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CAULDRON IS BOILING

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THAI PM DISMISSED FOR
BREACH OF ETHICS

MONEY 10
SENSEX SNAPS 2-DAY
LOSING STREAK

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78th CELEBRATION OF
INDIA
INDEPENDENCE

Doda terror snuffs out Capt Deepak Singh

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Fighting valiantly, a young captain of the Indian Army sacrificed his life, on the eve of the 78th Independence Day, while leading an ongoing anti-terrorist operation aimed at flushing out Pakistani terrorists hiding in the forested belt of Assar in Doda district of Jammu on Wednesday.

The security forces also neutralised a Pakistani terrorist while the hunt was going on to eliminate two to three other terrorists hiding in the area. It is suspected the terrorists may have fled the area leaving behind one M4 rifle, three bags, and a blood trail.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday morning convened a meeting in New Delhi on the rising terror-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the 78th Independence Day, it was learnt.

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Director General of military operations-Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma and heads of the security-related agencies attended the meeting, sources



Army personnel keep vigil near the site of an encounter between security forces and terrorists, in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday PTI

said. Tension prevailed in the area as residents woke up to the deafening sounds of heavy gunfire. In view of the the Independence Day events on Thursday, the security arrangements were further stepped up to prevent any other incident of terrorist violence across the region. The security forces have already been kept in a State of high alert for the past few days to maintain tight vigil along the International border and the areas closer to the line of control. Army's White Knight Corps Wednesday posted on X stating, "One terrorist has

been neutralised in the ongoing operation. One AK 47 has been recovered in addition to the M4 rifle." "Intermittent exchange of firing continues as the operations are ongoing," said the Army. Meanwhile, the army officer who laid down his life has been identified as Captain Deepak Singh. He hailed from Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

On Thursday when the Nation comes together to celebrate Independence Day his family is expected to receive his mortal remains, wrapped in the tricolor. Army Chief General Upendra

Dwivedi and all ranks of the Indian Army also paid tributes. We salute the supreme sacrifice of the Braveheart Capt Deepak Singh, who laid down his life in the line of duty in J&K. We express deepest condolences to the bereaved family, the post said.

Over 20 army personnel, including two army captains, and two para commandos have sacrificed their lives in the recent surge of incidents of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist violence since January 1 this year. At least 15 civilians including seven pilgrims were also killed

Continued on Page 8

Doctors seek Justice for Kolkata colleague, Now

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

On the third day of their strike on Wednesday in protest against rape and murder of their colleague in Kolkata, junior residents from over 60 Government medical colleges in cities, including Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Rishikesh, Delhi, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Guwahati, and Bangalore among others across the country demonstrated a united front, expressing their frustration at the tragic incident through various forms of protest — from wearing black bands and holding candlelight marches to shouting slogans, and staging demonstrations.

Their anguish was palpable as they refused to relent until enactment of the Central Protection Act for healthcare workers. In Telangana, Seethakka garu, Minister of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development of the State came forward to show solidarity with doctors across the country.

The strike has had a clear impact on health services particularly elective i.e. non-essential ones, with many patients at the OPD returning home without treatment as they boycotted the services. However, emergency cases



were not impacted. Soon after the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) decided to call off their strike following a meeting with Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday, questions arose from various state resident doctors' associations and the Federation of All India Medical Associations (FAIMA). These groups expressed concern over FORDA's decision and chose to continue their strike, seeking better safety measures for healthcare workers. They emphasised the need for broader systemic reforms to ensure the protection and well-being of all healthcare professionals. In the national capital, the Resident Doctors' Association

(RDA) at AIIMS and RML hospital continued with their strike on the third day. The AIIMS RDA stated, "The AIIMS community has reiterated its demand for the implementation of the Central Protection Act and has decided to continue support for their RG Kar MC&H doctors. By consensus, it has been decided that resident doctors at AIIMS, including foreign nationals, sponsored candidates, fellows, and graduates, will continue their strike, which includes suspending academic activities, optional OPD services, ward and OT services. However, sub-emergency services, ICU, emergency procedures, and

CBI collects evidence from rape and murder scene

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Within hours of Calcutta High Court ordering a court-monitored probe by the CBI into the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case, the Central agency snuffs on Wednesday reached Kolkata and took charge of the case. The CBI team from Delhi comprising medical and forensic experts visited the place of the occurrence after lodging four FIRs and taking custody of the prime accused Sanjoy Das earlier arrested and grilled by the Kolkata Police. Two CBI officers had taken the case diary and other documents pertaining to the case from the Kolkata Police

Continued on Page 8

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Offices Of *The Pioneer* will remain closed on Thursday, August 15, 2024, on account of Independence Day. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Saturday, August 17.



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SGPGIMS doctor duped of ₹2.81 cr by cyber thugs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
A woman doctor of Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences was duped of Rs 2.81 crore after she was digitally arrested by the cyber thugs in Krishna Nagar. She filed a complaint at the cyber police station. In her complaint, the doctor stated that on August 1 she received a call from an unknown mobile number. The caller introduced himself as a member of Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRA) and told her that all her mobile phone numbers were going to be deactivated for communication services. When the doctor asked the reason for this decision she was told by the caller that 22 complaints were pending against her SIM numbers and now a CBI officer would talk to her. The doctor was asked to download Skype and talk to CBI officer Rahul Gupta. Gupta, after coming on phone, told the doctor that her name had come up in Naresh Goyal money laundering case and her

bank account had been used to hoard money which had been used in women and child trafficking. Gupta further told the doctor that the court had evidence against her in the form of an audio recording of her talks with the money launderers. "You have to give some information to submit in the court," the miscreant told her and later sent her a form in which she had to fill all her personal information. The accused said that they had received an order to arrest her and that she was being digitally arrested for interrogation. The victim was warned not to tell anything about this to her family. She was told that she may be saved from going to jail if she cooperated in the investigation. The woman doctor was asked to give complete details of her property and deposit the entire money in a government account for verification. To deposit the money, they sent her seven different bank accounts in which a total of Rs 2.81 crore was transferred from her five accounts.

DIGITAL ARREST

Meanwhile cyber fraudsters digitally arrested a young man for three days and fraudulently withdrew about Rs 70 lakh from his two accounts. The cybercriminals, who introduced themselves as customs officers, kept the victim connected on video calls and voice calls and said that there were drugs in his parcel. Umesh Chandra Pant of Vivek Khand in Gomti Nagar, told the police that on August 2, he received a call on his mobile number at 10 am, Pant said the caller said that he was an employee of DHL courier service and there was a parcel for him from Bangkok, Thailand, that contained some documents and 140 grams of drugs, which were seized by the customs department. According to Pant, the caller then said the call was being transferred to an officer of Cyber Crime, Mumbai. The man who took up the call said that they had cases of human trafficking and money laundering registered in his name and

asked him to download Skype app and talk to a senior officer on video call. "The cyber cell is tracing the IP addresses of the accused," the man at the other end of the call said. The caller took personal information of Pant on the video call and said they would keep him on surveillance for two days and asked him to stay connected on audio call. A man who impersonated the Cyber Crime officer also told Pant that the phones of his entire family will also be kept under surveillance and that they were constantly monitoring them. "Occasionally, the callers would interview me, with an officer in full uniform coming on the screen to talk to me," pant said. The caller asked Pant to check the money deposited in the bank account and fraudulently withdrew Rs 23 lakh on August 3 and Rs 46.80 lakh on August 5. "On realising that I had been duped, I filed a complaint on the cyber crime portal and also submitted a written complaint at the cyber police station," the victim said.

KGMU convocation to Aug 17

Devanshi Katiyar to get Hewett Gold Medal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
The 20th Convocation of King George's Medical University will be held on August 17 at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Scientific Convention Centre here. The ceremony will be presided over by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and the convocation address will be delivered by ICMR Director-General Dr Rajiv Behl. In a press conference held on Wednesday, KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Sonia Nityanand said that 1,152 degrees would be given in the convocation – 698 to males and 454 to females. Devanshi Katiyar will be receiving the Hewett Gold Medal for securing the highest number of marks in the MBBS examinations held in March 2024. She will also be receiving the University Honours Medal, Chancellor's Medal, Sri Gaya Prasad Tandon Memorial Gold Medal for securing the highest percentage of marks among the girl students, Sri Desh Deepak Memorial Gold Medal, Prof KB Kunwar Memorial Gold Medal for securing the highest number of marks in pathology, pharmacology and medicine, gold medal presented by the Provincial Medical Services

Association, SDK Gold Medal, Dr RKD Misra Memorial Centenary Gold Medal, Indra Rani and Laxmi Narain Saxena Memorial Gold Medal, Professor Satish Chandra Dhasmana Gold Medal and Late (Prof) AD Engineer Gold Medal and Kausalya Devi Dhawan Memorial Gold. Akansha will receive the Dr RML Mehrotra Memorial Gold Medal awarded to a schedule caste student of MBBS who has secured the highest aggregate marks, Akansha will also be receiving the Prof PC Dubey Memorial Gold Medal for securing the highest percentage of marks in surgery, pathology and anatomy for 2024, Late Dr Ram Behari Singh Rathore Gold Medal awarded to MBBS student who tops in surgery, Dr DM Kar Gold Medal for obtaining the second highest aggregate marks in MBBS, Rai Bahadur Kanauji Lal Gold Medal in clinical surgery and Selby Memorial Gold Medal in surgery. Monika Chowdhary will receive the Dr HD Gupta Memorial Gold Medal and cash prize of Rs 10,000 for obtaining the highest percentage of marks in the aggregate of all the four professional of BDS Saubhagya Agnihotri will receive

the Dr Govila Gold Medal for securing the maximum number of medals and certificates of honour in BDS final professional examination for 2024. She will receive the gold medal in prosthodontics and crown and bridge and a gold medal in oral medicine and radiology. Meanwhile, giving the progress of the university, Dr Sonia Nityanand said that they were grateful to the state government for giving them a generous budget, "Last year we received Rs 50 crore and this year we have received Rs 100 crore with which we will be able to purchase equipment for the university," she said. Dr Nityanand said that they had sent a proposal to the state government for a new administration block since KGMU had expanded extensively.

Doctors march to DGHS office

Lucknow: More than 200 students and junior doctors of King George's Medical University here on Wednesday took out a march to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) office in solidarity with the female medic who was raped and murdered at a hospital in Kolkata. Meanwhile, the strike and protests by doctors of several hospitals the state over the incident entered the third day. Emergency services are, however, continuing in the medical colleges and hospitals that have participated in the protest but junior doctors are not attending to other services such as outpatient departments (OPD), Uttar Pradesh Resident Doctors Association (RDA) president

Dr Hardeep Jogi told PTI. Peaceful protests are being held for the third consecutive day in medical colleges and hospitals in the state from Greater Noida to Varanasi and cities such as Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Gorakhpur as well as in the capital Lucknow, Dr Jogi said. In the state capital, students and doctors of KGMU, mostly women, marched from the university to the office building of DGHS, carrying posters condemning the Kolkata incident. Nationwide protests are being held over the brutal rape and murder of the post-graduate trainee at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in the West Bengal capital. Her body was found in the seminar hall of the premier state-run hospital on Friday morning and a man was arrested on Saturday in connection with the crime. Dr Jogi said that the incident revealed serious lapses in the security measures in the hos-



pital campus. "RDA Uttar Pradesh expresses its deep condolences on the death of this young woman and strongly condemns the failures responsible for such a heinous crime. The inability to protect our institutions reflects serious lapses of administration and governance," he said. The association has written a letter to Union Health Minister JP Nadda and sought an urgent meeting with him 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". PTI

High drama as youth climbs water tank

Lucknow (PNS): A youth climbed a water tank in Talkatora area of the city on Tuesday night, keeping his family and policemen on their toes for several hours. He could be brought down after about one hour of hard work. The fire brigade team rescued him and handed him over to Talkatora police. The police are trying to find out the reason for climbing the tank from the young man. As per reports, a youth, Mohammad Alam of Talkatora, climbed on the old water tank at C Block Sector-12 of Rajajipuram at 7:40 pm on Tuesday night. The people of the locality informed the Alambagh fire station about this. A team reached there with a rescue tender and a hydraulic platform from Hazratganj fire station but due to the narrow road the hydraulic machine could not reach there. On receiving information Talkatora police also reached there and talked to the youth but he was not ready to listen to anyone. After this, the fire team talked to the youth and brought the young man down from the water tank. During interrogation, Mohammad Alam was not able to give anything specific about himself.

ASIAN FERTILISERS LTD.					
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 th JUNE, 2024					
S. No.	Particulars	Three Months Ended			Year Ended
		30.06.2024	31.03.2024	30.06.2023	
1.	Total Income	1,125.17	1,010.24	1,300.94	5,303.93
2.	Net Profit before Interest, depreciation, exceptional items and tax	(22.68)	2.97	(35.11)	52.49
3.	Net Profit for the period before tax (before Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	(33.23)	(3.52)	(47.46)	7.74
4.	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	(33.23)	(3.52)	(47.46)	7.74
5.	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	(35.23)	(2.38)	(41.50)	4.68
6.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period	---	(0.09)	---	(0.09)
7.	Equity Share Capital	790.15	790.15	790.15	790.15
8.	Basic and Diluted Earning Per Share (of Rs. 1/- each) (Not Annualized)	(0.45)	(0.03)	(0.53)	0.06
	i) Before Extraordinary Items (in Rs.)	(0.45)	(0.03)	(0.53)	0.06
	ii) After Extraordinary Items (in Rs.)	(0.45)	(0.03)	(0.53)	0.06

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Important Information

"It is informed to everyone that Devendra Kaur and Devendra Pal Kaur Both are my own name. I am known and recognized by Above mentioned both names. My both names are in running." (Devendra Kaur/Davinderpal Kaur) W/o Sukhdev Singh Duriya Jhadiya, Khutar "Shahjahanpur (UP)

NOTICE
I Have Changed My Name From Faiz Rahman to Faiz Rehman. In Future I shall be Known as Faiz Rehman. Faiz Rehman s/o Abdul Mujeeb, 86/1, Faithfullganj, Cantt, Kanpur.

NOTICE
I Mummy Devi M/O Parveen kumar 4 Rajput army no. 3012581X residence of gondar kamal haryana. In my Sons army service record my D.O.B is wrongly mentioned as 01.01.1974 whereas in other documents my D.O.B is 01.01.1979 Which is true and correct.

NOTICE
I have changed my name from RAUNAK JAHAN To RAUNAQ JAHAN for all future purposes. RAUNAQ JAHAN W/O Taqdeer Husain R/O 90/246- A Iftikharabad, Ansar School, Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE
I Bindu W/O Parveen kumar 4 Rajput army no. 3012581X residence of gondar kamal haryana. In my husbands army service record my D.O.B is wrongly mentioned as 01.01.1995 whereas in other documents my D.O.B is 14.07.1990 Which is true and correct.

NOTICE
It is to inform general public that Original Allotment Letter and Sale Deed dated 05.06.1993, executed by Kanhaiya Lal Gyan Chandani, in favour of Mohan, registered in the office of sub registrar Lucknow, in Book No. 1, Volume No.2115, Page 309-326 at Serial No. 3502 on 05.06.1993 in respect of House No.22/50 Area 39.98 Sq. Mtrs, situated at Sector 22, Indra Nagar Ward Lal Bahadur Sashtri, Lucknow now owned by Apoorva Singh, has been lost by him at Lekhranj Chauraha, Lucknow, on 10.08.2024 around 6 PM, while going to Lekhranj Chauraha for getting its photocopy from his house. Now, Shubham Sahu is purchasing it from Apoorva Singh thereafter it will be mortgaged with Punjab National Bank against loan. If any person or financial institution has or found these documents please return or have any interest or objection in this regard then contact to Advocate mentioned below with objection in writing with relevant documents, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Mr. Amit Kumar Singh Rathour Advocate, Chamber No.7, UGF, Krishna Tower, Chakbast Road, Quaiserbagh, Lucknow. Mobile No. 9559811119

Missing landlord was killed by tenants

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
A 70-year-old man, A Veerendra Narula, who went missing on Sunday after he left his home in Ashiyana area to collect rent from his tenants in Manak Nagar, was murdered. The police made this claim after detaining tenant Vicky and his brother Titu. According to police, after interrogating Vicky, it came to light that he had murdered the elderly man and disposed of his body in the Indira canal in Sushant Golf City police station area. Despite extensive search, the body of Narula could not be retrieved till the last reports came in. Narula lived with his wife, Amala, in Harmony Enclave at Eldeco Udyan 1 in Ashiyana. He owned a property in Ram Nagar, Manak

Nagar, which he rented out. On Sunday, Narula had left home by his motorcycle to collect rent from his tenants, a property dealer named Sukhwinder alias Vicky, his father Harvansh Singh, mother Baljeet and brother Ajeet alias Titu. "Narula did not return home that evening and his phone calls went unanswered. When the family contacted the tenants, they gave evasive responses. Later, the family filed a missing person report at the Ashiyana police station," said the police. The police discovered that there were disputes over rent payments between Narula and his tenants. The tenants, who had been living in the property for 14 years, had even threatened Narula about vacating the premises. SHO, Aashiyana, Chhatrapal Singh, stated that initial suspi-

cions were directed towards the tenants. Following intense questioning, Vicky confessed to murdering Narula. Based on the complaint of Narula's son, a murder case has been registered and both Vicky and Titu have been detained. **LU STUDENT BEATEN WITH HOCKEY STICKS**
A group of youths brutally assaulted Lucknow University student Shivesh in Aliganj police station area on Monday night. The CCTV has captured the incident and the images of the attackers. Shivesh, of Ghazipur is a BCom second year student of Lucknow University and lives in a rented room in Nirala Nagar here. At 10:30 pm on Monday, he went to a tea stall to have tea with his friends Ashwani Yadav, Arnab Singh, Tanmay Pandey. All of them

were sipping tea when a white Venue car stopped near them and some youths carrying hockey sticks got down from it and attacked Shivesh. Shivesh ran to save himself but fell on a fast food cart and the assailants showered hockey sticks on him again. He suffered serious head injuries. Seeing the crowd gathering around, the assailants ran away. After this, Shivesh's friends took him to the KGMU Trauma Centre for treatment. The student was discharged on Wednesday after which he filed a complaint with the police. The police are searching for the accused. Meanwhile, a 20-year old youth ended his life at his house in the night on Tuesday. The youth, identified as Pawan Rawat of Navi Kheda locality, was found hanging from a bamboo pole with a dupatta.

Farmer killed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
A farmer was murdered in Banthra police station area. As per reports, some unknown people beat the farmer, identified as Makhaule of Nanmau village, to death on Wednesday night. The family members blocked the Mohan road by placing the body on the road. The road remained blocked for more than three hours. The protesters kept demanding the arrest of the accused. As the news of the protest reached senior police officials, police force from four police stations was dispatched to the spot. The officials tried to pacify the family members but they did not listen. The police then forcefully removed the dead body from the road and this further angered the protesters. Later senior police officials reached the spot and pacified the protesters and dispersed them. After getting information about the incident, local BJP MLA Rajeshwar Singh spoke to the family. He assured a compensation of Rs 1 lakh. The family alleged that Sunil Rawat of the village had murdered Makhaule. The family members said that Makhaule had gone to Kashi Vishwanath temple with Sunil Rawat five days ago and had stayed there with him and he returned at night. When they reached near the village, Sunil killed him and fled. The family of the victim said a theft had taken place at their house two days back and they suspect that Sunil was involved in it.

