Goods/Mathura/ Agra division, Ghanshyam Goswami, Assistant Loco Pilot/Mathura/ Agra division, Rinku, Track Maintainer- III Morena, Jhansi division. Besides, Rinku, Track Maintainer- III Morena, Jhansi division, was conferred the 'Employee of the Month Award' for the month of July this year, Rinku was on gate-man duty at level crossing number 449, km 1262/02-04 on July 16, 2024. He noticed some hanging part in the third coach - C-12 of 12001 Shatabdi Express and immediately informed the station



master/Morena and all concerned. On checking the coach of the train by the station master, a strip of bio toilet was found hanging, which the station master got fixed by tying it with a wire to the train with the help of the point man. He has rendered excellent service in the line of his duty with extraordinary commitment and full dedication.

with a wire to the train with the help of the point man. He has rendered excellent service in the line of his duty with extraordinary commitment and full dedication.

# 2 varieties developed by IIVR released

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Two varieties of Indian bean (Kashi Bouni Sem-207) and bottle gourd (Kashi Subhra) developed by the Indian Vegetable Research Institute (IIVR) located in Varanasi have been released recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Giving this information, IIVO Executive Director Dr Nagendra said that taking forward the initiative of getting more production from less land in the country, the prime minister released and dedicated 109 new and improved varieties of 61 crops

to the country on Sunday. These include nine varieties of rice, seven each of sugarcane and oilseeds and 40 varieties of horticultural crops, including two IIVR developed vegetables. All these varieties are nutritious, which have been developed to suit the climate and different regions. According to Dr Nagendra, Kashi Bouni Sem-207 variety has been developed by ICAR-IIVR which is bushy in growth habit (no staking required) and plant height is 65-70 cm. Seed sowing starts in first week of October and continued to second week of November (Rabi crop).

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)  
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792  
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.  
Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

**Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002**

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	13380862 & 11266577	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	1. ADP INDUSTRIES (PROP. ASHUTOSH TULSHYAN) 2. ALOK TULSIYAN 3. ASHUTOSH TULSHYAN 4. BHARAT KUMAR 5. KHUSHBOO TULSIYAN	06.03.2024	76,94,551.61/-

**PROPERTY ADDRESS :** ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PLOT NO. N-12-B, SITUATED WITHIN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA AT SCOOTOR ANCILLIARY ESTATE, NADARGANJ, AMAUSI, LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH- 226008, CONTAINING BY ADMEASURING 485 SQ.MTR. BE THE SAME A LITTLE MORE OR LESS, AND BOUNDED BY AS FOLLOWS:-  
EAST: OTHER PRIVATE LAND, WEST: PLOT NO. N-12-A, NORTH: PLOT NO. N-11, SOUTH: 6.00 MTR. WIDE ROAD

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/- Authorized Officer  
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)

Date : 14.08.2024  
Place : LUCKNOW

**Tapir Constructions Limited**  
(CIN: U70200DL2014PLC267441)

**Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024**

Particulars	(₹ in Millions)		
	Quarter ended 30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	Corresponding Quarter ended 30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	Previous year ended 31 March 2024 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations	1.7	6.1	24.8
Net (Loss) / Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(22.8)	(7.3)	(71.5)
Net (Loss) / Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(22.8)	(7.3)	(71.5)
Net (Loss) / Profit for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(22.8)	(7.3)	(71.5)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising (Loss) / Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(22.8)	(7.3)	(72.0)
Paid up Equity Share Capital	0.5	0.5	0.5
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(2,140.3)	(2,052.7)	(2,117.5)
Securities Premium Account	-	-	-
Net Worth	(2,139.8)	(2,052.2)	(2,117.0)
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	3,569.2	3,349.3	3,540.5
Outstanding redemption preference share	-	-	-
Debt Equity Ratio	(1.70)	(1.63)	(1.70)
Earnings per Share (EPS) (Face value Per Share ₹ 10 each)	(456.68)	(145.46)	(1,430.52)
- Basic (Amount in ₹)	(456.68)	(145.46)	(1,430.52)
- Diluted (Amount in ₹)	-	-	-
Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.35)	(0.05)	(0.06)
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(0.35)	(0.19)	(0.35)
Current ratio (In times)	0.91	0.72	0.92
Total debts to total assets	0.71	0.73	0.71
Long term debt to working capital (In times)	(3.66)	(0.71)	(3.79)
Bad debt to account receivable ratio (In %)	-	-	-
Current liability ratio (In times)	0.77	0.95	0.76
Debtor turnover ratio (In times)	-	-	-
Inventory turnover ratio (In times)	-	-	-
Operating margin (In %)	-	-	31.91
Net profit margin (In %)	(1,310.62)	(118.67)	(288.53)

1. The above results have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors ("the Board") at its meeting held on 13 August 2024.  
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52(8), read with 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results are available on the company's website (<https://equinoxindia.com/tcl/>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: Office no 202, 2nd Floor, A-18 Rama House, Middle Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi- 110 001.  
Place : Mumbai  
Date : 13 August, 2024

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
Abhishek Rajnith Surve  
Executive director

# SHUATS V-C congratulates Pharmacy dept faculty members

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Pharmacy department of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) has obtained rank 85 in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released on August 12. SHUATS Pharmacy department ranked 11th in Uttar Pradesh in the ranking of pharmacy institutes in NIRF 2024. Vice-Chancellor Rev Prof (Dr) Rajendra B Lal congratulated the faculty members of the Pharmacy department. He said this is the result of combined efforts and positive attitude of staff and students of the Pharmacy department as well as the Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance and Assessment (IQAA) led by Prof Antony J Raj. Higher officials of the university Prof Jonathan A Lal (Pro VC Academic Affairs) and Dr Ranu Prasad (Registrar) praised the Pharmacy department staff and students for making SHUATS proud. Dean Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr Shekhar, Faculty Coordinator Dr Danish Ahmed and Head of Pharmacy Department Dr Amrita Verma, appreciated the teamwork and motivated the staff members. Dr Verma said that the faculty members of Pharmacy department are committed to performing better in teaching and research. She further thanked the university authorities for the encouragement and facilities provided. Every year NIRF Ranking is announced by the Ministry of Education, Government of India to rank higher education institutes in 16 categories. SHUATS Pharmacy department has consistently remained in the top 100 since 2022 in NIRF. This is the fourth time the SHUATS Pharmacy department is in NIRF's top 100.

# NIRF: CSJMU's Pharmacy dept achieves notable position

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Pharmacy department at the Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU) has significantly enhanced Kanpur's standing by achieving a notable position in the NIRF rankings. For the first time, the Department of Pharmacy has attained a remarkable milestone by entering the ranking band of 101-125 in NIRF India. Vice-Chancellor Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak expressed gratitude to Chancellor Anandiben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, for this accomplishment, emphasising that this success was achieved through collaborative efforts under her steadfast guidance. Heartfelt congratulations are extended to all faculty members and students of the Pharmacy department for their commendable achievement. Looking ahead, the university is poised to establish itself among the leading educational institutions both nationally and globally, driven by enhanced performance. Prof Pathak noted that a conducive research environment has been fostered within the university, leading to improved quality in research outputs. Consequently, the Pharmacy department has successfully entered this ranking band for the first time. Earlier, the campus was filled with joy in celebration of the Pharmacy department's success. Faculty, staff, and students alike regarded this achievement a source of honour and pride for Kanpur. **FARMER KILLED:** A farmer was killed when lightning struck him in Para Chandpur village under Sajeti police station area on Monday evening. Besides, two other people, including a woman, also sustained serious burns from the lightning. Reports said Randhir (35) was struck by lightning during the heavy downpour and died on the spot.

# Exhibition on 'partition horrors'



Baroda Swarajgar Vikas Sansthan organised a three-day exhibition at its Mariyami, Chhaubepur, centre on Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Under the directives of the Union Finance Ministry, the Baroda Swarajgar Vikas Sansthan organised a three-day exhibition on 'Vibhajan Vibhishika' at its Mariyami, Chhaubepur, centre on Tuesday. During the inaugural ceremony,

distinguished residents, lead bank manager DS Mishra and director of the Sansthan Shivangi were present. Speakers paid homage to citizens martyred during country's partition and highlighted the importance of its democratic values. The exhibition will run up to August 15.

# 'Kanha Kothi' inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

An artefacts shop 'Kanha Kothi' was inaugurated at JK Temple on Monday. In response to the special request of the devotees the temple management opened the shop at the temple premises. The shop offers a wide range of puja and temple-related items, beautiful artworks, divine costumes, crowns, thrones, swings and temple decoration items. The shop was inaugurated by Varsha Singhania, a trustee of JK Temple. Following the Shri Ganesh Puja, Singhania personally purchased puja items to mark the official opening. The devotees present at the event explored the shop and made purchases, praising the variety and quality of the items available there. In celebration of the sacred occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami, a grand festival is being organised from August 1 for a month. The temple grounds will host a magnificent fair featuring rides for all ages, children's toys, household items, delicious food counters, street food, decoration items, clothing and electronics shops. This year's



festival will feature a special attraction - a Vaishno Devi Mata Temple set up where devotees can experience the divine darshan of the goddess. From August 26 to September 1, daily cultural and spiritual programmes, including Bhajan Sandhya, Ved Vani Path, will be held besides Krishna Leela performances. The temple will be specially decorated with lights and flowers and all the deities enshrined in the temple will be adorned with special shringara. On Janmashtami, a grand puja and aarti will be performed for Lord Krishna, and Mahaprasad will be distributed to all devotees.

# BJP office-bearers meet to launch membership drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's national office-bearers are expected to meet on August 17 to finalise the launch of the party's membership drive, which will culminate with the election of a new party president. Besides those holding an office in the BJP's organisational team at the national level, the meeting will also be attended by state party presidents and general secretaries in charge of the party's organisation in different states. There has long been a buzz that the ruling party may appoint a 'working president' before a president is formally elected as the membership drive required to be completed for the election to take place may stretch over six months. With incumbent president J P Nadda joining the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government as a Cabinet minister, he is expected to be replaced as per the party's convention of 'one person one post'. However, unlike 2019, when Nadda had emerged as the obvious successor to Home Minister Amit Shah at the helm of the party after he did not join the Modi 2.0 Government, there is no



automatic alternative visible this time. Nadda was first appointed as working president in June 2019 before he was formally elected as president in January 2020. BJP's presidents have traditionally been elected with consensus. As the BJP prepares for organisational polls, which cover the formation of new committees at booths, mandals, districts and states before the chosen delegates meet to elect its national president, the party has engaged in wide consultation with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Senior BJP leaders, including Shah and Nadda, besides Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, had met RSS functionaries, including its second-in-command and

general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, on Sunday. Sources said the meeting at Singh's residence discussed the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh and the measures which can be taken to help them but added that the issues like the upcoming coordination meet of the Hindutva organisation in Kerala and political issues also figured. BJP and RSS functionaries have engaged in talks in several states following the party's underwhelming performance in the Lok Sabha polls as it lost majority and indications emerged of the Hindutva organisation's reservations with the party's poll tactics. The RSS, considered the ideological progenitor of the BJP, has generally had an important role in the choice for the party's president.

# EAM for strong India-US ties to tide over global tension

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday here warned of a "very grim forecast" for the world in the next five years given tension in West Asia, Ukraine and Russia and in Southeast Asia. He also flagged economic challenges and the spectre of climate change. The possibility of such a future "makes the case" for a stronger relationship between India and the United States, Jaishankar said as much, if not all, of the world waits on the outcome of November's US presidential election. "I am an optimistic person and generally tend to think of solutions to problems rather than the problems that come out of solutions. But I would say, with a great deal of sobriety, that we are going through an exceptionally difficult period," the external affairs minister said at an event. "... (and) I have a very grim forecast for the next five years... you see happening in the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Southeast and East Asia, and the continued impact of COVID, which those of us who have come out of it take for granted... but many have



not come out of it," Jaishankar said. Elaborating upon the threats posed by military conflict to the world, he warned this would spill over into economic challenges, such as rising fuel and fertiliser prices precipitated last year due to Ukraine-Russia conflict. "The kind of economic challenges you see in the world... you see more and more countries struggling. Trade is getting difficult, there are forex shortages... so, you know, disruptions of various kinds," Jaishankar said, also referring to concerns over increased pirate attacks in the Red Sea by Iran-aligned Houthi militia targeting commercial ships in a show of solidarity with Palestinians in

Gaza. "What was happening in the Red Sea (and) climate events... are no longer just news... they have globally disruptive consequences and sometimes entire regions are basically made dysfunctional." "This makes the case for India-US ties... not just about treaties (but) much more..." he said. However, Jaishankar refused to get drawn into a discussion on the US election. "We don't comment on other countries' elections. The US will give its verdict (and) we have every confidence, based on the past 20 years, we can work with the President... whoever he or she will be." The 2024 US presidential election will see Vice President Kamala Harris facing Donald Trump.

# Some unable to digest India's development, says VP Dhankhar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent swipe at the Opposition over its demand for a JPC probe into Hindenburg Research's allegations, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said India is developing at a "nuclear speed" but some people want to "bring instability", and are taking randomly surfaced issues as authentic. The remarks came as the Opposition stepped up its attack on the Government over Hindenburg's allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, with the Congress warning of a nationwide stir if a JPC probe is not initiated. The BJP has dismissed the demand as a "sham" aimed at undermining the Indian economy. Dhankhar, who flagged off a 'Tiranga Bike Rally' from Bharat Mandapam, as part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, said in his address that "Fellow citizens, our pace of development is such that we are moving ahead at a nuclear speed. Some people are unable to digest it, they want to bring obstruction and instability." "They think that if India keeps moving at this pace then it will definitely become a 'Vishwa Guru'. Those who bring obstruction, such people take randomly surfaced issues as authentic," he said. "I caution the nation, I urge the citizens to be extremely alert at such forces, sinister forces, with pernicious designs. Their only motive being to destabilise Bharat, so that our progress is impeded," the vice president said. Dhankhar asserted that the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign shows the country's commitment towards 'Viksit Bharat' and indicates that this century is "India's century". The vice president said he had no doubt in his mind that today every Indian shall resolve to subdue forces inimical to the country. The 'Har Ghar Tiranga'

campaign inspires Indians to unite to render ineffective the inimical forces, he said. "I appeal to all fellow citizens that in all conditions and circumstances, country's interest should be above the interests of an individual, politics and society. Be united to defeat enemies of our nation who cannot stomach our unprecedented rise and development," Dhankhar said, adding, one should guide and handhold such people and their knowledge be augmented and they be introduced to the Indian culture. The bike rally, which started from the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, ended at the Major Dhyana Chand Stadium, passing through India Gate. The third edition of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is being celebrated from August 9 to 15 to mark the 78th Independence Day. "We are no longer a nation with potential or a promise. We are a nation today on the rise as never before. Our rise is unstoppable. Our rise will make us a developed nation by 2047 when we celebrate the centenary of our Independence," the vice president said. "I appeal to every 'Bharatiya', you are an important stakeholder in this marathon march and this bike rally which I am privileged to flag is one of its parts. It will happen all over the country and this will gain momentum year by year," he added. Dhankhar ended his speech by exhorting people to take part in this campaign, and said unfurl this flag with pride and resolve that its pride, prestige and glory shall keep increasing, and that the tricolour shall fly high in all situations. Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Mansukh Mandaviya were also present on the dais. The campaign was started under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 2022 and it has grown into a people's movement, Shekhawat said.

# BJP's Jagdambika to head JPC on Waqf Bill

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP Lok Sabha member Jagdambika Pal was on Tuesday named chairperson of the joint committee of Parliament, which will examine the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill. A Lok Sabha notification said Speaker Om Birla appointed Pal as the head of the 31-member committee. Amid protests by the opposition in the Lok Sabha on its provisions, the government had decided to refer the bill to a joint committee of the two Houses. The joint panel has 31 members -- 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha -- and will submit its report by the next session. The 73-year-old Pal is a fourth-term MP from Uttar Pradesh and is seen as a lawmaker who enjoys warm cross-party relations. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on Friday last adopted a motion moved by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who also holds the parliamentary affairs portfolio, naming the members to be part of the committee. A formal notification naming Pal as the chairperson of the joint committee is set to be issued



shortly, the officials said. In the Lower House, 12 members of the panel are from the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), including eight from the BJP, and nine from the opposition. In the Upper House, four are from the BJP, four from the opposition, one from the YSRC, which has opposed the Bill, and one is a nominated member. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday last and referred to a joint committee of Parliament after a heated debate, with the government asserting the proposed law did not intend to interfere with the functioning of mosques and the opposition calling it targeting of Muslims and an attack on the Constitution. The committee has been asked to submit its report to Lok Sabha by the last day of the first week of the next session, Rijiju said.

