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SPORT 7
LET'S JUST LEAVE IT TO THE GODS:
CHOPRA ON 90M AND BEYOND

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Patients suffer as doctors strike work over WB horror



Doctors and staff of RML Hospital stage a protest demanding justice for the woman doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, in New Delhi, on Saturday

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Healthcare services across the nation were paralysed as doctors and other medical workers from the Government, private, and even corporate hospitals went on a 24-hour strike starting at 6 am on Saturday, leading to the shutdown of OPDs, elective surgeries, and IPD services. The strike — called to protest rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a State-run hospital in Kolkata last week — caused significant disruption,

with hospitals across the national Capital turning away patients, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. While many sympathised with the cause, they struggled to receive necessary medical treatment. The Indian Medical Association (IMA), which represents over 4 lakh medical professionals nationwide, called for the strike after resident and junior doctors, along with medical students, ceased work for six consecutive days

and took to the street to protest the August 9 incident. As senior doctors also joined the strike, medical services were hit hard in many States, severely impacting primarily poor patients who had traveled long distances from across the country to access care at centrally run facilities like AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, and Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital. A 60-year-old heart patient who had come to AIIMS for an OPD visit expressed his frustration and said, "I had an appointment for a routine

checkup today, but it was cancelled due to the strike. I understand the doctors' concerns, but we haven't done anything wrong. I hope the strike ends soon." Relatives of another patient echoed similar sentiment, acknowledging the tragedy in Kolkata but emphasising that the strike had severely affected them. They had travelled from Rajasthan to Delhi seeking treatment for their uncle, as they believed the best healthcare services were available in the Capital. In display of solidarity and demanding a Central Protection Act, doctors across the Capital also marched towards Jantar Mantar, despite resistance from Delhi Police, who tried to prevent the demonstration from disrupting public life. Nurses too joined the protest, holding a sit-in to show their solidarity and outrage over the West Bengal tragedy. Dr Arpit, a protesting doctor who participated in the march to Jantar Mantar, said, "Our demands are clear. We don't want another incident like the one in West Bengal. The Government must finalise the Central Protection Act. This is not about politics; it's about justice and safety."

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CBI focusing on victim's diary to crack case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Was the murdered doctor from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital aware of any threats to her life? And if so, who were her tormentors? As they work to answer these questions, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials are focusing on the victim's personal diary and statements from her family, including her father, regarding the events leading up to the alleged rape and murder inside the hospital premises on the night of August 8 and 9. Sources indicated that CBI officials have identified around thirty individuals of interest in their investigation, including some doctors, interns, senior nurses, and other hospital staff. According to these sources, the victim's father informed investigators that his daughter had recently expressed reluctance to perform night shifts. She had also voiced suspicions about certain colleagues, fearing that they might cause her harm. The CBI is now meticulously

examining her personal diary to gather as much information as possible about her concerns and the potential threats she faced. The victim's father reportedly informed investigators, citing some of her colleagues, that she may have been murdered elsewhere and then her body was moved to the seminar hall of the Department of Chest Medicine, where she was a final-year postgraduate trainee. CBI officials, who interrogated Sandip Ghosh — the influential former principal of the college, known for his close ties with the topmost family in the State — for approximately 13 and a half hours on Friday night, resumed questioning him on Saturday. Sources suggested that Ghosh has started to crack under CBI pressure, and the interrogation was ongoing at the time of the last reports. On Saturday, a team of CBI officials visited the crime scene inside the hospital for the second time, equipped with three-dimensional cameras and other instruments to gather additional evidence.

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Guv OK's K'taka CM prosecution in MUDA scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday ruled out his resignation, following Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot granting sanction to prosecute him, in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam', and said he had done no wrong to step down. He termed the Governor's decision "anti-Constitution and against law". The Chief Minister also said Governor's decision will be questioned in court and that he will battle it out legally. "It is a big conspiracy to dislodge the elected Government. They (BJP) have done this in several States including Delhi, Jharkhand. A conspiracy has been designed to destabilise the elected Government in Karnataka also. The Central Government, BJP JD(S) and others are involved in this conspiracy," Siddaramaiah told reporters here. "High command (of Congress) is with me, the entire Cabinet and the Government is with me. All Congress MLAs, MLCs, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members are with me... I have done no wrong to resign," he asserted. Accusing the Opposition of wrong doings and behaving illegally and anti-Constitutionally, he further said, "They are using Raj Bhavan as a political pawn. The Governor is functioning like a puppet in the hands of the Central Government." The Governor has accorded sanction against the Chief Minister under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the petitions of Pradeep Kumar S P, T J Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna.



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Police personnel during a rescue operation after coaches of the Sabarmati Express passenger train derailed between Kanpur and Bhimsen stations in Uttar Pradesh, on Saturday

Sabotage suspected in Kanpur train derailment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR/NEW DELHI

Twenty coaches of the Sabarmati Express passenger train derailed near Govindpuri station in Kanpur early Saturday after the engine hit an "object placed on the track", rail officials said. There is no report of any loss of life or injury in the accident. The Varanasi-Ahmedabad train derailed between Kanpur and Bhimsen railway stations around 2.35 am. Rescue and relief operations are underway, officials said. In a post on X, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The engine of Sabarmati Express (Varanasi to Amdavad) hit an object on the track and derailed near Kanpur at 02:35 am today." "Sharp hit marks are observed.

Evidence is protected. IB and UP police are also working on it. No injuries to passengers or staff. Train arranged for passengers for onward journey to Amdavad," Vaishnaw added. Railway Board officials said involvement of miscreants or anti-social elements is being looked into as prima facie it appears that the engine hit an object placed on track. "We found a foreign material near the 16th coach of the train. Looking at the size of the damaged portion of cattle guard of the engine, it seems that the engine hit this foreign object and derailed," an official said. "The loco pilot said some boulder hit the cattle guard (front portion) of the engine which got badly damaged and bent," another official said.

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Mumbai terror attack plotter faces extradition to India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In a huge setback to Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a US court has ruled that the Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman could be extradited to India where he was wanted for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists. "The (India US Extradition) Treaty permits Rana's extradition," the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said in its ruling on Thursday. Ruling on an appeal filed by 63-year-old Rana, a panel of judges of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court in the Central District of California's denial of his habeas corpus petition challenging a magistrate judge's certification of his as extraditable to India for his alleged participation in terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Rana, currently lodged in a jail in Los Angeles, faces charges for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai attack and is known to be associated with Pakistani-American Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the terror incident that hit India's financial hub in 2008.



Rana has the option of appealing against the ruling. He still has not run out of all the legal options to prevent his extradition to India. Under the limited scope of habeas review of an extradition order, the panel held that Rana's alleged offence fell within the terms of the extradition treaty between the United States and India, which included a Non Bis in Idem (double jeopardy) exception to extraditability "when the person sought has been convicted or acquitted in the Requested State for the offence for which extradition is requested". Relying on the plain text of the treaty, the US State Department's technical analysis, and persuasive case law of other circuits, the panel held that the word "offence" refers to a charged crime,

rather than underlying acts, and requires an analysis of the elements of each crime. The panel of three judges concluded that a co-conspirator's plea agreement did not compel a different result. The panel held that the Non Bis in Idem exception did not apply because the Indian charges contained distinct elements from the crimes for which Rana was acquitted in the United States. In its ruling, the panel also held that India provided sufficient competent evidence to support the magistrate judge's finding of probable cause that Rana committed the charged crimes. The three panel of judges were Milan D Smith, Bridget S Bade, and Sidney A Fitzwater. Rana, a Pakistani national, was tried in a US district court on charges related to his support for a terrorist organisation that carried out large-scale terrorist attacks in Mumbai. A jury convicted Rana of providing material support to a foreign terrorist organisation and conspiring to provide material support to a foiled plot to carry out terrorist attacks in Denmark. However, the jury acquitted Rana of conspiring to provide material support to terrorism-related to the attacks in India.

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Radioactive alarm triggered by cancer drugs at CCS Airport causes panic

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (CCSI) in Lucknow became a scene of frenetic activity on Saturday after a shipment containing medicines for cancer patients activated an alarm of radioactive material, according to an official statement. Contrary to initial reports,

there was no threat to life, and the situation was swiftly addressed. The incident took place at around 8:45 am when an alarm related to radioactive material was triggered in the cargo area. Initial reports suggested that two individuals had fainted and that the airport was evacuated, but these reports were debunked. SDM, Sarojinagar, Falguni Singh provided details on the

event, noting that the routine clearance process was completed by noon. "Upon receiving information about the radioactive alarm, we contacted ACM-I, our officer at the airport, who then communicated with the airport authorities," Singh explained. "It was confirmed that the alarm was triggered by a shipment containing a

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Hoax bomb threats send cops into tizzy in NCR-Delhi, Maha

PARVESH SHARMA/STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM/NOIDA

Two malls in Gurugram and Noida were evacuated on Saturday after they received bomb threat through emails with police later saying nothing suspicious was found following anti-sabotage checks. The bomb threats to DLF Mall of India in Sector 18 of Noida and Ambience Mall in Gurugram came over three months after similar threats were emailed to multiple schools in the National Capital Region (NCR). The



Saturday threat, which had thrown police and security personnel into a tizzy, turned out to be a hoax in the wake of upcoming Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana, which announced by the Election Commission

on Friday. Besides Delhi and NCR, the Inorbit Mall in Vashi in Navi Mumbai was also evacuated by the police after the mall's management received a bomb threat email on Saturday afternoon. According to Gurugram police, the Ambience Mall management received a bomb threat email at 9.27 am. The email, which was sent from hiddenbones101@gmail.com, read, "I planted bombs in the building. Every person inside the building will be killed, none of you will escape. You deserve death."

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This nation also knows how to respect a woman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Celebrated wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Saturday received a grand welcome on her return to the country with hundreds of supporters gathering outside the IGI airport, showing immense solidarity with her. Stars such as Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and panchayat leaders received Vinesh, who endured a heartbreaking exit at the Paris Olympics where she was disqualified for being overweight on the day of her 50kg final. Heavily garlanded, Vinesh stood in an open Jeep and thanked all the supporters. Congress leader Deepender Hooda accompanied Vinesh and offered her sweets.

"I thank the entire country for support," she said, her hands folded in humility. There was a thick security cover as Vinesh, who was found 100 grams overweight at the Olympics, landed in the national Capital. Vinesh's caravan left for her native village Balali in Haryana and on the way she met her supporters, positioned at different spots. Hooda presented a mace, a 'symbol of victory' to Vinesh, who got emotional and was consoled by her husband Somvir. In a series of twitter posts, Hooda praised the 29-year-old Vinesh for her fighting spirit. "In our eyes, you have been a winner in the past and will remain so in the future too. Your courage, struggle and



Wrestler Vinesh Phogat gets emotional as she arrives after Paris Olympics heartbreak, at IGI airport, in New Delhi, on Saturday

determination have not only won the hearts of crores of countrymen but you are an inspiration to crores of youth of the country," read one of his tweets. A group of 50 supporters followed her jeep. They offered prayers at a temple in Delhi's Dwarka before continuing their journey towards Balali. Vinesh had stayed back in Paris after challenging her disqualification in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and demanding a joint silver. The application was dismissed on Wednesday. "She has come back to her country after such a long time. She is very emotional also. She will spend time with family and calm herself. What Vinesh has done for women is praiseworthy. She

might not have received a medal, but she is a champion for us," said Sakshi Malik. London Olympics bronze medal-winning shooter Gagan Narang, who was the Chef de Mission of the Indian contingent in Paris, called her a champion, posting a photo with Vinesh at the Paris airport. Both of them were on the same flight to Delhi. "She came as a champion on day 1 into the games village and she will always remain our champion. Sometimes one doesn't need an Olympic medal to inspire a billion dreams.. @vineshphogat you have inspired generations. Salute to your grit," Narang posted on X. "People are waiting to welcome her to our village. People are excited to meet Vinesh and

encourage her," her brother Harvinder Phogat said. The feisty wrestler, in her first reaction after her disqualification, on Saturday said that under "different circumstances" she could see herself competing till 2032 because she still has a lot of wrestling left in her, but is now unsure about her future as things "might never be same again". Vinesh had announced her retirement from the sport after her disqualification. In an emotional post on social media, Vinesh shared her childhood dream, the hardships she faced after losing her father and also put on record the contribution made by people in her extraordinary journey that ended in heartbreak in Paris.

Doctors on strike, patients hit hard

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Health services across the city were hit hard on Saturday as doctors went on a 24-hour strike in response to the recent rape and murder incident in Kolkata and the subsequent vandalism at RG Kar Hospital. The nationwide strike, organised by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), affected both government and private hospitals. The strike led to the suspension of outpatient departments (OPDs) and elective procedures across major hospitals, including RMLIMS, SGPGI, KGMU, Medanta, and Apollomedics. No new registrations were processed in the OPDs, and while some patients with prior appointments were attended to, thousands had to leave without receiving any treatment. Patients from other districts who were unaware of the strike were particularly affected. Antima Shukla, who came all

the way from Amethi to RML hospital for her mother's treatment, expressed frustration. "My mother, who has neuroendocrine cancer, needed a chemotherapy injection. The doctor had scheduled an appointment for August 16, but due to the strike, we couldn't get the report or start the treatment. We were told it would be delayed until August 23," Shukla said. Subedar Chauhan from Sultanpur also faced challenges. "My father needed treatment for lip cancer. Had I known about the strike, we wouldn't have travelled so far," he said. Similar concerns were echoed by other patients. Mukesh from Gonda, who sought treatment for his mother's advanced cancer, described the impact of the strike: "We've been waiting here since yesterday, but no tokens were issued today for the OPD." Sanat Kumar Gupta, who came from Banda for his wife's suspected breast cancer treatment, faced financial concerns due to the strike. "The investigations would cost significantly more if done privately. We were able to complete only a few tests, and thankfully, we have a place to stay in Lucknow," Gupta said.



Doctors staging a sit-in at RML hospital on Saturday

Pioneer

IMA, Lucknow secretary Dr Sanjay Saxena said both government and private hospital OPDs were closed, but emergency services continued to operate. "The strike saw massive support from various associations and organisations, including the Resident Doctors' Association, SGPGI faculty,

KGMU, and several others," he said. Dr Saxena emphasised the IMA's demands for swift justice for the Kolkata incident and stronger safety measures in hospitals. "We want hospitals to be designated as safe zones, similar to airports, to deter crimes against healthcare workers," he added.

Director of Medanta Hospital Rakesh Kapoor highlighted their tribute to the Kolkata victim and condemned the increasing violence against doctors. "These incidents are unacceptable. We supported the strike to highlight the need for improved safety measures for healthcare professionals," Kapoor said.

Constable shot wife, killed self over loyalty dispute

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The tragic incident in Krishna Nagar, where constable Sarvesh Rawat fatally shot his wife Meera before taking his own life on Friday, appears to have been rooted in deep-seated marital discord, including suspicions of disloyalty. According to preliminary investigations, Sarvesh, who was stationed at Kalyanpur police station in Kanpur, harboured doubts about his wife's faithfulness. These suspicions reportedly led to frequent arguments between the couple. On Friday, Sarvesh arrived in Lucknow from Kanpur and an argument erupted once again over these issues. The confrontation escalated, prompting

Sarvesh to drive his wife and their 8-month-old daughter to her parents' home in Krishna Nagar. Sources said that the confrontation reached a breaking point when Sarvesh, in the presence of his mother-in-law Saraswati, shot Meera in the head on the first floor of their three-story residence. Sarvesh then reached the second floor of the house, where he shot himself in the head. The incident caused panic in the neighbourhood, with residents discovering the scene of bloodshed when they entered the house. Sarvesh and Meera were rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre, where both were pronounced dead upon arrival. The Krishna Nagar police,

along with forensic teams, reached the scene and conducted a thorough investigation. The details revealed that the marital issues between Sarvesh and Meera had been ongoing since their marriage in 2019. Disputes between the couple escalated in 2020, leading to a report of domestic violence filed by Meera at PGI Kotwali. Despite a court ruling that allowed them to reconcile in 2021, their relationship remained troubled. Family members recounted that Sarvesh's anger led him to act violently, disregarding his mother-in-law's presence. Both Sarvesh and Meera were found in a pool of blood by neighbours. Meera worked at the GPO while her mother cared for their child.

Shopkeeper found murdered

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A shopkeeper was found murdered in his shop in Gomti Nagar Extension police area on Saturday morning. The victim, identified as 51-year-old Mahavir Yadav from Maqdoompur, was found lying on a bed in a pool of blood with multiple injuries apparently inflicted by a sharp-edged weapon. The body was found by Yadav's family members when they reached the shop early Saturday morning. According to preliminary investigations, the murder involved more than one assailant. The police have launched an investigation, focusing on a recent altercation between Yadav and a neighbour. According to the police, Yadav had a confrontation with a local resident named Dilip around 10 pm on Friday night.

THE VICTIM WAS FOUND LYING ON A BED IN A POOL OF BLOOD WITH MULTIPLE INJURIES INFLICTED BY A SHARP-EDGED WEAPON

During the altercation, Dilip had allegedly threatened to kill Yadav. The threat was made in a drunken state and it was not taken seriously at that time. Following the discovery of Yadav's body, his son Anuj filed a complaint, leading to the registration of a murder case against Dilip and his accomplice Abban alias Bahra. DCP (East) Shashank Singh confirmed that a case had

been registered, and police were searching for the accused. Witnesses said that Yadav, who operated a puri-sabzi and tea stall in the village, usually stayed at his shop and only returned home for breakfast and dinner. Anuj noted that his father had said the previous night that Dilip had verbally abused and threatened him. On Saturday morning, Yadav's nephew Virendra found the body and informed the police. The police conducted an investigation at the scene, questioning local residents and seeking information about Yadav's recent disputes. Gomti Nagar Extension Inspector Sudhir Awasthi said that Dilip was absconding and efforts were underway to arrest him. He also noted that Dilip had had a criminal history, including previous arrests for riots and assault.

GNM student alleges amorous advances, threats by teacher

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A third-year student of A General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) accused her teacher of pressuring her to have physical relations with him by threatening to fail her and ruin her career. In Saipur police station area. She also alleged that the accused, identified as Shivam Singh, threatened to slash his wrist and kill her. She alleged that as she ignored his amorous advances, the accused reached her house to force her into submission at the knife-point. As per reports, the girl student, who is a resident of Sitapur, took admission to the institute on Sitapur road in

2021. As the time, the accused teacher fell for the girl and started following her. He even secured her mobile number. "He started harassing me by calling me daily. If I did not talk to him, he threatened to fail me and ruin my career. Out of fear, I started talking to him. However, he started pressuring me to have physical relations with him. When I resisted, he threatened to defame me," the girl alleged. The victim alleged that about a year ago, Shivam Singh followed her to Hanuman Dham Temple. "There, he forcefully clicked some photos and edited them to make them look obscene. He started blackmailing me to have physical relations. He said that if she

did not agree, he would make the photos viral on social media," the girl alleged. The victim further alleged that she would block Shivam's mobile number, but he would call from a new number. The girl alleged that on August 7 evening, the accused made a video call from a new number. Shivam said if she did not talk to him, he would slash his wrist and kill her too. "He reached my home with a knife the next day and asked me to open the door and threatened to kill me. I later complained to the police and women helpline," she said. The Saipur police have registered a case based on the victim's complaint.