Kumar grieved at demise of Agyani

Lucknow (PNS): Minister for Rural Development in Bihar, Shrawan Kumar, expressed deep grief at the untimely demise of Chaudhary Narsingh Patel Agyani, former national general secretary of All India Kushi Kshatriya Mahasabha, at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Lucknow on Wednesday. In his condolence message, Shrawan Kumar said that late Chaudhary Narsingh Patel believed in socialist ideology and his behaviour was also in accordance with it. "He was always ready to work for the welfare of the downtrodden and helpless people of society and was vocal in removing their pain and suffering," he added. The minister further said that he was associated with late Agyani for a long time and the latter's demise had caused an irreparable loss to the social and political fields and especially the people of Patel community had lost their beloved leader.

NORTHERN RAILWAY INDICATIVE NOTICE
Railway Recruitment Cell, Northern Railway
Employment Notice No. RRC/NR 04/2024/S&G Quota
RRC website: www.rccnr.org
Online Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizen for 18 vacancies in level 01 and 05 vacancies in level 2 of Pay Matrix 7th Pay Commission against Scout & Guide Quota recruitment for the year 2024-25 in Northern Railway. Separate application, if eligible, is to be filled with examination fee for each level.
IMPORTANT DATES
Date of Publication of Detailed Notification on RRC website: 13.08.2024
Date & Time of Start of Online Application: At 00:00 Hrs on 16/08/2024
Date and Time of Closing of Online Application: At 00:00 Hrs on 16/09/2024
Expected Date of Online Written Examination: October 2024.
For Chairperson/RRC 2540/2024
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GIAN LIFE CARE LIMITED									
Extract of the Unaudited Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30.06.2024									
PARTICULAR	STANDALONE (Rs. In Lakhs)				CONSOLIDATED (Rs. In Lakhs)				Year ended 31.03.2024
	Quarter ended 30.06.2024	Quarter ended 31.03.2024	Quarter ended 30.06.2023	Quarter ended 31.03.2023	Quarter ended 30.06.2024	Quarter ended 31.03.2024	Quarter ended 30.06.2023	Quarter ended 31.03.2023	
Total Income	215.25	478.71	257.32	1375.91	216.74	478.74	257.32	1378.86	
Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	16.51	310.8	40.44	591.21	15.09	302	40.2	574.73	
Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	16.51	310.8	40.44	591.21	15.09	302	40.2	574.73	
Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	10.62	219.99	26.45	429.57	9.2	213.33	26.21	415.23	
Total Comprehensive Income (net of tax) for the period	10.62	219.31	26.45	428.89	9.2	212.65	26.21	414.55	
Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs.10/-each)	10341524	10341524	10341524	10341524	10341524	10341524	10341524	10341524	
Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of Previous Year)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Earning per Share (of Rs. 10/-each) (not annualised) Basic & Diluted	0.1	2.12	0.26	4.15	0.09	2.07	0.26	4.02	

JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED									
Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2024									
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated			Year ended	
		Quarter Ended 30.06.2024	Quarter Ended 31.03.2024	Quarter Ended 30.06.2023	Quarter Ended 30.06.2024	Quarter Ended 31.03.2024	Quarter Ended 30.06.2023		
1	Total Income from operations	83.77	75.63	85.73	320.81	67,000.17	90,904.54	67,437.35	333,624.71
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax and share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	6.62	3.78	10.13	22.99	4,242.30	2,809.33	785.56	13,045.51
3	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax and after share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	6.62	3.78	10.13	22.99	4,245.45	4,708.65	790.32	14,955.18
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	4.96	2.82	7.57	17.19	2,311.93	4,095.21	(574.62)	9,082.33
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period/year (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period/year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive income (after tax))	5.20	3.77	7.57	18.14	2,401.32	4,613.34	(575.35)	9,641.19
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as at Balance Sheet date					31,528.69		(56,063.28)	
8	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) (Not annualised) (1) Basic (₹)	0.02*	0.01*	0.03*	0.07	3.75*	12.67*	(5.81)*	13.78
	(2) Diluted (₹)	0.02*	0.01*	0.03*	0.07	3.75*	12.67*	(5.81)*	13.78



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Published From
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LUCKNOW, THURSDAY AUGUST 15, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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78th CELEBRATION OF
INDIA
INDEPENDENCE

Tendencies that stoke discord have to be rejected: Prez

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday emphasised the need to strengthen affirmative action as a tool for inclusion while urging the rejection of divisive tendencies rooted in perceived social hierarchies. In her address to the nation on the eve of 78th Independence Day, Murmu highlighted the steady progress of political democracy in India, asserting that it reflects advancements towards social democracy. She noted that the nation thrives on its diversity and plurality, moving forward as a cohesive entity. "Social justice is a top priority for the Narendra Modi government, which has initiated unprecedented measures for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other marginalised communities," the president stated. She quoted BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, emphasising that "political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy" and said steady progress of political democracy testifies to the progress made towards the consolidation of social democracy. The spirit of inclusion pervades every aspect of our social life. We move together as



a cohesive nation with our diversity and plurality. Affirmative action must be strengthened as an instrument of inclusion. I firmly believe that in a vast country like ours, tendencies that stoke discord based upon perceived social hierarchies have to be rejected," she said. Lauding the president's speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "An inspiring address by Rashtrapati Ji on the eve of our Independence Day. It motivates us to keep working to build a prosperous and developed India." The president stressed the importance of justice in its broadest sense, particularly in terms of gender and climate justice. She acknowledged that while women in Indian society are seen as equals, traditional prej-

udices persist. Speaking about the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, President Murmu highlighted the record number of nearly 97 crore eligible voters, describing it as the largest electoral exercise in history. She commended the Election Commission and security personnel for ensuring a smooth electoral process, asserting that the widespread exercise of franchise is a powerful endorsement of democracy. "When such a large number of people exercise their franchise, it is a resounding vote for the idea of democracy. India's successful conduct of elections strengthens democratic forces around the world," she said. Murmu also noted substantial improvements in infrastructure, including roads, railways, and ports, driven by strategic

planning and effective institutions. Additionally, she pointed to the government's promotion of sectors like semiconductors and artificial intelligence, creating a conducive environment for startups and enhancing India's appeal as an investment destination. "Considering the great potential of futuristic technology, the government has vigorously promoted a range of sectors, such as semiconductors and Artificial Intelligence, while also creating an ideal ecosystem for startups which will propel their growth. It has made India an even more attractive investment destination," she said. With increased transparency in the banking and financial sector, she expressed optimism about the prospects for economic growth that could elevate India among developed nations. In her address, the President also acknowledged the observance of Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas (Partition Horrors Remembrance Day), reflecting on the human tragedy of partition, which resulted in immense suffering and loss of life. "As we prepare to celebrate our Independence Day, we must remember the unparalleled tragedy and stand in solidarity with those families affected," she concluded.

Govind Mohan next Union Home Secretary

New Delhi (PTI): Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan was on Wednesday appointed the next Union Home Secretary, succeeding Ajay Kumar Bhalla, according to an official order. Mohan, presently serving as Secretary, Ministry of Culture, will join as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Home Affairs. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Govind Mohan, IAS (Sikkim: 1989), Secretary, Ministry of Culture as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Home Affairs with immediate effect. "The officer will take over as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs vice Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS (Assam-Meghalaya: 1984) on completion of his tenure on 22.08.2024," the order stated. Meanwhile, acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Rahul Navin was on Wednesday appointed as the full-time director of the federal anti-money laundering agency. An order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) said the appointment of Navin, a 1993-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income Tax cadre, has been made "for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or until further orders, whichever is earlier." The ED director is an Additional Secretary (AS) rank post in the Union government and Navin was empanelled as an AS in December last year. Navin, 57, joined the ED in November, 2019 as a Special Director (OSD) to spearhead the agency's work with regard to India's mutual evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global body that leads action against money laundering. A B. Tech and an M. Tech from IIT Kanpur and an MBA from the Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Navin was appointed as the acting director of the ED after the tenure of his predecessor Sanjay Kumar Mishra came to an end on September 15 last year.

Vested political interests behind Partition: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh commemorated Partition Horror Memorial Day with a 'Partition Horror Memorial Silent Padyatra' led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday. The event began with the chief minister paying tribute to the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel by offering flowers. The padyatra then commenced from the statue site and made its way to Lok Bhavan. Throughout the march, the chief minister held a placard conveying the profound pain of those who endured the horrors of Partition. Upon reaching Lok Bhavan, he visited an archive exhibition dedicated to the tragic events of Partition. Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, Mayor Sushma Kharkwal, Rajya Sabha member Dr Dinesh Sharma, UP ministers Jaiveer Singh, Balveer Singh Aulakh, MLAs Yogesh Shukla, OP Srivastava, MLCs Mahendra Singh, Ramchandra Pradhan, Mukesh Sharma, Anoop Gupta and Umesh Dwivedi, Bharatiya Janata Party metropolitan president Anand Dwivedi and many public representatives and dignitaries were present at the event. Chief Minister Yogi paid a heartfelt tribute to the countless innocent citizens who lost their lives in the tragedy of Partition. In a message shared on X, he reflected on the profound impact of the event, stating that it was not merely the partition of a country but a division of humanity itself. This inhuman decision led to the loss of countless innocent lives, inflicting pain of displacement, and immense suffering on people, he added. The chief minister further wrote, "Our Mother India, who introduced the world to the soulful feeling of 'Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam', was pushed towards the tragedy of partition on this day in the year 1947 for vested political interests. Humble tribute to all the innocent citizens who sacrificed their lives in this inhuman tragedy today on Partition Horror Memorial Day!" He said the horrors seen during Partition were now happening in Bangladesh and Pakistan. "The date and faces might have changed but the nature of incidents is the same as 1947. It is still happening in Pakistan. It is happening in Bangladesh," he said. Chief Minister Yogi said, "At that time, 10 lakh Hindus and Sikhs were slaughtered. Even today we see the same arson, loot and harassment with daughters and sisters. When will we learn from the mistakes of the past?" He said that "more than 1.5 crore Hindus are crying to save their honour in Bangladesh". But "the so-called seculars in India are not uttering a word because they fear that if they raise their voice for the weak, their vote bank will slip away." "They worry about their vote bank but they will not utter a word for humanity because they took forward the politics of divide and rule, since Partition," he said. Targeting the Congress, Chief Minister Yogi said if the then political leadership had shown courage, no power in the world could have affected this "unnatural" Partition. The lack of strong willpower and lust for power, and to gain power even at the cost of the country resulted in Partition in 1947, he said. "Whenever these people got power, they did politics at the cost of the country. The people of the country had to pay the price of this then (in 1947). People paid the price for a very long time," Yogi Adityanath said.



Our aim on the 78th anniversary of Independence

Let us pledge to make the country completely healthy, cultured and extremely prosperous by giving it economic freedom, educational freedom, medical freedom, cultural and ideological freedom and freedom from diseases and addictions.

Economic freedom- Every year, foreign companies loot thousands of millions of rupees from the country and remit it abroad. On the other hand, all the profits generated by Patanjali are meant for the service of the country.

Freedom of education is being ensured by imparting modern education along with education of Sanatan Dharma under the aegis of Bharatiya Shiksha Board. Also we are running the world's best Patanjali Acharyakulam and Gurukulam to free the country from the education system introduced by Macaulay.

To make the society free from Diseases, Addictions and all kinds of Evils and Illnesses, lakhs of Patanjali activists are selflessly serving humanity by giving free yoga training.

To bring about Medical Freedom, we are conducting scientific research on the knowledge obtained from great sages like Charak, Sushrut, Dhanvantari and Patanjali. Also, we have established the world's best-integrated treatment centers Patanjali Wellness, Yoggram, and Niramayam which are helping crores of people become disease-free and healthy.

Ideological and cultural freedom is being brought about by introducing eternal values, ideals and principles of Sanatan Dharma as everyone's lifestyle in the course of propagating Sanatan Dharma as the Dharma of the epoch.

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Health Care There is no ban on any Patanjali medicines. All our medicines are available at Patanjali centers and major stores.

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Photo exhibition on 'Horrors of Partition'

Varanasi (PNS): A photo exhibition based on the 'Horrors of Partition' was organised at Banaras, Prayagraj Rambagh, Mau, Deoria Sadar, Chauri Chaura, Ballia and Chhapra stations of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) on Wednesday. In this direction, the photo exhibition at Banaras station was inaugurated by retired Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME) RP Singh, paying his respects to the lakhs of Indians who lost

their lives in the 'horrors of partition' and suffered the pain of displacement. ADRM Rajesh Kumar Singh, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Sameer Paul, Divisional Electrical Engineer (Coaching) Ram Dayal, Assistant Personnel Officer Ramesh Upadhyay and employees of various departments of the railways working at the station were present on the occasion of the inauguration of the photo exhibition. Welcoming the guests and visitors,

the ADRM threw light on the historical background of partition and said that India's independence was not so easy as it came with horrific communal violence which took the lives of more than one million people. "The British policy of 'divide and rule' sowed the seeds of communalism in India," he said. He further said that more than a million people were killed, thousands of children were missing, thousands of women were raped,

and Punjab and West Bengal in particular were in a state of anarchy. He paid tribute to the millions of Indians who lost their lives in the partition and suffered the pain of displacement. Earlier, the national anthem was sung in the general passenger hall of Banaras station by retired PCME and others. In the same sequence, the photo exhibition was inaugurated by retired Station Master Md Iftikar Ahmed at Chhapra station.

Pain of partition can never be forgotten: Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Fee and Registration Ravindra Jaiswal inaugurated the fifth national flag site near the Police Lines complex built from his MLA fund here on Wednesday and hoisted a 100-feet-high national flag, a symbol of the country's pride. On the occasion, the tune of patriotic songs was played by the personnel of the band party of PAC and police. A good number of school children along with local people reached the Police Lines located venue in the form of a procession, raising patriotic slogans with the tricolour in their hands. The procession was led by the minister himself.

Addressing the people present on this occasion, Jaiswal said that our national flag, a symbol of the country's pride and glory, should continue to fly high in the sky and keep giving the message of national unity and integrity to the people and for this purpose, huge national flags have been installed high in the sky at 10 different places in the city. Talking about 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day', he said that partition was no less than a horror for India. He said that August 14, 1947, is a 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 partition of the country. The pain of partition of the country can never be forgotten. Due to hatred and violence, lakhs of people had to be displaced and even lost their lives. The minister will hoist the 100-feet-high national flag at Ambedkar Park near District Court on Thursday on the occasion of Independence Day.

TIRANGA YATRA

With a resolve to maintain national unity and integrity and to awaken national consciousness among the people, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will take out a huge Tiranga Yatra at the Varanasi Lok Sabha hall on the occasion of Independence Day on Thursday. A decision to this effect was taken in a meeting of BJP office-bearers and public representatives held at the party's Gulab Bagh office here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of regional BJP president Dilip Patel.

Addressing the meeting, Patel said with the aim of paying tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the freedom movement and to awaken the feeling of patriotism among the people, a huge Tiranga Yatra will be taken out from the playgrounds of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) located in Maldahiya at 10 am on August 15, which will end at the campus of Queen's College via Patel crossing, Maldahiya, and Chandrashekhar Azad Park located in Lahurabir. Tributes will be paid at the statues of Bharat Ratna Sardar Patel and Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad on the way. Patel said a large number of students, teachers, businessmen, players, people from various social and cultural organisations and BJP office-bearers, public representatives and a large number of workers will participate in this procession on foot. District president and MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, city chief Vidyasagar Rai, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLAs Dr Neelkanth Tiwari and Saurabh Srivastava, MLC Dharmendra Rai, Arvind Singh, Jagdish Tripathi, Rahul Singh, Sanjay Sonkar, Abhishek Mishra, regional media in charge Navratan Rathi and co-media in charge Santosh Solapurkar were prominently present in the meeting.

Three killed in road mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Three persons, including a couple, were killed while two others were seriously injured when their auto collided head on with a DCM truck in the Sajeti police area on Tuesday night. The police sent the bodies for an autopsy. According to a report received here, Nitu (39) of Akbarpur Nabipur (Kanpur dehat) was employed in a power plant. He had gone to Ghatampur with wife for treatment of his fever. Late in the evening, when he was returning to the power plant and boarded an auto for Sajeti, it collided head on with the DCM near Amauli village in Sajeti police station area. This led to killing of the couple on the spot. Three other passengers, Virendra Singh (70), Anita, wife of Shambhu Prasad and Ramesh Kushwaha (45) of Lakhpeda, were also seriously injured. Police sent the injured to the Ghatampur community health centre (CHC) by an ambulance from where after the first aid they were referred to LLR (Hallet) Hospital in Kanpur where Ramesh Kushwaha also succumbed to his injury during treatment on Wednesday morning. Sajeti Station Officer (SO) Brij Mohan said three persons were killed in the road mishap while two others were injured. The bodies had been sent for an autopsy. On the basis of the complaint, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said.

Equinox India		Equinox India Developments Limited (formerly Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)			
Statement of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Rs. in million			
		3 months ended	Preceding 3 months ended	Corresponding 3 months ended	Previous year ended
		30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Refer Note 2)	30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations	4,033.9	395.4	2,091.0	4,687.5
2	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(224.0)	(3,010.4)	(479.7)	(3,937.2)
3	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period before Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(224.0)	(3,010.4)	(6,770.4)	(10,227.9)
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(284.7)	(3,020.2)	(6,795.5)	(10,386.5)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year/period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(91.4)	(3,036.4)	(6,377.2)	(9,072.0)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,268.7	1,082.2	1,082.2	1,082.2
7	Earnings per Share (of Rs. 2/- each)				
	- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.49)	(5.58)	(12.55)	(19.20)
	- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.49)	(5.58)	(12.55)	(19.20)

Notes to the consolidated financial results:

- The above consolidated financial results of the Group for the quarter ended 30 June 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors ('the Board') at its meeting held on 14 August 2024. These results have been subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- Figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the financial year.

Equinox India		Equinox India Developments Limited (formerly Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)			
Statement of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Rs. in million			
		3 months ended	Preceding 3 months ended	Corresponding 3 months ended	Previous year ended
		30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Refer Note 2)	30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	86.7	523.6	98.0	802.1
2	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(120.4)	96.2	22.4	31.1
3	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(120.4)	(35,733.2)	22.4	(35,798.3)
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(121.0)	(35,736.3)	22.2	(35,802.3)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year/period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	70.0	(35,741.8)	438.4	(34,482.5)
6	Earnings per Share (of Rs. 2/- each)				
	- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.21)	(66.05)	0.04	(66.17)
	- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.21)	(66.05)	0.04	(66.17)
7	Paid-up equity share capital (face value of Rs. 2 per equity share)	1,268.7	1,082.2	1,082.2	1,082.2
8	Other equity				31,839.9

Notes to the standalone financial results:

- The above standalone financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors ('the Board') at its meeting held on 14 August 2024. These results have been subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- Figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the financial year.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 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://www.equinoxindia.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: Office No 01-1001, WeWork, Blue One Square, Udyog Vihar Phase 4 Rd, Gurugram, Haryana 122016 (CIN) : L45101HR2006PLC095409

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Sachin Shah
Executive Director

Place : Mumbai
Date : 14 August 2024

Emphasis laid on making India developed by 2047

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A two-day photo exhibition and seminar, quiz competition and cultural programme organised by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, at Arya Mahila Inter College was inaugurated by ADM (City) Alok Verma, along with District Inspector of Schools Awadh Kishore Singh, Deputy Director of Akashvani Rajesh Kumar Gautam, Principal Dr Pratibha Yadav and District Information Officer Dr Surendra Nath Pal by cutting the ribbon on Wednesday. Verma said this photo exhibition is informative

and is providing very good information to the audience. The NDRF stall set up here is providing very useful information. To make India developed by 2047, the young generation will have to come forward as the youth is the future of tomorrow and they will have to take a pledge for a developed India, he said. Dr Pratibha said that we have got freedom due to the sacrifices of our ancestors. Regional Publicity Officer, Varanasi Dr Lalji welcomed the guests by presenting them with mementoes. He said in memory of the struggle and sacrifice of the people, every year August 14th is observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.

