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MONEY 10 SENSEX JUMPS TO TWO-WEEK HIGH

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY AUGUST 17, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Whither Gender Justice? **Asks a Nation in Rage**



Doctors medical professionals and students stage a protest march demanding justice for a woman doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, on Friday

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Nationwide outrage has erupted in support of the trainee doctor who was raped and murdered in a State-run hospital in Kolkata last week. On Friday, healthcare workers took out a massive protest march at India Gate and other parts of the city, seeking justice for the victim and demanding strictier laws for safety of health staff, including doctors, at workplace.

The evening march towards India Gate brought back memories of the Nirbhaya case when hundreds of thousands of Delhiites had hit

CBI cracks the whip in Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA **■**

In a major development, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College, Dr Sandip Ghosh, was on Friday detained by the Central Bureau of Investigation for

questioning. He was picked up by the CBI while returning from the Calcutta High Court where

he had filed a petition seeking police protection on the plea that his life was under threat.

Ghosh — currently in the eye of storm — has been identified by the agitating doctors of the RG Kar Medical College as the "fountainhead" of all evils that plague the once best medical college in eastern India". Continued on Page 8

the streets to seek harshest punishment for perpetrators of the crime. However, the police stopped

the protesting doctors from making their way to the India Gate from Safdarjung hospital. Anyhow some managed to arrive at the site carrying placards: "Mahila apna haq mangti, nahi kisi se bheek mangti' and 'ek do teen char, band karo ye atyachar."

Healthcare workers, including doctors, resident doctors and lab technicians, were present on India Gate as they marched on the Kartavya Path demanding justice for the victim. They termed the crime as "gut wrenching" and pressed for the Central Protection Act for health workers to be enforced. Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association, the largest body of private medical practitioners across the country, has announced a 24-hour nationwide withdrawal of nonemergency services from 6

am on Saturday.
"Out-patient departments (OPD) will not function and elective surgeries will not be conducted. The withdrawal is across all sectors wherever modern medicine doctors are providing services," the IMA

Jammu and Kashmir Get final date for tryst with peace from EC

RAJESH KUMAR/MOHIT KANDHARI NEW

For the first time since the scrapping of Article 370 in the Election 2019, Commission (EC) on Friday announced Assembly elections to Jammu and Kashmir in three phases with the first phase to be held on September 18, second on September 25 and third phase on October 1. Results will be announced on October 4.

This will be the shortest elections in at least the last two decades in the region. The phase of the J&K election is significant, given that over the last two decades, due to the region's security concerns, polls have consistently been held in at least four phases or

J&K has been without an elected House for five years now. The last election was held in undivided J&K in 2014. This marks a big step forward in efforts to meet a Supreme Court order — that democracy return to Jammu and the Kashmir Valley by September 30.

Union Home Minister Amit welcomed Shah announcement of Assembly elections there and said the polls will further strengthen the roots of democracy and open the doors to a new period of development for the region. Shah also appealed to the people of J&K to actively

Centre asks for accountability on medical



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu during a press conference to announce the schedule for 'General Election to Legislative Assemblies 2024', in New Delhi, on

for

participate in the elections the Election Commission and and vote in large numbers to said the poll announcement maintained the supremacy of form a Government that will sustain peace and development, and ensure a brighter future for the youth. the Supreme Court which had for the holding of the much awaited Assembly elections in welcome

announcement of Assembly elections in J&K made by the Election Commission of India today. In the last 10 years, the Modi Govt through a series of relentless initiatives, has created a new era of peace, development and strengthening democracy in J&K," he wrote on 'X'.

Almost all the parties, including National Conference, Congress, BJP, CPI(M) and DPAP, thanked Election

J&K Assembly will be held on

September 18, September 25

and October 1.

The announcement comes a week after CEC along with Commissioners, visited the Union Territory. Kumar said elections will be held in J&K after a long time. 'The people want change... they want to script a new future," Kumar said, as he outlined the poll body's plans to hold a safe and successful election in J&K.

"We recently visited J&K to take stock of election preparation. Great enthusiasm was seen... people want to participate in the process. People want elections as early as possible..." he said, recalling the "long queues" at polling booths in J&K and Ladakh during the Lok Sabha election. Asked about the decision to hold polls in just three phases, Kumar said the choice was deliberately made to keep the process short, considering the Commission's experience during the Lok Sabha polls, which were criticised for being inordinately long.

"In true spirit of keeping that promise, we present the shorter election period in the best possible and conducive environment," he said.

He added that the Commission will ensure due security for all candidates in J&K as requested by political

Continued on Page 8

Haryana set to vote in a new Assembly on October 1, 2024



Representative Image

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar

said Assembly elections in

Maharashtra, which were held along with Haryana in

2019, will be announced later

due to security requirements

He said four elections are due

this year and by early next year and since Jammu and

Kashmir was not in the

picture last time (2019-20)

the Commission decided to

in

group two Assembly

elections together.

Maharashtra, BLOs (booth level officers)

have to complete their

work. There are several

festivals too that have to be

"Ganesh Festival, Pitru

Paksha, Navratri, Diwali, all

that put together this is what

we thought we could handle

as two elections at a time," the

"There was heavy

rainfall

factored in.

for Jammu and Kashmir.

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Given barely two weeks to finalise their candidates, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday announced that the Haryana Assembly polls will be held in a single phase on October 1. The counting of votes will take

place on October 4. The 90-seat Haryana Assembly's term is ending on November 3. This will be the first time in nearly 20 years that the two States will go to polls separately. It was in 2004 when Assembly elections were held in Maharashtra alone. Haryana went to polls a few months later in 2005. But since 2009, both States have been going to polls together. In 2019, elections in both Haryana and Maharashtra were held on October 21.

While announcing the poll schedule, Chief Election

CEC said.

In the past three cycles, the EC had announced Haryana and Maharashtra elections together. Maharashtra m is expiring on November 26. Kumar also hinted that the Maharashtra elections could be held after Diwali.

Moreover, since Maharashtra is a large State, the poll panel will have to deploy heavy security over there too for the Assembly elections. Since Haryana's Assembly term will wrap up earlier on November 3, it was easier for EC to club it with J&K. Elections are due in both Maharashtra and Jharkhand by the end of this

The State polls will see the BJP, the ruling party, go up against a resurgent Congress after a neck-and-neck fight in the Lok Sabha elections two

months ago.

The Assembly election in Haryana is a litmus test for ruling BJP, which has been ruling the state since 2014. For the BJP, the ground reality this time is quite different from

five years ago. Both the parties won five seats each in the Lok Sabha polls and back in 2019, the saffron party won 40 out of 90 Assembly seats in Haryana. Continued on Page 8

fraternity attacks across the country

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I}^{n} what is being seen as a damage control move amid nationwide protests by doctors following the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee medico at Kolkata's State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, the Centre on Friday instructed the heads of Government hospitals across the country to file an institutional First Information Report (FIR) within six hours of any incidence of violence.

The Union Health Ministry has been facing criticism for its failure to provide a safe environment for the medical fraternity despite several cases of violence against healthcare workers reported in the past within hospital premises.

In fact, Friday's directive by the chief of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Dr Atul Goel, to file FIR within six hours of an incident follows a recent circular from the National Medical Commission (NMC), the country's apex medical education regulator, which similarly stated that in the event of any violence, there should be a prompt

investigation by the college management, FIRs should be lodged with the police, and an action-taken-report should be sent to the NMC within 24 hours. In the memorandum issued on Friday,

the DGHS stated that "in the event of any violence against any healthcare worker while on duty, the head of that institution shall be responsible for filing an institutional FIR within a maximum of 6 hours of the incident." "Recently, it has been observed that violence against doctors and other healthcare staff in Government hospitals has become common. A number of health workers suffer physical violence while on duty. Many are threatened or subjected to verbal aggression. Most of this violence is perpetrated by either the patient or

the patient's attendants," the

memorandum added. This has been a long-standing demand of resident doctors, as FIRs are not filed in connection with many incidents despite existing mechanisms. The doctors have also been seeking enactment of a Central Protection Act to deter violence against medical personnel on duty. A draft prepared in 2019, following similar outrage over the assault on a doctor in Kolkata, proposed imprisonment for up to 10 years and a fine of up to ₹10 lakh for violence against doctors on duty is still in a

The DGHS advisory also stated that all Central Government hospitals should maintain a registry of such incidents and report them to the Health Ministry.

Continued on Page 8

INDIA REACHES FOR THE SKIES

set the September 30 deadline

J&K. There are 90 seats in the Assembly of J&K post

delimitation, with 43

seats in the Jammu

region and 47 in

Kashmir. Of these, 74

Scheduled Caste

are general seats, nine are

candidates, and seven for

Announcing the schedule for

the J&K Assembly polls, Chief

Election Commissioner Rajiv

Kumar told a Press conference

in New Delhi the three-phase

elections to the 90-member

Scheduled Tribes.



ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle-03 (SSLV-D3) carrying Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-08) leaves a trail of smoke after it lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota,

PM Modi thanks world leaders for their support on India's I-Day



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday thanked several world leaders for their wishes on 78th India's 78th Independence Day and told French President Emmanuel Macron that their interactions over the years have added great strength to the ties

between two countries. He told Macron that they will keep working together to further global good.
Modi lauded his UAE counterpart
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his

personal commitment to strong ties between India and the UAE.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the activities agricultural causing irreparable damage to excavation sites at Rakhigarhi and Rakhishahpur village in Hissar district, Haryana, the Centre has moved to include these sites under its protection. The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) last week issued a notification seeking to declare the two mounds, identified as Mound VI and Mound VII at the villages, known for their significant evidence related to the Indus Valley Civilization. Archaeologists regard Rakhigarhi as one of the largest Indus Valley sites, with valuable artifacts and historical evidence

excavated since the ASI began its

work in the region in 1963.

The need for Central protection measures gained urgency by recent damage to a skeleton by the farmers in the region. It was excavated by ASI excavation team led by its director Dr Sanjay K Manjul. The skeleton, believed to be over 4,000 years old was found in a cemetery at Mound VII.

Currently, Mounds VI and VII are privately owned, necessitating Government acquisition of the land and compensation to the farmers. An ASI official stated that including the sites in the protection list would help preserve historical evidence and ensure that future generations appreciate this ancient civilisation.

According to the information available, there are seven mounds at the Harappan site in



How many mounds? ASI seems helpless

Rakhigarhi village. Mounds 1, 2, 3, and parts of 4 and 5 are already under ASI control, but Mounds 6 and 7 remain privately owned. Mound 6 covers 33 acre, while Mound 7 spans about six acre, both

currently owned by farmers are used for agriculture. The lack of preservation at these sites has already impacted the

historical evidence. "The skull of the skeleton is badly damaged... The damage

area," said Manjul, as per a media report. He also pointed out that sand mining by the farmers poses a serious threat to the site. He said while the rest of the skeleton is in good condition, the skull has sustained damage. "Agricultural activities by farmers over the years seem to have damaged part of the skull. This damage may make it challenging to extract a DNA sample for further analysis," he said. In addition to the skeleton, the excavation unearthed 21 earthen utensils found near the remains. "The skeleton appears to be that of a middle-aged man. Our previous excavations have revealed similar burial rituals involving utensils, suggesting continuity in these practices,"

might have been the result of the

agricultural activities in the

Manjul noted. The team also discovered a seal from Mound number 3.

Rakhigarhi is recognised as one of the largest sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Current excavations underscore its significance as a major

metropolis of ancient times, featuring a well-planned urban layout with distinct residential, industrial, and institutional areas, as well as a cemetery. Signed by Yadubir Singh Rawat. Director General of the ASI, the

organisation on August 3, 2024 issued a draft notification seeking public objections and comments that aims to prevent encroachment and mitigate the impact of agricultural activities by declaring the sites of national importance.

Continued on Page 8

Protest by resident Constable shoots wife, self doctors hampers health services



Additionally, they are calling

for the establishment of a doc-

tor protection cell at the insti-

tutional, city, state, and nation-

al levels to ensure safety for

both on-duty and off-duty

doctors and to hold account-

able those responsible for vio-

lence against medical profes-

The united Resident Doctors'

Association of Lucknow has

decided to continue their

protest by suspending non-

essential medical services until

their demands are addressed.

Vineet Mishra, president of the

Resident Doctors' Association

at RMLIMS, emphasised the

need for expedited justice and

cessation of vandalism at hos-

pitals, stating, "If it is taking so long for us to achieve justice,

what about the common

man?" Dr Sanjay Chaudhary

from the Resident Doctors

Association at SGPGI added:

'We plan to extend the suspen-

sion of non-essential medical

services, including OPDs, elec-

tive surgeries, and academic

activities, until our demands

are met. We seek full support

Protests and marches were

also held at their respective

institutions earlier in the day.

At RMLIMS, resident doctors

demonstrated at their institute,

where Health Minister Brajesh

Pathak met with the students

At KGMU, a march was con-

ducted on campus, joined by

faculty members, while resident doctors at SGPGI and

Balrampur Hospital also

The strike affected OPD ser-

vices and elective surgeries at

RMLIMS, SGPGI, and KGMU.

RMLIMS spokesperson

Bhuwan Tewari noted that

while OPD services were slow-

er due to the strike, faculty

members continued to manage

essential services. Similarly, at

SGPGI and KGMU, senior

faculty members covered OPD

and routine procedures. In

solidarity with the protests in

Association (IMA) has

announced a nationwide with-

drawal of non-essential health-

care services from 6 am on

Saturday to 6 am on Sunday.

NOTICE

NOTIFY THAT I AM USING

MY NAME MAYURI SHUKLA

& MAYURI GUPTA. THE

BOTH NAMES OF ONE &

SAME PERSON. MAYURI

SHUKLA W/O MADHUKAR

GUPTA R/o 4-A KHASRA No.

654, KANPUR ROAD, NEAR

KHAD GODAM, BARIGAWAN,

LDA COLONY LUCKNOW-

NOTICE

I change my name Vinay Sapra to

Vinay Kumar Sapra. Vinay Sapra

and Vinay Kumar Sapra S/o Late

Ganga Ram Sapra R/o M-43

Sector-c LDA Colony, Kanpur

NOTICE

I have changed my name from

JARRIN ANJUM To ZARRIN

ANJUM for all future purposes,

ZARRIN ANJUM W/O SYED

RAIS AHMAD R/O 101/42.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from

Farookh khan to Farukh khan for

all future purpose.Farukh khan

S/O Ibrahim Khan R/O village

NOTICE

My-actual name is DEEP MALA

SHUKLA instead of RAKHI

SHUKLA. Add: DEEP MALA

SHUKLA, 120/5, Shastri Nagar,

Miramau Bhonsava Shrawasti

Colonel Ganj, Kanpur Nagar

Lucknow the Indian Medical

and assured support.

protested the incident.

from all faculty members."

sionals.

PNS LUCKNOW

Resident doctors in Lucknow on Friday organised a largescale protest to demand justice and safety following the recent murder and rape of a resident doctor in Kolkata, as well as acts of vandalism at a hospital.

Over 2,000 resident doctors from SGPGI, RMLIMS, KGMU, and Kalyan Singh Cancer Institute, along with paramedical staff and civilians, gathered for a peaceful demonstration at 1090 Crossing in the evening.

The Resident Doctors' Associations of SGPGI, RMLIMS, KGMU, and Kalyan Singh Cancer Institute expressed deep concern over the violent incidents at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata during the midnight hours of the 78th Independence Day, including the heinous murder and rape

of a doctor on duty.
A representative from the Resident Doctors' Association of KGMU stated: "In response to this tragic incident, the resident doctors of Lucknow have come together for a general body meeting. We strongly condemn these acts and stand in solidarity with the affected hospital."
The demands include a swift

investigation and arrest of the perpetrators, immediate enforcement of the Central Protection Act, involvement of the Home Ministry, and deployment of central armed forces to protect resident doctors across medical colleges in Kolkata.



NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE
Be informed that my client I.C.I.C.I. Bank Limited intends to provide loan to one of its customers Mr. Urooz Alan Siddiqui, son of Mr. Anees Ahmad Siddiqui against his property being House with land constructed on plot No. 109-A ad measuring 98.891 sq.mts. being portion of khasra No. 785, situated at village Mutakkipur, Pargana, Tehsil and Distt. Lucknow but in the chain of title deeds of said property, one of the original sale-deed dated 02.11.2015 vide serial No. 16774 executed by Mrs. Ishan Infracity Private Ltd. In favour of Mr. Mabood Ahmad, son of Late Mehndi Hasan is allegedly lost somewhere. If any person or institution has any interest, concern or title over said property, he/fr may contact me within 7 days with concerned evidence. If no objection/claim is lodged with me within said period, my client shall provide loan to its said customer against mortgage of said said customer against mortgage of said property and it shall have its first charge over said property. Tarun Prakash Srivastava, Advocate, Chamber: Room No. 110-111, Citi Hotel, B.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow-226001, Mob.: 9335914262

आवश्यकता है

मदरसा सादिकल उलम मेंहदौरी प्रयागराज में एक स०अ० तहतानियाँ का पद रिक्त है। स०अ० तहतानियाँ हेत शैक्षिक योग्यता आलिम अथवा (उर्दू) 35400—112400 लेविल—6 एव अन्य भक्ते न्यून्तम आयु 18 वर्ष । इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रबन्धक के पदनाम से मदरसा उपरोक्त पर

> मदरसा सादिकुल उलूम मेंहदौरी प्रयागराज Road Lucknow is same person

NOTICE

executed by president of india in respect o quarter/house no.279, block no.13 Govind Nagar, Kanpur admeasuring 75 sqyds, in favour of Mr. Hemandas S/o Mr. Jethanand, duly registered in the office of sub-registra: Kanpur in book No.1 vol.no.2124 a pages -149 at serial no.930 on 15.03.1961 & original sale deed dated 08.10.1963 executed by Mr. Hemandas s/o Mr. Jethanand in favour of Mr. Gelamal s/o Mr. Pesumal, duly registered in the office of sub-registrar, kanpur in book No.1 volume no.2272 at pages 287 to 292 at Serial no.5385 on 08.10.1963 have been lost, from present owner smt Devendra kaur w/o Sardar Kanhai Singh while going to market at Govind Naga Kanpur on 07-01-2020 around 4.00 pm, as evident form FIR dated 08.08 2024, copy of which is enclosed in case any person has found the original envelop above sale deeds please inform to undersigned, no mortgage on its basis, has ever been created, if any bank of financial institutions, has any charge over i the same be informed to the undersigne within 7 days otherwise their claim will be extinguished truly. sarvesh chandra dubey advocate 411-412 ivth floor "Krishna Tower" 15/63, civil lines, kanpur. Mob: 09839039320 -mail:advocatesarveshdubev@gmail.com

In a tragic incident on Friday night, a constable shot his wife before turning the gun on himself in Azad Nagar under Krishna Nagar police station. The constable was identified as Sarvesh Rawat, who was a member of the 2011 batch, and his wife as Meera Rawat, who was an India Post employee. Rawat was posted in Kanpur

and had returned to the city for Rakshabandhan.

Reports said that he and his wife had been experiencing marital discord, and the case was sub judice.

During a meeting on the day of the incident, the couple had a heated argument.

According to DCP (South) Vikas Mishra, the couple, who married in 2019, had been in conflict throughout the day. In a fit of rage, Sarvesh Rawat shot Meera in the head before turning the gun on himself in their room on the first floor. The constable, who was stationed in Kanpur, and his wife were rushed to the hospital after neighbours alerted the police.

Meera was declared dead on arrival at the hospital, while Sarvesh succumbed to injuries during treatment at the KGMU Trauma Centre.

The exact cause of the argument between the couple remains unclear. The families of both Sarvesh and Meera have been informed of the tragedy. The bodies have been sent to the morgue for autopsy. The couple is survived by

Banthra case: Victim killed over insistence to name theft accused

PNS LUCKNOW

The victim in the Banthra murder case, Makhaule, met a brutal end due to his insistence on naming the brother of the alleged assailant in a theft incident that had taken place in the village. Sunil, a resident of Nanmau

village, has been apprehended by police in connection with the murder. Makhaule's body was discovered on the morning of August 14. During the course of the inves-

tigation, Sunil confessed to the crime and disclosed the motive for murder. On August 14, a theft had

taken place in Nanmau village, which led to widespread suspicion regarding the involve-ment of one of Sunil's brothers. Makhaule was outspoken about his intention to report the alleged thief's identity to the police, which caused significant concern for Sunil and his brother.

Fearing police involvement and potential repercussions,

an 11-month-old daughter. Sarvesh was a resident of Kalli Paschim in PGI police station area, while Meera was a resident of Hasnapur in Azad Nagar (Krishna Nagar). Meera was posted at GPO in

Sunil decided to take drastic measures to prevent Makhaule from making a statement. He initially befriended Makhaule and asked him to visit the Baba Vishwanath Temple and the Ayodhya's Ramlalla Temple.

According to the Banthra police, Sunil was apprehended at Kanjakheda crossing, Mohan road, after an informer tipped them off about his location. Sunil was in the process of fleeing the area when he was caught. Sunil revealed that Makhaule,

along with his son Pappu, had been accusing him of theft. In an attempt to divert suspicion and mislead the villagers, Sunil had invited Makhaule to visit the temples. On the night of August 13, as they were returning from the pilgrimage, Sunil asked Makhaule to stay with him at Kanjakheda crossing while the other villagers went home. He warned Makhaule not to report his or his brother's involvement in the theft, but

Hazratganj. In 2021, the couple had struck

a truce and the court allowed

Sarvesh to take Meera to his

A spokesman said Sarvesh,

along with Meera, visited his

address their concerns.

'They fought over some issue

in-laws' house in Krishna Nagar on Friday.

Makhaule remained resolute

in his decision to speak out.

This defiance incited Sunil's

rage, and he, fearing that his

brother's previous imprison-

ment for theft might lead to

his own arrest, attacked Makhaule with a brick.

Following the discovery of Makhaule's body, his relatives

accused the police of negligence. They claimed that the

police's inaction had allowed

Sunil to commit the murder to

The family expressed their frustration by blocking the road, asserting that timely

police intervention could have

prevented Makhaule's death.

The villagers' protest led to a roadblock that lasted nearly

In response, police forces from four different stations were deployed to bring the situation

under control. The police successfully persuaded the pro-

testers to clear the road and

assured them that immediate

action would be taken to

three hours.

silence a potential witness.

and later in the evening, Sarvesh shot Meera and later killed himself," the spokesman

STF nabs 2 members of interstate gang smuggling oxytocin PNS LUCKNOW

The Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday claimed to have apprehended two active members of an interstate gang involved in the smuggling of illegal oxytocin injections. The operation led to the recovery of 36 boxes containing approximately 2,80,899 ampoules of oxytocin. Those arrested were identified as

Anmol Pal from Buddheshwar in Para and Dinesh Kumar from Sandila in Hardoi district. The STF team seized a substantial quantity of oxytocin from the accused, including 2,67,000 ampoules of 1 ml, 12,627 ampoules of 30 ml, and 1,260 ampoules of 100 ml, valued at approximately Rs 1.37 crore. In addition to the oxytocin, the STF sleuths recovered an SUV (Scorpio), two mobile phones, and Rs 4,500 in cash.

The arrests were made at the Bangla Bazaar intersection on Telibagh road, in front of the Irrigation department in Ashiyana police station area.
The STF had been gathering intelligence on the illegal smuggling of oxytocin from Bihar. Various unit teams were tasked with collecting information and taking necessary action.

On Thursday, they received a tip-off indicating that a gang was transporting large quantities of oxytocin injections from Bihar to Lucknow and surrounding districts.

The gang was also reportedly adulterating the oxytocin with phenyl, posing serious health risks to both humans and animals. The STF, in collaboration with the Food Supply and Drug Administration officials, intercepted the SUV. During the search, two sacks filled with oxytocin ampoules were found. Further interrogation disclosed that the gang was engaged in the illegal supply of oxytocin injections in Lucknow and nearby areas. They had been ordering high-density oxytocin from Bihar under the guise of miner-

al water parcels. The oxytocin was packed in ampoules of various sizes and distributed in the region. The substance is used for milk extraction from animals and to accelerate the growth of vegetables and fruits.