ANO honoured with COAS commendation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Associate NCC Officer A(ANO) of the 19 UP Girls Battalion, Lucknow, Major (Dr) Manmeet Kaur Sodhi was honoured with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Commendation Card on Independence Day for her exceptional service and leadership. She is the first ANO in NCC history to have received this prestigious award. With 33 years of service, Major Sodhi has exemplified the NCC's values of leadership, character, and selfless service. Her efforts have significantly impacted numerous young girls in Lucknow, shaping their futures through her dedication and guidance. Under her mentorship, three cadets recently joined the armed forces as Agniveers, one became a head constable in Delhi Police, and another a girl cadet instructor. Additionally, one of her cadets represented Uttar Pradesh at the RDC 2024. Commanding Officer of the 19 UP Girls Battalion Colonel Deepak Kumar praised her as a motivating leader who has set high standards. Commander of NCC Group, Lucknow, Brig Neeraj Punetha highlighted her role in increasing volunteer enrollment and leading various social service initiatives. Major Sodhi expressed gratitude for the recognition, crediting her unit's collective effort and vowing to continue empowering young cadets.

Form No. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT LUCKNOW.
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
(Area of Jurisdiction Part of Uttar Pradesh)
SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 312/2024
(Summons to defendants under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act read with Rule 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993)
IN THE MATTER OF:
ARYAVART BANK APPLICANT
VERSUS
JYOTI RAJPAL & ORS. DEFENDANTS
To, Defendants No.-
03. Arif Khan S/O Mohd Iqram Khan
R/O H. No. 2/19, Sector-1, Jankipuram, District-Lucknow, U.P.-226021
04. Beer Bahadur S/O Late Nar Bahadur
R/O H. No. T-11/134, Kendranagar Colony Sector-K, Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P.-226020
In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits, (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner 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 **21.08.2024 at 10.30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and Seal of the Tribunal on 1st day of August, 2024.
By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

PPGCL
REGD OFFICE: SHATABDI BHAWAN, B112 & 13, Sector 4, Gauram Buth Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301
Plant Address: PO-Longara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj(Ahmednagar), Uttar Pradesh-212107
Phone: +91-120-6102008/102009; CN: 140101UP/2007PL/CO3335
CORRIGENDUM
This is with reference to the Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited advertisement of Hiring of Ambulance (ALS & BLS Type) of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant released on 17 August 2024 in financial express all edition & pioneer all edition please note that submission date of tender fee for issue of bid document to be extended to 26th August 2024 instead of 18th August 2024. All other contents shall remain same.

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Ph.D. Entrance Test 06.09.2024
Last date of submission of online admission form- 02.09.2024
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na/12/24802/2023/36733 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

Kardata Suvidha Kendra opened in Barabanki

Lucknow/Barabanki (PNS): A Kardata Suvidha Kendra was inaugurated at Barabanki by Pr.CIT, UP(E) Vivek Misra. Present on the occasion were CCIT Sunil Bajpai and Pr.CIT-1, Lucknow, Meenakshi Singh, senior officers and officials from Income Tax Department. The Kardata Suvidha Kendra is set to become a pivotal centre for providing crucial services and support by the tax return preparers (TRPs) to the taxpayers of the region. It will work as a facilitation centre for providing various services and support related to income tax. Meenakshi Singh said the main objective behind establishing the Kardata Suvidha Kendra was to provide income tax related information and services with the assistance of TRPs at one place in remote areas. She said the two main objectives of Kardata Suvidha Kendra were to educate the taxpayers and provide tax related facilities to them. Vivek Misra stressed upon the changed face of the Income Tax department from being an enforcement agency to being a tax facilitator. He urged the gathering to take full use of the Kardata Suvidha Kendra and facilitate in increasing the tax base by filing of higher number of returns of tax.

Kidnapping gang busted; 5 held

Lucknow (PNS): With the arrest of five accused, the Gomti Nagar police on Saturday claimed to have busted a gang involved in kidnapping and demanding ransom in the name of escort service in Lucknow. The police also recovered two four-wheelers and five mobile phones from the accused. The victim, Vikas Kumar from Gomti Nagar, was also rescued. Those arrested were identified as Faisal Ali of Barabanki, Desh Deepak of Bareilly (originally from Farrukhabad), Avinash Mehrotra of Bareilly, and the woman escorts of Bareilly and of Bhubaneswar (Odisha). According to the police, a woman, Neelam, had informed them that her son Vikas had been kidnapped. She further said that the gang was demanding ransom for his safe release. Two teams were formed and information about the kidnapers was obtained from the CCTV footage. The police teams conducted a raid and rescued safely the victim from under Sahara flyover. "The police team took prompt action and the victim was safely freed from the clutches of the kidnapers within 24 hours. The accused were arrested and

sent to jail," a spokesman said. Meanwhile, with the arrest of two brothers, the Ashiyana police on Saturday claimed to have worked out what they termed an open-and-shut case in which a man was murdered and the body dumped into Indra canal on August 11. DCP (East) Shashank Singh said the team recovered the body of Virendra Narula from the river in Rae Bareilly and arrested the accused, who were identified as Sukhwinder Singh alias Vicky (30), and Ajit Singh alias Titu (26), both of Ramnagar. Both the accused were tenants at the house of the victim. They did not pay monthly rent to the victim and were not vacating it either. To resolve the issue Virendra decided to sell his house to a builder. On the fateful day, Virendra had gone to his house in Ram Nagar to show the house to a builder. After the builder left the house, Virendra had a dispute with the accused, who abused him. As per the confession of the accused, they took Virendra to a room in the house and beat him to death. The DCP said that the victim's son had filed a complaint with the Ashiyana police on August 12.

CLASSIFIEDS
NOTICE

Be it known to all that our Shop No-104, UGF Located at Highway plaza Anexe RBL Road Lucknow. Original Registry Registered at Registrar office in Zild No 14246 Page No 223 to 256 and S.No.9502 on date 18/5/2012. Original Registry paper has been lost on 12/8/2024 Nearby our colony. Use of above lost paper will be illegal by any other person's. Nirmala Rathore W/o Dr. Birendra Bahadur Singh Rathore R/o 229 Lake view Eldeco-2, Sec-1 RBL Road Lucknow

NOTICE

I have changed my name from YASMIN KHANAM to YASAMIN AHKAM W/O Late AHKAM ELAHI R/o 40/152, NAYA CHOWK KANPUR NAGAR

NOTICE

I am Shaista Jeevan W/o Ajmat Manzoor R/o 418/386, Old Chungi Jainma Kanpur Nagar. This That my name is mentioned in my Aadhar card as Saista Jeevan and in my passport my name is mentioned as Saista Azmat Manzoor. both the names are mine. in future the name mentioned in my Aadhar card should be known and recognized by Saista Jeevan.

NOTICE

I, ABDUL QUADIR RAO holder of Indian Passport No:W5325638 issued at DUBAI on 05/12/2022 and Permanent Resident of VILL AND PO RAIPUR VIA BEHATTEH BEHAT SAHARANPUR PIN 247121 UTTAR PRADESH INDIA and presently residing at MUWELAH COMMERCIAL SHARAJH UAE do hereby change the name of my minor child AAFREEN holding Indian Passport No:TR158454 issued at DUBAI on 22/07/2019 from AAFREEN to AAFREEN (Given na me) RAO (Surname) with immediate effect.

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि रामलखन पुत्र विचयनाथ द्वारा किताना जमीन बाका मौजा चौराही प. व तह. मडियाहू जौनपुर का वैनामा श्रीमती गुजराती पत्नी अशोया जो उपनिबंधक निबन्धन मडियाहू जि. जौनपुर के कार्यालय में बही सं. 1 जिल्द सं. 12 से 13 पृष्ठ सं. 11/12 क्रमांक 3271 दिनांक 06-09-1974 पर दर्ज है। उक्त मूल वैनामा दिनांक 13-08-24 को कहीं गिर गया है। काफ़ी तलाश करने पर नहीं मिला जिस किसी सज्जन को प्राप्त हो आओ लिखित पत्र पर देने की कृपा करे। मंडेश कुमार जयसवाल पुत्र रामलखन शा. चौराही तह. मडियाहू, जि. जौनपुर मो. नं. 9935056214

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है मद्रसा अनवारूल उलूम निस्वौ स्कूल हतिया बहादुरगंज प्रयागराज (उच्च आलिया) में एक स०अ० तहतानिया की आवश्यकता है। स०अ० तहतानिया हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता आलिम अथवा इष्टर उर्दू से वेतनमान 35400-112400 लेवल-06 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रबन्धक मद्रसा के पदनाम से मद्रसा उपरोक्त पर भेजे।

प्रबन्धक
मद्रसा अनवारूल उलूम निस्वौ स्कूल हतिया बहादुरगंज प्रयागराज

CLASSIFIEDS
NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohd Sadique Ansari Mohammad Anees To Mohd Sadique, Mohd Sadique S/o Mohd Anish R/o Bharwari Road Moorat Ganj, Kaushambi

NOTICE

I have changed my name from SWATANTRA KUMARI MISHRA to SWATANTRA MISHRA. In future I shall be known as SWATANTRA MISHRA. SWATANTRA MISHRA W/o Sushil Kumar Mishra F-6, 28 Lauther Road, George Town, Prayagraj, UP

NOTICE

That my father's name is wrongly written in my highschool certificate (Secondary School Certificate Examination) as Syed Ausaf Shah. But my father's correct and actual name is Syed Ausaf Un Nabi Shah. Both names are of one and same person i.e. my father's name. Saif Nabi Shah s/o Syed Ausaf Un Nabi Shah R/o- Flat No. 301, WR Apts. 5, Jagdish Chandra Bose Marg, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226001

NOTICE

I, HARDESH holding Indian Passport No:Y9539601 issued at DUBAI on 26/10/2023, Permanent Resident of VILL HARPUR POST MANIKAPUR MAHARAJGANJ PIN 273164 UTTAR PRADESH INDIA and presently residing at ABDUHABI UAE do hereby change my name from HARDESH to HARDESH (Given name) SAHANI (Surname) with immediate effect

NOTICE

My mother name in high school marksheet is CHANDRKANTI and in my passport and her death certificate is CHANDRAKANTA AGARWAL mentioned both are same person and my mother. Ankit AGARWAL S/o Late Jugal kishore AGARWAL R/o 8/216, Arya Nagar, Kanpur

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my name in my passport should have been Moin Uddin instead of Moeen Uddien in English. Now I should be known and recognised by this name only for all future purposes. Moin Uddin son of Hasan Akhtar resident of house number 43 A Hata Basarat Pura baldi Kydganj, Prayagraj.

CLASSIFIEDS
NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Shrutl Prasad W/o Shaishav Gaur Residence of Flat No.T07/901 on 9th floor in Eldeco Saubhagayam Vrindavan Lucknow do hereby declare that original sale deed dated-20.07.2017, Serial no.10505, Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 22562, page no. 375/406. In the name of Vikash Srivastava and Anupama Tiwari the address of Property is T-7/901 situated on 9th floor Tower No. T-7 Eldeco Saubhagayam Vrindavan Lucknow. I wish to create Equitable Mortgage on the said Property for loan from SBI Branch Lucknow University already Published this Public Notice By HDFC Bank Ltd. 51 Kasturba Road, Bangalore dated-22.12.2021 in the New Indian Express. If any one has any objection kindly contact above mentioned above branch of SBI Contact No. 7600066799, 9908002242.

CLASSIFIEDS
NOTICE

Troubled by a fraudulent loan in her name that negatively impacted her CIBIL score, a girl threatened to commit suicide at the office of a private financier in Vibhuthikhand on Saturday. She had been struggling to clear her name from the loan, which was fraudulently issued using her details. The situation escalated quickly as her social media post went viral. The police were alerted and a team reached the scene promptly to investigate and gather details. According to reports, the woman had initial-

ly secured a legitimate loan from the finance company. When she sought additional funds, she discovered that a loan had been fraudulently taken in her name using her Aadhaar and PAN details. This fraudulent activity had damaged her CIBIL score, leading to difficulties in securing a new loan. Despite several complaints and visits to the finance company, her situation remained unresolved. In desperation, she recorded a video expressing her frustration and posted it on X, tagging the UP Police. Within seven minutes, the police reached the finance company's

office and intervened. They persuaded her to drop her plan and assured her that action would be taken against those responsible for the fraud. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter. The girl, a resident of Sarojiniganj, had repeatedly visited the finance company to rectify her CIBIL score without success. During her visit on Saturday, she recorded the video and posted it on X. The police took the woman into custody and brought her to the station. No inflammable substance was found with her even as police are investigating the case.

20TH CONVOCATION OF KING GEORGE'S MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Guv stresses on compassion, sensitivity



Governor Anandiben Patel doing the honours at the KGMU convocation on Saturday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
Addressing the 20th convocation of King George's Medical University (KGMU) at the Atal Bihari Convention Centre on Saturday, Governor Anandiben Patel emphasised the importance of compassion and sensitivity in medical practice.

Patel urged the graduating students to be sensitive to their patients' needs, highlighting that medical service must be imbued with human empathy. "It is not just about healing; it's about befriending and understanding your patients. No medical service is complete without human sensitivities," she said.

She reflected on the essence of Indian culture, which views the world as one family, and underscored Mahatma Gandhi's belief that health is true wealth.

"We are often distracted by the pursuit of money, forgetting the importance of health," she noted. Patel praised KGMU for its global reputation and its significant contributions to medicine. "This institute has produced numerous scientists, doctors, and researchers who

have achieved the extraordinary. The satisfaction of saving a life is unparalleled," she remarked. Discussing broader healthcare developments, Patel noted the expansion of AIIMS from seven to 23 and the increase in medical colleges from 387 to 706. However, she expressed concern over the need for more domestic medical seats to prevent students from studying abroad and facing issues with

degree recognition. She urged KGMU to set an example in patient care, ensuring that both patients and their attendants receive excellent treatment and support. "KGMU should be a model of exemplary care, providing comprehensive treatment and attention to patient needs," she said. Director-General of ICMR Dr Rajiv Behl, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science

degree by KGMU, also addressed the convocation, encouraging graduates to view medicine not merely as a profession but as a way of life. "Human values and empathy must remain central, regardless of how commercialised the world becomes. Integrity and service to humanity are crucial," he said. Dr Behl urged the new doctors to adopt a global perspective, focusing on innovation and

teamwork. "Think like global leaders, not just followers. Contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat through individual brilliance and collective efforts," he added. He encouraged students to follow their passions, take risks, and forge their own paths in their medical careers. "Medicine is a journey of lifelong learning and innovation. Embrace it with dedication and creativity," he added.

Top performers share success stories

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
The 20th convocation of King George's Medical University (KGMU) on Saturday was a moment of celebration and pride for the top achievers.

Devanshi Katiyar, who clinched the Hewett Gold Medal and a total of 15 gold medals in MBBS, shared her recipe for success. "There's no shortcut to success. Hard work and clear goals are key. I've already started preparing for the Civil Services exams, aiming to transition from being a doctor to an IAS officer," she said.

Inspired by her brother-in-law, an IPS officer, she plans to focus on policy-making to make a broader impact. "As a doctor, I often felt limited in my ability to help patients. I believe becoming an IAS officer will allow me to contribute more significantly," she added. Devanshi, the daughter of a retired government officer, credited her mother for her perseverance. "She always encouraged me to learn from mistakes and keep striving for my goals," she noted. Akansha, who won seven medals in MBBS, attributed her success to hard work and unwavering support from

her family and faculty. "Hard work is the only mantra for success," she said. Akansha's future plans include pursuing an MD degree and making a difference in rural healthcare. "I hope to serve the rural community and make a positive impact," she added, although she still dreams of one day sitting for the Civil Services exams. Monica Chowdhary, who received seven medals in BDS, emphasised consistency as her key to success. "Being consistent in your efforts is crucial," she said. Monica plans to crack the PG

exams and eventually open her own clinic. "If I don't succeed in the PG exams, I will fulfill my commitment to serve through the bond with the state government," she explained. Saubhagya Agnihotri, who earned nine medals, described his achievement as a dream come true. "Discipline and regular work were my success mantras," he said. Saubhagya intends to pursue a post-graduation in oral surgery and join government services. "I want to give back to society, especially to those who are financially disadvantaged," he added.

20% females to get opportunity in police recruitment drive: CM

PNS ■ AMBEDKAR NAGAR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, said that August would be a pivotal month for Uttar Pradesh, with key dates set for the state's largest-ever police recruitment drive. Scheduled for August 23, 24, 25, 30, and 31, this recruitment drive is unprecedented in scale and transparency, offering youth from every district the chance to participate.

A notable 20 per cent of the positions in this recruitment drive will be reserved for women. The chief minister made the announcements while addressing the district level mega employment and loan fair organised at Dev Indravati Mahavidyalaya located in Katehari in Ambedkar Nagar district. "These women will play a vital role in maintaining law and

order, and effectively dealing with criminal elements across the state. Be it mafias or criminals, no one will be allowed to jeopardise the future of the youth," the chief minister said. Recalling the past when corruption and extortion were widespread, Chief Minister Yogi stated that the era of 'chacha-bhatija' gangs extorting money was over. He emphasised that anyone involved in such activities will have their property confiscated and redistributed to the needy. "No dishonest individual, criminals, or those inciting anarchy will be tolerated in the state," he said. During the programme, 2,500 youths were provided certificates, and 5,100 students were given tablets and loans worth Rs 211 crore were distributed. The chief minister expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to engage with the youth at the holy site of 'Shravan' in the auspicious month of Sawan.

He offered his respects to the sacred land and extended greetings to all citizens, particularly the farmers who contribute to the region's sustenance. He noted with satisfaction the transformation of Ambedkar Nagar, which was once known for criminal and anarchic activities, into a region now flourishing with new industries and job opportunities for youth. "Ambedkar Nagar is not only a witness to the transformation journey of Ayodhya Dham but is also reaping its benefits. The district benefits from key infrastructure projects, including the Purvanchal and Gorakhpur Link Expressways. The development of an industrial corridor and the construction of industrial townships along these expressways are set to provide local employment opportunities, further enhancing the region's economic landscape," Yogi added.

Yogi to visit Ayodhya today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to visit Ayodhya on Sunday. He will arrive at Acharya Narendra Dev Agricultural University in Kumarganj at 10:20 am.

During his visit, the chief minister will distribute tablets to over 3,415 youths at the DAV School grounds as part of the Swami Vivekanand Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana. Additionally, he will take part in the distribution of appointment letters to the youth during the district-level Rozgar Mela and Yuva Sammelan.

This will be the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's third visit to Ayodhya in the past two weeks. On August 6, he visited Ayodhya to review the city's development projects and made a late-night field inspection. Following this, on August 10, the chief minister attended the ceremony for the installation of statues of revered acharyas at Shri Ram Darbar and Asharfi Bhavan in Ayodhya Vidyapeeth.

Over 28L applicants in UP under PM Vishwakarma Yojana

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is actively working to uplift the living standards of the poor and marginalised people in the state through various schemes. A key initiative in this effort is the implementation of the Central government's PM Vishwakarma Yojana in the state.

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the second state, after Madhya Pradesh, with the highest number of applicants seeking benefits from the scheme. With over 2.8 million applicants, the state government plans to provide loans to those who complete a three-tier verification and training process.

So far, a total of 28,42,247 applications have been received in Uttar Pradesh through the Vishwakarma portal. The only state ahead of Uttar Pradesh is Madhya Pradesh, with 29,18,456 applications. Out of the applications received in UP, 14,10,723 have been recommended at the first level, 85,689 at the second level, and 43,026 have received approval

at the third level. It is worth noting that 18 different trades, as specified by the Government of India under the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector, have been included in the scheme. These include carpenters, boat makers, weapon makers, blacksmiths, hammer and toolkit makers, locksmiths, stone breakers, jewellers, potters, cobblers, masons, basket, mat and broom weavers, doll and toy makers, barbers, garland makers, washer men, tailors, and fishnet makers.

Through the PM Vishwakarma portal, over 28 lakh online applications have been received in these trades. The scheme will include only those individuals who have not received benefits from any other state or central government scheme within the last five years.