# Ensure level playing field during Assembly elections, EC tells Haryana officials

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Election Commission has directed district election officers and superintendents of police in Haryana to act with complete impartiality and ensure a level playing field for free and fair assembly elections. According to the draft electoral roll published on August 2, there were 2.01 crore electors -- 1.06 crore male and 0.95 crore female -- registered in the state. More than 4.52 lakh first-time voters, 2.55 lakh voters above the age of 85 and 1.5 lakh persons with disabilities are registered to vote in the elections. More than 10,000 voters are older than 100. Underscoring its focus on an inducement-free poll process, the commission directed the enforcement agencies to work in a coordinated manner to curb the inflow of illicit liquor, cash and drugs. The directions were issued by an Election Commission (EC) team led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. The team is on a two-day visit of Haryana to review poll preparedness for assembly elections, likely to be held later this year. The term of the 90-member Haryana Assembly is due to expire on November 3.



The EC team, also comprising election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, arrived in Chandigarh on Monday. During the visit, the team met representatives of national and state parties such as AAP, BJP, CPI (M), Congress, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP). The political parties raised several issues, including the conduct of free and fair elections with strict action against the misuse of government machinery, deployment of adequate forces in sensitive polling stations, and requests to reduce the distance between polling stations and improve facilities for the elderly and women voters. Concerns were also raised about the inaccessibility of election observers for timely grievance redressal, a release said. The EC assured the

parties' representatives that it had taken cognisance of their suggestions and concerns and said it was committed to conducting free, fair, participative, inclusive, peaceful and inducement-free elections. Regarding the parties' concerns over the misuse of government machinery when the Model Code of Conduct is in place, the EC directed the district election officers, superintendents of police and the state administration to act with complete impartiality. The district election officers were specifically told to be equally accessible to all political parties and ensure prompt resolution of their complaints and grievances, apart from meeting them regularly through periodic meetings, the release said. They were also asked to ensure assured minimum facilities, including ramps, wheelchairs and volunteers, for the elderly and persons with disabilities at all polling stations. "All polling stations will be on the ground floor and within two kilometres of the residences of voters," the statement said. Observers will be accessible to all parties and voters during the election period and their contact information made

public by the district election officers. Directions were also issued to monitor social media for fake news. On Tuesday, the team held a review meeting with nearly 20 central and state enforcement agencies, including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Reserve Bank of India, Haryana Police, Income Tax and the Enforcement Directorate. The EC conveyed its zero-tolerance policy towards the use of money power in the elections, it said. Cohort-wise route maps were identified to keep a strict vigil on movement, stockpiling and distribution of any kind of inducements, it added. The EC also ordered that strict action be taken against liquor and drug kingpins in the state. The agencies were asked to share intelligence, work in a coordinated manner and introduce round-the-clock CCTV monitoring at critical check posts along interstate borders. The agencies concerned were also asked to monitor for unscheduled chartered flights and helpalps for any movement of goods. According to an official, 20,629 polling stations would be set up for the elections, an increase of 817 from the 2019 elections.

# India, Australia discuss counter-terrorism challenges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Australia here exchanged views on the domestic, regional and global terrorism threat assessment and discussed counter-terrorism challenges related to the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists. The two sides also discussed misuse of internet for terrorist purposes, radicalisation and terror financing, and the nexus between organised crime and terrorism, among other issues. Giving details, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the 14th meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held on Monday. K D Dewal, Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism at the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and Richard Feakes, Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, led the respective delegations of experts to discuss the global counter-terrorism challenges and the ongoing counter-terrorism



cooperation between the two countries. India and Australia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasised the need for strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner. They also condemned both sides also discussed cooperation in regional, global and multilateral fora such as UN, GCTF, FATF, ARE, IORA and with QUAD partners to combat global terrorism. The ongoing co-operation in counter terrorism is an important element of the India - Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Meanwhile, the 6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue was held on Tuesday in Canberra, MEA informed. The Indian delegation was led by Muanpuui Saiawi, Joint Secretary, Disarmament and International Security Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and the Australian delegation was led by Sarah Storey, First Assistant Secretary, South Asia and Central Asia Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Bernard Philip, First Assistant Secretary, International Policy, Department of Defence. The two sides conferred on ways to sustain a safe and secure maritime environment conducive for inclusive growth and global well being. They exchanged views on various topics of mutual interest, including the maritime security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, maritime domain awareness, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) coordination, regional and multilateral engagements and sustainable use of marine resources.

# Akhilesh, Rahul's rise emboldens criminals in UP, claims BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday alleged that the recent rise in the political strength of 'do ladke', a reference to Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, has resulted in criminals getting emboldened in Uttar Pradesh. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi accused the Samajwadi Party of sheltering criminals, and targeted the party over the arrest of two persons allegedly associated with it on the charges of rape and attempt to rape. Not only the SP has been giving "cover fire" to criminals but the members of the Opposition INDIA Bloc are helping each other defend criminal elements of their alliance partners as well, he told reporters. "Those associated with two boys have been committing crimes. The audacity of criminals has been rising since the increase in the strength of

these two boys," he said in an apparent reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav. It is in the DNA of the Samajwadi Party to stand with criminals, he said, in a swipe at the regional party's demand for the DNA testing to prove the guilt of the accused in one of the cases. The BJP leader also targeted West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her stand that she will transfer the case of rape and murder of a doctor in a government-run hospital in Kolkata to the CBI if the local police did not solve the case till Sunday. Is so much time being given so that the case can be manipulated, he asked, demanding an immediate transfer of the investigation to the CBI. Questioning the "silence" of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra over these crimes, he said INDIA bloc parties are covering up for "mutual criminal elements" in their alliance.

# Hindenburg: Cong to hold nationwide protest, demand SEBI chief's resignation, JPC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said the party's focus is on the pressing issues of "unbridled unemployment" and "uncontrolled inflation", and it would design a national campaign around these problems and go to people. Amid the row over the Hindenburg allegations, the Congress also announced that it will hold a nationwide agitation on August 22 demanding SEBI Chief Madhabi Puri Buch's resignation and a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the Adani issue. Kharge's remarks on his party's focus came as he chaired a meeting of the party's general secretaries, state unit chiefs and AICC state in-charges to discuss organisational matters and various issues of national importance for election preparedness. Kharge also said the "shocking revelations of a nexus" between the SEBI and Adani needs a thorough investigation. "The money of



small investors in the stock market can't be jeopardised. The Modi government must immediately seek the resignation of the SEBI chairperson and constitute a JPC in this regard," the Congress chief said. He claimed attack on the Constitution continues unabated under the Modi-led NDA government. He also said caste census is a demand of people. The Congress president said the party will continue its fight for demanding legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price of crop. The Agnipath scheme must be scrapped, he said. "The pressing issues of unbridled unemployment and uncontrolled inflation and depletion of household savings are our focus. The

poor and middle class have been betrayed," he said. He also attacked the government over the issue of railway safety saying "train derailments have become a norm". Climate-related disasters and collapsing infrastructure are also a cause of concern, the senior leader said. "We would design a national campaign around these issues and go to the people." As regards nationwide agitation on the Hindenburg report, Congress made the announcement after Kharge held a meeting with all general secretaries, state unit chiefs and AICC state in-charges here as the party gets battle-ready for the upcoming round of assembly polls to discuss organisational matters and various issues of national importance for election preparedness. Briefing reporters on the meeting, Venugopal said it was unanimously decided at the meeting that the party will hold a nationwide agitation on August 22, demanding the SEBI chief's resignation and a JPC probe into Adani issue.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Sunshine after the storm

Indian agriculture set to benefit from good monsoon and PM Modi's release of climate-resistant seeds

India's agricultural sector, the cornerstone of its economy, is set to benefit from a double dose of positive news this monsoon season. With forecasts predicting a normal to above-normal monsoon and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement of 109 climate-resistant seed varieties, the outlook for the country's farmers is brighter than ever. These developments not only promise a significant boost for agriculture but also hold the potential to ease inflationary pressures—a key concern for both policymakers and the general public. A favorable monsoon is expected to drive agricultural growth in India, with a report from India Ratings predicting a 4.3% increase in FY25, up from 1.4% in FY24. The monsoon plays a critical role in sustaining food supply, which in turn satisfies consumer demand and helps stabilise food prices. Additionally, a good monsoon increases rural incomes, which can stimulate demand for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). Monsoon rains are vital for Indian agriculture, particularly for the kharif crop season, which includes staples like rice, maize, and pulses. With nearly 60 per cent of India's farmland being rain-fed, a good monsoon often translates to a successful harvest. This year's normal to above-average rainfall has raised hopes for a bumper crop season. A successful monsoon reduces the need for costly irrigation solutions, helping farmers save on input costs. As a result, rural incomes are expected to rise, driving consumer demand in villages and small towns, which are vital engines of the country's economic growth.



Against this promising backdrop, Prime Minister Modi's release of 109 climate-resistant seed varieties marks a significant step towards securing India's agricultural future. These seeds have been specially developed to withstand the growing challenges posed by climate change, including erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and rising temperatures. By enhancing crop resilience, these seeds aim to ensure stable yields even in adverse weather conditions. The introduction of these seeds is a forward-looking initiative that aligns with the government's broader agricultural strategy, which emphasises sustainability and self-reliance. These seeds are expected to reduce crop losses due to unpredictable weather, providing farmers with a safety net and helping to stabilise food production. This could lead to a more consistent food supply. In recent years, inflation, particularly driven by volatile food prices, has been a persistent concern for the Indian economy. A good monsoon and the adoption of climate-resistant seeds could bring much-needed relief to consumers, especially those in lower-income brackets who are most affected by rising food costs. During his second term, Prime Minister Modi had promised to double farmers' incomes—a goal that was challenging to achieve at the time. However, that target now seems within reach. The combination of good rainfall and resilient seed varieties could be the key to realising that vision and securing a prosperous future for Indian agriculture.

### PICTALK



NCC cadets during full dress rehearsal for the 78th Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort, in New Delhi PTI

# Finding fault with the US for internal failures



BHOPINDER SINGH

The narrative of an 'American hand' in political unrest in South Asia sells, even as the root cause of instability often lie with its own politicians

The United States of America did not have a significant role in the run-up to the independence of the Indian subcontinent from the British Raj. Indeed, the Gadar Party started as a San Francisco-based anti-colonial organization, as did the New York-based India Home Rule League founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, but the Government of the USA had remained largely oblivious of the subcontinental developments. It was only in the post-World War 2 tensions between the competing 'blocs', when the Cold War started in earnest, that the USA went into overdrive to control the subcontinental narrative. To further its interest, the USA had backed military dictators in Pakistan, and undemocratic monarchies in Afghanistan and Nepal, while remaining decidedly hostile towards India.

Washington DC tellingly overlooked the genocidal conduct of the Pakistani Generals in what later became Bangladesh. Americans were instrumental in harnessing toxic religiosity by creating the Afghan mujahedeen, the curse of which continues to this date. Pakistan was a 'Major Non-NATO Ally' and did most of its bidding in the region. The end of the Cold War with the implosion of the Soviet Union in the early 90s coincided with the rise of China as the new principal enemy. This led to a recalibration of allies and enemies, which eventually warranted a more pro-India outlook from Washington DC, even though an unnatural alliance with Pakistan persisted owing to the necessities of Afghanistan and tackling religio-

terror. For a variety of reasons, including the continuing 'War on Terror' in Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Iran, to now the latest Israel-Palestine War, perceptions of America within the Ummah (Islamic World), made it naturally unsavoury. This often makes the USA the prime suspect for anything that went wrong in Tehran, Kabul, Damascus, Islamabad to even Dhaka. Invariably the Americans are seen to be partaking in Samuel P



Huntington's 'Clash of the Civilisations', which seemingly pits the Americans as a force against the Ummah. America-bashing is a latent and potent undercurrent that is tapped by various political parties in the Islamic countries of the region like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Maldives or Bangladesh, even if the same is genuinely warranted or not. There is no denying that America has had an amoral past with many missteps and convenient overlooking of events, but it is equally true that many political parties have twisted and even extrapolated the same to suggest out-sized agendas for Washington DC because they know that such a spiel feeds into the popular and basic instincts of their citizenry.

In Pakistan, amidst the turf wars between the Military 'establishment' and Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf government, the wily Imran Khan dialled up a phoney 'cypher' controversy entailing a foreign power i.e., the USA. This move sought to conflate two enemies (one already imagined i.e., USA, and the other requiring some context i.e. Pakistani Military) to apportion a disproportionate role for the Americans, as it was safe and popular to do so. The Americans have historically had a say in Pakistani affairs, but the ouster of Imran Khan had more to do with the Pakistani 'establishment' tak-



WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT DHAKA UNDER HASINA HAD ADOPTED A BELLIGERENT STANCE AND EVEN COSIED UP TO ITS NEMESIS THAT IS, CHINA, BY ACCEPTING BEIJING'S OVERTURES - BANGLADESH WAS NOT CHINA'S BUNNY IN THE SAME WAY AS PAKISTAN IS, NOR WAS IT POISED TO GO THAT WAY

ing the initiative with Americans agreeing to the same, as opposed to the other way round.

Today, realising his folly of having overplayed the America-hand storyline, Imran Khan has deftly redirected the attack onto his local political rivals as opposed to the Americans or even the Pakistani 'establishment', as done earlier. Now, after the self-created tinder-box-like situation and the subsequent implosion, Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is believed to have drummed up the US hand in the recent coup. While it is true that Dhaka under Hasina had adopted a belligerent stance and even cosied up to its nemesis i.e., China, by accepting Beijing's overtures - Bangladesh was not China's bunny in the same way as Pakistan is, nor was it poised to go that way, either. It is true Hasina had declined the American request for a Military base in its Saint Martin Islands, but that was more out of good sense given the societal sentiments that prevailed and good local politics.

The only thing that riled out Hasina was the routine concerns expressed by the USA that Hasina was increasingly undemocratic, intolerant and authoritarian (which she was) - but other than these concerns, both Hasina and the

Americans had a common enemy in religious-extremist forces that threatened the interests of both sides. Hasina also amplified her American rhetoric as it was without any accompanying risks and could endear her to Bangladeshi society, as the Ummah has been wounded by emotions of the Palestine war, and the tacit role of the USA. Hasina's purported accusation of the USA plotting regime change in Bangladesh (in her undelivered speech) needs to be read contextually. His supposed stance that she'd be in power if she had given away, 'Saint Martin and Bay of Bengal', is more theatrical than factual as Bangladeshis (especially youth) had genuinely tired of her rule.

If anything, the forces that have come to power reflect the sort of spirit and religious tenor that militates against American preferences. Hasina's exit has more to do with her hubris and excesses than with America working overtime to dislodge her. America is just a convenient (though often justified) enemy in Islamic countries and those who are inelegantly bumped out resort to blaming the USA hand on the rebound e.g., Pakistan earlier, Bangladesh now.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MOTHERS HAVE BIG HEART

Madam — In the world of sports, where records are measured in meters and seconds, Nadeem's Olympic gold throw of 92.97 meters and Neeraj's silver throw of 89.45 meters are remarkable feats. Yet, they pale in comparison to the "universal affection javelin throw" of infinite meters launched by their mothers. The media captured a heartwarming moment as both mothers wished their sons not just victory and medals, but everlasting friendship and affection.

Indeed, the true champions here are the mothers of Nadeem and Neeraj, whose boundless care and love transcend international borders, setting a new record for the longest "affectionate and harmonious javelin throw" of infinite meters. Kudos to these incredible women for their unparalleled contribution to the spirit of sportsmanship and humanity.

