**OPINION 6** 

Late City Vol.160 Issue 224



#### **WORLD 9** ISRAEL STRIKES GAZA AS BLINKEN

ARRIVES FOR CEASEFIRE TALKS

**MONEY 10** STOCK MARKETS TO TAKE CUES FROM GLOBAL TRENDS: ANALYSTS

LUCKNOW, MONDAY AUGUST 19, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 Established 1864 the pioneer

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## SC takes cognisance of Kolkata rape horror

RAJESH KUMAR/SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has taken suo-motu suo-motu cognisance of the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The case is set to be heard by a bench led by Chief Justice of a bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud on Tuesday. According to the cause list for August 20, uploaded on the

apex court's website, a bench headed by CJI Chandrachud is scheduled to hear a matter titled 'In Re: Alleged rape and murder incident of a trainee doctor in RG Kar Medical Hospital, College and Kolkata, and related issues. Supreme Court's intervention comes in the wake of mounting public pressure and allegations of mishandling authorities.

Earlier two lawyers practising in the Supreme Court — Ujjawal Gaur and Rohit Pandey, penned a letter to the CJI on Thursday, urging him to take immediate action in the case.

In their letter, the advocates emphasised the urgent need for the highest court in the country to step in, given the gravity and seriousness of the incident.

"The nation looks to the judiciary as the ultimate guardian of justice, the last refuge for those whose cries us to act, to ensure that no



Members of various Resident Doctors' Associations protest during a candle march against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, at Connaught Place, in New Delhi, on Sunday Ranjan Dimri

been silenced by have

brutality. 'The victim in this case, a young doctor whose life was dedicated to serving others, deserves nothing less than the full measure of justice that our legal system can provide. Her death must not be in vain, it must galvanise

other woman suffers such a fate," stated the letter.

The time has come for the judiciary to send a clear and resounding message that such heinous crimes will not be tolerated, that the sanctity of life and the dignity of women must be fiercely protected by the full might of the law," it

The Calcutta High Court recently transferred the probe from the Kolkata Police to the

The case has raised serious concerns about the safety of medical professionals in India, particularly women, who are often left vulnerable in their workplaces.

Continued on Page 8

### CBI closes in on crucial evidence in murder case

The call detail records of Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, along with the personal diary of the slain lady doctor, could hold crucial clues to unraveling the mystery behind her rape and murder. according rape and murder, according to some Central Bureau of Investigation officials.

During his interrogation, Ghosh has not been forthcoming about his phone call activities before and after the murder, prompting the CBI to seek the details from service providers, sources said.

Ghosh, who has already been grilled by the CBI for more than 28 hours over two consecutive days, also failed to provide explanations for the torn pages from the victim's which were previously recovered by the

police. The victim's family members have expressed their suspicions about certain individuals, noting that she had mentioned her

reluctance to perform night shifts at the hospital.

summoned several security staff members and a subaltern police officer for questioning. However, investigators have yet to determine why hospital delayed authorities informing the police by two hours after discovering the body or why students and staff were instructed not to go to the third floor, where the seminar room — and the victim's body — was found early on the morning

of August 9. The officials also have asked the former principal of the college as to why the common wall between the bathroom and the seminar hall was pulled down after the incident and why the washbasins and such other things were replaced in a

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Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren speaks with the media upon his arrival at Delhi airport on Sunday

#### All does not seem well with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

**NEW DELHI** 

All is not well within the Jharkhand Mukti Mukti Morcha (JMM) as the state approaches its upcoming Assembly polls. Senior JMM leader and former Chief Minister Champai Soren, popularly known as the "Jharkhand Tiger," has sparked speculation about his possible defection to the BJP.

Adding fuel to the rumours, Soren recently removed JMM's name from his X (formerly Twitter) profile and said he is considering three options: retiring from politics, starting a new party, or joining another party. Notably, his X profile now only describes him as the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, with no reference to the JMM. This development comes less than two months after Soren

handed over the reins of Jharkhand to his successor, Hemant Soren.

In a strong indication that he may quit the party, Champai penned an emotional letter on X detailing the "insults and contempt" he has had to bear recently at the hands of his own partymen that eventually forced him to look for an "alternative path". "After so much insult and contempt, I was forced to look for an alternative path," he said.

"With a heavy heart, I said in the same meeting of the legislative party that - "A new chapter of my life is going to start from today." I had three options: First, to retire from politics, second, to form my own separate organisation and third, if I find a companion on this path, then to travel further with him," Champai wrote on his social media post.

Continued on Page 8



### **10 killed, 27** hurt in UP road tragedy

Ten people were killed and 27 injured when a pickup van collided head-on with a private bus in the Salempur area here on Sunday, officials said.
The accident occurred on

the Budaun-Meerut State highway, around 14 kilometres from the district headquarters. The traffic on the road was briefly affected due to the incident.

According to locals, the pickup van was coming from Ghaziabad when it collided with the bus.

"Ten people were killed and 27 were injured in the accident. The injured have been sent to different hospitals," District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh told reporters.

The deceased identified as Mukut Singh (45), Deen Nath (45), Brijesh (18), Babu Singh (19), Shishupal (27), Girraj Singh (26), Sugarpal (35) and Omkar (30). Two of the deceased are yet to be identified, he said. Nine of the injured are

undergoing treatment at a private hospital. The condition of four of the injured was serious and they were referred to the Meerut Medical College.

#### **HOLIDAY NOTICE**

The offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on Monday, August 19, 2024 on account of **Rakshabandhan**. The next edition of the newspaper will appear on Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

### Bitter Football Foes of Bengal unite against rape horror

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Aday after the Kolkata Police cancelled the highly anticipated Derby Match between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal FC — citing a shortage of manpower and about disturbances due to ongoing protests over the doctor's rape and murder — more than 10,000 supporters from the three clubs took to the street of Kolkata to demand justice. unity This unprecedented, as for years, the fans of Mohun Bagan Club, East Bengal Club, and

Mohammedan Sporting Club have been fierce rivals in Kolkata's football scene.



and even fatalities due to their intense rivalries, found common ground in their shared call for justice for the slain doctor.

The fans, defying prohibitory orders under Section 163 These three century-old giants, whose supporters have a long history of street clashes

Gramerly Section 144, CrPC) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, gathered at

the iconic Salt Lake Stadium to voice their outrage over the brutal crime.

The victim's semi-nude body had been found inside the hospital on the morning of August 9. Dramatic scenes unfolded in front of the where police stadium, struggled to disperse the

charges as the supporters chanted, "Lobster and Hilsa unite at the death of our own

football fans, resorting to lathi

The chant symbolised the unlikely unity between Mohun Bagan supporters Lobster. associated with western Bengal) and East Bengal supporters (represented by Hilsa, symbolising those who migrated from East Bengal), highlighting the cultural divide that the tragedy

bridged. Mohun Bagan, known as the National Club of India, was founded on August 15, 1889. Mohammedan Sporting Club followed in 1891, and East Bengal Club was established in 1920.

Continued on Page 8

### **Child Rights head red flags radical curriculum of Bihar madrasas**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

National Commission for Protection of Child Privank Kanoongo Sunday expressed concerns over the "radical" curriculum being taught in Governmentfunded madrasas in Bihar and the enrollment of Hindu children in such institutions. Also, he questioned the involvement of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in designing this curriculum, calling it the "height of appeasement" by both UNICEF and the Bihar

Madrasa Board. Kanoongo urged the United Nations to investigate these activities and called for the dissolution of the Madrasa Board. In a recent post on the microblogging

platform X, he highlighted that textbooks like Talimul Islam used in these madrasas label non-Islamic individuals as "kafir" (infidels). He noted with alarm that

Hindu children are reportedly enrolled in these madrasas, though the Bihar Government has yet to provide official figures. Regarding the transfer of



Hindu children from madrasas to regular schools, Kanoongo said the Bihar Madrasa Board claimed the curriculum

prepared by UNICEF India. In his post, Kanoongo criticised UNICEF, stating, "It is not UNICEF's job to create a radical curriculum using money received as donations grants and grants from governments, under the guise of child protection." A response from UNICEF on this matter is still awaited.

Kanoongo also revealed that

published in Pakistan and that research on their content is ongoing. He said, "A madrasa is not a place for basic education of children in any form; children should study in regular schools, and Hindu children should not be in madrasas at all." Kanoongo emphasised that

the use of funds for activities beyond the scope of the Right to Education (RTE) Act violates both the Indian Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). He demanded that the United Nations and its agencies in India conduct many of the textbooks used in these madrasas are a thorough investigation into these activities.

#### statement, the CCPA said pictures and names of same because of the violation of successful candidates to the Consumer Protection influence Act, 2019, the CCPA, headed aspirants The Central Consumer prospective

Sriram's IAS coaching centre penalised



PNS NEW DELHI

Authority **▲** Protection (CCPA) has imposed ₹3 lakh penalty on coaching institute Sriram's IAS for publishing misleading advertisements and violating consumer against Sriram's IAS for rights.

misleading advertisement was related to

by Chief Commissioner, Nidhi Khare and misleading advertisement regarding UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022.

its claims regarding UPSC Coaching institutes and Civil Service Exam 2022. In a online edtech platforms use Coaching institutes and on Sriram's IAS".

(consumers), by Chief Commissioner, without disclosing the Nidhi Khare, and courses opted by such Commissioner, Anupam candidates and length of the Mishra, has issued an order course so attended. According to an official statement, the CCPA has

imposed a "penalty of ₹3 lakh for misleading advertisement

Continued on Page 8

### This Rakhi, markets to cross all bandhan with record sales

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

As people prepare to celebrate Raksha Bandhan on Monday, sales across the country are expected to surpass ₹12,000 crore, marking a ₹2,000 crore increase from last year.

This year, Rakhi sales are expected to generate over ₹12,000 crore in revenue nationwide, with markets experiencing a surge in demand for "Made in India" Rakhis.

Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) national general secretary and Chandni Chowk BJP MP, Praveen Khandelwal, said the demand for Rakhis has surged in recent days, with sales setting new records in 2023.

"It is expected that this year, the business during the Rakhi festival will reach ₹12,000 crore, compared to last year's trade of approximately ₹10,000 crore. In 2022, the business was around ₹7,000 crore, in 2021 it was ₹6,000 crore, in 2020 it was ₹5,000 crore, in 2019 it was ₹3,500 crore, and in 2018 it was ₹3,000 crore," he said.

Buyers who previously purchased cheaper Chinese Rakhis are now turning to local made Rakhis. These include Khadi Rakhis from Nagpur, Sanganeri Art Rakhis from Jaipur, Seed Rakhis from Pune, Woolen Rakhis from Satna in Madhya Pradesh, Bamboo Rakhis made from tribal materials, Tea Leaf Rakhis from Assam, Jute Rakhis from Kolkata, Silk Rakhis from Mumbai, Date Rakhis from Kerala, Pearl Rakhis from Kanpur, Madhubani and Maithili Art Rakhis from Bihar, Soft Stone Rakhis from Pondicherry, and Flower Rakhis

Bhartia said a unique aspect of this vear's festival is the wide variety of

Rakhis made from famous products of various cities across the country. from Bangalore.

CAIT's national president BC

Additionally, there is a high selling well in the market.

Additionally, there is a high selling well in the market.

He said from Raksha Bandhan on

national pride, such as Tricolour Rakhis, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Rakhis, and Bharat Mata Rakhis. Designer and silver Rakhis are also

concludes with Tulsi Vivah on November 15, festive sales in the country's markets are expected to surpass ₹4 lakh crore, predominantly through the sale of Indian-origin goods.
This festive series begins with

August 19 until the festival period

Raksha Bandhan and continues through Janmashtami, the 10-day Ganesh Utsav, Navratri, Durga Puja, Dussehra, Karva Chauth, Dhanteras, Diwali, Govardhan Puja, Bhai Dooj, Chhath Puja, and other festivals, culminating with Tulsi Vivah. During this time, the business community is fully prepared to meet consumer demands, with traders across all States stocking up adequately on Indian products.

For the past four years, CAIT has successfully promoted a campaign encouraging the purchase of Indian goods, especially during festivals. While Chinese products used to dominate the market due to their lower prices, indigenous Rakhis have been the sole focus for several years. This year, too, there was neither demand for nor presence of Chinese Rakhis in the market. The chairman of CAIT's Vedic

products and the boycott of Chinese

Committee and Vedic scholar from Ujjain, Acharya Durgesh Tare, said on August 19, there is a 'Bhadra' period lasting until 1:30 pm, during which no auspicious activities should be performed. As a result, the sacred festival of Raksha Bandhan will be celebrated across the country starting from 1:31 pm onwards. CAIT has issued this advisory to all trader organisations across the country, recommending that all traders celebrate Raksha Bandhan during the auspicious time.

### **Trader shoots self at** second wife's house

PNS LUCKNOW

A trader from Bihar who was into the sand business died from gunshot injuries at his second wife's house in Gomti Nagar Extension on Sunday. Identified as Satish Soni from Champaran (Bihar), he allegedly shot himself at his second wife's residence near Avadhpuri

crossing.
According to Deputy
Commissioner of Police, East,
Shashank Singh, Satish Soni
took his own life at the home of his second wife following a marital dispute.

Satish had gone to his second wife's house for some work. Upon receiving the information, police reached the scene and sent the body for autopsy. Reports said that Satish had been involved in a dispute with his second wife.

Before the incident, he pleaded with his second wife's mother to allow him to see his wife Shalu one last time. After being

shalu one last time. After being allowed entry, Satish reportedly took out a pistol and shot himself around 12:30 pm. Satish, who lived in Sushant Golf City area of Lucknow and had a 4-year-old daughter with his second wife, was found dead outside Shalu's residence. After the incident, Shalu was seen crying and pleading with police.

During their investigation, the police came to know that Shalus phone had been switched off since morning and the door to her home was closed when Satish arrived. Satish's mother-in-law was at

home and allowed him inside before the shooting took place. The police also called in a forensic team, which recovered a pistol and seized several other items from the scene.

Satish's elder sister Sangeeta alleged that Shalu frequently demanded money from Satish and threatened him with dire consequences if he did not comply. Sangeeta claimed that

### BPharma student found hanging in hotel room

ABPharma student named Sachin Yadav was found hanging in a room at Hotel Comfort Zone in Naka on Saturday. Sachin, who had checked into the hotel with a girl earlier in the day, was found hanging from a ceiling fan. The police sent the body for autopsy and questioned the girl who was with him. Sachin Yadav (20), was a sec-

ond-year BPharma student at Maharishi University on IIM Road. He was originally from Pachkhoda in Azamgarh and was staying at his uncle's house in Lucknow's Takrohi area.

On Saturday morning, Sachin and the girl reached the hotel in Paan Dariba area and checked into room number 305 around 10:30 am. Sachin did not leave the room

throughout the morning. Around 1:30 pm, the woman came out from the room, visibly distressed, and alerted the hotel staff, claiming that Sachin had hanged himself.