TWO GROUPS CLASH AFTER TIRANGA YATRA

Two groups clashed during a tiranga yatra in the city, leading to a chaotic scene on Mohan road on Independence Day. The incident occurred after the vatra, which began at Mohan road and concluded at Hanskheda, ended peacefully.

Reports indicate that following the yatra, two bikes collided on Mohan road. The incident sparked a heated argument between the two groups and it escalated into a clash involving stone-pelting. The situation deteriorated rapidly, resulting in traffic jam and chaos. The miscreants dispersed before the police reached the scene. Mohan Road outpost incharge Satish Chandra Mishra detailed that the tiranga yatra, organised by Ajit Yadav, Sachin Yadav, and Akash Yadav, concluded peacefully. However, the post-vatra altercation saw Aiit Yadav, Sachin Yadav, Akash Yadav, Himanshu Yadav, Shubham Singh, and 20-25 others engage in verbal abuse and physical violence.

BY DAD'S FRIEND

A High School student has accused her father's friend of harassment, alleging that he coerced her into visiting his flat alone and subsequently retaliated by posting obscene content about her on social media. Police have registered an FIR based on the victim's complaint and are actively investigating the case. The student, a resident of Lalbagh, reported ongoing harassment by the accused, who frequently visited her home. In her complaint, she claimed that the man, whom she referred to as "uncle", would attempt inappropriate behaviour whenever he found her alone. Out of fear of defamation, she did not initially disclose these incidents to her family.

Firm owners bid to grab house of ex-governor

The owners of a firm have L been accused of attempting to unlawfully seize the proper-ty of the late Governor Mahayir Prasad, in Vipul Khand, Gomti Nagar. The complaint was lodged by the former governor's daughter, Nirmala Devi, and a case was registered at the Gomti Nagar police station. Mahavir Prasad, who served as

the governor of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, owned a house in Vipul Khand. In January 2022, his daughter

Nirmala Devi rented it to Amit Pal and Anuradha Pal, residents of Delhi, who established their firm at the location. The rental agreement was formalised through an

Probe into 'digital

Lucknow (PNS): A probe into

the cyber fraud in which a woman doctor at SGPGIMS

was duped of Rs 2.81 crore has

uncovered connections to Saudi

Arabia, Inspector Brijesh Yaday

from the Cyber Crime police

station revealed that the fraud-

sters had established links with

The criminals utilised seven

bank accounts across Bihar.

Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi,

through which the stolen funds

were channelled before being

converted into cryptocurrency.

As part of the investigation, the

cyber team has successfully

frozen Rs 27.88 lakh from one

of the victim's bank accounts

that could not be transferred.

The team also discovered sig-

nificant withdrawals in Surat

(Gujarat), prompting the

deployment of a team to appre-

hend lower-level accomplices of

the gang, while the hunt contin-

ues for the key figures. Yadav noted that large-scale

fraud cases often have ties to

countries such as Saudi Arabia

The investigation revealed that

the perpetrators had opened

bank accounts using fake iden-

from the respective banks.

scrutinising these details.

"We have obtained transaction

records from five out of seven

banks involved in the case.

The investigation is ongoing,"

the station house officer said.

The victim had reported the

crime to Cyber police station in

Vibhuti Khand on August 10.

She was targetted by fraudsters

posing as CBI officers, who

managed to confine her to her

house from August 1 to 8

under the pretense of a 'digital

During this period, she was

coerced into transferring

money in several installments

from various bank accounts.

and China.

individuals in Saudi Arabia.

arrest' case

Saudi Arabia

reveals links to

advocate. However, the accused initially stopped paying rent and subsequently acquired a new electricity connection in the firm's name using fraudulent documents. Upon discovering these issues, Nirmala Devi and her family raised their concerns. The tenants allegedly responded with abusive behaviour. Due to unsatisfactory assistance from the police, the family sought help from human rights organisations.

According to Gomti Nagar Inspector Rajesh Tripathi, the case was registered following instructions from the Human Rights Commission. ACP, Gomti Nagar, is current-

ly investigating the matter. Ón June 21 last, Nirmala Devi, who resides in Gorakhpur, filed a complaint with the

Human Rights Commission in Lucknow. In her complaint, she detailed that the property was leased to Amit Pal and Anuradha Pal.

The rental agreement was executed on January 25, 2022, for a firm headquartered at Abhimanyu Apartment, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi. Nirmala Devi stated that although the firm was registered in 2013, it ceased operations on March 31, 2014. Amit Pal, she alleged, continued the tenancy using forged documents.

Upon discovering that the rental agreement was based on fraudulent documents, Nirmala Devi issued a notice to vacate the property. However, Amit Pal, Anuradha

Pal, and their manager Deepak Awasthi failed to respond. On March 2, fearing the property might be occupied unlawfully, Nirmala Devi visited the house. There, she found that the tenants had forged documents with her signature and obtained an electricity connection using these forged papers. When she protested, she alleged that they used abusive, caste-specific language and threatened her.

Nirmala Devi further alleged that after receiving threats from Amit Pal, she sent a legal notice. In response, Amit Pal allegedly threatened to kill her entire family and retained several individuals, dressed in lawyers' attire, at the property. Despite these allegations, she claimed that the police did not take action, prompting her to raise the issue with the Human Rights Commission.

Woman judge, kin fall ill after eating 'contaminated' laddoos

A woman judge has filed a formal complaint at the Gomti Nagar police station against the owner and staff of a well-known sweet shop located in the area.

The complaint, lodged on August 13, alleged that the shop served contaminated food that caused her and her family to suffer from a severe intestinal infection. According to the complaint, the woman judge visited the sweet shop around 6:30 pm on July 31. She purchased 250 grams of boon-di laddoos, two small ghevars, and a variety of other items. She detailed that after consuming the laddoos herself and distributing them to her sister and housemaid, all three began complained of stomachache within half an hour.

The next day, the judge reportedly feeling nauseated and unwell. Initially, she hoped her condition would improve on its own, but by August 3, her health worsened significantly.

During lunch at her work-place, she fainted and was area, was widely shared on rushed to a doctor by court staff.

She was admitted to a hospital due to a serious gastroenteric infection and was treated from August 3 to 6. Though she was discharged on August 6 evening, she continued to receive medical treatment. She reported that the infection

was life-threatening and that she incurred hospital expenses amounting to Rs 62,000. Her sister and housemaid also received treatment for gastroenteric infections after consuming the laddoos.

In her complaint, the woman judge asked the police to register a case and take appropriate legal action against the sweet shop's owner and employees. She also provided receipts for the sweets purchased.

Meanwhile, a video showing a jewellery shop owner bran-dishing a pistol during a heated altercation went viral on Friday. The incident, which

area, was widely shared on social media on Friday. In the one-minute undated

video, Anubhav Agarwal, identified as the owner of the jewellery shop, can be seen in a verbal duel with another man. The video captures Agarwal wielding a pistol while a security guard attempts to de-escalate the situation by urging him to move outside the shop. Agarwal is heard instructing the other man to leave the shop, while the man being threatened suggests going to a police station or using the firearm. After the video went viral, the

police reached the scene. According to DCP (East) Shashank Singh, Anubhav Agarwal claimed that he brandished the pistol in selfdefence.

"A complaint has been filed with the Gomti Nagar police, and an investigation is underway. We are questioning individuals related to the incident to gather more information," Singh stated.

Sudhir Kumar Gupta on Friday.

Lucknow Zonal Manager

Pranesh Kumar, Deputy

आवेदकों को वरीयता दी जाएगी।

माँ शीतला देवी त्रिजुगी नारायण महिला महाविद्यालय

अरौल, कानपुर नगर - 209202 (अल्पसंख्यक संस्था)

बी.एड.-2024 में प्रबंधकीय कोटे पर प्रवेश हेतु

02/09/2024 तक आवेदन करें।

प्रवेश परीक्षा 22/09/2024 को एस. जे. महाविद्यालय रमईपुर

कानपुर नगर में सम्पन्न होगी। प्रवेश मेरिट के आधार पर होंगे

योग्यता एवं अर्हता उ.प्र. सरकार / एन.सी.टी.ई. के अनुसार

होगी। इच्छक अभ्यर्थी व्यक्तिगत रूप से कार्यालय में समस्त

अभिलेखों के साथ उपस्थित होकर आवेदन करे।

PPGCŁ Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301
Plant Adress: PO- Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj(Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107
Phone: +91-120-6102000/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) fron eligible vendors for <u>Hiring of Ambulance (ALS & BLS Type)</u> of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Black of Registry Limited Brown Constitution Company Limited Registry Lim Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Utta Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc.

may be downloaded using the URL- https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 18th August 2024.

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR NOTICE

Applications forms for allotment of hostel Shops/Vehicle Stands from session 2024-25 (Extendable upto 30-06-2029) of University Campus, Amritsar, Regional Campus, Gurdaspur, Regional Campus, Jalandhar & University College, Jalandhar are invited till 28.08.2024. The details, terms & conditions and forms can he downloaded from the university website https://online.gndu.ac.in/tenders-notice.aspx

Dean Student's Welfare NA/12/24801/2023/36732 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024



E-Tender Enq. No. 554/P-1/EMPW-12775 dated 14-08-24 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_125574_1 to conduct Energy Audit of GGGSSTP Units III to VI having capacities of 4x210MW. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 14.08.2024/ 5.00 PM onwards.

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

76155/12/3308/2023/36725 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

Form No.5 THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL LUCKNOW 600/1 University Road Near Hanuman Setu Temple Lucknow 226007 (Area of Jurisdiction — Part of Uttar Pradesh) (Area of Jurisdiction — Part of Ottar Fragesh) mmon For Filling Reply & Appearance by Publication DATE: - 14.08.2024

(Summon To the Defendants under section 19 (3) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act 1993 read with Rule 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rule 1993) HDFC BANK LIMITED VERSUS ARIF HUSAIN AND OTHERS ... APPLICANT

...DEFENDANTS

To, 1. Arif Husain, C/o Anwar Husain, R/o 300/26 Amin Complex, Akbari Gate, Lucknow Chowk, Lucknow U.P. India- 226003. 2. Union Traders, Throught Its Proprietor Arif Husain R/o 300/26 Amin Complex, Akbari Gate, Lucknow Chowk, Lucknow U.P. India- 226003. 3. Asiya Hashm W/o Anif Husain, R/o House No.. 300/26 Amin Complex, Akbari Gate, Lucknow U.P. India

In the above noted application, You are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets, alon with the documents and the affidavit personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioners in this tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel / duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the tribunal on 04.09.2024 at 10:30 AM failing which the application shall be heard and decided in you

REGISTRAR, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL LUCKNOW

CITYBRIEFS



The State Bank of India, Lucknow circle, celebrated the 78th Independence Day with enthusiasm at the Lucknow head office on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Chief General Manager Sharad S Chandak said that India has made remarkable progress in every field. "SBI is always committed to the economic progress of the nation. We make them aware of better customer service and increasing cyber crimes," he said. **FLAG HOISTED**

need to constantly communi-

cate with account holders to

Punjab National Bank celebrated Independence Day in the zonal office premises on Thursday. Zonal head Mrityunjay hoisted the flag. All the staff members present sang the national anthem in unison. Mrityunjay also paid tribute to all the martyrs of the freedom struggle.

ASSET FAIR

The two-day 'Asset Fair 2024' was inaugurated by Chief General Manager, Indian Bank,

General Manager of Lucknow Regional Office Shyam Shankar, Deputy General Manager of Lucknow Inspection Office Subodh Kumar Panigrahi and other officers were present. Customers participated in the programme and took advantage of the asset fair. It will also be available to the customers on August 17.

tities, and details of these accounts have been requested The cyber team is currently

Yogi sets record as Uttar Pradesh's longest serving CM

PNS LUCKNOW

On Friday, Yogi Adityanath set a new record by becoming the first chief minister of Uttar Pradesh to hold office continuously for seven years and 149 days.

Yogi Adityanath has represented the Gorakhpur Urban assembly constituency in the Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly since 2022 and has successfully led the state as chief min- In ister since 2017.

Yogi Adityanath assumed office as the 21st chief minister of Uttar Pradesh on March 19, 2017, and has remained in the position ever since. His tenure surpasses that of the previous leaders of regional parties who have held the office, including Chaudhary Charan Singh, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav.

comparison, Sampurnanand, a former Congress MLA, served as chief minister for 5 years and 345 days, from December 28, 1954 to December 7, 1960. Despite serving as chief minister three times, Mulayam Singh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party held office for only six years and 274 days across his terms. Mayawati, who served as chief minister four times, remained in the



The Yogi Adityanath government has set an ambitious

target of transforming Uttar

Pradesh into a zero poverty

state, To realise this target

Chief Minister Yogi has adopt-

ed the principle of 'Antyodaya se Sarvodaya' as the foundation

of his approach. He unveiled

the ambitious scheme on the

78th Independence Day on

The policy envisions the welfare

of the entire society by focusing on the uplift of the most vulnerable sections. A comprehensive

action plan is being developed

to achieve Yogi's goal of a 'zero

According to an official spokesman of the government, the 'One Family, One ID' initia-

tive will be pivotal in this effort,

aiming to ensure that every

impoverished and marginalised

individual receives the full ben-

efits of government schemes.

The Yogi government has set an

ambitious target to lift 15 lakh to 25 lakh of the state's poorest

families above the poverty line

Over the past decade, six crore individuals in Uttar Pradesh

who were living in severe eco-

nomic hardship, have been lift-

ed out of multidimensional

poverty, thereby providing them with a dignified quality of life.

Addressing the people of Uttar Pradesh on Independence Day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

reaffirmed the state govern-

ment's unwavering commit-

ment to the welfare of the most

'Antyodaya'. "Our priority is to

ensure that every poor, needy and deprived individual benefits

from government schemes," he

Chief Minister Yogi empha-

sised that in the last seven and

a half years, over 56 lakh poor families have been provided with housing under the Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana, 2.62 crore

lets, and more than 1.86 crore

have received free LPG connec-

tions. The ongoing efforts include providing drinking

water connections to over 2.65

crore families and distributing

free food grains to 15 crore poor

The chief minister highlighted

that with the effective imple-

mentation of welfare pro-

grammes, Uttar Pradesh has

successfully lifted six crore peo-

ple out of multidimensional

people have gained access to toi-

through

marginalised

Thursday.

poverty state.

within a year.

position for seven years and 16 days, falling short of Yogi Adityanath's record. Akhilesh Yadav, also from the SP, served as chief minister for only five

years and four days.
Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stands out as a leader under the leadership of the same party that formed the government for two consecutive terms. When Yogi Adityanath took the oath as chief minister on March 25,

2022, he broke a 37-year-old record set by Narayan Dutt Tiwari, who had taken oath as chief minister for the second time in the undivided Uttar Pradesh in 1985. Yogi Adityanath has surpassed this milestone as well.

On November 9, 2000, the formation of Uttarakhand led to the division of Uttar Pradesh into two states. Since then, no party had managed to form the

Yogi govt to transform UP into a 'zero poverty' state

government in Uttar Pradesh for two consecutive terms until Yogi Adityanath accomplished this feat. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had already set another milestone on Thursday by becoming the first chief minister of Uttar Pradesh to hoist the national flag on Independence Day for eight consecutive times. Yogi Adityanath also shattered the longstanding myth that any

risks losing the position. He visited Noida and launched numerous schemes and proiects, contributing significantly to the development of Noida and Greater Noida. Under Yogi's leadership, substantial efforts have been made to enhance infrastructure, attract industrial investment, and improve the quality of life in

Atal laid foundation of modern India: CM

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Friday that Bharat Ratna and former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid the foundation of modern India.

He noted, "In addition to serving as prime minister three times, he played a crucial role in removing political instabil-ity of the country."

Chief Minister Yogi paid floral tributes to the statue of former prime minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at Lok Bhavan on his

sixth death anniversary. Addressing reporters, he said, "Atal Bihari Vajpayee had provided the country with a model for good governance, infrastructure and rural development'

Yogi further mentioned that the Antyodaya programmes run during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government reflect his visionary approach.

He said that Atal ji, who was born on December 25, 1924, had a public life of nearly six decades that was completely unblemished and he elevated Indian politics to new heights. Chief Minister Yogi also referred to Atal ji as an 'ajaatshatru' (a person without enemies) in Indian politics, highlighting his status as a universally respected figure.

Reflecting on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's legacy, Chief Minister Yogi noted that Atal Bihari Vajpayee began his public life in independent India under the guidance of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. In 1957, he was elected as an MP from Balrampur (now

Shravasti) for the first time. Rajya Sabha twice, with five of his Lok Sabha terms being as noble efforts, the grateful nation honoured him with the the elected representative from

Lucknow. Chief Minister Yogi said that although Atal Bihari Vajpayee was no longer with us, his memories, poems and the values and principles he upheld in Indian politics would always continue to inspire us.

He added that the nation can never forget the efforts made by Atal Bihari Vajpayee to estab-



Bharat Ratna recipient Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary at Lok Bhavan

title of Bharat Ratna.

Chief Minister Adityanath was accompanied by Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurva and Brajesh Pathak, Bharatiya Janata Party state president Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, former deputy chief minister and currently Rajya Sabha member Dr Dinesh

He added, "Atal ji had the lish India as a global superpow- Sharma, former jal shakti opportunity to serve in the Lok er. Chief Minister Yogi men. Sabha 10 times and in the tioned that, in gratitude for his many senior BJP leaders in

the programme. Speaking at a 'Shraddhanjali Sabha' and solo poetry recitation programme, Yogi said that politics should be rooted in values and principles. He warned that politics devoid of these elements becomes a noose around the neck. This, he added, represents the true nature of the so-called secularists in the country, which we see time and

poverty. "In line with the prime minister's vision, the state government is also committed to advancing the zero poverty campaign," Chief Minister Yogi said. He added that by creating a Family ID for every household, the state aims to achieve 100 per cent saturation of government schemes. Each family will be issued a Family ID to facilitate this goal, he added.

According to NITI Aayog, Uttar Pradesh consistently ranks first in the nation in the composite rankings. Despite this achievement, reaching every impoverished family remains a challenging task. The Yogi government recognises that if some families have been left behind, it is crucial to include them in the

poverty eradication efforts. To address this, the government is developing a comprehensive strategy and roadmap for poverty eradication. The analysis reveals that the poverty levels among some identified families are alarmingly severe. Therefore, in the initial phase, the government plans to implement a targeted convergence strategy to address the needs of the poorest families. This approach will focus on meeting their essential needs, including food, clothing, housing, education and medical

In addition, projects are being identified that can provide support to these families. At the gov ernment level, there is a focus not only on securing funds but also on ensuring effective management. Emphasis is also being placed on establishing clear guidelines and adhering to timelines for the necessary actions required for each family.

In the second phase, the focus will shift to establishing sustainable income sources and enhancing the livelihood skills and capacity of one member from each family.

Additionally, provisions will be made to engage students from universities, colleges and prestigious educational institutions as interns. Local civil society organisations will also be involved through partnerships with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). Reputable research institutes may be empanelled for independent

evaluations to ensure effective

implementation and assessment. Chief Minister Yogi, on Independence Day, also announced the Mukhyamantri

Yuva Udyami Vikas Yojana. The scheme will serve as the foundation for fostering young entrepreneurs in the state with the target to provide financial assistance to 10 lakh micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) units over the next 10 years. Under the scheme, interest-free loans up to Rs 5 lakh will be provided in the first installment, and interest-free loans up to Rs 10 lakh will be given to young entrepreneurs in the second installment.

Under the scheme, financial grants will be provided to one lakh youth every year by getting loans from banks for setting up micro enterprises.

Corporate and Services Department, Star House, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Zonal Office, Bank of India

Detailed Notification inviting offers for Premises required for Opening of New Branch Bachhrawan, Lucknow Zone (within the radius of Bachhrawan Town Area, Dist- Raebareli) is available on our web site www.bankofindia.co.in. Prescribed format for submission of offer may be obtained from our Office at Bank of India Star House, Gomti Nagar, 1 Vibhuti Khand, Lucknow-226010 OR may be downloaded from our Website www.bankofindia.co.in.

REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES FOR OPENING OF BACHHRAWAN BRANCH

Last date for submission of offer is up to 22.08.2024 up to 4.00 PM. Date: 17.08.2024 **DEPUTY ZONAL MANAGER**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office, Kanpur Metro Region: 118/330 1st Floor, Gumti No. 5, Kaushalpuri, Kanpur - 12 Possession Notice Branch: Birhana Road, Kanpur

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & nterest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time

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

Borrower: Shri Sant Ram Chauhan S/o Shri Buddharam & Smt. Meena Chauhan W/o Shri Sant Ran Chauhan and Shri Mastram Chauhan S/o Shri Buddharam, All R/o: House No. 630, E-2/6, KDA Colon Shyam Nagar, Kanpur. Demand Notice Date: 15-01-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 13-08-2024

Property: Land and Building at House No. 870/13 Builtover Private Plot No. 13 (Part-A) Arazi No. 870, Situated at Rampuram, Daheli Sujanpur, Kanpur in the name of Smt. Meena Chauhan W/o Shri Sant Ram Chauhan, Area: 83.61 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North: Part of House No. 870/13 Owned by Seller thereafter Plot No. 12, South: Private Plot No. 14, East: 200 Ft. Wide Road, West: Private Plot No. 30

O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 4,40,884.06 + Intt. + Others Charges Date: 13-08-2024

Place : Kanpur

Authorised Officer

Mayawati criticises PM's I-Day speech for ignoring key issues

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Friday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech delivered from the Red Fort in Delhi.

minister for describing Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's principles of secularism, which emphasise equal respect for all religions, as 'communal'.

Mayawati argued that the government's failure to uphold the constitutional intent of secularism reflects poorly on true patriotism and governance. Furthermore, Mayawati

expressed disappointment over the prime minister's speech for "neglecting critical national issues such as widespread poverty, unemployment, inflation and backwardness".

She highlighted that the speech did not offer any new hope for the approximately 1.25 billion people affected by these problems, and asked when they would experience 'achhe din (better days).

Mayawati also criticised the prime minister for not addressing the crucial issue of reservations for Dalits and adivasis, which she believes is particularly pressing following the Supreme Court's ruling on August 1, 2024. She noted that despite the Bharatiya

BSP welcomes polls in J&K; to go it alone

She condemned the prime PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Friday expressed her support for the announcement of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and claimed that her party, like the Parliament elections, would go it alone. The former chief minister of

Uttar Pradesh emphasised the importance of elections in democracy for addressing various issues and welcomed the decision as a step towards strengthening political and democratic activities in the region. The Bahujan Samaj Party plans to contest these elections independently, she

claimed. Mayawati also welcomed the assembly elections scheduled to be held in a single phase in Haryana. She highlighted the BSP's existing strong alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in Haryana.

The Bahujan Samaj Party is determined to fight the elections with full strength and aims to form a coalition government with its partners, she

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday announced assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana and said that the dates for Maharashtra and Jharkhand will be announced later on.

Ianata Party's assurances to its MPs, the issue remains unresolved.

Mayawati also pointed out that the Congress, like the BIP, has remained silent on the sub-categorisation and division of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe groups, which she deems unacceptable.

The former chief minister of

Uttar Pradesh further attacked the government emphasising that this day would only be special for the country's nearly 140 crore Bahujans if they are freed from poverty and can lead a prosperous life, which would, in turn, enhance the nation's respect.

She stressed that this would be possible only if the Central and Uttar Pradesh governments adopt a "providing work to every hand" approach, similar to what was implemented during the four terms of BSP rule in Uttar Pradesh.

Mayawati also criticiSed the BJP and the UP government's widely promoted 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, stating that slogans like "Let's hoist the tricolour together and awaken patriotism" are attempts to distract the public from pressing real issues.

She urged the government to stop mocking the people with emotional slogans and instead focus on providing more employment opportunities to the poor, allowing them to live with dignity rather than relying on minimal aid. She also condemned the gov-

ernment's practice of demolishing the homes of those dependent on self-employment. While the government claims progress in economic development, she pointed out that if the poor remain impoverished and their incomes stagnant, such claims are merely hollow. Mayawati further highlighted the need to address the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar, which affects selfreliance.