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secunderabad

### ADDRESS ATTACK ON MINORITIES

Madam — The ongoing attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh are deeply concerning. Despite Hindu support for the movement against the Sheikh Hasina government, the new regime has failed to protect them. Alarming, Indian opposition parties, vocal about minority rights in India, have remained silent on this issue.

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, leading the interim government, has appealed for calm but to little effect. The anti-quota protests in Bangladesh, which led to the fall of the Hasina government, have now targeted Hindus, even though their involvement was primarily against the previous government. The situation worsened with the forced resignation of Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan. Bangladesh remains an Islamic country, and protection for minorities is limited compared to India. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's offer to shelter "anyone" in distress is problematic, as it could enable more Bangladeshi infiltration into India, exacerbating the

## Medics need support



The removal of the City Police Commissioner and the Medical Superintendent cum VP of RG Kar Medical College Hospital in Calcutta, following the horrific rape

and murder of a 31-year-old medical professional on the hospital grounds, will not alone bring justice to this case. The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) has demanded a CBI inquiry and calls for decisive action.

The frequency of such atrocities against doctors across the country, compounded by inadequate protection from many state authorities, is undeniable. The reluctance of junior doctors to speak out due to fear has led to even greater tragedies over the years. If this situation persists, it will severely impact medical care for millions of impoverished patients and place the medical profession in a critical condition.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

demographic challenges in states like Assam and West Bengal.

Mamata Banerjee's silence on the attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh is troubling, especially as her actions seem to prioritise vote-bank politics over national security and humanitarian concerns. The government must act fast as things are very fluid in Bangladesh.

K V Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

### LESSONS FROM WAYANAD

Madam — The recent landslides and floods in Wayanad, Kerala, have drawn global attention, reminding us of the ongoing vulnerability of our planet to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. Our Earth has always been a haven of beauty and abundance, providing a diverse range of species and natural resources like majestic mountains and expansive oceans. For millennia, Mother Nature has been humanity's nurturing cradle. I recall the massive floods of the early 1990s, which devastated regions in Tamil Nadu, including Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, and

Tirunelveli. It is crucial for all Asian countries, especially those in the Himalayan region, to implement proactive measures such as adopting advanced technologies and large-scale afforestation to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

These events underscore the urgent need to harmonise human activities with the Earth's natural systems. Overexploitation of resources has pushed our planet to its limits, disrupting its balance. To address this, it is essential to regulate high-rise construction in earthquake-prone areas and shift focus from building concrete jungles to fostering green, sustainable landscapes. Regions like Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Marthandam, Nagercoil, and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu serve as examples of how humans and nature can coexist harmoniously. By prioritising reforestation and sustainable land use, we can build a resilient future.

P Senthil Saravana Durai | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

# The quest for real freedom in a divided society



VINOD BEHAL

Real liberation comes from transcending divisions and recognising our spiritual identity, a path that leads to peace, harmony, and tranquility

More than seven decades after we attained independence from the British, we are still enslaved - trapped in the bondage of caste, creed, religion, regionalism et al. This has created deep fissures in society, destroying the democratic fabric of amity, harmony and peaceful co-existence. All this is there because as individuals, society and a nation, we have not attained real or to say ultimate freedom that promotes peace, harmony and happiness.



What is real or ultimate freedom? It is a state of not being enslaved to physical senses, to mind and its desires. It means breaking free from toxic thoughts and the vices associated with it. We need freedom from prejudices of caste, creed and religion, greed and selfishness, anger and animosity, hate and hostility. But then why are we failing to achieve real freedom and how can we attain it? Real freedom is eluding us because we are facing an identity crisis. We don't know our real identity.

In reality, we are spiritual beings (having soul-based identity) in body form. But we make a fallacy of treating ourselves as a body and this unreal world as the real world. The basic nature of our material existence is bondage and when we act upon the material desires of the mind and senses, we often take to unwise and unholy acts which lead to our sorrows and sufferings. Because of duality, we tend to discriminate against fellow beings and this dis-

crimination takes the form of hatred, animosity and hostility, even leading to violence and bloodshed. Liberation of the soul or spiritual freedom is the ultimate freedom. The devotees belonging to the Nirankari Mission observe the 15th of August as 'Mukti Parv Diwas' to signify the liberation of the soul. To attain this ultimate liberation, we have to come out of the contaminated state of our consciousness and position ourselves in a pure state of

our consciousness. Even Bhagavad Gita says that being situated in such a position, one is never shaken even amid the greatest difficulty and it is actual freedom from all miseries arising from material contact.

We can certainly attain ultimate liberation through self-liberation by way of self realization that we are a pure and noble soul - a constituent of God. We can lead such an aware life constantly by strengthening our spiritual dimension through God's remembrance and the company of saintly persons. Lord Jesus set people free from bondage to live in the freedom that only comes from God.

We shall be able to attain real freedom by living an enlightened life in the spirit of oneness (Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam) with the Creator and His creation, in turn turning this world into a happy, harmonious and peaceful place to live.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)



## FIRST COLUMN

## FROM RIFTS TO RESOLUTION

It is very important to recognise that the world shall change when I change



BY RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

We all know that conflicts are a part of our everyday life and they form in our close relations, at a societal level & on an international level. Very often we see conflicts leading to aggression, hostility and war. However, conflicts can also be a stepping stone leading to change and wisdom; if we learn to handle them constructively. Since relationship conflicts are inevitable, learning to deal with them healthily is extremely crucial because when a conflict is mismanaged, it can harm the relationship. But when handled respectfully and positively, it provides an opportunity for growth, ultimately strengthening the bond between two people.

Any kind of conflict has two dimensions, internal and external. Internal conflicts arise when the mind and intellect are moving in opposite directions and external conflicts are caused when people or situations confront us and we are not sure how to cope with them. Some people view conflicts as an opportunity for a change and some see it as a natural global phenomenon. But others feel that conflicts are avoidable through better communication but they are frightened of the process. Due to this fear, they hold themselves back and content themselves by making a peace contract or a deal. However, such solutions are very temporary and can be seen as a band-aid solution, which might be effective for the short term only. We all know that conflicts ought to be resolved by use of intellect or reasoning because when conflicts are allowed to develop unhindered without intervention or when the parties involved fuel the



conflict, it often happens that the conflict evolves negatively. And that is why people seek guru's or senior's advice when they are faced with conflicting decisions. But the irony is that with all the information and advice that is available to us, we are unable to resolve matters because there is an acute implementation paralysis. We must not forget about the fact that the best source of judgement is a person's intellect because nobody can understand his feelings, situations and capabilities to deal better than his self.

We may seek advice from an experienced person, however, the sense of joy or security that we feel on hearing good advice is only temporary because it is not real. Just like the feeling of joy derived from thinking of eating something delicious is unreal, real joy comes only after eating the thing. We too have to undergo an experience to make it real. Remember! Conflict triggers strong emotions and can lead to hurt feelings, disappointment, and discomfort. When handled in an unhealthy manner, it can cause irreparable rifts, resentments, and break-ups. But when it is resolved healthily, it increases our understanding of one another, builds trust, and strengthens our relationship bonds. A growing body of research has shown spirituality as a great antidote for all kinds of conflicts. Spirituality is like the medicine that heals the root of the disease and not just the symptoms. It is the only means that gives us complete solutions to conflicts. From a spiritual perspective, the most powerful value needed for conflict resolution is 'respect'. This is because most of the people don't wish to negotiate when they have material power. Therefore, there's an urgent need for those to realize and respect their inner powers. Similarly, faith is also a very important element in conflict resolution, it is the key to mutual understanding. For global conflicts, the solution lies with the leadership. The leaders can bring about the much-needed change and make it trickle down the societies. Leaders of today must remember that any kind of change can be termed 'real' only when it affects the grassroots. It is thus very important to recognize that the world shall change when I change. Hence, people should not wait to be told that they need to change, instead, they should realise it themselves.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are personal)



SUGANDHA NAGAR

nect with their feminine essence and the best way to nurture this strength is by bonding with other women. Such connections are crucial for self-discovery and empowerment. The concept of Shine Theory, coined by journalist Ann Friedman and business-woman Aminatou Sow, encapsulates this idea: exceptional women support each other to shine even brighter.

Historically, women have passed wisdom and experience through communal practices, whether through household chores or cultural rituals. For example, traditional activities like grinding spices together in Indian families or crafting quilts in Alice Walker's 'The Color Purple' symbolize unity and shared strength.

Everyday interactions among women not only ease the burden of tasks but also preserve cultural traditions and create a space for emotional exchange. These interactions form a vessel of healing and transformation, extending beyond personal growth to effecting positive change in their communities. In modern settings, such as neighborhood gatherings or

workplace environments, the same principles apply. Despite the often harsh competitive dynamics driven by stereotypes, supportive women's circles offer a vital source of relief and rejuvenation. Unfortunately, societal narratives and media perpetuate the myth that women are inherently competitive and unsupportive of one another. This stereotype undermines the historical practices of women uplifting each other and fosters unhealthy rivalry. Recent initiatives aim to counteract these negative dynamics by promoting women's economic empowerment. The Union Budget for 2024-25 proposes establishing working women hostels and supporting women-led self-help groups (SHGs). These



measures are designed to enhance financial stability and provide economic opportunities for women, particularly in rural areas. The goal is to transform women into 'Lakhpati Didis,' or those with an annual income exceeding INR 1,00,000, while also encouraging sustainable livelihoods and

improved living standards. The emphasis on SHGs highlights the importance of collective unity and mutual support among women. These groups not only provide economic benefits but also foster a strong network of women who support each other's growth and success. By encouraging more women to

engage in such supportive environments, we can pave the way for greater economic prosperity and gender equality.

Sheryl Sandberg, former COO of Meta Platforms, emphasizes the power of women supporting women in her book, 'Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead'. She dispels the myth that women don't support each other, arguing that collaboration among women is key to achieving remarkable success. Successful women often have the backing of other women who help them reach their goals.

To overcome systemic discrimination and internalized biases, women must challenge the societal pressures that pit them against each

other. By rejecting stereotypes and fostering genuine support, women can create spaces where they feel safe to express themselves, show vulnerability, and receive the support they need.

Ultimately, female friendships and communal support not only inspire personal and spiritual growth but also enhance collective strength and performance. Women's circles provide a crucial platform for sharing energy, ideas, and support, enabling women to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to their communities.

(The author is a writer, social worker, culture enthusiast, and former UN employee; views are personal)

# Rupee's fall against dollar is a wake-up call for India



BRAJESH KUMAR TIWARI

As the rupee weakens and inflation rises, strategic economic reforms to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependency are urgently needed

The rupee hit a record low against the US dollar on August 5th and was trading at 84.09 per dollar. This is the biggest fall ever seen in the rupee and the rupee has reached its all-time low. If the currency of any country is stronger than other currencies, then the country is considered strong. In this globalized world, the value of every country's currency against the US dollar not only impacts the economy of that country but also affects the prices of many things in the market.

**Rupee has Fallen 20 Times since Independence:** The rupee has fallen almost 20 times since independence; in 1948, 1 dollar was equal to 4 rupees. At that time there was no debt in the country, then when the first five-year plan was implemented in 1951, the government started taking loans from foreign countries and then the value of the rupee also started decreasing continuously.

The continuous outflow of foreign funds from financial markets and crude oil has increased pressure on the rupee. The economy around the world has seen two major shocks - the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine, Israel conflict. India is also not untouched by this. Today, the condition of currencies in major markets around the world is weak.

**Dollar as King:** According to the International Standard Organization list, there are a total of 180 currencies around the world, but among them, the American currency 'Dollar' has become a global currency. The price of most of the things exported is paid in dollars. Today the dollar is involved in 80 percent of the world's trade. The US dollar has the status of a global currency, which is why the value of the rupee against the dollar shows whether the Indian currency is strong or weak.

**The falling value of the Rupee affects Common People:** When the rupee becomes cheaper against the dollar, it has a direct impact on the economy.

The falling value of the rupee brings inflation. Rising prices could accelerate inflation, which is already high. In such a situation, everything from the life of the common man to businessmen and government will be affected by the value of the rupee. The decline in global activity, investors' decision to invest money in safe global markets and increasing tension in global politics are among the main reasons behind the fall of the rupee. Even if we do not take seriously the fall and rise of a few paise in the rupee, they have a big impact on our lives.

The fall in the rupee has a direct impact on the country's economy, due to which import of petroleum products will become expensive and freight transportation will become expensive. This will have a direct impact on the inflation of every essential item. There is a sudden increase in all loans taken in foreign currency and the interest paid on them. Studying abroad will also be expensive.

**Why the Rupee is falling:** The value of the rupee completely depends on its demand and supply and import and export also have a direct impact. A country that imports more than it exports has a higher demand for dollars. Like India imports more than it exports. India is one of the major importers of crude oil and imports about 80 per cent of the oil, undoubtedly the rising prices of crude oil



IF WE START USING INDIGENOUS GOODS THEN THE COST OF IMPORTING FOREIGN GOODS WILL BE SAVED. FOR INDIA TO BECOME A \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2025, WE NEED TO EXPORT AT LEAST \$2.5 TRILLION WORTH OF GOODS AND SERVICES, AS EXPORTS CURRENTLY CONTRIBUTE ABOUT 25% TO THE TOTAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

in the international market are the main reason for the fall in the value of the rupee. Things to do for the value of the Rupee: Although the Central Government has assured to make every possible effort to stop the fall of the Rupee, now the Government will have to take concrete and tough steps. If the government tries to change its economy dependent on oil, then we can save a huge part of the foreign reserves and for this, we all should consider alternatives to oil. There is a need to pay attention to electric vehicles. Effective steps will have to be taken to stop the fall in the value of the rupee and keep the foreign exchange reserves rich.

**Government Steps:** The government is indeed striving to create a competitive, dynamic environment to provide sustained economic growth and enhance its relevance in international trade, PM Gati Shakti, National Single Window Clearance, GIS-mapped Land Bank, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) etc. The manufacturing sector is expected to benefit from the implementation of recent policies like the PLI scheme. Its results are also visible in some areas, the development of coronavirus vaccines by Indian companies is a vivid example of indigenous talent. India has rapidly made its place in the Ease of Doing Business index released by the World Bank. India's EDB rank was 134th in the year 2014, whereas in the year 2023, it has become 63rd. India is ranked 40th in the Global Competitiveness Report Index published by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum, where it was ranked 60th in 2014. But all these reforms in the ranks have also failed to revive the manufacturing sector and provide the desired support to the Make in India campaign.

**Big Time for Make in India:** The government will have to move strategically towards controlling imports and increasing exports. This is the time to effectively

implement the 'Make in India' program which even after nine years is far behind in its effective contribution. Despite being the fifth largest economy, India contributes barely 1.6% to world exports. A primary objective of the campaign was to increase the share of the manufacturing sector in the Indian GDP to 25 per cent by 2022 although it has remained between 14 to 16 per cent in the last 9 years.

During the coronavirus pandemic, there was publicity that the companies leaving China were going to come to India, however, most of these companies have shifted their base to Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand etc. and only a few have come to India. Every year crores of laptops, desktops and servers are sold in India, in which motherboards memory models and chips are being imported. We are dependent on other countries for these components.

Even today, most of the items are not being produced but are being assembled. There is no justification for the import of Harmonized System products (HS-84, nuclear reactors, boilers, mechanical equipment and their parts), and HS-85 (electrical machinery) as most of these items can be produced locally. PLI schemes should be extended to MSMEs and emerging industries to increase exports.

The 15 per cent corporate tax rate for new investment in manufacturing should be extended to all industries including the service sector. The expansion and use of new-age technology applications such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine Learning (ML) require tax incentives on capital or operational expenditure. The government should reduce the logistics cost to 6-8% of the GDP which is currently 14%, the good thing is that recently at the G-20 summit, there has been talk of setting up an economic corridor at the international level.