Under the scheme, beneficiaries will receive a PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, along with benefits such as skill upgradation, toolkit incentives, credit support, incentives for digital transactions and marketing support.

CM announces ₹1 cr each for Lalit Kumar, Rajkumar Pal

PNS ■ GHAZIPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on Saturday that Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and Rajkumar Pal, hockey players from Uttar Pradesh who were part of the bronze medal winning Indian hockey team at the Paris Olympics, will receive financial assistance of Rs 1 crore each from the state government.

He said all other players from Uttar Pradesh who participated in the Paris Olympics would be granted Rs 10 lakh each. Speaking at the felicitation ceremony for the Indian hockey team in Ghazipur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also announced that Meerut's Parul Chaudhary, Priyanka Goswami, Anu Rani and Prachi, who participated in the Paris Olympics, will be invited and honoured. Financial assistance will be presented to them in a special ceremony to be organised in their honour in Lucknow.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath honoured hockey players Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and Rajkumar Pal in Ghazipur. They began their hockey journey under the mentorship of Meghbaran stadium and the late Tej Bahadur Singh. These players played a key role in bringing Indian hockey back to prominence on the global stage after 1980.

"India secured one silver and five bronze medals at the Paris Olympics, with these two Uttar Pradesh players contributing significantly to the bronze medal-winning hockey team." "They have demonstrated that Indian hockey is poised for a

comeback in the Olympics, setting the stage for its revival," the chief minister said. "The state government awards Rs 6 crore for a gold medal in individual Olympic events, Rs 4 crore for a silver medal, and Rs 2 crore for a bronze medal. For team events in the Olympics, the awards are Rs 3 crore for gold, Rs 2 crore for silver, and Rs 1 crore for bronze."

"In the Asian Games, the government provides Rs 3 crore for a gold medal, Rs 1.5 crore for silver, and Rs 75 lakh for bronze," Yogi Adityanath said. Chief Minister Yogi highlighted that hockey player Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, who won a medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was directly appointed as deputy superintendent of police and continues to enhance the prestige of the Uttar Pradesh Police force while also providing training. Similarly, hockey player Rajkumar Pal will also be appointed as a deputy superintendent of police. The chief minister announced that several distinguished athletes have been appointed to key positions directly. Deepthi Sharma (cricket), Parul Chaudhary (athletics), Akhil Shevran (shooting) and Arjun Deynar (kabaddi) have all been made deputy SPs.

Additionally, Vijay Kumar Yadav and Divya Kakran have been appointed as naib tehsildar, Arjun Singh as passenger tax officer and Prachi and Puneet Kumar as district youth welfare officers. He noted that appointment letters have been issued to 500 players, and hockey player Rajkumar Pal will soon join their ranks as a deputy SP.

Yogi leads UP push for women's security, dignity, self-reliance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government is making significant strides in empowering women across Uttar Pradesh through the Mission Shakti initiative.

Aiming to enhance the economic independence of women, the government is offering free e-rickshaw training, driving licences and affordable e-rickshaws to 18,000 women across the state. To further support these efforts, a subsidy of up to Rs 50,000 is also being provided on e-rickshaws. By including 250 women from each district in this scheme, the

state is fostering self-employment opportunities for women.

In a symbolic gesture, the government has decided to celebrate Raksha Bandhan at all training centres, marking the occasion with the spirit of sisterhood and empowerment. The Yogi government is connecting the women of the state with self-employment-oriented e-rickshaw training programme to make them self-reliant.

UPCON Managing Director Praveen Singh said that the e-rickshaw training programme has been conducted by the MSME department under the Mission Shakti. The training

programme is being implemented by UPCON. He mentioned that under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana, 250 women from each district have been selected to receive training in e-rickshaw driving. During the training, women received both practical sessions and classroom education, where they learned about e-rickshaw operations and driving rules. Additionally, the programme provided participants with pink uniforms and safety kits, and assistance in obtaining driving licences through the RTO. Moreover, efforts have been made to ensure that these

women receive loans at affordable rates for purchasing e-rickshaws, along with a subsidy of up to Rs 50,000 under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana.

The training programme was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, 56,200 women (750 per district) underwent six days' training, which included three days of workplace safety, security and self-defence training, followed by three days' training in entrepreneurship development. In the second phase, 18,000 women, with 250 women per district, received e-rickshaw training. The training duration for self-employment in the

driving domain is six months, and the selection of women was in accordance with the guidelines of the Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana, targeting women aged 18 to 40 years who have passed the 10th grade.

Praveen Singh further said that the standard cost of an e-rickshaw had been set at Rs 1.98 lakh, with e-rickshaw companies selected through the Gem portal. These companies manufacture e-rickshaws with lithium-ion batteries, known for their superior quality. Women eligible under this scheme will receive a subsidy of Rs 49,500, while the remaining amount can be financed

through affordable bank loans. This programme, which began in November 2023, is being rolled out in batches.

This initiative aims to equip women with the necessary skills to become self-reliant and economically empowered. The women trained under this programme will not only support their families but will also serve as role models, exemplifying women's safety and empowerment on the road.

By breaking the male monopoly in public transport, this programme will offer women the choice to select drivers according to their preference, furthering the cause of gender equality in the state.

Elderly woman mauled to death by leopard in Bijnor

Bijnor (PTI): A 60-year-old woman was mauled to death by a leopard here in a field on Saturday, an officer said. The victim was identified as Santosh Devi, a resident of Pilaana village, Forest ranger Dushyant Singh said. Devi had gone to the field with her sons, Subodh Tyagi and Amod Tyagi, to collect fodder for the animals when the leopard attacked her, Singh said. She succumbed to her injuries. Following this, the locals staged a protest and blocked a road for over four hours. The protest was eventually called off after persuasion from the local officials, he said. Upon receiving information, District Magistrate Ankit Agarwal reached the spot and assured the deceased's family of a compensation of Rs 5 lakh. According to the ranger, four cages have been installed to trap the animal. Meanwhile, the body of the deceased has been sent for post-mortem.

HC order on teachers' appointment: Govt didn't do fair job, says Maya

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Saturday welcomed Allahabad High Court's order on preparing a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in Uttar Pradesh, saying it proves the state government "did not do its job fairly". The court has set aside the selection lists issued in June 2020 and January 2022, which included 6,800 candidates and directed the Uttar Pradesh government to prepare a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers within three months. Reacting to the order, Mayawati, in a post in Hindi on X, said, "The high court's decision to cancel the selection list of 69,000 teacher candidates selected in 2019 in UP and prepare a new list within three months proves that the government has not done its work fairly and honestly." "It should be ensured that the victims, especially those from



the reservation category, get justice," she said. Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai on Saturday called the Bharatiya Janata Party government "anti-reservation" while reacting to the Allahabad High Court order to prepare a fresh selection list in the teacher recruitment case. "The BJP government, which only makes verbal promises for

the rights of Dalits and backward classes, deceives them at every step. Not only this, the BJP government makes every possible effort to keep Dalits and backward classes deprived of their legitimate rights," Rai said.

According to a statement issued by the Congress, Rai said, "In this case (teacher recruitment), the anti-reservation face of the government has been exposed by the single and division bench of the high court." Rai said that the Yogi government should immediately issue a new list following all the rules of reservation suggested by the high court and apologise to these candidates for suppressing them for the last five years and for trying to suppress the voice of justice. The CPI (ML) said that the Allahabad High Court's decision to prepare fresh list of successful candidates in the recruitment of 69,000 teachers had exposed the "reservation scam" in the Yogi Adityanath government.

400 real estate projects kept in 'abeyance' by UPRERA

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UPRERA) has classified 400 real estate projects in the category of 'projects in abeyance'. The real estate regulator has cracked the whip as the promoters of the projects have not uploaded maps or land documents on its portal despite repeated notices and has decided to classify these projects in the category of 'projects in abeyance'.

UPRERA Chairman Sanjay Bhoosreddy said, "The promoters only mention the RERA registration number in the advertisements and offers for sale in the project. There remains a possibility that any common allottee may get duped and make investment in a project whose approvals and land records are not verified." He said after in-depth scrutiny of the records of the projects, it was found that the promoters of about 400 projects had not uploaded the project map and land ownership related documents or at least one of them on RERA portal. He said it was mandatory for the promoters to upload all the requisite documents relating to the project on UPRERA portal so that the allottees could take a judicious decision to purchase a unit after seeing information regarding the project land and required approvals. The map records of land ownership are the most important documents of a project, he added. It was also seen that the promoters of 160 of these projects have not uploaded both the map and land record. The promoters were continuously warned since 2018 to upload all the project documents on the portal. Bhoosreddy warned promoters and directed them to upload the maps and land documents of the project on the RERA portal without any delay, otherwise strict punitive action would be taken. He also called upon the allottees to desist from investing in projects kept in 'abeyance'.

Low-lying areas facing flood threats again

PNS ■ VARANASI

The heartbeats of the people living in the low-lying area, especially on both sides of river Varuna, increased once again as the water level of river Ganga continued to rise for the second day here on Saturday. It is the fourth time in this rainy season when the Ganga has registered a rising trend. A few back when the Ganga was close to the warning level of 70.262 metres, many localities in Varuna river sides like Saraiya and Salarpur faced flood, forcing the residents to shift to relief camps. As the river Ganga crosses the 69 metre mark, reverse flow starts in the river Varuna from its confluence point near Adi Keshav Ghat in the northern part of the city. As per the report of the Middle Ganga Division-III of the Central Water Commission, at 8 am the water level of the river Ganga was recorded at 67.16 metres and it continued to rise right from upstream Prayagraj and Mirzapur. Wit the Ganga receding at Phaphamaui, it indicates that the water is mainly coming from Yamuna side. In the city, the Ganga water has already entered the famous Sheela Mata Mandir at Old Dashashwamedh Ghat, forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged in the water. Dozens of low-lying temples at internationally famous 84-odd



Water level of the Ganga river rising again in Varanasi on Saturday

ghats are either submerged in the water fully or partially. People are facing difficulty in cremating the bodies of deceased near and dear ones at Manikarnika and Harishchandra cremation ghats. As a large number of devotees, including saffron-clad kanwariyas are arriving here daily in this auspicious month of

Shravan, the NDRF and River Police personnel are keeping a close watch on the bathers at Dashashwamedh and adjoining ghats. As ghat-to-ghat links have already been cut off, the devotees are reaching the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham from Ganga Dwar (river side) through nearby lanes of Lalita Ghat. However, the residents of several villages of Doab areas

surrounded by rivers Ganga and Gomti have heaved a sigh of relief as the water level of river Gomti is steady at upstream Jaunpur. The flood situation in Ballia in downstream UP-Bihar border district of Purvanchal (eastern UP) may turn grim again. Though the river was steady during the day, water level is again above the warning level

and close to the danger mark. The river Ganga was flowing in Ballia at 57.32 metres against the danger mark of 57.61 metres in the morning. Recently it had crossed the red mark. In downstream Ghazipur, the river started rising again and the water level was recorded at 60.52 metres against the warning level of 62.10 metres.

Traffic restrictions for Shravan's last Monday

PNS ■ VARANASI

In view of the expected heavy rush of devotees, including kanwariyas, not only in Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Kashi Vishwanath Temple but also in the nearby a dozen famous Lord Shiva temples in this holy city on the fifth and last Monday of the auspicious month of Shravan, several traffic restrictions have been imposed which became effective from 8 pm on Saturday and will remain in force till 8 am on Tuesday. On the last Monday of Shravan, apart from Maidagin-Godowlia road, many others have been declared as 'No Vehicle' zones, according to ADCP (Traffic) Rajesh Kumar Pandey. The other routes which have been declared as 'No Vehicle' zones are the roads from Lanka to Samne Ghat, Hotel Broadway junction to Godowlia via Sonarpura and Madanpura, Gurubagh junction to Godowlia via Luxa and Ramapura, Benia to Godowlia via Murga Gali crossing and

Langra Hafiz Masjid, Piyari Chowki to Benia crossing and Sujabad to Maidagin via Bhadaw Chungi and Visheshwarganj. The ADCP (Traffic) has appealed to the general public to cooperate in maintaining smooth traffic flow on these routes as per the diversion plan. As per the proposed route plan, auto and e-rickshaws will move between Lanka and Varanasi Cantonment railway station through Naria, Sundarpur, Bhikharipur junction, BLW, Manduadih and Lahartara. They will go and return from Lanka to Chandpur through Naria, Sundarpur, Bhikharipur junction, BLW, Manduadih and Lahartara; from Lahurabir to Lanka via Jaisingh crossing, Maldahiya crossing, Sajan junction, Rathyatra, Mahmoorganj, Manduadih crossing, Bhikharipur, Sundarpur, Naria and Malviya crossing; from Chowkaghat to Pandeypur, via Tadikhana, Maqbool Alam Road and Khajuri junction; from

Golgadda trijunction to Chowkaghat via Lakdi Mandi, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Lahurabir, Kabirchaura, Maidagin and Vishwaeshwarganj; from Andharapuri to Gillet Bazar through Nadeesar, Mint House junction, Ambedkar crossing, JP Mehta Inter College, Daitraveer and Bhojpur. During the period of traffic restrictions, the vehicles will be parked at Town Hall parking ground in Kotwali area, Maidagin and Machhodari park grounds, in front of Harishchandra PG College, Queen's Inter College ground in Chetganj area, Kashi Vidyapeeth campus in Sagra area, Bhaskar Pokhara, Mudaila and Jagatpur Inter College ground in Rohania area, both sides of the road in front of Baba Kinaram Ashram in Bheulpur police station area, Mazda Talkies in Luxa area, Kashi railway station parking in Adampur area and under the water tank in front of Basanta College and railway ground on the right of Bhadaw Chungi.

Kavi Sammelan in BLW



PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the joint aegis of the BLW Sansthan and Kashi Kavya Sangam, a Kavi Sammelan and book release event was organised in the multipurpose hall of the Sansthan on Saturday as a part of Independence Day celebrations. The chief guest of the programme was Senior Rajbhasha Officer of BLW Dr Sanjay Singh. Special guests on the occasion were the Public Relations Officer of BLW Rajesh Kumar, senior litterateurs Dr Rajni Agarwal, Dr Ved Prakash Pandey, Dr Mahendra Nath Tiwari 'Alankar', Dr Mukta and Dr Ram Sudhar Singh and Shamsheer Bahadur Singh, president of SB Group of Education. They also expressed their views on the book Kavya Sarita. The programme was presided over by senior litterateur Hirralal Mishra Madhukar. The programme started with garlanding of the statue of Maa Saraswati and lighting the lamp. On the occasion of the release of the book, its editor Alok Singh Betab said that Kavya Sarita (joint collection) was published every year by Kashi Kavya Sangam and this year the works of 35 poets and poetesses had been included in the book. Chief guest Dr Sanjay Singh said that various types of activities were conducted by the

BLW and the Sansthan's activities in the literary field were encouraging people. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mukta said that the book had very good works on women, which were worth reading. Ram Sudhar Singh said that the ghazals and poems in the book were very beautiful and readable. He said that the Sansthan and Kashi Kavya Sangam were carrying forward the legacy of late Ram Prवेश Tiwari Ragesh and Mahendra Kumar Singh Neelam and others. On this occasion, Hirralal Mishra Madhukar said that the Sansthan and Kashi Kavya Sangam were working to nurture new writers by giving them space in books. Later, a kavi sammelan was organised in which Dr Ved Prakash Pandey, Naseem Saaj, Akhlaq Khan Bhartiya, Om Prakash Chanchal, Gautam Arora Saras, Shivkumar Agarwal, Amit Kumar, Deepak Sharma, Anand Prakash Pal, Rajiv Kumar, Aniket Ranjan, Arvind Kumar Tiwari, Ganesh Singh Prahari, Amrit Prakash, Kunwar Singh Kunwar, Shamim Ghazipur, Dr Vibha Tiwari, Karuna Singh and many others filled the entire hall with patriotism through their creations. At the end of the programme, Akhilesh Kumar proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was conducted by Vikas Pandey Vidip, Madhulika Rai and Naseem Saaj.

Lecturer jumps into river, feared drowned

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a tragic incident, Karuna Shankar Shukla, a 40-year-old lecturer of economics at Gandhi Inter College in Patel Nagar, Jhansi, took his own life by jumping into the Ganga river on Friday evening. According to reports, Shukla had been struggling with significant personal and health issues. On the morning of August 16, he slashed his wrist due to severe stress and emotional turmoil. Following this, he was given first aid at a private hospital in Jhansi. Despite the treatment, his condition necessitated further medical care, and he was being transported to SRN Hospital in an e-rickshaw. During the journey, Shukla started feeling unwell and complained of dizziness. As the e-rickshaw approached Shastrri bridge, he abruptly asked the driver to stop. Without warning, Shukla alighted from the e-rickshaw and jumped into the river. The incident led to chaos on the bridge, as passersby and boatmen rushed to his rescue. Divers were also pressed into service, but Shukla could not be found despite extensive efforts. The incident also led to traffic disruption on the bridge until the police arrived and the situation was brought under control. Shukla's wife Madhavi made serious allegations against the principal of Gandhi Inter College, accusing him of harassment. She said it contributed to her husband's deteriorating mental state and ultimate decision to take his own

life. She alleged that the principal's behaviour and actions had been a constant source of stress and distress for Shukla, adding to his emotional burden. Daraganj Inspector Tushar Tyagi confirmed that the police were investigating the matter thoroughly. The investigation aims to uncover the full circumstances surrounding Shukla's death and to address the allegations of harassment made by his wife. The police are also working to locate Shukla's body. **GANG INVOLVED IN CYBER FRAUD BUSTED; 2 HELD** With the arrest of two accused, the Prayagraj police on Friday evening claimed to have busted a criminal gang involved in extensive online fraud, and seized illicit gains amounting to lakhs of rupees. The gang was notorious for perpetrating cyber fraud by impersonating officials from high-profile agencies such as the CBI, RBI, and Income Tax department. Those arrested were said to be key members of the gang, including the mastermind, apprehended in Delhi. They were identified as Sandeep Kumar Sen and Mohd Sahil. The accused reportedly confessed to have defrauded numerous people, thus amassing Rs 1.5 crore. They said they used the ill-gotten money to open two bars and restaurants in Paharganj (Delhi), named Night Queen Bar and Restaurant and Metro View Bar and Restaurant. The breakthrough came after a series of targeted operations by

the Prayagraj Cyber Cell. On August 6, the gang had targeted a retired engineer in Prayagraj, coercing him into investing in cryptocurrency under the guise of a high-stakes investment opportunity. The scam involved sending fake CBI and Income Tax documents, falsely accusing the victim of impending legal action and ultimately 'digitally arresting' him. The victim was tricked into transferring Rs 68 lakh into the fraudsters' accounts. Upon learning of the fraud, the Prayagraj Cyber Cell launched an investigation, focusing on bank accounts, WhatsApp numbers, mobile numbers, and PAN cards linked to the fraudulent activity. The probe led to the identification of Sandeep Kumar Sen as the ganglord. His subsequent arrest, followed by that of his accomplice Mohd Sahil, uncovered the full extent of the gang's operations. During interrogation, the DCP revealed that the gang's modus operandi involved first contacting victims and enticing them with promises of lucrative investments in digital currencies. They then maintained constant communication through various apps. Eventually, they posed as CBI officers, Income Tax officials, or police officers, issuing threats of imminent arrest. Fake FIRs and forged documents were used to intimidate victims and coerce them into transferring their money. DCP Deepak Bhukar announced a reward of Rs 20,000 for the police team.