The hotel staff entered the room and found Sachin hanging from the ceiling fan. They immediately informed the

police. The police reached the scene and sent Sachin to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Sachin's father Surendra

this financial pressure led to Satish's distress and he ultimately took his own life. DCP (East) Shashank Singh confirmed that Satish was taken to RML hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The police said that further investigation is ongoing. His first wife resides in Champaran,

being informed, also

alleged that the traffic person-

When Pintu started recording

the incident on his phone, a

constable allegedly seized his mobile phone and called his

colleagues, who allegedly beat him. In response, the traffic

personnel accused the travel

agents of assaulting them and

tearing their uniforms. Both

parties have filed complaints

against each other.
Meanwhile, DCP (Traffic)

Salman Taj Patil suspended traffic sub-inspector (TSI) Rajesh Kumar Mishra and

constables Rohit Gujjar and

Ankit, and ordered a depart-

mental inquiry into the inci-

Pintu, the manager of Mithila Travels, reported that the inci-

dent occurred late at night

when their double-decker bus

was travelling from Delhi to

Bihar. At the Agra Expressway

'Zero Point', traffic personnel allegedly demanded Rs 4,000

for allowing the bus to enter

When the driver, Tamanna,

sought to speak with the man-

ager, constables Rohit and

Ankit allegedly dragged him out of the bus, beat him, and

Upon learning of the situation, Pintu arrived at the scene with

friends Pawan and Sanjay. The

traffic personnel allegedly con-

tinued to misbehave, and when

Pintu and his friends protest-

ed and recorded videos, the

officers became furious and

The traffic personnel alleged-ly called additional colleagues

and forcibly took Pintu in their vehicle towards Tikonia

crossing. When Pintu's friend

Sanjay realised they were not

heading to the Para police sta-

tion, he informed Pintu's

Eventually, Pintu was taken to

In a counterclaim, the traffic

personnel alleged that they

issued a challan to the bus dri-

ver, they were assaulted by the

travel agents and obstructed in

DCP (West) Omvir Singh has

assigned the investigation to

brother and the bus owner.

the Para police station.

their duties.

the Kakori ACP.

started assaulting Pintu.

the city.

issued a challan.

nel misbehaved with him.

Yadav, a primary school teacher in Azamgarh, and his brother Vipin requested a thorough investigation into the

The girl, who is said to be a friend of Sachin's and a resident of Lucknow, was questioned by the police. She said that she was in the

bathroom when Sachin hanged himself and that she came to know about it when she came out. According to Naka police, no

suicide note was found in the room. Sachin's family was informed through a mobile phone found near his body. Meanwhile, a youth was found Meanwhile, a youth was tound hanging from a tree in a mango orchard in Para police early Sunday morning. Villagers spotted the body and informed police. The cops reached the scene and identified the deceased as Manish Gautam (30), who was a resident of New Kanshiram Colony under Para police station limits. The bereaved father told the police that his son was found hanging from a tree. "No injury marks were found on the body, which has been sent for autopsy," the police said, adding the deceased worked as a labourer. His family informed the police that he got divorced from his wife

Bihar. Late on Sunday night, the police shared details of the investigation with the media. A spokesman said the police scanned CCTV footage and came to know that Soni shot himself with his licenced pistol. A suicide note was also found and its content was being inves-

three years back.

### Siblings to plant trees to mark Raksha Bandhan

In collaboration with the Forest department, a special plantation drive will take place, symbolising the bond between brothers and sisters while also promoting environmental conservation, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan on Monday. As part of the 'Ped Lagao-Ped Bachao Jan Abhiyan-2024', siblings will participate in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign

by planting saplings at the Heritage Tree Garden in Kukrail on Monday.
The Forest department has actively engaged many brothers and sisters to partake in this event. In addition to planting, participants will also take a pledge to nurture the saplings into full-grown trees, symbolically tying a 'raksha sutra' to

"This initiative, aimed at expanding the state's green cover, will not only take place in Lucknow but will also be

implemented across various forest divisions. The event invites the general public to contribute by planting their own saplings, further solidify-ing the state's commitment to environmental protection under CM Yogi's leadership," a government spokesperson

DFO, Lucknow, Sitashu Pandey said preparations were underway and approximately 200 brothers and sisters had been asked to participate in the event. They will plant trees in the Heritage Tree Garden, alongside officers and employ-ees of the Forest department. The Forest department is collaborating with social and cul-tural organisations to ensure the success of this initiative. "Just as sisters tie rakhi to their brothers for protection, this plantation drive will serve as a symbolic gift to nature, ensuring the protection and growth of these saplings," the spokesperson said.



A makeshift rakhi shop in Lucknow witnessing brisk sales on the eve of Rakshabandhar

### Advocate robbed of cash, gold chain

In a brazen daylight incident, six youths allegedly robbed an advocate of Rs 50,000 in cash and a gold chain in Hazratganj. The victim, Dilip Kumar, said the incident occurred on Saturday morning when he was heading to ing when he was heading to

He alleged that the six attackers, riding on three motorcy-cles, surrounded him near the Tulsi police post, assaulted him, and robbed him of his belongings. Kumar said the miscreants first snatched his gold chain and then robbed him of the cash he had.

"The attackers surrounded me in front of the Tulsi police post and committed the robbery," Kumar alleged. He added that they fled when onlookers started to gather. However, police refuted Kumar's claims, suggesting that the incident was a result of a road rage altercation. The police said that the complainant's vehicle had collided

with a motorcycle belonging

to the accused and that the

case should be considered

under minor road rage sec-The police also said that they were reviewing CCTV footage to verify the incident.

Kumar expressed frustration, alleging that the police doubted his account and did not take adequate action. He pointed out that the incident was captured on CCTV and that he had noted down the registration number of one of the attackers' vehicles.

Inspector Vikram Singh said that the police were searching for the suspects with the help of CCTV footage and were investigating the case further.

### SGPGI will be developed along lines of AIIMS, says Pathak

Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Brajesh Pathak announced that SGPGI would be developed along the lines of AIIMS, with new departments expected to open soon. Speaking at a review meeting of the Health department in the speaking at a review meeting of the Health department in the Annexe Auditorium, Pathak emphasised the state govern-ment's commitment to provid-ing high-quality health ser-vices to every resident of Uttar Pradesh, noting significant progress in this area.

Pathak, who is also the deputy CM, urged that departmental review meetings be held locally in other districts to address any identified deficiencies promptly.

During the meeting, he also reviewed the performance of the Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, the State

PATHAK EMPHASISED THE STATE **GOVERNMENT'S** COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES TO EVERY RESIDENT OF UTTAR PRADESH, NOTING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

Innovations in Family Planning Services Project Agency, Sanchis, and Uttar Pradesh State Medical Facility. He commended Mission Niramaya for its effective work, highlighting Uttar Pradesh's robust AIDS testing and treatment system.

IN THIS AREA

Pathak advocated for investigation campaigns to be conducted with the same urgency as missions to ensure no patient is overlooked.

He stressed that all government schemes must directly benefit the common man and reassured that there is no shortage of medicines in hospitals. He also noted that Uttar Pradesh is unique in paying doctors up to Rs 5 lakh in salary.
Pathak instructed that the

number of beds at SGPGI be increased and emphasised that no patient should leave the hospital without receiving treatment. Minister of State Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh, Principal Secretary (Health and Medical Education) Partha Sarathi Sen Sharma, SGPGI director Prof RK Dhiman, and other officials were present in the meeting.

### Bus driver beaten by traffic cops for refusing 'entry fee'

Ahas filed a complaint against the traffic police at Para police station, alleging that he was assaulted after refusing to pay entry fee.

pay entry fee.
According to the complaint, the incident took place at the 'Zero Point' on Agra Expressway in Lucknow. The bus driver alleged that traffic police officers physically assaulted him when he refused to pay the entry fee. Travel agency manager Pintu



#### **NOTICE**

My daughter Rashi Mishra's mother name in the school document is Shrimati Arti Mishra which is wrong. My daughter's mother Correct name is Shrimati Arti Pandey. Arti Pandey W/O Rishi kumar resident B-9 para Road Ram Vihar Colony Rajajipuram Lucknow.

#### **NOTICE**

I, Sangram Singh S/O Prem Prakash Singh misplaced my allotment letter and old registry papers registered in my name on address LIG 143 Sector G Jankipuram Lucknow along with document bag while travelling from Lucknow to Sitapur .An FIR has also been registered for these missing documents. If found please contact on 9415525241.

#### NOTICE

This is to inform that I have severed relations with my son Anand Kumar Gautam and his wife Uma Devi due to their misdeeds and misbehavior and have dispossessed them of all my movable and immovable property for any misdeeds of theirs in future. He himself will be responsible and I and my family will have nothing to do with him. Vijay Kumar, S/o Late Thakur Prasad, R/o 273/28/1 Chamaran Kheda, Lucknow.

#### 'RLD committed to protecting honour of farmers'

Lucknow (PNS): Rashtriya Lok Dal national spokesperson Anil Dubey said that the party was committed to protecting the honour and self-respect of Singh, who reached the scene | farmers and ensuring that they get a fair price for their produc and power supply for irrigation.
"RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary
has allied with National Democratic Alliance to ensure the prosperity and happiness of the farmers of Uttar Pradesh," he said.

Calling INDIA bloc as antifarmer, Dubey said that the leaders of opposition alliance use farmers to serve their vest-ed interest. "They want the farmers to keep protesting on the streets for them and struggle throughout their life," he said. "The Rashtriya Lok Dal national president Jayant Chaudhary is engaged in making the farmers self-reliant. On August 1, Javant met UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and talked about the ways which would bring farmers' welfare and prosperity. The meaningful results of the meeting would come out soon," he said. Dubey was on a tour of Patasa village in Nigohan, Lucknow on Sunday and interacted with the farmers.

The RLD has launched a campaign to strengthen the party in the east, central and Bundelkhand regions and Dubey is leading the campaign from the front.

On this occasion a Kisan Samvad was organised in which a large number of farmers participated. The Kisan

### **Priest murdered in Bahraich temple**

PNS LUCKNOW

A priest was brutally murdered in Panditpurwa village under Raniapur police station of Bahraich district late Saturday night.

The killing took place when the around midnight. priest was sleeping at the Dhelha Samay Mata temple. The police are investigating the case following a complaint from the priest's wife.

Reports said that Tejram (45) of Panditpurwa village in Gobarha panchayat had been serving as the temple priest at Dhelha for about 20 to 25 years. His wife, Ramavati, reported that on Saturday night, Ram Chandra Chauhan from Harrajpur attacked Tejram with an iron rod while he was sleeping.

The critically injured priest was initially referred from the community health centre to the district hospital in serious condition but was later referred to Lucknow. Unfortunately, he died on the way to Lucknow

Yaday confirmed that the accused had been arrested. The body was sent for post-

mortem and the investigation is ongoing. Ramavati informed the police that there had been a dispute between her husband and the accused three to four days back.

Meanwhile, police in Sultanpur district arrested two of the accused involved in the sensational killing of Jal Nigam executive engineer Santosh

The accused, identified as assistant engineer Amit Kumar and his associate Pradeep, were arrested in a late night encounter on Saturday.

The local police reported that both suspects are from Madhubani, Bihar. Santosh Station House Officer Rajman Kumar, a native of Ratssad Kala in Ballia, was found dead in a rented house in Binowapuri, Kotwali Nagar, on Saturday morning. The body was discovered with hands and feet bound and tape over the mouth. Following a complaint by Santosh's brother, Sanjay Kumar, a case was registered naming assistant engineer Amit Kumar and an

unidentified associate. The additional police superintendent confirmed that Santosh Kumar's murder was commit-

Lucknow (PNS): Raman

Mishra, a social worker from

Deep Nagar in Alambagh filed a complaint at the Manak Nagar

police station, raising concern over posters containing false information intended to incite

În his complaint, Mishra stated

that he is dedicated to promot-

ing unity, integrity, and awareness across the country. He

alleged that Uttar Pradesh Youth Congress leader Thakur Nitant

Singh had put up posters at the multi-storey residence of an

MLA, which included false

statements attributed to two

public sentiment.

FIR registered over

'objectionable' posters

ted by his own department's contractual assistant engineer Amit and another individual named Pradeep.
A case has been registered

under various sections, including sections 103/351(2)/351(3) of the BNS and 3(2)(V) of the SC/ST Act.

Police teams arrest the suspects. Late at night, it was reported that Amit and Pradeep were attempting to flee to Bihar via Banaras road. The police set up a road block and when the suspects approached, they opened fire. In response, the police fired back in self-defense.

Both Amit Kumar from Madhubani and Pradeep from Sasaram were injured and were immediately taken to the district hospital.

Vallabhbhai Patel. The posters, Mishra claimed, featured these

leaders' photos alongside inac-

curate and inflammatory state-

ments. Mishra argued that the

false content in the posters was

likely to hurt public sentiments

and could potentially lead to

He emphasised the significant

contributions of Bharat Ratna

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and

Sarsanghchalak Madhav Sadashiv Rao Golwalkar in

uniting India and the Hindu

community. Mishra said Singh's

actions were aimed at gaining popularity through social media

societal unrest.

#### JM Park survey to address its upkeep begins today Lucknow (PNS): A five-day

survey of the 376-acre Janeshwar Mishra Park will commence on Monday. The aim is to create a detailed layout plan of the park, as the Lucknow Development Authority currently lacks comprehensive records of its dimensions and existing facilities.

Aside from the artificial lake and sports academy, there is no documented information about other amenities in the park. LDA Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar said on Sunday that a five-member team had been formed to conduct the survey and submit the findings by August 24. Since the park's inception in

2016, approximately Rs 800 crore has been invested in its development. The VC emphasised that the LDA must ensure the park's upkeep and safeguard it against encroachments. Alongside LDA Secretary

Vivek Srivastava, the VC conducted an inspection to evaluate the park's current condition and assess the financial requirements for its maintenance. There are discussions about

privatising the park at an estimated cost of Rs 17,000 crore, although there is no official word on it. The VC avoided commenting on the privatisation plan, focusing instead on the need for improved maintenance. To enhance maintenance, there are suggestions to allocate a significant portion of the park to a developer who could plan housing schemes and commercial establishments.

# Vehicles wading through a waterlogged road in Ashiyana following a spell of

#### Samvad was organised at Jagdish Prasad Memorial Inter by distorting the legacy of these figures. An FIR was registered esteemed national figures: Sadashiv Rao Golwalkar and in this regard. CST scientists synthesise silver nanoparticles using Nagchampa

SHARMILA KRISHNA

Scientists from the Council of Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh, have achieved a significant breakthrough by synthesising silver nanoparticles using the flowers and leaves of Plumeria pudica, commonly known as

Nagchampa. This research was led by joint director (research) Dr Rajesh Kumar Gangwar, and scientific officer Sumit Kumar

Srivastava explained that the synthesis of silver nanoparticles involved converting silver nitrate (AgNO3) into nanoparticles using extracts from the flowers and leaves of the Nagchampa plant, which is frequently found in Indian gardens.