Railway employees, families encouraged to participate in 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign

Prayagraj (PNS): General Manager of North Central Railway (NCR) Upendra Chandra Joshi encouraged railway employees and their families to participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign by clicking selfies at NCR headquarters, Subedarganj here. Key departmental heads and officers and employees of NCR participated in this selfie programme. The GM said bringing the flag home collectively as a nation not only symbolises our personal relationship with the tricolour but also reflects our commitment to nation building. He said this initiative has been taken to



awaken the spirit of patriotism in the hearts of the people and increase awareness about the national flag of India. The third edition of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is being celebrated from August 9 to 15 as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

IFFCO Phulpur aims to enhance agricultural productivity

Prayagraj (PNS): IFFCO, a multi-state cooperative society engaged in the manufacture and marketing of fertiliser, was started in the year 1967 by only 57 Indian Cooperatives with the aim of betterment of Indian farmers and ensuring food security for the country. Presently, IFFCO is linked directly to five crore farmers through more than

35,000 cooperative societies across the country. Over the past 57 years, IFFCO is catering to the needs of farmers by providing good quality agri inputs under one roof along with excellent technical knowledge thus empowering them at every step. IFFCO produces around 9.6 million metric tonnes of fertilisers annually from its five state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities across the country, contributing around 32 per cent of India's phosphatic fertilisers and 21 per cent of nitrogenous fertilisers. IFFCO has

expanded globally with joint ventures in Oman, Senegal, Jordan and Dubai. Besides fertilisers, IFFCO is involved in other business like food processing, organics, e-bazaars, general insurance, special economic zones and international trade. By providing a wide variety of nitrogenous, phosphatic, biofertilisers, water soluble and other speciality fertilisers, including nanofertilisers, IFFCO has consistently helped to raise food productivity. IFFCO has been positively impacting the agriculture and fertiliser sector by

continuously bringing new innovative technologies at the doorstep of the Indian farmers in the form of nano fertilisers. IFFCO is dedicated to the PM's vision of "Sahkar se Samridhi, Atmanirbhar Bharat & Atmanirbhar Krishi" and has been working tirelessly to serve cooperatives and farmers with the goal of improving livelihood of farmers. IFFCO has introduced innovative technologies to the agriculture sector, such as Nano Urea liquid fertiliser which aims to reduce conventional chemical fertiliser use and promote sustainable agriculture. Further, innovations include Nano Urea Plus i.e. 20 per cent nitrogen which enhance nitrogen content and Nano DAP, which better environment and health concerns while lowering input costs and improving food security. IFFCO is also pioneering AI-based agricultural drone technology. IFFCO kisan drone helps farmers spray Nano Urea and Nano DAP, creating 5,000 rural entrepreneurs. IFFCO Kisan Drones have revolutionised modern agriculture. These technologies help farmers to increase productivity, reduce costs and promote sustainability with the potential to transform farming in India. IFFCO Phulpur has already distributed drones and certificates to 104 trained women. In the year 2023-24, Phulpur Unit has produced 19.05 lakh MT of urea with all time lowest energy consumption of 5.386 Gcal/MT of urea. IFFCO Phulpur unit has been acknowledged with prestigious awards from various institutions every year in the field of production, energy conservation, environmental conservation and safety. Dedicated to serving the country and farmers, IFFCO Phulpur unit aims to enhance agricultural productivity, ensure a safe and healthy environment and improve the quality of life for farming community. Over the past 57 years, IFFCO has been working tirelessly to promote farmer welfare with the ultimate goal of raising the standard of living for the farming community.

SOUTH ASIAN ENTERPRISES LIMITED		STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2024							
		(₹ in Lakhs)				(₹ in Lakhs)			
S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended		Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)	30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)
1	Total Income	21.62	34.33	14.42	102.51	73.54	153.83	136.71	587.15
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional Items and/or extraordinary item)	(1.74)	(6.95)	(2.30)	(13.12)	(25.59)	(39.70)	(47.29)	(134.72)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (After Exceptional Items and/or Extraordinary items)	(1.74)	(6.95)	(2.30)	(13.12)	(25.59)	(39.70)	(47.29)	(134.72)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (After exceptional Items and/or Extraordinary items)	(2.12)	(6.29)	(2.95)	(13.10)	(25.50)	(42.04)	(47.57)	(136.50)
5	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(3.05)	(2.85)	(2.71)	(9.35)	(26.03)	(38.25)	(49.77)	(133.35)
6	Paid up Share Capital	399.91	399.91	399.91	399.91	399.91	399.91	399.91	399.91
7	Other Equity								
8	Earnings Per Share from continuing operations (F.V. of Rs.10/- each) Basic and Diluted	(0.05)	(0.16)	(0.07)	(0.33)	(0.41)	(0.70)	(0.74)	(2.19)

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's website at <http://www.bseindia.com> and also on the Company's website at www.sael.co.in.
- Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items (if any) have been adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules.
- The consolidated financial results include the financial results of the subsidiary viz. Chai Thela Private Limited. The Consolidated financial results have been prepared as per Ind AS 110 on Consolidated Financial Statements.
- The above unaudited financial results for the quarter ended 30.06.2024 were approved and taken on record by the Board in its meeting held on 13.08.2024 after being reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee on the same date and have been subjected to limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company.
- Corresponding figures of the previous period have been regrouped / rearranged, wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board
(T. B. Gupta)
Managing Director
DIN: 00106181

Place: New Delhi
Date: 13/08/2024

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

E-Tender Enq. No. 7593/P-1/EMP-12772 dated 12-08-24
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_125417_1 for the Procurement of HRC fuses under EP Group for the year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 13.08.24 02.00 PM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
RTP-89/24
76155/12/3304/2023/36668 Dated CHD :- 8/13/2024

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***APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]**
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Property is being auctioned basis symbolic possession only. The Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 27-09-2024, for recovery of Rs. 2,47,88,618/- o/s as on 13-07-2022 along with further interest and charges applicable due to the HDFC Bank Ltd. Secured Creditor from (i) M/s. Gauri Medicare Pvt Ltd Through its Director Mrs. Shikha Jalan (Borrower), (ii) M/s. Ginni Medicals Through its Proprietor Mrs. Saroj Devi Jalan (Borrower), (iii) Mrs. Shikha Jalan W/o Shri. Pushpesh Jalan (Co-Borrower & Mortgagee), (iv) Mr. Pushpesh Jalan S/o Shri. Shankar Lal Jalan (Co-borrower), (v) Mrs. Saroj Devi Jalan W/o Shri. Shankar Jalan. The reserve price will be Rs.1,63,00,000/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 16,30,000/-

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Half Of The Portation Property House Number B-2145, Situated At Vijay Khand Gomti Nagar Lucknow, Measuring Area 144.00 Sq. Mtr (Property Owned By Mrs. Shikha Jalan)
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in HDFC Bank Ltd. Secured Creditor's website <https://www.hdfcbank.com/personal/resources/important-notices>.
*Please note:
(i) Property is sealed by LDA due to unauthorized construction.
(ii) Customer has filed Civil (Injection Suit) Case No. 2004/2022, which is currently Pending before the Civil Court Lucknow, however, no stay is operating against the Bank as of now and next listing date is 22-08-2024.
(iii) Third Party Mr. Kanti Bhusan Tripathi has filed Civil (Injection Suit) Case No. 590/2023, which is currently Pending before the Civil Court Lucknow, however, no stay is operating against the Bank as of now and next listing date is 19-08-2024.

Date: - 15.08.2024
Place: - Lucknow
Authorised Officer,
HDFC Bank Ltd.

CM hoists Tiranga at official residence, takes a selfie



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, hoisted the Tiranga at his 5 Kalidas Marg official residence as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan. Following the event, the chief minister took a selfie with the flag. He shared on his social media account X, "The Tricolour symbolises our unity, integrity, sovereignty and pride. Har Ghar Tiranga Fahreinge. Jai Hind!"

This year, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan is being observed nationwide from August 13 to 15. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi, more than four and a half crore houses in Uttar Pradesh will raise the national flag during this period. As part of the initiative, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hoisted the tricolour at his residence and encouraged the people of Uttar Pradesh to proudly raise the national flag at their homes.

City all set for Independence Day celebrations

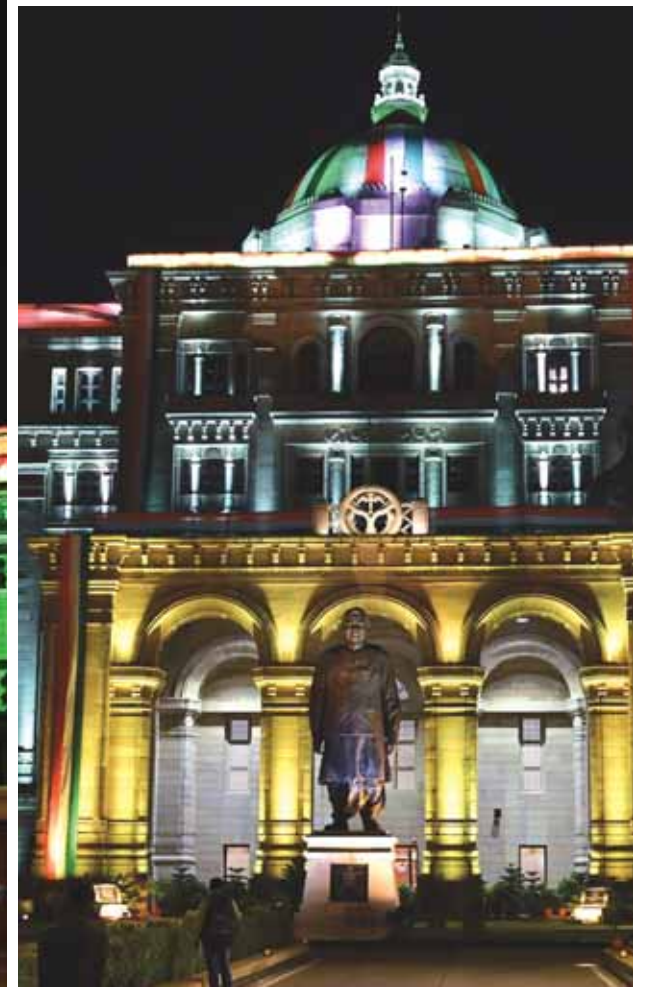


PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The city is all set for the celebration of Independence Day on Thursday. On Wednesday, the state capital was dotted with vendors selling national flags and other items in tricolours. The buildings and the monuments of the city were drenched in tricolour lights in view of the Independence Day celebrations. Several programmes were organised and Tiranga Yatras held on the eve of Independence Day. The Hazratganj Metro station was transformed into a grand stage for 'Veer Gatha', a momentous event celebrating the 78th Independence Day with unparalleled enthusiasm and patriotism. Decorated army officers Lt Col Varun Kumar Singh, Col Varun Bajpayee and Col Ajay Patial and Major (Dr) Manmeet Kaur Sodhi were present on the occasion and shared their profound experiences of courage and valour from the battlefield. Their engaging accounts provided the audience with a deep

and personal understanding of the sacrifices made for freedom and national sovereignty. The event was attended by UPMRC Director (Operations) Prashant Mishra, officials of UPMRC, NCC Cadets of Navyug Kanya Mahavidyalaya and students of Allenhouse Public School. Students from Allenhouse School delivered captivating cultural performances which included a skit and a group song. The event proved to be a heartfelt tribute to our nation's heroes and a celebration of the freedom they have secured for all. A special train ride was also organised for the NCC Cadets with tricolour decoration, where the cadets sang their hearts out to patriotic songs in the moving metro. UPMRC MD Sushil Kumar said, "Veer Gatha not only honoured the legacy of our armed forces but also reinforced the values of unity and patriotism that are the bedrock of our great nation." Lucknow Municipal Corporation organised 'Har

Ghar Tiranga' programme on Wednesday at 1090 crossing. On this occasion, active participation was made in India's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign by the hoisting of a 45-metre high flag. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak was present as the chief guest of the programme along with the Mayor Sushma Kharakwal and Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh. Lucknow University took out a Tiranga Yatra from Tagore Library to Shivaji grounds which witnessed the participation of Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Rai. On the eve of the Independence Day, the city witnessed an exhilarating display of national pride and community spirit at a Tiranga Bike Rally organised by Surya Command of the Indian Army. The rally roared through the streets of Lucknow during the early hours. It was flagged off by Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, GOC-in-Central Command and witnessed active participation of more than 100 serving officers and veterans of Indian Army on 78 motorcycles.



Illuminated buildings in Lucknow on the eve of Independence Day

Gallantry medal for 17 UP cops

Officers involved in gunning down Atiq's son among recipients

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Police personnel who eliminated gangster Atiq Ahmed's son Asad have been awarded with the President's Gallantry Medal. According to reports, six members of the STF team that gunned down Asad and Mohammad Ghulam in an encounter in Jhansi on April 13, 2023, received the President's Gallantry Medal. As many as 17 men of UP Police have received the President's Gallantry Medal. The President's Gallantry Medal was given to the team of Navendu Singh and Vimal Kumar Singh who had led the team involved in the encounter of Asad. Besides these officers, the other team members include inspectors Gyanendra Kumar Rai, Anil Kumar Singh, head constables Sushil Kumar and Sunil Kumar. Asad and his accomplice, shooter Mohammad Ghulam,

both wanted in the Umesh Pal murder case, were shot dead in an exchange of fire with the Uttar Pradesh Police near Jhansi. Asad was caught on CCTV when Umesh Pal was killed and had been on the run for the about 50 days, police said. Asad and Ghulam, who were carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh each, tried to flee on a motorcycle, police had said. They opened fire at the Special Task Force team when it surrounded them and the policemen retaliated, they said, adding the two men were killed in the exchange of fire. Facing flak over the brazen killing of Umesh Pal, a prime witness in the 2005 Bahujan Samaj Party MLA's murder case, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had on February 25 accused the Samajwadi Party of patronising mafias and vowed to destroy them. Atiq Ahmed, a former MP, and Ashraf, an ex-MLA, were shot dead by three gun-

toting youths who raised religious slogans while opening fire and handed themselves over to the police afterwards. According to an official communiqué, Mehbaran alias Kallu, who was wanted in 31 criminal cases and had a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his arrest, was killed in an encounter in Bulandshahr district on the intervening night of August 17 and 18, 2019. Inspector Jitendra Kumar Singh, Sub-Inspectors Rakesh Kumar Singh Chauhan and Anil Kumar and head constable Hariom Singh were awarded the Gallantry medal in this encounter. Sub-Inspector Jitendra Pratap Singh and Constable Vipin Kumar were awarded for their bravery in an encounter with wanted criminal Praveen alias Bawa Dubey in Etawah district on July 9, 2020. According to the release, Praveen Dubey was a member of the gang of slain gangster Vikas Dubey and was

involved in the attack on a police party in Bikru area of Kanpur on July 3, 2020, in which eight policemen were killed. The release said that Inspector Rajeev Chaudhary, Sub-Inspector Jaiveer Singh, head constables Rais Ahmed and Arun Kumar and constable Ajay Kumar were honoured in connection with an encounter in Seohara area of Bijnor district on April 12, 2023. Aditya Rana alias Ravi, a criminal with a reward of Rs 2.50 lakh, was killed in this encounter. Director General of Police Prashant Kumar congratulated the 17 policemen who received the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) and wished them a bright future. A total of 213 gallantry medals have been awarded to security personnel serving in police, paramilitary forces, fire department, home guards and civil defence in various states of the country on the eve of Independence Day 2024.

Gorakshapeeth: Flagbearer of nationalism in country

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gorakshapeeth in Gorakhpur stands as the foremost 'peeth' in North India, and perhaps the only one in the country that embodies a deep sense of patriotism. For nearly a century, this sacred 'peeth' has been a beacon of nationalism, continually inspiring the spirit of the nation. Maharana Pratap, the valiant warrior who resisted the mighty Mughal emperor Akbar with limited resources, may have hailed from Chittor, but it is Gorakshapeeth that has kept his ideals alive in Gorakhpur. Drawing inspiration from Maharana Pratap's unwavering patriotism, Brahmaling Mahant Digvijaynath, the 'Dada Guru' of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, founded the Maharana Pratap Education Council in 1932. Today, this institution has blossomed into a significant centre of knowl-

edge, serving as a guiding light for the entire Purvanchal region. In line with the traditions of the 'peeth', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has consistently worked to transform places associated with martyrs into sources of inspiration, particularly for the youth. He believes it is crucial for the younger generation to understand the concerns, passion for patriotism and the zeal and sacrifice of these heroes, and to cultivate similar values within themselves. With this goal in mind, the centenary of the Chauri Chaura incident, a pivotal moment in the freedom struggle, was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Similarly, the centenary of the Kakori Train Action is being commemorated this year. The same purpose drives initiatives like building parks named after martyrs in every district, promoting Shaheed Vatika dur-

ing plantation drives, and encouraging widespread participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan which started from August 13. Gorakhpur and Gorakshapeeth have a rich history intertwined with the freedom struggle. During Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Gorakhpur, Yogi Adityanath's Dada Guru Brahmaling Mahant Digvijaynath played a crucial role alongside youth volunteers. He was notably involved in the Chauri Chaura incident but was honourably acquitted. Beyond Chauri Chaura, the region's legacy includes significant sites such as Dohria, Narharpur, Mahuapar, Paina in Deoria, the princely state of Dumri, the memorial of Pandit Ramprasad Bismil at the district jail, the memorial of Sachindranath Sanyal in Daudpur, and the zoo named after martyr Ashfaqulla Khan. These landmarks are a testa-

ment to the pivotal role of Gorakhpur in India's independence movement. The state's tallest Tiranga, standing at 246 feet and covering 540 square metres, is prominently displayed on the banks of Ramgarh Taal and can be seen from 15 kilometres away. It has become a major attraction for visitors. Additionally, the grand statue of Maharana Pratap riding Chetak, installed in front of the railway station, serves as a powerful symbol of patriotism. Under Chief Minister Yogi's initiative, the Gaurav Museum is now being established in Gorakhpur. This museum will feature statues of key figures from the freedom struggle and provide comprehensive information about their contributions and personalities, further celebrating their roles in India's independence movement.