PuVVNL launches e-office system



PuVVNL MD launching e-office system in Discom headquarters in Varanasi on Saturday

PNS ■ VARANASI

E-office system was successfully started in Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam (PuVVNL) here on Saturday. PuVVNL Managing Director Shambhu Kumar approved the first file on e-office system. Directors and other senior officials of the discom were also present on this occasion. The E-office system has been implemented under the RDSS scheme with the aim of expediting departmental work and digitising departmental files. With the implementation of this system, along with increasing transparency in the functioning of the corporation, the speed of disposal of files will also increase. Now, through e-office, the exchange and approval of files will be done through digital medium, which will reduce the need for paperwork and will

contribute to the protection of the environment. While making this system go-live, the PuVVNL MD said that through the e-office system, the departmental administrative processes would be made more smooth and effective. This will not only speed up the decision-making process, but will also help in providing better consumer services to the consumers, he added.

Railway personnel honoured on I-Day

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Prayagraj Himanshu Badoni recognised 192 individuals for exceptional service during Independence Day celebrations at the DRM Office. The awards honoured 172 railway personnel and 20 contract workers. The event began with DRM Badoni hoisting the national flag and inspecting a parade by

the Railway Protection Force and Bharat Scouts and Guides. Addressing the assembly, Badoni congratulated all employees and their families, emphasising that the nation's progress depends on collective efforts and dedication. He urged everyone to approach their work with the spirit of 'karmayogis', transcending caste, religion, and regional barriers for national development. Badoni highlighted the significance of

every role, from sanitation workers to track repair staff, in supporting the country's progress. The Independence Day programme featured patriotic performances, including Mrinal and Rajesh's rendition of 'Chak De India', Darshan Saurabh's 'Maa Tujhe Salaam', and musical contributions from Ranjit and Anil Kumar. The Bharat Scouts and Guides, along with Manvi, presented solo dances.

Saas, Beta, Bahu Sammelan promotes family planning

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the Family Welfare Programme, a Saas, Beta, Bahu Sammelan (mother-in-law, son, daughter-in-law conference) was organised on Saturday at NQAS Certified Ayushman Arogya Mandir Korauta under Kashi Vidyapeeth block. More than 10 families participated in the conference in which they were given detailed information about the utility of all permanent and temporary means of family planning. Apart from this, detailed information was given about the importance of limited family, safe and institutional delivery, vaccination of pregnant women and children, prevention from infectious and non-infectious diseases etc. The conference was organised under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr Sandeep Chaudhary. Gram pradhan Dinesh Kumar Patel and Superintendent of CHC Misirpur Dr Rambali Singh



attended the conference. On this occasion, Dr Rambali Singh said that the objective of the conference was to create a good environment for family planning through coordination and dialogue between mother-in-law, son and daughter-in-law so that the old thinking towards reproductive health could be changed. In the conference, detailed information was given about temporary and permanent means of family planning. Dr Rambali Singh said that there were many benefits of a small and limited family. He said those whose family was complete or they did not want any

more child after two children, could keep their family limited by getting permanent means of family planning like female and male sterilisation. Health Education Officer Virendra Chauhan gave detailed information about temporary and non-permanent means of family planning. A quiz competition was organised, in which three daughters-in-law namely Aarti (25 years), Sudha (22 years), Nisha (23 years) and a mother-in-law Kamalavati (52 years) were honoured by the gram pradhan by giving them first, second and third prizes.

Kashi Vaishwik Samman ceremony today

Varanasi (PNS): The Kashi Vaishwik Gaurav Samman 2024 ceremony will be organised at Hotel Taj on Sunday from 7 pm. Disclosing this, Kashi Vaishwik Foundation founders Ajay Jaiswal, Neeraj Parikh and Namit Parikh said Assam and Manipur Governor Laxman Acharya would be the chief guest while UP Minister of State for Stamp, Court Fees and Registration Ravindra Jaiswal and former Union minister Ashwani Choubey would be the special guests. Ajay Jaiswal informed that this year's 'Kashi Vaishwik Gaurav Samman: Hunar Ko Salaam' award will be given to many people. Among the distinguished people to be honoured are poet Nayab Midha, child environ-

mentalist and social entrepreneur Isha Dixit, lipan artist Payal Bansal, voice actor (Badalpur ka Ashish) Ashish Singh, acoustic wildlife biologist Dr Arunima Singh, Bihar - the Craft and Waves (Bihar) founder Sumati Jalan, reconstructing eco-feminism Dr Madhu, Sangeet Natak Academy awardee and social and cultural activist Madhusree Hatiyal, pearl farmer Vinod Kumawat 'Bharati', artist Rakhi Sapera, international Kalbelia dancer Padma Shri Gulabo Sapera, Gond artist Padma Shri Durga Bai Vyam, wood art artist Padma Shri Godavari Singh, Jammu and Kashmir ACP Dr Shahida Parveen Ganguly, famous television actress Haley Shah, Dr Shilpi Gang, Nidhi Gupta and others.

Bird pictures clicked by Dr Bansal on display

Prayagraj (PNS): There is a chance for bird and nature lovers to watch some breathtaking images of birds clicked by Prayagraj's renowned laparoscopy & cancer surgeon and bird photographer Dr Arpit Bansal, at the photography exhibition to mark World Photography Day in North Central Zone Cultural Centre (Mahatma Gandhi Kala Vithika) from August 16 to 18. The bird and wildlife enthusiast can also interact with Dr Arpit Bansal at the venue from 2 pm to 6 pm on August 18 to learn about his photography journey, and how he manages his profession and passion. The work of CA Utkarsh Sinha and surgeon Dr Samar Rehman is also on display at the exhibition. Dr Arpit Bansal has showcased stunning images of some rare species of birds at the exhibition. His name has been included among the prestigious '100 eBirders' of India by eBirds.org.

Nazareth School of Nursing celebrates Independence Day



Prayagraj (PNS) During the Independence Day celebration at Nazareth School of Nursing, SDM (Sadar, Prayagraj), who was the chief guest, highlighted the significance of India's freedom and the sacrifices made by freedom fighters. Addressing the gathering, Singh emphasised that most Indians today were born in an independent nation, thanks to the relentless efforts and sacrifices of past heroes. He praised the global recognition of Indian professionals and urged everyone to take pride in India's rich culture, civilisation, and values. Singh noted that India is now the world's third-largest econ-

omy. The 78th Independence Day was marked with enthusiasm and grandeur, with the Nazareth School of Nursing decorated in tricolours. The celebration commenced with a prayer song performed by the hospital choir. Assistant director of Nazareth Hospital Father Melwin Wilson D'Souza delivered the welcome address. Hospital director Father Vipin D'Souza presented the chief guest with a bouquet, while administrator Father Isidore D'Souza draped him with a shawl. The ceremony included the hoisting of the national flag by the chief guest, followed by the rendition of the national anthem.

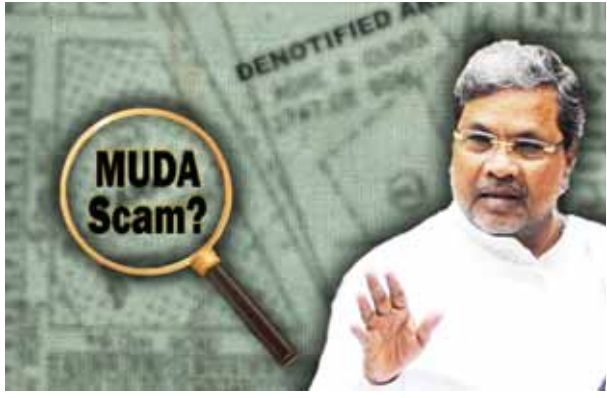
K'taka CM must quit for fair MUDA scam probe: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday asked Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to step down from his post to ensure an impartial probe into his alleged role in the MUDA site allotment "scam" as it welcomed the Governor's decision to sanction his prosecution in the case.

BJP MPs Sambit Patra and Tejasvi Surya, at a press conference, rejected the Congress' allegation that Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot's decision was motivated by politics and claimed that it was a serious case of corruption involving Siddaramaiah and his family. Taking a swipe at Mallikarjun Kharge, Patra said the Congress President went to Bengaluru to "protect" the Karnataka Chief Minister and wondered when will he go to Kolkata which is witnessing massive protests against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee woman doctor at a West Bengal Government-run medical college and hospital.

Surya said the Karnataka Government has constituted two commissions, one headed by an ex-IAS officer and another by a former High Court Judge, to look into the



allegations of corruption. It was an acknowledgement of irregularity, said the BJP MP from Bangalore South Lok Sabha constituency. In the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) 'scam', it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru that had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by MUDA. MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where MUDA developed a residential layout. Giving details of the alleged scam, Surya claimed the Karnataka Chief Minister's wife was allocated 14 prime upmarket sites in Mysuru in

compensation for a parcel of rural land which was first bought by their son-in-law from its original owner and then gifted to her. Siddaramaiah was first a Deputy Chief Minister and then Chief Minister when decisions were taken related to the land, while his son was a member of the Mysuru body which made the allotment, he claimed. Surya said any State probe agency reporting to the Chief Minister is unlikely to carry out a fair probe into the matter as he demanded Siddaramaiah's resignation. It is a scam like the National Heard case and the suspected hanky-panky in the allotment of land to Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra, he alleged. Patra claimed that the entire "scam" runs into Rs 4,000

crore, adding mockingly that Congress Leaders do not commit any scam less than thousands of crore. The alleged National Herald scam in which Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are the main accused is worth Rs 5,000 crore, he said. Governors used to sit over such files due to political compulsions but the corrupt will not be spared under the Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Patra said. Karnataka Governor Gehlot on Saturday granted sanction for the prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with the MUDA site allotment "scam". Siddaramaiah has repeatedly said that the Congress Government led by him is ready to fight legally and politically, in case the Governor rejects the Cabinet's advice to withdraw the "show cause notice" to him, and grants permission for prosecution. Based on a petition filed by advocate-activist T J Abraham, Gehlot had issued a "show cause notice" on July 26 directing the Chief Minister to submit his reply to the allegations against him within seven days as to why permission for prosecution should not be granted against him.

WB Govt accused of silencing doctors, media in cover-up bid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday accused the West Bengal Government of cracking down on doctors and a section of the media for demanding justice in the rape and murder case of a trainee doctor, terming it the "most sinister and institutional cover-up" to save the culprits. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla claimed that the sole agenda of the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led government is "silencing the truth, saving rapists and destroying evidence at any cost". He told reporters that 43 doctors were transferred in the state, including a few to remote areas, for allegedly raising their voice for justice while police have been warning citizens and journalists of legal action for their crusade for justice. In a swipe at Banerjee for leading a march seeking justice in the case, Poonawalla asked as to what she was protesting when she was in charge of home and health ministries. The priority of police is not to act against thousands of vandals who stormed RG Kar Medical Hospital but to act against those raising their voice for justice, he claimed, adding that some journalists have had to deactivate their social media accounts. "The TMC has come to represent an authoritarian



and Talibani mindset," the BJP spokesperson alleged, adding that the biggest of dictators will admire Banerjee for her action in this case. Poonawalla said TMC spokesperson Santanu Sen was removed from his position for saying that there were many complaints against the college Principal, who was immediately rehabilitated by the Government after his decision to quit. There is outrage across the country and everybody is demanding justice but the Government's priority is to save criminals, he said. Poonawalla also targeted Opposition INDIA bloc parties for their "conspiracy of silence". The postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty at the RG Kar MCH last week. A mob entered the hospital in the early hours of Thursday and ransacked the stage where junior doctors had been demonstrating against the alleged rape and murder of the doctor and demanding security in their workplace. The mob also vandalised the emergency department, nursing unit and medicine store.

Multilateral bodies failed to deliver during global crises: Jaishankar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Saturday once again strongly pitched for reforms of key multilateral institutions, saying it is an "undeniable" fact that when the global order faced "critical challenges", solutions did not emerge from them. In his address at the third India-hosted virtual Voice of the Global South Summit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also called for facilitating low-cost financing and critical technologies to developing countries. "It is an undeniable fact that even as the global order faced critical challenges, solutions did not emerge from the multilateral domain," he said, calling for revitalising multilateralism. "The reason is both the obsolescence and the polarisation of multilateral organisations," he said, speaking at the foreign ministers' session of the summit. "Here too, India has argued for reformed multilateralism and sought reforms of Multilateral Development Banks through the G20. As a group, we need to press home our case," Jaishankar said. India has been consistently pressing for reforms of multilateral institutions, including the United



Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, arguing that they must reflect the realities of the current world. The external affairs minister put across his views in four specific areas of strengthening economic resilience, climate change and energy transitions, revitalising multilateralism and democratising digital transformations. On economic resilience, he said the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate events have driven home the necessity for reliable and resilient supply chains. "Not just that, there is also an acute need to diversify production itself in various domains to de-risk the international economy," he said. "What we earlier argued for in terms of socio-economic justice is today an equally compelling logic for the entire world in terms of predictability," he noted.

Venugopal to head PAC to keep close eye on Govt expenditure

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress Leader KC Venugopal will head the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which keeps a close eye on Government expenditure, according to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also constituted four other Parliamentary panels, including Estimates and Public Undertakings committees which will be chaired by BJP Leaders. The Public Accounts, Public Undertakings and Estimates committees are the key



financial committees of Parliament tasked with keeping a watch on the Government's accounts and the functioning of public sector firms. The Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a bulletin on Friday announcing the constitution of parliamentary committees. The Committee on Welfare

of OBCs will be headed by Ganesh Singh of the BJP. His party colleague Fagga Singh Kulaste will head the Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs. BJP Leader Sanjay Jaiswal will head the Committee on Estimates while his party colleague Bajjayant Panda will chair the Committee on Public Undertakings. The committees have a tenure of one year and have members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. They are elected by the two Houses. The PAC is usually headed by a senior Lok Sabha member of the principal

Opposition party. Congress Leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury headed the PAC for five years. Unlike the previous Lok Sabha, committees in the 18th Lok Sabha have taken shape mostly through consensus instead of elections. Besides the PAC, Committee on Public Undertakings, Committee on Estimates, Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Joint Committee on Office of Profit and Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes have been constituted without an election this time.

Radioactive alarm triggered by cancer drugs at CCS Airport

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cancer treatment drug, which had a minimal amount of radioactive substance, about 0.2 percent," she said. The substance in question was checked by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), who declared it safe for shipment. Singh emphasised that up to 10 per cent of radioactive content is permissible in such drugs. "The NDRF team inspected the cargo and provided clearance, confirming it was safe to ship," she added. Those who handled the cargo were also checked as a precaution but were cleared of any health concerns. Singh insisted that nobody fainted at the airport and no evacuation took place. The airport's spokesperson reinforced this clarification in an official statement. "A shipment of cancer treatment medication triggered a radioactive alarm in the cargo area. The NDRF assessed the situation and confirmed that the shipment was safe. There were no casualties or injuries, and there was no threat to life," the spokesperson said, adding: "Airport operations have continued smoothly and were not affected by the incident."

Guv OK's K'taka CM...

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Stating that such a decision by the Governor was expected, Siddaramaiah said, "We had expected this, I too had expected this. When the Governor on July 26, the very day he received the petition, issued me a show cause notice. What does it mean?" He said, "There has been a petition seeking sanction for prosecution against JD(S) leader (now Union Minister) H D Kumaraswamy since November, also there are petitions against former BJP Ministers Shahshikala Jolle, Muruges Niranai, and Janardhana Reddy. Leaving all of them, if the notice was issued to me, what does it mean?" "In November, sanction was sought against Kumaraswamy (also former CM) by Lokayukta in an alleged case regarding issue of mining licences, after an inquiry. He was not issued a notice. What does it mean -- that the notice is issued to me (by the Governor)? It is a big conspiracy," he added. Based on a petition filed by advocate-activist T J Abraham, Governor Gehlot had issued a "show cause notice" on July 26 directing the Chief Minister to submit his reply to the allegations against him within seven days as to why permission for prosecution should not be granted against him.

Patients suffer as...

From Page 1 Echoing his concerns, Dr Aakash added, "We won't be able to work without the assurance of our safety. The government needs to wake up. How many more incidents will it take before they act?" As the protest continued, the doctors' chants for justice reverberated through the capital. Dr. S.K. Poddar, another doctor participating in the strike, remarked, "The tragedy in West Bengal is deeply troubling. The main suspect has yet to be apprehended, and there is no clear update on the investigation's progress. This is unacceptable." Dr. Jyoti Sharma highlighted the frustration within the medical community. "The IMAs call for a 24-hour strike reflects our frustration with the lack of progress on our demands. The Central Protection Act, which was introduced in Parliament eight years ago, has been stalled. We are demanding justice for the victim and protection for all healthcare workers," she said. "The nationwide demand by united modern medicine doctors, including associations of surgeons, dental, diagnostics, radiologists, and even psychologists, for a central protection act to safeguard healthcare workers from violence forced the centre to announce that they would constitute a committee to suggest all such possible measures for ensuring the safety of healthcare professionals." "Representatives of all stakeholders, including the state government, will be invited to share their suggestions with the committee," the Union Health Ministry said in a statement. Further, even private hospitals in Delhi joined the protest alongside government hospitals making things worse for patients who

had relied on such hospitals for elective services as government shut their operation except the emergency services with hospitals like Sir Ganga Ram, Fortis and Apollo have halted their OPD, elective surgeries and IPD services. Dr Ajay Swaroop, chairman of the Board of Management at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said, "We have declared a complete shutdown of OPD, elective OTs and IPD work. Unfortunately, I believe that protests and discontinuation of duties have now become necessary to pressure the authorities and expedite the investigation process, so that justice is not delayed. We will continue to fully support the agitation until concrete changes are made to address the safety and security concerns of all cadres of workers in the health service." Fortis Hospitals, in a statement, said, "We are deeply saddened and shocked by the horrific incident in Kolkata. Such acts of violence, particularly against those who dedicate their lives to healing others, are deplorable and call for swift justice. At Fortis Hospitals, we stand in solidarity with the Indian Medical Association and the wider medical community in condemning this act. We respect the sentiments of our doctors and will support those who wish to participate in the nationwide shutdown. Essential services will continue to be provided to ensure that patient care is not compromised." Resident doctors from all major hospitals in Delhi have been protesting, taking out marches and holding candlelight vigils demanding justice for the Kolkata victim and over safety concerns. Earlier, doctors from private hospitals also protested by wearing black bands on their arms.

CBI focusing on victim's...

From Page 1 Simultaneously, another group of officials visited the Bhawanipore residence of Sanjoy Das, a civic volunteer with the Kolkata Police and the prime accused, who was arrested several days ago. A third team went to the Belgachia Police Barracks, where Das had recently been living, reportedly using his influence to secure accommodation. "You put your ear to the walls of the Hospital and you will get to know who killed her ... even the CBI officials might have known about them by now ... the only thing is that they need evidence ... if at all that have not been destroyed by the college authorities and the police in the," an agitating nurse of the hospital said adding "she had perhaps come to know about some closely guarded secret of the highly connected who have been running a multi-crore racket in the hospital ... she was paid with her life for not taking their offer and acting according to their desire." Others in the hospital said that those who raped and killed the lady doctor even sat around her corpse for some time

discussing the next course of action and accordingly the family was informed about the suicide. "Though they informed was initially informed about her suicide they perhaps failed to make the situation look like one because by that time juniors and other staff had started assembling around the area," a junior doctor said requesting anonymity. Meanwhile the members of third sex too joined doctors in their agitation demanding justice for the murdered lady doctor and safety for women in work place. A huge humanity including women, members of transgender community, students and doctors on Saturday took out a procession from College Square to RGKMCH and jostled with the police who tried to stop them. Members of Indian Medical Association that had called a nationwide strike on Saturday hit the streets at various places in Kolkata and districts. The doctors took part in processions at Cooch Behar, Durgapur, Malda, Kolkata, Diamond Harbour many other places demanding justice and security in work places sources said.