According to Srivastava, the extracts from Nagchampa flowers and leaves serve as both a reducing agent and a capping agent. This dual function results in the formation of nearly spherical silver nanoparticles with sizes rang-

ing between 12 and 19 nanometers.

"An important aspect of this research was evaluating the anti-cancer potential of these silver nanoparticles. The findings indicate that the silver nanoparticles derived from Plumeria pudica flowers and leaves exhibit significant anticancer properties. To further substantiate these results, the research team collaborated with Prof Monisha Banerjee from Lucknow University. Prof Banerjee confirmed that the environment-friendly silver

nanoparticles created from Plumeria pudica could potentially be used in the chemotherapy of lung cancer," Srivastava said.

The research has been documented and published in esteemed scientific journals, including the 'Journal of Experimental Nano Sciences' 'Materials Today:

Proceedings'. Dr Gangwar emphasised the relevance of green nanotechnology in today's scientific landscape. He noted that researchers are continuously

exploring ways to develop environment-friendly metal nanoparticles. "These advancements are crucial for various applications, including cancer treatments, drug delivery systems, bioimaging, antibacterial therapies, and the manufacturing of solar cells," he said. We are committed to supporting research projects across dif-ferent institutions and are also advancing our own studies in

this area," he added. Srivastava elaborated that the experiments were conducted using Plumeria pudica plants

grown within the Planetarium premises. He clarified that while

Plumeria flowers and Plumeria pudica flowers are often confused, they can be distinguished by their leaves.

The leaves of Plumeria pudica are notably spoon-shaped or snake-shaped, and the plant produces striking white flowers. This particular plant was chosen for nanoparticle synthesis due to its unique characteristics and the fact that it had not been previously used for this purpose.

LUCKNOW | MONDAY | AUGUST 19, 2024

### **Double-engine govt giving wings** to aspirations of youth: Yogi





ly and physically, and students

who have received coaching

from Abhyuday are achieving

significant success in job place-

ments," the chief minister said

Yogi stated that the "once-

curse-ridden" Ayodhya, due to

the actions of previous govern-

ments, is now presenting a model of development. What

were once narrow lanes have

now been connected to four-

lane roads. The roads and air-

ports here are attracting glob-

al attention. Those who disap-

prove of Ayodhya's develop-

ment have begun spreading

misinformation on social

media. Such individuals raise

doubts about their intelligence

and judgment. They attempt to

and judgment. They attempt to put the people of Ayodhya in a negative light by spreading fake news, Yogi pointed out. On Saturday, after distributing appointment letters and tablets

in Ambedkar Nagar, the chief minister on Sunday, distrib-

uted appointment letters to a large number of youths and

tablets and smartphones to

students at the district-level

Rozgar Mela and Yuva

Earlier, he met with represen-

tatives of various companies

participating in the Rozgar Mela as well as students attend-

During this visit, Chief

Minister Yogi inaugurated

development projects worth approximately Rs 30 crore and

laid the foundation for projects

worth around Rs 48 crore by

On this occasion, Agriculture

Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational

Education, Skill Development

and Entrepreneurship Kapil

Dev Agarwal, Minister of State

(Independent Charge) for

Sports and Youth Welfare Girish Chandra Yadav,

Minister of Medical Health

Sharan, Minister of Food and

Logistics department Satish

Chandra Sharma, District pan-

chayat chairperson Roli Singh

Mayor Girish Pati Tripathi,

MLA Ram Chandra Yadav,

Ved Prakash Gupta, Amit

Singh Chauhan, former MP

Lallu Singh, Bharatiya Janata

Party district president Sanjeev

Singh, metropolitan president Kamlesh Srivastava, former

MLA Gorakhnath Baba, Vice-

Chancellor of Acharya Narendra

Dev Agriculture and Technology

University Prof Vijendra Singh

teachers and students of the uni-

versity were present.

department Mayankeshwan

pressing the button.

Sammelan.

ing the event.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a programme in Kumarganj, Ayodhya on Sunday

PNS AYODHYA/LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed that Minister Yogi the double-engine government is giving wings to the aspirations of the youth, emphasising their role in India's progress and empowerment.

Addressing the youth at the Rozgar Mela and Yuva Sammelan held in Kumarganj, Ayodhya, after distributing appointment letters to the youth as well as smartphones and tablets to students, the chief minister reiterated his government's commitment to addressing their needs, ensuring job availability and helping fulfill their aspirations.

The chief minister also launched a scathing attack on the opposition parties for "supporting' the recent rape incidents in Kolkata, Ayodhya and Kannauj and spreading fake news on social media to "defame the residents of Avodhva".

Yogi stated, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned that only four groups of people need to be empowered in the country: the poor, the farmers, the youth and women, who represent half the population. The double-engine government is working towards achieving the goal of zero

poverty."
Efforts are being made to enhance the prosperity of farmers, increase their income, and support them through agricultural and technological univer-sities, agricultural scientists and progressive farmers, e added. For the youth to contribute their talent and energy to nation-building, the govern-ment is committed to generating employment opportuniskill development programmes and new initiatives to make them technically proficient, he further stated.

"Continuous efforts are being made for women empowerment. The results of initiatives like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and efforts started in other areas are showing their results,"

Chief Minister Yogi added. Yogi Adityanath discussed the changed perception of the state, reflecting on the conditions in Uttar Pradesh seven years ago. He recalled that riots occurred every third day, festivals could not be celebrated peacefully, and both girls and traders faced security threats. Over the past seven years, UP has transformed its perception, he

"Today, it (UP) has become a model for security and law enforcement and a dream destination for investment, attracting both domestic and international investors. This influx of investment has successfully created jobs for lakhs of youth in their villages and homes. So far, 1.62 crore youth have secured employment through these investments," he informed. Chief Minister Yogi added that programmes like One District One Product, Vishwakarma Shram Samman, PM Vishwakarma, PM SVANidhi, PM Swarojgar Yojana and the PM Mudra Yojana have paved the way for economic self-reliance. In line with these initiatives, the state government has successfully

6.5 lakh youth, he added. Regarding police recruitment, Chief Minister Yogi announced that the process for police recruitment exams will continue on August 23, 24, 25, and then August 30 and 31, aiming to recruit 60,000 youths.

provided government jobs to

This is the largest recruitment drive in Uttar Pradesh's history, with 20 per cent of the seats reserved for women. The recruitment of women is intended to ensure that they can effectively address harassment on the streets and intersections, he added.

Lashing out at the leaders of Samajwadi Party and other opposition parties for "supporting" the rapists, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath remarked, While Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi is advancing initiatives like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and ensuring 33 per cent reservation for women in the country's Parliament and state assemblies through the Nari Shakti Vandan leaders are supporting the rapists involved in the gangrape of a doctor in Kolkata. He recalled that these are the same individuals who once claimed that boys make mistakes and who shamelessly defended the criminals involved in the rape of a poor, marginalised girl in Ayodhya. One of their leaders was also caught in a similar case in Kannauj, and in Lucknow, the party chief stood in support of criminals who threw a daughter into rainwater. Continuing the attack, Yogi said, "It is the character of this party. They have considered it their life's goal to prove every rapist and criminal innocent but such

conduct will not be tolerated in

Referring to corruption in job appointments before 2017, the chief minister stated that during the tenure of opposition parties, they similarly exploited the rights of the youth. He recalled that at that time, every appointment was controversial, injustice was prevalent, no appointment could be made without money, and discrimination was rampant in jobs, often requiring court interven-

Today, with 6.5 lakh youth having been given jobs under a transparent and clean process, there is no question of integrity. Under the doubleengine government, no injus-tice will be done to the youth," Yogi added.

He warned that if anyone jeopardises the lives of the youth, their entire property will be seized to build housing for the poor. Uttar Pradesh has changed, and the new UP aims to connect 25 crore people with the mainstream of development and bring transformation to their lives, he added. To advance this campaign of change, leverage the potential and energy of the youth for national development and make Uttar Pradesh a growth engine for the country, the chief minister stated, emphasizing the importance of Rozgar Mela in achieving these

Minister Yogi Chief announced that the state gov-ernment has launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami

Under this initiative, a major plan is being implemented to establish 10 lakh micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) units.

For vouth inter scheme, the government will provide training and offer an interest-free loan of Rs 5 lakh in the first phase. They will also be connected to digital payments. The scheme aims to set up 10 lakh MSME units and guarantee employment for 50

lakh vouth. "Youth pursuing degrees, post-graduate studies, ITI, poly-technic or engineering will be connected to apprenticeships with a fixed stipend. The stipend will be split between the unit and the government. Furthermore, the government has started Abhyuday coaching centres in every district to aid preparation for competitive exams. These centres are pro-viding guidance both virtual-

#### CM discusses **HC** order on assistant teachers

Lucknow (PNS) : Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, held a meeting to dis-cuss the government's future course of action on the direction of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court for preparing a fresh selection list within three months regarding the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in state-run primary schools.

Official sources said the chief minister was apprised of details of the high court order. The chief minister directed the officials of the Basic Education department to ensure compliance with the high court order in letter and spirit.

"It is the firm view of the state government that the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes category must get the benefit of the constitutional provision of reservation and there should be no injustice of any kind with any candidate," the official sources

#### Minister's driver found dead

PNS LUCKNOW

Rajveer Singh, the driver for the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister Dharmapal Singh, was found dead at the PWD Guest House in Bareilly on Sunday. After multiple phone calls to Rajveer Singh went unanswered, the security personnel went at his room and found the door locked from the inside. Upon breaking the door open, Rajveer was found hanging from a noose. His mobile phone was found in his pocket, and he was wearing headphones, sug-gesting he might have been talking to someone when he committed suicide.

According to the Kotwali police, Rajveer Singh was a native of Rasouli in Barabanki and was driving a vehicle provided by Anand Shukla, the operator of a travel agency in Aliganj,

Adityanath government is set edge and learning. to launch the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Growth and Rural Ecosystem Enterprises Strengthening (UP AGREES) project to boost farmers' income, agricultural productivity and agri-based industries across the state. With the blueprint finalised and World Bank support secured, the project is poised for implementation. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently approved the project during a high-level meeting. It will be rolled out in 21 eastern Uttar Pradesh districts and seven Bundelkhand districts. It will be structured into four key components: enhancing agricultural productivity, establishing agro clusters, strengthening digital and financial ecosystems, and focusing on

Experts view this ini significant step towards trans-forming Uttar Pradesh into a national leader in the agriculture sector. In a high-level meeting with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, officials revealed that out of the 15,000 lakh hectares of cultivable land globally, India accounts for 1,590.70 lakh hectares. Notably, Uttar Pradesh leads the nation with 165.70 lakh hectares of its 243.2 lakh hectares of total land being cultivable — amounting to 76 per cent under cultivation. Officials highlighted that thanks to Chief Minister Yogi's efforts, state crop productivity has significantly improved over the past seven years. However, productivity needs to be enhanced in the Bundelkhand, regions.

journals for up to three years."

He stated that district courts

could not be established in 10

districts. Instructions have been

given to set up integrated court

complexes as soon as possible

in those areas. These complex-

es will also include chambers

for advocates, a canteen, park-

ing facilities, and seating

CM Yogi Adityanath mentioned that funds have also

been allocated for advocates'

arrangements for litigants.

Western Uttar Pradesh current ly contributes 50 per cent to the state's agricultural output, Eastern Uttar Pradesh accounts for just 28 per cent and Bundelkhand a mere 5.5 per cent. To address this disparity, officials presented before Chief Minister Yogi a blueprint for the UP AGREES project, designed to boost agricultural productivity in 21 eastern Uttar Pradesh districts and seven districts of Bundelkhand. Developed with World Bank assistance, the project received Chief Minister Yogi's approval for implementation.

During the meeting, officials informed Chief Minister Yogi that the UP AGREES project will benefit farmers, farmer organisations, fish farmers and

'UP AGREES' set for launch with World Bank's support Lucknow (PNS): The Yogi project management, knowl- Purvanchal and Vindhya agriculture-related MSME units. The six-year project will 4,000 crore, with the World Bank providing a loan of Rs 2,737 crore and the state government contributing Rs 1,166 crore. The loan repayment period is 35 years, with an interest rate of 1.23 per cent and a seven-year moratorium. The project targets 24 of the 50 districts most vulnerable to climate change, directly benefiting 10 lakh farmers, 30 per cent of whom are women. Additionally, 10,000 women producer groups will be integrated into the project, and 500 farmers will be sent abroad to acquire advanced agricultural techniques. The UP AGREES project will be launched in 21

### Rule of law lays foundation of good governance: Yogi Financial aid provided to dependents of 577 deceased advocates



PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, stated that parliamentary democracy conveyes the message of functioning through coordination and mutual understanding.

This coordination prioritises public interest and national interest above all and the foundation of this lies in good governance, which is built upon the rule of law which establishes boundaries for every individual in society, he added.

Providing financial assistance to the dependents of 577 deceased advocates from the Advocates' Welfare Fund at Lok Bhavan, the chief minister said, "The festival of Raksha Bandhan is tomorrow. This event on the eve of the festival shows that there can be no greater joy than standing by someone in need and being ready to assist them."

Yogi stated that the corpus fund of Advocates' Welfare Fund has been increased from Rs 200 crore to Rs 500 crore, with the possibility of further increase if needed. The interest from this fund will ensure

chambers in other districts. that advocates do not face any problems. The amount provided from the Advocates' Welfare Financial assistance has been provided for Jhansi, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Pratapgarh, Sant Kabir Nagar, Siddharthnagar, Fund for the dependents of deceased advocates has been Deoria, Balrampur and Gorakhpur. Additionally, funds raised from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, and the age limit has been extended from 60 to 70 years. had already been provided ear-CM Yogi informed, "From lier for Kasganj, Lucknow, 2017-18 to the present, Rs 134,32,50,000 have been pro-Meerut and Shrawasti. In the Allahabad High Court, vided to the families of 2,754 chambers and multi-level parking for 10,000 advocates are deceased advocates. Today, Rs 28.31 crore are being distributed to the dependents of 577 advocates. Out of these, 12 dependents are receiving Rs 50,000 each, while 565 dependents are receiving Rs 5 lakh each. Additionally, 3,758 young advocates have been given funds to purchase books and

being constructed. The government has allocated Rs 608 crore for this purpose. The National Law University in Prayagraj, named after former President Dr Rajendra Prasad was inaugurated on February 16. The state government has provided Rs 387 crore for this project. On this occasion, Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Arun Bhansali, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna, Senior Justice AR Masoodi, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Advocate General Ajav Kumar Mishra, Bar Council president Shivkishore Gaur, Awadh High Court Bar president RD Shahi and Principal Secretary (Justice) Vinod Singh

#### Ayodhya to be hub for edu, health and self-reliance

As part of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's commitment to the comprehensive development of Ayodhya, the Uttar Pradesh government is on the one hand implementing projects worth approximately Rs 32,000 crore, and on the other, empowering the local youth through education, healthcare and selfreliance. Ayodhya remains a top priority for the chief minister, as demonstrated by his visits to two districts within the division in just two days to foster youth education and selfsufficiency. Chief Minister Yogi's visit to Avodhva on Sunday marked his third trip to the city within a fortnight. Under the leadership of Gorakshapeethadhiswar Yogi Adityanath, Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad in Gorakhpur has successfully connected lakhs of students with education. Similarly, Yogi Adityanath is propelling Ayodhya to new heights in education.