She called for the government to move beyond distractions and play a truly welfare-orient-

3 kanwariyas die in mishap

Lucknow (PNS): In a tragic road accident, three kan-wariyas, including a woman, were killed while 18 others sustained injuries when a pickup truck filled with kanwariyas rammed into a stationary trailer on National Highway-2 near Gulamipur area under Saini Kotwali of Kaushambi. The accident took place early Friday morning. CM Yogi Adityanath expressed his condolences to the bereaved families and directed officials to ensure proper treatment for the injured.

AKI INDIA LIMITED

Regd. Office: D-115, Defence Colony Jajmau, Shiwans Tannery, Kanpur Nagar, Jajmau, Uttar Pradesh - 208010 Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 30/06/2024

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Sr. No	Particulars	Quarter Ending on 30.06.2024	Year to Date Figures 31.03.2024	Corresponding Three Months Ended in the Previous Year 30.06.2023
1	Total income from operations (net)	2172.61	7412.84	1512.51
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	62.16	187.76	46.97
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	62.16	187.76	46.97
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	43.42	136.71	32.16
5	Total Comprehensive income for the period (after Tax)	43.42	136.71	32.16
6	Equity Share Capital	1715.28	1715.28	1338.61
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	4256.13	
8	Face Value of Equity Share Capital	2	2	2
9	Earnings Per Share (Basic / Diluted)	0.040	0.160	0.050

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website i.e. www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com and Company

Mohammad Ajwad Whole-time Director DIN: 07902475

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण (ISO 14001 : 2004, ISO 9001-2008 प्रमाणित संस्था) , गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.) टोल-फ्री 1800 1800 5000 वेबसाइट "http://www.ldaonline.co.ir -: सार्वजनिक सूचना :-सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण की आवासीय/व्यवसायिक/रेन्ट/नजूल/इम्प्रूवमेंट–ट्रस्ट योजनाओं के निम्नलिखित आवेदकों द्वारा उनके नाम के सामने अंकित सम्पत्ति का हस्तांतरण/नामान्तरण किये जाने हेतु प्राधिकरण में प्रार्थना–पत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया है :–

क्र. सं.	मूल आवंटी का नाम	भूखण्ड / भवन / फ्लैट संख्या	योजना का नाम व सेक्टर ⁄खण्ड	मृत्यु दिनांक	3	मूल आवंटी के उत्तराधिकारी अथव आवेदक का नाम	उत्तराधिका ग में अनापत्ति के न	ाकर्ताओं .	मूल आवंटी से (मृतक) का संबंध
1	2	3	4	5		6	7		8
1.	मोहम्मद सलीम	भूखण्ड सं0— 3/481	विवेक खण्ड गोमती नगर योजना	13.04.2021	मो.	रूमान आमिर खान (पुत्र)	श्रीमती निव श्रीमती शबिर कुमारी हया	ता परवीन	पुत्रियां
2.	श्री हीरा वल्लभ पांडे (मृतक)	भूखण्ड सं.—सी—34 सेक्टर—बी	1 महानगर	दिनांक 26.08.2020	1- % 2- %	ी हेमन्त कुमार पांडे ो राकेश कुमार पांडे		-	पुत्रगण
3.	डा० पूनम	भवन सं.—1 / 148 रुचि खण्ड—1	शारदा नगर योजना	30.04.2021		श्री प्रथम वर्मा	2	-	पुत्र
4.	श्री योगेश कुमार सव व श्री किशन लाव	न्सेना भूखण्ड सं0 न 1105	उद्यन – 2 रक्षा खण्ड रायबरेली रोड योजना, शारदानगर	श्री किशन ल मृत्यु दि.02.0		श्री योगेश कुमार सक्सेना	श्रीमती रेनू सिं श्रीमती वन्दना रघ्		पुत्र
5.	श्री बृजिकशोर माथुर श्रीमती रंजना माथुर श्री संजय माथुर	भवन सं.— एन —106	सेक्टर—एन आशियाना कानपुर रोड योजना			की मुत्य दि.14.07.20 ही मृत्यु दि. 27.11.20			पुत्र

उपर्युक्त नामान्तरण के आवेदन के सम्बन्ध में यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति हो तो वह साक्ष्य सहित प्रकाशन तिथि से 30 दिनों के अन्दर अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में प्राप्त करा दें। निर्धारित तिथि तक कोई आपत्ति प्राप्त न होने पर प्राधिकरण अभिलेखों में कॉलम–6 पर लिखित व्यक्ति का नाम दर्ज कर लिया जायेगा तथा उसके बाद किसी आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।



verka

Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following item

v. Elaichi
b) Augmentation & Re-strengthening of existing 4 No's foundations (60 kl to 100 kl
milk silos) of liquid milk plant at Verka Mohali Dairy.

For Verka Chandigarh Dairy
Auction Notice for Vehicles:
L. Innova Vehicle No. CH01-G1-2105, Model-2008, Diesel.
iii. Innova Vehicle No. CH01-G1-2821, Model-2009, Diesel.
iiii. Tata 407 Vehicle No. P885-E8730, Model-2007, Diesel.
iv. Hero Honda Motor Cycle No. CH04J-2719, Model-2009
v. Hero Honda Motor Cycle No. CH04J-1841, Model-2009
For Verka Mohali Dairy

For Verka Mohali Dairy
Annual rate contract for used Polyliner/Polyfilm scrap assorted used curd/ kheer
cups/misc bottles scrap, assorted used matka scrap, misc used Cannies (Capacity
to 15 Ltr.) Scrap, Misc used Cannies (Cap above 20 to 50 tr) scrap and half
yearly rate contract for disposal of other unserviceable items lying at Verka Mohali

Verka Bathinda Dairy. (Capacity 10 Tons & Capacity 15 Tons and above). For Verka Patiala Dairy
a) Shrink Sleeves

Noute no 4 (Bhadugarh, Urban Esate & Gurbaksh colony, Patiala).
Route no 16 (Bhadugarh, Urban Esate & Gurbaksh colony, Patiala).
Route no 5 (Thapar uni, Bhadson road, Patiala & surrounding area).
Route no 7 (Srihnid, Fatehgarh Sahib, Bhadson Amloh).
Route no 9 (Ambala, Mulana and Saha).

other states.Cap:- 15,000 to 30,000 ltr.

b) Hirning of insulated S.S road milk tankers for milk transportation within Punjab &

c) Hiring of insulated vehicle for transportation of Fresh Milk and Fresh Milk

v. Route no.9 (Ambala, Mulana and Saha).

For Verka Ludhiana Dairy
Job Contract for operation and maintlenance of pouch filling machines and tray
washer including coding on pouches.

For Verka Amritsar Dairy
Ji Hiring of Insulated Single portion Road Milk Tankers for Transportation of Milk
from BMC/MCC (cap. 10,000 Ltr.)
b) Supply of Indonesian Steam Coal.
For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy
a) Hiring of Vehicles for transportation of Milk from MPCS/Farms to MCC and Milk
Plant. Tata 407, 409, Mahindra Max, Mahindra Pick, Bolero Pick, Tata Ace.
b) Pest Control Services.

b) Pest Control Services.

For Verka Jalandhar Dairy
a) Supply of Aluminium foil for 450g/500g,1 kg, 5 kg & 15 kg Matka.
b) Hiring of Refrigerated Vehicles for supply of frozen and Ambient Verka products in Verka Jalandhar Dairy Milkshed area.

For Verka Ferozepur Dairy
a) Hiring of car (Bolerof swift Toyota Etios or its equivalent).
b) Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of ammonia based cold room with puff panel & its accessories, with civil structure complete.

For Verka CFP, Bhattian (Rhanna)
Transportation of Molasses from The Budhewal and The morinda co-operative constraints of the Verka Carlie feed plant. bhattian (Khanna).

Jugar Mills Lut. to Verka Cattle feed plant, bhattian (Khanna).

For Verka CFP, Ghania Ke Banger

Jisposai of Jod bardana jute gunny bags above 50 kgs/ Katta upto 50 kgs and

For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e.
 Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
 Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/24804/2023/36735 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

23 rly personnel awarded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

 $T^{
m he\ 78th\ Independence\ Day}_{
m was\ celebrated\ with\ great}$ enthusiasm and fanfare at North Central Railway headquarter office here. The programme started with flag hoisting by General Manager Upendra Chandra Joshi. The GM inspected the parade of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Bharat Scouts and Guides and St John Ambulance Brigade. The GM awarded 23 railway personnel for outstand-

For Verka Head office, Chandigarh a) Dry Fruits



ing performance. The GM and president, North Central Railway Women's Welfare Organisation released tricolor

Period/Tentative

Qty

06 Months

700 kg 7950 kg

ual/05 Tankers

Approx. 13-14 Laki

670 kg 525 kg 1000 kg

balloons in the air. A cultural programme was also organised. During the event, display by dog squad of the RPF and demonstration of unarmed combat by RPF women squad won applause from the audi-The GM extended heartfelt greetings to all employees and officers of NCR and their families on the occa-

Meanwhile, Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Nazareth School of Nursing. The chief guest was SDM (Sadar) Abhishek Kumar Singh. The programme began with a prayer song by the Hospital choir. The welcome address to the chief guest and others present was delivered by Rev Fr Melwin Wilson D'Souza, Assistant Director, Nazareth Hospital.

> FORM NO. 5 **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL** 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007

(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication O.S. No. 353/2024

Date. 06-08-2024 (Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financia Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts

Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993 ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Application Versus

Shivi Siddhi Construction and Supplier & Others ...Defendants

Defendants:1. SHIVI SIDDHI CONSTRUCTION
AND SUPPLIER Through its
Proprietor Mr. HEMANT KUMAR
PANDEY having its address at:
Khasra No.-1908, House No.-6,
Near Tata Veyar House, Kherwa,
Sarvan Nagar, Bijnaur, Lucknow,
U.P.-226002.
2. HEMANT KUMAR PANDAY (Adult)

ANIL KUMAR PANDAY (Adult) R/o Khasra No.-1908, House No.-6, Veyar Tata Near House, Kherwa, Sarvan Nagar, Bijnaur, Lucknow, U.P.-226002.

In the above noted application you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly applicant or his counsel/aug authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 27/08/2024 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registrar Debts Recovery Tribuna Lucknow

(Rs. In Lakhs except FPS)

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remarkable economic growth of the country during the last one decade. "Due to the efforts of the PM,

we have become the fifth economy of the world by leaving Britain behind", he said, appealing to the people to take a pledge that they will make every possible effort to make India a developed country by 2047. He was speaking as the chief guest in a grand Tiranga (tricolour) Yatra taken out on the occasion of 78th Independence Day here on Thursday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The procession which started from Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) was culminated at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) passing through Englishia Line, Maldahiya and Lahurabir crossings. A large number of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)



workers, local residents, students of various schools, scout guides, NCC cadets, police, army, PAC personnel etc participated enthusiastically in the rally with band music.

Addressing the gathering, Maurya said the PM hoisted the national flag from Red Fort for the 11th time and congratulated everyone for that. Referring the lines of poet Dwarika Prasad Maheshwari 'Utho Dhara Ke Amar Sapooto, Punar Naya Nirmaan Karo' he highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's contribution in the freedom struggle. He also quoted the slogans of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose 'Tum

Mujhe Khoon Do Main Tumhe Aazadi Doonga' and Sardar Patel's 'Paada Kisi Se Paala'. Saluting everyone from Kashi, the city of Baba Vishwanath and Buddha,he appealed to all to take a pledge that we will never let the value of the tricolour diminish. At the beginning of the programme, the chief guest hoisted the flag after garlanding the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. During the grand tricolour yatra, he garlanded the statues of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Maldahiya and Shaheed Chandrashekhar 'Azad' at Lahurabir. In the beginning, regional BJP president Dilip

Maurya lauds PM for nation's economic growth

Singh Patel welcomed the Deputy Chief Minister and other guests. Mayor Ashok Tiwari, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, MLAs Neelkanth Tiwari, Saurabh Srivastava and T Ram, MLCs Arun Pathak, Ashwini Tyagi, Hansraj Vishwakarma and Dharmendra Rai, city BJP chief Vidyasagar Rai, former Jagdish MLA Patel. Commissioner of Police (CP) Mohit Agarwal, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Sharma, Ioint Rai Commissioner of Police Dr K

Ezhilarasan, District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Additional Commissioner of Police S Chinnappa, Municipal Commissioner Akshat Verma, Chief Development Officer Himanshu Nagpal, ADM (City) Alok Verma etc were present. Hoisting the flag in the Commissionerate Compound, the DC Kaushal Raj Sharma

said after independence, the

initial generation sacrificed

tists and industrialisation, the country has been able to make its place today. "Today other countries of the world are becoming our rivals in India's development. Obstacles are being created in India's progress with the help of neighbouring countries. Today India's population has reached about 140 crores. Our youth is constantly working hard and taking the country forward", he said, adding it is the duty of us to do our part in the progress of the country. Giving the example of the anarchy going on in Bangladesh, he talked to everyone about the freedom and security of the country. After the flag hoisting, tree plantation was done in the campus. After hoisting the flag at the Collectorate building, the DM S Rajlingam said that we should keep doing better at whatever level we are working and keep making all possible efforts for the development of the nation. He also planted saplings their lives in the struggle but in the Collectorate campus.

Minister honours 14 journalists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister for Labour and Employment Anil Rajbhar honoured 14 senior journalists at a felicitation function organised by Varanasi Press Club (VPC) run by Kashi Patrakar Sangh (KPS) at Paradkar Bhawan here on the occasion of Independence

Day on Thursday evening. Addressing the function, Rajbhar said the journalists have played an important role in the freedom struggle as well as in the nation building. "In such a situation, it is the moral duty of all of us to remove difficulties from the lives of

journalists", he said, giv- UP Minister Anil Rajbhar at a felicitation function of ing assurance that in this senior journalists at Paradkar Bhawan in Varanasi direction, he will soon

meet the chief minister to take a concrete decision to implement the demands of journalists' pension and health facilities. He said for this, he has also called a meeting of the Labour Department before September 15 so that most of the demands of the journalists can be considered and they can be given its benefits. He said he will study the schemes being run in the interest of journalists in other states, especially in Maharashtra, and will talk to the CM to implement them in the state. The special guest, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, said journalists never retire. "They always give a new direction to the society with their writings", he said. BJP MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh said he will soon arrange a meeting of a delegation of journalists with the CM so that their problems can be resolved. MLC Dharmendra Rai said as he himself has been a journalist he will also talk to the CM to resolve their problems. MLC Ashutosh Sinha said he will

continue to raise his voice in the House until the state government takes a concrete decision in the interest of journalists. The minister honoured 14 journalists, including Shubhakar Dubey, Gopesh Pandey, Dr Atri Bhardwai, Iivalal, Iavanarayan Mishra, Jaleshwar Upadhyay, Dr Prabha Rani, RSS Solanki, Ashish Bagchi, Syed Nazir

Hussain, Pradeep Kumar and Ramashrya Singh, who made incomparable contribution in the field of journalism, by giving them 'angavastram' and memontoes. Talented children Bhavna Srivastava and Lakshya Kesari were also honoured. The programme was presided over by KPS president Atri Bhardwaj while vote of thanks was proposed by general secretary Akhilesh Mishra. The guests were welcomed by VPC secretary Vinay Shankar Singh and treasurer Sandeep Gupta. The programme was conducted by VPC president Arun Mishra.

GM: BLW manufacturing Kavach locomotives

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Peneral Manager (GM) Abhay Bakre said that the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) is manufacturing Kavach locomotives to improve safety aspect in trains. "Along with this, a video device - CVVRS and voice recording in the loco cab, LED type headlight, cab light and corridor light will be installed in the locomotives in future", he said, while addressing the 78th Independence Day celebrations at BLW Stadium here on Thursday after hoisting the national flag and inspecting the parade of the contingents of Railway Protection Force, St John's Ámbulance Brigade, Civil Defence, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Inter College Scouts and Guides and Cubs and Bulbuls. The GM awarded the students of BLW Inter College who got the highest marks in High School and Intermediate and provided necessary equipment to the disabled people of BLW. Along with this, BLW Women's Welfare Organisation provided hearing aids to the disabled employee of Bal Niketan. Thereafter, artistes from various cultural institutions along with the children of Chetna, Bal Niketan, St John's School, Music College, BLW Inter College, Bharat Scouts and Guides operating in the campus presented attractive and captivating cultural programmes. The GM reached BLW Hospital and enquired about the well-being of the patients admitted in the hospital and BLW WWO members presented gifts to the patients.

The Independence Day was also celebrated with full grandeur at NER Mini Stadium, Lahartara. On the occasion DRM Vineet Kumar Srivastava honoured 15 employees who made a significant contribution to railway safety and security by showing their dedication by presenting them with certificates and cash prizes at the divisional level. ADRM (Infrastructure) Roshan Lal Yadav, ADRM (Operations) RK Singh, Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, Chairperson of Divisional WWO Monika Saxena and others were also present.

AKI INDIA LIMITED

CIN: L19201UP1994PLC016467

Regd. Office: D-115, Defence Colony Jajmau, Shiwans Tannery, Kanpur Nagar, Jajmau, Uttar Pradesh - 208010 Extract of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30/06/2024

			- (1	No. III Lakiis except Li oj
Sr. No	Particulars	Quarter Ending on 30.06.2024	Year to Date Figures 31.03.2024	Corresponding Three Months Ended in the Previous Year 30.06.2023
1	Total income from operations (net)	1962.22	6783.94	1392.03
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	54.33	186.73	45.02
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	54.33	186.73	45.02
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	35.59	135.89	30.82
5	Total Comprehensive income for the period (after Tax)	35.59	135.89	30.82
6	Equity Share Capital	1715.28	1715.28	1338.61
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	3425.94	
8	Face Value of Equity Share Capital	2	2	2
9	Earnings Per Share (Basic / Diluted)	0.040	0.150	0.73
			4	

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Result are available on the Stock Exchange website i.e. www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com and Compar

For, AKI India Limited

Date: 14-08-2024 Place: Kanpur

Mohammad Ajwad Whole-time Directo DIN: 07902475

I-Day celebrated at IFFCO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

guest of the programme was RP Singh, Director, HR and Legal

and special guest was Shobha Singh. The chief guest RP Singh hoisted the flag and the national anthem was sung. IFFCO security guards, PAC band personnel, Kendriya Vidyalaya Scouts and Guides chil-

dren took part in the march past. The PAC band gave a

beautiful presentation on patriotic tunes which was led by Havildar Keshav Singh. RP Singh explained in detail India's independence iourney.

CORE GM HOISTS NATIONAL FLAG: The 78th The Independence Day was Independence Day function was celebrated with great Ghiyanagar Phulpur. The chief enthusiasm at the headquarters of Central Organisation for Railway Electrification

(CORE). General Manager CORE Ashok Kumar Verma hoisted the national flag and saluted the RPF guard. The general man-

ager extended his greetings and best wishes to the entire CORE family on Independence Day. The GM laid special emphasis on

keeping in mind all aspects related to safety and security during electrification works. Along with this, emphasis was also laid on the promotion of

BHU V-C launches several

initiatives PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

rhe 78th Independence Day I marked a series of new beginnings at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on Thursday, as Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain launched several student- centric initiatives aimed at directly benefiting the students of the university. The V-C inaugurated the newly set-up Cyber Hut at the Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV) as students of the college cut the ribbon to formally open the facility. The Cyber Hut will act as a focal point for women empowerment at MMV, in keeping with the V-C's vision to promote technological literacy among female students.

Mega plantation drive held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Education Centre (organised a mega plantation drive on Friday. It was organised in collaboration with the District Namami Gange Committee and the Forest department. The event, witnessed the planting of more than 300 neem trees outside the school premises. This initiative is apart of SPSEC's annual theme of sustainability-'Green Kanpur & Clean Kanpur', reinforcing the school's dedication to preserving the environment and fostering a green legacy for future generations. Chief guest Pramila Pandey, Mayor, and guest of honour, Surendra Maithani, MLA, praised the school's efforts in enhancing the city's green cover. District Project Officer of Namami Gange Shashank Shukla, emphasised the importance of



collective action in environmental conservation. The school management, under the guidance of Manorama Govind Hari Singhania (Chairperson). Abhishek Singhania (Vice-Chairman). Varsha Singhania (Vice-Chairperson) and Partho P Kar (Vice-Chairman and Director), has been instrumental in turning this ambitious plantation drive into a reality. Principal Bhawna Gupta, Vice-Principal (Administration) Vandana Trivedi and Vice-Principal (Jr Wing) Vibha Dwivedi also actively participated in the event.

verka

Notice Inviting e Tender

tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of Name of Work/Item	Period/Tenta	
For Cattle Feed Plant, Khanna & Ghaina –Ke- Bangar	Khanna	GKB
	Annual/	Annual/
MFP Molecule	25 MT	23 MT
Formaldehyde Solution (with drum)37-40%	45 MT	12 MT
Ferrous Sulphate/ Iron Sulphate 30% min	3 MT	1.2 MT
Zinc Sulphate zn33% min	10 MT	7.5 MT
5. Manganese Sulphate 32% min,	2 MT	2.3 MT
6. Calcium Chloride a) Assay 90-95%	15 MT	12.3 MT
b) pH200g/l =7 7. Sodium Thiosulphate,	4 MT	4.3 MT
8. Copper Sulphate cu: 24% min.	3 MT	1.6 MT
9. Magnesium Chloride a) Assay: not less than 98% b) pH 5% solution: 4.5-7.0)	5 MT	4 MT
 Sodium Butyrate (Assay: 98.0%(min), Lead: 20 ppm (max), Arsenic: 2 ppm (max) 	1 MT	1.1 MT
11. Chocolate Feed Flavour with Sweetner, Cattle Feed Grade Free Flowing Powder	5 MT	9 MT
12. HMTBa based chelates	17 MT	18 MT
13. Live Yeast (saccharohyces cereverial)	20 MT	14.00 MT
14. Potassium lodide	-	0.105 MT
15. Potassium Carbonate	-	15.00 MT
	11111	

17. By pass fat (rate contract for three months)

1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop

& e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.

2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only

Dy. General Manager (Purchase) NA/12/24805/2023/36736 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED CIN NO.: L60231CT2008PLC016434

Registered Office: A-11(7), Udya Society, Sector-3, JINDAL Tatibandh, Raipur-492099, Dharsiwa, Chhattisgarh, India te: www.jindalinfralogistics.com, E-mail: contactus@jindalinfralogistics.com

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY For transfer of unclaimed amount of Fraction Shares to the Investor Education and

Protection Fund (IEPF) Account (As per Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013). n terms of requirements of Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Invest Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), as amended, the Company is required to transfer the unclaime mount of fraction shares which remains unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seve onsecutive years, to the IEPF Account established by the Central Govern

A separate communication has been sent to all the Shareholders, who have not claime he unclaimed amount of fraction shares at their registered email or communication A list of such shareholders who have not claimed the amount of fraction shares during the

period of seven consecutive years and the amount of which are therefore liable for transfer to the IEPF Account is available on the website of the Company a www.jindalinfralogistics.com.

Shareholders are requested to forward the requisite documents, as per the above nentioned communication to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA), to claim the unclaimed amount. Notice is hereby given that in the absence of receipt of a valid claim by the Shareholders, the Company would be transferring the said amount to IEPF Account without further notice in accordance with the requirement of the said Rules.

Please note that no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unclaimed amoun ransferred to IEPF pursuant to the said Rules. Please note that after such transfer Shareholders/Claimants can claim the transferred amount from the IEPF Authority, for which details are available at www.iepf.gov.in.

For any information/clarifications on this matter, the concerned Shareholders/Claimant nay write to the Company at Contactus@jindalinfralogistics.com or to the RTA of the Company M/s RCMC SHARE REGISTRY PRIVATE LIMITED, B-25/1, First Floor, Okhla ndustrial Area, Phase -2, New Delhi - 110020 Phone: 011-26387320, 26387321, E-mail ID: investor.services@rcmcdelhi.com.

For JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED

ALOK KUMAR

M.NO.: A 19819

COMPANY SECRETARY

Date: 16.08.2024

Place: Raipur

Homage paid to martyrs

rhe Bank of India, Kanpur ■ Zone, organised the 78th Independence Day celebrations on Thursday. Zonal

ed the national flag. While paying homage to great martyrs of freedom struggle, he

Manager Ranlvir Singh hoist-



appealed to people to contribute to progress of the country. Deputy Zonal Manager Jugal Kishore informed about the banking services and the ways to make them more simple and smooth. RK Gautam, Sunil Srivastava, Sanjiv Maheshwari, RP Singh and Dhirendra Singh were also present.

Sacrifices of freedom fighters recalled The Independence Day cele



NTPC Auraiya celebrated the 78th Independence

Day with fanfare. A large number of officers, employees and their family members took part in the celebrations. The programme began with the Project Chief Jaideo Parida hoisting the national flag. After saluting the tricolour along with CISF jawans, he inspected the parade. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the

achievements of NTPC and Auraiya project. He also recalled the sacrifices of freedom fighters during country's independence. He said the unit worked a lot in the fields of CSR and welfare in association with the Jagriti Mahila Mandal. A series of cultural programmes were also organised. He felicitated employees with prizes for their astounding contribution. He presented tricvcle to three Divyangs, certificates to self-help group women and scholarship to meritorious students of nearby government schools. Chairperson, Jagriti Mahila Mandal, Sanghmitra Parida, HoDs, deputy comdt CISF and other guests were present. CELEBRATIONS AT KDA:

Development Kanpur Authority (KDA) with enthusiasm and fanfare. Vice-Chairman Madan Singh Garbyal, after hosting the tricolour, sung the national anthem with all officers and staff members. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the country's achievements globally and appealed to people to contribute for a strong nation building. He said KDA was playing a pivotal role in citv's development/construction and extended greetings to all. Secretary Abhay Kumar Pandey also addressed the gathering. A cultural programme was also organised on this occasion.

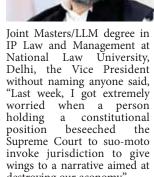
brations were organised at



Hindenburg allegations: Dhankhar takes jibe at Rahul

In an apparent attack on Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday expressed concern that a person holding a constitutional position is asking the Supreme Court to take suomoto cognisance to give wings to a "narrative aimed at destroying our economy".

Dhankhar's remarks came after the Congress on Sunday Modi slammed the Government the over Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch, saying the with Rahul integrity of the market regulator has been "gravely compromised" and demanded a JPC probe into the matter. Addressing the first batch of



destroying our economy." Addressing the students, Dhankhar said, "Our youth must equally rebuff and neutralise forces that keep

partisan or self-interest above that of our nation. We cannot allow it. If it happens, it is at the cost of our rise. You are law students, I will leave two thoughts with you. One, scratch your brains and find out. Jurisdiction of institution is defined by the Indian Constitution, be it legislature, be it executive, be it judiciary. Jurisdiction of courts is decided." "Look around the globe, look at the Supreme Court in the US, the highest

court in the UK, or other

formats. Has there been suo-

moto cognisance even once? Has a remedy been created beyond what is provided in Constitution? The Constitution provides original jurisdiction, appellate jurisdiction. It provides review also. But we have curative! If you do not focus on these nuances, I wonder who shall do it. Think about it," he said. Rahul Gandhi had also

attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue, saying it is now abundantly clear why he is so afraid" of a Parliamentary **Joint** Committee (JPC) probe.
The Congress had said the Supreme Court should take

suo moto cognisance of the "entire scam" and investigate it under its aegis because here the investigating agency SEBI itself is accused of being involved in it.

ISRO's successful launch of SSLV lauded

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday lauded the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s successful launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and described it as a matter of immense jov.

"A remarkable milestone! Congratulations to our scientists and industry for this feat. It is a matter of immense joy that India now has a new launch vehicle. The cost-effective SSLV will play an important role in space missions and will also encourage private industry. My best wishes to @isro, @INSPACEIND, @NSIL_India and the entire space industry," Modi said in a social media post.

The ISRO successfully launched its third and final developmental flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle here on Friday whose payloads can be used in applications like satellite-based surveillance, disaster and environmental monitoring, fire detection, volcanic activity among others.

The flight-LV-D3- would also pave the way for the industry to collaborate with ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd for taking up launches using the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle.



Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the ISRO saying this will enhance the sustainability of the earth by facilitating environmental monitoring and disaster management. "Congratulations to @isro on the launch of SSLV-D3.

This will enhance the sustainability of the Earth by facilitating environmental monitoring and disaster management. It is a testament to Bharat's commitment to humanity under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi Ji," Shah said in a social

Naqvi bats for Uniform Civil Code

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $B_{\text{code, former Minister for}}^{\text{atting for a uniform civil}}$ Minority Affairs and BJP Leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday said there is a need to remain "cautious" about the "conspiracy of communal confusion" on a 'secular civil code'.

Naqvi said for the last 75 years, India has been waiting for the constitutional guidelines of uniform secular civil code to become a reality but every time this "inclusive reform has been a victim of communal castigation".

Asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong pitch for a 'secular civil code', Naqvi said stalwart Leaders in the Constituent Assembly, including BR Ambedkar, were in favour of a uniform secular civil code but "communal confusion" by some people, with a "prejudiced mindset, hijacked the constitutional commitment" and the uniform civil code remained part of the directive principles of state policy.

Naqvi said the nation's mood is for making secular uniform civil code free from "communal confinement." The secular civil code is the need of the hour for betterment of 'mulk, mazhab and manavta' (country, religion and humanity)', he

Asked about the row over Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's seat at the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, Naqvi said the Congress should come out of feudal arrogance and stop their "ruckus over row". "The Congress should avoid political commotion on national celebration," he said.

8 years after demonetisation, counterfeit notes have become rife again: Cong



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress on Friday claimed the counterfeit notes have become rife once again and termed as an "eyewash" the Government's assertion that the overall number of counterfeit notes detected has fallen. The Opposition party also claimed that counterfeiting has just moved rapidly to higher-value notes.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh asked what has the 2016 demonetisation achieved if neither black money nor counterfeiting has been curbed

"Eight years after the non-biological PM grounded the economy to a halt through demonetisation, it appears that counterfeit notes have become rife once again.

The counterfeit is after the non-biological PM grounded the economy to a halt through demonetisation, it appears that counterfeit notes have become rife once again.

Rs 500 notes of the new series of the Rs that have been that the new series of the Rs detected has nearly quadrupled between 2018-19 and 2023-24. The number of

claimed. "While the Government can claim that the overall

number of counterfeit notes detected has fallen, this is an evewash. Counterfeiting has just moved rapidly to highervalue notes, including those that were introduced specifically in the aftermath of demonetisation," Ramesh said in a social media post. 'This admission of increased counterfeiting comes shortly after the non-biological PM himself made a stunning admission of the widespread prevalence of black money the during

election campaign, accusing his favourites A1 and A2 of bearing tempos and sacks full of black money," he said. If neither black money nor counterfeiting has been curbed, what has demonetisation achieved, Ramesh asked. The Congress Leader posted

a screenshot of a Rajya Sabha question reply by Minister of State for Finance Pankai Chaudhary which stated that measures have resulted in a decrease in the number of pieces of denomination-wise ounterfeit notes detected

500 note and the Rs 2,000 note -- both introduced after demonetisation in 2016 fake Rs 2,000 notes has together account for just tripled since 2020-21," he over 50 per cent of the number of counterfeit currency notes that have



Tech, social media bad for kids; arts, crafts good for mental health: Research

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Tf excessive time spent on technology and social media can hinder children from forming meaningful connections, engaging in arts and crafts may be crucial in combating men-tal health problems affecting millions globally. These findings, from two recent studies, underscore the importance of protecting tender minds from the negative health impacts of technology while highlighting the benefits of creative activities for mental well-being.
Dr Helen Keyes of Anglia

Ruskin University in the UK, the lead author of the study highlighted that crafting's positive effects on well-being ere more significant than those of employment.

The study delved into the meaningful impact of crafting, noting that its positive effects on well-being were more significant than those of

employment.
The research found that participation in creative significantly activities enhances life satisfaction, happiness, and the belief that life is worthwhile, suggesting that arts and crafts could play a key role in promoting public mental health.

"Crafting provides a sense of

achievement meaningful route to selfexpression, which is not always the case with employment," she explained. The study evaluated public engagement with various cultural, digital, and sporting activities, controlling for variables such as gender, age, health, employment status, and deprivation levels to assess the general impact of creative arts on well-being. Participants reported higher levels of happiness and life satisfaction, as well as a stronger sense that life is worthwhile, comparable to the benefits of being employed.

However, the study did not find a link between crafting reduced lonelines potentially due to the solitary nature of some crafts. Dr Keyes emphasised the

potential for governments and health services to fund and promote crafting as part of a broader approach to enhancing public well-being. Another study based on a survey of 1,146 parents, revealed concerns over children's technology use, with 50 per cent worried about excessive screen time, 30 per cent about bullying, and 22 per cent about the social impact of the pandemic.

President, PM pay tributes to Vajpayee on death anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former Prime Minister and BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniver-

They were joined by other dignitaries, including Union Ministers, and Leaders from different parties in paying homage to Vajpayee at his memorial 'Sadaiv Atal' here. In his tribute, on social media Modi said, "He is remembered by countless people for his unparalleled contribution to nationbuilding. He devoted his entire life towards ensuring



that our fellow citizens lead a better quality of life. We will keep working to fulfill his vision for India."

A widely-respected politician acknowledged as among the finest orators, Vajpayee played a crucial role in drawing allies for his party in

the coalition era of the '90s and became the first Prime Minister from the BJP. His stewardship of the country between 1998-2004 is known for reforms and boost to infrastructure sectors. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 93 years.

Army Chief felicitates Army sportspersons for Olympics feat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday here felicitated Indian Army sportspersons for their remarkable accomplishments at the Paris Olympics 2024. The ceremony was held at South Block and was not just an occasion to celebrate the achievements but also to acknowledge the pivotal role the Indian Army has played in nurturing sporting talent in the nation.

The Indian contingent clinched a total of six medals (one silver and five bronze) at the Paris Olympics, with Subedar Major Neeraj Chopra of the Indian Army winning the only silver medal in Javelin for India. This exemplary performance has



etched itself as one of the most remarkable displays of the Indian Army at the Olympic Games.

Major highlights of the performance by Indian Army Personnel include Neeraj Chopra - Silver Medal, Subedar Bommandevara Bommandevara Dhiraj in Archery (Recurve) -4th Position. As India prepares to bid for the hosting 2036 International Olympics, the Indian Army has been playing a pivotal role fostering Olympic excellence.

In a significant move, the Indian Army established its Mission Olympic Wing (MOW) in 2001, dedicated to identifying and nurturing

empower the youth and propel them towards global excellence, the Indian Army has set up two Girls Sports Companies and 18 Boys Sports Companies. These initiatives aim to provide a platform for young hone their skills, build their confidence, and compete at the highest level. Army Chief expressed

sporting talent. To further

profound pride in the incredible achievements of the Army's sportspersons. Their perseverance, and dedication symbolise the core values of the Indian Army. He expressed confidence that the Indian Army sportspersons would continue their quest for excellence and achieve greater heights in the coming

Malayalam movie Aattam bags best feature film award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $R^{\rm egional\; cinema\; dominated}_{\rm the\; National\; Film\; Awards}$ announced on Friday with best feature film going to Malayalam movie "Aattam: The Play" and Rishabh Shetty bagging best actor for the Kannada hit "Kantara".

The best actress prize was shared by Nithya Menen, for the Tamil film "Thiruchitrambalam", and Manasi Parekh for the "Kutch Gujarati movie Express".

The lone Bollywood presence in the top categories for the 70th edition of the national awards was "Uunchai" with Sooraj R Barjatya named best director.

The adventure film, centred on four aging friends readying to scale Mt Everest, also won Neena Gupta a best supporting actress prize. "It is yet to sink in. I've got two National Awards in the past and I'm getting another National award after many many years, it's a big thing for me," Gupta, who bagged awards for the non-feature "Bazar Sitaram" in 1993 and for "Woh Chokri" in 1994, told





Malhotra a best supporting actor and won two other awards -- best debut film of a director for Pramod Kumar and best lyrics to Naushad Sadar Khan.

The awards were announced by Rahul Rawail, head of the jury for the feature film segment, and Nila Madhab Panda, who headed the nonfeature film category.
"Aattam: The Play", directed by

Anand Ekarshi, revolves around a theatre troupe and A big winner in the awards for the changing dynamics after 2022 was the Haryanvi film its only woman member



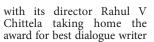


alleges she has been groped by one of the men. The Kannada blockbuster "Kantara", which explores the intricate connection between humanity and nature through its folklore-based storytelling, was also named in the category for best popular film providing wholesome providing entertainment. Best actor Shetty plays the dual roles of a

father and son. Sharmila Tagore and Manoj Bajpayee starrer "Gulmohar", a family drama exploring the meaning of family and home, was judged best Hindi film







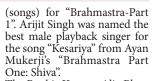




which was also named the best Tamil film. Pritam got the award for best music director

70th National Film Awards

with Arpita Mukherjee. Bajpayee also got a special mention along with music director Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury for Malayalam title "Kadhikan". AR Rahman won the National Film Award for best music director (background music) for his work in Mani Ratnam's "Ponnyin Selvan-Part 1",



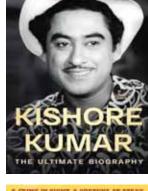
The Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt starrer also bagged the award for best film in AVGC (animation, visual effects, gaming and comic) category.





Padma Shri awardee Bombay Jayashri won the award for best female playback singer for the track "Chaayum Veyil" for "Saudi Vellaka CC 225/2009", which also won the best Malayalam film award.Besides the best actress honour for Menen, "Thiruchitrambalam", a comedy also starring Dhanush, earned the honour for best choreography for Jani Master and Sathish Krishnan. Niki Joshi won the trophy for best costume designer for "Kutch Express".

Seasoned cinematographer Ravi Varman bagged the best





cinematography for Ratnam's "Ponniyin Selvan", which also took the honour for best sound design for Anand Krishnamoorthi.

"Aattam" won two more awards -- best screenplay (original) for Anand Ekarshi and best editing for Mahesh Bhuvanend. The award for best action direction (stunt choreography) went to Anbumani and Arivumani, jointly known as Anbariv.

The best child artist award went to Sreepath for "Malikapurram" in Malayalam. From Bengali The Ultimate Biography".

won awards include "Kartikeya 2" (Telugu), "Baaghi Di Dhee" (Punjabi), "Daman" (Odia), "Vaalvi" (Marathi) and "KGF: Chapter 2" (Kannada). The best Tiwa film award was won by "Sikaisal". From the non-feature category, the top honour went to "Ayena" by director Siddhant Sarin. Filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj won the best music director for his short film "Fursat". "Just heard about the national

cinema, "Aparajito" won the award for best make-up and best production design for

Anand Adhya, while best Bengali film went to Kaushik

Ganguly's "Kaberi Antardhan".

The other regional films that

award for Fursat. I am deeply happy to get my 9th national award. It's the biggest award of our country. The only one that truly matters. And winning this is the greatest validation of my work! Thank you jury for this. Now I need to strive for a

honour for short film "1232 KMS", said in a statement. The best film critic award went to Deepak Dua. Anirudha Bhattacharjee and Parthiv Dhar won the best book on cinema for "Kishore Kumar:

double digit," the director, who

had earlier won the same

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-PAPER WITH PASSION----

PM roots for women safety

PM calls for strictest punishment for crimes against women amidst protests over rape and murder of resident doctor

he streets of Kolkata have erupted in widespread protests following the heinous rape and murder of a young resident doctor, a crime that has left the entire nation in shock and sorrow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has expressed his firm stance on the issue, calling for the strictest possible punishment for those involved in crimes against women. The victim, a 28-year-old resident doctor at a prominent Kolkata hospital, was found murdered under gruesome circumstances after being raped. The brutal crime has triggered widespread anger, as doctors, students, and activists have taken to the streets to demand swift and severe action against the perpetrators. Placards reading "Justice for our sister" and "Stop violence against women" are being carried by hundreds of protesters across the city, while candlelight vigils continue to spread across the nation. The medical community, in particular, has expressed its fury, with many health professionals going on strike, calling for stronger

protection and justice for female healthcare workers, who often face threats and harassment in the course of their duties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in response to the national outrage, has unequivocally condemned the horrific crime. In his address to the nation on Independence Day, he emphasised the government's commitment to ensuring the safety of women in the country. Modi reiterated his stance that there must be zero tolerance for crimes against women, and perpetrators should face the most stringent punishment under the law. But it is not that we do not have strict laws for crime against women but the problem is

their execution. The new amendments to criminal laws have additional features to expedite such cases. The new provisions include the death penalty for rape, video recording of crime scenes, and a witness protection program, etc. all of which could prove to help resolve such cases. However, only time will reveal how effectively these measures will be implemented on the ground and the guilty punished speedily. Women's safety has been a recurring concern in India, and incidents like this continue to raise questions about the effectiveness of existing laws and preventive measures. The Prime Minister's call for the strictest punishment has been widely welcomed, but it remains to be seen how these words will translate into concrete legal reforms. However, having laws is one thing and reforming the society is quite another. The attitude of society towards women must change. Most cases go unreported as the victims are oftenblamed by society; questions like 'why were you there?', 'what were you wearing?' and so on are posed to her to hold her responsible. The process becomes punishment and the victim has to live with the stigma for the rest of her life. The nation now awaits justice— not just for one young doctor, but for all the women who have suffered in silence.



Terrorism resurges amid shifts in strategy -st



With militants shifting their focus to Jammu and adopting more aggressive strategies, concerns over national security are once again at the forefront

he recent terrorist attack on Army Captain Deepak Singh, tragically killed a day before India's 78th Independence Day, must be condemned unequivocally. This act of violence, along with the discovery that at least three terrorists were hiding in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) underscores the persistence of militant activities in the region. Unfortunately, this incident is not an isolated one but a continuation of the long-standing saga of terrorism in J&K. Recent attacks in Jammu indicate a significant shift in terrorist activities due to several factors.

Firstly, terrorists want to send a message that despite the abrogation of Article 370 and the central government's commendable efforts, the situation in J&K remains unstable. Secondly, Jammu's vast forest areas provide an ideal base for militants to launch guerrilla attacks and evade security forces. Thirdly, the nproved law and order situation in Kashmir has led to a shift in insurgent focus toward Jammu. Lastly, while terrorism in the region had been suppressed for a time, it has not been eradicated, and militants are now re-emerging with increased vigor. J&K has long been a target of

insurgents. Over the years, numerous terrorist attacks in areas like Sopore, Budgam, and Dooru Shahbad have raised serious concerns for security agencies. What is particularly alarming about the recent upsurge is the shift in strategy. Terrorists are no longer just targeting the military and police but are also attacking civilians, indicating their desperation to gain attention. Additionally, there has been no respite between these attacks, as militants seem relentless in their mission of destruction. Unlike in the past, Jammu has now become the epicenter of this terror onslaught due to its proximity to the border Religion has once again resurfaced as a significant motivating factor for terrorists. The primary goal of these terrorists is to destabilize the region and create a vulnerable atmosphere. The involvement of a neighboring country with a hidden agen-



government to address the issue through dialogues with Pakistan and engaging with separatists, insurgent activities continue unabated. Policymakers must recognize that terrorism directly impacts the nation's well-being. Antiterrorism policies must be flexible and responsive to changing threats, utilizing the latest recommendations and technologies to ensure securi-

Despite efforts by the central

Today's terrorists are far more organized and professional than those from a decade ago. Although new security measures have been implemented, the threat remains unpredictable. The region's geography provides an ideal base for guerrilla activities, and the militants have become more sophisticated in their strategies, acquiring advanced weapons from across the border. Their use of automatic weapons, grenades, and low-intensity bombs demonstrates meticulous planning and execution. This modern breed of terrorists no longer hides in the



OF TERRORISM IS PSYCHOLOGICAL. **TERRORISTS** SEEK TO ALTER BEHAVIOR AND BRING ABOUT SOCIETAL OR GOVERNMENTAL **CHANGES** THROUGH

shadows. They openly attack, targeting financial hubs and other vital locations, as seen in recent global terror incidents. Terrorists exploit advancements in transportation and weaponry to expand their networks. Suicide squads, in particular, have shocked the security apparatus with their boldness and brutality. Terrorists meticulously plan their attacks, aiming to inspire fear and manipulate the public to achieve their objectives.

In his famous work, "Why Men Rebel," Ted Robert Gurr argues that people driven by intense motivation toward a goal often resort to violence. This is evident in modern terrorism, where militants see their acts as justified sacrifices for a cause. William Hennery also noted that some politically motivated acts of terrorism are so deeply rooted in commitment that no sanctions can deter them.

International experts like Professor Yonah Alexander have analyzed the evolution of terrorism. Modern terrorists differ from their predecessors in their use of technology and tactics. Small, sophisticated groups now employ increasate a psychological impact. aiming to instill fear in the public and force governments

The ultimate goal of terrorism is psychological, not practical. Terrorists seek to alter behavior and bring about societal or

THE EDITO

changes governmental through fear. There is an urgent need for preventive measures to address the grievances fueling terrorism, improved security strategies, and an understanding of the social and cultural factors driving people to insurgency.

Effective counter-terrorism efforts require not just government action but also community involvement. Citizens can play a critical role in improving security by cooperating with law enforcement agencies. Beyond strict anti-terrorism laws, programs aimed at addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty and lack of education, are essential. Several nations have taken steps to combat state-sponsored terrorism, including economic sanctions, but consensus remains elusive at both the national and international levels. The nexus between drug smuggling and terrorism further complicates matters. To address this, judicial procedures must be streamlined to ensure speedy trials for those involved in drug trafficking and terrorism. India, in particular, can learn valuable lessons from the counter-terrorism ingly violent methods to cre- efforts of other nations, such as the United States, which has effectively prevented major terrorist attacks since 9/11.

(The author, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav award, is a professor and expert on strategic affairs; views are

How to make disaster relief truly effective



While people across the nation have come together to help, challenge remains in ensuring that assistance truly reaches those in need

he jury is still out on whether the recent landslides in Wayanad is a result of human callousness or nature's own waywardness. Two weeks after the deluge, there is still no confirmed count of lives lost. Survivors and search teams are continuing to sift through the debris to find remains of those swept away. With everything lost, scores are staring at the challenge of finding some means to take life forward. Monsoon doesn't evoke tender sentiments of love and romance any longer. It now denotes death and destruction. It shows how hapless man is before fate and it also bears testimony to human resilience in the face of catastrophe.

Like it happened once in 2018, when the whole ofKerala stood up and held hands to rescue and rebuild those caught in the floods, people came together in the aftermath of the recent landslides too. Helping hands were extended from far and wide and relief materials dispatched at short notice. And fromhordes of donors came loads of unwanted things too:fromused clothes



used optimally.

A social media post showed volunteers grappling with heaps of material that reflected collective compassion and magnanimity, but also underlined the difficulty of harnessing people's largesse effectively.

An appeal was made to the public to avoid sending vegetables and bread, and chiefly clothes, and instead dispatch other essentials. It was misconstrued by a segment of people andit sent wrong signals that the hundreds who had taken shelter in relief camps did not need help anymore as much of it was languishing in the collection centres. Nothing could be further from the

Whether in the tragic instances of natural calamity or in war-ravaged parts of the world where people have had to flee and seek refuge in makeshift camps, there is a colossal need for human kindness and generosity. But we oftenmake mistakes in the way we express and extend this willingness to help and save people from aftermaths of misfortunes. The first thing that comes to our common mind when we some devious minds take talk of aid is heaps of clothes that we dump in collection

Although the amount of second-hand wear that people dispose in the name of charity has decreased with awareness campaigns, there still is a huge dearth of information and knowledge regarding the kind of assistance people in relief camps need - be it after a natural calamity or in strife-ridden communities.