Kakori celebrations to be expanded nationwide

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under the leadership of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government is set to hold Kakori Train Action centenary celebrations across India. In this sequence, the Lucknow-based theatre training institute Bharatendu Natya Academy will stage performances in prominent states, bringing to life the story of the Kakori heroes and the historic train action. Bharatendu Natya Academy Director Bipin Kumar said that the theatrical performances would be held in different cities of Uttar Pradesh as well as in various other states including Maharashtra,

Bharatendu Natya Academy will stage performances in prominent states bring to life story of Kakori heroes

Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Telangana and Delhi. Besides, the performances will also be staged in the northeastern regions including Sikkim and Assam among others. According to Bipin Kumar, the BNA's inaugural theatrical performance will take place in Lucknow this September.

Subsequent performances will be staged in other districts of Uttar Pradesh before expanding to states across the country. "The state government aims to instill a strong sense of patriotism among citizens, ensuring that the heroic sacrifices of India's freedom fighters are honoured and remembered by the present and future generations. Aligning with Chief Minister Yogi's vision, the theatrical performances will spread the message of the Kakori Train Action centenary festival to the masses," he remarked. On August 9, 1925, the Kakori train robbery shook the British government when revolutionaries halted the 8

Down Saharanpur-Lucknow passenger train at Kakori and looted the government treasury. In response, freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Rajendra Nath Lahiri, Roshan Singh and Ashfaqulla Khan were sentenced to death, while others were imprisoned in the infamous Cellular Jail (Kaala Pani). The centenary celebrations, which officially commenced on August 9, will continue throughout the year with a range of statewide activities. As part of this, the state government is organising various cultural programmes to honour the memories of freedom fighters as well as inspire patriotism among the people.

Over 800 birth certificates issued in UP village

PTI ■ HATHRAS

Authorities in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras have found out that a single user ID from a village was used to issue birth certificates for 814 individuals in multiple states in less than two years, prompting them to launch a probe. Officials said Sinchawali Sani village has a population of roughly 1,100. However, over the last 19 months, a total of 814 birth certificates were issued using the village's user ID for the Civil Registration System (CRS). "These certificates have been issued not only for residents of Uttar Pradesh but also for individuals in other states, including Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and

Karnataka," an official said. "So far, it has been found that 780 certificates were issued in Uttar Pradesh, 13 in Jharkhand, 12 in Bihar, four each in Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, and one was issued in Karnataka. The number of such cases may increase as the investigation progresses," the official said. Gram Panchayat Officer Ishwar Chand, said he received access to the CRS portal on August 5. "By then, 814 birth certificates were already issued through the ID. All of these certificates listed Sinchawali Sani as the place of birth," Chand, who reported the matter to senior officials, said. District Magistrate Ashish Kumar said a probe has been initiated.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
P. H. DIVISION, CUTTACK

e-procurement Notice for Bid Identification No. SEPH-DIVISION, CTC-12 of 2024-25

1. Name of the work	:- 1 No PH Work
2. Estimated cost	:- Rs. 959.85 Lakh
3. Period of completion	:- 2 months
4. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	:- 20.08.2024 from 11.00 AM to 03.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM
5. Last date & time of seeking clarification	:- 27.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M
6. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	:- 03.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM
7. Date & time of opening of bids	:- 04.09.2024 at 11.00 AM
8. Name and address of the officer inviting bid	:- The Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Cuttack-753004, Odisha. Ph. (0671) 2441063, email :- eephtc21@gmail.com saphdct21@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

OIPR-13226/11/0012/2426

Additional Chief Engineer,
Superintending Engineer
P.H. Division, Cuttack



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Happy Independence Day

As the proud nation celebrates the 78th Independence day it is time to ponder over the journey so far

As we celebrate 78th Independence Day, the air is filled with pride, nostalgia, and hope. This day is not just a commemoration of freedom from colonial rule but a reflection on the journey that has shaped the country. The path to where we stand today, has been nothing short of a roller coaster-marked by triumphs and challenges. As the nation looks back on its accomplishments, it must also cast its eyes forward, contemplating the road that lies ahead. India's post-independence journey has been a remarkable tale of resilience and growth. From the ashes of partition and the burden of colonial exploitation, the nation emerged with a spirit of unity and determination. The early years were fraught with challenges – economic instability, social unrest, and the monumental task of nation-building. Yet, India persisted. The Green Revolution transformed India from a food-deficient country to a self-sufficient one, while the White Revolution made the country the largest producer of milk. It made great strides in space exploration and reached the moon. The nation also saw the rise of a strong industrial base. However, the road was never smooth. India saw wars, political turmoil, and economic crises. The Emergency period in the mid-1970s was a dark chapter, testing the resilience of its democracy. The 1991 economic liberalisation marked a turning point, propelling India onto the global stage, but it also brought new challenges in the form of inequality and social disparities.



The turn of the millennium saw India making strides in various fields. The IT revolution positioned the country as a global technology hub, while advancements in space exploration and nuclear technology showcased India's scientific prowess. Social progress was evident in the growing emphasis on education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. Landmark legislation such as the Right to Education Act and the decriminalisation of Section 377 reflected the country's commitment to social justice. Yet, there was no dearth of challenges. The rise of communal tensions, growing environmental concerns, and the struggle for inclusivity have reminded the nation that the journey is far from over. The COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent challenge, exposed vulnerabilities but also highlighted India's resilience, as the country emerged as a global leader in vaccine production and distribution. The nation today stands at a crossroads. The country must tackle environmental degradation, and ensure that economic growth is inclusive and sustainable. India's youth, now the largest demographic group, will play a crucial role. We must continue to uphold the democratic values and secular fabric. As the tricolor flutters in the wind this Independence Day, it is a reminder that this was achieved with many sacrifices and efforts on the part of millions of people who make it what it is. The road ahead may be challenging, but it is also filled with possibilities. No country is perfect; it's always a work in progress. But if the people of India commit to making it a shining example for the world, it will become one. Jai Hind!

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PICTALK



Young students participate in a programme on the eve of Independence Day at a school, in Moradabad, PTI

The Bangladesh cauldron is boiling



KALYANI SHANKAR

With New Delhi intensifying border controls, the evolving political landscape of Bangladesh is set to influence regional security and diplomacy

The former Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, abruptly left her country a week ago, causing immediate concern in her country and the region. According to the BBC, Hasina's family, not security officials, convinced her to leave due to safety concerns. Her son stated, "We begged her to leave as soon as the violent mob arrived." Crowds entered her residence shortly after her escape. Political, social, and economic issues, external involvement, and unhappy political opposition caused the downfall.

India's Foreign Minister, S. Jaishankar, has informed Parliament about her visit to India and the potential impact on India's relationship with Bangladesh. The unrest that led to her departure resulted in around 560 deaths and could strain the relationship between the two countries, potentially impacting regional security and foreign relations. Initially, in her long reign of 15 years, Hasina was perceived as a democratic and secular leader of Bangladesh, overseeing an economic turnaround. However, she later became intolerant and authoritarian, cracking down on media critics and imprisoning opponents. She maintained cordial relationships with Indian leaders, which sparked anti-India protests. Prime Minister Modi mentioned that he had met her ten times last year. The friendship has been mutual, as Begum Hasina also reciprocated by driving out the terrorists who targeted India and allowed concessions for transit facilities. She was the first state guest during the Modi government's third term. India has had a special relationship with Bangladesh since it was born in 1971. After her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh, was assassinated in 1975, Hasina spent six years in India. After that, she shifted to Dhaka to lead the Awami League. The current student protests, which started on July 5 against the 30% reservation for descendants of freedom fighters



and the 56% quota for government positions, have impacted the political situation in Bangladesh. The Hasina government's proposal to expand this quota led to widespread protests and 200 deaths. Bangladesh opposition parties organized a 'long march' to express growing discontent with the government's policies. At the international level, tensions rose between Hasina and the U.S. when her American visa was revoked after she fled the country. The U.S. State Department emphasized the importance of the interim government in establishing long-term peace and political stability in Bangladesh. The U.K. and other countries also took the same stand. The international community is working to support the interim government led by Yunus, who is responsible for restoring normalcy. New Delhi has set up a monitoring committee and increased border control to address the situation. Madam Khaleida Zia and other opposition leaders were released after Hasina's departure. During Khaleida's two terms, Bangladesh-India relations weakened. Her visit to Delhi was also a disaster. Khaleida's release may enable her to lead her party, and she stressed the

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS WORKING TO SUPPORT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT LED BY YUNUS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTORING NORMALCY. NEW DELHI HAS SET UP A MONITORING COMMITTEE AND INCREASED BORDER CONTROL TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION

need for a democratic Bangladesh and emphasized peace and unity. Hasina and Khaleida's sons are ready to take over their respective parties. The potential returns of these two and the other Opposition leaders could bring significant changes to the political landscape of Bangladesh. According to Hasina's son, she is ready to face any inquiry but has yet to decide on the party's leadership. Meanwhile, Hasina blames the U.S. for her ouster. Her son claims she had no time to resign and is still the Prime Minister. Bangladeshis have protested in front of the White House and the U.K. New Delhi closely monitors the situation, especially concerning border and regional security, as well as the security of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. The Modi government is apprehensive about the safety of the Hindu minority in Bangladesh. Prime Minister Modi has called for the protection of Hindus in Bangladesh after violent incidents targeted them. The Hindu minority also protested on the streets. Bangladesh's economy, which was looking up, is declining due to Hasina's intolerance, violence, unemployment, and inflation. The country relies on India for essential commodities and

infrastructure. India needs to reconsider its Bangladesh policy after the leader's departure. The third issue concerns the porous border between India and Bangladesh, with allegations of Bangladeshi infiltrators and refugees entering India. A friendly Hasina government helped check this problem while Khaleida was in denial mode. New Delhi's decision to adopt a wait-and-watch policy is a positive step. The situation depends on the elections' timing and the two Begums' potential return. If new leadership emerges, New Delhi will need to take a stand. To maintain regional peace, India's role in assisting Bangladesh in returning to normalcy is crucial and urgent. A peaceful, stable, and prosperous Bangladesh is in India's best interests. India should do everything to ensure it. The situation is still evolving, and the uncertainty of the future political landscape of Bangladesh is palpable. We will know more once the elections are announced and the plans of the two begums are revealed. The potential return of the dynastic rule adds an element of intrigue to the situation. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LHAMO'S NEVER SAY DIE SPIRIT

Madam — Kinzang Lhamo of Bhutan may have crossed the finish line last in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics, but she captured the admiration of many with her remarkable tenacity and unwavering determination. Despite battling adverse conditions, Lhamo completed the grueling 26.2-mile course in 3 hours, 52 minutes, and 59 seconds, choosing to persevere rather than quit. Lhamo, embodying the spirit of the "last woman running," sends a powerful message: regardless of the final outcome, we must maximize our capabilities and approach our tasks with a positive, persistent mindset. There is no shame in finishing last if the effort was sincere and wholehearted. Bhutan has already gifted the world with its unique concept of Gross National Happiness, which measures progress through health, education, and environmental parameters rather than traditional economic metrics. The country has also demonstrated the essence of democracy by having its Royals voluntarily relinquish power to allow for a citizen-led government through free and fair elections. Now, Kinzang Lhamo emerges as Bhutan's latest treasure. At just 26 years old, she has a promising future ahead. With more experience and exposure, Lhamo is poised to elevate Bhutan's presence on the international stage. Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

PARIS OLYMPICS COME TO A CLOSE

Madam — The 2024 Paris Olympics have concluded, with India securing a total of six medals: five bronze and one silver. Despite its status as the world's most populous nation, with a staggering 1,450,935,791 people, India's medal haul, though commendable, highlights a larger issue. The United States led the medal tally with 126 medals, including 40 gold, while China followed with 91 medals and Japan with 45. These countries, despite their smaller populations compared to India, have achieved greater success by investing uniformly in a wide range of sports. In

Har ghar tiranga!



The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative has sparked a nationwide movement, awakening the spirit of patriotism across the country. This campaign has united people from every corner of India, creating an atmosphere

of pride and respect for the national flag. It fosters a deep sense of unity and encourages active participation, bringing neighbors and fellow citizens together. By embracing this movement, people are enhancing their understanding of the significance and values embodied by the Indian flag. The campaign has revolutionized the nation's ideology, symbolizing our independence, pride, and commitment to a developed India (Viksit Bharat). It underscores India's rise as a global power, moving swiftly from a nation once seen as economically challenged to one poised to become the third-largest superpower in the world. As citizens, we are reminded of our duty to uphold the guiding principles enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy, the Preamble, and the Constitution of India. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

India, cricket is often considered a religion, overshadowing other sports. This narrow focus, compounded by political shortsightedness, has hindered the growth and encouragement of athletic talent across other disciplines. A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

WAYANAD TRAGEDY COULD BE AVERTED

Madam — The picturesque Wayanad, a hilly district located in the Western Ghats Mountain range in Kerala, is prone to landslides during heavy rains. In Kerala's history, the landslide that occurred recently there and claimed over 400 lives was the deadliest. According to the Geological Survey of India half of Kerala's land area is vulnerable to landslides. Wayanad region has had many tea and coffee plantations. The first landslide occurred in an uninhabited forest area with no access road. The torrent of water carrying mud and boulders swept away or buried the villages of Panchirimattam, Mundakkai and Chooralmala, and wreaked havoc in Meppadi, Attamala and Kunhome.

Mundakkai is a village located more than a kilometre down from the hill that slid first. Chooralmala caved in under the pressure of gushing water from the first landslide and heavy downpour. Irunjipuzha river split into two raging streams and wreaked havoc along its path. When it comes to discussing the early warning of rainfall, the less said, the better. On July 24, the Agricultural Meteorological Division of the Indian Meteorological Department issued a forecast for Wayanad that predicted only 15 mm rainfall, the day when landslides occurred. Mundakkai, where the landslide hit Wayanad first, got 572 mm of rainfall within 48 hours. However, it shouldn't be overlooked that the Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, an NGO specializing in weather patterns of Wayanad with a network of more than 200 weather monitoring units, had warned of possible landslides two days before the landslide happened. Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

Nano technology revolutionises car care



KUNAL SETHI

This cutting-edge technology is changing the car detailing process by enhancing protection, durability, and aesthetic appeal of cars

The automotive industry is progressing rapidly, with nanotechnology emerging as a transformative force in redefining car care. This cutting-edge technology is revolutionising the car detailing process and offering unmatched protection, durability, and aesthetic appeal, ushering in an exciting new era for car owners and enthusiasts. Nanotechnology in car maintenance is based on the atomic and molecular manipulation of matter. Nanoparticles, measured in billionths of a meter, possess extraordinary properties and enhance various aspects of car maintenance. One of the most prominent applications is in the development of nano-ceramic coatings. Nano and regular ceramic coatings are both popular choices for car detailing, but they differ in particle size and composition. Regular ceramic coatings typically consist of micrometre-sized particles, while nano-ceramic coatings utilise particles in the nanometer range. The smaller size of nanoparticles allows for a denser and more uniform coating, improving scratch resistance



and chemical protection. Nanotechnology offers a revolutionary approach to car detailing, providing superior protection and easier maintenance than traditional methods. There are several benefits of nanotechnology in car detailing, such as: **Enhanced protection:** Nanoparticles form a microscopic barrier that shields the car's paint and glass and protects it from UV rays and environmental problems, such as bird droppings, during weather conditions. This results in a long-lasting shine and reduced risk of fading or wear and tear. **Deeper cleaning and glossier finishing:** Nano-formulated polishes and cleaners can penetrate deeper into the car's surface due to the particles' tiny size. It removes dirt and grime more effectively,

revealing a glossier finish to the car after detailing. **Durability & longevity:** Nanotechnology car care products typically offer extended protection compared to traditional waxes and sealants. It translates to fewer detailing sessions and keeps the car looking its best for longer. **Easier maintenance:** The hydrophobic coatings created by nanoparticles make future washes a breeze. Dirt and grime slide off, requiring less scrubbing and reducing the risk of introducing swirl marks. While the benefits of nanotechnology in car care are undeniable, it is important to approach its implementation with a clear eye. Not all nano-coated products are created equal, and selecting reputable brands that adhere to stringent quality standards is crucial. Moreover, proper application and maintenance are always vital to maximising the performance and longevity of these treatments. As nanotechnology evolves in the rapidly increasing technology world, there are expected to be even more groundbreaking advances

ments in the car care industry. The future holds immense potential, from self-healing paintwork to intelligent coatings that adapt to environmental conditions. By embracing this technology, the automotive industry can be poised to deliver cars that look stunning and offer unparalleled protection and convenience. From the car owner's perspective, there will be several benefits, such as enhanced car ownership experiences characterised by less time spent on maintenance and greater pride in the cars' appearance, instilling a sense of hope for the future of car care. In conclusion, nanotechnology is ushering in a new era in the car maintenance industry by improving aesthetics, protection, and durability & longevity. By understanding the principles and applications of this technology, car owners can make informed decisions to optimise the care of their cars and enjoy the full benefits of this exciting development, empowering them as informed consumers in the automotive industry. (The writer is an expert on car care; views are personal)

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

THE DIVINE PARENTAL ROLE

Unlike parents, whose guidance can be flawed, God encompasses all wisdom, power and impartiality



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

The following verse will shed light on this, which is, "You alone are my mother; You alone are my father; You alone are my relative and You alone are my friend; You alone are my knowledge and You alone are my wealth; O Lord of all Lords, You alone are my everything." In verse #7.19 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, Lord Krishna states, "After efforts of many births, a yogi in the end becomes wise, and he takes My shelter. A great soul, who considers Lord Vasudeva thus as everything is very rare." The answer, therefore, is: that God is very much more than a mother or father can ever be. These entities, i.e., a mother or a father have severe limitations. Their knowledge is very limited. They don't know the Big Picture.

Far from it, they may guide their children wrongly. On the other hand, God is omniscient. He knows past, present and future also. Lord Krishna informs us what He can do. "By being specially kind, I, situated within, destroy the darkness, born of ignorance, by the shining lamp of knowledge." (10.11) Then, a parent has limited resources that he or she can give to his or her children, whereas God has all the opulence in full. Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame informs, "Where there is yogeshwara Shri Krishna, and where there is a soul linked to Him, there will be opulences ('soubhagya'), victory (success), wealth, and morality." (18.78) A parent can help only in a limited way. Suppose his or her child is unwell. What can he or she do besides arranging medical facilities and taking care of the best way possible?



A good parent prays additionally for the rapid cure of the child. Because Only God has the power to help us get out of the trouble we get into quickly (18.53); only God has the power to forgive. Parents can be whimsical in their decision-making. They can be partial in dealing with their children; it is natural, but God is always impartial. Lord Krishna states, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings, no one is hateful for Me, and no one is dear; that is God has no preconceived and prejudiced notion towards anyone." (9.29) Many parents are poor role models. They lie but expect their children to be truthful.

What has God instructed us to do? "Whatever a superior person does, other people follow that only. Whatever standard he establishes a common man tries to emulate that." (3.21) What does God do? He always goes by dharma. God is so strict about dharma that He incarnates to reestablish it if it becomes weak. (4.7) Additionally, God is always engaged in doing duties, Lord Krishna says, "I am always carefully engaged in action, because men follow My lead in all respects." (3.34) For parents, only their children are their own, but for God, all souls are His parts. (15.7) He has to consider all of them in all His actions. God is very compassionate towards all of them. Lord Krishna confirms, "I am a well-wisher of all living entities."