On Saturday, the chief minister empowered nearly 7,000 youths in Ambedkar Nagar by giving them appointment letters. Besides, 13,866 youths received tablets through 59 colleges. On Sunday, the chief minister extended another significant gift to the youth of Ayodhya by distributing tablets and smartphones to over 3,415 youths. Chief Minister Yogi's vision is

to connect more than 70,000 youths in Ayodhya and Ambedkar Nagar with job opportunities. To support this, 50,000 vacancies have been created in Ayodhya and 21,000 in Ambedkar Nagar. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is steering the development of Ayodhya, establishing new milestones across various sectors. During health crises, Yogi Adityanath has consistently supported the people of Ayodhya. Since assuming office in 2017, up until August 13, 2024, he has allocated Rs 61,61,84,829 from the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund for treatment of over 3,611 patients. Additionally, Rs 45,71,16,354 has been provided for the treatment of 2,834 patients in Ambedkar Nagar,

part of the Ayodhya division. The chief minister has taken charge of Milkipur in Ayodhya and Katehari assembly seat in Ambedkar Nagar for the upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh. He regularly visits these areas and actively engages with party workers. Since assuming office in 2017, Yogi Adityanath has spear-headed development across all 75 districts, focusing on uplift of backward regions. He has also motivated the workers with the mantra, "Win the booth, win the election". The chief minister is reaching out to the people committed to development that transcends caste, religion and | ment. Mayawati also targeted

#### Direct recruitment to senior posts in Centre unconstitutional: Maya

 $B_{\text{Mayawati}}^{\text{ahujan Samaj Party chief}} \\ \text{Mayawati on Sunday} \\ \text{attacked the Central govern-}$ ment over its recent controversial move to fill senior administrative positions in the Centre through a direct recruitment. Former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, took to social media platform 'X' and said, "The decision of the Centre to fill 45 senior positions, including joint secretary, director, and under secretary, through a direct recruitment is unconstitutional. This approach will deny promotion opportunities to existing lower-level employees and potentially violate constitutional provisions related to the reservation of positions for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class categories." She contended that filling these highranking posts without established rules amounts to arbitrary and unconstitutional action by the Bharatiya Janata Party governthe BJP government in Rajasthan



and specially attacked the "bulldozer" politics. "In Udaipur, Rajasthan, the state government's handling of a recent incident involving a dispute between two schoolchildren is totally unlawful," Mayawati claimed. "Following the altercation, the government demolished the alleged offender's house with a bulldozer, a move which undermines the rule of law. There are calls for the court to take note of this action, which is a violation of legal principles," she posted. "In BJP-ruled states, concerns are also being raised about political actions perceived as attempts to obscure issues related to poor law and order. Such actions are inappropriate and call for the government to ensure the impartial enforcement of laws and to act as a true

#### Bypoll: Kori to be BSP candidate from Milkipur

PNS LUCKNOW

For the upcoming by-election to the Milkipur assembly constituency of Ayodhya, the Bahujan Samaj Party has announced its candidate. Ramgopal Kori will contest the by-election on the BSP ticket. BSP state president Vishwanath Pal confirmed that Ramgopal Kori has been appointed as the in-charge of the Milkipur assembly constituency and typically, the person appointed as in-charge is also the party's candidate. Ramgopal Kori previously contested from the Milkipur seat in the 2017 elections. He received 46,000 votes and finished in third place. In that election, Gorakhnath Baba of the Bharatiya Janata Party won the seat. In the 2022 assembly election, Gorakhnath Baba was defeated by Awadhesh Prasad of the Samajwadi Party. Awadhesh Prasad has since been elected as a Member of Parliament from the Faizabad constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. As a result, the Milkipur seat has become vacant and will be contested in the by-election. The Samajwadi Party is expected to nominate Awadhesh Prasad's son, Ajit Prasad, for the seat. The BJP is yet guardian of justice," Mayawati | to announce its candidate for the by-election.

#### 'Yogi govt has failed to protect interests of disadvantaged' Lucknow (PNS): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has asked Bharatiya Janata ity of construction.

Party leaders belonging to Schedule Caste and Other Backward Classes to quit the rul-ing party as the Yogi Adityanath government has failed to protect the interests of the disadvantaged sections of society in recruitment of 69,000 teachers to state-run primary school.

Akhilesh Yadav said here on Sunday that the SC, OBCs leaders of the BJP should join the SP and strengthen the PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) social alliance. He alleged that the Yogi government, to hide its failure in ensuring the recruitment of primary schools' teachers in a transparent manner, manipulated the recruitment process.

Akhilesh yadav said the chief minister should resign if he was unable to ensure justice to SCs and OBCs in recruitment of 69,000 primary school teachers.

The SP chief alleged that the BJP government is discriminating with the poor and disadvantaged sections of society and harming the provision of reservation in the Constitution.

Yadav also flayed the Central government over the lateral entry of the joint secretary and director level officers in Union government. He said lateral entry of officers in Union government was being done in flagrant violation of the provisions of reservation for SCs, OBCs in the Constitution. He also targeted the Yogi Adityanath government over the law and order issue saving an executive engineer was killed in Sultanpur as he had stopped the payment of particular work due to substandard qual-

districts of eastern Uttar

Meanwhile. in an apparent attack on Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya over his remarks on the Allahabad High Court's order on assistant teachers' recruitment, Akhilesh Yadav said that those who give pain shouldn't claim to give

In a post on X in Hindi, the SP chief said the "favoured deputy chief minister" was part of the government which snatched reservation from the youth and when they got justice after a long fight, he came forward to show himself as sympathetic.

The Allahabad High Court has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to prepare a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers within three months, setting aside the lists issued in June 2020 and January 2022 which included 6,800 candidates. The bench also revised the earlier order and said the reserved category candidates who qualify for the general category merit list should be migrated to that category. In addition, the benefit of vertical reservation should also be extended to horizontal reservation categories.

In a post on X on Saturday, Maurya said, 'The decision of the Allahabad High Court in the recruitment of teachers is a welcome step towards social justice. This is the victory of those backward category people and Dalits who fought a long battle for their rights. I welcome them wholeheartedly." Akhilesh Yadav accused Maruya of playing

### <u>he pioneer</u> LUCKNOW | MONDAY | AUGUST 19, 2024

### CM reviews law and order in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the departmental engineers concerned and implementing agencies to complete the development projects under construction on a war footing with quality as per the standards. He especially emphasised that negligence in development works will not be tolerated at any level. While reviewing the law and order, he instructed the police officers that as soon as any kind of crime is reported, immediate action should be ensured. There should be absolutely no negligence in this at any level. Strict action should be ensured PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI on priority against professional and habitual criminals.

Yogi reached here on Saturday on a two-day visit and reviewed the development works and law and order with public representatives and departmental officials at the Circuit House. District Magistrate S Rajlingam gave information to the CM about the projects under construction in the city and Commissioner of Police Mohit Agarwal about the law and order. The DM informed that the work of Ring Road Phase-2 which is being constructed by NHAI, work of its bridge and one lane of the connecting road due to the increase in the water level in Ganga will now be completed by February

On the continuous delay in the work of six-lane road widening from Mohansarai to Cantt railway station, the CM directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to complete the project by making extra efforts so that the public can get its benefits. He directed the officers concerned to pay attention to the quality of the work of the fourlane road widening and improvement from Lahartara-BHU-Vijaya Cinema and asked to speed up the work. He directed to complete the construction work of ROB Kajjakpura on a war footing and also to make the railway overbridges as per the standard so that people do not get unnecessary shocks on the bridges. He directed the DM to take necessary action and start the construction work of the proposed Medical College in Pandeypur and Homeopathic College in Vidhan Sabha Pindra soon. He also directed the PWD to repair the damaged sewerage line in Ramnagar immediately. He directed to take forward the proposed road of the PWD



CM Yogi Adityanath reviewing progress of development works in Varanasi on Saturday.

### Yogi inaugurates dialysis unit

hief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the dialysis unit at Ramlakshmi Naravan Marwari Hindu Hospital, Godowlia here on Saturday evening during his two-day visit to the city. This unit has a total of seven beds. Yogi said the year 1916 was very important when Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya established the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and in the same year Marwari Hospital was established in Godowlia, the heart of Kashi. "This hospital has been setting an example of humanity in medical service since its establishment. In this series, seeing the condition of the families of patients trou-bled by the cost of dialysis, the hospital started a high-quality dialysis unit for just Rs 500. In this unit a state-of-the-art RO system has been installed with the machine", the CM said.

Along with the inauguration of the dialysis wing, the CM also enquired about the condition of the patients and praised the entire unit after seeing it. He said that even today, providing treatment on a prescription of just Rs 10 is a great service, which the hospital is providing in this city of Baba Vishwanath and Maa Annapurna.

In the programme, Marwari Hospital secretary Gaurishankar Nevar told in

near Markandey Mahadev by talking to the people concerned. The DM was directed to ensure a solution to the problems being faced by people while commuting to Harishchandra Ghat. The CM identified the people who have been posted in various desks and fields in the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) and Nagar Nigam for years and

directed the officers to remove

CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurating dialysis unit at Marwari Hospital in Varanasi on Saturday.

detail about the introduction of the hospital and its work. On the occasion, Marwari Hospital Trust president Dr Baijnath Prasad, dialysis wing donor Ram Avtar Agarwal and well-known nephrologist Dr DK Sinha were present on the stage. The function was also attended by joint secretary Sanjeev Shah, dialysis wing incharge Anand Agarwal, dialysis wing donor family's Nirmal Agarwal, Satish Agarwal and Anil Agarwal along with Managing Committee members Ravi Agarwal, Rajesh Agarwal and Hospital Trust Board members Krishna Kumar Khemka, Ravi Patodiya and Deepak Bajaj.

UP Minister for Labour and Employment Anil Rajbhar, Minister of State (Independent

over to the jail administration. ensure appropriate action", he them immediately and transfer said. The CM stressed on simthem to other places in order to simplify the map process. He directed that the upcoming plification of work by using technology in the VDA, Nagar proposed police recruitment Nigan and gram panchayats. examination should be con-He also stressed on making the ducted in a completely transgram panchayats self-reliant parent and informed manner. and said that first some gram panchayats should be made Identify those who take bribes. extort money and do not treat self-reliant and presented as the common people properly in models. He directed the offigovernment departments and cers to conduct regular public

hearings, communicate with the public and note down their problems and resolve them immediately. He said that inter-departmental coordination among departments is very important. The departments concerned should sit together and prepare the DPR of the project and work in coordination. This will also reduce the cost of the project and the work will also be completed on time.

While directing regular police patrolling to maintain law and order in the city, the CM laid special emphasis on foot patrolling from Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple to Dalmandi. He stressed on ensuring good traffic system in the city. He directed to conduct regular public hearing at police station, circle, development block and tehsil level as well as to expedite the resolution of complaints and fix responsibility of the concerned for this. "Officers should also remain in touch with public representatives. In view of law and order, he directed to deal strictly with people and undesirable elements who pose a threat to security", he said, emphasising on ensuring safety of women and girls in all circumstances. He said that strict action should be taken against criminals. He said that along with being a religious and cultural city, Kashi should also be made a model of development. He instructed all the implementing agencies to coordinate with the district administration and get the projects completed on time by working promptly and in a quality manner. UP Ministers for Labour and Employment Anil Rajbhar, Minister of State for Stamp and Court Registration Fee (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal, Minister of State for AYUSH and Food Security (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MĹĆs Hansraj Vishwakarma and Dharmendra Rai, MLAs Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, Saurabh Srivastava, Dr Awadhesh Singh, Sunil Patel and T Ram, CP Mohit Agarwal, Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Rai Sharma, District Magistrate S Rajlingam, MD of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd Shambhu Kumar, V-C VDA Pulkit Garg, Municipal Commissioner Akshat Verma, CDO Himanshu Nagpal and other officers were prominently present in the meeting.

#### Ganga all set to cross danger mark in Ballia

Varanasi (PNS): The water level of Ganga is all set to cross the danger mark in Ballia, for the second time during this rainy season, as the river is rising at a speed of 20 mm per hour and very close to touch the red mark of 57.615 metres as it was recorded at 57.42 metres at 8 am on Sunday and according to the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission, the level will be at 57.72 metres by Monday morning. It will be second time in the recent weeks that the river will cross the danger mark in this UP-Bihar border district of Purvanchal (eastern UP) turning the situation grim. For the last many days, the river was flowing above the warning level. In downstream Ghazipur, the river continued to rise by 20 mm per hour and recorded at 60.78 metres against warning level of 62.10 metres. In Varanasi the worries of residents of low-lying areas, especially on both sides of Varuna river, have increased once again as the level of Ganga continued to rise for the third day on Sunday. It is the fourth time in this rainy season when such a rising trend was registered. Just a few days ago when the Ganga was close to the warning level of 70.262 metres many localities along the Varuna river like Saraiyya and Salarpur were flooded, forcing the residents to shift in relief camps. As the Ganga crosses 69 metres mark, the Varuna starts reverse flow from its confluence point near Adi Keshav Ghat in the northern parts of the city. As per the report, at 8 am the Ganga was recorded at 67.42 metres here and it continued to rise right from upstream Prayagraj but was steady at Mirzapur. As the Ganga was also constant at Phaphamau, it indicates the water is mainly coming from Yamuna side. In the city, Ganga water already entered the famous Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dasaswamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged in water. Dozens of low-lying temples located at internationally famous 84-odd ghats were either submerged in water fully or partially. During the last 24 hours, most parts of the region received rain. Prayagraj received 47 mm rain, followed by Phaphamau 38.2 mm. Ghazipur 36 mm. Ballia 32.2 mm. Mirzapur 16 mm and Varanasi 15 mm.

### Elaborate security arrangements at KV Temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain peace in the Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Kashi Vishwanath Temple on the eve of the fifth and last Monday of auspicious Shravan month. Proper barricading has been made both inside and outside the temple premises. As it is expected that lakhs of devotees, including saffron-clad Kanwariyas, will turn up to offer prayers, additional security forces have been deployed there.

Just a day ago during his sec-ond visit to the Shri Kashi

Vishwanath Dham this Shravan month, Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath reviewed the arrangements and instructed the officials to ensure smooth access and darshan for devotees. C h i e f Executive Officer (CEO) of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham Vishwa Bhushan Mishra announced that on this fifth Monday of Shravan,

adornment and the Shravan Purnima annual swing decoration of Shri Visheshwar will be featured, allowing devotees to witness this special form of Baba. Each Monday of Shravan has featured different decorations for Kashi Puradhipati. As this Monday coincides with Rakshabandhan, a crowd of local people is expected to increase. Barricading has been done to manage the crowd and ensure convenience,

the Shankar-Parvati Ganesh including orderly queuing within the temple premises. Following instructions from the CM, every effort is being made to ensure the comfort of the devotees. On this day, a novehicle zone will be estab-

lished from Godowlia and

Maidagin to the Vishwanath

temple and free e-rickshaws will be provided for the elderly and disabled. Kanwariyas and Shiva devotees will be greeted with a red carpet and flower showers. Regular visitors can enter through Kashi Dwar in the morning and evening. German hangers have been installed to protect against rain and sun, and provisions for water, coolers and snacks with jaggery have been arranged for the devotees.