There is also scepticism with regard to monetary help: trust is lacking and not many believe that the funds are allocated rightly and to the needy because there are no means to trace the money

trail. That a lot of cash gets siphoned off is the public perception. Given this, how do good-natured people who are willing to lend a helping land to the afflicted make a contribution? What is a trusted channel? It is hard to say with certainty, but the only choice we have is to trust the people who take up such endeavours or be part of volunteer groups that initiates such action. It is indeed a shame that

advantage of this opportunity to make a quick buck and instances of wrongdoing are not unheard of. But at the end of the day, it is one person's misery meeting another person's magnanimity. Creating safe and guaranteed channels of help and support will make more people come forward to restore the lives of those affected. The onus of winning public trust through transparency lies with community leaders, politicians and philanthropists. Even the kindliest thoughts and action can go to waste if they are not done with discretion.

(The author is a Dubaibased columnistand writing coach; views are personal)

TUNGABHADRA DAM BREACHED

Madam — Tungabhadra dam crest gate has swept away in the water after its chain link snapped. The ancient name of the river Tungabhadra was Pampa. In the epic Ramayana also, this river was called by name Pampa. Construction of the dam started in 1949 and completed in 1953 is said to be irrigating 12 lakh acres of land. It is more than 70 years since the dam was dedicated to the nation. The fall of 19th crest gate has led to the release of over 1 lakh cusecs of water into the river. By the time the new gate is fixed, much more water will be lost to the river. It is said that the water level has to be brought down to 60 cmtft

for installing new gate. This incident must open the eyes of all the riparian states to inspect the dams which have been built decades ago. It goes without saying that like any other national asset, the dams have also their own life. Dams always face water pressure and it would be too high during the rainy season when the rivers carry unprecedented quantity of water. Any laxity shown in the proper maintenance of dams reduces the life of dams. It is said that the crest gate swept away dur-

ing midnight. Had it happened during day time, there would have been the possibility of people and animals falling victims to the sudden gushing of water. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has blamed the state government for ignoring the recommendations of the dam committee that came from centre. If it is true that the state government has not taken seriously the recommendations of the committee, the state government must accept the blame.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

DISAPPOINTING VERDIC

Madam— It is both sad and disappointing that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has dismissed Vinesh Phogat's appeal to be declared a joint silver medalist, despite her convincing vic-

Independence Day pledge



8-24) presents a positive note and it is welcome. India has marched ahead from a scrap level to the level of this day. Right from the day the country got freedom a lot of committed efforts have been put in by successive governments. There is no scope for any individual or a particular party to claim credit. However, independence day is a day to identify the important tasks and

he editorial, 'Happy independence day' (15-

tories. After winning three bouts against top athletes from Ukraine, Japan, and Cuba, Phogat's weight increased slightly after taking refreshments to recover. Despite her efforts to reduce her weight through exercise and even trimming her hair, she missed the limit by just 100

According to Rule 11 of the United World Wrestling (UWW), athletes must weigh in daily, and failure to meet the weight results in disqualification and forfeiture of previous wins. This rule, however, contradicts the Olympic Charter, which encourages the support of women athletes (Bylaws 2.8 and 2.10) and promotes their health and well-being (Bylaw 2.18). The back-toback scheduling of bouts, without adequate recovery time, led to Phogat's physical exhaustion, violating these

If the UWW rule were consistent with the Olympic Charter, her disqualification would not have occurred. Phogat's plea to be recognized as a joint silver medalist is justified, given her previous

commit to achieve them with all sincerity and nationalist spirit. The crucial task before the country is not owning a space station but providing employment to the educated youth who are longing for a job, providing a viable livelihood for the 81.35 crore poor who are depending on free rations, provide easy access to the poor avail quality education and healthcare. If these tasks are attended to the rest of the developments will hap-

pen on their own. The development we are trying to glorify now is creating billionaires on one hand and forcing the poor mass and the middle class sections to keep on tightening their belts. Continuing this trend carries the potential of landing the country in a social and economic crisis. On this day we should also take pledge to improve the country's ranking in global indexes like hunger index, malnutrition, freedom of expression etc.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

performance and the fact that her disqualification was a result of an unfair

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

RESPECT THE NATIONAL FLAG

Madam — On August 15, all Indians celebrate by singing patriotic songs, posting quotations on social media, and staging emotional plays to instill patriotism in young minds.

However, the enthusiasm often wanes the next day. Selling flags made of paper and plastic, only to have them treated disrespectfully, is wrong. This disrespect must cease. Our focus should shift to the country's needs beyond just oneday celebrations and songs. Though an individual can't change the entire system, collective efforts can. After so many sacrifices by our great leaders, we must question if we're truly an independent nation or only in name

Md Imadaullah | Muzaffarpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

THE DOUBLE-EDGED **SWORD OF ARROGANCE**

Arrogance can lead to both greatness and self-destruction. The key lies in mastering it



RAVI VALLURI

ur mythology (particularly The Ramayana and The Mahabharata) is brimming with several well-stocked illustrations in respect of characters plagued with hubris, hurtling them down to their nemesis. We are aware of the conceited Ravana and the unbridled ambitions of Duryodhana. An angry and arrogant mind gets blurred and smudges the vision of an individual. Consequently, he behaves in a groundless manner, which has calamitous and baleful consequences for the person and those in his companionship.ls it possible to associate with such individuals who are prone to filibustering and arrogance?

The answer is an emphatic NO since there is no dialogue, only a monologue or a harangue by the self-conceited person. This drains our energy levels, a situation we would like to circumvent to save ourselves and our minds. The human mind assumes unnatural patterns and behaves in a volatile manner. A volcano of anger and arrogance erupts unexpectedly. Such individuals are veritable prisoners of their image, which is conceited and egotist. Mike Tyson, who earned epithets like Iron Mike, the Baddest Man on the Planet and Kid Dynamite outside the Ring, was convicted of rape and consuming marijuana and suffered from bipolar dis-

He has had several brushes with the law. Tyson strongly felt that he was stigmatised by American society and that US society has not been constructed on the principles of justice, but on rape, grime, slavery, and injustice. He married thrice, besides various dalliances and philandering. He underwent reformation. He was proselytised and sought refuge in 'Allah'.



He converted the raw energy of anger and arrogance in the boxing ring where he was extremely successful. The mythological figures mentioned earlier, who were victims of anger and arrogance, bore bruised egos resulting from bruised feelings and emotions, alongside a deep sense of hurt and resentment. Ravana lusted after Sita and felt slighted that his sister Surpanakha was cold-shouldered and disfigured by Lakshmana. All his life Karna bore the cross of being called a shudra, his many talents, and abilities notwithstanding. Duryodhana remained perpetually infantile, given to juvenile behaviour.

Besides, he was under the delusion that the powers that be of Hastinapur would have never agreed to his accession after his father Dhritarashtra abdicated the throne. The feelings of hurt, playing a victim, jealousy, and injury, get metamorphosed in such personalities into deep-seated vexation and anger, leading to false bravado and arrogance.

The anger and arrogance get vitiated into negative thoughts, leading to self-destruction under the strain of self-delusion. However strange it may appear, there is a flip side at the end of the spectrum, where individuals have deployed emotions of anger and arrogance to become achievers."Anybody can become angry-that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way-that is not within everybody's power and is not easy," wrote Aristotle.

Who does not miss the swagger of Vivian Richards, and the ferocity of the pace of Dennis Lillee and Thomson? Several politicians, industrialists, writers, artists, kings and monarchs could channelise this energy of anger and arrogance to become highly victorious and triumphant."To be a tennis champion, you must be inflexible, you must be stubborn, you must be arrogant, and you must be selfish and self-absorbed. Kind of tunnel vision almost," says Chris Evert. Therefore, arrogance is a double-edged sword. Often it subsumes the personalities to self-destruction as they lack the power of self-discrimination and self-examination, thus becoming victims of guilt and persecution complex.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Afghanistan's struggle after the US withdrawal-



As Afghanistan observes the third anniversary of the contentious US withdrawal, the country continues to face upheaval, struggling with a severe humanitarian crisis under Taliban

xperts from the United Nations have issued a statement regarding the situation in Afghanistan, commemorating three years since the United States and its allies' shameless and disgraceful withdrawal, betraying the Afghan people. Based on historical patterns, this represents yet another instance of a nation being abandoned, leaving its people in a dire state while the US and its proxies maintain indirect control. The irony is striking: the very group once branded as terrorists by the West is now, paradoxically, expected to govern, despite having been considered freedom fighters not long ago. The UN experts express grave concern over ongoing human rights violations under the Taliban regime, highlighting systemic discrimination, segregation, and severe marginalisation of women and girls.

As we confront three years of this precarious status quo, it is evident that isolationism is inadequate. The international community must seek effective engagement strategies to address the complex realities in Afghanistan, moving beyond mere diplomatic or punitive measures. In this context, it is crucial to reassess Afghanistan's historical trajectory, where the land has been used as an instrument by powerful actors, often at the expense of one of the most vibrant and resilient human communities. In the aftermath of the September 2001 attacks, the world bore a heavy cost as the United States' 'war on terror' led to the deaths of over a million unarmed civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, ostensibly in pursuit of justice for the three thousand lost lives. This tragic toll exposes the brutal reality of US foreign policy, which relies on organised violence against perceived threats to its dominance, highlighting the need for a significant realignment. The disgraceful withdrawal from Afghanistan, marked by the abandonment of billions of dollars worth of weapons, exemplifies the catastrophic failure of this approach.

Meanwhile, a recent UNICEF report reveals the severe mental health crisis afflicting Afghan children, with over 24 per cent suffering from anxiety—ten times the global average—and 15 per cent battling depression, underscoring the profound psychological trauma inflicted by the ongoing conflict. Western civilisation often positions itself as the pinnacle of human development, a hubris that has led to immense destruction. The US's quest for global dominance sowed the seeds of terrorism; groups now labelled as terrorists, such as the Afghan Mujahideen, were initially supported by the US through covert operations like Operation Cyclone, with British intelligence aiding in what became one of the most costly US operations. During the Cold War, the ÚS, in its zeal to counter Soviet influence, allied with any force against the USSR, turning a blind eye to human rights and legal norms. While seeking to replicate the Soviet Union's Vietnam misstep, the US supported the Mujahideen in Afghanistan via Pakistan. In 1987, President Reagan praised Mujahideen's progress and promised ongoing support for a free

Yet, subsequent US actions revealed stark hypocrisy and a readiness to use ruthless tactics for political advantage. The Afghan crisis offers crucial insights into global power dynamics. Understanding the Soviet invasion requires recognising its complex



DURING THE COLD WAR, THE US, IN ITS ZEAL TO COUNTER **SOVIET** INFLUENCE, **ALLIED WITH** ANY FORCE AGAINST THE USSR, TURNING A **BLIND EYE TO** HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL NORMS

background and the rise and fall of Afghanistan's communist regime from 1978 to 1989. The communist ideology, as practised under Stalin, evolved into a form of tribal feudalism, which some in Afghanistan found more appealing than Western market economies.

This alignment facilitated political power for those who exploited socialism for their ends, illustrating how political ideologies can be distorted to serve specific interests, ultimately leading to their downfall. The introduction of communications of the server specific interests and the server specific interests. nism into Afghanistan profoundly impacted its social structure. Afghanistan, a fragmented region with diverse tribal groups and a mountainous terrain, was ill-suited for a unitary political system. Federalism might have been more ffective, but this reality was often overlooked, leading to ongoing violence that the Taliban would inherit.In the 20th century, reformist movements emerged, bringing communist ideologies to Afghanistan. Abdulrahman Mahmudi, an early communist figure, founded the newspaper Nida'-yi-Khalq (Voice of the People) and the Hezb-e Khalq (People's Party) in the late 1940s. Although imprisoned and later dying in 1963, Mahmudi's legacy continued through his family until the 1970s, eventually evolving into a Maoist movement. Prominent leftists like Mir Muhammad Siddique Farhan and Noor Muhammad Taraki also played significant roles, with Taraki becoming a key communist leader after returning from India.

The Afghan monarchy, led by Mohammad Zahir Shah, was overthrown in a coup by his cousin General Mohammad Dawood Khan on July 17, 1973. Dawood established the Republic of

Afghanistan but was ousted in 1978 by leftist leaders Noor Mohammad Taraki, Babrak Karmal, and Hafizullah Amin, following the assassination of Mir Akbar Khyber. Taraki's presidency and Amin's prime ministership attempted significant social reforms, but their rapid implementation in a culturally resistant soci-

ety led to widespread protests. The political struggle culminated in a coup by Amin, who ousted Taraki, later reported as dying of an "unknown illness" but suffocated by guards. Key figures in pre-Taliban Afghan politics included Mohammad Zahir Shah, Mohammad Dawood Khan, Mir Akbar Khyber, Noor Mohammad Taraki, and Hafizullah Amin.Mohammad Zahir Shah, religion as a weapon against our king of Afghanistan from 1933 to 1973, oversaw significant social reforms and modernisation efforts. Educated in Kabul and France, Zahir Shah returned to Afghanistan at age 19 and took on various roles within the monarchy. By the early 1960s, he was a respected ruler who embraced democratic principles and established a new parliament, working to modernise Afghanistan and improve living standards. Many nostalgic images of pre-Taliban Afghanistan reflect the successes of his administration.

In 1973, while Zahir Shah was in Italy for eye surgery, his cousin Mohammad Dawood Khan overthrew the government and established a new regime. Zahir Shah spent decades in Italy, during which Afghanistan's progress towards democracy was undone. Dawood's regime, followed by the leadership of Noor Mohammad Taraki and Hafizullah Amin, marked a shift towards Cold War-era conflicts. The assassination of Mir Akbar Khyber, whose killer remains debat-

ed, facilitated Taraki and Amin's rise to power. Taraki's government, which came to power in April 1978, was seen as a new dawn but soon became mired in violence and discord. The administration's failure to address the needs of Afghan refugees and internal dissent led to widespread dissatisfaction. Taraki's efforts to implement rapid social reforms, aimed at expediting the revolution, only intensified internal strife and fuelled extremist oppo-sition, further destabilising the country.In August 1978, Noor Mohammad Taraki, addressing the growing Islamic protest movement, remarked: "From the moment our party assumed power, capitalist and reactionary forces have sought to undermine us using progressive agenda. This tactic is outdated and flawed. These forces, driven by imperialistic agendas, aim to overthrow our government, believing they can succeed swiftly. But we are resilient, and their conspiracies are merely remnants of failed efforts against progressive movements."Taraki's statement reflects the early resistance he faced, which he struggled to address effectively.

Internal strife within his party, particularly with Hafizullah Amin, compounded his challenges. Taraki, who once praised Amin's ambition, soon discovered Amin's dangerous intentions. Despite Taraki's belief that Soviet support would safeguard his power, his political naivety and disregard for social realities created a fertile ground for extremist groups nurtured by Pakistan. This eventually led to Amin's rise and the Soviet intervention. To be continued

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are

Brutality against female doctors raises questions on safety in govt hospitals

The brutal assault on a resident doctor in Kolkata has sent shockwaves across the nation raising questions about systemic negligence

n 1973, Aruna Shanbaug, a 25-year-old nurse at Mumbai's KEM Hospital, was brutally assaulted—raped and strangled with a metal dog chain—which left her in a vegetative state for the next 43 years. Five decades later, history has repeated itself with the horrific rape and murder of a 31-year-old resident doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College. Both crimes occurred within hospital premises, underscoring the vulnerability of female medical staff in supposedly secure environ-ments. The question is inevitable: has the state failed these women—and society yet again?

The recent murder of the Kolkata doctor has sparked outrage across the nation.



RAHUL KAMBLE

disrupted medical services, as they demand justice and action. While a "civic volunteer" was arrested, there is growing suspicion that more individuals were involved in this gruesome crime. What's particularly alarming is that the assailant may have been a regular visitor to the hospital, raising the likelihood that he had prior interactions with the victim. The nature of her Protests by junior doctors have injuries, as revealed by the

post-mortem report, suggests that this was not only an act of sexual violence but also one of intense personal vengeance. Crimes of this brutality—especially those involving rape are not isolated incidents in India. In 2022, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported an average of 90 rapes per day. However, authorities acknowledge that the actual number could be much higher, as many rapes go unreported due to societal taboos. Unofficial estimates suggest that over 100 rapes occur daily in India, with a staggering 80% of them classified as brutal. Despite the shocking frequency of such attacks, society and the state have failed to address the root causes effectively. The 1973 case of Aruna

Shanbaug was a grim precursor to today's epidemic of violence against women. After being raped and left for dead by a ward boy, she remained in a coma for 43 years, lovingly cared for by her colleagues. Her assailant, however, served only seven years in jail. Aruna's case remained in the media spotlight for decades, yet no sweeping reforms were made to improve the safety of female medical staff. Hospitals like RG Kar Medical College continue to lack basic security protocols, leaving women vulnerable to heinous acts of violence. Despite the public outcry that

followed Aruna's case, and the more recent protests in Kolkata, most state-run hospitals have not implemented adequate safety measures. The issue of relying on "civic



volunteers" instead of trained security personnel has long been a problem in government-run hospitals. These volunteers are often paid meager wages and supplement their income through unofficial means. Many have political affiliations, which give them a degree of immunity from disciplinary action.

Year after year, issues related to hospital safety—such as mal-functioning CCTV cameras, poorly lit areas, and inadequate

security staff—are flagged but seldom addressed. These failures have made doctors, especially women, increasingly vulnerable to attacks. The horrific gang rape of a young woman in Delhi in 2012 led to promises of reforms, yet most of these remain unfulfilled. The Nirbhaya Fund, created in the aftermath of that tragedy to improve women's safety, remains largely underutilized. Between 2013 and 2022, less than half of its allocation was spent. The gap between intention and outcome remains wide, and women continue to pay the price for this failure. The implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women

Act of 2013 has been half-

hearted at best. Women in the

at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal)

medical profession are especially vulnerable—not only to sexual assault but also to intimidation and violence from patients, hospital staff, colleagues, and even senior faculty. In many government hospitals, security is virtually nonexistent in certain sections, leaving female staff, including doctors and nurses, at the mercy of anyone who wishes them harm.

There is a pressing need for the government to regulate security protocols in medical institutions across the country. Promises on paper are insufficient; action must follow. Hospitals must invest in safe lodging for female doctors, and legislation protecting doctors from violence must be passed without delay. The Supreme Court of India, in May 2023,

criticized authorities for failing to ensure a secure workplace for women. Such failures are not just administrative oversights—they are a direct threat to the lives of women in the medical profession.

The case in Kolkata, where the city ironically ranked as the safest in India in 2024 according to NCRB data, exposes a troubling disconnect between official statistics and the grim reality on the ground. The tragic deaths of women like Aruna Shanbaug and the young doctor in Kolkata serve as stark reminders that much remains to be done to protect women in India. Their stories should not just be a cause for temporary outrage but a call to action for systemic change.

> (The author is a freelance writer, views are personal)

Will go with Congress, NCP's CM choice: Uddhav

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

A head of three of its constituents — Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar) — arriving at the seat-sharing pact among them, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Friday launched a joint campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, even as Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray urged the allies against squabbling over seats or the chief minister's post. On a day when the Election Commission of India indicated that the October 2024 Maharashtra Assembly polls might get delayed a bit, the MVA held a rally at the Shanmukhananda Hall in north-central where they vir"I don't think I am fighting north-central where they vir-

tually kick-started their joint campaign for the Assembly polls. Speaking at the joint rally, former chief minister and Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray — who is expected to play a crucial role in the Opposition's campaign for the State Assembly — made a strong case for the MVA putting up a united face in the

"Given that the seat-adjustments talks are currently on, let's settle the matters in a give-and-take manner.... Even in the case of the chief ministerial candidate's choice, let's not make issues. Let the NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar announce their candidates, I will support their choice. But, let's not squabble over the



the polls for myself but I am for the rights of Maharashtra. My opinion is that the chief ministerial candidate must be decided first, rather than going by the logic that the chief minister will be the

party which wins the most seats in the polls," the Sena (UBT) chief said. Uddhav's statement came in

the midst of speculation that the State Congress has recommended to their party high command that Uddhav be made the MVA's joint campaign. Meanwhile, there is unanimity among all the MVA partners that senior Congress leader and former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan be made the joint manifesto committee.

On his part, Sharad Pawar who is the chief architect of the MVA - has chosen to remain silent on the issue of the chief ministerial face. Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uddhav said: "These two senior BJP leaders look at Maharashtra as a cock that lays golden eggs. Mumbaikars will get to know how the BJP will treat them in the Assembly polls. In the Lok

Sabha polls, Maharashtra has

given direction to the country. We should follow the same trend and tempo in the State Assembly polls"

"Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena may have stolen the Shiv Sena's original symbol of bow and arrow, but we are not making an issue of that... We are going to polls with the new allotted symbol of "Mashaal" (Flaming Torch). Even in the case of Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar has stolen the original 'Clock' symbol clock. However, the Congress continues to have the symbol of hand," the Sena (UBT) chief minister said.

"As the MVA, we will go to the polls with the Congress' "hand" symbol, NCP (SP)'s "Man blowing Turah "and we as the Shiv Sena (UBT) with "Mashaal"," Uddhav said.

INBRIEF

GNDU CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY Amritsar: Prof. Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice Chancello of Guru Nanak Dev University unfurled the National Flag at Guest House Lawns of the University at the eve of 78th Independence Day. Prof. K.S. Kahlon, Registrar, Prof. Preet Mohinder Singh Bedi, Dean Students' Welfare and Amarbir Singh Chahal, Security Officer and officials were present on this occasion.

TCS HIRED 65 GNDU STUDENTS Amritsar: The Directorate of Placement & Career

Enhancement of Guru Nanak Dev University organised Campus Placement drive by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) company for B.Tech. and MCA students of GNDU — Batch 2024 under the able leadership of Vice Chancellor Dr. Jaspal Singh Sandhu. The company selected 65 students from these courses. These students have been offered a package in the range of Rs. 3.36 Lakhs to Rs. 9.00 Lakhs per annum. The students belong to Guru Nanak Dev University main campus, Regional Campuses of Jalandhar and Guraspur. These students will join their jobs after passing out their respective courses.

NFR CELEBRATES 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Maligaon: The 78th Independence Day of the Nation was celebrated by the Northeast Frontier Railway with due pomp and grandeur throughout its jurisdiction. The main programme was held at the NFRSA complex in Maligaon where Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of N.F. Railway hoisted the

railway family. The ceremony featured an impressive Guard of Honour by RPF contingents, the Territorial Army, Civil Defence, Bharat Scouts & Guides, and school children. N.F. Railway/Construction Organisation also celebrated the 78th

the GM/NFR (Construction) office.

CANARA BANK ORGANISES SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

New Delhi: Canara Bank Regional Office West Delhi Vikaspuri has organized Canara Bank Dr. Ambedkar Vidya Jyoti scholarship scheme on 14.08.2024. The programme was organised under the chairmanship of Ravi Kumar, Assistant General Manager Regional Office West Delhi and chief guests Rajveer Singh (DDE West Delhi-B). Neera (DDE West Delhi), and Mahesh Chandra (DDO West Delhi). Bank has

National Flag in the presence of a large gathering, including members of the

Independence Day. Arun Kr Chaudhary, General Manager/N.F.Railway (Construction) hoisted the National Flag at the programme that was organised at

distributed Rs 216000/- as scholarship to 54 girl students of SC/ST community under West Delhi RO jurisdiction.

Pune mountaineers

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In an achievement of sorts, a team of seven mountaineers from Pune hoisted the Indian tri-colour on Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, on the 78the Indian Independence

taineers belonging to the Pune-based Giripremi Adventure Foundation (GAF) reached Mt. Kilimanjaro after 11 hours' climb. The nine mountaineers hoisted Indian flag at 10:35 am and sang the national anthem. Located in Tanzania, near the Kenya border, Mount Kilimanjaro stands tall at 19,341 feet (5,895 meters) and

mountaineer Ankit Sohoni, members Deshpande, Deshmukh, and Anjali Hazari.