Mumbai terror attack...

From Page 1

After Rana served seven years in prison for those convictions and upon his compassionate release, India issued a request for his extradition to try him for his alleged participation in the Mumbai attacks. Before the magistrate judge who initially decided Rana's extraditability (the extradition court), Rana argued that the US extradition treaty with India protected him from extradition because of its Non Bis in Idem (double jeopardy) provision. He also argued that India did not provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate probable cause that he committed the charged crimes. The extradition court rejected Rana's arguments and certified that he was extraditable. After Rana raised the same arguments in a habeas petition in district court (the habeas court), the habeas court affirmed the extradition court's findings of facts and conclusions of law. In his appeal, Rana argued that he cannot be extradited based on conduct for which he was acquitted in the United States because the word "offence" refers to underlying acts. The US government argued that "offence" refers to a charged crime and requires an analysis of the elements of each charged crime. Thus, according to the government, the Treaty permits Rana's extradition because the Indian charges contain distinct elements from the crimes for which he was acquitted in the United States. Judge Smith said that the Treaty's plain terms, the post-ratification understanding of the signatories, and persuasive precedent all support the government's interpretation. Rana argued, however, that, based on the government's interpretation of the Treaty in Headley's plea agreement, we should judicially estop the government from advocating for its current interpretation of the Treaty. "We decline to do so," Judge Smith said. "Because the parties do not dispute that the crimes charged in India have elements independent from those under which Rana was prosecuted in the United States, the Treaty permits Rana's extradition," Judge Smith said.

Sabotage suspected...

From Page 1

On same track at 1.20 am, a Patna-Indore train crossed uninterrupted, Railway Board officials said. The passengers of the Sabarmati Express (19168) were sleeping when the train stopped after a loud noise. "Shortly after the drain departed from the Kanpur railway station, we heard a loud noise and the coach started shaking. I got very scared but the train stopped," one of the passengers Vikas told PTTI video. Vikas, who boarded the train from Varanasi and was headed for Ahmedabad, said that the train was moving at a very slow speed when it got derailed. As the train halted, the passengers started pouring out of their coaches. Majority of them sat near the railway track waiting for help and called their family members to inform them about the incident. "The police came almost an hour after the incident. We are waiting with our luggage on the side of the adjacent railway track," said another passenger. Uttar Pradesh Relief

Commissioner GS Naveen Kumar said, "Buses have been arranged for the passengers along with alternative arrangements for transportation and all passengers have been evacuated from the spot." According to the Railways, seven trains have been cancelled and three diverted due to the derailment. North Central Railway (NCR) senior public relations officer Shashikant Tripathi said that buses were arranged to carry passengers from the accident site to the Kanpur Railway Station. Besides, an eight coaches MEMU train departed from Kanpur to the accident site to carry passengers back to Kanpur so that further arrangements can be made to send them to their respective destinations, Tripathi said. The Railways has issued the following helpline numbers: Prayagraj: 0532-2408128, 0532-2407353, Kanpur: 0512-2323018, 0512-2323015, Mirzapur: 05442200097, Etawah: 7525001249, Tundla: 7392959702, Ahmedabad: 07922113977, Banaras City: 8303994411, Gorakhpur: 0551-2208088.

Hoax bomb threats send cops into tizzy in NCR-Delhi...

From Page 1 "I planted the bombs in the building because I hate my life. The people behind this attack are Paige and Nora." Bomb and dog squad teams were rushed to the spot. According to the police, hundreds of people were present inside the mall, but all were evacuated safely. However, after five hours of search operation, it was found a hoax call. In the afternoon, Assistant Commissioner of Police, DLF (Gurugram), Vikas Kaushik said, "The search operation at the Ambience Mall is over and nothing has been found. We are now searching for the

accused who sent the threat email." Police said efforts are being made to track the source of the email. In an official statement issued earlier in the day, Gurugram Police appealed to the general public to not panic. So far, such emails have been found to be hoaxes meant to scare people, it said. The mall management also increased the number of security staff after receiving an email. In connection with the matter, the police have registered a case under relevant sections of the BNSS at the cyber crime police station (East), police said. This was not the first time

that the Leela hotel received a treat email. In Noida, Additional Commissioner of Police (law and order) Shivhari Meena said searches were conducted at the DLF Mall of India following information of a bomb threat but nothing objectionable was found and the email appears to be a hoax. People were evacuated from DLF Mall of India in Sector 18 here on Saturday following a bomb threat email with police later saying that nothing was found following anti-sabotage checks. However, the mall authorities, in a statement

around 1.35 pm, said the "activity" was a security drill conducted in collaboration with Noida authorities. Several people at the mall were evacuated and movie screenings were halted midway as security checks began. A man said in a post on X that he was watching a movie at the mall when the audiences were asked to leave. "Whole Noida DLF mall is being evacuated, called as a mock drill," he posted on the social media platform. In another post on the social media platform, he shared the image of a vehicle of the bomb disposal squad at the mall wondering if it was "still a mock drill". Later, ACP Meena said, "Because of the upcoming festivals, malls and crowded places at various locations in the Gautam Buddha Nagar Commissionerate are being checked continuously." "Today, after receiving information via email, thorough security checks were carried out in the mall. No objectionable items were found, and the situation is normal. At first glance, the email appears to be a hoax," he said. All senior officials and other teams are present at the

scene, the officer said, adding the mall is operating normally. In its statement, the DLF Mall of India said, "We are pleased to confirm that the mall is now open and fully operational." "The safety of our patrons is our utmost priority, and DLF is consistently dedicated to maintaining the highest security standards to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all," it added. On May 1 this year, panic gripped multiple schools in Delhi NCR, including Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Faridabad, after they received emails about bombs being planted on their campuses.

Interim govt committed to free & fair polls: Yunus

PTI ■ DHAKA

The caretaker government in Bangladesh is committed to ensuring a transition to inclusive and pluralistic democracy and creating an environment in which "free, fair and participatory elections" can be held, its head Mohammad Yunus assured the international community on Saturday.

Yunus, the Chief Advisor of the interim government, said while addressing the third Voice of Global South Summit which was hosted by India in a virtual format.

"You all are aware that Bangladesh witnessed a 'Second Revolution' on 5th August 2024, through a mass uprising spearheaded by our valiant students and joined by the masses," the 84-year-old Nobel laureate said, referring to the political turmoil in his country and the resignation of prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

Noting that the current interim government led by him was

sworn in on August 8, Yunus said, "Our government is committed to ensuring a transition to inclusive and pluralistic democracy and creating an environment in which free, fair and participatory elections can be held." Yunus assumed charge of the interim government amid ongoing violence and vandalism, including against the minorities.

"Our task is now to carry out vital reforms in our electoral system, judiciary, local government, media, economy and education," Yunus said at the summit being attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I invite you to visit Dhaka soon. Otherwise, you may miss something important. Much of Dhaka has turned into the graffiti capital of the world. Young students and children aged as young as 12-13 have been painting the walls of this 400-year-old city with images of a New Democratic environment-friendly Bangladesh," he said.

"There is no central planning

or guidance for that. No budget support from anybody. It is just an outpouring of their emotions and commitment to the goals of the Second Revolution," the noted economist said.

Former Prime Minister Hasina, 76, fled to India on August 5 after being forced to resign from her post amidst unprecedented anti-government student-led protests.

The student-led protests demanding reforms in government job quotas evolved into a government-toppling movement in early August.

Yunus further said, "We must place the youth and students, who constitute a significant portion of the Global South's population at the heart of our strategies. Two-thirds of our population are youth. They are the most powerful segment of the society. They are different. They are committed to creating a new world. They are capable. They are technologically far ahead of the previous generation..."

He also emphasised redesign-



ing the financial system to make sure that wealth is shared by all.

"It should not be a one-way path for wealth. We must ensure financial services for all people, particularly women and youth. We can learn from each other how this can be done successfully."

He also mentioned 'The Bengali language movement in 1952.

"In 1952 the Bangladeshi students sacrificed their lives for their mother tongue. It inspired struggles for the right to speak in the mother language all over the world. Some seven

decades later our students-led Second Revolution is inspiring youth throughout the global south to raise their voice for democracy, human rights, dignity, equality and shared prosperity."

"I am honoured to be the oldest 'young person' to take part in this revolution and help them make their dreams come true. They need support from all of you," Yunus said.

"Being old should not mean that you have to retire, withdraw yourself from economic activities. Human creativity never stops on a date fixed by the state. It doesn't stop until the last breath. We may work together to see how to make societies supportive of the creativity of all people as long they live," the octogenarian economist said.

During the anti-government protest in Bangladesh, over 230 people died during violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, taking the death toll to 560 during the three weeks of violence.

10 killed in Israeli strike in southern Lebanon

AP ■ NABATIEH (LEBANON)

An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon early Saturday killed at least 10 Syrian nationals, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

The strike on Wadi al-Kfour in Nabatieh province is among the deadliest in Lebanon since the Hezbollah militant group and Israeli military started trading strikes on Oct. 8, a day after Hamas attacked southern Israel and sparked the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Hezbollah maintains that it will stop its attacks once a cease-fire is reached in the Gaza Strip.

Among the dead were a woman and her two children, the ministry said. Five others were wounded, two of whom in critical condition.

An Arabic-language spokesperson for the Israeli military, Avichay Adraee, said the strike in the southern province targeted a weapons depot belonging to

Hezbollah.

Mohammad Shoaib, who runs a slaughterhouse in Wadi al-Kfour, said the area struck was an "industrial and civilian area" that contained factories producing bricks, metal, and aluminum, as well as a dairy farm.

The uncle of three of the people killed in the strike said they were factory workers who were in their housing accommodation when they were hit. He denied that there were weapons at the facility. "There was nothing at all like that," Hussein Shahoud said. "There was metal for construction, for building, for all kinds of purposes."

Hezbollah has not immediately commented on the strikes. The Lebanese government and international governments have scrambled for weeks to put an end to the monthlong clashes, with the region on a knife edge since July.

An Israeli strike last month in southern Beirut killed Hezbollah's

top commander, whom Israel accused of leading a rocket attack on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights that killed 12 youths. Hours later, an explosion widely blamed on Israel killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital.

Both Tehran and Hezbollah vowed to retaliate, but have not yet launched strikes as diplomatic endeavors and Gaza cease-fire talks continue in Qatar.

Hezbollah and Israel fought a six-week war in the summer of 2006 that ended in a draw. Hezbollah's military capabilities have developed significantly since then.

More than 500 people have been killed in exchanges since Oct. 8, most of them fighters with Hezbollah and other armed groups but also including around 100 civilians and noncombatants. In Israel, 22 soldiers and 24 civilians have been killed. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced on both sides of tense frontier.

Nearly 650 people killed in recent violence in Bangladesh: UN report

PTI ■ DHAKA/GENEVA

Nearly 650 people have been killed in the recent unrest in Bangladesh between July 16 and August 11, the UN Human Rights Office has said in a preliminary report, suggesting a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into reports of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions.

According to the 10-page report titled "Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protests and Unrest in Bangladesh", nearly 400 deaths were reported between July 16 and August 4 while around 250 people were reportedly killed following the new wave of protests between August 5 and 6, leading to the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The available public reports by media and the protest movement itself claimed that between July 16 and August 11, more than 600 people were killed due to the wave of violence following the Anti-Discriminatory

Student demonstrations. The number of reported killings in revenge attacks since that time remains to be determined, the report, released on Friday in Geneva, said.

Several deaths were reported between August 7 and 11, including those who died while undergoing medical treatment for injuries sustained in the violence, the UNHCR report suggested.

Those killed include protesters, bystanders, journalists and several security forces personnel, it said, adding that thousands of protesters and bystanders were injured, with hospitals overwhelmed by the influx of patients.

The report said the reported death toll was likely an underestimate as information collection faced a hindrance by restrictions on movement due to the curfew and the internet shutdown.

Furthermore, hospitals were reportedly prevented by state authorities from providing

details of those killed and injured, the report suggested. Triggered by the reinstatement of a quota system for the allocation of jobs in civil services, the student protests in Bangladesh in mid-June turned violent, with reports of severe human rights violations by security forces.

"There are strong indications, warranting further independent investigation, that the security forces used unnecessary and disproportionate force in their response to the situation," the report said.

"Additional, alleged violations, that also warrant thorough, impartial and transparent investigations included extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, as well as severe restrictions on the exercise of freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly," the report said.

There were also reports of looting, arson and attacks on members of religious minorities, as

well as reprisals against and revenge killings of members of the former ruling party and police following the resignation of Hasina on August 5, the report said.

On August 15, mobs armed with bamboo sticks, iron rods and pipes reportedly assaulted the former prime minister's Awami League Party supporters who had gathered to pay their tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his death anniversary.

The UN report emphasised the importance of rapidly restoring law and order, as well as the need for effective measures to prevent further loss of life, violence and acts of reprisals.

"Law enforcement agencies need to receive clear instructions and training on the use of force, in line with international human rights standards. They must protect populations at risk against any retaliatory or revenge violence, including minority communities," the report said.

Missile hits Ukraine as Kyiv's troops push into Kursk region

AP ■ MOSCOW

A Russian missile strike sparked a blaze in the Ukrainian city of Sumy on Saturday, while Ukrainian forces continued to push into Russia's Kursk border region.

Two people were injured in the Sumy strike, which also damaged cars and nearby buildings, said Ukraine's State Emergency Service. It said that the hit had involved an Iskander-K cruise missile and an aerial bomb.

Ukraine's air force also said it had shot down 14 Russian drones overnight, including over the Kyiv region.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been deployed since August 6 in a bid to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine.

Alexander Kots, military correspondent with the pro-Kremlin newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda, said that Ukrainian pressure in Kursk "is not weakening yet."

"In the main sections of the ragged front, the situation has stabilized. But there are areas where the enemy continues to try to expand its bridgehead," he wrote on his Telegram channel.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Friday that Ukraine had destroyed a bridge across the Seim River in the Glushkovskiy district with US-made HIMARS rockets, marking their first use in the Kursk region.

Zakharova's statement couldn't be independently confirmed, although the Washington-based think tank the Institute for the Study of War said that geolocated footage published on August 16 showed that the bridge had collapsed following the strike.

Russian military bloggers said that the destruction of bridges would impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces, but not cut them off completely. "No one has cancelled the pontoons," said Kots, stressing that



A damaged monument to Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin stands in a central square in Sudzha, Kursk region. AP/PTI

the Kursk incursion is notable for its size, speed, the reported involvement of battle-hardened Ukrainian brigades and the length of time they have stayed inside Russia. As many as 10,000 Ukrainian troops are involved, according to Western military analysts.

The incursion, which Russian authorities say has led to the evacuation of more than 120,000 civilians, came as a shock to many. Yan Furtsev, an activist and member of local opposition party Yabloko, told the AP.

Ukrainian forces have also captured a number of Russian troops as they have moved across the region.

On Friday, the AP visited a detention centre in Ukraine, the location of which cannot be disclosed due to security restrictions. Dozens of POWs were seen, some of them walking with their hands tied behind their backs while a guard led them down a corridor. Some had rations of a thin soup with cabbage and onions.

Teenager shoots Indian-origin man dead in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A 36-year-old Indian-origin man has been shot and killed after a teenage boy robbed a convenience store in the US state of North Carolina, authorities said.

Mainank Patel, the owner of the Tobacco House store at 2580 Airport Road, died after the shooting on Tuesday morning, the Salisbury Post reported.

A juvenile male is in custody for the crime, according to Rowan County Sheriff's Office. Because the young man is a juvenile, deputies are not able to release his name.

The juvenile was arrested Tuesday evening but no additional details have been released.

Deputies initially responded to the Tobacco House convenience store in response to a 911 hang-up call, said Captain Mark McDaniel, public information officer for the Rowan County Sheriff's Office.

While they were en route to the location, communications were received that there had been a shooting. When the deputies arrived on scene they found Patel suffering from multiple gunshot wounds, said McDaniel.

The victim was taken to Novant Health Rowan Medical Center and then transported to Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, where he died as a result of his injuries, the report added.

A security video showed a tall, slender white male running across the store parking lot away from the building. He was wearing black shorts, a black hoodie, a black ski mask and white Nike tennis shoes with burgundy logos, and appeared to have a black handgun in his hand, said McDaniel.

McDaniel said that the sheriff's office is not certain of the motive in the shooting, but that it currently appears to have been a robbery. No one else was injured.



American businessman and Microsoft founder Bill Gates during flagging off the First India Day celebrations, in Greater Seattle area, USA. PTI

PML-N rules out any talks with Imran Khan's party

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The ruling PML-N of the Sharifs on Saturday ruled out any talks with the main opposition party led by Imran Khan, saying the jailed former prime minister needed to approach it with seriousness.

Irfan Siddiqui, a senator from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was speaking with Dawn News channel when he was asked about Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

"We repeatedly said, 'Fine, you have entered the House (Parliament) — in whatever way you have — then at least sit together on that level and try

to solve your matters' ... [But] they do not want to talk, and we have also thought that now we will not repeatedly call out to them from our rooftops that 'Come, talk to us,' Siddiqui said in the interview aired on Friday night.

However, he went on to say that the PML-N and its coalition partners would "consider whether to open the door or not" for talks with the PTI if that party "approached it seriously."

The Pakistan government last month announced a ban on Khan's PTI. Khan, 71, has been incarcerated at Adiala Jail for a year now in connection with multiple cases

against him.

Earlier, when Khan's PTI-backed candidates won the largest number of seats in the February general elections despite contesting as independents as the party was denied an election symbol, Khan alleged that PML-N and its coalition partners, including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) "stole the mandate" to grab power at the federal level.

Relations between the PTI and the PML-N-led coalition government — already tense since Khan's ouster in 2022 — have strained even more and the announcement of the ban on PTI appears to be the proverbial last nail.

Pak Intel agencies continue to abduct critics, reveal families

PTI ■ LAHORE

Intelligence agencies in Pakistan continue to abduct social media activists and vloggers for criticising the government and the powerful military establishment in the country, their families have alleged and approached courts in Punjab province.

Two social media activists of former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Naeem Ahmad Yasin and Arsalan Akbar, and vlogger-comedian Aun Khosa, have allegedly been arrested by intelligence agencies in the Punjab province of Pakistan.

They have been reported "missing" by their families.

The Shehbaz Sharif government and the establishment have been facing scathing criticism on social media for "abducting" Khosa for singing a parody song on soaring electricity bills.

Days before his abduction, Khosa had sung a song "Bill Bill Pakistan", a parody of the

famous Pakistani song "Dil Dil Pakistan" and released a video on social media criticising the high prices of electricity and extra taxes added to it. Khosa also took on the worthlessness of the Pakistani passport and the cash-strapped country's loans. The comedian has a following of 137,000 on YouTube.

The families of three "missing persons" filed petitions in the Lahore High Court which on Friday directed the Punjab police chief to recover Khosa by August 20.

Binish Iqbal, the wife of Khosa, told LHC Justice Syed Shahbaz Ali Rizvi that unidentified persons barged into her house a few days ago and manhandled her husband before bundling him into a van and speeding away.

Separately, LHC Justice Shakil Ahmad directed the Punjab police to recover missing PTI activist Arsalan Akbar before August 28.

The PTI has expressed concern over recent "forced disappear-

ances" of its political workers. Professor Mazhar-ul-Hassan and Zahoor-ul-Hassan, the brothers of PTI former social media head Azhar Mashwani, and Khan's close aide Shahbaz Gill's brother Gulam Shabbir have also been missing since June last year.

"Whereabouts of all five individuals remain unknown despite their families' efforts to locate them by approaching the police and the court. A pattern of enforced disappearance is emerging, seemingly to intimidate those living abroad, who are critical of the Pakistani government," a PTI official said on Saturday.