Meanwhile, rush of devotees was seen even on Sunday when a large number of them reached here to offer prayers on the eve of last Monday. A large

number of saffron-clad Kanwariyas are expected to turn from up Prayagraj and other places. For the conveniences of the devotees, at several places big LED screens have been installed to display the activities of 'garbhagriha' (sanctum sanctorum). Besides,

heavy rush of devotees is also expected to be seen at Markandey Mahadev Temple located near Varanasi-Ghazipur highway about 25 kms from here near the confluence of rivers Ganga and Gomti at Kaithi apart from all famous Shiva temples including Mahamritunjya Mahadev (Daranagar), Gauri Kedareshwar (Kedar Ghat), Jogeshar Mahadev

(Ishwargangi), Omkleshwar Mahadev (Chittanpura), Teel Bhandeshwar (Pandev Haveli), Sarangnath Mahadev (Sarnath) and many others in the city areas. In the outskirts, a heavy rush of devotees will also be seen at all the Shiva temples located on Panchkoshi Marg including Karmdeshwar Mahadev, Bhim Chandi, Rameshwar Mahadev, Panch Pandaya and Kapildhara

#### Orientation programme held for PGDM students at GHS-IMR



An orientation programme being organised at GHS-IMR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

An orientation programme was held for the PGDM 2024-26 students at the Dr Gaur Hari Singhania Institute of Management and Research of Management and Research (GHS-IMR). The event aimed at familiarising the students with various aspects of the department, such as its activities, teaching methods, placement opportunities and library resources. Additionally, the programme aimed to highlight the significance and wideranging applications of management in both academic and industrial contexts. The programme began with the

industrial contexts.

The programme began with the traditional invocation of Saraswati Vandana and then Professor and Director of GHS-IMR, Dr Rahul Goyal, delivered the welcoming address. Dr Goyal extended a hearty welcome to all students, highlighting their forthcoming journey at the institute. He stressed the importance of progression, cooperation and exploration, pledging steadfast backing for their academic pursuits.

Nitin Jain, Regional Sales Head at Trident Group India, delivered an insightful address on the multifaceted nature of management and its crucial role within an organisation.

an organisation.

Pramendra Singh, General Manager at Rotomac Pumps, delivered a comprehensive talk on the various facets of industry engagement, emphasising the importance of skill-based training, short-term projects, and professional recruitment. He staff and students.

highlighted the growth and potential of emerging startups, urging students to embrace innovation as a key to success in their careers. Singh encouraged students to look beyond traditional academic roles and explore an academic roles and explore opportunities across diverse fields. In his closing remarks, he addressed the challenges that recent graduates often face when entering the industry, noting that their specialised qualifica-tions can sometimes limit their opportunities. By advocating for a broader perspective and adaptability, Singh emphasised the need for students to diversify their skills and be open to different career paths, ensuring they are well-prepared for the dynam-ic demands of the industry. In the next segment, Gaurav Jain, Business Head for Africa at Intas Pharma, took the stage with unwavering confidence and pas-

sionate energy. Praveen Kumar Sharma delivered a compelling message about the importance of honing essen-tial skills for professional success. To conclude the event, Devendra Jaiswal, an Associate Professor at the Institute, provided a detailed explanation of the curriculum and evaluation process to the stu-dents. Each faculty member from the department then introduced themselves, offering insights into the various man-agement subjects they teach and the research they conduct within their specialised fields. Following these presentations, Dr Shekhar Trivedi extended heartfelt thanks to the faculty,

#### Saree bank set up

Under the inspiration and direction of Chancellor and Governor Anandi Ben Patel and under the patronage and guidance of Vice-Chancellor Professor Vinay Chancellor Professor Vinay Pathak, Dr Vandana Pathak, Registrar Dr Anil Yadav and CDC Director Dr Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi, a saree bank was set up and inaugurated on the CSJM University (CSJMU) campus on Saturday. As per the instructions of the Chancellor, preparations for setting up of a saree bank had started long ago but it was given a concrete form on Saturday. The main objective of the saree bank is to benefit women of the lower class to make them live with equality. make them live with equality. V-C Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak V-C Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak was the chief guest who also inaugurated the saree bank. Special guests Dr Vandana Pathak, Registrar Dr Anil Kumar Yadav and Director CDC Prof Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi were also present. The programme was organised The programme was organised by Dr Sneh Pandey, Saree Bank Coordinator.

SUICIDE: A woman committed suicide by hanging herself from the hook of her room's ceiling in Barapur village under Rasoolabad police station area of Kanpur Dehat late on Saturday night. Police probed the issue and sent the body of the issue and sent the body of the deceased for an autopsy. Sangeeta (22) daughter of Raghunandan Singh was suf-fering from mental tension over some issue. On Saturday night, she went to sleep in the room and hanged herself late at night. The incident came to light on Sunday morning and mother Nirmala fell unconscious. On getting informa-tion Tishti outpost incharge SI Kripal Singh rushed to the village and carried out investiga-tion. Forensic team collected the evidence and thereafter the body was sent for autopsy. Meanwhile a man battered his

wife to death in Orai on Sunday.

### **DRM** inspects redevelopment works

Charge) for Stamp and Court Registration Fee Ravindra Jaiswal, Minister of State

(Independent Charge) for

AYUSH and Food Security Dr

Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu',

MLAs Dr Neelkanth Tiwari

and Saurabh Srivastava, Zila

Panchayat Chairperson

Poonam Maurya etc were also

present. During his visit, Yogi also visited Kashi Vishwanath and Kal

Bhairav temples and offered prayers there. Earlier, the CM

inspected the houses being

built for policemen and bar-

racks for prisoners in Shivpur

Central Jail. He also inspected

under construction Railway

Over Bridge (ROB) in Kajjakpura. The CM directed

the officers present on the spot to complete the construction

work soon by running a cam-

paign on a war footing.
The CM was informed that the

structure of 48 houses in a total

of eight blocks in the Central

Jail has been completed.

Finishing work is being done in

these. Plumbing, painting and

coating work is going on in this. Apart from this, the construc-

tion work of barracks of 270

capacity has been completed

and handed over as against the capacity of 450 for 15 barracks

being built for the prisoners

and the remaining work is in

progress which will also be

completed soon and handed

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varanasi Division, North Eastern Railway (NER), Vineet Kumar Srivastava thoroughly inspected the redevelopment works going on under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at Deoria Sadar railway station at

Deoria Sadar railway station at a cost of ₹60.64 crore. During his one-day programme on Sunday, the DRM inspected the circulating area, water drainage, path way, parking, passenger waiting room, ticket counters, expansion of platform number 1, shed and false ceiling, entry and exit route, cleanliness and maintenance etc and reviewed the progress of ABSS works. He directed the officers concerned directed the officers concerned to complete the work within the time limit. After the inspection, the DRM met the MP of Deoria Shashank Mani Tripathi



MP Shashank Mani Tripathi and DRM VK Srivastava at Deoria Sadar station on

at the station and discussed the redevelopment work plans under ABSS in view of the future needs of the local pastuture needs of the local passengers. He saw the map of the action plan for the development of the station and took information regarding the arrangement of the level crossings falling within the station limits. The MP directed the limits. The MP directed the

DRM to complete all the works related to the proposed redevelopment at the station as soon as possible. On the occasion, as possible. On the occasion, the MP planted ornamental plants in the Deoria station premises along with the DRM. During the inspection Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, Senior Divisional Commercial Divisional Commercial

Manager Sheikh Rehman, Senior Divisional Engineer-I Rishi Srivastava, Deputy Chief Engineer Construction (Gati Shakti) IC Subhash, Public Relations Officer Ashok Kumar along with senior supervisors and railway employees were along with senior supervisors and railway employees were also present. Earlier, during his window trailing inspection, the DRM checked the safety in operations, progress of development works, passenger amenities, cleanliness, availability of drinking water, compliance of temporary caution orders and refresher training of safety related employees includ-ing competency certificates and PME certificates on Bhatni Deoria rail section.

During his window trailing During his window training inspection, he also checked the safety of the rail track, rail ballast, track screening, over head traction, alignment, cau-tion order and track fittings of the said rail section.

### felicitated

LIU cop

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Cop Sanjiv Dixit of Local Intelligence Unit (LIU) was felicitated for his hardwork and playing a pivotal role in maintaining cordial relations between the masses and district administration during VVIP duty in the city. ADCP (Intelligence) Rajesh Srivastava and ACP (Pragyan)

Parashuram Tripathi felicitated him with the 'Karmveer Karmyogi' honour at a func-tion organised here on Saturday.

Saturday.
His colleagues LIU inspectors
Shanti Verma, Anjana Shukla,
Priyanka and Viresh Tripathi,
IG Dr Rakesh Singh, CM's
security officer Rajat Pal Rao, a large number of political party leaders, social workers and others congratulated him.

#### Palak wins Goldiee Mehndi Queen title



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

**P**alak Gupta of SN Sen Girls Plater College won the Goldiee Mehndi Queen title. The programme was organised by the Shubham Goldiee Masale Pvt Ltd consecutively for the 24th year on Saturday. She was adjudged the winner among 700 students of different colleges in the competition. Sneha Singh and Naina Rawat

were declared the first runnerup and second runner-up of the event. All the winners were felicitated with the prizes and certificates. Director Som Goenka said this competition was organised in 20 cities during Shravan month.

In the city itself 30 students from six colleges from 700 students were selected for the final round. Chief judge and DCP (Traffic) Arti Singh con-

gratulated the organisers for conducting this competition at the national level. Directors Madhu Goenka, Rajni Gupta, Anchal Goenka, Niharika Gupta and Mudra Goenka felicitated all other partici-Director Surendra Gupta said

all the participants were awarded the certificates and prizes. ed the certificates and prizes. Directors Shubham Gupta and Sudeep Goenka felicitated the principals and teachers of all the colleges. Director Akash Goenka proposed the vote of thanks. On the occasion company. pany's new product Double Engine Detergent Powder and Cake was also launched. Cake was also launched. General Manager (Sales) Alok Seth said students had applied mehndi beautifully depicting the pictures of Shrikrishna-Radha and Shanker-Parvati as per the theme of the competi-tion given to them. Kedar Gupta, Hariom, Sunil

Kedar Gupta, Hariom, Sunil Sharma and Raghunath Yadav were also present.

#### Tree plantation drive organised



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

two-day massive tree plan-Atation drive was jointly organised by Parivartan Team Kanpur, Jaipuria Cantt School and VSSD College on Friday and Saturday. It was organised in VSSD College campus. Around 500 students of Jaipura School were present in the programme. The students of the classes IV and V of Seth Anantram Jaipuria School participated. The teaching and non-teaching staff of the Parivartan Team and the college planted 600 saplings. The Kanpur, Jaipuria Cantt School

programme started with the lighting of the lamp. The chief speaker of the programme was agricultural scientist of Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Prof Vijay Yadav who explained in detail the importance of seeds and plantation for maintaining the harmon tation for maintaining the harmony of the natural environment and inspired the young generation to perform their duties towards the society. The officials of Kanpur Parivartan Manch told the students the four basic mantras of environmental protection and appealed to follow them. The programme was presided over by programme was presuded over 2, principal of the college, Prof Vipin Kaushik. He made all the students aware of tree plantation. The function was inaugurated by Prof Neeru Tandon and college tree plantation nodal officer Dr Anshu Singh Sengar, Principal of Jaipuria School Shikha Banerjee, Vice-Principal Madhushri Bhowmik, Shalini Shukla and activists of Kanpur Parivartan Manch were present.

### **Docs' protest: Provide 2-hourly** updates, MHA directs States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{
m he\ Union\ Home\ Ministry}_{
m has\ asked\ all\ State\ police}$ forces to provide it situation reports every two hours in the wake of protests by doctors, nursing staff and others against nursing staff and others against the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. In a communication to the State police forces, the Home Ministry said that the law and order situation of all law and order situation of all States should be monitored in view of the protests.

"Henceforth, a continuous twohourly law and order situation report in this regard may kindly be sent to the MHA control room (New Delhi) by Fax/ Email/ WhatsApp from 1600 hours today," the communication sent on Friday said.

The Home Ministry also provided the State Police forces the Fax and WhatsApp numbers and the Email ID where the two-hourly situation report



can be sent.

On August 9, a postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty at the State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. A civic volunteer of Kolkata Police was arrested in connection with the crime the next day. The Calcutta High Court handed over the case to the CBI on Tuesday.

A group of people entered the premises of the hospital shortly after Wednesday midnight

during protests by women against the rape-murder incident and vandalised portions of the medical facility

Doctors and other medical staff have been protesting in different parts of the country affecting the functioning of health facilities.

They are pressing for a central law to check violence against healthcare personnel, declaring hospitals safe zones with mandatory security entitlements among other demands.

### **70 Padma Awardee docs seek PM help** | Modi congratulates in stopping violence against caregivers

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{murder of a trainee medico}}^{\text{ollowing the tragic rape and}}$ at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College, a group of 70 Padma Awardee doctors has urgently appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for immediate action to tackle escalating violence against healthcare profes-

"We... write to you with deep concern and profound anguish regarding the horrific events that recently occurred at R G Ka Medical College in Kolkata. As the head of our nation, we implore your immediate and personal intervention to address this alarming situation. "Such acts of brutality shake the

medical professionals and highlight the urgent need to address violence, particularly against women, girls, and health care professionals," said the letter. The signatories to the letter include Dr Harsh Mahajan, Dr Anoop Misra, Dr AK Grover, Dr Mohsin Wali, Dr Ambrish Mithal, Dr. Pradeep Chowbey, Dr Anil Kohli, Dr Ashok Seth,

very foundations of service by

Dr Balram Bhargava, Dr Mahesh Verma, Dr Mahipal Sachdev, Dr PK Julka, Dr Raman Kapur, Dr Randeep Guleria, Dr SK Sarin, Dr Upendra Kaul, Dr Yash Gulati, Dr Arvinder Singh Soin, Dr D S Rana, Dr Jagdish Prasad and Dr Jeewan S Titiyal among oth-

"As recipients of one of the nation's prestigious civilian honours, we feel a deep responsibility to speak out and demand timely action and appropriate changes," the letter stated as they called for immediate and deci-sive action to address the growing violence against healthcare professionals, particularly emphasising the need for stronger measures to protect the safety dignity of those working in the medical field.