Aavani Ponpulari could see rise of new 'sun' in DMK politics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The month of Aavani Tamil equivalent of Bhadra) which commences on Saturday could usher in major changes in the hierarchy of DMK politics, according to sources close to party leadership.
"Chances of Udhayanidhi

Stalin, son of chief minister and DMK supremo M K Stalin getting elevated as deputy chief minister have brightened," said the State's seasoned political commentator Gauthaman Ramakrishnan, the chief editor of Sri TV. It was Gauthaman who had told The Pioneer before the Lok Sabha poll that the BJP and the AIADMK would not win even a single seat from the State.

Stalin is leaving for a long tour to US ostensibly to attract entrepreneurs to invest in Tamil Nadu. "But the chief minister's top priority is to undergo medial treatment for a long suffering ailment. He wants Udhayanidhi to be the stand-in for him during the period he is away from the country," said Gauthaman.

Sources close to Stalin and the DMK leadership (read the Stalin clan) concurred with what Gauthaman told this newspaper. "Thalapathy (Tamil term for commander) wants to



over the chief minister's chair when the time is ripe. The second rung leaders have understood their position in the party and are only worried about their accessibility to Stalin's son, daughter, son-inlaw and of course Durga, the chief minister's spouse," said a party leader.

As part of his mission to make Udĥayanidhi's elevation a smooth affair, Stalin has eased out other senior leaders from positions of prominence they enjoyed in the party during the tenure of late M Karunanidhi, his father. Kanimozhi, Stalin's step sister has been made the face of DMK in New Delhi while Dayanidhi Maran, the chief minister's nephew has ended up as a cheerleader for Kanimozhi," said a seasoned political commentator who is well aware of what is happengroom Udhayanidhi to take ing in the DMK. T R Balu, a

one time powerhouse in the DMK finds himself sidelined and this could be understood from his body language in parliament and outside. Durai Murugan, the PWD minister has also become a pale shadow of what he was during

Karunanidhi days. Durga Stalin, who visits all temples in south India to pray for her husband's longevity is now consulting all leading astrologers to find out the auspicious occasion for the chief minister to promote Udhayanidhi as the second in command of the Government. The grapevine is that Stalin is likely to announce the promotion of Udhayanidhi on August 19 as it is the most auspicious day before the former emplanes for the US. The day is observed as Aavani Avittam and an auspicious day to venture out for new missions.

Shah, Modi treat Maha as personal ATM: **Cong's Patole**

T N RAGHUNATHA

Alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah Maharashtra as their personal "ATM", Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said here on Friday that the two senior BJP were desperately trying to render the state "bankrupt" Speaking at the joint rally of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Patole said: " The ruling BJP has earned money through corruption. Two leaders sitting in Delhi are looting Maharashtra by treating it as their personal

Now, they are trying to bankrupt Maharashtra. We will defeat the BJP alliance in the Assembly polls and shut down Modi and Shah's ATM permanently, and use the state's money for its people". Patole further said that in a democracy, the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) held an important position.

"The ruling party and the opposition are the two wheels of democracy, but during the Independence Day program, LOP Rahul Gandhi was not given due respect. This amounts to the murder of democracy.

'Give back City of Joy, take back City of Bhoy'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

No more a City of Joy ... but a City of Bhoy (fear)." That is how the medical doctors of Bengal portrayed the present scenario in the State's healthcare system even as the doctors' cease work against the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee colleague entered seventh day on Friday throwing the entire medical service out of This, even as the students of St

Xaviers' and Presidency University joined the stir demanding "Justice" for the departed victim and "Azadi" for women at work place. "Till how long shall we the women be treated like utility commodities ... and how long the powers that be shall play the hush-up game ... is the woman an outlet for rancor," cried Dr Paradeep of RG Kar Medical College Hospital the epicenter of the present movement where a postgraduate trainee was raped and murdered in the wee hours of Saturday triggering country-wide protests.

We are calling our brave friend 'Abhaya' ... do you know what she wrote in the final entry of her personal diary probably a night or two before her brutal rape and murder ... she wrote I want to win a Gold Medal ... that is my dream' ... look how her dream and that of uncle and aunty lie strewn and shattered

the departed soul said quoting the victim's parents. She "definitely fell victim to the dirty affairs ... the dirty rackets that are going inside the hospital ... we all are terrorised" a nurse said wondering "if a doctor is not safe what value a nurse has." Though an estimated five lakh people or even more might have been sent back in the entire state without treatment hardly a single voice has been raised ... as the patient families too are with us ... they too realise the urgency of the situation ... they too understand that the camel's back has been broken ... this far no further ... we want justice and will settle for not an inch less," Priankar a

in the seminar hall of our

Medical College," a classmate of

pass-out of SSKM Postgraduate Medical College and hospital who had come to express solidarity with his RG Kar juniors. His views are reinforced by the scene destruction at the RG Kar Medical College which was raided and ransacked by thousands of people in the midnight of August 14 apparently and allegedly to destroy evidence. "But fortunately they could not reach the third floor and returned from the second floor," said Dr Debabrata an Assistant Professor adding "this shows the empathy of the powers that be for the movement and the sympathy they have for the family of the victim.

hoist Tricolour on Mt Kilimanjaro on I-Day

Day on Thursday.

Reports reaching here on Friday said that the moun-

is one of the Seven Summits, the highest peaks in each of the seven continents. The team members, who hoisted the Indian tricolour at the Mt. Kilimanjaro were GAF's

Shashikant Hiremath, Subhash Pawar, Mangesh Gokhale, Aniruddh Vaibhay

Jeevan Jyoti Hospital celebrates Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava



Teevan Jyoti Hospital cele-brated the 78th Independence Day with patriotic fervour on Thursday. On the occasion Jeevan Jyoti Hospital Director and eminent IVF expert Dr Vandana Bansal, Advanced laparoscopy and cancer surgeon Dr Arpit Bansal and Pooja Gopalani Bansal, Interventional Radiologist Dr Harshit Bansal, senior consultants Dr Alok Khare, Dr RK Sharma, Dr Mool Narayan Verma, Dr Vishal Srivastava, Dr Mohammed Akhtar Ansari hoisted the National Flag on the hospital's premises. The flag hoisting ceremony was fol-lowed by singing of National Anthem. The doctors and staff also paid rich floral tributes to Dr AK Bansal, founder of Jeevan Jyoti Hospital on the

Addressing the gathering Dr Vandana Bansal reiterated her country by providing the best of medical care to patients with a smile on face. Patriotism is not only love, loyalty and dedication towards one's own country, it's also about good moral values.

The feeling of patriotism should be rooted in good moral towards the family and the the people on the occasion.

society. We need to re-establish these values, for an ideal society. Because, an ideal society will become the basis of a developed nation. We also have to remain dedicated towards our workplace, as it's also a unit of the country. We have to remain disciplined towards our goals and life. Besides, imbibing good value system in children so that they become a

good citizen is also patrio-

tism, she added. Dr Alok Khare said on this day let's take a pledge that we will energetically work for the progress of the country. We need to remain dedicated towards our work. We should have a feeling of solidarity towards each other. It's also a responsibility to serve every patient coming to the hospital with a smile and utmost dedication and care.

Dr Vishal Srivastava said it's a matter of great pride that we are celebrating Independence Day with so much of joy and patricommitments towards the otic fervor. 'It's also the day to remember and pay due respect to all those freedom fighters and brave Army personnel who made this day possible. India is a country of diversity. Still, we are standing together to celebrate the Independence Day. This is the beauty of Indian culture." Sweets and values and commitment snacks were distributed to all

Centre asks for accountability...

Filing an institutional FIR is necessary to ensure that investigations and cases may continue even if the original complainant — often resident doctors - has moved to other hospitals after completing their education or tenure.

Dr Siddharth Tara of the Progressive Medicos and Scientists Forum said, "Indian health care system rests on the shoulders of women-right from ASHA workers to female nurses and doctors. It's about their right to earn a living with dignity and safety at

'A central law that protects health care workers from violence can no longer be denied to us. Major hospitals should be considered as critical industrial sites like airports and oil refineries, and CISF personnel should be deployed to control entry and exit points. In view of the administrative complicity in RG Kar Medical College, all medical courses in colleges which fail to provide a safe workplace to their trainee doctors should be derecognised by NMC. No new batches of students should be admitted there. Various surveys have shown that doctors are not feeling safe within their working zones. A survey by the Indian Medical Association has revealed that 82.7 per cent of doctors feel stressed out in their profession, 62.8 per cent fear violence, and 46.3 per cent cite violence as a major cause of their stress. In a similar survey released by a National Medical Commission

(NMC) task force, says that nearly 28 per cent of undergraduate and 15.3 per cent of post-graduate medical students have been diagnosed with mental health conditions.

Jammu and Kashmir...

In 2002, polls were conducted over four phases in September and October. In 2008, elections were held in seven phases in November and December; and in 2014, they were conducted in five phases. Notably, all three election cycles were for the state before bifurcation. In August 2019, the Union government carved out the Union Territory of Ladakh

from Jammu & Kashmir. The

erstwhile state had 111 seats -

46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu,

and four in Ladakh. Jammu and Kashmir has Jammu and Kashmir has 87.09 lakh eligible electorates with an equal percentage of males and females, said the CEC, adding that the total number of polling stations will be over 11,800. Among the total voters 44 46 lakh are the total voters, 44.46 lakh are male, 42.62 are female and 3.71 lakh are first time voters. Average voters per polling station is 735, showed the EC

data. The final electoral roll will be published on August

According to the timeline shared by the poll body, a gazette notification will be issued on September 9. The last date for making nominations for Phase I is August 27, while the last date for withdrawing candidatures is August 30. Polling for Phase I will be held on September 18. In December last year, the Supreme Court directed the central government to conclude the election process in the Union territory by September 30,

With the announcement of the poll schedule, the focus has now immediately shifted towards making elaborate security arrangements in the region, especially in the backdrop of a surge in incidents of terrorist violence across the Jammu region and parts of Kashmir valley.

Whither Gender Justice...

It said doctors, especially women, are vulnerable to violence because of the nature of the profession.

"It is for authorities to provide for the safety of doctors inside hospitals and campuses. Both physical assaults and crimes are a result of indifference and insensitivity of the authorities concerned to the needs of doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers."

A 50 year old Dr Nimrita travelled all the way from Faridabad and said, "We really need a overhaul to bring in security and safety measures for women in healthcare services. I have two children and now I am really questioning if I should ask them to not choose this field as their career."

Other 28 year old resident doctor from Maulana Azad Medical College elaborated how they do not feel safe in the rooms assigned to them for resting during their night shifts. 'We feel unsafe all the time. The rooms given to us for resting during our night shifts are far from secure. There are few guards who are unavailable to reach even if we call," she said. A lab technician Ajeet who is from Kolkata and works in Delhi said that his head hangs in shame when he listens to such brutal attacks on women by men. "We demand justice for her and every women that goes through such heinous crime. We also want

that government brings Central Protection Act," he said. Doctors and medical students of the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) also demanded for the act to be put

Meanwhile, the Nirman Bhawan, located near Parliament in Lutyens' Delhi, houses the Ministry of Health besides other departments also were witness to the protests that started in noon. The Maulana Azad Road was blocked as a large number of doctors protested there, with some wearing black bands on their sleeves. Hundreds were seen holding posters and Mansi, a female doctor from Lady Hardinge Medical College, held one that read, "Where can we go just to be safe?"Later, six members of the doctors' delegation went inside the Nirman Bhawan to meet government officials. The decision to hold the protest was made on the eve of Independence Day following a joint meeting of the representatives from multiple resident doctors' associations (RDAs), including those from AIIMS, SIH, MAMC, RML, LHMC, UCMS and DDU. The associations collectively agreed to implement a

common unified action plan aimed at pushing for a central protection Act, which they believe is crucial for safeguarding the interests and lives of healthcare workers

the whip

From Page 1 Ghosh has been asked under whose instructions the contacted the parents of the victim lady doctor — who was found raped and murdered early on Saturday morning — and told them that their daughter was seriously ill and then that she had committed suicide. The officials have also asked him as to why no police complaint was lodged by the authorities for more than two hours of the body being discovered and why it was left on the police to come and find out things for them," sources said adding the doctor was also asked to explain his conduct by making the parents of the victim to wait for three hours before allowing them to see their daughter's body. Other doctors including departmental heads of the RH Kar Hospital were being questioned by the CBI officials, sources said.

According to sources Ghosh "has not been arrested as yet ... he has just been taken at the CGÓ complex for questioning because he had ignored an earlier summons of appearance sent to him by

CBI cracks | Haryana... From Page 1

The Jannayak Janta Party

(JJP) secured 10 seats and formed an alliance by joining hands with the BJP. Manohar Lal Khattar, who was chosen as the chief minister in 2014, had got a second term in office five years ago. On March 12 this year, Khattar stepped down as chief minister and Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the CM. Khattar's resignation marked the end of BJP's alliance with

The Congress in 2019 missed out on an opportunity to form the government in Harvana five years go despite winning 31 seats after JJP decided to share power with the BJP. The grand old party would be hoping to come back to power in the state it ruled from 2004 to 2014 under now leader of opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda. The parliamentary polls, meanwhile, breathed a new lease of life into the Congress that is now confident about its chances of ending BJP rule. For the party, containing its infighting and keeping the different factions in line will be a key challenge if it has to return to power. The Congress has been attacking the BJP as part of its 'Haryana Maange Hisab' campaign, after its launch on July 15, targeting the ruling party over several issues concerning farmers as well as unemployment, law and order

How many mounds? ASI...

Signed by Yadubir Singh Rawat, Director General of the ASI, the organisation on August 3, 2024 issued a draft notification seeking public objections and comments that aims to prevent encroachment and mitigate the impact of agricultural activities by declaring the sites of national importance.

It states: "Whereas the Central Government is of the opinion that the archaeological site and remains as specified in the site plan and schedule annexed hereto are of national importance; Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (1) of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (24 of 1958)... ...the Central Government hereby gives notice of its intention to declare the said archaeological site (mound VI and mound

VII) and remains to be of national importance." The recognition of Rakhigarhi as one of Asia's most endangered heritage sites by the Global Heritage Fund underscores the urgency of safeguarding this historical treasure.

Mideast mediators strike hopeful note after Doha talks | Thaksin's daughter, Paetongtarn

AP JERUSALEM

ediators trying to end the Israel-Hamas war Lexpressed hope for an imminent deal Friday, saying two days of talks had wrapped up in Qatar and they aimed to reconvene in Cairo next week to seal an agreement to stop the fighting.
Israel did not immediately

respond and a statement from Hamas did not sound enthusiastic about the latest proposed deal to end the 10-month-old devastating war in Gaza and free Israeli hostages held in the territory. A cease-fire is seen as the best hope for heading off an even larger regional conflict. Both sides had agreed in principle to the plan President Joe Biden announced on May 31. But Hamas has proposed amendments and Israel has suggested clarifications, leading each side to accuse the other of trying to tank a deal.

Hamas has rejected Israel's demands, which include a lasting military presence along the border with Egypt and a line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians climbed past 40,000, according to Gaza health authorities, and fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would be a search palestinian fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would be a search palestinian fears remained high that Iran line bisection fears remained high that Iran line bisection fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would be a search palestinian fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would be a search palestinian fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would be a search palestinian fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where it would be a search palestinian fears remained high that Iran line bisecting Gaza where the search palestinian fears remained high that Iran line bisection fears remained high that Iran line bisecting fe

returning to their homes to root out militants.

The statement from the medi-

ators - Qatar, the United States and Egypt — said US officials had presented a proposal that would bridge the gaps remaining between both sides' positions. Teams will continue working in the coming days on how to implement the specifics of the proposal, they said. "Senior officials from our governments will reconvene in Cairo before the end of next week with the aim to conclude the deal under the terms put forward today," the statement said.

Hamas quickly cast doubt on whether an agreement was within reach.

In a statement, the militant group said the latest proposal diverged significantly from the previous iteration they had agreed to in principle, implying they were not disposed to accept it.

The new push for an end to the Israel-Hamas war came as the Palestinian death toll in Gaza climbed past 40,000, according

Biden optimistic

Jerusalem (AP): US President Joe Biden was optimistic Friday about the prospects for a ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, saying "we are closer than we've ever been" to an agreement.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office after two days of talks wrapped up in Doha with an agreement to continue negotiations next week, Biden said "I don't want to jinx anything" but that a ceasefire was "Much, much closer than it was three days ago." It would not be the first time in the 10-month-old war that Biden has expressed optimism that an agreement could be reached, only for talks between the parties to break down. "We may have something," Biden said Friday. "But we're

and Hezbollah militants in Lammy and French Foreign Lebanon would attack Israel in retaliation for the killings of top militant leaders.

International mediators believe the best hope for calming tensions would be a deal between Israel and Hamas to halt the fighting and secure the release of Israeli hostages.
International diplomacy to pre-

vent the war from spreading intensified Friday, with the British and French foreign

ceptable. He and Lammy had sent very clear messages to all parties that this was a key moment "because it could lead to peace or war," he said. Katz said in a statement that he

destabilize negotiations unac-

told his British and French counterparts that if Iran attacks Israel, İsrael expects its allies not just to help it defend itself, but to join in attacking Iran back. He also warned Iran which backs Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthi rebels in Yemen, all of whom have attacked Israel since the Gaza war started to stop the attacks.

"Iran is the head of the axis of evil, and the free world must stop it now before it's too late," Katz said on X.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed across the heavily guarded border on October 7, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 250 to Gaza. More than 100 were released during a weeklong cease-fire in November, and around 110 are believed to still be inside Gaza, though Israeli authorities believe around a third of them

Shinawatra, elected as Thai PM

□hailand's Parliament electded Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the youngest daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, as the country's new prime minister Friday. Paetongtarn becomes Thailand's third leader from the

Shinawatra family, after her father, who was ousted by coup before returning from exile last year, and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, who lives in exile. Paetongtarn also became Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt and the country's youngest leader at 37. She is the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai party but was not an elected lawmaker, which was not required for her to be a candidate for prime minister. Paetongtarn was the sole nominee and got a majority of the votes in Parliament with the

voting ongoing.
The last prime minister had been removed by the Constitutional Court two days ago over an ethics violation. ago over an etnics violation. Thaksin is one of Thailand's most popular but divisive political figures and was ousted by a military coup in 2006. He is widely seen as a de facto leader of Pheu Thai, the latest in a string of parties linked to him. His residual popularity and influence is a factor behind the political support for Paetongtarn.

Her public entry into politics came in 2021 when the Pheu Thai party announced she would lead an inclusion advi-sory committee. She was appointed as leader of Pheu Thai last year, after she was named one of its three prime ministerial candidates ahead of the polls.

When Paetongtarn was on the campaign trail for Pheu Thai, she acknowledged her family

ties but insisted she was not just her father's proxy. "It's not the shadow of my dad. income equality, until it lost to

I am my dad's daughter, always and forever, but I have my own decisions," she told a reporter. However, her father's shadow is too big to be dismissed and her work will not be easy with him continuing to call political shots for Pheu Thai, said Petra Alderman, a political research fellow at England's University of Birmingham.

"Thaksin was a political force to reckon with, but he was also a liability," she said, "He has a tendency to overplay his polit-ical hand, so serving in his shadow has never been easy." Paetongtarn's nomination followed the removal of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on Wednesday after less than a year in office. The Constitutional Court found him guilty of a serious ethical breach regarding his appoint-ment of a Cabinet member

who was jailed in connection with an alleged bribery attempt. It was the second major ruling in a week to shake Thai politics. The same court last week dissolved the progressive Move Forward party, which won last year's general election but was blocked from taking power. The party has already regrouped as the People's Party. Pheu Thai and its predecessors had won all national elections since 2001, with core populist policies pledging to solve eco-nomic problems and bridge the reformist Move Forward in 2023. It, however, was given a chance to form a government after Move Forward was blocked from taking power by the previous Senate, a militaryappointed body.

Move Forward was excluded from the coalition by Pheu Thai, which went on to join hands with parties affiliated with the military government that ousted it in a coup. The move drew criticism from some of its supporters but party officials say it was necessary to break the deadlock and start reconciliation after decades of deep political divi-

Thaksin returned to Thailand last year after years in exile in what was interpreted as part of a political bargain between Pheu Thai and their longstanding rivals in the conservative establishment to stop Move Forward Party from forming a government.

The former senators were given special power to veto a prime ministerial candidate by the constitution adopted in 2017 under a military government. However, that power expired when their term ended in May. New members of the Senate, selected in a convoluted process last month, do not retain the

A candidate now needs just a majority from the lower house, or at least 247 votes. The current 11 party-coalition led by Pheu Thai now has 314 lawmakers in the lower house, and they have declared their unanimous support for Paetongtarn. The coalition under the leadership of Paetongtarn could strengthen their unity because Paetongtarn possesses something that Srettha does not a direct line to her powerful father who has the final say said Napon Jatusripitak, a political science researcher at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak

Settler rampage in West Bank sparks rare condemnation from Israel

AP JIT (WEST BANK)

Tsraeli leaders on Friday roundly Londemned a deadly settler rampage in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, a rare Israeli denunciation of the settler violence growing more common since the start of the Israel-Hamas war.

The settler riot in the village of Jit, near the city of Nablus in the northern West Bank, killed one Palestinian and badly injured others late Thursday, Palestinian health officials said.

Residents interviewed by The Associated Press said at least a hundred masked settlers entered the village, shot live ammunition at Palestinians, burned homes and cars and damaged water tankers. Video showed flames engulfing the small village, which residents said was left to defend itself without military help for two hours.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he took the riots "seriously" and that Israelis who carried out criminal acts would be prosecuted. He issued what appeared to be a call for settlers to stand down. Those who fight terrorism are the IDF and the security forces, and no one else," he said, using an acronym for the Israeli military.

President Isaac Herzog also condemned the attack, as did Defense

sent the values" of settler commu-

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, which Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war, as the heartland of a future state, a position with wide international backing.

Rights groups say that arrests for settler violence are rare, and prosecutions even rarer. Israel's left-leaning Haaretz newspaper reported in 2022 that based on statistics from the Israeli police, charges were pressed in only 3.8 per cent of cases of settler violence, with most cases being opened and closed without any action being taken.

It was unclear why the Jit attack yielded such a strong rebuke from Ísraeli leaders. A similar settler riot in the village of Al-Mughayyir in April went without comparable mention from the authorities. The Jit attack comes as Israel is under heightened international scrutiny over its role in cease-fire talks with American, Qatari and Egyptian mediators in Doha, yet another attempt to broker an end to the 10month-old war.

The French foreign minister and the British foreign secretary were also in Israel on Friday for meetings with diplomatic officials, and both condemned the attack.

The US has broadly condemned settler violence and the expansion of Minister Yoav Gallant, who said the settlers had "attacked innocent people." He added they did not "represional media platform X on Friday said the riot ran against Jewish values and harmed the "settlement social media platform X on Friday enterprise."

that he was "appalled" by the attack, and the White House National Security Council called violent settler attacks "unacceptable."

"Israeli authorities must take measures to protect all communities from harm, this includes intervening to stop such violence, and holding all perpetrators of such violence to account," it said in a statement. Other Israeli officials distinguished between the settler attack on Jit and the larger Israeli settlement project, which the international community views as illegal under internation-

Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich — an ultranationalist settler who has turbocharged settlement expansion, railed against US sanctions on violent settlers and previously defended violent settlers as heroes — labeled the rioters "criminals" who were "in no way related to the settlement and the settlers.

"We are building and developing set-tlements in a legal and official man-ner," Smotrich wrote on X, adding that he "reject(s) any expression of anarchist criminal violence that has nothing to do with love for the land and the desire to settle in it."

Ultra-orthodox Israeli Interior Minister Moshe Arbel called on Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency to investigate those involve

Former prison official held for links with ex-ISI chief Hameed

PTI LAHORE

Minister Stephane Sejourne

appeared hopeful after meeting Friday with Israeli Foreign

Lammy said Israeli officials

told them they were hoping they were on the verge of seal-

ing a deal. "As we head now to 315 days of war, the time for a

deal for those hostages to be

returned, for aid to get in, in the

quantities that are necessary in

Gaza, and for the fighting to

Speaking alongside him, Sejourne called any action to

stop is now," Lammy said.