The manufacturing industry in

India remains flawed due to the poor infrastructure of the country. Compared to China, which spends 20% of its GDP on infrastructure development, our country spends only 3%. Way Forward: At a time when the value of the rupee has crossed Rs 84 per US dollar, the role of 'Make in India' becomes very important.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), India may face a shortage of about 29 million skilled workers by 2030. The economy needs more than policy window dressing to increase manufacturing activity. We need to understand that just passing bills and organizing investor conferences will not be enough to promote industrialization.

The manufacturing sector is constrained by large amounts of paperwork, be it labour, land or environmental clearances, stringent regulations and policy. Taxation and customs policies are complex to such an extent that it is cheaper to import things like medical equipment rather than manufacture the equipment domestically. India can make itself the next 'global factory' in the future, which is already fed up with China and is looking for alternative manufacturing hubs. There is a need to free the manufacturing sector from cumbersome rules.

Certainly, the fall of the rupee against the dollar can be controlled through such effective steps. Also, if we start using indigenous goods then the cost of importing foreign goods will be saved. For India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, we need to export at least \$2.5 trillion worth of goods and services, as exports currently contribute about 25% to the total gross domestic product (GDP). India has no time to rest. We have come a long way, but the journey is not over yet.

(The writer is an associate professor at JNU, New Delhi; views are personal)

## The strength of sisterhood: How women's circles empower and change lives

Women groups foster empowerment, drive economic progress, and challenge societal stereotypes, proving that together, women can achieve anything

Humans are inherently social beings, and women, in particular, thrive on social connections. This insight struck me during a recent celebration of Hariyali Teej, a Hindu festival dedicated to women. On this day, women don traditional attire, enjoy special foods, and revel in music, reflecting the profound significance of women's gatherings in our cultural history. Hariyali Teej exemplifies the value our ancestors placed on women's circles. These gatherings not only provide joy but also reinforce the unique strength women possess. This power is deeply rooted in their ability to manage and share energy, which flourishes through communal interactions. Women need to con-

nect with their feminine essence and the best way to nurture this strength is by bonding with other women. Such connections are crucial for self-discovery and empowerment. The concept of Shine Theory, coined by journalist Ann Friedman and business-woman Aminatou Sow, encapsulates this idea: exceptional women support each other to shine even brighter.

Historically, women have passed wisdom and experience through communal practices, whether through household chores or cultural rituals. For example, traditional activities like grinding spices together in Indian families or crafting quilts in Alice Walker's 'The Color Purple' symbolize unity and shared strength.

Everyday interactions among women not only ease the burden of tasks but also preserve cultural traditions and create a space for emotional exchange. These interactions form a vessel of healing and transformation, extending beyond personal growth to effecting positive change in their communities. In modern settings, such as neighborhood gatherings or

workplace environments, the same principles apply. Despite the often harsh competitive dynamics driven by stereotypes, supportive women's circles offer a vital source of relief and rejuvenation. Unfortunately, societal narratives and media perpetuate the myth that women are inherently competitive and unsupportive of one another. This stereotype undermines the historical practices of women uplifting each other and fosters unhealthy rivalry. Recent initiatives aim to counteract these negative dynamics by promoting women's economic empowerment. The Union Budget for 2024-25 proposes establishing working women hostels and supporting women-led self-help groups (SHGs). These

measures are designed to enhance financial stability and provide economic opportunities for women, particularly in rural areas. The goal is to transform women into 'Lakhpati Didis,' or those with an annual income exceeding INR 1,00,000, while also encouraging sustainable livelihoods and

improved living standards. The emphasis on SHGs highlights the importance of collective unity and mutual support among women. These groups not only provide economic benefits but also foster a strong network of women who support each other's growth and success. By encouraging more women to

engage in such supportive environments, we can pave the way for greater economic prosperity and gender equality.

Sheryl Sandberg, former COO of Meta Platforms, emphasizes the power of women supporting women in her book, 'Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead'. She dispels the myth that women don't support each other, arguing that collaboration among women is key to achieving remarkable success. Successful women often have the backing of other women who help them reach their goals.

To overcome systemic discrimination and internalized biases, women must challenge the societal pressures that pit them against each

other. By rejecting stereotypes and fostering genuine support, women can create spaces where they feel safe to express themselves, show vulnerability, and receive the support they need.

Ultimately, female friendships and communal support not only inspire personal and spiritual growth but also enhance collective strength and performance. Women's circles provide a crucial platform for sharing energy, ideas, and support, enabling women to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to their communities.

(The author is a writer, social worker, culture enthusiast, and former UN employee; views are personal)

# Fielding wife against Supriya in LS polls a mistake: Ajit

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a public admission of an error for the second time in less than a week in the run-up to the forthcoming State Assembly polls, Maharashtra deputy chief minister and NCP (AP) Ajit Pawar has said that he had made a "mistake" of fielding his wife Sunetra Pawar against his cousin Supriya Sule in the recent Lok Sabha polls. Within days after going to town admitting that the Centre's move to ban onion export late last year was a mistake which cost the ruling MahaYuti dearly in the recently Lok Sabha polls, Ajit Pawar pushed the BJP-led

state government's women-oriented flagship scheme "Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" by admitting his mistake of mixing politics with family. The ruling MahaYuti - comprising BJP, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and NCP (Ajit Pawar) is banking heavily on the "Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" populist scheme in the State Assembly polls to be held in October this year. The scheme is aimed at providing financial assistance of Rs 1,500 per month to women in the state. Speaking to a Marathi news channel during his ongoing people outreach programme "Jan Samman Yatra", Ajit Pawar expressed his regret

over mixing politics with family in matters relating to his decision to field his wife Sunetra as a candidate against his cousin and sitting NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule in the recent Lok Sabha polls from the family pocket-borough of Baramati constituency. "Politics should not be allowed to enter the home, where I made a mistake. I should not have fielded Sunetra against my sister," the NCP (AP) chief said. The contest between Supriya and Sunetra Pawar was the talking point of the Lok Sabha polls. Supriya, a sitting MP and daughter of NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar, trounced her sister-in-law Sunetra by a margin of 1.58



lakh votes in the polls in the Baramati poll, Supriya polled 7,32,312 votes, Sunetra secured 5,73,979 votes. It is another matter that after her

defeat, the NCP (AP) sent Sunetra to Rajya Sabha in the RS by-poll held in June this year. Ajit Pawar's expression of

remorse comes four days after Ajit Pawar apologised to the people, particularly women, for the Centre's decision to ban the onion export in December last year, a decision that had an adverse impact on the onion growing farmers in the state. Interacting with farmers, women, and traditional Maharashtra "paithani saree" weavers at Niphad in Nashik district, a major onion production hub, Ajit Pawar said: "I admit that onion export ban was a mistake. I apologise for that mistake. There will be no onion export ban again. I have told the central government and we in the state government have agreed that there will be no ban on

onion export," Pawar said. Seeking to keep the women voters in the state in good humour, Ajit Pawar—who also holds the State Finance portfolio - announced that the first instalment of Rs 1,500 under the "Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" will be released to women across Maharashtra on August 17. In the Lok Sabha polls, the ruling 'Mahayuti' (grand alliance) put up a poor performance by winning just 17 out of 48 seats (BJP-9, Eknath Shinde-headed Shiv Sena-7 and Ajit Pawar-led NCP --1), as against 31 seats won collectively by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) comprising Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-

led Shiv Sena and Sharad Pawar-led NCP. During the ongoing "Jan Samman Yatra", Ajit Pawar is attempting to win back the support of the aggrieved vote banks like farmers and women by talking about the MahaYuti government's recently-announced populist schemes. The MahaYuti schemes like the "Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana", "Annapura Yojana", "Baliraja Vij Savlat Yojana", "Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana" and the Rs 5,000 per hectare bonus scheme for cotton and soya-bean farmers are drawing traction from the beneficiary sections like women and farmers.

## Landslides in Kerala indicate climate change cannot be ignored, says UDF

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led UDF Opposition on Tuesday said the recent landslides in Wayanad and Kozhikode districts of Kerala indicate that climate change can no longer be ignored, and suggested the implementation of an early warning system to mitigate the impact of natural disasters in the future. The recommendations were made along with the suggestions given to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for the rehabilitation of victims of the landslides-hit areas in Wayanad and Vilangad village in Kozhikode, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the State Assembly V D Satheesan said. The LoP said the opposition has been saying since 2021 that climate change cannot be ignored and that it has to be addressed. "The opposition has now suggested carrying out scientific testing, mapping of disaster prone areas and setting up early warning systems. "For that, scientific



institutions and meteorological departments of central and state governments and institutions of international standard like Cochin University should work in concert," he said while speaking to reporters here after submitting the proposals to the CM. Satheesan said that when claims of Kerala being a "knowledge society" are made periodically, then all the scientific knowledge available in the world should be used to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. He said that Kerala has faced several natural disasters in the past and, therefore, going forward, any developmental work should

take climate change also into account. The opposition leader further said that the UDF also suggested that the government consider framing a law for the rehabilitation of victims of natural disasters. Satheesan, who submitted the proposals in person to the CM, said that he received a positive response from Vijayan. Regarding the rehabilitation of the victims, he said that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has already promised to build 100 houses and the state government has assured that it would hold talks with the opposition as soon as land for the project is found. Satheesan said the opposition suggested that while building the houses, a township model, facilitating community living, should be adopted, instead of simply building homes, so that all the affected persons can live together. He said that the opposition has also recommended making micro-level rehabilitation packages tailored to the needs of each

affected family as they were all affected in different ways. "In some cases, children were orphaned, in others only elderly members of the family survived and in some, the earning members died. So, the packages have to be different in each case. We hope the state government will consider the suggestion seriously," he said. He said that the opposition also sought a separate rehabilitation package for Vilangad as officially there were 24 landslides in the village that caused widespread damage to property, which included homes, farmland, roads and even bridges. Satheesan said that the other suggestions given by the opposition include a complete waiver of loans taken by those who lost everything in the landslides in Wayanad and Vilangad as the people no longer have the means to repay their debts. He said that CM Vijayan agreed to look into the matter and take a decision accordingly.

## Five killed as car falls into canal in Bihar

PTI ■ AURANGABAD

Five persons, all of them residents of Patna, were on Tuesday killed in Aurangabad district of Bihar where their car fell into a canal, a police officer said.



According to Kumar Rishiraj, Sub Divisional Police Officer, Daudnagar, the accident took place in the morning close to Chaman Bigha village falling in Aurangabad district. "Bodies of all five occupants have been exhumed. The owner of the vehicle has been traced with the help of the number plate. We have learnt that all the deceased were residents of Rajiv Nagar locality in the state capital", said Rishiraj. "The deceased had gone to offer prayers at a shrine in the adjoining Rohtas district.

## Schools shut as rain wreaks havoc in Rajasthan, CM conducts aerial survey

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Schools were shut in several Rajasthan districts on Tuesday as heavy rainfall continued to batter parts of the state where 22 people died in rain-related incidents in two days. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma conducted an aerial survey of rain-hit areas in Dausa, Karauli and Bharatpur districts while BJP leader Kirodi Lal Meena took part in a field survey and met officials in Dausa. Meena recently resigned from the Cabinet and is not taking part in official meetings. A warning for heavy to very heavy rainfall is in place for Tuesday and Wednesday in the Bharatpur, Ajmer, Jaipur and Kota divisions. In some areas of eastern Rajasthan, moderate to heavy rain may occur on Thursday and Friday. For Tuesday, a 'red' warning is in place for Baran, Bundi, Kota and Tonk districts and an 'orange' alert for Bharatpur, Dausa, Dholpur, Jaipur and Karauli. The administration has



declared holidays in schools in these districts. In the 24 hours ended at 8:30 am on Tuesday, Mahua in Dausa recorded the highest rainfall at 163 mm, the Met centre in Jaipur said. Nainwa in Bundi recorded 161 mm rainfall, Jaipur 152 mm and Madhorajpura in Jaipur 136 mm -- all in the category of very heavy rain. Torrential rain during the past couple of days has caused waterlogging in several districts, with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams rescuing more than 100 people from affected areas.

The continuous heavy rain has led to flood-like conditions in Karauli district and nearby areas where overflowing dams and rivers have disrupted daily life. At least 22 people have died in rain-related incidents in Rajasthan since August 11. Sharma conducted a field inspection in Jaipur on Monday and issued necessary directions to officials. On Tuesday, he conducted an aerial survey in rain-hit Dausa, Karauli and Bharatpur districts, an official said. BJP MLA Meena conducted a field visit in Dausa amid the flood-like situation in some areas of eastern Rajasthan and shared photos on social media. "Held a review meeting to deal with the current situation after heavy rainfall and discussions were held with all the subdivision-level officers in the Mahua Panchayat Samiti auditorium and directions were given to take necessary steps to help the affected people. All possible help will be provided to the affected people," he said in a post on X.

## Sheikh Hasina booked for...

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"In line with a case filed by a resident of (Dhaka's) Mohammadpur area, Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury has asked police to register it as an FIR," a court official said. He said that six others who were named in the case are: Awami League general secretary and former road transport minister Obaidul Quader, home minister Asaduzzaman Khan and sacked inspector general of police (IGP) Abdullah Al Mamun, Dhaka's police commissioner Habibur Rahman, Additional IGP Harun-or-Rashid and additional joint commissioner Biplob Kumar. While Hasina fled to India, the two ministers are believed to have secretly left the country hours before her resignation on August 5 while the whereabouts of the police officers remained unknown to the media. According to court officials, the magistrate asked Mohammadpur police station to record the case. A police official preferring anonymity said it was unclear which agency would be tasked to investigate the case. Home Affairs Adviser Brigadier General (retd.) Sakhawat Hossain speculated that 500 or more protesters and policemen were killed during the three weeks of violence which originated from a movement by Students Against Discrimination. The case against Hasina and six others was lodged on charges of killing a grocery shop owner in the Mohammadpur area in police firing on July 19 during a street march in support of the students' movement for reforms in a controversial quota system for government jobs. The case was filed by a well-wisher of the grocery store owner Abu Sayed.

## Supreme Court closes contempt case on...

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The alleged non-adherence to the specific assurance and subsequent media statements by the firm had irked the apex court, which later issued notice to them to show cause as to why contempt proceedings be not initiated against them. "In its verdict, the bench said, "...We are of the opinion that though the initial conduct of the proposed contemnors prior to their tendering an apology to the court showed that the same was in violation

of the undertakings given to this court, subsequent thereto, after they tendered an unqualified apology to this court, efforts have been made by them to take steps to make amends". It noted they also took steps to publicise the apology tendered by them through advertisements published prominently in the national and regional newspapers. "No doubt the wisdom of tendering an unconditional apology dawned belatedly on the proposed contemnors,

after this court rejected the first attempt made by them to offer a qualified apology, but their subsequent conduct demonstrates that they have made sincere efforts to purge themselves," the bench said. "Given the attendant facts and circumstances of the case and the effort made by the proposed contemnors to absolve themselves of acts that amounted to breach of undertakings given to this court, we are inclined to accept the apology tendered by them and close the matter,"

it said. Referring to the first affidavit filed by Balkrishna tendering an unqualified apology on behalf of Patanjali, the bench noted it had rejected the same for the reason that he had tried to justify his conduct by seeking to offer an explanation for the advertisements issued. "As already observed by this court, there cannot be a justification and an apology. The two things are incompatible and do not go hand-in-hand," it said.

## National fury...

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It also asked all HoD and centre chiefs to send the attendance of the Resident Doctors everyday by 3 pm. Voices across the country are expressing deep concern over the safety gaps exposed by the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a Kolkata medical college. Joint secretary of the Association of Resident Doctors, PGIMER, Chandigarh Dr Perugu Praneeth Reddy said that our protest continue today. But the emergency services at the hospital were on. We are demanding that safety for the doctors be ensured at hospitals. After the junior doctors went on the strike on Monday, PGIMER authorities said that emergency services will be on but the outpatient

department services would be curtailed, with the registration of only follow-up patients in respective departments. "A doctors' association in Uttar Pradesh has written to Union Health Minister J P Nadda, pressing for security measures at medical institutions. Uttar Pradesh RDA's president Dr Hardeep Jogi said the association has written to the Union Health Minister, urging for safety and security measures at hospitals in light of the "disturbing and horrific" murder of the postgraduate student in the West Bengal capital four days ago. "The RDA Uttar Pradesh expresses its profound condolences for the loss of this young woman and strongly denounces the failures that permitted such a

grave offence to occur. The inability to safeguard our institutions reflects a critical lapse in administration. And governance," it stated. The RDA also sought an urgent meeting with the health minister to discuss the pressing issues faced by the medical community, the "escalating violence" against doctors and the "deteriorating working conditions" which have created "an atmosphere of fear". "This must be addressed to prevent future tragedies," it said. Junior doctors at state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi on Tuesday started 'pen-down' agitation by boycotting OPD services and elective surgeries in protest against the rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata.