Demanding the harshest possible punishment for violence against healthcare workers and calling for the central and state governments to quickly enact and implement a separate law for the protection of healthcare workers, they also drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the proposed bill,

Against Doctors, Medical Professionals and Medical Institutions Bill." It has been ready since 2019 but not yet been tabled in Parliament. "We strongly believe that an ordinance to this effect can be brought immediately, and the bill should be passed post-haste so that all those working in healthcare delivery systems in the country can work without fear, in service of suffering patients," the letter stated. Such cases should be resolved

swiftly by the judiciary, with offences categorised as nonbailable, the doctors added 'We should not allow such acts to become normal or forgotten. "Let this tragedy serve as a cat-

alyst for real, lasting change. We owe it to the late Nirbhaya, and to all victims of sexual violence, and to future generations to create a society where such horrors are unthinkable. We earnestly appeal to you through this letter to safeguard the medical profession against physical assaults and defacement of the dignity and respect of all healthcare workers.," they said.

# Thailand's new PM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratu-lated Paetongtarn Shinawatra on becoming Thailand's Prime Minister and said he looks forward to working with her to further strengthen the ties between the two countries.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of former Leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's Prime Minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement on Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court

order that removed her prede-

"Congratulations @ingshin on your election as the Prime Minister of Thailand. Best wishes for a very successful tenure," Modi said in a post on

"Look forward to working with you to further strengthen the bilateral ties between India and Thailand that are based on the strong foundations of civilisational, cultural and people to people connect," he said.

Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra.

### **Prevent commercialisation of** organ donation: Dhankhar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Vice President Dhankhar on Sunday expressed deep concern over the growing commercialisation of organ donation, advocating that it should be driven by altruism rather than financial gain. Speaking at an event organised by Jain Social Groups (JSG) Central Sansthan, Jaipur, and Dadhichi Deh Dan Samiti, Delhi, Dhankar emphasised the need to preserve the noble nature of organ donation and prevent it from becoming a commercial enterprise that exploits vulnerable individuals. We cannot allow organ donation to be an exploitation field of the vulnerable for commercial gain of wily elements," Dhankhar stated.

He urged citizens to embrace organ donation as a mission aligned with the tradition of serving humanity, highlighting the theme of World Organ Donation Day, "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today." Doctors in the sector pointed out that while India faces a significant challenge in addressing the gap between the demand for organs and their availability, the cadaver organ donation rate has remained critically low at less than one donor per million people per

The advocated the need for hospitals to promptly identify and certify brain deaths to facilitate timely organ dona-

Dr. Praveen Gupta, Principal Director & Chief of Neurology at Fortis Hospital, emphasised the importance of swift iden-

tification and certification of brain death, which is legally recognised as death in India. Timely identification of brain death is crucial for organ donation, ensuring that organs remain viable for transplantation and increasing the chances of successful transplants," he

Dr. Ravi Bansal, Senior Consultant in Nephrology at PSRI Hospital, Delhi, too delved on the similar lines, highlighting that the kidney transplants have profound impact on patients with renal failure, noting that kidneys can be donated by family members or from brain death donors. He stressed that kidney donation does not affect the life of the donor.

Dr. Ankur Garg, Director & HOD of HPB Surgery and Liver Transplant at SHALBY Sanar International Hospitals, Gurugram, lamented the scarcity of donated organs and the delays in transplants. He pointed out that advanced procedures like Incompatible organ transplants underscore the importance of organ donation, even when donor-recipient compatibility

is a challenge. Union Health Secretary, Apurva Chandra too had recently underpinned the need to enhance awareness about organ donation and stressed that "to ensure that there is no organ wastage, we must strengthen our system.

When we receive any braindead person, the time is less and we have to harvest the organs in 12 hours and the transplant has to happen within a short window."

#### Nepal FM Deuba to hold talks with EAM in India



PTI NEW DELHI

Nepal's Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba will be a five-day visit to India beginning Sunday with an aim to explore ways to further expand bilateral ties, officials said. Deuba is scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday, they

The Nepalese Foreign Minister's visit comes a week after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri travelled to Kathmandu.

Nepal is an important neighbour for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship between the two sides.

The country shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI A female cabin crew member of Air India was allegedly assaulted by an intruder at a London hotel earlier this

week, according to sources.
The airline is pursuing the matter with

the local police. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said it was "deeply anguished by an unlawful incident of intrusion at a hotel, operated by a major international chain, that affected one of our crew members". Sources in the know said a homeless man barged into the room at the hotel where the female cabin crew was staying and

As she shouted, others staying nearby came and rescued her and the person was caught, they added. One of the sources said the cabin crew was allegedly sexually assaulted at the hotel while two other sources claimed it was a physical assault. The incident happened at a star hotel near the London Heathrow airport. The cabin crew member has returned to India and is undergoing counselling, the sources



After the incident came to light, airline employees took to the airline's internal communication platform to complain about safety issues.

Air India cabin crew assaulted at London hotel

One of them claimed hotel staff was unavailable at night and that there is no control over access to the premises, one of the sources said. The airline in the statement said it is providing all possible support to the colleague and their broader team, including professional counselling.

"Air India is also working with the local police to pursue the matter to the fullest extent of the law, and with the hotel management to ensure such incidents are not repeated. We request that the privacy of those involved is respected," it said.

### Lateral entry anti-national step, move to deprive SC, STs, OBCs of quota: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday termed as an "antinational step" the Government's move of recruiting public servants through lateral entry, alleging that the reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs is being "openly snatched away" by such

The former Congress President also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "attacking the Constitution by recruiting public servants through the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh instead of the Union Public Service Commission".

Rahul's attack came after it emerged that 45 specialists would soon join key posts of Joint Secretaries, directors and Deputy Secretaries in different Central Ministries. Usually, such posts are manned by the officers of all-India services the Indian Administrative



Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) and Group A services, among others.
"Reservation of SC, ST and

OBC classes is being openly snatched away by recruiting through lateral entry on important posts in various ministries of the Central Government," Rahul said in a post in Hindi on X. "I have always said that the

underprivileged are not represented in all the country's top posts, including the top bureaucracy. Instead of improving it, they are being pushed further away from the top posts through lateral entry," he said. 'This is a robbery of the rights of talented youth preparing for UPSC and an attack on the concept of social justice including reservation for the underprivileged," he alleged. The SEBI is a vivid example of what representatives of a few corporates will do by sitting on decisive government posts, where for the first time a person from the private sector was made the chairperson, Rahul G said in an apparent reference to the conflicts of interest allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch.

The INDIA bloc will strongly oppose this "anti-national step" that hurts both the administrative structure and social justice, Rahul said." Privatisation of the IAS is Modi's guarantee for ending reservation," he said. Saturday advertised 45 posts -It is the biggest tranche of lat-

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on 10 of joint secretaries and 35 of directors/deputy secretaries to be filled through the lateral entry mode on a contract basis. eral recruitment being undertaken by the Centre, an official

#### SC to hear Kavitha's bail pleas in excise policy scam case



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is sched-L uled to hear on Tuesday BRS Leader K Kavitha's pleas seeking bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise pol-

icy scam. The apex court had on August 12 sought responses from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Kavitha's pleas challenging the Delhi High Court's July 1 verdict denying her bail in these cases As per the cause list of August 20 uploaded on the top court website, a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan is

slated to hear her pleas. During the arguments on August 12, Kavitha's counsel had sought bail contending that she has been in custody for around five months and the charge sheet and prosecution complaints have already been filed by the CBI and the ED respectively.

A prosecution complaint is the ED's equivalent of a charge sheet. Her lawyer had referred to the apex court's verdicts on the pleas filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party Leader Manish Sisodia.

The top court had earlier granted interim bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to the alleged scam. Sisodia was granted bail in both the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy

The High Court had on July 1 dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both the cases, saying she was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

The CBI and the ED have lodged separate cases pertaining to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and implementation of the policy.
The ED arrested Kavitha (46)

from her Baniara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15. The CBI arrested her on April 11 in connection with the corruption case linked to the alleged scam. Kavitha has denied the allegations.

While dismissing her bail pleas, the High Court had said no case for grant of regular bail was made for now as the investigation is at a crucial stage. It had rejected her plea for relief on the grounds of being a woman, saying as a well-educated person and a former MP, she cannot be equated to a vulnerable female, and the court cannot lose sight of the "serious allegations" against her. In the High Court, Kavitha had

challenged the May 6 order of a trial court which had dismissed her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case as well as the ED's money-laun-

dering case. Before the High Court in the ED case, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Leader, daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, had said she had "nothing to do" with the excise policy and there was a criminal conspiracy against her "orchestrated by the ruling party at the

Centre with the active connivance of the ED".

### Project aims to regulate micro, nano-plastics in food products

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

With microplastic pollution becoming a significant concern in food, the country's top food regulator has initiated a groundbreaking project aiming to develop and validate methods for detecting micro and nano-plastics in food products and to evaluate their prevalence and exposure levels across the country.

Launched in March, the primary objective of the project "Micro-and Nano-Plastics as **Emerging Food Contaminants:** Establishing Validated Methodologies

Understanding the Prevalence in Different Food Matrices," include developing standard protocols for micro/nano-plastic analysis, conducting intraand inter-laboratory compar-



lionths of a meter.

An official from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that the study is being implemented in isons, and generating critical collaboration with leading (FAO) highlighted the pres-

research institutions across the country, including the CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (Lucknow), ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (Kochi), and the Birla Institute of Technology

and Science (Pilani). In a recent report, the Food and Agriculture Organization ence of microplastics in common food items such as sugar and salt. While the report underscores

the global prevalence of microplastics, it also emphasises the need for more robust data to fully understand the implications for human health and safety, particularly in the Indian context.

ducted by Toxics Link, an environmental research and advocacy organisation, claims to have found that all Indian salt and sugar brands contain microplastics. The highest concentration of

Yet another recent study con-

microplastics was found in a branded iodised packaged salt sample. The study report "Microplastics in Salt and Sugar" was released recently. Similarly, according to a study published in

Environmental Pollution journal, microplastics particles which have been found in almost all the body parts of humans have now reached the fats and lungs of two-thirds of marine mammals.

Similarly, a February 2024 study has revealed that ninety percent of animal and vegetable protein samples tested positive for microplastics, mental challenge.

teeny polymer fragments that can range from less than 0.2 inch (5 millimeters) down to 1/25,000th of an inch (1 micrometer). An official from the FSSAI said

that while global studies have highlighted the presence of microplastics in various foods, it is imperative to generate reliable data specific to India. This project will help understand the extent of microplastic contamination in Indian food and guide the formulation of effective regulations and safety standards to protect public health.

The findings from this project will not only inform regulatory actions but also contribute to the global understanding of microplastic contamination, making Indian research an integral part of the global effort to combat this environwww.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

#### **Moment of truth**

Elections to take place in Jammu and Kashmir after 10 years; first time after abrogation of Article 370

or the first time in a decade, elections are set to be held in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. After a long wait the elections have been announced for Jammu and Kashmir; the first since 2014, will take place in three phases on September 18, September 25, and October 1, with the results set to be declared on October 4. The region has been under President's Rule since 2018. This election marks significant progress in meeting the Supreme Court's directive that democracy be reinstated in Jammu and the Kashmir Valley by September 30. Last month in Srinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had confirmed the upcoming election. This is particularly significant as it follows the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two separate union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh – in August 2019, when Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which provided special status to the region, was abrogated by the Indian Government. The last elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in 2014, before the abrogation of

Article 370 and the dissolution of the state's legislative assembly in 2018. Since the 2019 political reorganization, Jammu and Kashmir has been under central administration. The impending elections will not only address the demand for local governance but will also test the popularity of the government's policies and decision in the region.

With new electoral boundaries drawn post-delimitation, the political map of Jammu and Kashmir has changed. This could impact electoral outcomes, shifting the balance of power between regional parties like the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and national parties like the

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). These elections could set the stage for fresh political alliances and realignments, potentially altering the political dynamics between the Kashmir and Jammu regions. The region's security situation will play a major role in the lead-up to and during the elections. The success of the elections will depend on maintaining peace and ensuring free and fair polling. Indeed, it would be quite a challenge to have peaceful elections, given the recent terrorist attacks in Jammu. Both domestic and international observers will be watching closely to assess the level of participation, especially in the Kashmir Valley. A high voter turnout could bolster the Indian government's stance that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that democratic processes are functioning. On the other hand, a low turnout, especially in the valley, could suggest a disconnect between the people and the political establishment, complicating efforts to resolve tensions in the region. Elections are likely to impact the region's economy in a positive way. The new government will need to address unemployment, revive the tourism sector, and bring much-needed investments. A successful election could restore a sense of democratic normalcy but the task is daunting. A successful election, no matter who wins, will surely align J&K with the country's mainstream political landscape.



omen devotees carry holy water in the 'Kalash Yatra' in Jaipur/

# Lessons from the Wayanad tragedy



To prevent future catastrophes, we must reassess our approach to urban planning and disaster management, ensuring that development is aligned with sustainable practices

he Wayanad tragedy— serious lessons for the futureThe incident and news of the very recent Wayanad landslide tragedy seems to be passé. No one is talking about it now when the media headlines are being hogged by the fresh and more serious episode—of rape, mob violence and anarchy in Kolkata, WB. This does not suggest that we begin taking a lighter look at the long-term serious administrative steps required to forestall incidents of landslides occurring more due to misgovernance than climate change. More of such incidents are waiting to happen if we do not take urgent, timely steps.It is with great shock that we heard the tragic death of more than 400 persons in the landslides in Wayanad, Kerala and of another 250-plus persons who were reportedly injured or missing. The two large landslides that hit Mundakkai and Chooralmala in Wayanad in the early hours of July 30, resulted in wide destruction, several fatalities, and serious injuries to hundreds. While incidents of natural disasters are episodes apparently beyond the ontrol of humans, there is much humans can do to prevent them and minimize the damage wrought by them after they occur. It is remarkable that just about a week before this tragedy the state government in Kerala was warned by the Union Home

norms of the government. This illegal construction to place right under the nose of regulatory agencies of the government. Corrupt government officials allow unauthorised construction and things appear normal till some major mishap occurs, capturing news head-

Ministry about the possibility of

a catastrophe based on the feed-back provided by an NDRF team

deputed to assess the susceptible

site. This is a sad and sobering

reflection on the ham-fisted

administrative machinery of the

state government in India. The

frequent incidents of collapse of

buildings and bridges in our

country have a direct and crying

connection with unauthorised,

faulty building construction in

violation of prescribed safety



lines all over. The sadder part of the story is that state governments are inadequately equipped for disaster management. Invariably, central assistance is sought and the army has to come to the rescue of the hapless, distressed citizens.

The case of landslides and the damage caused by them is not much different from that of buildings and bridges collapsing elsewhere.It would be in the fitness of things to systematically list out the reasons and preventive remedies for such catastrophic landslide events in our country.

Heavy torrential rains: Heavy torrential rains are not the core causal factors. They are only the triggering factors behind such landslides. Further, to say that the intensity and frequency of rainfall in any region or area is purely subject to uncertainties of nature is not quite correct.