Our children are forever competing against children of other parents, but for God, all children are His parts and must be dealt with fairly. That is the reason our selfish prayers are not answered. Many parents do not consult their children about their future and try to impose their desires on them. God has forbidden this, when He stated, "Svadharmā (duty) of all souls are according to what their natures are." "The four divisions of the human society, based on qualities and activities, have been created by Me." (4.21)

One can excel in whatever suits one's nature because it comes naturally. What is the message? God is a parent alright but not in a conventional way. He only takes charge of those souls, who take His shelter. Parents should also try to be self-supporting to the end by taking active shelter from God; He will take care. Is God not responsible for keeping the Creation going? Is it not our responsibility as parents to do ours? I take mine towards my descendants very seriously.

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

Water crisis and the battle for resources



B K SINGH

As the world grapples with the escalating effects of climate change, the urgent need to rethink our approach to water management becomes ever more pressing

Whenever we face drought and heat waves we are reminded to take a relook at efficiency of water management. More than one-fourth of the global population, nearly 2.2 billion people do not have proper access to clean drinking water. United Nations (UN)'s goal in this regard is to provide clean drinking water and sanitation for all by 2030. UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation (UN-Water) sets the theme every year. This year's theme was "Leveraging Water for Peace". Air and water are important to sustain life on Earth. The conflicts between the countries, between the states and within society arise when we have to share water for crop irrigation, household purposes, industrial uses and power generation.

The conflict gets often aggravated especially when the availability of water becomes scarce during the pinch period. Treaties between the countries have resolved the disputes. Different forums are also available for the resolution of conflicts at international and national levels. India has 25 major river basins with most rivers flowing across the states. There is the Interstate Water Dispute Act, of 1956 for resolving disputes in the use, control and distribution of river and river valleys. The disputes are continuing challenges to federal water governance in the country. To resolve the disputes, there are water dispute tribunals in India namely the Ravi and Beas Water Tribunal, Vansadhara water dispute tribunal, Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal, Mahanadi water dispute tribunal, Krishna water dispute tribunal and Cauvery dispute tribunal etc.

The sharing of water of the Cauvery River has been the source of serious conflict between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In 2018, the tribunal awarded Karnataka to annually release 192 tmc of water in ten equal monthly instalments to Tamil Nadu. 2023-24 was El Nino (Spanish word meaning little boy) year and there has been a deficit in rainfall in the catchment of the river from July 2023 onwards. As a result, the reservoirs were half empty and it became difficult for Karnataka to follow the orders of the tribunal.

Two states started a blame game till early July 2024 when there were good rains in the Cauvery catchment in the latter part of July. As nature was kind, the dispute was resolved and the blame game stopped. The prolonged dispute between the states for sharing water is always traced back to destruction as well as poor maintenance of the catchment of the river and unfavourable weather conditions like El Nino. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that El Nino, a climate pattern associated with the warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean has impacted the monsoon causing below-normal rainfall last year, has gradually weakened.

This has been one of the five strongest El Nino on record but remained weaker than 1997-98 and 2015-16. "El Nino typically has the greatest impact on global climate in the second year of its development - in this instance 2024," WMO said. This impact has led to above normal temperature in India till June 2024. WMO further added that there is a chance of La Nina (Spanish word meaning little girl) developing later in the year. La Nina is a climate pattern associated with periodic cooling off the ocean sur-



face temperature and brings normal rains in the region. Western World, Canada and the US are experiencing heat wave conditions even in August this year. The underground water table receded during summer. There has been a public hue and cry in many places in central and peninsular India to access potable water for household needs. The Government and Civic agencies are facing the challenge. Karnataka is one such state where there was an acute drinking water problem in the summer.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the district administration to establish a helpline and control room to enable the public to register grievances and supply water in tankers to all affected areas. He also directed to tender the work of digging more bore wells to tap underground water for public emergencies. Bengaluru too faced a water shortage. Water supply to the city comes through the pipeline from the Cauvery River located 100 km away. The water has also to be pumped up at many intermediate locations to achieve an altitude of 1 km, where the city is. The arrangements have been made to supply water in tankers from adjoining towns.

Water supply to high-rise apartments was also reduced. Residents used disposable cutlery and wet wipes to ration their water consumption. It will generate more waste and agencies may have to step up the disposal. They have also banned vehicle washing and swimming pool activities. Deepening of the bore wells is another environmental challenge. Every time the groundwater level recedes, we go for the deepening. Is it environmentally sustainable? Recharging the ground through rain harvesting structures has to be adhered to by each Government continuously.

Rivers originating from the Himalayas are snow-fed and satisfy the water needs of the people, especially in the northern belt of the

country from west to east. Rivers in the central Indian landscape and peninsular India originate from forests.

Often big rivers originate from the same place and flow in different directions. Johila, Narvada and Son originate from Amarkantak and flow in different directions. Five rivers namely Koyana, Krishna, Venna, Savitri and Gayatri originate from Mahabaleshwar near Pune. Several important rivers like Tungbhadra and Cauvery also originate from the Western Ghats. Apart from providing drinking water to several villages and towns, there are numerous irrigation and power projects located on these rivers.

Life is fully dependent on these rivers and except the Himalayan Rivers all others originate from forests. Let us be clear that water is not produced by forests, yet the rivers originate there. Forests are the mothers of rivers and are systems to conserve rainwater in the subsoil and the roots of the trees.

The river source provides a small volume of water trickling from the roots of each of the millions of trees on undulating hills around. As it forms the stream and the flow of water proceeds under gravity, many more such streams join to increase the volume of water. Sometimes bigger streams or even rivers also join to increase the volume of flowing water in the river. The water in the streams is nothing but rainwater. During the monsoon substantial quantity of water is absorbed by the earth charging the underground aquifers and some portion of it is retained in the subsoil and roots of the trees.

The roots hold the water like a sponge and continuously release it during warm weather, making the streams perennial. While traversing in the forests we come across several perennial streams even in summer months when there is no rainfall. Every stream has a catchment and if it is a forested catchment, the

stream would be perennial in the non-rainy season, or else it would be a seasonal stream flowing on rainy days. Forests play a significant role in conserving water and making the streams perennial. Further, the streams flowing out of forested catchment would always carry cleaner water without even soil particles in it.

On the contrary, streams flowing through areas dominated by human activities would be muddy and mixed with chemicals and sewage. Further, the rainwater carries a lot of soil and the reservoirs get silted up losing their water holding capacity.

Reservoirs located closer to forested areas have a longer life. Maintenance engineers have a difficult time in de-silting reservoirs receiving water from human areas. The rainfall pattern and distribution not only depends upon weather conditions and the direction of wind but also depends upon the density and distribution of forests on land. The pledge we must take is to preserve and conserve natural forests. Forests also play a vital role in the maintenance of the water cycle. More than two years ago, on the sidelines of COP 26 at Glasgow, leaders holding 90% of forests on the planet had pledged to end deforestation by 2030.

Of course, India did not sign this pledge. Two more COP meetings have taken place since then, but the issue has not been reviewed by those who pledged. On the contrary, there are reports suggesting that natural forests are being lost at an alarming rate unprecedented warming has also taken its toll and forest fires have remained uncontrolled for months in the US, Canada, European countries, Russia, China, Brazil, and Australia. If we don't save our forests, the perennial water streams will become seasonal.

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests, Karnataka; views are personal)



FORESTS PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN CONSERVING WATER AND MAKING THE STREAMS PERENNIAL. FURTHER, THE STREAMS FLOWING OUT OF FORESTED CATCHMENT WOULD ALWAYS CARRY CLEANER WATER

The perils of blind faith and the rise of India's fraudulent godmen

While India has a rich tradition of genuine spiritual leaders, the influence of these charlatans has surged, fueled by politics and societal insecurities

The Mundaka Upanishad warns of the dangers posed by those who, though ignorant, present themselves as wise. The verse (1.2.8) loosely translates to, "Living in the midst of ignorance and considering themselves wise, fools think of themselves as learned. They wander around, bewildered, like blind men led by the blind." This verse serves as a caution against self-proclaimed spiritual gurus who mislead others. India has long been a land of genuine spiritual gurus who have guided millions, providing a path for the masses to follow. However, times have changed. Today, genuine spiritual leaders are often overshadowed by flashy godmen, or "babas," who frequently



PRABHA GUPTA

deceive people for personal gain. This trend has become particularly dangerous when combined with the politics of numbers, creating a powerful politico-religious phenomenon. These so-called babas often become demigods with political leaders as their disciples, wielding immense power and wealth, even though they claim to have renounced it. A recent incident in Hathras

highlights the tragic consequences of such influence. Over 150 people, mostly women from poor Dalit families, were killed in a stampede during a satsang by Bhole Baba, also known as Narayan Sakar Hari. Baba, a former policeman who retired 28 years ago amid rape allegations, had attracted around 150,000 people to the event, despite only 80,000 being allowed. The stampede occurred when the crowd rushed to collect soil believed to have healing powers after Baba's departure. His popularity and wealth have only grown, despite such tragedies. While some of his followers were arrested, Bhole Baba himself was not named in the FIR, and his ashrams remain untouched by authorities.

And he is not alone. Many others are doing just that. A couple of years back a proclaimed baba gave unique recipe for peoples woes: keep 500 rupees in your wallet for prosperity, keep your spouse photo for better relationship and so on. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Insan ran schools for girls in which they had to eat rose petals as prasadam on which he walked. Figures like Asaram Babu and Gurmeet Ram Rahim Insan are serving prison sentences for serious crimes. The number and influence of such godmen have grown, partly due to the rise of religious politics. This trend is mirrored globally, though it is particularly pronounced in India. The following of these god-



men often stems from the insecurity and faith of their followers, who may feel abandoned by both God and the system. This combination distances them from rational thinking. In countries with less economic and social insecurity, the influence of religion tends to wane, but not entirely. In the United States, faith

healers or Televangelists wield significant influence over their followers, claiming to cure people in the name of Jesus Christ. While the number of those cured remains questionable, these healers amass enormous wealth, owning Caribbean islands and flying in private jets. Addressing the influence of these Babas is a significant challenge. The Indian Constitution's Article 51A emphasises the duty of citizens to develop a scientific temper and humanism, which these fake godmen often ignore. While organizations like the Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti in Maharashtra work to expose fraudulent practices, activists like Dr. Narendra Dabholkar have paid the ultimate price,

allegedly at the hands of conservative groups like Sanatan Sanstha. Similar forces were responsible for the deaths of Govind Pansare, Gauri Lankesh, and Professor Kalburgi. Following Dr Dabholkar's murder, the Maharashtra Assembly passed a law against superstition and miracle cures. To curb the influence of fake godmen, a combination of education, awareness, and strong legal frameworks is essential. Promoting critical thinking and spiritual education can empower individuals to discern genuine spiritual guidance from deception. Educational institutions, community programs, and media can play a crucial role in spreading awareness about

the characteristics of false gurus and the dangers of blind faith. Encouraging open discussions about spirituality and ethics can help people recognise the difference between authentic spiritual leaders and charlatans. Additionally, it is crucial to strengthen laws and regulations to hold fraudulent godmen accountable. Publicising such cases can also serve as a warning to potential victims. Ultimately, by encouraging critical inquiry, supporting victims, and ensuring justice, society can reduce the influence of fake godmen and safeguard the integrity of spiritual practices.

(The writer is a freelance writer, social activist and business coach; views expressed are personal)

SC allows mineral-rich States to claim royalties from 2005

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a major victory for mineral-rich States, the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed them to seek dues from April 1, 2005 on royalty and tax on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land from the Centre in a staggered period of 12 years.

A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the argument for prospective effect of July 25 is rejected. Pronouncing the verdict on behalf of the bench, CJI Chandrachud said by a 8:1 majority, this Court had on July 25 answered the questions referred to it and held that legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with States.

He said after the pronouncement of the July 25 verdict, the assesses sought prospective effect of the decision and the matter was listed on July 31 to decide the effect of verdict.

The Centre has opposed the demand of states for refund of royalty levied on mines and minerals since 1989, saying it will impact the citizens and the PSUs will have to empty their coffers by Rs 70,000



crore according to initial estimates.

"The submission that the Mineral Area Development Authority Act (MADA July 25 verdict) be given prospective effect is rejected," the bench said and laid down conditionalities for payment of dues by the Centre and mining companies, including Public Sector Undertakings, to the States, "While the states may levy or renew demands of tax, if any pertaining to Entries 49 and 50 of List II of seventh schedule of the Constitution, in terms of law laid down in the decision of MADA (July 25 verdict). The demand of tax shall not operate on transactions made prior to April 1, 2005," the

bench said. Entry 49 of List II deals with taxes on lands and buildings while Entry 50 deals with taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitations imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development. The bench also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih, said "the time for payment of demand of tax (by States) shall be staggered in instalments over a period of 12 years commencing from April 1, 2026".

The top Court directed that the levy of interest and penalty on demands of taxes by States from the Centre and

mining companies made before the period of July 25, 2024 shall stand waived for all the assessee. CJI Chandrachud said this verdict will be signed by eight-judges of the bench who by majority decided the July 25 judgement giving the State's power to levy taxes on mineral rights. He said Justice Nagarathna will not sign Wednesday's verdict as she had given a dissenting view in the July 25 verdict. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for Jharkhand, said there still remains one issue that the State's Act to collect royalty on minerals and mineral-bearing land, which was set aside needs to be upheld. "Unless the Act is declared valid, we cannot collect taxes on minerals and mineral-bearing land. Please list it expeditiously before the appropriate bench," Dwivedi, who appeared along with senior advocate Tapesh Kumar Singh for Jharkhand, said. Dwivedi was referring to the decision of Ranchi bench of the Patna High Court that had struck down Section 89 of the Mineral Area

Development Authority Act of 1992 vide its judgment dated March 22, 1993. Section 89 of the Mineral Area Development Authority Act empowered the State Government of then undivided Bihar to levy tax on not only mineral-bearing land but also land used for commercial or industrial purposes. CJI Chandrachud assured Dwivedi that he will issue directions on the administrative side for urgent listing of the matter. During the hearing on July 31, the Centre and mining companies have opposed the demand of States for refund of royalty collected since 1989. The July 25 verdict had overruled a 1989 judgement and subsequent decisions of the apex Court, which held that only the Centre has power to impose royalty on minerals and mineral bearing land. Some Opposition-ruled mineral rich States then sought refund of royalty levied by the Centre and taxes from the mining companies since the 1989 verdict. The matter of refund was heard on July 31 and order was reserved.

Modi, Shah recall Partition horrors



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday paid tributes to all those who suffered during India's partition. Modi recalled the sufferings of people impacted by it and reiterated the commitment to always protecting the bonds of unity and brotherhood in the nation. The Modi Government has been observing August 14 as the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' since 2021 in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the country's partition.

On the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, Prime Minister Modi said on Wednesday, "We recall the countless people who were

impacted and greatly suffered due to the horrors of Partition. It is also a day to pay tributes to their courage, which illustrates the power of human resilience. A lot of those impacted by Partition went on to rebuild their lives and attain immense success."

He added, "Today, we also reiterate our commitment to always protect the bonds of unity and brotherhood in our nation."

Home Minister Shah on Wednesday paid tributes to all those who suffered during India's partition in 1947, saying a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge as a powerful country. Pakistan was carved out as a Muslim country after the division of India by the British colonial rule on this day in 1947.

Millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives as large scale rioting took place following the partition.

"On Partition Horrors Remembrance Day my homage to the millions who suffered inhuman pains, lost lives, turned homeless during this most hideous episode of our history," Shah said in a social media message.

The Home Minister said a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge powerful.

He said observing this day is a foundational exercise in the process of nation-building under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While making the announcement about the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' in 2021, Modi had said the day would be observed in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people as the pain of partition can never be forgotten.

Modi had also noted that millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence caused by the partition. India will be celebrating its Independence Day on Thursday.

Uproar over Kolkata doctor rape-murder case

Rahul criticises handling of case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the uproar over the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises serious questions on the hospital and the local administration.

The entire country is shocked by the gruesome incident of rape and murder of the junior doctor in Kolkata, said the former Congress President, adding there is an atmosphere of insecurity among the doctors' community and women with the revelations about the manner of the cruel and inhuman act against her.

"The attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises serious questions on the hospital and the local administration," Rahul said in a social media post.

"This incident has forced us to think that if doctors are not safe in a place like a medical college, then how can the parents send their daughters outside for studies? Why are even the strict laws made after the Nirbhaya case unsuccessful in preventing such crimes?" he said.

Every party, every section of



the society will have to hold serious discussions and take concrete steps on the continuously increasing incidents against women from Hathras to Unnao, and from Kathua to Kolkata, he said.

"I stand with the victim's family in their unbearable pain. They should get justice at all costs and the culprits should be given such a punishment that it serves as an example in society," Rahul said.

The body of the woman post-graduate trainee was found inside a seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on the morning of August 9. A civic volunteer was arrested on Saturday in connection with the crime. Junior doctors across West Bengal continued to cease work on Wednesday, the sixth day on

the trot, protesting against the alleged rape and murder of the woman doctor at the State-run medical college and hospital and demanding justice for her.

The ongoing protest affected the healthcare services and long queues of patients were seen at the outpatient departments (OPDs) of all Government hospitals. The agitating junior doctors have been pressing for a magisterial probe into the killing of the woman doctor and the removal of senior officials from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered the transfer of the probe into the alleged rape and murder of the trainee doctor from the Kolkata Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

BJP seeks Mamata's resignation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of siding with the accused instead of the victim in the case of rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata, and demanded her resignation.

BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed that no woman in the State will feel safe if she continues as Chief Minister. "You (Banerjee) did not perform your moral duty. You should immediately resign," he told reporters, alleging that she tried to save the accused of the crime, which has shocked the nation.

Bhatia cited the critical comments of the Calcutta High Court about the handling of the case before it transferred the investigation to the CBI, as he addressed the CM as "nirmamta" (pitiless) Banerjee.

He expressed confidence that the CBI will ensure a thorough probe and that the guilty are hanged. He said the local police first informed the victim's parents that their daughter was sick and then claimed that she had committed suicide.

The parents were made to wait for three hours before they could see her body, he said, alleging that attempts



were made to destroy evidence and shield the accused. Before doing a thorough probe, the police rejected the possibility of a gangrape, he said.

The State Government instead of acting against the principal of the medical college, where the victim worked and the incident happened, transferred him in the same position to another college, he said.

The police did not initially lodge an FIR and termed the case as that of an unnatural death, Bhatia said, hitting out at Banerjee for allegedly shielding the accused and trying to brush the crime under the carpet.

Amid outrage, Banerjee said she will transfer the case to the CBI if it was not solved in a few days, he noted, suggesting that it was a deliberate attempt on her part to destroy evidence as first 48 hours are very important in such cases.

Law and order has collapsed in the State, he said, while also referring to the Sandeshkhali case in which a

local Trinamool Congress strongman was the main accused.

The Chief Minister tried to protect the accused in this case as well, and he was acted against only after the Court handed over the probe to the CBI, he said.

In the doctor's rape and murder case, the victim's family has expressed its lack of confidence in the local police, he said. Bhatia also slammed INDIA bloc, of which the TMC is a part, saying they are "political cultures" who have chosen to maintain silence over the case for political reasons.