## Delhi LG nominates minister Kailash Gahlot to...

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Earlier in the day, both Saxena and Gahlot had attended a state level function, to laid the foundation stone of a multi-level electric bus depot in the Vasant Vihar area in the morning. "Keeping in view the current impasse created because of peculiar circumstance of non-availability Chief Minister, this Secretariat had sent a reference to the Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has the remit of issuing guidelines for celebrations of Independence Day at the Centre as well as the State level. The Ministry vide its letter dated 13.08.2024 has authorized Lt. Governor to nominate any Minister of

GNCTD to unfurl the flag at the State Level function of Independence Day, 2024 to be held at Chhatrasal Stadium, Delhi," Raj Niwas said in its communiqué to Chief Secretary. Earlier in the day, the Delhi government's General Administration Department (GAD) refused to implement department minister Gopal Rai's direction for the hosting of national flag by Education Minister Atishi. This comes a day after GAD minister Gopal Rai directed the department to make necessary arrangements for Atishi to hoist the national flag, as Kejriwal desired. The GAD organises annual Independence Day celebrations at Chhatrasal Stadium, where the Delhi chief minister hoists the national flag as per tradition

and rules. Replying to Delhi minister Rai's communication, Navin Kumar Chaudhary, additional chief secretary GAD said that the department had sought convenience of the chief minister for his availability for the Independence Day but the office of chief minister has indicated his non-availability being in judicial custody. "The issue has therefore been brought to the notice of higher authorities and a decision is awaited," the communication states. Chaudhary further said, "It is absolutely clear that the above communication (Minister Letter) does not qualify in the permissible communication which can be sent outside prison...Any communication, written or

oral, in contravention of the rules quoted above, is not legally valid and therefore cannot be acted upon". "There are detailed laid down provisions for celebrating them as per the stature they deserve. Any deviations thereto or subjugation thereof will not only undermine the sanctity associated with them but may also amount to statutory illegality," Chaudhary said. He said Independence Day and Republic Day are national events with supreme constitutional sanctity. "As per practice, Delhi Police is responsible for the ceremonial march-past parade after unfurling of the national flag. The Minute to minute programme of the State level function of Independence Day is

finalized by the Delhi Police/Home department. The Home Department GNCTD and the Delhi Police play a primary role vis-a-vis the State Level Function of Independence Day apart making security arrangements for the function. Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor has also noted that matters related to police have been assigned to Home Department under the Allocation of Business Rules, 1993. In view of the above, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor is pleased to nominate the Hon'ble Minister (Home), GNCTD, Kailash Gahlot to unfurl the National Flag at the State level Independence day celebration at Chhatrasal Stadium. Necessary arrangements may be made accordingly," it said.

## New Bangladesh regime reaches...

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The minority Hindu population has faced vandalism of their business and properties and devastation of Hindu temples in the students' violence that ensued for days following the ouster of prime minister Hasina, who soon fled to India on August 5. The Alliance's press conference took place on the same day as Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who took charge as Chief Advisor

of the interim government on August 8, reached out to the distressed Hindu community members at the famous Dhakeshwari Temple here earlier in the day and urged the people to "exercise patience" before judging his government's role. Palash Kanti Dey, the Alliance's spokesperson and executive secretary said: "The incidents of vandalism, looting, arson, land grabbing, and threats to leave the country have been repeatedly inflicted on the

Hindu community due to the shifting political landscape." "This is not just an attack on individuals but an assault on the Hindu religion," Dey alleged during a press conference here. "As of Monday, there have been attacks and threats against the Hindu community in 278 locations across 48 districts. We have conveyed our concerns to Home Affairs Advisor Brigadier General (Retd) M Sakhawat Hussain, who has

assured us that these issues will be raised at the next cabinet meeting," he was quoted as saying by The Dhaka Tribune newspaper. Dey also emphasised that the alliance had long expressed its demands to various political parties over the past 24 years, but they had remained unmet. "We now hope that the interim government will address our longstanding demands. Additionally, we support the nationwide movement led by our

students," he added. Alliance's President Prabhakar Chandra Roy lamented the recurring violence against the Hindu community during times of political change and said, "Whenever there is a change in government, Hindus are the first to be attacked." "Although there were fewer incidents in the past, they have increased recently. We want to live in this country with security. We were born here, and we have rights in this country," he said.

## Union Health Minister JP Nadda in damage control...

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"The policy should ensure adequate safety measures at OPD, wards, and quarters. Corridors and campus are well lit in the evening for staff to walk safely from one place to another and all sensitive areas are covered by CCTV for monitoring." Furthermore, the advisory stressed the importance of implementing sufficient security steps, including the deployment of adequate security staff (both male and female) in various areas of the medical college and hospital campus, such as the OPD, wards, casualty, labour rooms, hostels, residential quarters, and other open spaces. The advisory also emphasised the importance of immediate action by college management in cases of violence against medical students and required that an FIR be lodged with the police. It stipulated that a detailed report on the actions taken must be submitted to the National Medical Commission (NMC) within 48 hours of the incident. Earlier, Nadda met with representatives from the Indian Medical Association (IMA), promising to address their demands for a swift investigation and improved safety measures for doctors in medical institutions.

of the undertakings given to this court, subsequent thereto, after they tendered an unqualified apology to this court, efforts have been made by them to take steps to make amends". It noted they also took steps to publicise the apology tendered by them through advertisements published prominently in the national and regional newspapers. "No doubt the wisdom of tendering an unconditional apology dawned belatedly on the proposed contemnors,

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# Iran rejects European leaders' call to refrain from retaliation

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Iran rejected a call Tuesday by three European countries urging it to refrain from any retaliatory attacks that would further escalate regional tensions. Iran calls it an "excessive request."

The leaders of Britain, France and Germany in a joint statement Monday asked Iran and its allies to refrain from retaliation for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last month. Iran has blamed Israel.

The European leaders also endorsed the latest push by mediators Qatar, Egypt and the United States to broker an agreement to end the Israel-Hamas war. Talks are expected to resume Thursday. And they called for the return of scores of hostages held by Hamas and the "unfettered" delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Mediators have spent months trying to get the sides to agree to a three-phase plan in which Hamas would release the remaining hostages captured in

its October 7 attack in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, and Israel would withdraw from Gaza.

After more than 10 months of fighting, the Palestinian death toll is nearing 40,000 in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry there.

Meanwhile, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site Tuesday, in a pilgrimage seen by Muslims as provocative as regional tensions soar.

Tensions over the compound have fueled rounds of violence before. Ben-Gvir, an ultranationalist settler leader, last visited the compound in July, which the Palestinian Foreign Ministry condemned as a "provocative intrusion" that endangered the fragile status quo regarding the Jerusalem compound.

Ben-Gvir visited the flashpoint site Tuesday morning as Jews marked Tisha B'Av, a day of mourning commemorating the destruction of the biblical Temples. Jews revere the site as

the Temple Mount, believed to be the location of the First and Second Temples, and it is a holy site for Muslims as Haram al-Sharif or the Noble Sanctuary. The visit elicited a rebuke from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said prayers there were a "deviation" from decades-old understandings at the site that prohibit Jewish worship there.

In video released by his office, Ben-Gvir was seen strolling through the compound singing, "The people of Israel live!" while accompanied by dozens of supporters. One supporter yelled a Jewish prayer, which is not permitted under the longstanding arrangement in place at the site meant to ease regional tensions. Ben-Gvir has said he is changing the policy and, despite previous assurances to the contrary by Netanyahu, he repeated the stance Tuesday, adding that "very large progress" had been made to allow Jewish prayer at the site. Netanyahu said there was no change to the policy.

## Israeli strikes kill at least 16

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes in Gaza killed at least 16 Palestinians, including four women and seven children, and orphaned another four children, Palestinian medical officials said Tuesday. Ten people were killed in a strike late Monday on a house near the southern city of Khan Younis, where Israel ordered mass evacuations in recent days, saying it must act against Palestinian militants.

Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were brought, said another four children, including a 3-month-old infant, were wounded.

The infant's parents and their other five children were among those killed.

The parents of the other three wounded children were also killed, according to the hospital's list of casualties.

# Greece on high alert as wildfire rages on

AP ■ ATHENS

A major wildfire has raged out of control in the northern suburbs of Athens, triggering evacuations of several areas as swirling winds hampered the efforts of hundreds of firefighters and dozens of water-dropping planes.

The massive, fast-moving blaze on Monday sent flames to heights of over 25 metres (80 feet) as Greece sought assistance from other countries, activating Europe's mutual civil protection mechanism.

The fire began Sunday afternoon about 35 kilometres (22 miles) northeast of Athens, burning several homes and businesses and sending a blanket of smoke and ash over the city centre. Power cuts hit parts of the Greek capital and affected traffic lights at major central junctions. Authorities said 15 people were injured, mostly due to smoke inhalation, as the blaze reached outlying sections of a suburb about 15 kilometres (9 miles) from the city centre. Greece's National Observatory said late Monday that satellite images show the blaze has affected about 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres). France would provide a heli-



copter, Italy two water-dropping planes and the Czech Republic 75 firefighters and 25 vehicles, officials said, while Serbia and Romania were also readying aid. Neighbouring Turkey's Foreign Ministry said the country would dispatch two firefighting planes and a helicopter, while Spain was also finalising reinforcements to send to Greece.

The wildfire raced through pine forests left tinder-dry by repeated heat waves this summer. June and July were the hottest months ever recorded

in Greece, which also recorded its warmest winter ever. An early start of the fire season this year has strained Greece's firefighting force.

"Firefighters have been working at full tilt for months," said Nikos Lavranos, head of Greece's main firefighters' union. "They are exhausted."

Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said Monday it was "an exceptionally dangerous fire, which we have been fighting for more than 20 hours under dramatic circumstances". Some

areas that were burning on a mountain northeast of Athens were particularly hard to reach, he added.

Three hospitals, including a children's hospital, two monasteries and a children's home were evacuated on Monday afternoon. Cellphones in the area got at least 30 push alerts warning people to flee.

"The wind would go in one direction and then in the other," said Spyros Gorilas, a resident of the area of Dionio who hosed down his house with water to save it from the flames.

# Harris more incompetent than Biden, Trump tells Musk

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris is a "third-rate phoney candidate" and "more incompetent" than her boss President Joe Biden, her Republican rival in the November election, Donald Trump, has said. In a much-anticipated audio-only interview with billionaire tech magnate Elon Musk on Monday on his social media platform X which was delayed by more than 40 minutes due to technical difficulties, the 78-year-old former president said, "She is a radical left lunatic," as he alleged that "she wants to be more Trump than Trump".

Launching a scathing attack on the 59-year-old US Vice President, Trump described Harris as a "third-rate phoney candidate." He reiterated his allegation that Biden being replaced by Harris as a presidential candidate of the Democratic party was a coup. Musk agreed with the former president and said, "Her

behaviour is far left." "She (Harris) had three and a half years, and by the way, they have another five months that they can do something. But they won't do anything. It's all talk," Trump said.

"She's incompetent, and he (Biden) is incompetent. And frankly, I think that she's more incompetent than he is, and that's saying something because he's not too good," he said. Trump would face Harris in the general elections on November 5.

He accused Harris of having failed miserably on border security as hundreds and thousands of people entered the country illegally. Asserting that he is in favour of legal immigration, Trump said it is illegal immigration that he is against.

"She is such a liar," Trump alleged on X, previously known as Twitter, on the day when he returned to the social media platform. Over a million people listened to the much-awaited

audio-only conversation, which started more than 40 minutes late because of technical issues.

"There appears to be a massive DDOS (distributed denial-of-service) attack on X. Working on shutting it down. Worst case, we will proceed with a smaller number of live listeners and post the conversation later," Musk said in a post on X.

During the interview, both Musk and Trump agreed that the crime rate has increased in the US because of the open border policy of the Biden-Harris Administration. "We're gonna have the largest deportation in the history of this country. And we have no choice," said the former president. Responding to a question from Musk, Trump also slammed Biden's foreign policy and applauded Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"I got along well with them," he said, claiming there would

have been no war if he was the president of the United States.

Meanwhile, Musk stressed that people respond to strength and not weakness and said, "We have some really bad people... we have some really bad people, and I say they are more dangerous than Russia and China." The biggest threat, he said, is not climate change but nuclear warming.

The conversation between Trump and Musk started with the failed assassination attempt on the former president in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13.

"It's very much, I say, an act of God. It's a miracle that it happened," Trump said.

Commenting on the country's economy, he said the US is having the worst inflation in 100 years. Trump accused the Biden-Harris administration of the worsening of the US economy.

"We need to reduce our government spending. ... We need, like a government effi-

ciency commission," Musk said.

Trump also told Musk, the 53-year-old CEO of Tesla, that he was an "interesting character".

During the conversation, Trump described China as a primary competitor in Artificial Intelligence and announced that he would close down the Department of Education and move them to the states. In this, he said he would need Musk's help.

Trump, who has 88.8 million followers on X, had 10 posts on the social media platform, each of which has been viewed millions of times.

Some of his posts had 34 million impressions.

His first post, "Are you better off now than you were when I was president? Our economy is shattered. Our border has been erased. We're a nation in decline. Make the American Dream AFFORDABLE again. Make America SAFE again. Make America GREAT Again!" had 25 million impressions.

# FBI probing Trump campaign charge of hacking by Iran

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The FBI is investigating allegations that sensitive documents from Donald Trump's presidential campaign were stolen in a cyber intrusion, as well as attempts to gain access to Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign, days after the Trump campaign declared it had been hacked by Iran.

The FBI released a brief statement on the Trump matter reading, "We can confirm the FBI is investigating this matter".

The Trump campaign provided no specific evidence of Iran's involvement, but the claim came shortly after Microsoft issued a report detailing foreign agents' attempts to interfere in the US election in 2024. The report cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spear-phishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a

former senior advisor".

Two people familiar with the matter said the Biden-Harris campaign was also targeted in the suspected Iranian cyber intrusion that is under FBI investigation. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the details of the investigation.

Politico reported Saturday that it began receiving emails on July 22 from an anonymous account. The source — an AOL email account identified only as "Robert" — passed along what appeared to be a research dossier the campaign had apparently done on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Ohio Sen. JD Vance. The document was dated February 23, almost five months before Trump selected Vance as his running mate.

"These documents were obtained illegally" and "intended to interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our Democratic process," Trump

campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said. At least three staffers in the Biden-Harris campaign were targeted with phishing emails, but investigators have uncovered no evidence the attempt was successful, one of the people said. The attempts came before President Joe Biden dropped out of the race. The FBI began investigating that cyber incident in June and intelligence officials believe Iran was behind the attempts, that person said.

Officials have also been in touch with tech companies in recent months about the possibility that people linked to the Trump and Biden-Harris campaigns were being targeted through email. Harris' campaign said in a statement, "Our campaign vigilantly monitors and protects against cyber threats, and we are not aware of any security breaches of our systems." It declined to address whether it had identified any state-based intrusion attempts.

# Pak ruling coalition hails ex-ISI chief's impending court-martial

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's ruling coalition has hailed the arrest of former ISI chief Lt Gen (ret.) Faiz Hameed in connection with a housing scheme scandal but jailed former premier Imran Khan's party decided to stay neutral and termed it the army's "internal matter".

Hameed served as the director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) from 2019 to 2021, when Khan was prime minister and was accused of meddling in political affairs at his behest.

According to the army, he was arrested on Monday by military authorities and court martial proceedings were initiated against him under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act for alleged misuse of authority. His arrest followed a probe into complaints against him by the owner of Top City Housing Society over an alleged raid at his house.