Our living paradigms do influence rainfall patterns in various geographical areas. Climate change is the result of faulty living paradigms. There are things we can do to prevent interruption of normal rainfall patterns. Ancient scientific literature of India can provide useful guidance in this regard. Wrong building construction practices: Our building construction and water management practices are not perfect. Our deficient under-

**HEAVY** TORRENTIAL RAINS ARE NOT THE CORE CAUSAL FACTORS. THEY ARE ONLY THE TRIGGERING **FACTORS** BEHIND SUCH LANDSLIDES

standing and practices based thereon regarding the earth's geographical interiors puts us in a vulnerable position. Cracking and crumbling

mountains are a direct outcome of these practices. In this regard, one has to merely cast a look at medieval time buildings that stand intact after hundreds of years while also maintaining the integrity of their surrounding hilly sites. Ancient and medieval buildings were built with stones. Modern buildings use RCC with heavy foundations that damage the host sites. We need to learn and adopt

some of our ancient building techniques which gave stronger, environment friendly and more durable structures. Únauthorised mining: Unauthorised mining activities in contravention of set safety regulations cause tremendous harm to the terrains, making them vulnerable to landslides. Strong deterrent and punitive legal measures are the need of

the hour. **Local violation of established** systems do not exist that will municipalities and local government bodies accounts for many cases of unauthorised building construction in flagrant violation of safety norms. Violation of safety norms should be strictly penalised. **Deforestation:** Deforestation

in hilly areas for indiscriminate construction— either of residential buildings or commercial buildings bridges highways or flyovers is a big factor in the wearing of underground natural plates that support hills and mountains. The adverse effects of deforestation may not be evident immediately. But long term, they show themselves in the form of natural disturbances leading to earthquakes and climate change.

This phenomenon needs to be studied at the institutional level, and supported by the government. We should not always depend on foreign agency research results. We have the capability and wherewithal to carry out research and devise remedial measures in the form of specific afforestation measures in identified regions.

Inept state government machinery: As indicated above, our state government agencies are neglectful, inefficient, callous and corrupt. What is the reason? Proper building safety norms: As ensure the identification and stated above, corruption in penalization of the guilty in such matters. Slow and tardy judicial proceedings in an unsound judicial system only serve to encourage the inefficient and the corrupt.

(The author is a management consultant based in New Delhi; views are personal)

### Tackling the water management crisis amidst rapid development



India needs to build a resilient water ecosystem that supports our growing urban needs and contributes towards the holistic vision of Viksit Bharat

**→**ndia's urban landscape has undergone a tremendous transformation since independence, evolving from traditional townships into thriving metropolises that drive the nation's economic and cultural growth. The Government of India's ambition for a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and their efforts have provided the necessary impetus for this sector.

The Union Budget 2024-25 reflects this commitment with an allocation of Rs 11.11 lakh crore in capital expenditure and an emphasis on water supply, sewage treatment, and solid waste management projects in collaboration with state governments, multilateral development banks, and research institutions.

Our cities, bustling with life and opportunities, stand as testaments to our collective aspirations and endeavours. Yet, beneath this vibrant facade lies a critical challenge that demands urgent attention and innovative solutions: water and wastewater management.

The Past & the Present Status of Wastewater Management in India: India's rapid urbanisation has

brought with it significant challenges in managing water

resources. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) (data for 2020-21), India's urban centres generate around 72,368 million litres of sewage per day, but the treatment capacity is only 31,841 million litres per day. This gap leads to untreated wastewater being discharged into our rivers and lakes, contributing to pollution and posing severe health

The Government has initiated several programs like the Namami Gange Programme, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and the Smart Cities Mission to address these issues. These initiatives aim to enhance the sewage treatment infrastructure, promote sustainable urban development, and ensure clean

water availability. However, processes, agricultural irrigaover the years, the path to achieving these goals has encountered numerous challenges, from inadequate infrastructure to the absence of ensuring treated water gets innovation, funding constraints and lack of relevant stakeholder partnership. The gloom has taken a shift in the recent past with relevant stakeholders like youth from the communities, government, and private players all stepping up, discussing viable solutions, promoting innovation and emphasising the need to present sustainable solutions against water & wastewater challenges.

**Sustainable Management of** Water in India: In India, the future of water hinges on our ability to adopt the circular model, offering a holistic and integrated approach towards water management. Unlike traditional linear approach, a circular economy emphasises reducing waste, reusing resources, and recycling materials to create a closed-loop system. In the context of water management, this means treating wastewater to high standards and reusing it for various purposes, such as industrial

tion, and landscape maintenance. Thus, significantly reducing the demand for freshwater resources and reintegrated into the supply

A Blend of Factors to **Achieve Water Management** The nation's urban development cannot be chalked down and implemented by a single entity especially for a country like ours with a huge geographic scale.

Learnings and the Road Ahead: Despite the global threat that water presents, every nation adapts to an approach more suited to its people and developmental needs. The urban development has picked up momentum in recent decades. We need to balance development ambitions and ensure the essentials. A practical way to fix that is by building a resilient water ecosystem that supports our growing urban needs and contributes towards the holistic vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

(The writer is the CEO of Suez India: views are personal)

#### **MAMATA SHOULD STEP DOWN**

Barring the emergency cases, number of State hospitals including private institutions have boycotted their OP (Out Patient) services to show their solidarity for the victim on the brutal rape and murder at RG Kar hospital Calcutta. The CM of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee must be crest fallen and should have taken up the moral responsibility and have resigned by now for this gruesome murder and rape of the intern doctor at RG Kar hospital. Who can understand better the pains of a woman other than a woman who's heading the State? Her party in power by taking out a rally when she herself is the Chief Minister, Home Minister and Health Minister is the height of a mockery when she failed in all the three counts even in maintaining the basic law and order in the state. The Calcutta High Court has lost its faith in the West Bengal government while shocked to observe the vandalism played upon post the incident at the hospital premises. Mamata can't have any defence and the enquiry by CBI is not the end of the case to bring real culprits to books. WB needs a disinfectant to clean the hospital as well as the minds of the team Mamata on the whole to ensure safety of the people is causing a greater concern.

**CM SIDDARAMAIAH IN TROUBLE** Madam- The Karnataka Chief face prosecution in connection with the MUDA land scam case. The approval for legal action has been granted by Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, following a private complaint. The allegations centre around the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) and claims of malpractices surrounding land allotments.

It is alleged that Parvathi Siddaramaiah, the wife of CM benefited from irregularities when MUDA acquired her 3-

### **Elections in J&K after 10 years**



★he Supreme Court's order had been implemented meticulously by the election commission and election had been declared and have been welcomed by all including the radicals which is a momentous moment for citizens of the state and it will pave the way for the return of democracy to the Valley however complex a process it might prove to be.

acre plot in Kesare village, Mysuru, in 2021, seemingly in exchange for allocations of more valuable plots in the upscale Vijayanagar area of Mysuru. Critics assert that the market value of these new plots far exceeds that of the land she originally owned.

Siddaramaiah maintains his innocence, vowing to battle the claims both legally and politically. He asserts that the A P Thiruvadi | Chenai land allocation to his wife was conducted following all legal procedures. The Opposition parties are leaving no stone unturned, undertook even a protest Minister Siddaramaiah is poised to march from Bengaluru to Mysuru demanding CM's resignation.

The investigating agencies will now have to start the process of prosecution. Needless to say, one cannot expect the CM to continue in office while agencies reporting to him, are investigating charges against him.

But his political career with a clean image spanning over four decades is under clouds - facing toughest challenge in his public life.

N Sadhasiva | Bengaluru

Due to the elections in the state people will get the chance to elect the popular government in the state and people will have direct say in the government which is the representative way and the Indian way of upholding democratic values. It is the right step forward irrespective of what the changed status has meant in the last five years after

The arguments can be endless over the propriety of going back on a historical commitment, but there is no denying that democracy is now slated to return to a more egalitarian region, even if it has been divided into two UTs of J&K and Ladakh. Long -term stability and prosperity of the region can be assured if a popular government is in charge and works for the development of the people.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

#### **PARIS PARALYMPICS**

Madam —In a warm send off ceremony of the athletes for Paris Paralympics 2024. India is sending its largest-ever contingent for the Paris Paralympic Games as 84 athletes will look to leave no stone unturned in their quest for glory in the French capital.

Those 84 athletes will be taking part in 12 sports archery, athletics, badminton, canoeing, cycling, blind judo and powerlifting among others. The para-athletes have a remarkable ability to overcome obstacles and turn challenges into opportunities. They have shown remarkable determination and perseverance in their preparation and hopes were made of getting the highest ever medal in the game. We wish them the very best and are sure they will inspire millions back home with their performances and medal tally. Hope this time, each and every athlete will will perform well.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

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#### **FIRST COLUMN**

### THE ART OF OFFICE FRIENDSHIP

Be clear about where to draw the line, respect others' time, workload and personal space



RACHNA LAKHPATI

In today's fast-paced corporate climate, the line that traditionally defines coworker and friend is becoming increasingly blurred. With the amount of time spent at work nowadays, professional connections are no longer optional, but rather required. At the same time, these interactions necessitate skill, awareness, and a healthy dosage of emotional intelligence. Imagine this: You're out for coffee with your work BFF, laughing about last night's reality TV drama, when your boss walks in. Do you switch to shop chat or keep the banter going? It's a circumstance that demonstrates the narrow line that must be walked in business friendships. What's the key? Mastering the art of context change.

Professionalism does not need you to transform into a robot from 9 to 5. It's knowing when and how to crack a joke, as well as when to go serious. for lunch breaks, a friendship's dimmer switch is extremely bright and vivid, slightly dim for group projects, and extremely professional during business meetings. Remember the phrase "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas"? Consider that in your workplace friendships. All those meaningful chats over after-work drinks? Not a water cooler material. Closed-door conversations and revelations made outside of the office should be treated as classified material. That's because your ability to maintain secrets may make or destroy your working relationships, and even your career.

Effective communication is crucial in all relationships, but business connections have a unique twist. As much as you want to keep communication open, you must also respect privacy. It's a difficult balance of being



there for the work friend without intruding into areas they're not ready to discuss. The benefits of working friendships include the ability to accept and provide honest feedback. However, if constructive criticism is not handled correctly, it may quickly turn into a friendship minefield. Wrap that severe love with genuine support. Remember that your goal is for both of you to succeed, not to win a point-scoring contest. Arguments will inevitably occur, even among the best of colleagues. Your adept handling of these hiccups in the path is an undeniable sign of friendship. Address disagreements directly on, but with sensitivity and professionalism; see it as a means to strengthen your partnership, not a friendship-ending disaster.

It's acceptable to get along better with some people than others, but try to avoid forming restricted groups. Instead, be the friend who draws everyone together. Organise inclusive team activities to help break down departmental barriers. Who knows, you might meet your next work bestie in accounting! We all have terrible days, but repeatedly unloading personal problems to your coworkers will put even the strongest relationships under strain. Consider the emotional strain you're putting on others. Sometimes a simple "I'm having a rough day" may suffice—save the deep dives for proper times and locations. The key to a working friendship is setting clear boundaries. Some suggestions include being clear about where to draw the line regarding each other's time, workload, space, or personal difficulties. Consider setting boundaries to be like a guardrail, keeping your friendship on track but not a wall. Finally, be sure to appreciate your victories, big and small. That fast high-five you received for acing that presentation, or the team lunch for sealing a major deal? Those boost office morale. These moments of shared joy are the glue that holds workplace friendships together. Lastly, success in business friendships requires establishing a balance between professionalism and personal connection. Hit the sweet spot, and you may find enthusiasm in your professional life while also developing potential lasting relationships outside of the confines of your current position. Go ahead, take the first step towards making your cubicle neighbour a true friend!

(The author is a freelance writer; views are personal)

### Responsible tourism: Our promise to future generations



The future of tourism hinges on responsible travel, where both travelers and industry stakeholders play a crucial role in preserving our heritage for future generations

isit Agra, and you'll witness a heart-wrenching sight: graffitis marring the walls of its iconic monuments. Lovers etching their names into the Taj Mahal—a monument of love—are tarnishing the legacy of love with their reckless behavior. This is just one example of irresponsible tourism. From defacing historic sites to littering, damaging environments, and polluting water bodies, such behavior is widespread.

To counteract these issues, embracing responsible tourism is now essential. The tourism industry, one of the largest and fastest-growing sectors globally, holds vast potential for economic growth. Yet, this rapid expansion often brings environmental and social challenges. Over-tourism can damage natural habitats, exhaust local resources, and erode cultural traditions. Sustainable tourism aims to address these challenges by promoting responsible travel that supports local communities and preserves the environment.

Tourism's environmental footprint is broad, affecting ecosystems, biodiversity, pollution, and resource use. Popular destinations often see spikes in waste, water shortages, and habitat destruction due to tourist influxes. The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, for instance, is under threat from both climate change and tourism, highlighting the need for immediate conservation efforts. This underscores the significance of sustainable tourism practices that emphasise environmental care.

Governments are key players in driving sustainable tourism, establishing policies and frameworks that encourage eco-friendly practices. Australia, known for its diverse landscapes and rich biodiversity, has long understood this necessity. Nishant Kashikar, Country Manager for India & Gulf at Tourism Australia, explains the country's dedication to sustainable tourism: "Australia's culture, landscape, and wildlife form the heart of our tourism industry. We have a duty to manage them wisely." Through collaborations with tourism operators, Australia focuses on restorative and regenerative travel, especially at renowned sites like the Great Barrier Reef. Despite progress, challenges persist in conveying the importance of sustainable travel to markets prioritizing value and experience.

Kashikar further states the steps to protect natural treasures: "Our operators provide eco-friendly accommodations and low-impact activities that complement conservation efforts at the reef. Initiatives such as carbon-neutral menus and zero-waste hotels are raising the bar in hospitality." He acknowledges ongoing challenges, stating, "Effectively communicating the value of sustainable tourism to markets like India, which are driven by value and experience, requires a tailored approach."

Moscow, a city famous for its historical and cultural richness, is also leading the way in sustainable tourism efforts. Evgeny Kozlov, Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, highlights the city's environmental transformation: "Around 50% of Moscow is made up of green zones. Over the past decade, we have rejuvenated 900 parks and green spaces, as well as revitalized 40 embankments. This transformation not only beautifies the city but also offers

with incentives for investors in sustainable



He adds, "By promoting local crafts-manship and sustainable building practices, we ensure tourism development benefits both communities and the environment. Programs like Safe Tourism Destinations for Women and Responsible Souvenirs further strengthen this mission." Airlines and hotels are at the forefront of sustainable tourism efforts, addressing their significant environmental impact. As air travel continues to grow, the aviation sector's role in global greenhouse gas emissions has come under scrutiny. The hospitality industry is also increasingly adopting eco-friendly practices that aim to balance guest experiences with environmental

responsibility.
Akash Garg, CMD of Moksha
Himalaya Spa Resort, acknowledges that transitioning to sustainable practices requires an upfront investment. However, he emphasizes that these costs are outwei $\bar{g}$ hed by long-term savings. "Initially, there are costs that a property has to bear when implementing sustainable practices. However, these investments often lead to long-term benefits and savings," says Garg. The resort's efforts include reducing single-use plastics and creating an onsite bottling plant, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability. Moreover, the resort engages with

At the Sheraton Kosgoda Turtle Beach Resort, Mano Gunasekera, General Manager, speaks about the broader impact of sustainability within Marriott International. The company is deeply committed to global best practices. "Marriott International, is focused strongly on best sustainability practices.