Minister Israel Katz.

aw enforcement agencies on Friday arrested Law enforcement agencies on rinday arrested former Inspector General of Prisons of Punjab province Shahid Saleem Baig for his alleged links with former ISI chief retired Gen Faiz Hameed, who is facing court-martial proceedings in a housing scam.

Baig served as IG Prisons Punjab for five years and retired before Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan was jailed over a year

Baig has reportedly been arrested from his Lahore's Shadman residence. "Officials of an intelligence agency raided the residence of Baig and took him into custody in connection with his links with Gen Faiz," an official said.

The intelligence agencies have already taken former Deputy Superintendent of Adiala Jail, Muhammad Akram, and Superintendent of the Rawalpindi DIG Jail office Nazim Ali Shah into custody on the charges of facilitating former premier Khan in prison.

Several retired officers have been detained in connection with Hameed's trial for his post-retirement actions that violated the Army Act and on the complaint of the owner of a housing society in Islamabad.

Hameed was arrested on August 8 after being summoned to Rawalpindi by a senior army officer with his detention being publicly confirmed on the following Monday. His trial is being described as one of the most high-profile court martials in the history of the Pakistan Army. Retired Brig Ghaffar, a former deputy director general for projects at ISL retired Brig Naeen Fakhar, a former officer commanding, and retired Col Asim (of ISI) have also been taken into

Ukraine urges civilians to evacuate Pokrovsk

 $M^{
m ilitary}$ authorities in the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk on Friday urged civilians to speed up their evacuation because th Russian army is quickly closing in on what has for months been one of Moscow's key targets in the

Pokrovsk officials said in a

Telegram post Friday that Russian troops are "advancing at a fast pace. With every passing day there is less and less time to collect personal belongings and leave for safer regions". Ukrainian troops have been trying to divert the Kremlin's military effort from the front line in Ukraine to Russian soil by launching a bold incursion across the border into Russia's Kursk region. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had warned on Thursday that Pokrovsk and other nearby towns in the Donetsk region were "facing the most intense Russian assaults".

The urgency of the evacuation of civilians has underscored the high-stakes gamble Ukraine is making by taking the war into Russia with its ongoing Kursk assault that started on August

The attack is a daring attempt to change the dynamics of the

backfire and leave Ukraine's shorthanded defense on the front line at the mercy of momentum and superior forces in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region since the spring.

2½-year conflict, but it could

Ukraine is wagering it can cope with the strain on its resources involved in the attack in Kursk without sacrificing Donetsk. Russia apparently reckons it can contain the incursion without needing to ease up in Donetsk.

"Both cannot be right," Nigel Gould-Davies, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said Thursday. "The outcome hangs in the balance." Russia's slow slog across Donetsk this year has been costly in terms of troops and armor, but its gains have mounted up. Pokrovsk, which had a prewar

population of about 60,000, is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region. Its capture would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes. It would bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the Donetsk region than ever before.

Pokrovsk officials were meeting with the residents to pro-

vide them with logistical details on the evacuation. People were offered shelter in western Ukraine, where they will be Russia's push. The Kremlin's hosted in dormitories and sepforces have had battlefield arate houses prepared for them. "As the front line approache: Pokrovsk, the need to move to a safer place is becoming increasingly urgent," the local administration said.

In Kursk, meanwhile, Ukrainian troops have taken full control of Sudzha, Zelenskyy said Thursday. It's the largest Russian town to fall to Ukraine's forces since the start of their incursion 10 days ago, and the success raised Ukrainian spirits while embarrassing the Kremlin.

A family who fled from Sudzha showed on Russian state TV the shattered windows of their car, the result of an attack while on the road.

"At the turn they were shooting, there were mines, we drove around the mines. Then we were driving further, the drone hit us in Bondarevka," said Nikolai Netbayev.

The Russian Defence Ministry said on Friday the army repelled attempted Ukrainian advances in the areas of Gordeev, about 25 kilometers (15 miles) west of Sudzha, and Russkoye Porechnoye, 13 kilo-

meters (8 miles) north of

Trump refuses to tone down personal attacks on Harris

PTI WASHINGTON

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has said he is "entitled" to personally attack his Democratic rival Kamala Harris because he doesn't "have a lot of respect for her", as he dismissed calls from No, he's a weird guy," Trump allies to refocus his campaign on policy issues in his bid to reclaim the White House.

Asked specifically about comrelaim the White House. Trump, 78, said he is "angry" at Vice President Harris, 59, over

the Biden administration's handling of issues ranging from inflation to immigration. "I don't have a lot of respect for her. I don't have a lot of respect

for her intelligence. I think she'll be a terrible president. I think it's very important that we win. And whether the personal attacks are good or bad ... she certainly attacks me personally," the former president told reporters at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey on

Thursday. Trump was responding to questions from his party members urging him not to make personal attacks on Harris, who is the first woman of colour running for the presidency. "As far as the personal attacks (against Harris), I'm very angry at her because of what she's

done to the country. I'm very angry at her that she weaponised the justice system against me and other people. (I am) very angry at her. I think I'm entitled to personal attacks," he said. "She (Harris) actually called me weird. He's weird, it was just a sound bite, and she called J D (Vance, his running mate) and I weird. He's not weird. He was a great student

at Yale, he went to Ohio State, graduated in two years at the top of his class and all of these different things. We have this guy that's running failed, really a very failed state who had a terrible career. I mean, you have him saying they're weird.



ments from former rival Nikki Haley that Trump's campaign needs to shift its strategy, Trump said he appreciates her advice but that he would run his campaign 'my way." Trump has struggled to deliver a consistent message targeting Harris, even as Republicans argue they have a strong case against her on the economy and immigration. He said Harris is "weird in her policy", adding that "people don't

know who she is yet". "She is weird in her policy. Who wouldn't want to have strongholds, who doesn't want to have lower taxes? You know, all my life I've watched as politicians campaigned and I've always been on for the most part, on the other side. This is the only campaign I've ever heard of. When they're saying we're going to increase your taxes and then people say they're going to vote for," Trump

Harris will make 'one hell of a president': Biden **PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has said that Kamala Harris will make "one hell of a president" as they appeared together in their first public event since she replaced him as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

Biden and Harris appeared on Thursday at Prince George's County Community College in Maryland, just outside Washington DC.

The Democratic Party event celebrated the Biden administration's newly announced deal to cut the cost of 10 common prescription drugs for millions

of Americans. The meeting also offered a glimpse of their dynamic, weeks into a realignment of the

party ticket. 'I have an incredible partner in the progress we made," President Biden said.

"She's going to make one hell of a president," an untethered Biden said, praising his deputy who will be challenging the for-mer president and the Republican Party's candidate Donald Trump in the

November 5 election. Harris, 59, became the firstever woman of colour to be on the top of a presidential ticket of a major American political party when Biden withdrew from the race for the White House last month and backed

She is also the first ever Indian American to be nominated as presidential candidate of either the Republican or the Democratic Party. Harris's mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was Indian and her father,



Iamaican; both immigrants to

During the event, Biden, 81, brought the crowd to their feet multiple times. "There's a lot of love in this

room for our president," Harris "Few leaders in our nation

have done more, on so many issues, including to expand access to affordable healthcare, than Joe Biden," she said. Two years ago, the Biden administration gave Medicare the authority to negotiate lower drug prices, allowing Medicare to go "toe to toe" with big Pharma to negotiate drug prices, Harris said.

It was Harris who cast the tiebreaking vote for the Inflation Reduction Act, which granted Medicare that authority, CBS News reported. "Thank you, Joe!" she said, to

resounding chants of, "Thank you, Joe," from the crowd.

Donald Jasper Harris, a The Biden administration's negotiations will lower the cost per cent and 79 per cent, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Biden said he could fly Americans to Canada or France to get the very same drugs for far cheaper than the "totally unaffordable" ones in

the US. "Kamala and I both get it. We know it isn't just about health care — it's about your dignity," Biden said, adding that he believes health care "should be a right, not a privilege in America."

Harris, who vaulted to the top of the Democratic ticket less than a month ago when Biden announced he would not be seeking reelection, said in a statement that the administration isn't stopping here, with plans to select additional drugs for price negotiations each the tributaries of Dudhkoshi

Tenzing Norgay's village witnesses major flooding

PTI KATHMANDU

 $T^{ ext{he famous Sherpa village of}}$ Thame witnessed massive floods following a possible glacial lake outburst in the Everest region of Nepal on Friday devastating more than half of its homes, covering them with muck and debris, according to media reports. Three houses and a hotel have been destroyed, and five more are at risk, local media quoted Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dwarika Prasad Ghimire of the District Police Office, Solukhumbu, as saying. The damage was caused by a flooded Thame rivulet, one of

Authorities have warned residents downstream of a flash flood.

The Himalayan Times newspa-The Himalayan Times newspa-per quoted Mingma Sherpa of Thamechho Kydug from Thame as saying: "Lakes beneath Thengbo Glacier wit-nessed major outbursts this afternoon, causing a massive flood and landslide. More than half of Thame village has been half of Thame village has been

affected." The outburst flood from Thengbo Lake near Tashi Lapcha Pass hit the village, famous as the birthplace of legendary Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, who along with New Zealand's Edmund Hillary was the first to summit Mount Everest, the highest in the world, in May 1953. However, the Kathmandu Post quoted Chief District Officer Devi Pandey, who said, "Although there are rumours of a glacial lake outburst, it has not yet been confirmed."

She added that it is raining in

the affected area, which could

be the cause of the flood. She said the full extent of the damage is still being assessed. Located at about 12,500 feet

above sea level in the Khumbu Valley near the Namche Bazaar, the main village that serves as the entry to the Everest region, the village is also home to famous record-breaking Everest climbers including Apa Sherpa, Kami Rita Sherpa, and Lakpa Rita Sherpa, among oth-

SBI hikes lending

rate by 10 bps across

Sensex jumps to two-week high

Benchmark Sensex spurted by 1,330 points to close at a two-week high while Nifty jumped 397 points to settle above the 24,500 level on Friday as easing fears of a recession in the US triggered buying in IT shares amid a sharp global stocks rally.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,330.96 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 80,436.84, marking its best single-day gains in more than two months. During the day, it zoomed 1,412.33 points or 1.78 per cent to

The NSE Nifty surged 397.40 points or 1.65 per cent to close at a two-week high of 24,541.15. As many as 47 Nifty shares closed in green while three closed in red.

From Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, UltraTech Cement, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers.

Sun Pharma emerged as the only laggard. "The stability of the Japanese Yen has been instrumental in driving a global market recovery. Besides that, the strong US retail sales and a decline in weekly jobless claims have helped alleviate fears of a US recession. "Further, the market sentiment has improved due to a decrease in US CPI inflation. On the backdrop of these, the Indian IT firms exhibited strong buying interest," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled significantly higher. European markets were trading mostly in the green. The US markets ended with sharp gains on Thursday. "The Indian frontline indices traded signif-

BSE SI	ENSE	X	UGUST 16	6, 202	4	GRAPH
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	79,500				- 1	
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TECH MAHINDRA		11 am	1 pm	3 pm	3000000	-0.03%
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TECH MAHINDRA	9:15 am +4.02%	ТОР	ТОР	jai	3000000	
TECH MAHINDRA	9:15 am +4.02% +3.47%	1		jai	3000000	

icantly higher today, mirroring the positive global market sentiment. The gains in the market were broad-based as the midcap and smallcap indices also moved higher. This upbeat market mood was primarily driven by reduced volatility, which stemmed from increased expectations of a US rate cut in September," Avdhut Bagkar, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, StoxBox, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.80 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.70 per cent.

All indices ended higher. IT index soared 2.72 per cent and realty jumped 2.45 per cent. Teck (2.23 per cent), auto (1.90 per cent), commodities (1.89 per cent), power (1.80 per cent), financial services (1.77 per cent) and consumer discretionary (1.74 per cent) also closed higher. A total of 2,462 stocks advanced while 1,467 declined and 107 remained unchanged on the BSE. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark

jumped 730.93 points or 0.91 per cent, the Nifty climbed 173.65 points or 0.71 per cent. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,595.27 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were buyers as they bought equities worth Rs 2,236.21 crore,

according to exchange data.
Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.22 per cent to USD 80.05 a barrel. Indian stock markets were closed on Thursday on account of Independence Day.

FDI in food processing sector down 30% to ₹5,037 cr in 2023-24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{(\text{FDI})}^{\text{oreign direct investment}}$ in India's food processing sector declined 30 per cent in the last fiscal to Rs 5,037.06 crore, according to official data.

The FDI in the food processing sector stood at Rs 7,194.13 crore in 2022-23. According to the data presented by the Food Processing Industries
Ministry in Lok Sabha, the commerce, in respect of food Yojana FDI in food processing sector stood at Rs 5,290.27 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 2934.12 crore in 2020-21.

FDI was Rs 6,414.67 crore in 2019-20; Rs 4430.44 crore in 2018-19; Rs 5,835.62 crore in 2017-18; Rs 4,865.85 crore in 2016-17; and Rs 3,312 crore in 2015-16 in the food processing sector.

In order to enhance foreign investment in the food processing sector, the ministry has taken various measures, including 100 per cent FDI permitted through automatic route for the food processing sector subject to sectoral regulations.

It has allowed 100 per cent FDI, under the government-approval route, for trading including through

(PMKSY) and

products manufactured or produced in India.

The government has exempted all processed food licensing under the Industries (Development and schemes. Regulation) Act, 1951. There is a lower GST for raw

and processed products. More implemented across than 71.7 per cent of food country. products under various These schemes a chapter heads/sub-heads are creation of covered in lower tax slabs of 0 infrastructure with efficient per cent and 5 per cent.

The export of processed foods declined 17 per cent to USD 10,881.81 million in 2023-24 million in 2023-24 million in 2023-24 supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, and to help in providing better returns to farmers, from USD 13,078.3 million in creation of employment the preceding fiscal.

For the development of this wastage, increasing the sector, the ministry is processing level and implementing the Pradhan enhancing the export of Mantri Kisan SAMPADA processed foods.

tenors, raising EMIs for borrowers PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State Bank of India, the Country's biggest lender, has raised the Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points (0.1 percentage point), across tenors, making most of the consumer loans costlier.

This is the third time in a row that the bank has increased MCLR. The benchmark oneyear tenor MCLR, which is used to price most consumer loans such as auto and personal, is now pegged higher at 8.95 per cent against the earlier rate of 8.85 per cent, according to the information posted on its website.

The three-year MCLR is 9.10 per cent, while the two-year is now 9.05 per cent, up 10 basis points. Among others, the rates of one-month, three-month and six-month tenors are in the range of 8.45-8.85 per cent. The MCLR on overnight tenor will be 8.20 per cent against 8.10 per cent.

The new rates are effective from August 15, 2024, it said. The rate hike has come days after RBI kept its benchmark lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the ninth consecutive time earlier this

Rupee settles flat at 83.94 against US dollar

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee stayed in a narrow range and settled flat at 83.94 (provisional) against the American currency on Friday, as the support from a rally in domestic equities and weak greenback was negated by foreign fund outflows amid geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.93 and touched the intraday low of 83.96 against the greenback during the session. The local unit finally settled flat at 83.94 (provisional) against the dollar. On Wednesday, the rupee settled 3 paise higher at 83.94 against the US dollar. Forex markets 84.25," he added. were closed on Thursday on account of Independence Day. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the positive tone



supported the rupee at lower

'We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on...Geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel and Iran.

'Traders may take cues from US consumer confidence and housing data today. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.75 to Rs

Meanwhile the de which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.14 per cent at 102.66. in the domestic markets Analysts said the dollar

weakened participants were awaiting the US consumer confidence index and housing data to be released later in the day.
Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.20 per cent to USD 80.07 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex surged 1,330.96 points, or 1.68 per cent, to settle at 80,436.84 points. The broader Nifty also soared 397.40 points, or 1.65 per cent, to 24,541.15 points.

markets capital Wednesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,595.27 crore, according to exchange

Foreign institutional investors

(FIIs) were net sellers in the

the domestic macroeconomic front, wholesale inflation fell to a 3month low of 2.04 per cent in July on the decline in prices of items, especially vegetables, government data on Wednesday released

India's forex reserves drop USD 4.8 bn to USD 670.11 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 4.8 billion to USD 670.119 billion for the week ended August 9, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the kitty jumped by USD 7.533 billion to an all-time high of USD 674.919 billion.

For the week ended August 9, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 4.079 billion to USD 587.96 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in exchange the foreign reserves. Gold reserves declined by



USD 860 million to USD 59.239 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 121 million to USD 18.282 billion the aney bank said India's reserve position with the IMF increased by USD 18 a critical role to play in the sustainability of results and million to USD 4.638 billion in the reporting week, the central bank data showed.

NITI Aayog calls for guidelines, E-KYC to check background of PMMY loan applicants

Production Linked Incentive

Scheme for Food Processing

Industry (PLISFPI) and Prime

Minister Formalization of

All these three schemes are

These schemes are aimed at

supply chain management

Processing

(PMFME)

modern

reducing

and

Micro Food

demand-driven

opportunities,

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government think tank NITI Aayog has pitched for a set of guidelines for assessing the creditworthiness and background verification for those availing loans under the Pradhan Mantri

Mudra Yojana (PMMY). The Aayog in a report titled Assessment of 'Impact PMMY' suggested E-KYC encouraging

authentication for loan underwriting. This will enhance the effectiveness of assessment checks "A set of guidelines for

the assessing creditworthiness and background verification must

be enlisted to provide a security net to the banks, considering the loans are collateral free and a proper risk check and assessment has success of the scheme," it said in the report posted on its website.



The majority of borrowers under PMMY are small entrepreneurs who have very limited documents and this makes it difficult for the banks to run verification checks as it requires more staffing and employees. The Aayog also suggested that

a proper reward mechanism is needed for different banks based on their scale of operation and performance. It noted that a portal enabling real-time upload beneficiary data will help streamline the beneficiary data collection PMMY, since its

2015 has provided credit contributes over 28 per cent support of Rs 18.39 lakh crore of gross value added in India's to 34.93 crore accounts.

pandemic, the credit disbursements MSMEs have doubled across segments indicating support for the increasing credit demand by the industry, while the number of NPA accounts and the

amount have been increasing year after year with a CAGR of 22.51 per cent and 36.61 per cent respectively from FY 2017.

The Micro, Small and Enterprises Medium (MSMEs) sector plays a defining role entrepreneurs and is a key driver of socio-economic development in India.

The sector contributes about 33 per cent (FY 2015 to FY 2019) of the country's total manufacturing gross value of

It accounts for more than 40 per cent of exports and of gross value added in India's while According to the report, employment for about 11.10 compared to the pre- crore people.

Govt to impose stricter safety standards on electric construction equipment vehicles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed new stricter safety standards for powertrain electric construction equipment vehicles including dumpers and excavators from October 1, 2024.

The ministry in a draft notification has proposed an amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 with an aim to push electric vehicles (EV) across various any person in respect of the said draft rules before the sectors.

2024),

equipment vehicles fitted with electric power train shall meet requirements as specified in AIS-174, till the corresponding specifications are notified

under the Bureau of Indian Standard Act, 2016," the draft rule said. Electric and hybrid powertrain

are being used in construction equipment vehicles. According to the notification,

the objections or suggestions which may be received from expiry of the aforesaid period "On and after (1st October will be considered by the construction central government.

Gold plunges ₹400; silver rallies ₹800

Gold prices plunged Rs 400 to Rs 72,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 73,150 per 10 grams in the previous session. The commodity markets were closed on Thursday on the occasion of Independence

Silver prices rallied Rs 800 to Rs 84,000 per kilogram from Rs 83,200 per kg in the previous close.

Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 400 as geopolitical uncertainty to Rs 72,400 per 10 grams. In continued to provide support



the previous session, it ended at Rs 72,800 per 10 grams. On the global front, Comex gold is trading at USD 2,500.90 per ounce, up by USD 8.50 per ounce. "Gold rose slightly on Friday as geopolitical uncertainty

for precious metals. 'However, stronger US retail sales and jobless claim data released on Thursday suggest robust consumer spending, reducing concerns about recession risk in the US and dampening aggressive interest potentially limiting further gains in precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. However, silver was quoting lower at USD 28.66 per ounce

in the international markets. "Comex gold closed 0.5 per cent higher at USD 2,492.4 per ounce on Thursday, as mixed US data with easing Consumer Price Index inflation and stronger retail sales did not provide any fresh insights on the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy path," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities,

Finance Ministry permits 15 securities firms to undertake Aadhaar verification of clients

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has permitted 15 securities firms, including SBICAP Securities, IIFL Securities, and Angel One, to conduct Aadhaar authentication of their customers.

The Revenue Department under the finance ministry has issued a notification under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act allowing the 15 reporting entities to conduct Aadhaar-based KYC (know your



customer) process.

The 15 entities also include Services, IM Financial Arihant Capital Market, SMC Global Securities, Aditya Birla Money, R.K. Stock Holding, Monarch Networth Capital, RKSV Securities, Comfort Securities, and Securities Pvt Ltd. Securities,

IFIN reports cumulative loss of ₹5,654 cr in FY14-18: Revised balance sheet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

incurred a cumulative loss of Rs 5,654 crore for the fiveconsecutive fiscals — from FY14 to FY18, according to the revised balance sheet of undergoing firm

resolution process. However, as per the original balance sheet, the company had earned a total profit of Rs 1,015 crore during the fiveyear period.

Following the recast, the company is exploring the option of seeking a refund of income tax paid from the Income Tax for these years.

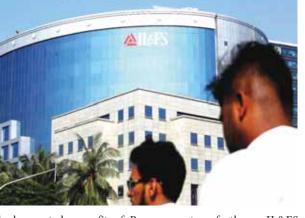
In June this year, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) asked the newly-appointed board of the IL&FS

subsidiaries. Moreover, its total income also went down to Rs 7,777 crore on an aggregate basis during those five years against Rs 10,297 crore reported earlier, revealed the updated financial results.

The company's new board has completed the reopening and recasting of financials and the revised accounts as per the direction of the NCLT

In June this year, the Mumbai bench of NCLT gave a goahead to the newly-appointed board of the IL&FS group with the revised balance sheet, along with its two other subsidiaries — Transportation and IL&FS Financial Services.

The restated account reflected that the company had actually reported a loss of Rs 3,322 crore in the financial year group to file a revised balance sheet, along with its two other the previous management



had reported a profit of Rs 100 crore in the said financial year. Similarly, it had booked a loss of Rs 1,315 crore during FY17 against a profit of Rs 209 crore recorded originally. On January 1, 2019, the NCLT passed an order permitting reopening and recasting of the financial

accounts of three IL&FS group companies — IL&FS Transportation, Financial Services and IL&FS

Engineering. The order was passed over an application moved by the central government, which had suspended the board of debt-ridden Infrastructure

and Financial (IL&FS) and Services appointed a six-member

expectations,

IL&FS is settling its over Rs 90,000-crore debt through asset resolution. So far, IL&FS has discharged a total debt of Rs 35,650 crore as on September 30, 2023, and maintains an overall debt resolution target of Rs 61,000

crore. It is resolving debts through monetisation termination/settlement of payments by its group entities concessioning from authorities and counter-party to the relevant contract. On October 1, 2018, NCLAT

superseded the existing board of IL&FS on the recommendation of the IL&FS Centre after the mega-crisis in IL&FS, which shook the finance industry. A new board for IL&FS,

which had a debt burden of Rs 94,000 crore, was appointed to take charge of the affairs and NCLAT conceived a framework for resolution of the crisis-hit group. It had also granted protection

to the IL&FS companies against recovery of any further dues and provided immunity to the newlyappointed directors of IL&FS against any proceedings for the past actions of suspended directors or any of the officers

thereof. At the same time, the Centre vide order dated September 30, 2018, directed that the affairs of the company to be investigated by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).

ŠFIO commenced investigation of affairs of IL&FS and its subsidiaries under the Companies Act.

INBRIEF

STUDENTS TAUGHT HOW TO BUILD PAYLOADS NEW DELHI: About 26 students underwent rigorous training by Space Kidz



India for over 9 months before this launch. Students were taught everything about space gravity in space, role of space stations specially unmanned space stations, satellites, building payloads, role of satellites in the future, coding of satellites, space research etc. They were also given hands on experience in building a payload. Earlier to this SRM Public School signed a MoU earlier in

June 2023 with Space Kidz India for the same.