He urged the judiciary to ensure the safe recovery of all the missing people associated with the PTI.

Amnesty International has also demanded that the Pakistan government immediately disclose their whereabouts and "ensure an effective, independent, and impartial investigation into these disappearances."

Glacial lake outburst devastated Everest village

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Army officials, civic authorities and scientists on Saturday confirmed that the massive flash floods in a high-altitude village in the Everest region of Nepal were caused by two glacial lake outbursts leading to widespread devastation.

Hurling down the steep slopes, carrying boulders, debris and muck with it, the floods devastated more than half of the homes in Thame village in the scenic Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality-5. The incident occurred at around 1.30 pm local time on Friday.

Although no deaths have been reported so far, one person is reportedly missing, news portal MyRepublica said about the damage caused due to the flooded Thame rivulet, one of the tributaries of Dudhkoshi River.

"Authorities reported that around 93 villagers who fled to higher altitudes or were rescued are now being sheltered in an army camp, while 42 others have been temporarily placed in a nearby community building," The Himalayan Times

newspaper reported.

A team of experts and authorities were dispatched in a helicopter to inspect and monitor the disaster site and investigate the cause of the sudden flood and mudslide that struck the village. The helicopter went right upstream up to the glacial lakes in higher reaches.

"Following the aerial inspection, the Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality confirms that the flood was triggered by the outburst of a glacial lake, one of the many lakes situated above the valley," The Himalayan Times said.

The Kathmandu Post quoted officials to report that two of the five lakes formed above the Thame village had burst and flooded downstream areas.

Glacial lake outburst floods, or GLOF, are a sudden release of water from a lake fed by glacier melt that has formed at the side, in front, within, beneath, or on the surface of a glacier. Experts have warned that global warming poses major threats to glacial lakes and subsequent GLOFs in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region.

Corroborating that it was

indeed a GLOF, the Cryosphere Society of Nepal (CSN), a group of Nepal-based glaciologists working in the Himalayas, said in a post on X: "The lake, which is approximately 39,081.87 square meters in size and located upstream of Thame Village in Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality, caused the devastation in Thame Village on August 16th. It is located on the way to Tashi Lapcha Pass from Thame."

Although no lives were lost, about 50 per cent of the Thame village has been severely damaged, and the remaining houses are uninhabitable.

Thame lies 16 km from Namche Bazaar, which serves as the entry to the Everest region. Located at about 12,500 feet above sea level in the Khumbu Valley, it is 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. It is also home to famous record-breaking Everest climbers including Apa Sherpa, Kami Rita Sherpa, and Lakpa

Rita Sherpa, among others.

An almost 11-minute video made from the helicopter that went for the inspection and posted by the municipality on its Facebook page not just showed the higher reaches upstream of the Thame village, the burst glacial lake, its breached moraine and other lakes amid the vertically rising Himalayan ranges but also the devastation wrought by the floods. The footage from the higher reaches also showed significant sediment flow, possibly due to melting of the snow upstream, which the experts said, "resulted in landslides and an overwhelming surge of water that the local rivers could not contain." The muck and debris flood raised the level of the river floodplains, eroded large swathes of the village land abutting the river and left its horrendous mark on the houses washed away fully or in part, and also those that were covered till its roof levels. Large-scale agriculture land was either swept away due to erosion or covered with boulders and debris, the video also showed.

LET'S JUST LEAVE IT TO THE GODS: CHOPRA ON 90M AND BEYOND

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having missed out on breaching the elusive 90m mark at the Paris Games, two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra has left that widely debated matter "to the gods". After all, Chopra has been chasing that milestone for years and the wait got longer when his only legal throw of 89.45m got him a silver at the Paris Olympics earlier this month. A back-to-back medal at the Summer Games was a monumental feat for an Indian athlete but it was way short of Arshad Nadeem's sensational 92.97m that comfortably secured a historic gold for the Pakistani. Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra managed to be on the podium and now he will be seen in the Lausanne Diamond League starting August 22. After a busy couple of days post the Olympic final on August 8, Chopra started training in Switzerland and is determined to finish the season on a high despite being restricted by the injury. "I need to leave it to gods now," he said when asked about his target throw in the foreseeable future.

"I just want to prepare well and see where the javelin goes. There has already been talk about 90m, now I feel just let it be. In Paris, I thought it would happen and it could have happened. "Now I will give my 100 percent in the next two or three events and see what happens," he said in a virtual interaction arranged by JSW. Following the season-ending Diamond League in Brussels from September 13-14, Chopra will consult the doctors on his groin injury with surgery being the most likely option. The 26-year-old has been managing the injury since winning the gold in the World Championships last year. With Arshad producing an Olympic record throw in the final, Chopra needed to up his game but he said he could not do that because of his physical state. "I felt I could increase the distance. My two no throws in qualification and final, they were second and third best throws and my season best as well. To increase distance I need to be injury free. "In my mind I know need to give 100 percent but because of the injury I am not able to give 100 percent. My body and mind stops me from making



that extra effort. "What is most important in training session is throwing sessions which I have not been able to do as much as I would like (due to injury). If you can't throw regularly then you are not able to work on your technique. I need to throw as much as I can. The rest is all fine," said Chopra. He needs to make a few technical tweaks in his game. "When we run with the javelin there is also lot of strain on groin, when we take cross step. But right now I am not able to tweak my technique. Also my line of the javelin was also not perfect. "Arc speed was good in Paris but the line was disturbed. If it would be straighter, I could have got two three metres out of it. However, not for once I thought that Arshad's throw could not be bettered. My mind was ready to push the limits but body was not," said the champion athlete. Chopra needs to finish in the top-six of Diamond League Meetings series to qualify for the season finale in Brussels. "I came to Switzerland for training ahead of Diamond League. Luckily I did not aggravate my injury as I took extra care of that. I thought of continuing my season like

most other athletes. There is one month to go for season end. I will go to the doctors in free time," he said. **WE NEED TO SPOT TALENT BETTER TO BECOME SPORTING POWERHOUSE:** India finished an abysmal 71st in the Paris medals tally with five bronze and Chopra's silver. Asked what India needs to do to become a sporting power, Chopra said: "Overseas, there are more talent spotters. For example I took up javelin I don't know how, I liked it so I pursued it. But if we try multiple sports and pick the best one on recommendations of an expert that way Indian sport can move forward. We need to spot talent better. "Also, we can't just focus on one sport. We need to be good in all sports. I feel the leaders in the medals tally (China, USA, Japan). They all are powerful nations in various fields, sports play a big part as well in lifting the profile of the nation. "Hope we do well in the next Olympics, and qualify for FIFA World Cup as well. Cricket we already are doing well. There is no dearth of talent, mental, we also need to have more coaches," added Chopra, who plans to open javelin academies going forward.



Driver line-up announced for Indian Racing League

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Akhil Rabindra and Nikhil Bohra will be among the Indian racers who will be seen in action in the Indian Racing League that gets underway on August 24. Six teams comprising four drivers each will feature in the IRL. The teams will feature two Indians and two overseas racers, including female driver. Akhil Rabindra made the headlines in 2019 after being selected by Aston Martin for their racing academy as the only Asian and later clinched the inaugural IRL title in 2022. Noted Swiss driver Neel Jani, who has an impressive resume, having won the World Endurance Championship and the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans in 2016, will be seen in action in the league, said a press release here. Returning to the competition again will be South Africa's Raoul Hyman, along with his partner Sohil Shah, who won the 2023 Car Championship by earning the most points. "The Indian Racing League is a testament to the excitement and passion for motorsports in

our country. The grid here is extremely competitive, pushing each of us to our limits and showcasing the immense talent we have," said Shah. The racers would be whizzing around in their rapid World Thunder GB08s, single-seater cars that can achieve a top speed of 240 kmph. Ruhaan Alva, who was the youngest race winner last year, will be joined by Shahan Ali Mohsin and Rishon Rajeev, fresh from their success in the Formula 4 Indian Championship, along with debutant Julius Dinesen, a 17-year-old Danish prodigy with a F4 title to his name. The IRL, comprising five rounds, will begin at the Madras International Circuit at nearby Sriperumbudur on August 24-25, followed by India's first-ever night race at the Chennai Formula Racing Circuit on August 31-September 1. The six participating teams in the IRL are: Kolkata Royal Tigers, Speed Demons Delhi, Goa Aces JA Racing, Hyderabad Blackbirds, Chennai Turbo Riders and former champions Bangalore Speedsters.

Jhajharia confident of 25 medals' target despite Pramod suspension

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The shadow of Pramod Bhagat controversy won't linger on the Indian contingent, and Paralympic Committee of India president Devendra Jhajharia is hopeful of winning at least 25 medals at the upcoming Paralympics. India have an 84-member contingent across 12 disciplines for the Paralympics slated in Paris from August 28-September 8. Tokyo Paralympics gold medal-winning shuttler Pramod Bhagat was handed an 18-month suspension for breaching BWF's anti-doping whereabouts clause. "Look, there is no doubt that Pramod Bhagat is our star athlete but the target of 25 medals that we have set is from our current contingent of 84 players. Pramod Bhagat is not included in this," the two-time Paralympics gold medal-winning

javelin thrower Jhajharia told PTI Bhasha. "Pramod being a gold medal winner of the last Games not being in the Indian team is extremely sad and unfortunate, but we cannot do anything." Asked about his confidence about target of 25 medals, he said, "I have kept this target after closely monitoring our players." "You may think I am exaggerating. But I have seen the practice sessions of players. We have worked hard on their physical fitness and mental strength." Badminton's world governing body (BWF) had on Tuesday announced that Bhagat has been "suspended for a period of 18 months and will miss" the Paris Paralympics. "On 1 March 2024, the Court of Arbitration of Sport Anti-Doping Division found Bhagat in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for



committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months." The five-time para world champion Bhagat had appealed this decision to the CAS Appeals Division but it was rejected last month.

Jhajharia further said the number of players this time is much more than the previous games and they are competing in more sports. India were ranked 24th in the Tokyo Paralympics table with 19 medals

which included five gold. "I have set a target of 25 medals and to be in the top 20 in the medal table, but we will win more medals than this," said the 43-year-old former javelin thrower. "We had 56 players in the Tokyo Paralympics, this time 84 players will compete. For the first time, our players will participate in Blind Judo, Para Sailing and Para Cycling." Jhajharia is expecting the highest medal haul from the athletics team and is hoping new stars to emerge from these games. "Each and every player of our contingent is a medal prospect. We have 38 track and field athletes and I am expecting the most medals from them. "Our contingent has 47 new players, despite their first Paralympics games they are very confident and mentally strong about their performance," he concluded.

Aspas caps eventful game with late winner as Celta Vigo beats Deportivo Alaves 2-1 in Spain

AP ■ MADRID

Iago Aspas avoided an early red card thanks to a video review, had a goal chalked off just before halftime and then capped an eventful game by scoring Celta Vigo's winner against Deportivo Alaves in the Spanish league on Friday. The 37-year-old Aspas was the focal point for Celta for much of last season and picked up where he left off in its opening game, netting in the 84th minute to seal a 2-1 victory for the hosts. He had been shown a red card after seven minutes when his arm made contact with Antonio Blanco, but it was downgraded to a yellow after a VAR review. Blanco's cross to Kike Garcia set up the opening goal for Alaves 10 minutes later.



Aspas had a goal disallowed for offside before halftime but Celta equalized midway through the second half thanks to Williot Swedberg's superb strike with the outside of his boot. Aspas then received Swedberg's defense-splitting pass to score the winner with six minutes left. "Iago is eternal," Alaves coach Luis Garcia said. "He gets one chance and he puts it away." **SEVILLA DRAWS AT LAS PALMAS:** In the night's other game, Las Palmas came from a goal down twice to hold Sevilla to a 2-2 draw at home. Alex Suarez's deflected a cross from the left past his own keeper to give Sevilla the lead after 24 minutes but an own goal at the other end by Tanguy Nianzo leveled

the scores just before halftime. Juanlu Sanchez then converted a neat cross by Isaac Romero to put Sevilla 2-1 up on the hour mark only for Sandro Ramirez to equalize 10 minutes later, just moments after coming on as a sub. Las Palmas' two Scotland internationals, recent signings Oliver McBurnie and Scott McKenna, both appeared for the home side and it was McBurnie's pressure on Nianzo that led to Las Palmas' first goal. With three of the first four league matches ending in draws, Celta's win means it can enjoy at least one night atop the La Liga standings. Barcelona is away at Valencia on Saturday, while defending champion Real Madrid visits Mallorca on Sunday.

Frustrated Carlos smashes his racket in 3-set loss to Gael Monfils at Cincinnati Open

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Carlos Alcaraz repeatedly smashed his racket on the court in a rare show of frustration, and the four-time Grand Slam winner fell to Gael Monfils 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 at the Cincinnati Open. In a match that was suspended by rain on Thursday night with the players in a second-set tiebreaker, the 37-year-old Monfils advanced by taking the last two sets from the second-seeded Alcaraz, who called the loss his "worst match." "I felt like it was the worst match that I've ever played on my career," Alcaraz said. "I've been practicing really well. I was feeling great. But I couldn't play. I want to forget it and try to move on to New York." The U.S. Open begins there on Aug. 26. Trailing 3-1 in the tiebreaker when the match was halted, Alcaraz was hoping for a reset when play resumed Friday. But, the No. 3 player in the



ATP rankings wasn't able to control his emotions. "It never happened before, because I could control those feelings," Alcaraz said. "Today I couldn't. I was feeling that I was not playing any kind of tennis. It was really frustrating for me. At some point, I didn't want to be on the court anymore." Alcaraz was playing his first match since earning a silver medal at the Paris Olympics after losing to Novak Djokovic, who also beat him last year in the Cincinnati final. Monfils returned to the court later Friday and lost to No. 15 seed Holger Rune 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. "It was a big win for me against Carlos, unexpected to be honest," Monfils said. "To play again in a couple hours against (another) good and younger player, I knew it would be tough." In women's action, top-ranked Iga Swiatek advanced to the quarterfinals with a convincing 6-2, 6-2 win over Marta Kostyuk. Swiatek bounced back with a more

complete performance after losing a second-set tiebreak on Wednesday before outlasting France's Varvara Gracheva. "Today, I just kept my intensity at a high level all the time," Swiatek said. "It didn't really matter to me what the score was, I just wanted to continue playing my game. I focused on myself." No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka also advanced with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Elina Svitolina, but No. 5 Jasmine Paolini, the runner-up at the French Open and Wimbledon, lost to Mirra Andreeva 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova upset No. 7 and Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen 7-5, 6-1. Spaniard Paula Badosa defeated Yulia Putintseva, who upset Coco Gauff on Thursday, 6-4, 6-4. Top men to advance included No. 1 Jannik Sinner, who got a walkover against Jordan Thompson on his 23rd birthday, No. 3 Alex Zverev, No. 5 Hubert Hurkacz, No.

43-member Indian contingent for

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A 43-member Indian contingent including 23 in the men's category will vie for top honours across multiple events in the Under-20 World Athletics Championships scheduled in Lima from August 27-31. As per the entry list, more than 1700 athletes from 134 teams will compete in the event at Estadio Atletico de la Videna. India had won two silver and a bronze to be ranked joint 25th in the last edition. **INDIAN SQUAD** **MEN:** Himanshu, Sachin (10,000m Race Walk); Karthik Raja Arumugam, Murad Kalubhai Sirman (400m hurdles); Ankul, Rihan Chaudhary, Bapi Hansda, Abiram Pramod, Jay Kumar (4x400m relay); Bapi Hansda, Jay Kumar (400m); Siddharth Choudhary, Anurag Singh Kaler (Shot Put); Mrutyam Jayaram Dondapati (100m); Hariharan Kathiravan, Nayan Pradip Sarde (110m hurdles); Sahil Khan (800m); Saruk

Khan, Ranvir Ajay Singh (3000m steeplechase); Dev Kumar Meena (Pole Vault); Prateek (Hammer Throw); Ritik (Discus Throw); Mohammed Atta Sazid (Long Jump); Dipanshu Sharma, Rohan Yadav (Javelin throw). **WOMEN:** Aarti (10,000m Race Walk); Rujula Amol Bhonsle, Neole Anna Cornelio, Sudeeksha Valduri, Abinaya Rajarajan, Siya Abhijit Sawant (4x100m relay); Neeru Pahtak, Unnathi Aiyappa Bolland (200m); Neeru Pahtak, Anushka Kumbhar (400m); Tamanna (Shot Put); Abinaya Rajarajan (100m); Unnathi Aiyappa Bolland (100m hurdles); Shreyas Rajesh (400m steeplechase); Ekta Dey (3000m hurdles); Amanat Kamboj, Nikita Kumari (Discus Throw); Nikita Kumari (Long Jump); Pooja (High Jump); Laxita Vinod Sandilea (800m), Laxita Vinod Sandilea (1500m); Neeru Pahtak, Kanista Tenna Maria Deva Shekar, Sandramol Sabu, Shrivani Sachin Sangle, Anushka Kumbhar (4X400m relay).

"Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does. Love is a battle, love is a war; love is a growing up."
— Gareth Thomas



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

RAKSHA BANDHAN

CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF PURE BONDS

In the heart of Delhi, with monsoon clouds overhead, the streets burst into life for Raksha Bandhan. Amidst the lively chaos and bright colours, the festival unfolds as a touching celebration of sibling love. Each stall, filled with colourful rakhis, tells a story of pure bonds and heartfelt traditions, turning everyday moments into cherished memories, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

As the festive season arrives, bringing with it a time of warmth, togetherness and cherished traditions, one celebration stands out for its profound significance — the bond between brothers and sisters. Raksha Bandhan, a festival that embodies untold love and silent care, is not just a ritual but a celebration of a "PURE BOND." Amidst this atmosphere, the vibrant marketplaces come alive with the spirit of Raksha Bandhan and nowhere is this evident than in Delhi's iconic Sadar Bazar. The festival's essence is captured not just through rituals but through the bustling, colourful preparations that fill the market, making it a focal point of the celebration.

THE ENCHANTING FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE

Sadar Bazar, one of Delhi's oldest and busiest markets, undergoes a remarkable transformation as Raksha Bandhan approaches. The market, typically known for its wide range of goods, turns into a hub of colour and excitement, with rakhis and festive decorations taking center stage. Every shop and vendor gears up for the big day, filling the air with a lively sense of excitement. The narrow lanes of Sadar Bazar, usually crowded with shoppers, become even more packed as people move from stall to stall, searching for the perfect rakhi. The market itself seems to join in the celebration, with every corner reflecting the spirit of Raksha Bandhan. Despite the unpredictable weather during the monsoon season, with sudden bursts of rain and heat, enthusiastic shoppers continue to pour into Sadar Bazar. The market remains crowded, even in the rain, as people carry umbrellas or brave the elements to get what they need. There is a shared determination among the shoppers, a sense that no amount of rain or heat can dampen the joy of preparing for Raksha Bandhan.