He accused the Opposition parties of pandering to minorities votes, especially Muslims, by keeping selective silence over the targeting of Hindus in Bangladesh.

He said only after the BJP raised the issue, the Congress at a "belated stage" made comments on the matter as well but tried to create an "artificial equivalence" that Hindus also indulge in such acts.

Doctors seek...

From Page 1

emergency OT will continue." FAIMA Doctors Association President Dr Rohan Krishnan too said that we are continuing with the strike as of now till our Demands are not met. "We have heard that one of the bodies in the Resident Doctors' Association has called off their strike. The FAIMA doctors will be on strike because only one demand has been met, which is transferring the case to the CBI. The High Court has done this. We have not received substantial support from the state or central

government. We want a central protection act for healthcare workers and we seek concrete action on this." Junior doctors at government hospitals in Rajasthan's Swai Mansingh College and Srikakulam Medical College, Andhra Pradesh boycotted outpatient services in support of the nationwide protest while NIMHANS Employees Association extended their support. Similarly, protests in Government Medical College, Ananthapuram, Andhra Pradesh and Gandhi medical College, Secunderabad, Telangana, were held.

CBI collects...

From Page 1

on Tuesday. The officials visited and collected evidences from the seminar hall of the hospital's Department of Chest Medicine where the 31-year-old doctor was raped and murdered. The CBI officials also reported to have directed the hospital authorities to stop the renovation work right at the place of occurrence sources said. "The hospital administration was dislodging a wall separating the seminar hall reportedly to construct a rest room for the doctors which would have led to the tampering of the evidence so the authorities have been asked to stop the work," one of the agitators inside the hospital said.

The Bench of Chief Justice TS Sivagnanan had on Tuesday found serious lapses in the police investigation promptly handing over the case to the CBI.

The CBI's taking over of the case came almost in tandem

with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee praising the police for "commendable work" in cracking the case. "The police have done commendable work... they have cracked the case and arrested the accused," Banerjee said adding she wanted to see the accused person get punished but she was equally against any innocent person getting implicated. "Remember the Dhananjay Chatterjee case... I don't want any innocent person to get punished... so I gave the best of officers to investigate the case and they did a good job."

Even as the medical staff including the resident doctors continued to strike work for the fifth day on Wednesday and women throughout the State planned to hit the streets in the midnight intervening August 14 and 15 seeking freedom for women, Banerjee launched a scathing attack on the BJP and the Left for trying to politicize the issue to extract Bangladesh like dividends.

Modi to unfurl Tricolour for 11th time in a row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the national flag for the 11th time in a row on Thursday on Independence Day, the annual event where he lays out his Government's agenda, presents its report card, makes important policy and programme announcements and speaks about burning issues. His first Independence Day address of his third term will take him past Manmohan Singh, who unfurled the Tricolour 10 times from the

ramparts of Red Fort during 2004-2014, and place him behind Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, who did the honours 17 and 16 times respectively.

While the theme of 'Viksit Bharat' is expected to animate his address, there is a view that the crisis in Bangladesh, especially the targeting of minority Hindus, may find a mention in his speech, more so as Hindutva groups have strongly taken up the issue and hit the streets.

Modi may also speak about the mandate for his



Government for a third straight term, though with a reduced majority, and dwell at length on how reforms, development programmes and welfare measures rolled out in the last 10 years have impacted the lives of the people.

It will be eagerly seen if the Prime Minister announces any new initiative or expand the ambit of some ongoing welfare programmes at a time when a combined Opposition, at its strongest in the last 10 years, has pivoted to populist welfare promises to draw support. Jammu and

Kashmir has often figured in his August 15 speeches as the Government has worked overtime to reconfigure the security and development paradigms in the erstwhile State, now a Union territory, since scrapping Article 370 in 2019.

The Supreme Court has set September 30 as the deadline for the holding of assembly elections there. There is also anticipation that some of the key decisions taken by the Government since he assumed the office in June for a third term may be highlighted by him.

India's first dengue vaccine enters phase 3 trials

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec marked a significant milestone with the launch of the Phase 3 clinical trial for DengiAll, India's first indigenous dengue vaccine from Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak where the first participant in the trial was vaccinated on Wednesday.

The Phase 3 trial will involve over 10,335 healthy adult participants across 19 sites in 18 States and Union Territories.

This extensive study aims to evaluate the vaccine's efficacy and will follow participants for two years.

In light of the escalating dengue cases, which have become a public health crisis in India, Union Health Minister JP Nadra praised the move saying that "The initiation of this Phase 3 clinical trial for India's first indigenous dengue vaccine marks a critical advancement in our fight against dengue." Emphasising the importance of the collaboration between ICMR and Panacea Biotec for the development of the dengue vaccine, Nadra noted

that "Through this partnership, we are not only taking a step towards ensuring the health and well-being of our people but also reinforcing our vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in the healthcare sector."

India faces a significant challenge with dengue, having no antiviral treatments or licensed vaccines available. The complexity of developing an effective vaccine lies in the need to address all four serotypes of the dengue virus, which circulate extensively across various regions. Dengue has over the years

become a major public health concern in India, ranking among the top 30 countries with the highest incidence of the disease. The rising incidence of dengue in India has raised significant concern. Earlier this month, the Health Ministry informed Parliament that India had seen 32,091 dengue cases in the first six months of 2024, representing a 75 per cent increase compared to the 18,391 cases reported during the same period in 2023.

The tetravalent dengue vaccine strain (TV-003/TV005), initially developed by the National



Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, has shown promising results in preclinical and clinical trials globally. Panacea Biotec, one of three Indian companies to receive this strain, has made the most progress in developing a complete vaccine formulation. The trial is primarily funded by ICMR with partial support

from Panacea Biotec.

The company holds a process patent for this work. Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials of the Indian vaccine formulation were completed in 2018-19, yielding promising results.

According to a WHO report approximately 75-80 per cent of infections in India are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes.

Among the 20-25 per cent of cases where symptoms are clinically apparent, children are at a significantly higher risk of hospitalisation and mortality.

Doda terror...

From Page 1

during the same period. According to official sources, since last week the security forces had launched a hot chase based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the upper reaches of Udhampur.

The first contact was established with the group of terrorists after the initial exchange of fire late Tuesday evening. Due to pitch-dark conditions, the operation was halted. On Wednesday, as the search parties started

combing the area, a fierce gunfight erupted. The captain of the Indian army who was leading from the front during the ongoing operations received bullet injuries in the heavy exchange of firing. The army officer was safely evacuated to the base and shifted to the hospital but he later succumbed to his fatal injuries. One of the terrorists was also neutralized in the gunfight.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, in a tweet, also offered his condolences. "I pay my deepest respects to Captain Deepak Singh, a valiant son of Uttarakhand, who made the ultimate sacrifice during the encounter with terrorists in

Doda, Jammu and Kashmir. His sacrifice in the service of Mother India will forever inspire patriotism among the youth. I pray to God to grant his noble soul a place at His feet and to provide strength to the grieving family to endure this sorrow."

Former J&K Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti also expressed her condolences: "Another young army officer lays down his life in the line of duty, this time in an encounter in Doda. It is highly unfortunate that the situation in some parts of the Jammu region has been allowed to deteriorate like this. May Captain Deepak Singh's soul rest in peace. I send my heartfelt condolences to his family & colleagues," posted Omar Abdullah on the micro-blogging site.

Mehbooba Mufti also posted on X, "No words will suffice to express the tragedy at Doda today where Captain Deepak Singh was killed during an encounter. The endless cycle of violence & mayhem in J&K continues to devour the lives of innocents despite tall claims of normalcy by the administration. My deepest condolences to his family."

Thai PM dismissed for breach of ethics

AP ■ BANGKOK

A court in Thailand on Wednesday removed Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin from office over an ethical violation, further shaking up Thai politics after the court-ordered dissolution of the main opposition party a week ago.

The Constitutional Court ruled on a case involving Srettha's appointment of a Cabinet member who had been imprisoned in connection with an alleged attempt to bribe a court official.

The court voted 5:4 against Srettha and the ruling removed him from office immediately. The Cabinet will remain in place on a caretaker basis until Parliament approves a new prime minister. There is no time limit for Parliament to fill the position. The caretaker Cabinet could also dissolve Parliament and call a new election.

The acting PM is expected to be Phumtham Wechayachai of the Pheu Thai party.

Phumtham was first deputy prime minister and commerce minister under Srettha. If Parliament is given the task of choosing a new prime minister, it can select from a roster of candidates nominated for the post last year by the major political parties. The Pheu Thai Party, to which Srettha belongs, has two eligible candidates, including Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Another frontrunner would be Anutin Charnvirakul, head of the Bhumjaithai Party, which ran third in last year's election. He is currently a deputy prime minister and interior minister.

Anuthin, a powerbroker in the vote-rich northeast whose family owns a major construction group, has served in both a military-backed government and the civilian one that it replaced. Also in the running would be two former senior military officers: Prayuth Chan-ocha, who served as prime minister for nine years after staging a coup in 2014, and Prawit



Wongsuwan, who was one of Prayuth's deputy prime ministers. Srettha, speaking at Government House shortly after the verdict, thanked the judges for giving him the opportunity to defend himself. He said he respected the ruling and that he always sought to act ethically during his time in office.

"I'm sorry that I'd be considered as a prime minister who's unethical, but that's not who I am," he said. Srettha had appointed Pichit Chuenban as a minister of the Prime Minister's Office in a Cabinet reshuffle in April. Pichit was jailed for six months in 2008 on contempt of court charges after he allegedly tried to bribe a judge with 2 million

baht (USD 55,000) in cash in a grocery bag over a case involving Thaksin, the former prime minister. Pichit resigned from the post weeks after being appointed when controversy over the incident was revived. The court said that although Pichit has already served his jail term, his behavior — as ruled by the Supreme Court — was dishonest. Srettha as prime minister has sole responsibility for vetting the qualifications of his Cabinet nominations, the court ruled. It said he knew about Pichit's past but still nominated him, and therefore it ruled that he violated the ethics codes. The petition against Srettha was initiated by former members of the military-installed Senate who had refused to approve Move Forward's prime ministerial candidate when the party was attempting to form a government after its election victory. The petition against Srettha was seen as a move favouring a pro-military political party in

his coalition government. Thailand's courts, especially the Constitutional Court, are considered a bulwark of the country's royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent state agencies such as the Election Commission to issue rulings to cripple or sink political opponents. Srettha became prime minister in August last year, despite his Pheu Thai party finishing second in the general election. After Move Forward was denied power by the Senate whose term ended in May, Pheu Thai — then the biggest partner of Move Forward — excluded it from the coalition and joined hands with parties affiliated with the previous military-controlled government to gather enough support from other parties and the Senate to approve a new prime minister. Srettha, 62, was a real estate executive before entering politics. He prioritized opening up Thailand after almost a decade of military-backed rule, frequently travelling abroad for trade negotiations. His party pushed a populist plan for a 10,000-baht (USD 286) hand-out policy to stimulate the economy, a key promise in its campaign last year, though it has been delayed by technicalities largely involving funding. His government also promoted Thai cultural products through a "soft power" agency and the critical tourism sector by loosening entry requirements and other measures. Srettha, who tried to project an image of a strong CEO, was seen by critics as an agent for Thaksin, who returned last August to submit to a plea deal his detractors say was essential to Srettha gaining the premiership. The Constitutional Court last week ordered the dissolution of the progressive Move Forward Party over an accusation that the party violated the constitution by proposing an amendment to a law against defaming the country's royal family. The party has already regrouped as the People's Party.

Another case filed against Sheikh Hasina

Another case filed against Sheikh Hasina

PTI ■ DHAKA

A case of enforced disappearance was filed on Wednesday against Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several others, including former ministers of her cabinet, on the charge of kidnapping a lawyer in 2015. The case is the second to be filed against 76-year-old Hasina since she resigned and fled to India on August 5 following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system. The victim of the forced disappearance, Supreme Court lawyer Sohel Rana filed the case application, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

The court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Farzana Shakila Sumu Chowdhury ordered the allegations to be accepted as a case. Other accused in the case include senior ministers of Hasina's cabinet, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former Law Minister Anisul Haq, former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahidul Haque, former Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) Benazir Ahmed, and 25 unidentified members of the RAB. "On 10 February 2015, I was detained from Sector 5 in Uttara and forced into a vehicle. As soon as I was inside the car, I was nearly made unconscious by electric shocks to my ears and genitals," the report quoted Rana as saying. "After enduring various forms of brutal torture over time, I was eventually released in August in Godagari, Rajshahi," he said. On Tuesday, a murder case was lodged against Hasina 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. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-July.

Belgorod declares emergency as Ukrainian forces press incursion

AP ■ KYIV

Russia's Belgorod border region declared an emergency Wednesday under heavy shelling by Ukrainian forces that are pressing a major cross-border incursion into the adjacent Kursk region for a second week. Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov described the situation there as "extremely difficult and tense" as the attacks destroyed homes and caused civilian casualties, unnerving local people. Children in particular are being moved to safety, he said on his Telegram channel, adding that about 5,000 children are in camps in safe areas. He said the previous day that around 11,000 people had fled their homes, with about 1,000 staying in temporary accommoda-

tion centres. The surprise Ukrainian charge onto Russian soil that began August 6 has rattled the Kremlin. The daring Kursk operation is the largest attack on Russia since World War II and could involve as many as 10,000 Ukrainian troops backed by armour and artillery, military analysts say. An emergency was declared in Kursk last Saturday. A Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Tuesday that Kyiv has no intention of occupying the Russian territory it says it is holding. The goal is to stop Russia from firing missiles into Ukraine from Kursk, he said. It was not clear how or when — or whether — Ukraine would attempt to extricate itself from the ground it has taken. The Ukrainian military claims

it controls 74 settlements, believed to be villages or hamlets, in the Kursk region. Russian officials say more than 100,000 people have been evacuated, mostly from Kursk. Ukraine's 1+1 TV channel published a video report Wednesday it said was from Sudzha, a Russian town about 10 kilometres from the border. The report showed burnt-out Russian military columns on roads in the area as well as Ukrainian soldiers handing humanitarian aid to local residents and taking down Russian flags from an administrative building. Russia's predicament is whether to pull troops from the front line in Ukraine's Donetsk region, where achieving a breakthrough is currently a primary war goal for the Kremlin, to defend Kursk and

Complaint filed against Hasina, others at International Tribunal

PTI ■ DHAKA

A complaint was filed on Wednesday with the investigation agency of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several others, accusing them of committing genocide and crimes against humanity during the mass movement of the students against her government. "The complaint was filed by the father of one of the students who died in police gunshots during the massive street protests," an official of the agency said. A Supreme Court lawyer filed the case on behalf of Bulbul Kabir, father of slain Arif Ahmed Siyam, a class 9 student who was shot dead by police during the protest on August 5.



Students shout slogans during a protest demanding the trial of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on Tuesday. AP/PTI

"We have registered the complaint and thus the investigation of the case has started," Ataur Rahman, deputy director of the agency, was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper. "Upon completion of the

probe, we will submit the report to the Chief Prosecutor's Office of the tribunal for the next procedures," he added. Hasina and several others were accused of "genocide and crimes against humanity in

the complaint," state-run BSS news agency reported. The complaint comes on a day when the interim government said that the murders conducted within the period from July 1 to August 5 will be tried by the International Crimes Tribunal. The complaint accused 76-year-old Hasina and the others of perpetrating the mass killings between July 15 and August 5, the day when Hasina resigned and fled the country, while the students and others who died during the period would come under the purview of the complaint as well, the official said. Meanwhile, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk made a phone call to Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday.

Kishida not to seek re-election, paves way for new Japanese PM

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in a surprise move Wednesday, announced he will not run in the upcoming party leadership vote in September, paving the way for Japan to have a new prime minister. Kishida was elected president of his governing Liberal Democratic Party in 2021 and his three-year term expires in September. His drop out of the race means a new leader who wins the party vote will succeed him as prime minister because the LDP controls both houses of parliament. Kishida, stung by his party's corruption scandals, has suffered dwindling support ratings that have dipped below 20%. He announced he will not run



in the September vote, allowing for a fresh leader in an effort to show that his party is changing for the better. Kishida will support a new leader, he said. Local election losses earlier in the year eroded his clout, and LDP lawmakers have voiced the need for a fresh face

ahead of the next general election. Since the corruption scandal broke, Kishida has removed a number of Cabinet ministers and others from party executive posts, dissolved party factions that were criticized as the source of money-for-favor politics, and passed a law tightening political funds control law. But support for his government has dwindled. The scandal centers on unreported political funds raised through tickets sold for party events. It involved more than 80 LDP lawmakers, mostly belonging to a major party faction previously led by assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Ten people — lawmakers and their aides — were indicted in January.

House of Hindu family targeted in fresh arson

PTI ■ DHAKA

Arsonists torched a house belonging to a Hindu family with no political affiliation in northwest Bangladesh, a media report said on Wednesday, in the latest incident of targeted attacks on the minority community after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government. The incident in Farabari Mandirpara village in Akcha union under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila took place on Tuesday evening, hours after Chief Advisor to the interim government Yunus Muhammad assured the distressed minority community that his government would punish the perpetrators. The targeted arson incident also came on the same day when the Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance claimed that the minority community faced attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 and termed it as an "assault on

the Hindu religion." Unidentified individuals set fire to Kaleshwar Barman's house around 7:30 pm on Tuesday in Farabari Mandirpara village in Akcha union under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, Subrata Kumar Barman, chairman of Akcha Union Parishad (UP), told newspaper The Daily Star. Local people quickly responded and managed to control the fire, and the house's occupants were able to escape unharmed, he said. The UP chairman said Kaleshwar Barman had no political affiliation. ABM Firoz Waheed, Officer-in-Charge of Thakurgaon Police Station, said: "Police visited the spot the same night, and an investigation is ongoing to identify the perpetrators." The Daily Star report said that a similar incident had happened a few days earlier in Nimbari Kamarpara village of the same union when Ananta Barman's house was burned down, leaving all valuables destroyed.