NEW DELHI: Contributing to the Olympic fervour, and testing the Olympic quotient of employees and their family members, NTPC organised a grand Olympic Quiz at the Power Management Institute, Noida on 13th August, 2024.

TATA POWER TO DEVELOP HYDRO STORAGE PLANTS



NEW DELHI: On August 12, Tata Power, India's largest integrated power company signed an MoU with the Government of Maharashtra's Water Resources Department to develop 2,800 MW of Pumped Hydro Storage Plants. The ceremony was organised in presence of Devendra Fadnavis.

ARTS & CULTURE vivacity



Through rare footage and powerful testimonies, riveting documentary, 'Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force' pays tribute to the bravery and strategic brilliance of Indian air force in Operation 'Safed Sagar'

argil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force' is more than just a recounting of military history; it is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of India and the brave men and women who defend our skies. As the nation marks the 25th anniversary of the Kargil victory, this documentary stands as a fitting homage to their legacy. This Independence Day, DocuBay streamed a new documentary, 'Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force' Produced by Media Indica in association with Juggernaut Productions, this film sheds light on the critical and often overlooked role the Indian Air Force (IAF) played

during the Kargil War.

The documentary delves into the heart of Operation 'Safed Sagar', revealing the untold stories of courage, innovation, and strategic brilliance that defined the IAF's contribution to the conflict. Through the eyes of veterans and officials, viewers will be taken behind the scenes of daring missions that were instrumental in securing India's victory.

What sets this documentary apart is its access to rare footage and personal diaries that provide a unique perspective on the Kargil War. The documentary takes a 360 degree look at the IAF's cutting-edge aircraft, including the Mirage and MiG, in



action and gains a deeper understanding of the technological advancements that played a pivotal role in the conflict.

Featuring first-hand accounts from iconic figures such as Air Chief Marshal Tipnis, Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa, Air Marshal Padamjit Singh Ahluwalia, Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari, and Group Captain Nachiketa, the documentary weaves together a powerful narrative of valor and sacrifice. Combined with stunning visuals, these stories offer an emotional and inspiring portrayal of the Kargil War.

"We are honoured to collaborate with the Indian Air Force to bring Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force to our audiences," said Girish Dwibhashyam, COO of DocuBay. "The film will not only delight defence and aviation enthusiasts but will also be a gripping tale that will enthrall audiences worldwide."

Richa Pant, Creative Director and Producer at Media Indica, shared the challenges faced during production: "Shooting this documentary on Operation Safed Sagar has been incredibly demanding. Our research team spoke to over 40 veterans, and matching their stories to historical facts was a daunting task. We had an overwhelming amount of material, yet only 55 minutes to tell this important story." The film will stream from 15 August 2024. Indeed, it would be a compelling way to celebrate India's spirit and the bravery of its armed

A Fashion Show that Celebrates **Inclusion and the Human Spirit**

In a heartwarming celebration of individuality, the Tamana Foundation and FDCI came together for a fashion show that was a heartfelt tribute to the beauty of diversity and inclusion. It honoured the strength of individuality and left an indelible mark, inspiring and uplifting all who attended, says SAKSHI PRIYA













n a spectacular fusion of fashion and philanthropy, the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) recently co-hosted an unforgettable fashion show with the Tamana Foundation. The event, titled "Walking Tall, Walking for Hope, Walking for Inclusion," was more than just a display of stunning designs; it was a powerful celebration of inclusivity, diversity and the human spirit. The highlight of the evening was the participation of Tamana herself and the students of the Tamana Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting individuals with developmental and multiple disabilities, who graced the whose runway with their confidence and grace.

The Tamana Foundation, established in 1984 under the inspiring leadership of Shayama Chona, a Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee, has grown from a humble tent with just three students into a beacon of hope for hundreds with special needs. Named after the Hindi word for "aspiration," Tamana is dedicated to ensuring that every individual, regardless of ability, receives the care and support they deserve. The foundation has since expanded to three centres in New Delhi, offering comprehensive programmes that include education, therapy, and vocational training for those on the Pratap, Namrata Joshipura, autism spectrum and with other Anju Modi and Payal Jain, were developmental challenges.

The event was honoured by the presence of Sunil Sethi, Chairperson of FDCI, Ram Mohan Naidu, Minister of Civil Aviation and other esteemed highlight the beauty of



just about showcasing clothes, it was about creating a world where everyone is celebrated for who they are. The event opened with a soul-

stirring performance by Sharma, Diwakar melodious voice set the tone for an evening filled with and emotion inspiration. The applause that followed his performance was a tribute to the impact of his music and the significance of the show. As the models took to the runway, it was clear

that this was no ordinary fashion show. The designs, created by some of India's most talented designers, including Payal a tribute to the power of hope, diversity and human resilience. Each piece was carefully crafted to

individuality, with intricate embroidery, vibrant colours and innovative runway with a smile that lit up the silhouettes that captured the essence of the evening.

Payal Pratap's collection, featuring monotones with a pop of red and multicoloured embroidery, was a standout. Anju Modi's chic shift dresses and asymmetrical silhouettes, paired with silver oxide jewellery, added a touch of elegance to the runway. Namrata Joshipura's collection, with its black and golden palettes, corsets and draped skirts, exuded charm and sophistication. The use of satin skirts and black gowns, combined with minimalistic makeup and sleek ponytails, created a look that was both modern and timeless. Payal Jain's

> maximalist bohemian prints and denim pieces added a burst of colour and energy to the runway, showcasing the designer's ability to blend traditional elements with contemporary styles.

The showstopper of the evening, however, was not a designer or a celebrity but Tamana herself and the students of Tamana Foundation.

Their inclusion walk, accompanied by designers and educators various prominent schools, was a moment of pure Each student,

dressed in their finest, walked the entire room. The audience was visibly moved, with many wiping away tears of happiness and admiration. The evening was beautifully rounded off with a touching speech from Tamana, which expressed the spirit of the foundation and left a lasting impact on all who

This fashion show was a celebration of life, diversity and the power of inclusion. It was a reminder that, while we may all be different in many ways, at our core, we share the same humanity. The credit for this beautiful and inspiring event goes to the talented designers, the dedicated Tamana Foundation team and the visionary leadership of FDCI Chairman Sunil Sethi, who continues to use fashion to drive social change and a special acknowledgment to Shayama Chona, President and Founder of Tamana, whose unwavering commitment has profoundly transformed lives and established Tamana as a beacon of hope and inclusion.

The Tamana Fashion Show 2024 was a heartfelt celebration of the human spirit, radiating beauty, hope and unity. It beautifully demonstrated how fashion can be more than just clothing; it can be a powerful force for bringing people together and inspiring change, creating a world where everyone, regardless of their abilities, feels valued and celebrated. The event was a moving reminder of the strength and joy that joy and pride. come from embracing our shared humanity.







The Call of the Mirror: Reflecting on Reality

'The Call of the Mirror' invites viewers to engage deeply with art, enriching a space for introspection and connection. Each artwork challenges and enriches, offering a personal journey through diverse and compelling perspectives. SAKSHI PRIYA

n the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's ▲ refreshing to encounter moments that invite us to pause and reflect. "The Call of the Mirror," curated by Rohit J. Kapoor, offers such an opportunity. This group art show provides a rare chance for people to step away from their routines and engage profoundly with art that speaks directly to the heart. What makes this exhibition truly special is its range of voices and perspectives. brings Each artist something unique to the table, encouraging visitors to explore different aspects of the human experience. For instance, Asha Thadani's powerful photographs address challenging social issues, inviting viewers confront and reflect on topics like caste and child labor. Suvajit Mondal's ceramics, meanwhile, offer a more meditative look at our relationship with nature, encouraging us to think about our impact on the world around us. The blend of traditional and modern art forms adds

another layer of intrigue.

Oza's

crafted

From Maulik

beautifully



Mirror showcases a wide range of artistic expression. power to mirror our lives This mix not only and inspire personal insight. highlights the artist's For anyone seeking a deeper versatility but also mirrors connection with art, this the evolving landscape of art itself.

resonate with personal experiences and emotions. This interactive element transforms the experience, making it a journey of selfdiscovery as much as it is a visual feast.

this exhibition is how it engages viewers on a

personal level. It's not just

about admiring art from a

distance; it's about seeing

oneself reflected in the works

and exploring how they

The Call of the Mirror is more than an exhibition, it's an invitation to slow down, reflect and connect with art in a meaningful way. It serves as a reminder of art's exhibition offers compelling and enriching What really stands out about experience.

Horse riding, bharatnatyam and skating on Manu's mind during break from shooting

er shooting hand bruised by repeated pistol recoils during unrelenting training, Manu Bhaker will take a well deserved three month break. But it will be no vacation.

The double Olympic medallist will continue her other routines including yoga and waking up at 6 am — which waking up at 6 am — which she hates. And oh yes. She also plans to catch up on her hobbies — horse riding, skating, Bharatnatyam and violin practice to name a few. The 22-year-old, who won bronze medals in the 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team (partnering Sarabjot Singh), was at PTI headquarters on Friday along with her coach and shooting great Jaspal Rana for a freewheeling interaction with its editors.

Proudly flaunting her medals, the vivacious youngster from Haryana's Jhajjar spoke about

Tokyo setback was nothing more than a distant memory now, and also her plans to indulge in everything that she put on hold for her Olympic dreams.

"Now, I have some time off and I can probably do that (martial arts) again," said Bhaker, a karate kid in her teens before a change of heart led her to shooting.

"I was not able to get that kind of time to invest myself into that (martial arts). Finally, I can take time off for my hobbies, and I have many, many hobbies. Horse riding... Personally, I love horse riding, skating, I can still manage on the roads, then fitness, I really

enjoy working out.
"Then, I have dance (as a hobby) also, I am learning Bharatnatyam. I love the dance forms. I was training in France, wasn't able to get time, not able to cope up with the (Bharatnatyam) classes," said Bhaker, whose trainer is from

"She takes my

personally and then I have violin also," she added. As she revealed her bucket list for the "holiday", Rana had a faint smile on his face and he

also made it a point to shake his head in disapproval at the very mention of horse riding. "...Then she has to come back in one piece," Rana said, drawing a laugh from Bhaker. "Skating and horse riding are something she should not be doing and she'll be responsible for whatever happens. Who rides a horse thinking that they will fall?" he wondered aloud. A bemused Bhaker was not going to back down easily, their banter also being a reflection of the easy equation between one of the most talked coach-player about

right now. T have been learning horse riding for sometime now," she retorted immediately, asserting that she would be responsible

combinations in Indian sports



"I was waiting that after the Olympic, I will do horse riding. And so many other things I want to do like skydiving, scuba diving. I've waited for so long," she said, inviting another shake of the head from Rana.

On his part, Rana was clear that the break was to ensure that the break was to ensure that the youngster's shooting hand gets back to full fitness. "This (pointing to her injured hand) is the reason we are making her rest for three months. Because this (injury) has been for the last eight months and it has not healed

"So rest is mandatory for the hand, and we had decided much before the World Cup (Final was awarded to New Delhi)... Our decision to stop for three months was before that," he added.

till now," Rana said.

"It will not be very easy but this break is required. It's not something we'll enjoy. It's only the shooting part which will

(training) waking up in the morning for yoga, everything will be as per what we were doing. Because that's the lifestyle she has to follow."

Bhaker will not compete in the the season-ending prestigious ISSF World Cup Final for elite shooters from across the world in October in Delhi, and also likely skip the national championships and the camps that will follow to tend to her injured hand.

Bhaker had done a rendition of the national anthem on a violin, gifted to her by her brother, and a video of it went viral after her Paris performance.

Yes, I was able to manage something on the violin, but I'm only on the basics," said the champion shooter.

"Indian classical is my preference, but I'm only like beginning to learn it, so I'm not at the advanced level. I'm just one month into it... Just the basics?



Have to prepare mentally to transition from player to coach: Sreejesh

Indian hockey's goalkeeping stalwart P R Sreejesh, who was given a grand welcome on his arrival at the international airport here, said he will be spending the next 2-3 months to mentally prepare himself to transition from a player to a

coach. With regard to the enthusiastic welcome given to him, including a roadshow from the airport to Palarivattom here, he said it was like the "cherry

on top of the cake". "Working hard for the sacrificing a lot and then winning a medal, it is not others walked up to his vehicle just for me, but for the country. So, to be a part of this happiness, the welcome organised by everyone, is like the cherry on top of the cake. The pleasure is doubled," he said, speaking to reporters

outside the airport. Regarding the next step of his career, Sreeiesh said that he knows what he has to do as a

"But, as a coach, what all I should do or the transition from a player to a coach, I have to mentally prepare for that. So, I will spend the next 2-3 months on that," he said.

A big crowd, including several MLAs, welcomed Sreejesh at the airport.

People holding up placards with his photo cheered him on as he came out of the airport. Thereafter, the hockey player held a roadshow from the airport in an open-top jeep.
Along the route of his roadshow, people waved and cheered him on, some handed him flowers and bouquets and to shake his hand and congratulate him, according to visuals shown on TV channels. Sreejesh bid adieu to the game following his starring role in the country's second consecutive Olympic bronze at the just-concluded Paris

He is now going to be the team coach of the junior Indian hockey team.

Games.

Australia's Minjee Lee leads rain-delayed Women's Scottish Open with opening 67

AP ■ IRVINE (SCOTLAND)

wo-time major champion Minjee Lee I of Australia managed a strong wind and caught a break with rare sunshine in a wet Scottish summer with a 5-under 67 for a one-shot lead in the ISPS Handa Women's Scottish Open before play was stopped for the day.

Lydia Ko, coming off her Olympic golf medal that put her into the LPGA Hall of Fame, faced the worst of the weather at Dundonald Links and made five birdies in her round of 69.

Former U.S. Women's Open champion A Lim Kim and American Megan Khang were at 68.

The opening round was suspended by bad weather and a water-logged course. Lily May Humphreys of England was at 4 under with six holes to play. Play was

¬randmaster

here.

Praggnanandhaa could not really change his fortunes

for the better and remained in

last spot going into the final

day of the Saint Louis Rapid

and Blitz chess tournament

Before that, he won a couple of

Praggnanandhaa scored two

wins at the expense of pre-

Nepomniachtchi of Russia and Hikaru Nakamura of Russia

besides a lone draw with

tournament leader Alireza

Firouzia of France but lost the

remaining six games in the first

leg of blitz that kept him on the

favourites

games in the blitz section.



halted at the start for about an hour because of rain, and there was another weather delay of 2 hours, 20 minutes.

Lee is coming off a disappointing Olympics outside Paris when she was never in the hunt and wound up finishing in a tie for 22nd. She played bogey-free on a tough course, picking up birdies on both

Grand chess tour: Nothing changes

for Praggnanandhaa, Firouzja leads

and

bottom of the tables with only

nine rounds remaining in the

Alireza Firouzja made most of

his opportunities count to

shoot into sole lead on 17.5

points and now enjoys 1.5

points lead over Wesley So of

to score the most (7/9) in the

section,

The other leader Maxime

Vachier-Lagrave of France slipped to fourth spot on 15.5

point, a half point clear of wild

Nakamura, who started off as a

favourite in the blitz section, is

in sixth spot on 13.5 points, ahead of tour leader and

American Levon Aronian.

Armenian-turned-

Nepomniachtchi.

nited States who happened

blitz section.

blitz

card

Always a happy girl after a bogey-free round," Lee said.

"I feel like I played smart golf, I'd say. I gave myself a lot of opportunities for birdie. I feel like when I was in trouble, I kind of missed it in the right spots and could get up-and-down, so that was good."

Lee figures she caught a break not having to deal with the brunt of the rain, although there was no escaping the fierce wind. Ko got the worst of both, describing the weather as so chaotic that she was too busy

dealing with it to get overly stressed.
"If it's just windy, it's fine. But it was windy and rain," Ko said.

"It's hard when you have to hold the umbrella sideways and not up. I'm pretty sure it was built for you to hold it like vertically. So it's just very difficult out



Smith eyes IPL comeback after stellar show in MLC

Bolstered by his strong show at the Major League Cricket, veteran Australian batter Steve Smith is hopeful of making a return in the Indian Premier League next year.

The 35-year-old, who was ignored for the T20 World Cup and the upcoming tour of Scotland and England, guided the Washington Freedom to their maiden MLC title, finishing the T20 tournament as the franchise's equal leading run-scorer with 336 runs at a

strike rate of 148.67. Smith made a 52-ball 88 against a bowling attack that featured Australian captain Pat Cummins and Pakistan quick Haris Rauf in the final against the San Francisco Unicorns and was adjudged the playerof-the-match.

"I'd certainly love another opportunity at IPL. I'll be throwing my name in the hat, and we'll see how we go," Smith was quoted as saying by FOX Cricket.

"I feel like in every opportunity I've had in T20 cricket recently quite nicely. So hopefully I just keep putting my name up there and enjoying it."

Smith has not featured in the IPL since 2021, having gone unsold in the previous two auctions. With the national selectors preferring youngsters, the veteran also opened up on his axing and said he would go about his business trying to get better.

"In terms of international T20s, I don't know what's going on there," Smith said.

"They've obviously got some people they want to bring in, and that's fine.

"I understood the way that they wanted to stack up for the World Cup, with all the strong guys that smack it miles understood that. "I'm not that fussed. I'll just go

about my business, keep trying to improve and get better." Asked about giving a shot at winning gold at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028,

Smith said: "That's still a while away as well, so we'll wait and see. Never say never. "I did watch quite a bit (of the Paris Olympics). I quite

enjoyed it."

Increased participation should be our goal in SA20 season three player new Olympic cycle: Chef de Mission Narang

Chef de Mission Gagan Narang hailed India's performance in the justconcluded Paris Olympics and said it's time to chalk out a strategic roadmap ahead of the new Olympic cycle to increase the participation in the 2028 Games in Los Angeles. A total of 117 Indian athletes

participated across 16 disciplines at the Paris Games and India ended their campaign with six medals one silver and five bronze.

"Firstly, I congratulate the medal winners. A total of 6 medals (1 Silver, 5 Bronze) is a commendable effort," said Narang ahead of his return from the French capital. "Though, personally, I feel we could have finished with a few

more medals, it is worth mentioning the near-misses. There were at least six 4th place finishes and quite a few of our athletes finished in the finals of their respective events.

"This is encouraging, and we should take heart from these results, introspect on the fine margins and how we can better these performances," he added. and move ahead.



in shooting at the London Olympics, said the National Sports Federations (NSFs) should chart out a roadmap to increase participation in the next Games.

"We must find ways to build a strong sports culture and increase the number of participations from India. That should be our goal for this new Olympic cycle," he said. "Also, most importantly I feel whilst we are teaching our athletes how to win, we must also teach them how to accept defeat and come back with a bang."

There were six fourth place finishes in Paris and Narang said it is important to take lessons from the near misses

"There are many learnings and take aways from these performances in Paris. From what I saw at this Olympics, it's only the small margins that we need to close in now to elevate this performance," he said.

"I will be submitting my observations in an extensive report to the IOA and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. While India has come a long way in the past decade, and we had a fully equipped medical team at the village with Dinshaw Pardiwala as CMO. "We will grow from strength to strength to compete with the USA and China in the future in sport science backup as well."
'NEED TO CREATE A

ATHLETES': Narang said

FOR

PATHWAY

collective efforts must be made to chart an athlete's career trajectory, which also includes long-term financial literacy and utilising the athlete's experience by absorbing them into the system.

"To further the growth, collective efforts are being made and should be strengthened further to chart our athlete's career. We need to plan life after sport for an athlete so that their approach is long term," he said.

"Financial literacy, absorbing them into the system and utilizing their knowledge and experience, creating job opportunities in district, state national organizations

administrators and coaches should be a priority." Narang said such steps will help athletes to pursue their events with confidence. "Only then will parents and the

athletes feel secure to pursue sport professionally and invest their time and efforts in it. We must also focus on athlete's mental well-being, this is extremely critical for athletes to feel assured and that they are cared for," he noted.



who has 13 points.

American Lenier Dominguez

The player auction ahead of the third season of the

SA20 will take place in Cape

Town on October 1 with a total

of 13 slots left to be filled,

announced Graeme Smith, the

The upcoming edition of the SA20 is scheduled to be held

from January 9 to February 8 next year. Following the

conclusion of the pre-signing

and retention window, the

teams will have to pick up 13 more players from the auction.

Retired India wicketkeeper

batter Dinesh Karthik recently

ioined Paarl Royals, becoming

the first player from the

country to join the South

In addition to this, each

franchise will also need to

select their 'Season 3 Rookie,

while three of the franchises

still have a wildcard to

announce before December

international stars like Ben

Stokes, Kane Williamson, Joe

Root, Trent Boult, Johnny

Bairstow, Devon Conway, Zak

Karthik,

from

African league.

league commissioner.

on 12 points is eighth at this point ahead of Nodirbek

However, Firouzja still remains set to win the crown given his 1.5 points lead and if that happens he can even overtake Caruana as the leader of the tour with just one event remaining in form of Sinquefield cup set to begin from August 18.

Crawley, Rashid Khan and

Rahmanullah Gurbaz will also

be seen in action in the league.

'To have the calibre of

international players joining

local heroes like Aiden (Markram), KG (Kagiso

Rabada) and Heinrich (Klaasen) sets up an explosive season," Smith stated in a

Squads as they stand ahead of

GIANTS: Brandon King, Quinton De Kock, Naveen Ul

Haq, Kane Williamson, Chris

Woakes, Prenelan Subrayen,

Dwaine Pretorius, Keshav

Noor

Smuts, Wiaan Mulder, Junior

Dala, Bryce Parsons, Matthew

Breetzke, Jason Smith, Marcus

JOBURG SUPER KINGS: Faf

Du Plessis, Moeen Ali, Jonny

Theekshana, Devon Conway,

Gerald Coetzee, David Wiese, Leus Du Plooy, Lizaad

Williams, Nandre Burger,

Tahir, Sibonelo Makhanya,

Donavon Ferreira,

Tabraiz Shamsi.

Klaasen, Jon-Jon

Ahmed,

Maheesh

Imran

Season 3 Auction:

DURBAN'S

Maharai,

Heinrich

Stoinis.

Bairstow,

release.

ioint second spot.

Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan

who has 10 points in all.

Praggnanandhaa remains a

distant last on 6.5 points,

looking for a change in

Wesley So was the surprising

star of the day winning six, drawing two and losing just

one game against Firouzja in

nine rounds of blitz. The result propelled the American to

fortunes on the final day.

and franchise stuff, I've played

auction to be held on October 1 MI CAPE TOWN: Rashid Miller, Mujeeb Ur-Rahman, Khan, Ben Stokes, Kagiso Rabada, Trent Boult, Azmatullah Omarzai, Dewald Brevis, Ryan Rickelton, George Linde, Nuwan Thushara, Connor Esterhuizen, Delano

> PRÉTORIA Anrich Nortje, Neesham, Will Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Will Smeed, Migael Pretorius, Rilee Rossouw, Eathan Bosch, Wayne Parnell, Senuran Muthusamy, Kyle Verreynne, Daryn Dupavillon, Steve Stolk, Tiaan van Vuuren. PAARL ROYALS:

Sam Hain, Joe Root, Dinesh Karthik, Kwena Maphaka, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Bjorn Fortuin, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Van Buuren, Keith Dudgeon, Nqaba Peter, Andile Phehlukwayo, Codi Yusuf, John Turner, Dayyaan Galiem, Potgieter, Rassie Van Der Dussen, Thomas Kaber, Chris Benjamin. Iacob Bethell. **CAPITALS:** SUNRISERS Jimmy Jacks.

CAPE: Aiden Markram, Zak Crawley, Roelof van der Merwe, Liam Dawson, Ottneil Baartman, Marco Jansen, Beyers Swanepoel, Caleb Seleka, Tristan Stubbs, Jordan Hermann, Patrick Kruger, Craig Overton, Tom Abell, Harmer, Andile Simon Simelane, David Bedingham.



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