Asserting that the military's

actions were "internal", former premier Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, said the army is a disciplined and organised institution with its own procedures for dealing with both serving and retired officers, the Dawn newspaper reported.

However, members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), including Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Senator Afnan, Rana Sanaullah as well as Pakistan People Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira, were more open in their views on the move, with Tarar calling it a "right decision".

"Action against Faiz Hameed would have been taken on the basis of investigation," the minister said.

Pointing out that only a brief announcement had been made by the military spokesman about the ex-ISI DG, Senator Siddiqui said, "When investigation will go forward, his



(Hameed's) political meddling will also be proved." Siddique quoted PTI founder Khan as saying that Hameed had supported his party inside Parliament by getting legislation passed and meeting the required number of members in the National Assembly.

He said Hameed also remained involved in the general elections by backing the PTI. The senator said the former ISI chief had controlled the media and politicians and tried to control the judiciary as well.

Senior PML-N leader Sanaullah alleged that Hameed was involved in "political meddling" and on his instruction, the Faizabad sit-in was staged by a religious group, choking the main arteries of the federal capital for weeks.

Sanaullah said action against him was taken in the light of the Supreme Court's order in the private housing scheme, Top City, whose owner filed a petition in the apex court last year, accusing Hameed of misusing his authority.

The owner stated in the petition that on May 12, 2017, at the behest of Gen Hameed, ISI officials raided the top city office and his house and seized valuables, including gold, diamonds and money.

Hailing the military's internal accountability system, PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said an inquiry had confirmed multiple violations by Hameed that prompted the initiation of disciplinary proceedings under the Pakistan Army Act.

# Teenager stabs 5 in Turkiye, held by cops

AP ■ ANKARA

A teenager wearing a helmet and bulletproof vest randomly stabbed five people at an open-air cafe in northwest Turkiye before being detained by police, officials and media reports said Tuesday.

The 18-year-old, identified as Arda K., broadcast Monday's knife attack on social media through a camera attached to his vest, HaberTurk television reported. The victims were people relaxing after prayers at a mosque in Eskisehir, some 230 kilometres west of the capital, Ankara.

The teenager was detained following a police chase, according to the Eskisehir governor's office.

The five wounded individuals were hospitalised and two of them were in serious condition, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency. The assailant was also carrying an ax but did not appear to have used it.

# Pak's anti-terrorism court rejects bail plea of Bushra Bibi in 12 cases

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has rejected the bail application of Bushra Bibi, the wife of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, in 12 cases related to the May 9 violence of last year which erupted when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder was arrested in an alleged corruption case.

Anti-terrorism court (ATC) Rawalpindi Judge Malik Ejaz Asif on Monday after hearing the plea of Bushra Bibi, 49, said that a thorough investigation was required in her case and subsequently dismissed the bail application.

The judge also ordered that the investigation in her case should be completed in seven days. Bibi was seeking bail in FIRs registered in various police stations in Rawalpindi.

Khan and Bushra were present in the court along with dozens of other accused who have been named as suspects in the May 9 violence that left more



than 100 people dead.

The violence started after the Pakistan Rangers arrested Khan inside the premises of the Islamabad High Court in a corruption case.

The PTI supporters allegedly targeted civil and military installations, including the residence of the Pakistan Army's IV Corps Commander in Lahore and the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, across the country following Khan's arrest. The court later adjourned the hearing of the May 9 cases until August 22. Meanwhile, Islamabad High

Court (IHC) Justice Minagul Hassan Aurangzeb referred to the IHC Chief Justice a petition seeking details of the cases against the wife of the former prime minister. The court also asked the superintendent of Adiala Jail to decide on the complaints of Bibi against the administration strictly following the jail manual.

Khan, 71, has been imprisoned at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for more than a year now upon his conviction in multiple cases. Bushra is also jailed along with him.

Khan faces several cases and has been convicted in a few. Though the former-cricketer-turned-politician had secured bail or his conviction was set aside, he has not been released. Talking to journalists in Adiala jail while appearing for a hearing in a case of alleged corruption last week, Khan warned that the incumbent government led by Shehbaz Sharif would not last for more than two months.

# Yemen's Houthis seize UNHR office in Sanaa

AP ■ CAIRO

Yemen's Houthi rebels stormed the headquarters of the United Nations Human Rights Office in the capital, Sanaa, seizing documents, furniture and vehicles, a senior UN official said Tuesday.

The seizure was the latest move in a crackdown by the Houthis on people working with the UN, aid agencies and foreign embassies. The crackdown comes as the Iranian-backed rebels have been targeting shipping throughout the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The rebels took over the UN

Human Rights Office's premises in Sanaa on August 3, after forcing UN Yemeni workers to hand over belongings, including documents, furniture and vehicles, UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk said in a statement. "Ansar Allah forces must leave the premises and return all assets and belongings immediately," Turk said, using the official name of the Houthis. A spokesman for the Houthis didn't return phone calls and messages requesting comment. The UN's Human Rights Office said it had suspended the office's operations in Sanaa and other Yemeni areas controlled by the Houthis

following the June crackdown campaign. But it still operates in the parts of Yemen controlled by the internationally recognized government.

In June, the Houthis detained more than 60 people working with the UN and other NGOs, according to the UN Human Rights Office. Among the detainees were six workers with the Human Rights Office, who joined two of their colleagues detained by the Houthis in November 2021 and August 2023, it said. Days after the arrest campaign, the rebels said they had arrested members of what they called an "American-Israeli spy network."

# Houthi rebels target ship in Red Sea again

AP ■ DUBAI

A ship in the Red Sea was targeted in a third attack suspected to have been carried out by Yemen's Houthi rebels Tuesday in their campaign of assaults over the Israel-Hamas war, officials said.

The attacks come as the rebels' main sponsor, Iran, weighs possible retaliation against Israel over the assassination of Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh in July, which has renewed fears of a wider regional war in the Middle East.

Already, the Houthi assaults have disrupted the USD 1 trillion annual flow of goods through the maritime route crucial to trade among Asia, Europe and the Middle East, while also sparking the most intense combat for the US Navy since World War II.

The ship was first attacked around 115 kilometres (70 miles) south of the Houthi-held port city of Hodeida, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. An explosive was detonated near the ship, then a small vessel "acting suspiciously" flashed a light near the ship and came close, actions that were followed by a second blast, the UKMTO said.

The private security firm Ambrey similarly reported the attacks, saying the ship saw "two close-proximity explosions."

# US-backed Syrian fighters kill 18 pro-govt gunmen in rare attack

AP ■ QAMISHLI

US-backed Syrian fighters carried out a rare attack in eastern Syria, striking at three posts manned by pro-government gunmen and claiming that they killed 18 of them in a major escalation near the border with Iraq.

The renewed clashes in Syria's eastern oil-rich province of Deir el-Zour on Monday came amid high tensions in the region following last month's killings of a top commander of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group in Beirut and the political leader of the Palestinian Hamas group in Iran. Israel was blamed for both attacks, and

Iran and Hezbollah have vowed to retaliate.

The Syrian government, which is backed by Russia and Iran, has vowed for years to liberate eastern Syria from US forces who have been deployed in the area since 2015 to help fight the Islamic State group.

Monday's attack by members of the Arab-led Deir el-Zour Military Council — part of the US-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces — came days after clashes and shelling between the SDF and pro-government gunmen left more than a dozen people dead. The Deir el-Zour Military Council said the new attack was in retaliation for government

forces' shelling the villages of Dahla and Jdaidet Bakkara last week that left at least 11 civilians dead. The group said it attacked the area where the shelling was launched.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said nine pro-government fighters were killed in the attack. The clashes in eastern Syria are the worst in nearly a year. Since 2017, the east bank of the Euphrates river in Deir el-Zour has been controlled by the SDF and the area is where hundreds of US troops are based. The river's west bank has been controlled by Syrian government forces and Iran-backed fighters.

# Sitharaman: Govt needs money to meet challenges, fund R&D

PTI ■ BHOPAL



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday justified the present taxation regime, saying that the country needs resources to meet the challenges facing the nation and also to fund research and development activities. Sitharaman was addressing the 11th convocation of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Bhopal. While appealing to the scientist community to do more research on the storage of renewable energy, Sitharaman said the world has promised a lot of money towards transitioning from fossil fuel to renewable energy but that money is yet to come. "But India didn't wait. The promises given in Paris (Paris Agreement) were fulfilled with our own money. There

are times when being the finance minister, it doesn't give me motivation when I have to answer people about why our taxes are like this? Why can't we even be lower than this? I wish I can bring it down to almost nil. But India's challenges are severe and challenges will have to be overcome," the finance minister said. She said the government has heavily invested in scientific research.

"I seek a very learned crowd before me graduates, PhD holders, to understand India's challenges. I have taken the example of renewable energy, global energy as one of those sustainable sources of energy for a growing country like India," she said. While urging scientists to come up with innovations, she said that India is moving from fossil fuel to renewable energy at its own strength as the country cannot afford to

wait for money from somewhere else. Sitharaman also urged scientists to develop batteries for the storage of the renewable energy as transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy has to be sustainable. "The government is just not talking. It is putting money in R&D (research and development). Money that is earned out of taxation. That's my job so I will tell you that. My job is to generate revenue but not troubling people, I will assure that. But, even with that money comes because we also need to fund research," Sitharaman said while seeking a reply from the gathering that should there be more money for research? Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Bhopal's Lok Sabha MP Alok Sharma and other dignitaries were present during the convocation.

# Sensex tumbles nearly 700 points amid broad-based selloff

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark BSE Sensex tumbled nearly 700 points to sink below the 79,000 level on Tuesday, extending its losses for the second straight day due to selling pressure in HDFC Bank, SBI and ITC amid fresh foreign capital outflows. Besides, deep losses in commodity, banking and financial stocks and concerns over stretched valuation contributed to the steep market decline, analysts said. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 692.89 points or 0.87 per cent to settle at 78,956.03. During the day, it tanked 759.54 points or 0.95 per cent to 78,889.38. The NSE Nifty slumped 208 points or 0.85 per cent to 24,139. A total of 2,676 stocks declined while 1,266 advanced and 84 remained unchanged on the BSE. "The domestic market plunged into red terrain in the latter half, amidst mixed global sentiments. Recent IIP data indicates a lacklustre growth in the major manufacturing sector. Persistent selling by FIIs and elevated valuations are



further contributing to the decline. "All sectors, especially banking, metal were in red, while HDFC Bank declined due to lower-than-expected passive fund inflows in the recent MSCI index rejig," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. From the 30 Sensex firms, HDFC Bank declined over 3 per cent. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Tata Motors, Power Grid and JSW Steel were the other laggards. In contrast, Titan, HCL Tech, Nestle, Sun Pharma, Reliance

and Mahindra & Mahindra were the gainers. Seven firms, including Vodafone Idea and Oil India, would be included in the MSCI India Index effective August 30, 2024, as per the latest index review by MSCI. Dixon Technologies (India), Oil India, Oracle Financial Services Software, Prestige Estates Projects, Rail Vikas Nigam, Vodafone Idea and Zydus Lifesciences are the additions to the MSCI India Index, according to an announcement by index compiler MSCI.

# EEPC, ISSDA join hands to boost MSME exports

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) and the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) on Tuesday signed an MoU to promote exports by MSME members. The two organisations will collaborate to identify potential export products and economic summits, an EEPC statement said. The agreement also aims to facilitate the exchange of trade information and encourage international investment through joint ventures and technical collaborations. The MoU was signed by EEPC India's Executive Director Adhip Mitra and ISSDA's Executive Director Rohit Kumar. ISSDA President Rajamani Krishnamurti and other EEPC India's senior officials were also present.

# Rupee settles flat at 83.97 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI



The rupee witnessed range-bound trading and settled for the day on a flat note at 83.97 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, as weak domestic markets and a surge in crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiments. Forex traders said risk aversion in the global markets amid heightened geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel and Iran also dented sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit traded in a tight range as it opened at 83.95 and finally settled at 83.97 (provisional) against the American currency, unchanged from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled for the day lower by 2 paise at 83.97 against the American currency. The local unit had slumped 37 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.09 against the US dollar on August 5. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on risk aversion in the global markets amid heightened

geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel and Iran. Rising crude oil prices and weak domestic markets may also weigh on the domestic currency," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. However, mixed-to-weak US dollar amid dovish comments from Fed speakers may support the rupee at lower levels. Investors may remain cautious ahead of the US CPI, retail sales and consumer confidence data from the US this week, said Choudhary, adding that USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 83.75 to 84.25. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent higher at 103.19. Brent crude, the global oil

benchmark, declined 0.27 per cent to USD 82.08 per barrel. On the domestic macroeconomic front, the net direct tax collection in the country grew 22.48 per cent to about Rs 6.93 lakh crore as of August 11 of this fiscal. The retail inflation eased to 3.54 per cent with food prices falling after a good monsoon. It was the lowest in last 5 years and has dipped below RBIs targeted rate of 4 per cent. However, India's industrial production slowed to a five-month low of 4.2 per cent in June 2024, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing sector, though power and mining sectors continue to perform well, as per official data released on Monday. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 692.89 points, or 0.87 per cent, to 78,956.03 points. The Nifty fell 208.00 points, or 0.85 per cent, to 24,139.00 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 4,680.51 crore, according to exchange data.

# Vodafone Idea, Oil India, five others to be included in MSCI India Index

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Seven firms, including Vodafone Idea and Oil India, would be included in the MSCI India Index effective August 30, 2024, as per the latest index review by MSCI. Dixon Technologies (India), Oil India, Oracle Financial Services Software, Prestige Estates Projects, Rail Vikas Nigam, Vodafone Idea and Zydus Lifesciences are the additions to the MSCI India Index, according to an announcement by index compiler MSCI. The changes in constituents for the MSCI Global Standard Indexes will take place as of the close of August 30, 2024, as per the announcement. Bandhan Bank would move out from the MSCI India Index, it announced. Shares of Rail Vikas Nigam jumped 4.61 per cent, Dixon Technologies climbed 3.29 per cent, Oil India went up by 3.21 per cent, Oracle Financial Services Software (1.95 per cent) and Prestige Estates (1.46 per cent) on the

BSE. However, Vodafone Idea and Zydus Lifesciences were trading lower. MSCI is a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the global investment community. In the MSCI Global Smallcap Indices list, 27 firms will be included in the MSCI India Index. The additions include Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar, Bandhan Bank, Gulf Oil Lubricants India, Inox Wind Energy and TVS Supply Chain Solutions. Cochin Shipyard, Dixon Technologies, Jaiprakash Associates, Network18 Media and two others would move out from the MSCI India Index from the Smallcap Indices list.

# India's smartphone market grows 3.2% with 39 million units shipment in Q2

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



The Indian smartphone market grew 3.2 per cent with 39 million units shipment in the second quarter of 2024, market research firm International Data Corporation said on Tuesday. The market was led by Chinese smartphone maker Vivo with a 16.5 per cent share in volume terms with its shipment growing by 6.7 per cent on a year-over-year (YoY) basis, it said. Apple led the super-premium segment, which are smartphones priced above Rs 67,000 apiece with an 83 per cent share followed by Samsung with a 16 per cent share. "Overall, Vivo continued to lead for the second consecutive quarter, with multiple launches across price segments through the Y series, mid-premium V series and flagship X Fold 3 Pro. Motorola registered the highest growth backed by product portfolio across price segments," the report said. Xiaomi followed Vivo with 13.5 per cent market. Samsung slipped to the third spot with a 12.9 per cent share as its shipment

declined 15.4 per cent on a YoY basis, according to the report. Apple stood at the sixth spot with a 6.7 per cent market share and a 24.2 per cent increase in shipment on a YoY basis. According to IDC Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, the Indian smartphone market shipped 69 million smartphones in the first half of 2024. In the premium segment, the price range above Rs 50,000 to Rs 67,000, Apple's share increased YoY to 61 per cent, while Samsung's share increased to 24 per cent, from 21 per cent a year ago, the report said. "The entry-premium segment (USD200 or about Rs 16,700 to USD 400 or Rs 33,500) is expected to see healthy growth, while the

entry-level (sub-USD100) will remain challenged at least this year despite efforts around launching affordable 5G smartphones. Also, the marketing around GenAI smartphones will be more pronounced, amid heavy promotional activities around it," IDC, Associate Vice President, Devices Research, Navkendar Singh said. The biggest growth segment in the overall smartphone market was the entry-premium segment which counts devices priced in the range of Rs 16,000 to Rs 33,500. The segment's share increased to 30 per cent from 22 per cent and registered the highest growth of 42 per cent on a YoY basis. According to the report, 27 million 5G smartphones were shipped in the quarter, and the share of 5G smartphone shipments increased to 77 per cent, up from 49 per cent in the year-ago period, while 5G smartphone ASPs declined by 22 per cent YoY to USD 293 or about Rs 24,600. Within 5G, shipments of the mass budget segment priced in the range of Rs 8,000-Rs 16,700, grew by 2.5 times to reach a 45 per cent share.