Students still managing roads in Bangladesh

PTI ■ DHAKA

Several Bangladeshi students, who were behind the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, are still controlling traffic on the roads in the country despite traffic police personnel rejoining their workplaces. A wave of violence, including revenge killings and arson, persisted after Hasina fled to India on August 5. Almost all of the country's police officers went into hiding, afraid of reprisals for the force's role in the deaths of hundreds of young protesters demanding the scrapping of quotas in government service jobs. In such a situation, the students came out on the streets and tried to regulate traffic. However, traffic police personnel rejoining their workplaces on Monday. Still, the students say they do not want to leave the traffic management to the designated units of the police, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Even on Wednesday, students were seen controlling traffic on the roads. There are also members of Ansar, Border Guard Bangladesh Red Crescent, Scouts and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC). A limited number of traffic police were also seen on the roads. Students were managing traffic, checking licenses and reminding people to use helmets. The students say that they want to stay on the streets until full order is restored. Meanwhile, traffic police personnel said that students have played a commendable role in controlling traffic during a critical period. But now that the traffic policemen have rejoined work, the students are no longer needed there. Enayet Ullah, a student of psychology at Dhaka College and a volunteer of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society said: "We have been working on traffic control since August 7 on behalf of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Shehbaz Sharif to unveil 5-year plan for Pakistan's economic stability

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday announced that he would soon unveil a new five-year plan to bring cash-strapped Pakistan out of the economic crisis and asked countrymen to undertake self-inspection to correct mistakes of the past. Sharif's remarks came as the nation commemorated the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. The Prime Minister said a "fresh journey with new zeal should be started to steer the country out of existing crises" and a five-year economic programme will soon be launched. He said that there is a need for self-inspection to correct mistakes of the past. The nation would hear good news regarding the reduction in electricity prices in the next few days, Radio Pakistan quoted him as saying at the main ceremony held in Islamabad. Turning to issues being faced by the country, Sharif pledged to work hard till the last drop of his blood to reduce inflation and electricity prices and revamp Pakistan's battered economy. He said the reduction in inflation and electricity bills is vital for the development of agriculture and industry, enhancing exports and providing solace to domestic power consumers. Sharif also urged the youth to focus on their studies, training, and skills and avoid becoming prey to the forces of chaos, anarchy and



A driver decorates his ricksha with national flag colors to celebrate the country's 78th Independence Day from British rule in Peshawar on Wednesday. AP/PTI

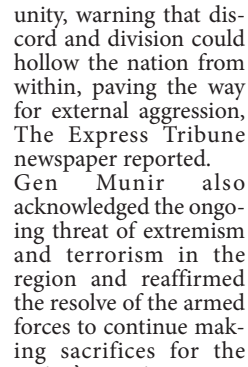
deception. He said the foes of Pakistan have continuously been targeting the minds of young people through digital terrorism to mislead them. In a separate message, Prime Minister Sharif said: "We pay homage to the immense sacrifices of our forefathers and countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan Movement, who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, where they could live according to their beliefs and values. He also said Pakistan shall continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir until they achieve their universal right to self-determi-

nation. President Asif Ali Zardari in his message said: "Today, we need to set aside our differences and work committedly for unity, integrity, and economic stability." He called for upholding the rule of law and strengthening democratic institutions and also reaffirmed its support to the people of Kashmir and Palestine for their legitimate rights. India has repeatedly said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. India has asserted that the "Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India." President Zardari on the occasion of Independence Day approved the conferment of awards upon 104 Pakistani and foreign nationals in recognition of their services to Pakistan. These awards will be given at a special ceremony on 23rd March next year. Former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), will be conferred upon Nishan-e-Pakistan for his marvellous contribution to the field of public service. Arshad Nadeem, Pakistan's sensational javelin thrower who won the country's first individual Olympics gold in 40 years, will get Hilal-e-Imtiaz, the second-highest civilian award.

'Weakening military is weakening nation,' says Pak Army chief

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Army chief General Asim Munir has said that any attempt to undermine the nation's powerful military is equivalent to weakening the country. Addressing the Azadi Parade at the Pakistan Military Academy on the eve of the country's 78th Independence Day, he also underscored the importance of maintaining national unity amidst efforts by foreign powers using "digital terrorism" to create a gulf between state institutions and the people of Pakistan. "We emerge as a strong nation after trial and tribulations. To weaken Pakistan's armed forces is tantamount to weakening the country itself," Geo News quoted him as saying. Asserting that the nation's unwavering trust in the Pakistan Army is the military's most valuable asset, he said, "Neither any negative force has ever been able to weaken this relationship of trust and love nor can it do so in future." "Historically, we as a nation have always emerged stronger after every hardship," he said, adding that mutual trust between the country and the armed forces played a key role. He also highlighted the importance of



unity, warning that discord and division could hollow the nation from within, paving the way for external aggression, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Gen Munir also acknowledged the ongoing threat of extremism and terrorism in the region and reaffirmed the resolve of the armed forces to continue making sacrifices for the nation's security. He blamed foreign powers for a wave of 'digital terrorism', which he said aimed to create a gulf between state institutions and the people of Pakistan, The Dawn newspaper reported. Last week, addressing a conference of Islamic clerics here, Gen Munir warned against attempts to create chaos in the cash-strapped country, saying the armed forces will foil any such move and safeguard national integrity. The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled coup-prone Pakistan for many years of its existence, has wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy.



Court premises during his appearance in a corruption case. His arrest sparked countrywide protests and riots by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters who damaged civilian as well as military installations across the country. Meanwhile, at least 70 people were injured by aerial firing in different areas of Karachi during the celebrations of Independence Day on Tuesday night, Geo News reported. Last year, two people lost their lives while more than 80 sustained injuries due to aerial firing in different areas of the city during the Independence Day celebrations.

Gen Munir's remarks came days after jailed former prime minister Imran Khan refused to apologise for the May 9 riots and said that the Army owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by the paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence. Khan, 71, was on May 9, 2023, arrested by the Pakistan Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises during his appearance in a corruption case. His arrest sparked countrywide protests and riots by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters who damaged civilian as well as military installations across the country. Meanwhile, at least 70 people were injured by aerial firing in different areas of Karachi during the celebrations of Independence Day on Tuesday night, Geo News reported. Last year, two people lost their lives while more than 80 sustained injuries due to aerial firing in different areas of the city during the Independence Day celebrations.

Sensex snaps 2-day losing streak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its two-day losing streak, benchmark BSE Sensex closed higher by 150 points on Wednesday following a rally in IT stocks amid a surge in the US markets on renewed hopes of a rate cut by the Fed in September. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 149.85 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 79,105.88 with half of its constituents ending higher. During the day, it gained 272.91 points or 0.34 per cent to hit a high of 79,228.94. The NSE Nifty closed marginally up by 4.75 points or 0.02 per cent at 24,143.75. As many 26 Nifty shares closed lower while 24 advanced. "The domestic market traded within a narrow range; even as global markets saw a positive turnaround. The IT index edged up, reflecting optimism for improved US CPI data expected later today, which could increase the scope of a loose monetary policy from the Fed," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Among Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services rose the most by 2.3 per cent. HCL



Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors were the biggest gainers. On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Adani Ports, Power Grid and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggards. Mining shares declined after the Supreme Court rejected the Centre's plea for prospective effect of its July 25 verdict, which upheld the power of states to levy tax on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land, and allowed them to seek a refund of royalty from April 1, 2005 onwards. NMDC tanked 6 per cent, Hind Copper by over 4 per

cent, Nalco by 2.7 per cent. "The PPI (Producer Price Inflation) numbers from the US indicate softening of inflation, and a confirmation of this declining trend is likely from the CPI numbers coming today. The US market moved up yesterday in anticipation of this and a rate cut by the Fed in September," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.57 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.41 per cent. Among the indices, IT jumped 1.41 per cent, teck surged 1.33 per cent, consumer durables went up 0.13 per cent and consumer discretionary (0.09 per cent). Commodities, energy, telecommunication, utilities, metal, power, realty and services were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading in positive territory. The US markets ended significantly higher on Tuesday. Equity markets would remain closed on Thursday for Independence Day.

Wholesale inflation falls to 3-month low of 2.04% in July as food prices ease

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wholesale inflation fell to a 3-month low of 2.04 per cent in July on decline in prices of food items especially vegetables, government data released on Wednesday showed. The decline in wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation in July came after it rose for four months in a row till June, when it was 3.36 per cent. It was (-) 1.23 per cent in July last year. In April wholesale inflation stood at 1.19 per cent. As per the data, food inflation in July was 3.45 per cent, down from 10.87 per cent in June, mainly due to month-on-month decline in prices of vegetables, cereals, pulses and onion. Vegetables recorded a deflation of 8.93 per cent in July, against a 38.76 per cent inflation in the previous month. "Positive rate of inflation in July, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, mineral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, other manufacturing etc," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement. The annual rate of inflation of the manufactured Products group increased to 1.58 per



cent in July 2024, from 1.43 per cent in June 2024. Inflation in fuel and power basket rose to 1.72 per cent in July, from 1.03 per cent in the previous month. ICRA Senior Economist Rahul Agrawal said the core (non-food manufacturing) WPI continued to inch up for the fifth consecutive month, touching a 17-month high of 1.2 per cent in July 2024, even as the index contracted on a sequential basis for the second consecutive month. "The near-term outlook for WPI inflation remains benign. As per the data released by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the prices of a majority of food items have dipped on a sequential basis in August 2024 so far, amid a pick-up in the monsoon and a healthy

progression in kharif sowing. "This is likely to aid in containing the base effect-led uptick in the primary food articles inflation print in the ongoing month. Overall, ICRA expects the WPI inflation to remain unchanged at 2 per cent in August 2024," Agrawal said. The decline in July WPI was in line with the retail inflation data for the month. Retail inflation fell to a near 5-year low of 3.54 per cent in July, data released earlier this week showed. Sanjeev Agrawal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said: "Going ahead, we expect the continuous softening of WPI inflation to reduce the costs of production levels and boost consumption demand in the country."

India's exports fall 1.2% to USD 33.98 billion in July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports in July dipped 1.2 per cent to USD 33.98 billion from USD 34.39 billion in the year-ago month, according to government data released on Wednesday. Imports increased by about 7.45 per cent to USD 57.48 billion in July against USD 53.49 billion a year ago. The trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, during the month under review stood at USD 23.5 billion. Briefing media on data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that going by the current trend, the country's total exports of goods and services will cross last year's figure. India's merchandise exports rose by 2.56 per cent to USD 35.2 billion in June, even as the trade deficit widened to USD 20.98 billion. Exports during April-July this fiscal increased 4.15 per cent to USD 144.12 billion, and imports grew 7.57 per cent to USD 229.7 billion.

Rupee rises 2 paise to close at 83.95 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee traded in a narrow range to settle 2 paise higher at 83.95 (provisional) against the American currency on Wednesday, helped by a sharp decline in the US Dollar against major currencies overseas. Forex traders said a mixed-to-positive tone in the domestic market also supported the rupee. However, foreign fund outflows and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East restricted the rise in the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.90 but soon fell into the negative zone and touched an intraday low of 83.97 against the American currency. The domestic unit finally settled at 83.95 (provisional) against the American currency, 2 paise higher from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee settled for the day on a flat note at 83.97 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to



trade with a slight negative bias on elevated commodity prices and heightened geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel and Iran. "However, the weak Dollar and rising odds of a rate cut by the US Fed may support the rupee. Positive global markets may also support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Choudhary further noted that traders may take cues from US CPI data today. "USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.75 to Rs 84.20," it added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies,

was trading 0.13 per cent lower at 102.42. Forex traders said the US dollar has weakened against major posts the US Producer Price Index (PPI) print, which came in softer than anticipated, leaving the Dollar Index vulnerable to further correction. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.28 per cent to USD 80.92 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 149.85 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 79,105.88 points. The Nifty rose 4.75 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 24,143.75 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,107.17 crore, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, wholesale inflation fell to a 3-month low of 2.04 per cent in July on the decline in prices of food items especially vegetables, government data released on Wednesday showed.

UIDAI exempted from income tax for 5 years



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has exempted the income of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) from payment of income tax for five years till fiscal 2027-28. Accordingly, grants/subsidies received from the central government; fees/subscriptions, including RTI fee, tender fee, sale of scrap, PVC card; authentication, enrolment and updation service charges received; term/fix deposits; and interest on bank deposits earned by UIDAI would be exempt from income tax. A notification to this effect was issued by the Central

Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Ministry of Finance. "This notification shall be applicable for assessment year 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029," it added. UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, to ensure compliance with Aadhaar Act, and make regulations & rules consistent with the Act. This notification would be effective subject to the conditions that UIDAI would not engage in any commercial activity; activities and the nature of the specified income shall remain unchanged throughout financial years.

Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales dips in July: SIAM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India declined 2.5 per cent year-on-year to 3,41,510 units in July, impacted by high base effect as well as companies reducing vehicle dispatches to dealers amid moderation in demand. The overall passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches from companies to dealers stood at 3,50,355 units in July 2023, automobile industry body SIAM said on Wednesday. Utility vehicles continued to drive sales of PVs, clocking 1,88,217 units last month, as against 1,80,831 units in July 2023, a growth of 4.1 per cent, as per the data issued by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). Passenger cars, however, recorded a drop of 12 per cent at 96,652 units, as against 1,09,859 units in the same month last year. Industry observers pointed out that after high-paced growth witnessed in the past couple of years, the industry is witnessing moderation in demand. Besides, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) also



undertook stock corrections in July to reduce inventory in the network. As per SIAM data, two-wheeler wholesales grew by 12.5 per cent to 14,41,694 units last month, as compared to 12,82,054 units in July 2023. Motorcycles wholesales were up 4.1 per cent at 8,50,489 units in July 2024, as against 8,17,206 units in the year-ago month, SIAM said. Scooters sales were up 29.2 per cent at 5,53,642 units last month, as against 4,28,640 units in the year-ago period. Three-wheeler wholesales also rose 5.1 per cent to 59,073 units from 56,204 units in July last year. "Though three-wheeler and

two-wheeler segments are performing well, there has been some de-growth of passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles in July 2024, compared to July 2023," SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal said in a statement. He, however, said the above average rainfall coupled with upcoming festive season is likely to again propel growth in the short term. "In addition, enabling budget announcements which emphasise on overall economic growth with fiscal support for infrastructure and rural sector should augur well for the auto sector in the medium-term," Aggarwal said.

Risk-based premium for deposit insurance merits consideration: RBI Deputy Governor

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Swaminathan J on Wednesday said implementation of risk-based premium for deposit insurance merits consideration as it will ensure that institutions with higher risk profiles contribute more to the insurance fund. Speaking at a conference here, he also said that as the financial sector becomes more digitised, deposit insurers must work closely with regulators and supervisors to strengthen oversight mechanisms. This includes regularly updating regulatory frameworks to incorporate emerging risks associated with digital payments, cybersecurity, and fintech innovations. By adopting a proactive stance, deposit insurers can help ensure that the financial institutions under their purview are adequately prepared to manage these risks, thereby safeguarding depositor confidence. Swaminathan was addressing the International Conference of the International Association of Deposit Insurers- Asia Pacific Regional Committee (IADI-APRC) hosted by the Deposit Insurance Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). He further said the implementation of risk-based premium for deposit insurance



consideration". "By tying insurance premiums to the level of risk posed by individual financial institutions, deposit insurers can incentivize banks to adopt stronger risk management practices. "This approach not only enhances the overall stability of the financial system but also ensures that institutions with higher risk profiles contribute more to the insurance fund," the deputy governor said. He also emphasised that deposit insurers can further mitigate technology risks by relying on supervisory rating assessments that incorporate evaluation of a financial institution's technological and operational resilience. By using these assessments as a basis for setting insurance premiums or determining intervention strategies, deposit insurers can ensure that their actions are informed by a comprehensive understanding of each

institution's risk profile, Swaminathan added. The senior RBI official also asked deposit insurers to prioritise crisis preparedness and develop comprehensive contingency plans that account for technology-induced disruptions. This includes conducting regular stress tests and simulations to assess the potential impact of cyber incidents or fintech failures on financial institutions and the broader financial system, he said. The evolving technological landscape presents both significant challenges and opportunities for deposit insurers. By adopting a proactive, risk-based approach, including enhanced oversight, risk-based premiums, reliance on supervisory ratings, faster claim settlements, and industry collaboration, deposit insurers can effectively manage these risks, the deputy governor said.

Builders, financial institutions optimistic of growth in realty sector: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Real estate developers and financial institutions are cautiously optimistic about growth in the realty sector in the next six months amid geopolitical uncertainties, according to Knight Frank-NAREDCO. Real estate consultant Knight Frank and realtors' body NAREDCO released 41st edition of the Knight Frank-NAREDCO Real Estate Sentiment Index Q2, 2024 (April-June 2024) report, showing that the current sentiment index score has moderated to 65 from its all-

time high of 72 in Q1, 2024. The future sentiment score declined to 65 from 73. "While both current and future sentiments remain firmly in the positive zone suggesting a continued belief in the sector's long-term prospects, the scores reflect a more tempered view on recent real estate growth, influenced by election and budget speculations," Knight Frank said. The adjustment in the future sentiment index reflects a positive yet more conservative outlook for the near term. "This recalibration may be attributed to anticipatory caution around potential



macroeconomic developments, including fiscal policies and geopolitical events, that could influence market confidence. Despite this decline, the sentiment remains in positive territory, showcasing the sector's resilience with notable activity in residential and office

markets," the consultant said. The quarterly report captures the current and future sentiments towards the real estate sector, the economic climate and funding availability as perceived by the supply-side stakeholders and financial institutions. A score of 50 represents a neutral view or status quo; a score above 50 denotes a positive sentiment; and a score below 50 indicates a negative sentiment. Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director Shishir Bajjal said the current and future sentiment score of 65 is still in positive, however, this

recent dip shouldn't raise concerns as it simply indicates a shift toward cautious optimism in the real estate sector. The economy remains positive with key indicators seeing stability while remaining resilient against the global geopolitical developments, he added. "With positive sentiment driven by sustained growth in residential and office markets, this adjustment highlights the sector's careful and measured approach, ensuring continued stability amidst ongoing economic and political developments," Bajjal said.

Govt monitoring trade with Bangladesh: Commerce Secretary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is monitoring the situation in Bangladesh and taking steps to improve the cross-border trade between the two nations, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Wednesday. Domestic exporters have expressed concerns over the political crisis in Bangladesh and said developments in the neighbouring country would have implications on bilateral trade. Barthwal said that the situation in Bangladesh is improving fast and "we are monitoring the trade which is happening across the borders

and what we feel that is whatever disruptions were there, they have been largely addressed". "We also believe that between India and Bangladesh, there should be improvement in trade. So we feel that whatever best efforts, we can make for improving the trade, we should do that and we are doing that". On August 8, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus returned to Bangladesh from Paris to take oath as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, three days after Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister and fled the country following

widespread protests against her regime. India's exports to Bangladesh in July rose by 11.13 per cent to USD 803.52 million. During April-July, exports increased by 10.76 per cent to USD 3.58 billion. Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia and India is the second biggest trade partner of the neighbouring country in Asia. India's exports to Bangladesh dipped to USD 11 billion in 2023-24 from USD 12.21 billion in 2022-23. Imports too declined to USD 1.84 billion in the last fiscal from USD 2 billion in 2022-23.

NBCC reports growth in operational income

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Board of Directors in the meeting held on Tuesday approved the financial results of the company for the quarter ended on 30.06.2024. Company reported standalone income from operations of Rs 1627.34 crore for Q1 FY 2024-25 compared to Rs 1478.07 crore for Q1 FY 2023-24. Consolidated income from operations for Q1 FY 2024-25 stood at Rs 2144.16 crore compared to Rs 1926.09 crore for Q1 FY 2023-24. Profit Before Tax (PBT) on standalone basis increased from Rs 84.67 crore to Rs

116.25 crore and on consolidated basis increased from Rs 103.78 crore to Rs 143.84 crore on YoY basis for quarter ended 30.06.2024. Profit After Tax (PAT) on standalone basis has shown growth from Rs 63.13 crore to Rs 86.63 crore and on consolidated basis from Rs 77.41 crore to Rs 107.19 crore on YoY basis for the Q1 FY 2024-25. NBCC with its robust order book and a strategic focus on redevelopment, PSU land monetisation, real estate development, overseas expansion and PMC works is well positioned to contribute towards a "Vikshit Bharat".