A MARKET FULL OF CHOICES

One of the most striking features of Sadar Bazar during Raksha Bandhan is the sheer variety of rakhis on display. The market caters to all tastes and budgets, ensuring

“ONE OF THE MOST HEARTWARMING SIGHTS IN THE MARKET IS THE SELECTION OF CHILDREN'S RAKHIS, OFTEN FEATURING POPULAR CHARACTERS. A YOUNG GIRL, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS OVERHEARD ASKING A VENDOR, "BHAIIYA, DO YOU HAVE A SPIDER-MAN RAKHI?" THIS SMALL MOMENT BEAUTIFULLY ENCAPSULATES THE SIBLING BOND, A SISTER KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT WILL MAKE HER YOUNGER BROTHER SMILE

that everyone can find something special. From simple, traditional rakhis costing as little as ₹ 10 for a dozen to more elaborate designs priced at ₹ 70 or ₹ 100 per dozen, the market offers something for everyone. Rakhis come in every imaginable style, from classic designs featuring beads and threads to more modern versions adorned with glitter and stones. Children's rakhis, often featuring popular cartoon characters and superheroes, are among the most popular items. Little girls excitedly pick out rakhis for their brothers, carefully choosing ones that they know will bring a smile to their siblings' faces. A young girl, for example, was overheard asking a vendor, "Bhaiya, do you have a Spider-Man rakhi?" This small moment beautifully encapsulates the sibling bond, a sister knowing exactly what will make her younger brother smile, a small moment that perfectly captures the thoughtfulness and love that define Raksha Bandhan. The girl knew exactly what her brother would love and she was determined to find it for him.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE FESTIVAL

The vendors and artisans are integral to the Raksha Bandhan experience. Their work begins long before the festival, with many starting preparations at least a month in advance. Crafting each rakhi requires skill, patience and a deep understanding of what the festival means to people. For these artisans, Raksha Bandhan is more than just another business opportunity; it's a chance to contribute to a tradition that has been passed down through generations. A shopkeeper in Sadar Bazar explained how much effort goes into preparing for Raksha Bandhan. "We start getting ready about a month before," he said. "There's a lot of hard work, but it's worth it when you see the market come alive like this. Even in the rain, people come. It's something we love." His words highlighted the dedication that goes into making the festival special for everyone. Despite the long hours and sometimes challenging conditions, the vendors take pride in being part of something bigger than just selling rakhis. They are part of a tradition that brings people together, year after year. The artisans also take great care in crafting each rakhi. They understand that these simple threads carry significant emotional weight. For them, it's important that every rakhi reflects the love and care that

siblings have for each other. They often work late into the night, ensuring that their creations are perfect. It's not just about making something that looks good, it's about creating something that will be cherished.

A FESTIVAL OF EMOTIONS

Raksha Bandhan is a time of joy and celebration, but it can also bring about feelings of longing, especially for those who are separated from their loved ones. Not everyone is fortunate enough to be with their siblings on this special day, and for them, the festival carries a bittersweet note. A woman in Sadar Bazar, carefully choosing rakhis to send to her brother who lives far away, shared her plans to send them by post. Despite modern courier services offering faster delivery, she preferred the traditional method, finding something special in the anticipation that comes with receiving a package by postman. Her story is just one of many that highlight the emotional depth of Raksha Bandhan. The festival is not just about the physical act of tying a rakhi, it's about the connection that siblings share, a connection that goes beyond time and distance. Even when miles apart, the bond remains strong and the act of sending a rakhi is a way of maintaining that bond. It serves as a reminder that, no matter where life takes people, the relationships that matter most are always worth celebrating.

where tradition is not just remembered but actively experienced, blending the past and present in a heartfelt celebration of love and family.

THE MEANING BEHIND THE RAKHI

At the heart of Raksha Bandhan is the rakhi itself - a simple thread that carries profound meaning. It's more than just a decorative piece, it's a symbol of a sister's love, gratitude and appreciation for her brother. Tying a rakhi is an act of trust, a way of saying, "Thank you for always being there." This small thread binds not just wrists but hearts, reinforcing a bond that is as old as time. For many, the rakhi is also a reminder of the shared history that siblings have, the moments of joy and support and the times when they've stood by each other. It's a token of the relationship that has shaped who they are. Though it may be simple in appearance, the rakhi holds a depth of meaning that goes beyond words. It's a symbol of a bond that is pure, unbreakable, and everlasting.

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE

Raksha Bandhan is more than just a date on the calendar, it's a celebration of the relationships that connect people, the memories that hold them together, and the love that sustains them through life's challenges. In today's fast-paced world, festivals like Raksha Bandhan remind everyone of the importance of family and the connections that define them. In Sadar Bazar, the spirit of Raksha Bandhan is alive and well. The market, with its history and vibrancy, captures the essence of the festival. It's a place where love is expressed through simple gestures and where the bonds between siblings are honored in all their beauty. As brothers and sisters across the country prepare to tie the rakhi this year, they are reminded of what the festival truly stands for. It's not just about the rituals, it's about the love, care and unbreakable bond that siblings share. In the end, that's what makes Raksha Bandhan so special - a celebration of love that goes beyond time, distance and the challenges of life.

THE ESSENCE OF TRADITION

As Raksha Bandhan draws near, the market becomes a living embodiment of tradition. With its rich history and vibrant atmosphere, it reflects the enduring values of family and togetherness. In a world that often moves too fast, these moments offer a chance to slow down and appreciate what truly matters. The festival is a time to reconnect with loved ones and honour the bonds that have shaped lives. During this time, the market becomes more than just a place to buy rakhis, it transforms into a space where memories are made. Every purchase, conversation and shared smile contributes to the festive atmosphere. The streets serve as a symbol of the festival,



NOE — WHERE GLOBAL FLAVOURS MEET RARE INGREDIENTS!

Nestled in the heart of Lutyens Delhi in the iconic Diplomat Hotel, the recently launched 'NOE' is set to redefine the dining culture in the city, bringing a vibrant social atmosphere and an innovative culinary experience

By SHARMILA CHAND

I wanted an elevated comfort food zone to take guests through a culinary journey blending global flavors with local influences to craft a unique experience," says Sandeep Bishnoi, the Founder who has been associated with creative brands such as Perch Wine & Coffee Bar and Hoots. Here innovative culinary experience is the key with Chef Dhruv Nijhawan, at the helm of affairs. An alumnus of Le Cordon Bleu, India, Chef Dhruv's passion for ingenious cooking techniques and for reviving rare, authentic ingredients, is well known. At NOE, he brings forth his passion as is evident in the distinctive menu that celebrates the art of 'elevating comfort food'. Evoking nostalgia and inspiring innovation, the kitchen at NOE re-invents handpicked traditional comfort dishes from world cuisines using lesser-known ingredient pairings and creative cooking techniques. From high-quality produce to regional and international cuisines, each dish encapsulates a rich tapestry of flavours and the ingredients' culinary heritage.

Speaking about the cooking methods, chef Dhruv tells me, "Every dish tells a story of a unique ingredient and a different cooking method. Reinventing modern classic dishes in a flavour forward method lies at the heart of our cooking. NOE incorporates culinary techniques from around the world using star ingredients to create an innovative dining experience." Hence, Potato & Chilli Orange sits nicely looking pretty in front of me. Swedish Hasselback potatoes in smoked brown butter with savoury cheena, bajji chili, orange zest, Korean chilli oil and pea shoot cress, is one perfect example of Dhruv's philosophy. And so is 'Tofu & Garum' - an umami flavoured silken tofu with vegan mushroom garum, soy, leek circles, porcini mushrooms & nori powder. For mutton lovers, what better than 'Kanda & Picante'? "Kaffir lime and coriander mutton kanda with broccoli picante puree finished with chermoula crumble," explains chef. He also recommends 'John Dory & Mazavaroo' - pan-seared John Dory with cauliflower crème, smoked Mazavaroo, tossed almond flakes served with cashew duqqa. The menu is extensive with a lot more stars like 'Lamb & Molé' - medium-rare cooked lamb chop with curry leaf, thyme, black molé sauce, togarashi tossed snap peas, sumac onions with seasonal cress. For crab lovers, 'Crab & Wasabi' is strongly recommended. Crab meat with avocado, wasabi, lime puree, water chestnuts, asparagus, compressed cucumbers and seasonal cress.

From large plate section, Pumpkin & Pomegranate turned out to be my favourite. Braised pumpkin with pomegranate sauce reduced with all spice and tahini, served with a sumac cress salad. 'Potato & Capers' is another one I lapped up. You will love layered potato slices with lemon zest cream, asparagus and olive. The relish of smoked onion added to the flavor brilliantly accompanied by a side



salad in orange dressing. 'Onigiri & Rasam' is a brilliant take on innovative experimentation. Jasmine rice onigiri with a light rasam sauce finished with celery dust, furikake peashoot, you would have never relished rasam in this medium. The dessert section looks pretty impressive, each dish comes with a lavish dose of drama to oomph things up. For me, Biscoff & Chai was the perfect way to wind up the meal. A vanilla cardamom sponge cake with Biscoff mousse and masala chai whipped cream cheese, with a spiced ginger sable & Biscoff gelato, simply bowled me over. Complementing culinary experience is the creative highball cocktail program served at NOE's bar. Managed by Hoots - recently awarded as one of Asia's Top 50 Bars, the highball bar concept emphasises refreshing, perfectly balanced cocktails created with premium spirits and house-made mixers, showcasing creativity and craftsmanship. Inspired by its prestigious address and surroundings, NOE's design



and a plush rustic outdoor deck as well as an intimate courtyard," tells Amit Chhabra, of studio LDC, the team behind the design architects of NOE. With diverse settings, NOE offers layers of sensory experiences for all moods and occasions where guests can enjoy different spaces in a single visit or each separately over multiple ones. Whether it's a casual gathering over food and drinks, a rendezvous with a friend, a special celebration, solo culinary adventures, a romantic date, or even small events, NOE promises for a memorable time. Featuring an extensive breakfast spread, an all-day dining menu, delectable Sunday brunches, and a creative drinks menu along with rotating seasonal menus and pop-up surprises, NOE welcomes you to a world of elevated comfort food, exquisite cocktails, and unforgettable dining experiences. Overall, the vibe at NOE is elegant and chic. Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist who writes on Travel, Food and Lifestyle



A NOSTALGIC CULINARY FARE AT INDIAN REPUBLIC CANTEEN

By SHARMILA CHAND

Ever heard of Waffle Imarti, Mac n Cheese Pakora, Waffle Bread Pakora, Samosa Cannelloni? If no, head to Indian Republic Canteen in the heart of capital's popular Connaught Place and you will get to taste innovative dishes with a flair for fun. Why the name Indian Republic, I asked the team. "The concept is inspired by the diversity of the Indian Republic, aiming to create a welcoming and accessible environment to a familiar canteen setting, where all patrons can feel comfortable and engaged," is the answer. Alok Aggarwal Co-Founder- Indian Republic Canteen further explains, "Our establishment is founded on the concept of nostalgia, aiming to evoke cherished memories of simple, beloved foods such as noodles, samosas, and bread pakoras from one's college days. We are devoted to celebrating these dishes and encouraging patrons to savor

them without reservation. The interior design of our space is a contemporary fusion of modernity and nostalgia. It reflects both cutting-edge trends and traditional influences, presenting a vision of India that is globally stylish yet deeply rooted in Indian sensibilities."

BREAKFAST SOIREEs

If not in a mood to rustle up breakfast at home, then just hop in here. They have introduced a new breakfast menu, serving a delightful array of morning treats that promise to start your day on a flavorful note. Imagine the perfect morning with a spread of traditional and contemporary breakfast dishes, curated to suit every palate. From 8 AM to 11 AM, you can indulge in a hearty and wholesome breakfast experience that blends the best of regional flavors with popular morning staples. The highlight of my breakfast was the comforting taste of Nagori Halwa, a classic dish that combines the rich flavors of semolina and sugar, bringing a touch of nostalgia to your breakfast. How could I miss the delicious Bedmi Sabzi, just perfect for my taste. For a flavour of traditional regional classic, Indori Poha, garnished with fresh



coriander, sev, and a squeeze of lemon, captures the essence of Indore's street food culture so beautifully. If you prefer something nutritious and savory, the Besan Chilla with Chutney

provides a protein-packed option, featuring a gram flour pancake served with a side of tangy chutney. The Bombay Sandwich offers a taste of Mumbai with layers of fresh vegetables and

tangy chutneys sandwiched between slices of soft bread. Health-conscious diners need not worry as they have option of Masala Oats, Banana Muesli Bowl, a refreshing mix of

muesli, fresh bananas, and yogurt, offering a perfect balance of taste and nutrition. For the ubiquitous South Indian flavors, the menu includes crispy and golden Dosa, served with traditional sambar and chutneys, transporting you to the streets of Southern India. Complement your meal with a selection of fresh juices, made from seasonal fruits, to add a refreshing touch to your breakfast. Or go for signature drinks like The IRC Shichanji, a longstanding favorite, alongside the Imli Fritz. Each drink is crafted to be unique and memorable, aligning with the overall concept of the place.

TO CONCLUDE

Whether you are looking for a quick bite or a leisurely breakfast, Indian Republic Canteen's thoughtful and exciting menu is well curated to cater to all your hunger cravings.

CHECK IT OUT

Time: 08:00am to 11:00am
Location — H-26, Connaught Circle, Block H, Connaught Place, New Delhi



FOREST RIGHTS ACT: A BEACON OF HOPE OR A VICTIM OF EXPLOITATION?



BKP SINHA



DR ARVIND K JHA

The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 was heralded as a transformative piece of legislation designed to recognise and empower forest dwelling communities while promoting sustainable forest management. However, the implementation of FRA has faced significant hurdles, including mismanagement, exploitation, and inadequate scrutiny write **BKP SINHA** and **ARVIND KUMAR JHA**

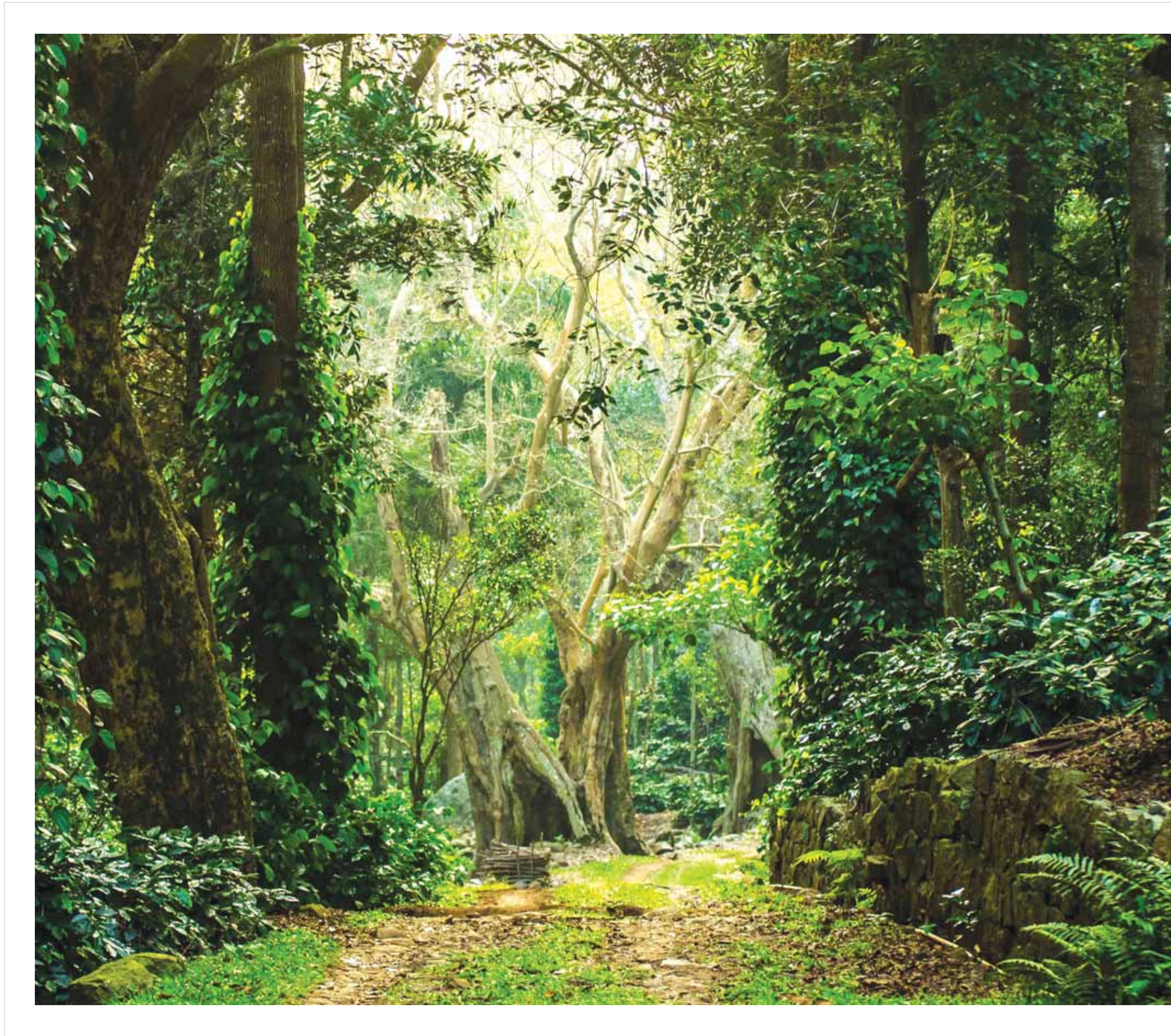
The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006, a landmark legislation in India, was introduced to recognise forest rights (FRs) of the Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) and empower them aiming at strengthening the conservation regime of forests. It was seen as a beacon of hope ushering in an era of community-led sustainable use of forest resources, conservation of biodiversity, and maintenance of ecological balance, which are essential for the sustenance of FRs. The Act however has faced serious implementation challenges and is overly involved in debates about the fulfilment of this vision indicated in the preamble.

The FRA outlines fourteen distinct FRs for its target group but its initial implementation focused primarily on just two viz. habitation and self-cultivation. This emphasis led to large-scale encroachments by people claiming that they occupied the forest land before the mandated cutoff date of December 13, 2005. Not very surprisingly, the high volume of cases and the pressure to decide them quickly resulted in many ineligible claims getting recognized as valid. This, in turn, encouraged even more people to make similar claims, hoping that theirs would also be approved. During this time, the claims related to Community Forest Rights (CFRs) were given low priority, except for those involving traditionally collected minor forest produce.

In 2012, significant amendments to the FRA Rules were made and new guidelines issued thereafter. Although these amendments purportedly aimed to streamline implementation, they resulted in unintended consequences. Some of these amendments, allegedly extending beyond the Act's original scope, relaxed the eligibility criteria for claimants, allowing non-deserving individuals and communities to exploit the system. The amended Rule introduces a 'new right', known as the 'Title' to Community Forest Resources.

It enabled communities with only a few members from the FDST and OTFD to make such claims thus allowing the rural elite and powerful individuals to take advantage of the system marginalizing the genuine target group of FRA. Additionally, the evidentiary value of satellite imagery was lowered, making it more challenging to distinguish between legitimate and fabricated claims. No system was established to scrutinize the approved claims while the Tribal Ministry, GOI repeatedly issued directives to review just the rejected ones. In the existing atmosphere, it was 'practical' to approve claims rather than reject them even when the evidence was weak and essential criteria were not met. At times hundreds of cases were cleared in just one meeting which often lacked adequate representation of non-officials and women members, and objections by foresters, even when based on ground reality, were generally labelled as anti-tribal and anti-FRA.

The protection-related duties of forest right holders, gram sabhas, and village-level institutions mentioned under Section 5 of the FRA still await alignment with existing Acts and Rules given the purport of Section 13. Some state tribal departments, as nodal agencies for implementation, have excluded the forest department from village-level management plan committees constituted for community forest resources. Such exclusion precludes inputs from trained foresters and consideration of a landscape-based forest management approach, which is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity, survival of wide-ranging wildlife, and the provision of eco-services that extend beyond village boundaries. Village-centric



management systems, influenced by electoral politics, may undermine long-term conservation efforts and harm ecological balance. Instances of clear felling and over-exploitation in bamboo coupes, in violation of sustainability principles, have already been observed in some villages. Encroachments and land-use alteration near watercourses and on slopes pose significant risks. In 1992, the Forest Department attempted to remove encroachments in Mundakai, Wayanad but faced violent resistance resulting in assaults, injuries, and the torching of six vehicles by locals. Over time, emboldened encroachers and developers constructed large resorts on slopes increasing landslide susceptibility. This risk was tragically realized with the recent landslide in Mundakai in July 2024.