# TRAI directs telcos to disconnect unregistered telemarketers' lines over spam calls

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sector regulator TRAI on Tuesday directed telcos to disconnect all telecom resources of unregistered telemarketers found making spam calls, and to blacklist them for up to two years. Further, TRAI has asked telcos to comply immediately with its latest directive and submit regular updates on action taken in this regard on a fortnightly basis. Issuing its directive to telcos, TRAI said this "decisive action" is expected to significantly reduce spam calls and provide relief to

consumers. TRAI in a release said it has issued "directives to access providers to disconnect all telecom resources of unregistered senders for making spam calls and to blacklist such senders under the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulations, 2018" regulations. Towards this, TRAI has mandated all access service providers to stop voice promotional calls whether pre-recorded or computer generated or otherwise from all unregistered senders or telemarketers (UTMs) using

bulk connections or other telecom resources. "... All promotional voice calls from the unregistered Senders/ Unregistered Telemarketer (UTMs) using Telecom Resources (SIP/PRI/ other telecom resources) shall be stopped immediately," TRAI said. If any unregistered telemarketer or sender is found to be misusing telecom resources for making commercial voice calls in violation of the regulations resulting in consumer complaints, all its telecom resources will be disconnected by the primary



telecom service provider for a period up to two years. Further, such unregistered

entities will be blacklisted for a period up to two years. "...Information regarding

blacklisting of the sender shall be shared by the OAP (Originating Access Provider) with all other access providers on DLT platform, within 24 hours, who will, in turn, disconnect all the telecom resources given by them to that sender within the next 24 hours," TRAI said. New telecom resources would not be allocated to them by any access provider during the period of blacklisting. "All the unregistered Senders/ Unregistered Telemarketers (UTMs) using SIP/PRI/ other telecom resources to make commercial voice calls to the

citizen shall be migrated to the DLT platform within one month of the issue of this direction and submit compliance report within seven days thereafter," TRAI said. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed all telcos to comply with its latest directive and submit regular updates on the actions taken on the first and sixteenth of every month. The regulator has declared an all-out war against the rising menace of spam calls - last week TRAI had warned that telcos will disconnect the

telecom resources of entities that are found misusing bulk connections for making spam calls, and such entities would face blacklisting by all operators for up to two years. TRAI held a meeting with regulatory heads of all the Telecom Service Providers last Thursday. The meeting, Chaired by TRAI Chief, was attended by the Chief Regulatory Officers of Airtel, BSNL, Quadrant Teletures Limited (QTL), Reliance Jio, Tata Teleservices Limited, Vodafone Idea Limited and V-CON Mobile & Infra Private Limited.

# Wipro top-level exits continue as CTO Subha Tataavarti steps down

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



In another high-level exit at IT major Wipro, its Chief Technology Officer Subha Tataavarti has resigned to pursue opportunities outside the company. Tataavarti joined Wipro in April 2021 as the technology head under the then-CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte. During her three-year stint, she led Wipro's GenAI initiatives and introduced Wipro ai360. "Subha Tataavarti, Chief Technology Officer, resigned from the services of the Company to pursue opportunities outside Wipro," a regulatory filing said on Monday. Before joining Wipro, she led different roles at Walmart and

firm in April, following Delaporte's resignation. The IT company saw Chief Delivery Officer Ajit Mahale, Chief Operating Officer Amit Choudhary, and CEO of APMEA (Asia Pacific, India, Middle East & Africa) Anis Chenchah exiting in May 2024 again "to pursue opportunities outside Wipro." Most of these key departures include executives, who joined Wipro when it was led by Delaporte. Wipro posted a 3.8 per cent fall to Rs 21,963.8 crore in its consolidated revenue from operations for the June-ended quarter. A 4.6 per cent year-on-year rise was seen in its consolidated net profit for the June quarter at Rs 3,003.2 crore.

# Gold jumps ₹500 to ₹72,850 per 10 g; silver remains flat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Gold prices jumped Rs 500 to Rs 72,850 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid strong cues from the global market and a rise in domestic demand. In the previous session, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 72,350 per 10 grams on Monday. However, silver prices remained flat at Rs 83,500 per kilogram on Tuesday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also rallied by Rs 500 to Rs 72,500 per 10 grams against the previous close. Traders attributed the rise in gold prices to the rising demand from retail buyers as well as jewellers. In the overseas market, gold is trading at USD 2,502.70 per ounce, up by USD 1.30 per ounce.

"Gold's gains on Tuesday as demand for safe-haven assets continued to support the precious metal's rise. "Further, there were concerns that Iran could strike Israel as early as this week have raised the gold-safe haven premium," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

According to Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, Comex gold surged by 1.2 per cent to an all-time closing high of USD 2,504 per ounce on Monday, driven by escalating tensions in the Middle East, a decline in US Treasury yields, and expectations of the US Federal Reserve interest rate

cuts at its September 18 meeting. However, silver was quoting lower at USD 27.81 per ounce in the international markets. "Gold prices are seen consolidating previous session gains amid caution ahead of the important US inflation data that could set the tone for the Fed's policy meeting early next month," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research at JM Financial Services, said. Also, the bullion remains supported by higher safe-haven bids amid signs of escalation in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Mer added. As per Prathamesh Mallya, DVP-Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies at Angel One, traders are closely watching upcoming US producer and consumer price index data, which could provide further insights into the Fed's interest rate trajectory.

# HARMANPREET & CO HAVE STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LA GOLD: MIKE

PTI ■ KOLKATA

After winning successive bronze medals at the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, the Indian men's hockey team has shown their strong foundation and they have it in them to go for a gold in four years' time in Los Angeles, feels the world renowned explorer Mike Horn.

The Swiss motivational coach's intense three-day mental toughness boot camp in the Alps pushed Harmanpreet and Co to their limits, in adventure tasks that also helps in coming out of their comfort zones and also form strong bond.

"The bronze they won is a reflection of their dedication, and I believe they have set a strong foundation for future success, including the possibility of going for gold in the next Olympics," Horn told PTI in an interview.

"The team's performance was exceptional, and they indeed came very close to clinching a gold medal. They showed remarkable skill, strategy, and mental toughness throughout the tournament. While they didn't secure the gold, the fact that they were so close is a testament to their hard work and determination.

"It's important to recognise that winning a medal, especially at the Olympics, is an immense achievement," added Horn, known for his work with MS Dhoni's 2011 World Cup-winning team, Kolkata Knight Riders in their 2014 IPL victory, and Germany's 2014

football champions. India started their campaign with a rusty win over New Zealand before they gradually started to find rhythm.

Their biggest win in the group stage came when they defeated Australia for the first time in 52 years.

Their true mental fortitude and team bonding came to fore when they defeated Great Britain in a shootout, despite being reduced to 10 players early in the second quarter.

"I followed their journey at Paris 2024 very closely, and I was genuinely impressed by their resilience and how they handled the pressure. They have so much to be proud of, and it was an honour to be a small part of their journey," said the 58-year-old said.

The bootcamp was packed with extreme adventures, from walking on Glacier 3000, the highest peak of the Alps, to sleeping on grass — an experience that India defender Amit Rohidas had described as extremely back-breaking.

"They came into the camp with an incredible mindset, ready to push themselves and grow as a team," recalled the 58-year-old.

"I would like to think that the bootcamp contributed in some way to the team's success, but the real credit goes to the players and their relentless hard work and dedication. The bootcamp was designed to challenge them, and they responded brilliantly, but ultimately, it was their commitment and teamwork that shone through during the



Olympics." Horn also had special words of praise for skipper Harmanpreet whom he described as "all time greats". Harmanpreet was the top-scorer of the Olympics with 10 goals.

"What impresses me most about Harmanpreet is his ability to lead by

example. He's not just a great player but also someone who inspires his teammates to elevate their game. His leadership was crucial to the team's success, and he has undoubtedly cemented his place as one of the all-time greats in Indian hockey," Horn said. He also said it's "hard" to see that PR Sreejesh won't

be there at the goalpost. "Even though this was his last appearance for Team India, he played with the passion and intensity that have defined his entire career. During the bootcamp, Sreejesh was a pillar of strength for the team — his experience and leadership

were invaluable, and he set the tone for the younger players. Considering his contributions to Indian hockey, it's hard not to wish he would continue. However, if this is indeed his final chapter, he leaves behind a tremendous legacy that will inspire future generations of players," he said.

Horn also spoke about newly-appointed India cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir and recalled how he made the difference at KKR with his strategic acumen and game-reading skills. Gambhir began his stint with a 3-0 thrashing of Sri Lanka in the T20Is, but suffered a 0-2 defeat in the ODIs.

"Gambhir's transformation from a successful KKR captain to a title-winning mentor has been remarkable. As a captain, Gambhir was known for his strategic acumen and ability to inspire his team. He led by example, showing immense dedication and resilience, which were key to KKR's successes. Transitioning to a mentor role, Gambhir continued to be a significant influence. His deep understanding of the game and experience in handling high-pressure situations provided invaluable guidance to the team. He was able to connect with the players on a personal level, offering insights and support that went beyond just technical advice. Working with Gautam was a special experience. His passion for the game and commitment to excellence were truly inspiring. He has a unique ability to read the game and anticipate challenges, which made him an exceptional mentor. His presence and leadership helped foster a winning mentality within the team, proving that his contributions are vital whether on the field or off it," he signed off.



## Para shuttler Bhagat suspended for 18 months, to miss Paris Paralympics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tokyo gold medalist para shuttler Pramod Bhagat will not be able to defend his title at the Paris Paralympics after he was handed a 18-month suspension for breaching BWF's anti-doping whereabouts clause, leaving the Indian heartbroken.

"The Badminton World Federation can confirm India's Tokyo 2020 Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat has been suspended for a period of 18 months and will miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games," the governing body said in a statement on Tuesday.

"In 1 March 2024, the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division found Bhagat in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months."

The 36-year-old, an SL3 athlete, said he is saddened by the decision and it was a result of a technical glitch.

"It is an extremely hard decision for me. I respect WADA, I understand they are drawing a line for all players,

but to ban someone for technical reasons is not right," Bhagat told PTI.

"It is not like there is any substance issue, it is a issue of whereabouts failure, which I missed the test twice as I was in a different place but I have all the proof of filing the third time. But they didn't accept my appeal.

"It is a big loss for me. I was preparing for Paris, it is such a big thing for every athlete. I would have been a medalist. It is heartbreaking," Bhagat added.

Bhagat had appealed this decision to the CAS Appeals Division but it was rejected last month.

"On 29 July 2024, the CAS Appeals Division dismissed the Bhagat's appeal and confirmed the CAS Anti-Doping Division decision of 1 March 2024. His period of ineligibility is now in effect," the statement added.

His suspension is effective till September 1, 2025.

"My team and I have been proactive in appealing this decision, citing the technical issues that led to these failures. Unfortunately, despite our

efforts, we have not been able to resolve this matter before the upcoming games. We respect the decision of the authorities and will abide by it, but this has been a challenging and emotional time for me as an athlete who has always competed with integrity."

Bhagat had won a gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympics in men's singles SL3 category, beating Daniel Bethell of Great Britain in the final.

The 36-year-old Bihar-born shuttler had equalled the legendary Lin Dan of China by winning a fifth World Championships title in February last year at Pattaya, Thailand.

"It is extremely sad and unfortunate. He was a sure shot medal for India at the Paralympics but he is a fighter and I am sure he will come back stronger," Indian para-badminton head coach Gaurav Khanna told PTI.

Bhagat, who had contracted polio, resulting in a disability affecting his left leg at the age of five, is also a two-time Asian Games gold-medallist and is the current world No 3 in his category.

## Manu aims for multiple Olympic medals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ace Indian pistol shooter Manu Bhaker has set her sights on winning multiple medals at the Olympics in the future following her historic feat at the Paris Games.

The 22-year-old scripted history to become the first Indian athlete in post-independence era to win two Olympic medals in a single edition of the Games. Bhaker won a bronze each in the women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event — where she had paired with Sarabjot Singh.

She also came close to winning a third bronze in 25m pistol before finishing a credible fourth in Paris. No Indian athlete has won more than two individual medals at the Olympics.

"I think we all work hard to win medals. But if that happens (winning more than 2 individual medals at Olympics) then that would be great. The aim is to work hard and better this performance in the



future," Bhaker told PTI Videos. "I am aiming to win many more Olympic medals for India," added Bhaker, who returned to the country after participating in the closing

ceremony. Bhaker had the honour of being India's flagbearer alongside veteran hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh at the closing ceremony on Sunday.

"Being the flag bearer was the opportunity of a lifetime, I am grateful that I got this opportunity and will cherish this for a lifetime," she said. "I have a very friendly bond with Sreejesh bhaiya. I have known him since I was a young kid. He is always very friendly, helpful and kind. He made it a lot easier for me in the closing ceremony."

Bhaker had returned to India last week but had flown back to Paris for the closing ceremony where she was the joint-flagbearer.

She was accompanied at the Indira Gandhi International Airport by her coach Jaspal Rana and mother Smedha.

"I am happy for her. I am happy for the players. When I went to Paris, I met the Hockey team, Aman Sehrawat, Neeraj Chopra. I just hope all these athletes keep winning medals and all the mothers of this nation will be happy," said Bhaker's mother.

## Alexei beats Andrey in straight sets to win National Bank Open men's singles title

AP ■ MONTREAL

Australia's Alexei Popyrin, the No. 62-ranked player in the world, defeated fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev of Russia 6-2, 6-4 at the National Bank Open to win the biggest singles title of his career.

Popyrin had two lower-level ATP Tour titles on his resume coming into a week in which he faced five top-20 players in a row — and defeated all of them.

First came No. 11 seed Ben Shelton in the second round, then No. 7 seed Grigor Dimitrov, a contest in which he saved three match points. In the quarterfinals came No. 4 seed Hubert Hurkacz, who was up a set and a break in the second before Popyrin came back to win 7-5 in the third set.

Then American Sebastian Korda, who won the tournament in Washington, D.C., last week and was on a

nine-match winning streak, in the semifinals late Sunday night.

And finally Rublev, who was looking for his third career ATP Masters 1000 title, his first on hard courts. But he had no answers against a player with whom he often trains at their mutual home base in Monte Carlo.

"I played a really, really high level of tennis, which I believed that I could play my whole life. But to put it into five matches in a row against — I mean, six matches in a row against really high quality opponents is something else," Popyrin said.

Once it was over, Popyrin put his hands to his face and let the tears flow.

Popyrin won the first seven points of the match and from there, the hill was just too steep to climb for Rublev, who moves from No. 8 to No. 6 in the rankings with a week that included a win over world No.



1 Jannik Sinner. Popyrin will rise in the rankings from No. 62 to No. 23.

"I wanted to put a statement

in the first game, and I think I did that, which I think rattled him a little bit, which was part of the game plan. I just continued from there,"

Popyrin said.

As with Rublev, whose on-court emotions have often held back his career progress, Popyrin had been known more for his temper on the court than his game.

On Monday night, he was cool, calm and collected. Rublev wasn't as serene. But he's happy with his progress on that front.