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Big stars Kohli, Rohit exempted as Gill, Pant, Rahul, Jadeja set to play Duleep Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior stars including skipper Rohit Sharma, premier batter Virat Kohli, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and leading spinner R Ashwin received exemptions as the national selectors struck a fine balance between domestic performers and potential talent while picking up four squads for the Duleep Trophy starting September 5 in Bengaluru. The tournament will feature international stars such as Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, leading all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav and pacer Mohammed Siraj. T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav, who had played one Test against Australia in 2023 has also been picked. Apart from Surya, the others have confirmed slot in the team. Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, who was part of India's T20 World Cup winning team, will also be featuring in the tournament, making it his first red-ball assignment after coming back from that horrific car accident in 2022. Also back in business will be another left-handed keeper Ishan Kishan, who was removed from BCCI's central contracts list after he skipped the Ranji Trophy tournament last season giving priority to cash-rich IPL. Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel, both of whom played vital role in India's home series win against England are also in the mix. Keepers Aryan Juyal and Abhishek Porel are also part of the various squads.



India players were supposed to play only one match and hence Kohli, Rohit, Bumrah and Ashwin were given exemptions. They had the choice to opt out as first reported by PTI on July 16. Suryakumar is part of Team C, led by Rituraj Gaikwad, which also has two exciting young pacers —

Anshul Khamboj and Himanshu Chauhan, who would be under the scanner of the selectors following their exploits last season. Mohammed Siraj and Jadeja will turn up for Team B which also comprises Pant, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Washington Sundar, while Shubman Gill will captain Team A,

which consists of Kuldeep, KL Rahul, Shivam Dube and Riyan Parag among others. Apart from Parag, Goalpara-born Akash Sengupta is the other cricketer from Assam to feature in the tournament. He is part of Team D, which will be led by Shreyas Iyer with Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh as other teammates. Pace sensation Mayank Yadav, who is recovering from lower abdominal injury, is yet to regain fitness and will miss the event. Nitish Kumar Reddy's participation is also subject to fitness. India are slated to play two Test

The Duleep Trophy was earlier scheduled to kick-off with two sets of first round matches at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh from September 5, but now one of those games has been shifted to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here to reduce the logistical inconveniences. **The four squads for the first round of the tournament:**
TEAM A: Shubman Gill (C), Mayank Agarwal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, KL Rahul, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Vidwath Kaverappa, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat.
TEAM B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy*, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohd Siraj, Yash Dayal, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK).
TEAM C: Rituraj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abhishek Porel (WK), Suryakumar Yadav, B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Umran Malik, Vyshakh Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier.
TEAM D: Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ishan Kishan (WK), Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Tushar Deshpande, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar.

Morne Morkel appointed India's new bowling coach, to take charge from Bangladesh series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former South Africa pace great Morne Morkel has been roped in as the Indian cricket team's new bowling coach, BCCI secretary Jay Shah told PTI on Wednesday, completing the appointment of new head coach Gautam Gambhir's preferred support staff. It is understood that the 39-year-old, who replaces Paras Mhambrey, will take over as the bowling coach from the Bangladesh series that starts with the opening Test in Chennai from September 19. He has been appointed till the end of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa. "Yes, Morne Morkel has been appointed bowling coach of the senior India men's team," Shah told PTI. The other members of Gambhir's support staff are assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, and fielding coach Ryan Ten Doeschate. Morkel was also Gambhir's preferred choice, having worked with him at Lucknow Super Giants during the Indian's two IPL seasons as mentor of the franchise. Morkel has played 86 Tests, 117 ODIs and 44 T20s for South Africa with a total of 544 international wickets. He will be reporting in Bengaluru's National Cricket Academy at the start of next month and is expected to watch the Duleep Trophy games. Once there, he will also touch base with VVS Laxman and head of bowling in NCA,



Troy Cooley. According to sources, Morkel was directly appointed on Gambhir's recommendation ahead of other options like Lakshminath Balaji and R Vinay Kumar. "The Cricket Advisory Committee's (CAC) mandate was to interview the candidates

for the head coach. When it came to choice of support staff, it was imperative that Gambhir's choice prevailed. He has worked with Morne and thinks of him highly as a bowling coach," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. "Also with the big series against

Australia coming up Down Under from last week of November, there isn't a better choice than the South African, who has himself enjoyed fair bit of success over there. Also there will be the five-Test tour of England next year with a potential sixth match if India reach WTC final."

It is understood that Balaji and Vinay's names weren't considered once it was clear that Morkel would carry forward the good work done by Mhambrey. One half of the famous fast bowling duo that featured Dale Steyn, Morkel is a cricketing heavyweight and has also played quite a lot in India to have a fair idea about the conditions. Also, his stint in the IPL has allowed him to have a ringside view of India's next crop of fast bowlers including the most exciting of them all — Mayank Yadav, Avesh Khan and Yash Thakur to name a few. A lot of observers believe that Morkel worked quite a lot with Mayank during the past two seasons of IPL even though he remained injured for the better part. Morkel's biggest challenge will be to handle the transition phase as Mohammed Shami enters the business end of his illustrious career and Jasprit Bumrah needs more potent support apart from Mohammed Siraj, especially in red-ball cricket. Morkel had last year worked with the Pakistan team till the end of the ODI World Cup and quit before his contract expired. India have never had any spin bowling coach as such although former director Ravi Shastri was a distinguished left-arm spinner in his playing days. Sairaj Bahutule, who is a part of Laxman's team at the NCA, has travelled on and off with the senior team.



Rohit Sharma takes second spot in ODI rankings behind Babar Azam

PTI ■ DUBAI

India skipper Rohit Sharma jumped one spot in the latest ICC ODI rankings for batters on Wednesday, moving to second place, following his superb performance in the recently concluded ODI series in Sri Lanka. India lost the three-match series 0-2 but Rohit scored 157 runs, including two half-centuries, at an average of 52.33. The opening match of the series ended in a tie. Shubman Gill slipped one spot to third, while Virat Kohli remained static at No.4 in the rankings. Pakistan's Babar Azam is currently leading the charts with 824 rating points, while

Rohit has 765 points. The other Indian in the top-20 is Shreyas Iyer at 16th, while KL Rahul is placed 21st after dropping one spot. Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav remained the top-ranked Indian at fourth spot in the bowling rankings, trailing top-ranked South African spinner Keshav Maharaj, Australia's Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa, who occupy the top-three spots. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained stationary at eighth, while Mohammed Siraj slipped five spots to occupy the joint ninth position with New Zealand's Trent Boult. Senior seamer Mohammed Shami is ranked 12th. The 33-

year-old is currently rehabilitating at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru following an ankle surgery and is expected to be back for the two-match Test series against Bangladesh in Chennai and Kanpur next month. Washington Sundar, India's highest wicket-taker during the Sri Lanka ODIs (5 wickets, 3 matches), has risen 10 places to 87th spot. Ravindra Jadeja remains the highest-placed Indian in the all-rounders' section at 16th spot, while Hardik Pandya has dropped four places to 26th. Team India sits at the summit of the ODI rankings with 118 rating points, while Australia are second at 116, followed by South Africa (112).

AP ■ WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND)

The omission of New Zealand from the world map which was a centerpiece of the Paris Olympics closing ceremony might have seemed a particular snub to the nation of 5 million which finished 11th on the medal table with 10 golds and 20 medals overall. It was explained the map represented the five inhabited continents and that Australia stood in for Oceania. That in itself might have irritated New Zealanders for whom Australia is the most bitter of sporting rivals. The Parisian omission had a particular sting because New Zealand had just produced its best-ever Olympic performance. Measured on gold medals alone, New Zealand finished ahead of Canada and Spain, nations many times its size. On a per-capita basis, New Zealand won one gold medal for every 533,890 people or one medal of any color for every 258,000 people. That placed it third on the per-capita medal table behind Dominica and St. Lucia which both won one gold medal. Dominica has a population of about 67,000 and St. Lucia around 184,000. Of the 20 medals New Zealand won in Paris, 14 - including eight golds - were won by women or women's

Punching well above their weight, New Zealand Olympians celebrate outstanding medal count in Paris

teams. In a letter to New Zealanders from Buckingham Palace, British monarch King Charles commended the Kiwi performances. "From the rugby field to the velodrome, the team ably and successfully demonstrated the grit and spirit of true Olympians - and true Kiwis," the king said. "It has been enormously impressive to see just how extraordinarily successful your athletes have been in securing New Zealand's highest gold medal count at a single Olympics to date and I hope that all of New Zealand shared in my joy at witnessing the wonderful sporting culture of this great nation on the world's stage." New Zealanders had to wait several days for the first medal, a gold won by the women's sevens rugby team. Hayden Wilde was among the favorites to win the men's triathlon, led until the final meters when he was overtaken by Alex Yee of Britain. The New Zealander took silver. Brook Francis and Lucy Spoons won



gold in the women's double sculls rowing event and Finn Butcher won the men's kayak cross.

"I'm just super, super proud of all our work and to be able to bring this medal back to New Zealand,"

Butcher said on his return to New Zealand on Wednesday. "We're just really, really proud to be part of the

New Zealand team and to be part of that success." The second week brought a flurry of gold medals. Lisa Carrington won three golds in women's sprint kayaking, bringing her tally to eight golds over three Olympics. Alicia Hoskin won two kayaking golds and Ellesse Andrews won two golds in women's sprint track cycling. Hamish Kerr won gold in the men's high jump after his American opponent, Shelby McEwan, passed up an offer to share the gold and chose to have a jump-off for the gold medal. Lydia Ko won the women's golf gold medal and now has a full set of medals after winning silver in Rio de Janeiro and bronze in Tokyo. Her win also qualified her for the LPGA Hall of Fame - at the age of 27. New Zealand beat its previous best tally of eight gold medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics at which it finished eighth on the medal table in the Soviet-boycotted Games. It won seven golds and 20 medals at Tokyo in 2021 and 18 medals at Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Many New Zealanders were bleary-eyed through the Games. New Zealand is 10 hours ahead of Paris which meant many events were held late at night or in the early hours of the morning New Zealand time. When the Olympics ended The Times newspaper of London posed the question "Who Won The Olympics." It named New Zealand as the over-achiever of the Games. "Athletes from New Zealand logged an impressive haul of 20 medals at Paris 2024, despite having a population of just over 5 million. Their rate of one medal per 258,000 people is the best among nations to win at least four this summer," the Times said. The New Zealand government ruled out an official national celebration of the Olympic success as the athletes were not returning home in big groups. But large crowds greeted returning athletes at Auckland airport. "I've been extremely proud of the way our athletes have conducted themselves both on and off the field of play," New Zealand chef de mission Nigel Avery said. "There has been a huge amount of manaaki (the Maori word for hospitality) from our team towards the other nations and it's been great to see them showcasing our values and culture."

India can do a hat-trick of Test series wins in Australia: Ravi

PTI ■ DUBAI

India is capable of a hat-trick of Test series triumphs in Australia given the quality of its bowlers and the strong batting lineup that has the likes of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, feels former head coach Ravi Shastri.

India have won the last two Test series in Australia and have held onto the prestigious Border-Gavaskar Trophy since the Kangaroos claimed a 2-0 series victory on home soil at the beginning of 2015.

"With (Jasprit) Bumrah fit, (Mohammed) Shami fit, you've got Mohammed Siraj there. You've got the likes of (Ravinchandran) Ashwin and (Ravindra) Jadeja and some very good bench strength as well... One can't wait for that series to start and (I think) India can do the hat-trick (of series victories in Australia)," Shastri told ICC.

Australia legend Ricky



Ponting had recently predicted a 3-1 series win for his country but Shastri said that Indian bowlers can get the job done provided their batters are up to the challenge. "It is going to be one heck of a series and India have every chance of making it a hat-trick because they've got their bowlers fit and if they can bat well, they can tickle (beat) Australia once again," said Shastri.

India will play a five-match series Down Under beginning with the Test at Perth in November this year. The Pat Cummins-led Australia are upbeat after they exacted sweet revenge over Rohit Sharma's side during the World Test Championship final at The Oval last year, and Shastri feels that a hurting home side would be more than keen to re-claim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. "The Border-Gavaskar

Trophy in Australia over five Test matches is going to be a humdinger. "Remember, India have beaten Australia twice on the last two tours and Australia have not had a hand on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in almost a decade and that's the reason why everyone will be waiting for these two heavyweights of Test match cricket over the last five to eight years to go head-to-head," added Shastri.

With Australia too boasting a strong bowling line-up, Shastri feels that revenge will be on the home team's mind because of successive series losses they have suffered in the last two editions.

"We know what Australia will be wanting (revenge). They will be thirsty, they'd be looking to go at the throats of the Indians because they've been beaten there (in Australia) twice.

"The attack is pretty much the same. One of the greatest fast bowling attacks — (one of the greatest) all-round attacks when you add Nathan Lyon there — in a long, long time. And one of the best in the history of the game. They'll be looking for those 20 wickets, game after game to help Australia win the series." "It's going to be India's batting against the Australian fast bowlers. And of course, the Indian bowling attack is going to be something everyone will be waiting to see," he added.

Tejal, Raghvi 50s go in vain as Australia A win opening one-dayer

PTI ■ MACKAY (AUSTRALIA)

Fine half-centuries by middle-order batters Raghvi Bist and Tejal Hasabnis went in vain as India A Women lost their opening one-day match against Australia A by four wickets, with Katie Mack scoring a century for the winners here on Wednesday. This is the fourth successive defeat for India A on their tour of Australia following their 0-3 whitewash in the T20 series in Brisbane.

India, after setting a modest victory target of 250, thanks mainly to Tejal's 53 (67 balls, 7x4) and Raghvi's 82 (102 balls, 6x4), were thwarted by Aussie opener Katie's 129 (126 balls, 11x4). Katie enjoyed fruitful half-century partnerships with fellow opener Maddy Darke (27) and Charli Knott (26) and a century stand with skipper Tahlia McGrath (56) as Australia easily won the opening game of the three-match one-day series.

India's pace bowling stalwart Meghna Singh (2/43) and spinner Minnu Mani (2/53) took two wickets each.

With only a handful of senior India players in the side, India had an inauspicious start, losing openers Shweta Sehrawat (1) and Priya Punia (6) cheaply. At 56/3, India A were in dire straits but Tejal and Raghvi, both making their one-day debut for the country, stitched a 55-run partnership to take the visitors past the century mark.

Raghvi also shared half-century stands with skipper Mani and Shipra Giri (25



not out) as she gave the visitors a respectable total to defend.

BRIEF SCORES:
India A 249 for 9 in 50 overs (Tejal Hasabnis 53, Raghvi Bist 82; Nicola Hancock

2/40, Maitlan Brown 4/23, Grace Parsons 2/40).
Australia A 250 for 6 in 47 overs (Katie Mack 129, Tahlia McGrath 56; Meghna Singh 2/43, Minnu Mani 2/53).

Dodda appointed Kenyan cricket team's head coach

PTI ■ NAIROBI

Former Indian all-rounder Dodda Ganesh has been appointed head coach of Kenya's men's cricket team ahead of the Africa Qualifiers for the 2026 T20 World Cup. Ganesh, 51, who played four Tests and an ODI without much success but did alright in first-class cricket scoring over 2000 runs and taking 365 wickets for Karnataka, will have the unenviable task of bringing back the glory days of Kenyan cricket when it competed in five World Cups

between 1996 and 2011. The best-ever finish of the Associate Member was in 2003 when it reached the semifinals in South Africa with an Indian head coach in Sandeep Patil. Kenya have qualified for just one edition of the T20 World Cup, which was back in 2007. Since then, Kenyan cricket has gone into a downward spiral. They will face Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Denmark and Jersey in the ICC Division 2 Challenge League in September and T20 World Cup



Africa Qualifiers in October. The men's 2026 T20 World Cup will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. Ganesh said he is looking forward to the new role.

"Privileged to be named the head coach of the Kenya cricket team," the former India cricketer posted on 'X'. In a video shared by the media here, Ganesh can be seen interacting with senior Kenya cricket officials. Ganesh will be assisted by former Kenyan internationals Lameck Onyango and Joseph Angara, who will be his deputies.

Yuzvendra to play for Northamptonshire

PTI ■ LONDON

India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has joined Northamptonshire for their last fixture in the One-Day Cup and remaining five matches in the County Championship Division Two, the club announced on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old Chahal has so far played 72 ODIs and 80 T20Is for India with 217 wickets across both formats to show for his efforts.

Northamptonshire said on their website that the 34-year-old Indian spinner, who was a part of the country's victorious campaign in the T20 World Cup, will link up with the squad on Wednesday ahead of their trip to Canterbury to play against Kent.



"Northamptonshire County Cricket Club are delighted that Indian international Yuzvendra Chahal will join the club for the final One-Day Cup match at Kent and the

remaining five County Championship fixtures," Northamptonshire said in a statement. "Also previously an India youth international in the sport of

chess, Chahal spent time at Kent in the 2023 season, taking nine wickets in two of their three Division One matches of the campaign," it added.

"Yuzvendra is another high-profile overseas player who brings with him a wealth of experience and some incredible skills. His record speaks for itself and his wicket-taking ability will add strength to our attack," said Northamptonshire head coach John Sadler. Northamptonshire are currently placed seventh in the eight-team County Division Two points table with seven draws and two defeats in nine matches, whereas in the One-Day Cup also the club has had a tough season so far with one win and six defeats keeping them at the eighth position in Group A.

Hockey India retires Sreejesh's number 16 jersey at senior level

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Wednesday decided to retire the jersey number of goalkeeping stalwart P R Sreejesh at the senior level after he bid adieu to the game following his starring role in the country's second consecutive Olympic bronze at the just-concluded Paris Games.

Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh said going forward no senior team player will be given the number 16 jersey although it will remain in circulation at the junior level.

While lauding the veteran's contribution to the game, Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey said Sreejesh has earned the right to be considered the "God of Modern Indian Hockey".

Singh also formally announced that the affable 36-year-old, who competed for nearly two decades, will take up the role of the junior national coach. "Sreejesh is now going to be the junior team coach and we are retiring the No. 16 jersey for the senior team. We are not retiring No. 16 for the junior team," said Singh at a felicitation function for the veteran and other members of



the team. "Sreejesh dusra Sreejesh ko paida karega in junior team (Sreejesh will groom another Sreejesh in the junior team who will wear the No.16 jersey)," he added. The players, who were present at the ceremony, wore identical red jerseys with Sreejesh's name on the back as a mark of respect for the Kerala man. Also in attendance was pistol shooter Manu Bhaker, who became the first Indian athlete post independence to win two Olympic medals with her bronze medals in 10m air

pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team (partnering Sarabjot Singh). "It's difficult to put into words how grateful and honoured I feel about this gesture from Hockey India," he said. "Eighteen years is a long journey. I've experienced all the highs and lows, but it has shaped me into the person I am today. I've enjoyed every minute of my time as an international player, and will deeply miss my teammates, who have become a second family to me," he added. Indian captain Harmanpreet

Singh said the team is proud to have given Sreejesh a "fairytale farewell." "Sreejesh has become a crucial part of our lives. He has always guided us like an elder brother on and off the pitch," he said. Tirkey thanked Sreejesh for his service to the game. "This is not a farewell, but a celebration of everything PR Sreejesh has achieved and contributed to Indian Hockey over the 18 years. For what Sreejesh has given to Indian hockey, he should surely be called the 'God of Modern Indian Hockey,'" he said.

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