Under FRA also, recognition of claims by ignoring the terrain is an extremely serious issue. In Maharashtra, a 2014 satellite-based study on FRA implementation revealed that out of randomly selected 56,029 claims for cultivation and habitation in Gadchiroli, Gondia, Nandurbar, and Dhule districts; 8,472 and 11,988 sites respectively were within 50 and 100 meters of water bodies or watercourses. Similar claims were found in different districts on slopes exceeding 20 degrees, pockmarked with a total area of

485 acres, many of which could potentially become the epicentre of additional encroachments and imminent disasters.

To date, 5.18 million acres of forest land scattered over 2.37 million sites have been recognized in the country as individual FRs of cultivation and habitation and the process is still on. The absence of a cut-off date for claim submission, however, makes misuse of the Act easier with time since the verifiability of evidence about 2005 becomes increasingly difficult. It may allow the exploitation of the Act for political purposes too.

An analysis of cases cleared just before elections, for instance, 1,33,920 titles granted to podu cultivators reportedly based on village elders' statements; ramping up of claim clearances in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh; and current invitations for new claims in Jharkhand should be revealing. A worrying trend, however, has emerged in Madhya Pradesh, with encroachers from other villages and districts targeting forest land in Burhanpur district and nearby areas, often with local politician's support. These actions have sparked violent clashes between the encroachers, local villagers, and forest officials, who are struggling to protect the forests. An examination of randomly selected CFR cases in Maharashtra reveals that the 'nature' and 'extent' of FRs are often missing from title documents. The issue reportedly

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THE PROTECTION-RELATED DUTIES OF FOREST RIGHT HOLDERS, GRAM SABHAS, AND VILLAGE-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS MENTIONED UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE FRA STILL AWAIT ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING ACTS AND RULES GIVEN THE PURPORT OF SECTION 13. SOME STATE TRIBAL DEPARTMENTS, AS NODAL AGENCIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION, HAVE EXCLUDED THE FOREST DEPARTMENT FROM VILLAGE-LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED FOR COMMUNITY FOREST RESOURCES

exists in other states as well. Understanding the quantity of forest produce (as a forest right) is crucial for the sustainable management of community forest resources and the long-term continuance of the exercise of forest rights. Accurate quantification can prevent issues such as the dwindling supply of medicinal plants for the Ayurvedic industry, which has led to the use of substandard materials and tarnished the reputation of Ayurveda. Unregulated removals could lead to future disputes over forest produce among neighbouring villages which would simply be disastrous.

The process adopted for recognizing Rights over Community Forest Resources (RCFR) raises significant concerns. According to Section 3(1)(i), RCFR of management is admissible only for communities of FDSTs and OTFDs who have traditionally protected and conserved these resources for sustainable use. Further, section 4(3) of the Act mandates that these communities must have occupied the forest land before the cutoff date of December 13, 2005. However, in practice, management rights under Section 3(1)(i) have been liberally granted, ignoring the mandated criteria, on more than 13.5 million acres out of the country's total recorded forest area of 191.5 million acres. The trend continues unabated also

due to the absence of a deadline for claim submission. Surprisingly, RCFRs for management have been granted on thousands of acres in the core areas of Tiger Reserves and Protected Areas in Achanakmar, Udanti Sitanadi, Dhamtari, Navegaon Nagzira, and Tansa without fulfilling the required criteria. Apart from the illegalities involved in RCFR cases, the overall situation indicates that the concerned District Level Committees have unauthorizedly transferred the State's responsibility mentioned in Article 51A of the Constitution.

In the past, forests were vast and tribal populations were small and cohesive with minimal influence from market forces. They existed harmoniously. Today, we face a crisis of fractured village populations and fragmented forests. The traditional arrangements that once worked may no longer be effective. Any harm to forest conservation and management has far-reaching consequences and Nature responds to it in compounded ways, leading to unpredictable weather patterns, desertification, global warming, and ecological crises. These environmental changes exacerbate climate change, creating a vicious cycle that further threatens the sustainability and health of our forests and communities. It is crucial to set a deadline for claim

submissions, revisit the rules under the FRA, and swiftly correct its implementation to benefit genuine beneficiaries. Cancelling irregularly granted rights, removing encroachments, and relocating FR holders from high-risk areas will establish confidence in the administration among the voiceless target group of the FRA.

The Supreme Court must prioritize the hearing of writ petition 109/2008, duly because their earlier order to evict encroachers was stayed on February 28, 2019, due to the Tribal Affairs Ministry's submission that due processes were not followed in implementing the FRA. The ministry had also highlighted that the process of settling the claims and rights of the applicants left much to be desired.

At this critical juncture, the choices we make will shape the destiny of India's forests, its people including forest-dependent communities, and its ecology and economy. The question remains: Will the FRA fulfil its promise of empowering legitimate forest right holders while safeguarding India's ecological wealth, or will it succumb to exploitation and misuse? Only time, and our commitment to a sustainability-oriented implementation of the Act, will tell.

(The writer are former PCCFs, UP and Maharashtra; views expressed are personal)



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You're currently experiencing a period marked by keen observation and active communication. This phase is ideal for engaging with new concepts and exploring different perspectives with an open and eager mind. You'll feel a surge of mental vitality, perfect for diving into research or expanding your knowledge. This heightened energy will enhance your confidence in sharing your thoughts and ideas. However, it's important to temper this enthusiasm with caution to avoid appearing too critical or making hasty decisions. Stay vigilant about the accuracy of the information you encounter, as appearances can sometimes be deceiving. Trust your intuition, but make sure to confirm your findings. Strive for a harmonious balance between exploring bold ideas and thoughtful analysis. Engage in open conversations, allowing your sharp intellect to uncover more profound insights.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week invites you to introspect and embrace transformation. A period of deep reflection is at hand, where you may find yourself revisiting previous decisions and their impacts on your life. This process offers a chance for significant personal renewal. You might find an increased clarity and conviction in facing these realities, helping you to let go of what no longer benefits you. This is an ideal time to foster personal growth and initiate a new beginning. Use this opportunity to re-evaluate your life's path and implement changes that genuinely represent your true self. Welcoming this phase of change can lead to a more genuine and rewarding future. Allow the insights from your experiences to guide you forward.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week heralds a period ripe for embracing new opportunities and embarking on bold ventures. The essence of adventure and spontaneity is in the air, inviting you to take steps forward in directions you've perhaps not considered before. There's an underlying force encouraging you to break free from routine and explore fresh horizons. It's an ideal time to initiate projects, explore new places, or set transformative personal objectives. Let go of any hesitations or perceived barriers that might be holding you back. This period calls for trusting the journey of exploration and being open to where it might lead. Embrace this phase with enthusiasm and a readiness to venture into the unknown, as the possibilities for growth and exhilarating experiences are particularly strong now.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Olive
Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, you may experience a sense of entrapment, driven by personal beliefs or external demands. You could perceive your options as being quite limited, feeling a heavy weight from ongoing challenges. It's crucial to recognize that these barriers are often more psychological than tangible. The key to overcoming them lies in challenging old habits or assumptions that constrain you. Take time to deeply consider what is truly restricting your progress and explore ways to adjust your outlook to uncover fresh opportunities. This period demands robust inner fortitude and adaptability. Don't hesitate to seek support when necessary, and keep in mind that true freedom begins with a shift in how you view your circumstances. Embrace the potential for change by actively addressing these mental obstacles.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Saffron
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week invites a time of deep reflection and emotional exploration. You may find yourself facing moments of uncertainty or confusion as certain aspects of your life that were previously obscured begin to surface. This period calls for a reliance on your inner guidance, urging you to look inward and trust your instincts, even when clarity seems distant. As you navigate through intricate emotions and perhaps discover underlying truths, patience becomes vital. It's important not to rush decisions based on transient emotions. Instead, focus intently on the gentle murmurs of your dreams and the nuanced signals from your subconscious, which abound with valuable insights. Embrace this journey of self-exploration, keeping an open mind and heart, and let your innate wisdom guide you through these introspective days.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, you may encounter a phase of contemplation and reconsideration. It's a period where progress could appear slow, encouraging you to see things from a fresh viewpoint. Embrace this pause as a chance for introspection and reassessment of your goals and priorities. During this time, you might feel the pressures of duties or encounter hurdles that challenge your usual pace. By setting aside strict expectations and opening yourself to new perceptions, you can uncover meaningful insights. Recognize that this temporary standstill is a preparatory stage, setting the groundwork for forthcoming advancements. Seize this moment to refine your understanding and patience, as you prepare for a transformative journey ahead. Remember, every pause is an opportunity for growth and personal evolution.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, your focus will intensify around personal connections and pivotal decisions. There's a heightened emphasis on unity, partnerships, and aligning with your fundamental values. You might notice your close relationships flourishing or becoming more profound, particularly those that align well with your deepest beliefs and desires. This period calls for choices to be made with affection and collective respect, covering both romantic ties and joint ventures. It's an opportune moment to fortify relationships or resolve any prevailing conflicts. Aim to align your actions with your loftiest ideals and be receptive to nurturing bonds that propel your personal development. Embrace chances for harmony and equilibrium, trusting that the guidance from your emotions will steer you rightly.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week marks a period of emotional rejuvenation and beginnings in personal connections. You're entering a phase where your feelings and potential for meaningful interactions intensify, promising a bounty of affection, empathy, and contentment. It's the perfect moment to deepen bonds, explore new relational or creative avenues, and embrace projects that satisfy your soul. This phase invites you to cultivate your emotional landscape and act on your heart's desires. Whether you're starting a new romantic chapter, enriching existing relationships, or pursuing artistic expressions, the time is ripe to open your heart. Allow yourself to both give and receive love in its myriad expressions, and tap into your natural reservoir of compassion and artistic spirit. Embrace this cycle of growth and connection.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Burgundy
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week invites you to reevaluate your foundations in both material and emotional aspects. You may find yourself reflecting on how well you secure what you deeply care about, as stability becomes a theme. This period is about reassessing how you manage what you possess and confronting any underlying anxieties about potential losses or shortages. While you generally lean towards embracing change, you might notice a tendency to hold tightly to certain elements of your life or resist shifts in your usual approach. It's a good time to find equilibrium between your innovative impulses and a grounded perspective. This will help you solidify your base, ensuring that you are well-prepared and confident as you plan for future endeavors.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Fuchsia
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week emphasizes stability, family, and long-term security, reflecting a period of completion and fulfillment in your life's tangible and emotional areas. You might find yourself contemplating your accomplishments and the legacy you're shaping. It's an opportune time to invest in your future or partake in activities that strengthen your home and familial connections. Expect highlights around financial or material advancements, signaling rewards for previous endeavors. Seize the chance to honor your achievements and those of your loved ones. This period encourages you to prioritize enduring security and happiness, underlining the significance of robust foundations and valued relationships. This supportive setting promotes development and strengthens relationships essential for your personal growth.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week heralds a period of dynamic energy and passionate pursuits. You will embody confidence and charisma, reflecting a time when you can harness your inner strength and creativity. This is an ideal moment to take charge with enthusiasm and determination. Embrace your leadership qualities and let your passion propel you toward your goals. This is a powerful time for initiating projects, asserting your vision, and inspiring those around you. Your magnetic presence will attract positive attention and support. Channel your energy effectively, and don't hesitate to step into the spotlight. Use your innate creativity and confidence to make significant strides in both personal and professional areas of your life. This week is about actively shaping your future with vigor and vision.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week may bring potential for discord or tension in your interactions. You could find yourself in situations that are emotionally taxing or lead to disagreements. These conflicts, while challenging, offer a chance to practice discernment in choosing which issues to engage with. Aim to resolve disagreements peacefully and steer clear of power struggles. It's a time to reflect on what is truly causing friction and explore constructive solutions to these problems. Emotional resilience and clear thinking are crucial during this period. By staying composed and opting to distance yourself from minor disputes, you will be able to maintain your inner peace and handle challenges gracefully. Cultivate patience and understanding to navigate through this period with ease.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Baby Pink
Lucky day Tuesday

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Shakti trinity deified as Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh

Persons with the Sata element prominently displayed, become aware of the fundamentals of life. Sata finds reflection as positive virtues – purity, righteousness, a positive attitude, and meaningful karma, free from any malice, obsession, and prejudices. They also understand the unity underlying all diverse existences, whereby all and sundry are essentially set into an inter-dependant relationship. Therefore, they value all on equal terms overriding all apparent difference. They, therefore, get along well with those around with ease. They, thus, remain at peace by the self and with the rest. They carry sense of love, are humane and compassionate. They remain live to their collective obligations even while pursuing their individualistic aspirations. Sata driven use other two dimensions of shakti trinity to their advantage. Using Tamasa, they take a pause to reflect, reason out, articulate well, before getting into action. So, invariably they make better choices in life. The Rajasa element being live, they too carry desires, but are invariably directed to serve meaningful purposes.

They don't employ it purely with an utterly selfish motive. Their thought process being easy, simple, and free from clutter, could use their mind power optimally. Consequently, they see things in wider perspective to pick up the most appropriate lead. They are better focused also, and therefore have relatively higher success rating. Well, since human beings are born with a sense of 'want', a being's conduct is motivated and driven by desire. That, in turn brings in a sense of craving, possessiveness and attachment, which remains the prerogative of Rajasa. The indwelling sense of desire makes one dream, and which motivates a being blindly chase their desired destination. They ordinarily shun Tamasa, and so when faced with challenges, get unnerved. And that they are susceptible to get drawn towards varied tempting influences of the seeming world, they have a scattered brain. That makes it difficult for them to remain contented, and would therefore, never be at peace. Because of its veiling nature, the essentials of life remain clouded in Tamasa driven people. They can't



visualise things in larger perspective, as they have self-centric narrowed vision. Out of ignorance, such people are often not sure what they should look for in life and therefore, are usually found to be directionless. They are restless by nature, which induces a sense of inertia,

indolence, ignorance, and more often a negative mind-set. To such people, the indwelling Rajasa element keeps the desire element alive. But at the same time, they are not keen to take pains to pursue their desires in right earnest. So, invariably they are left behind in the

run of life. Their sense of want, however, makes it difficult for them to digest the riches available with others either. That in turn, breeds in a sense of jealousy and hatred towards the achievers. This way, particular mix of the three in a being, with one or the other prominently displayed, defines the unique character of each being. To sum up, Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa, begin their course as three dimensions of creative intelligences, whose imprints stretch on to even the last point in the evolutionary chain. For, their psychological imperatives very much find reflection in the personality frame up of manifest beings, especially in terms of one's thought trends on ground. That makes continuum between the primal source and manifest being, evident. The spoken primal word 'Om' has in its store sound trinity designated by the three letters 'A', 'U', and 'M'. All sound syllables in active use are believed to have evolved out of these three root sounds. 'Om', thus, has in its womb the seeds of all letters with their related sounds. The three letters are

respectively marked with Rajasa, Sata, and Tamasa. The first two letters – 'A' and 'U' – apparently coalesce into 'O' in dicta-lingua. The three are also respectively identified with waking, dreaming, and dreamless sleep state of a being in day-to-day life. Waking state is evidently identified with Rajasa, as it involves action. Dream state is marked with Sata, for it involves simply working on an idea either real or assumed, in the inner realm of mind, which evidently can't be seen in real terms. Tamasa is that restful state of mind devoid of any creative thoughts. Ancient India's seers, realising the relevance of the three creative intelligences – Rajasa, Sata, and Tamasa – deified them respectively through the symbolism of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh. The concept of God-trinity, thus, is nothing but Energy concept of creation deified.

Concluding the discussion on Om, goodbye pioneer readers.

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AP ■ LONDON

Zirkzee scores on debut for Man United in 1-0 win over Fulham on opening night of Premier League

Joshua Zirkzee marked his debut for Manchester United by coming off the bench and scoring an 87th-minute goal to give his team a 1-0 victory over Fulham on the opening night of the Premier League season on Friday. The Netherlands striker poked out his left foot to guide home a cross by fellow substitute Alejandro Garnacho at Old Trafford. Zirkzee, who joined from Bologna for a reported \$47 million last month, was one of three off-season signings to make their first appearances for United, along with defenders Noussair Mazraoui and Matthijs de Ligt. "To win here in my first home game, and to grab a goal, it couldn't be better," Zirkzee said. Zirkzee, Mazraoui and De Ligt

have arrived as part of a \$180 million spending spree by the record 20-time champions, a club under new leadership and looking to return to its former glories. Erik ten Hag was retained as manager despite guiding United to an eighth-place finish last season and this was a solid, if unspectacular, start to the campaign by his team. "It's just the first game, but it's good to strengthen the belief and confidence in the team," Ten Hag said. "I have seen the places where we need to improve. But that's normal in the first game of the season." With Zirkzee not fully match



sharp and Rasmus Hojlund injured, United started the season without an out-and-out striker on the field and it showed, with midfielders Bruno Fernandes and Mason Mount wasting the best opportunities in a game that was petering out before Zirkzee's late intervention. Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno came to his team's rescue, saving twice at the feet of Fernandes in one-on-one chances then getting down sharply to deny Mount from close range in the second half. Leno had no chance with Zirkzee's shot in front of the Stretford End, however, and Garnacho

squandered a great chance to make it 2-0 in stoppage time when he dragged a shot wide in front of an empty goal. "That's the only criticism I have of the team," Ten Hag said. "To kill. Kill in the box." Mazraoui played 81 minutes at right back - and was one of United's better players, along with Casemiro - before being replaced by De Ligt, three days after they both joined from Bayern Munich. Zirkzee entered in the 61st. On Saturday, there are six more games in the league's first round, including Liverpool - under a new manager in Arne Slot - at promoted Ipswich and Arsenal - the runner-up in the last two seasons - hosting Wolverhampton. Reigning champion Manchester City begins its title defense at Chelsea on Sunday.

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की सभी देश व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की सभी देश व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



चंदन दुबे, डायरेक्टर

मे. सिया एगो इंडस्ट्रीज (राइस मिल) महुअट, लालगंज, मीरजापुर

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राम बाबू गुप्त

मुन्ना मेटल रिफाइनरी, पक्की सराय, मीरजापुर

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आदर्श भारतीय बालिका इंटर कालेज गणेशगंज मीरजापुर

सुचित नाथ पांडेय-प्रधानाचार्य

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शैलेंद्र यादव 'बिड़ू' ब्लाक अध्यक्ष प्रधान सघ कोन मीरजापुर

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घनश्याम साहू, सदस्य प्रदेश कार्यसमिति समाजवादी व्यापार सभा

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विनोद कुमार केशरवानी, थोक गल्ला व्यवसायी, अनगढ़ महावीर मार्ग मीरजापुर

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जितेंद्र सिंह, खान अधिकारी मीरजापुर

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अन्नपूर्णा एगो इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, बरौधा सदर मीरजापुर & मां अन्नपूर्णा एगो रिफायनरी पगार लालगंज मीरजापुर

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श्री ज्ञानानन्द इण्टर कालेज, पड़री, मीरजापुर



अमरेश मिश्रा अध्यक्ष, अजय ओझा प्रबन्धक, जान्हवी प्रकाश प्रधानाचार्य

उपाध्यक्ष :- अवधेश दूबे, कोषाध्यक्ष :- रमेश शुक्ला, उप प्रबन्धक :- ज्ञान प्रकाश दूबे, कार्यकारिणी सदस्य :- निर्भय दूबे, कोमल, संतोष, रघुराज, सुरेश आदि

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की सभी देश व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



आशीष पटेल

मंत्री प्राविधिक शिक्षा, बांट माप, उपभोक्ता मामले

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