"Even today, because if we go back even one month ago — or even compare my match against (Popyrin) at Monte Carlo (in April) when I was losing, I was behaving 10 times (worse) — and it was the first round," he said.

"Here, it was a final. Much more pressure. Yes, I still showed a bit emotions today, but compared to the matches when I was losing the same way, I think I did much better job. That's why I had a little chance in the second set, but it was just not my time, I guess.

## USA gymnastics says arbitration panel won't reconsider decision

AP ■ WASHINGTON

USA Gymnastics officials say an arbitration panel won't reconsider a decision asking gymnast Jordan Chiles to return the bronze medal she was awarded in the floor exercise at the Paris Olympics. USA Gymnastics says it will continue efforts to let Chiles keep the medal.

"USA Gymnastics was notified by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday that their rules do not allow for an arbitral award to be reconsidered even when conclusive new evidence is presented," USA Gymnastics said in a statement.

"We are deeply disappointed by the notification and will continue to pursue every possible avenue and appeal process, including to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, to ensure the just scoring, placement, and medal award for Jordan." CAS voided an on-floor appeal from Chiles' coach that vaulted her to third, saying the appeal came 4 seconds beyond the one-minute time limit for scoring inquiries.

USA Gymnastics disputed the timing, saying in a statement Sunday that the agency submitted video evidence to CAS that showed Team USA coach Cecile Landi first appealed 13 seconds before the



deadline. The dispute over such minute details sets up what could be a months- or years-long legal battle over the court's decision and elevate Ana Barbosu of Romania to

third. The International Olympic Committee confirmed the ruling Sunday, announcing that it was reallocating the medal. CAS ruled Saturday that Landi's inquiry to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the one-minute window. The CAS ad hoc committee wrote that Landi's inquiry came 1 minute, 4 seconds after Chiles' initial score was posted.

The IOC said in a statement it will be in touch with the USOPC regarding the return of Chiles' bronze and will work with the Romanian Olympic Committee to discuss a reallocation ceremony honoring Barbosu.

The appeal could go to Switzerland's highest court, the Swiss Tribunal, or the European Court of Human Rights.

Rebeca Andrade of Brazil won gold and Simone Biles of the U.

France also advanced. For the women, No. 15 Harriet Dart of Great Britain, defeated No. 5 Elina Avanesyan of Armenia, 6-4, 6-1. No. 3 Lulu Sun of Australia's Lulu Sun, No. 10 Varvara Gracheva, and No. 13 Y.F. Wang of China also advanced.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The men's and women's main draw both resume tomorrow. Twelve Americans — 10 men and two women — will be on courts throughout the Lindner Family Tennis Center.

No. 12 seed Ben Shelton of Atlanta will take on Reilly Opelka of St. Joseph, Mich., in the afternoon. No. 11 Taylor Fritz of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

## Six Americans advance with wins in Cincinnati Open qualifying

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Nuno Borges and Magdalena Frech, the top men's and women's seeds in the Cincinnati Open, advanced with wins in the qualifying round.

Borges, from Portugal, beat Aleksandar Vukic of Australia, 7-6 (4), 6-1, and Frech, from Poland, defeated Mackenzie McDonald of Orlando, Fla., 6-3, 6-2; Brandon Holt of Rolling Hills, Calif., beat Zachary

Svajda of San Diego, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; and Aleksandar Kovacevic of New York got past Australia's Rinky Hijikata, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

In the women's draw, 12th-seeded Taylor Townsend of Smyrna, Ga. Beat No. 4 Katie Volynets of Walnut Creek, Calif., 6-0, 6-3; Robin Montgomery of Washington defeated No. 16 Martina Trevisan of Italy, 6-4, 6-4; and Ashlyn Krueger of Springfield, Mo., edged Japan's Naomi Osaka, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

For the men, Italy's Flavio Cobolli beat 10th-seeded Tommy Paul of Boca Raton, Fla., 6-2, 4-6, 7-5. No. 3 Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan and No. 11 Corentin Moutet of

# PONTING BACKS AUSTRALIA TO HAND INDIA 3-1 DEFEAT IN BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

PTI ■ DUBAI

Ricky Ponting believes Australia will have a "point to prove" after two straight Test series defeats at home against India and backed the Pat Cummins-led side to win the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 come November-December. India, who have returned victorious in both their previous Test assignments Down Under with identical margins of 2-1, will take on the world No.1 Australia in a five-Test series starting on November 22. "It's going to be a competitive series. Australia has got a bit of a point to prove against India in Australia on the back of what happened the last two series here," Ponting told "The ICC Review". "We are back to (having) five Tests as well, which is the other really important thing about this series. It has only been four Tests the last couple of time. (To have) five Tests, everyone is really excited by that and I don't know if there'd be too many drawn games. "I'm obviously going to tip Australia to win and I'm never going to tip against Australia. There will be a draw somewhere and there will be some bad weather somewhere, so I'm going to say 3-1 to Australia," he added. India and Australia have not played a five-Test series after their bilateral affairs came to be known as the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Before that, in 1991-92, India had toured



Australia for a five-Test series. Ponting backed India's left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed, whom he coached in the IPL at Delhi Capitals, to be a part of India's touring party. "Someone like Khaleel Ahmed, I think, could find himself on the Test

tour. He has just been over in Zimbabwe recently and played that (T20) series over there, but a left-arm would be ideal for them to have in their touring squad," Ponting said. The former Australia skipper hoped both teams will be deploying full-

fledged bowling attacks. "(Mohammed) Shami will be back fit by then, (Mohammed) Siraj we know will be there-abouts somewhere and obviously (Jasprit) Bumrah is going nowhere. Both teams are going to line up really, really strongly," he said.

Ponting said the competitiveness between India and Australia is quite close to the Ashes rivalry against England. "I was a part of it when that really started to grow, when the rivalry really started to grow, was it's right at the back end of my career," Ponting said. "I've said for the last couple of years now, Australia have always had a fierce rivalry with England, obviously, and a very strong rivalry with South Africa. "But I think India is now sitting right on the back of what an Ashes clash is like and probably overtaken the rivalry with South Africa. Ponting said while Australia's squad looks more or less settled, it remains to be seen if Steve Smith would like to persist being at the opening slot. "Australia will pretty much pick itself. Probably, the only one question there might be with Australia again, is if (Steve) Smith's the right man to be opening the batting," he said. "That would be the only query that I can see there. But that was all about obviously bringing Cameron Green back into the side. "So I'll rephrase it, not whether Smith's the right man to open the batting but whether he thinks it's the right spot for him. Because if he doesn't think it's the right spot, then they'll make a change and get someone else back up there," Ponting added.



## Sri Lanka Cricket ropes in Ian Bell as batting coach ahead of away Test series vs England

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Tuesday appointed Ian Bell as their batting coach ahead of their tour of England comprising three Tests. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on its website that Bell, who scored 7727 runs in 118 Tests, will start working with the national side later this week. "He will start working with the team from August 16 and remain until the conclusion of the three-Test match series," SLC CEO Ashley de Silva expressed. "We appointed Ian to bring in a person with local knowledge to help the players with key insights on the conditions there."

"Ian has a lot of experience playing in England, and we believe his inputs will help our team in this crucial tour. Sri Lanka's tour of England begins with the first Test at Manchester from August 21-25. The second Test will be played at Lord's from August 29-September 2 while The Oval will host the third and final Test from September 6-10. Meanwhile, England could be in a race against time with skipper Ben Stokes suffering a hamstring injury last Sunday while playing in The Hundred. Stokes sustained the injury while batting and was eventually helped off the field. He was taken for scans and was also seen walking with the help of crutches.



## We didn't even get desired coach for Olympics: Ashwini

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian doubles badminton specialist Ashwini Ponnappa on Tuesday said she received little to no individual financial assistance from the sports ministry in the build up to Paris Olympics and even her request for a coach was turned down ahead of the just-concluded Games. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) had come out with a document, detailing the financial support provided to the Paris-bound Indian athletes. It mentions that Ashwini was provided Rs 4,50,000 under TOPS and Rs 1,48,04,080 under Annual calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC), which included the procurement of Game Ready recovery equipment, international competitions and sparring partner in the Tokyo cycle. "I'm absolutely shocked.. I don't mind not getting money but telling the nation that I got money is ridiculous. I haven't received it. Like if you're talking about national

camp, then that 1.5 Crore is spent on all the campers," Ashwini told PTI. "I don't have a specific coach. As for my personalised trainer, I'm paying for him myself. I'm not taking money from anyone. I've played on my own until November (2023). I was included as part of TOPS only after we qualified..." Ashwini, 34, has been one of the top Indian doubles player, having won a gold, a silver and a bronze in the Commonwealth Games 2010, 2014 and 2018 respectively. She has also competed in the London and Rio Olympics with Jwala Gutta. Detailing the Rs 1.48 crore spending, a SAI source said: "The Rs 1.48 crore has been spent on her on travel, stay, food, competition fee, DA in all the competitions that she participated in as part of the Indian team in the Paris cycle. "This money is given to BAI as part of ACTC." Ashwini, who had paired with N Sikki Reddy till August, 2022, joined hands with Tanisha Crasto in



December that year and started playing in international tournaments from January 2023. A series of good performances helped them seal their Paris berth, after which the duo were included in the TOPS scheme in May this year. "The ministry has always supported me. I've been part of the team for years and I'm grateful for the support I've received," Ashwini said. "The last year I haven't been supported and it's ok. But you can't say I've been given Rs 1.5 crore, if it's over four years, fair enough. As I was TOPS when I was partnering Sikki." Playing her third Olympics, Ashwini was left in tears after she and her partner Tanisha couldn't win a single match to make an unceremonious exit from the group stage. "I haven't played well, irrespective of the coach not being there, I take responsibility for that. But you can't say I'm getting this amount when I haven't even got this amount," she said.

## I will meet hockey team before Sept 10 to chalk out future plans: Sports Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday informed that he will hold a meeting with the bronze medal winning Indian men's hockey team before September 10 to chalk out future plans in its endeavour to clinch the gold medal in 2028 Los Angeles Games. Mandaviya on Tuesday felicitated star custodian PR Sreejesh, defender Sanjay, Amit Rohidas and striker Abhishek after their return from Paris on Tuesday morning. "It's been a wonderful performance from you guys, we didn't get the gold but we came very close to it and the way you guys inspired after the semifinal loss is commendable," Mandaviya said. "But it's not the end of the road and I will sit with you by September 10 and churn out future course of action so that

we should return with nothing less than gold from Los Angeles. I will seek your opinion how to go about it and try to provide you all possible support from the government." The minister also said he was satisfied with the performance of the Indian contingent even though they couldn't match last edition's result. In Tokyo India won seven medals including a gold, but in Paris the country could manage just six medals -- five bronze medals and one silver. The Indians, however, missed out on seven medals, finishing fourth, a fact which Mandaviya rued. "In Tokyo, we won seven medals but in Paris we won six. But the fact is we missed out on seven more medals by finishing fourth, which is a worthy performance," he said. Mandaviya had earlier felicitated the other members of the hockey who returned early.

PTI ■ JAIPUR

## India aiming to win more than 25 medals at Paris Paralympics: PCI chief Jhajharia

India is hoping to win more than 25 medals from its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes at the upcoming Paris Paralympic Games beginning on August 28, the country's governing body chief Devendra Jhajharia said on Tuesday. Jhajharia, himself a double gold medalist at the Paralympics, said the Indian contingent would look the carry the momentum of record-breaking performances in the 2021 Tokyo Paralympics and 2023 Hangzhou Asian Para Games. India had won 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics and a historic 111 medal at the Para Asian Games. "This is the biggest para

contingent India has ever sent to the Paralympics. We are very confident about the overall performance and are sure to win more than 25 medals," Jhajharia said here at an event organised by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). India is set to compete in 12 sports, including archery, athletics, badminton, canoeing, cycling, blind judo, powerlifting, rowing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and taekwondo. "Most of our athletes are in excellent shape, having



trained rigorously for this event. We expect outstanding results, particularly in athletics, badminton, archery, and shooting. They are ready to make India proud," the PCI president said. The Indian team boasts of a mix of experienced and young athletes athletes. Many of them are participating in their second or third Paralympics. Amit Kumar Saroha, a seasoned athlete competing in his fourth Paralympics, will represent India in the

F51 category discus throw. The 39-year-old Asian Para Games medalist is the oldest member of the contingent. On the other end of the spectrum, the youngest athlete is 17-year-old archer Sheetal Devi, who shoots with her legs instead of her hands due to a medical condition that has afflicted her since birth. She recently made headlines by winning gold medals in individual compound and mixed team events in archery at the 2023 Asian Para Games. Meanwhile, 100 Sports Management Private Limited has been awarded the exclusive broadcasting and digital media right for Paris Paralympics in India, according to a release.

## Premier League will have different look when season starts Friday

AP ■ LONDON

The Premier League rarely stands still. For the 2024-25 season starting on Friday, there are five newly hired managers, around \$1.6 billion worth of new players (and counting), new offside technology, updated financial regulations and a tweaked match schedule. COACHING CHANGES: A quarter of the coaches will be taking charge of a Premier League game for the first time, with Liverpool (Arne Slot), Chelsea (Enzo Maresca) and Brighton (Fabian Hürzeler) all having new managers and both Southampton (Russell Martin) and Ipswich (Kieran McKenna) gaining promotion with managers owning no top-flight experience. Throw in Julen Lopetegui being the new guy at

West Ham after 4 1/2 years of David Moyes at the helm and Steve Cooper replacing Maresca at Leicester, and the dugouts will look different this season. Most of the intrigue, however, will focus on Slot and what style he implements at Liverpool after the team's nearly nine years with the popular Jürgen Klopp. Rock 'n' roll could turn into more control, with Slot preferring more of a possession game. SLOWER MARKET: The Premier League's 20 clubs have spent as much on new players in this transfer window as those in Spain, Italy and Germany combined, according to transfermarkt.com. So why does it feel such a slow summer of trading? Maybe because there have been no blockbuster deals, with the most expensive being striker Dominic Solanke moving to Tottenham from Bournemouth for



65 million pounds (\$83 million). However, lots of deals for between \$30-70 million quickly add up - and there are still three weeks left in the window, during which Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool,

Arsenal and Chelsea are expected to weigh in. City (Savinho) and Arsenal (Riccardo Calafiori) have only made one new signing so far and Liverpool hasn't made any. Come the end of transfer deadline

day on Aug. 30, don't be surprised if Premier League clubs have spent way more than \$2 billion - even if most are balancing the books with sales because of the league's sterner financial rules. SEMI-AUTOMATED OFFSIDES: Expect offside decisions to be reached much quicker in the Premier League this season. The competition is introducing semi-automated offside technology for the first time, with the new system set to be launched during the first half of the season. Multiple cameras will track player movements and record data points on parts of the body that are relevant for an offside decision. Data is processed with artificial intelligence to create a 3D offside line that is alerted to the VAR officials. It is expected to take an average of around 30 seconds off the length of time it

currently takes VAR officials to come to a decision manually. Semi-automated offside were used at the 2022 World Cup and at the recent European Championship. SPENDING RULES: Last season in the Premier League was notable for some clubs, like Everton and Nottingham Forest, receiving points deductions for breaking the competition's profitability and sustainability regulations, which are now being more strictly applied. This coming season is the final year of those regulations, with two new forms of spending caps being trialed ahead of their introduction from the 2025-26 season. Teams in England's top division will trial a "Squad Cost Rules" system, which will limit spending on players to 85% of a club's soccer revenue and net profit or loss on player sales. A second system called "Top to

Bottom Anchoring" limits - or anchors - spending to a multiple of the lowest combined prize money and cash from TV rights forecast to be earned by a team. The league said the systems aimed to "improve and preserve clubs' financial sustainability and the competitive balance of the Premier League" as well as "promote aspiration of clubs. NO WINTER BREAK: The Premier League is renowned for being a relentless slog - even more so this season. There's no winter break for clubs this time, with the season starting later, to give players more time to recover from international tournaments this summer, and therefore being squeezed. Last year, for example, five games were held each weekend over a two-week period, giving teams at least one weekend off over January.

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