At times such initiatives come with a cost, however with the proposition of there being a greater impact on the environment," says Gunasekera. The resort supports responsible tourism through projects like turtle conservation and encouraging guests to adopt eco-friendly habits, such as reusing linens and reducing water consumption. These initiatives align with Marriott's Serve360 program, which aims to lower energy usage and promote environmentally conscious products.

Anirban Sarkar, General Manager of Radisson Blu Greater Noida, underscores the importance of sustainability in shaping the hotel's long-term vision. Radisson Blu has set an ambitious target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, far ahead of many global initiatives. Sarkar believes that promoting sustainability and responsible business shift in travelers' preferences toward practices strengthens the brand's reputation and builds local support. "Focus towards Sustainability and Responsible Business practices actually strengthens the brand and shows the brand in a positive light," he explains. Vietnam's leading carrier Vietjet is also making strides toward sustainability. The airline's efforts have earned it recognition in categories like "Outstanding Sustainable Transport." By investing in a modern fleet that reduces fuel consumption by up to 20%, Vietjet is helping lower emissions. Additionally, the airline has transitioned to using eco-friendly materials, such as recyclable packaging, and is researching sustainable aviation fuel with a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Sri Lankan Airlines is also taking a more gradual approach, integrating covers made from recycled PET plastic, reducing its plastic footprint.

These efforts are part of broader initiatives, including the use of sustainable carpets onboard.

In the online travel space, Rikant Pittie, Co-Founder of Ease My Trip, highlights the company's role in promoting sustainability by working with local authorities to improve eco-friendly facilities. Ease My Trip has also launched educational campaigns to encourage travelers to choose green accommodations and reduce waste. "We tackle the lack of sufficient infrastructure by collaborating with local authorities to enhance eco-friendly facilities," says Pittie. For Manoj Kumar Tiwari, General Manager of Regency Holidays, promoting sustainable tourism is less of a challenge and more of an opportunity to educate guests. "Educating the guests to align them with our brand ethos to promote luxury sustainably is the key," Tiwari explains.

Daniel D'Souza, President and Country Head of Holidays at SOTC Travel, notes the increasing demand for sustainable travel, particularly after the pandemic. He observes a authentic eco-friendly experiences "Sustainable travel has gained momentum, with MICE groups increasingly emphasizing sustainable practices and unconventional accommodations," he says.

Trishal Rao, Chief Sales Officer at SKIL Travel, sees the challenges of promoting sustainable tourism as opportunities for innovation. SKIL Travel has incorporated electric vehicles into its fleet and is implementing eco-friendly technologies throughout its services. The ecofriendly tourism is not just a trend but a necessity. Their initiatives are paving the way for a future where responsible travel is the norm, and travelers play an active role in preserving the planet. As Evgeny Kozlov succinctly states, "We must build a tourism industry based on sustainable development principles to ensure that future generations can

industry as a mentor; views are



**ECO-FRIENDLY** 

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### Protecting our healers: Urgent action needed to end violence against healthcare providers

#### The recent assault on medics underscores the urgent need for legal protections and enhanced security measures to ensure their safety

he recent barbaric act of violence, rape, and murder against a resident lady doctor in Kolkata has sent shockwaves across the nation. This incident, coupled with the growing number of attacks on medical professionals, calls for an urgent need for a safe operating environment for those who dedicate their lives to saving others.

The entire country is deeply saddened by these events, and there is a collective call for the government and law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety and security of healthcare workers. This is not just about protecting individuals; it is about safeguarding the sanctity of a profession that stands at the



vival. Healthcare professionals work tirelessly, often under immense pressure, to deliver care and save lives. Yet, reports of doctors being manhandled, threatened, and even killed are, unfortunately, not uncommon.

Doctors are taught to prioritize the ABCs-Airway, Breathing, and Circulation when a patient is in their care. Their primary focus is always forefront of human sur- on saving lives, regardless of

their ability to perform these critical tasks is compromised. The environment in which they operate must be one of safety and respect, allowing them to carry out their duties without fear of violence. The issue of violence against healthcare workers is not unique to India; it is a global problem. However, many ountries have implemented robust measures to protect their medical professionals, setting examples that India could follow. For instance, in the United Kingdom, the

National Health Service

(NHS) has a zero-tolerance

policy towards violence

against its staff. This policy is

supported by a dedicated

the circumstances. However,

when medical professionals

are themselves under threat,

security team that works closely with law enforcement to ensure that any incidents are dealt with swiftly and effectively. Additionally, the NHS has implemented a comprehensive reporting system that allows healthcare workers to report any form of abuse or violence, ensuring that these incidents are documented and addressed.In the United States, several states have enacted laws that classify assaults on healthcare workers as felonies, carrying heavier penalties than those for assaults on other individ-This legal framework acts as

a strong deterrent against violence, sending a clear message that attacks on medical professionals will not be tolerated. In Australia, hospitals



have introduced a range of safety measures, including the use of security personnel, panic buttons in consultation rooms, and mandatory training for staff on how to deescalate potentially violent situations. India must urgently adopt similar measures to protect its healthcare workers.

authorities need to implement stringent actions that will create a safer environment for doctors and other medical professionals.

First and foremost, the government should enact laws that classify any form of violence against healthcare professionals as a serious crimi-The government and relevant nal offence, with severe

penalties for those found guilty. This legal framework should be supported by swift and decisive action from law enforcement agencies to ensure that justice is served promptly.In addition to legal protections, hospitals, especially those in high-risk areas, should be equipped with comprehensive security measures. These could include the deployment of trained security personnel, the installation of panic buttons, surveillance cameras, and secure entry points to prevent unauthorized access. Such measures would go a long way in deter-ring potential threats and ensuring that medical professionals can work without fear. Moreover, healthcare workers should receive mandatory training on how

to handle violent situations. This training should cover de-escalation techniques, selfdefence, and the proper use of security measures available to them. The safety and security of healthcare professionals are non-negotiable. Those who dedicate their lives to saving others deserve to work in an environment free from fear and violence. The government, law enforcement agencies, and society at large must come together to ensure that the medical fraternity is protected and respected. İt is time to take decisive action to safeguard those who save lives, ensuring that healthcare professionals can continue their noble work without fear. (The author is a senior jour-

nalist. Views expressed are



### J&K polls: Parties gearing up to woo voters

 $B^{\text{y proposing to move a resolution immediately after}}$ the Constitution of the new Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Vice President of the National Conference Omar Abdullah has set the tone of his party's poll campaign in the upcoming Assembly polls.
In an interview with a private

news channel Omar Abdullah while listing the priorities of the elected Government Saturday said, "I believe the first order of business of the Legislative Assembly of J&K should be to make it known (through a resolution) not just to the people of India but to the world at large that the people of J&K do not agree with what happened to us on August 5, 2019. And then we start undoing what was done

Omar has deliberately chosen this poll plank to woo the electorate in large numbers in

At the same time, the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) has activated its entire poll



Chief Minister for the first time on the hot seat.

BJP unit President Ravinder Raina Sunday that the party will not form any alliance with any political party for the Assembly elections in the Union Territory.

He also said that the "BJP can form an alliance with some independent candidates for 8-10 Assembly seats in the Kashmir region."

"We will not form any alliance with any political party," he stressed. "BJP will contest machinery on ground zero to realise its mission of winning 50-plus seats to anoint its distribution described by the strength... The public of Jammu and Kashmir will vote

overwhelmingly for BJP and will form Government".

The party's high command is also in the process of finalising the list of star campaigners scheduled to launch the aggressive poll campaign in the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are expected to lead the high-voltage campaign in the coming days to bolster the party's poll prospects at the hustings.

Meanwhile, with the sounding of the poll bugle, the

started the process of shortlisting the aspirants from the different Assembly segments going to polls in phase 1 on

Fence-sitters and 'turnouts' from different political parties are also looking for like-minded parties to consolidate their voter base.

On Sunday former PDP Minister Choudhary Zulfikar Ali, currently a member of the Jammu Kashmir APNI Party, joined the Bharatiya Janta Party in the presence of Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, in charge of BJP Jammu Kashmir.

Choudhary Zulfikar Ali was also a founding member of the Altaf Bukhari-led Apni Party, where he served as vice President. A prominent Gujjar leader, Zulfikar hails from Darhal (Rajouri) and has a strong footing in the Pir Panjal region.

A day ahead of joining the BJP, he met Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on

Reddy also participated in the election committee meeting, at BJP headquarters in Jammu along with Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, BJP National General

J&K State President Ravinder Raina. The party is expected to release the first list of candidates ahead of the first phase of polling on August

On the other hand, the spokesperson of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Šunday clarified that the party Chairman and senior leader, Ghulam Nabi Azad, is not rejoining

the Congress Party.
In a handout issued here,
DPAP chief spokesperson
Salman Nizami said that rumours have been spread by the Congress Leaders of Jammu and Kashmir for the last two weeks that Ghulam Nabi Azad and his party are joining Congress. 'It is also being spread that

Azad was approached by the

Central Congress leadership to join the Congress Party," Nizami said, adding that as Chief spokesperson of the DPAP, on behalf of the party Chairman, he cleared that ever since Azad left the Congress Party, neither he (Azad) has approached any Congress leader nor any Congress leader has ever approached him directly or telephonically.

# Act promptly in Kolkata horror case: Harbhajan to WB Guv, CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

 $F_{\text{Rajya Sabha MP Harbhajan}}^{\text{ormer cricketer and AAP}}$ Singh has written to West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, urging them to "act swiftly and decisively" in the rape-murder case of a Kolkata doctor.

"With deep anguish over the delay in justice to the Kolkata rape and murder victim, the incident which had shaken the conscience of all of us, I have penned a heartfelt plea to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. @MamataOfficial Ji and Hon'ble @BengalGovernor

urging them to act swiftly and decisively," Singh said in a post on X. The safety and dignity of women are non-negotiable, he said, adding the perpetrators of this heinous crime must face the full might of the

be exemplary. "Only then can we begin to restore faith in our system and ensure that such a tragedy never occurs again and we create a society where every

law, and the punishment must

woman feels safe and protected. We must ask ourselves 'if not now, when? I feel the time for action is now," he said in the letter.

The former India cricketer also shared a copy of the let-ter, which he addressed "to the Government of West Bengal, CBI and Citizens of India" on X."I demand justice for the victim. I demand a safer society. I demand positive change. And I stand with the doctors in their fight for justice," he

'I urge the government of West Bengal and the investigating agency, CBI, to take immediate and decisive action to ensure that the perpetrators of this vile act are brought to justice swiftly," Singh wrote in the letter.

Why the Government of West Bengal only? Such incidents are reported from different parts of the country and have become regular columns on newspapers and TV programmes," Singh wrote.
The Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) took over the investigation into the alleged rape and murder of the woman doctor at the State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in the West Bengal Capital. Singh said the Governments must implement comprehensive measures to prevent such occurrences in the future.

This includes strengthening security protocols within hospitals, providing adequate support to victims of violence, and creating a safer working environment for all healthcare professionals," he said.

Singh also supported the protesting doctors who have been on strike demanding a working

environment."The medical community is already working in challenging conditions. With such incidents, how can we expect them to perform their duties with dedication when their own safety is so gravely compromised?" he

### AIIMS neurosurgeon commits suicide in South Delhi house

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old neurosurgeon at All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) allegedly committed suicide in his south Delhi house on

The police identified the

deceased as Raj Ghoniya who is a resident of Rajkot in Gujarat. According to a senior police officer, the doctor died due to a suspected overdose as used vials of medicines and syringes were found in his house in the Gautam Nagar area. "At around 2 pm on Sunday, a PCR call was received at the Hauz Khas police station regarding suicide by a doctor in the Gautam Nagar area. On receiving the call, police staff reached the spot where the Dr. Raj Ghoniya, permanent resident of Rajkot, Gujarat was found in an unconscious state," DCP



South Ankit Chauhan said, adding that he was taken to AIIMS hospital where he was declared dead.

A suicide note was also recovered from the spot, however, Ghoniya did not blame anyone in it, they added.

The doctor was posted at AIIMS Trauma Centre, Safdarjung Enclave as a Senior Resident Neurosurgeon. One suicide note was recovered from the address in which the

deceased had written that it's his own will and he blamed no one. Some used Vials of medicines and syringes were also found at the place," the DCP added. However, no reason was cited by him for committing suicide and further investigation in the matter is underway. Reacting to the incident, AIIMS said that the matter is a medico legal case (MLC) and hence the hospital can't give

more details on the same.

#### NGO proposes offer to rebuild Wayanad but CPI(M) is cold KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

While Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wants the Centre to fully meet the financial commitments for rebuilding new houses in place of the hundreds of houses washed away or destroyed in the 30 July 2024 landslide in Wayanad district, a non-governmental organisation specialised in the rehabilitation of tribal communities has come forward with a proposal which no sincere person could reject. Chief Minister Vijayan who has been complaining from all available platforms that the nature's fury in Wayanad was caused by the failure of the central agencies involved in weather and cyclone forecasting to provide 'timely' information to the State about the exact time, place and date of the landslide. "Our weather forecasting system is very poor. What we want is sharp data about the exact time of the nature's fury," says the Chief



Minister. He also says that the Centre should release Rs 2,000 crore as the first instalment of the disaster relief fund so that the State Government could begin the rehabilitation operations. The Rs 2,000 crore demanded by Vijayan is only a fraction of the amount he may require as the team deputed by him to study the impact of the landslide. But, High Range Rural Development Society (HRDS), a NGO led by Guru Atma Nambi and Aji Krishnan, has

new and safe houses (each with a built up area of 700 sq ft) for all those whose houses were washed away in the gushing flood waters. "We also informed the Government that each of the houses would be supplemented by an acre of land, with which the inmates could ensure sustainable economic growth through group farming," Aji Krishnan told The Pioneer.

offered to build 500 brand

Each of the 500 houses to be built up by the HRDS would

have a self contained guest room, which the owners could rent out to the tourists coming to Wayanad. "This will serve many purposes. The number of resorts could be brought down while the owners will benefit by a minimum Rs 3,000 per day as rent collected for these home stay system," said Aji Krishnan. The High Range Rural Development's team of managers with international experience has proposed the setting up of committees for group farming with the latest Israeli technology in irrigation as well as fertigation. But sadly enough, the State Government has been cold to the proposal submitted by the HRDS and is yet to respond.

Vijayan is obsessed with the Rs 2000 crore fund which he hopes to get from the Centre. While he dishes out details of the money pouring into the controversial Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) in all his media briefings, Vijayan has not uttered a single word about the HRDS offer. This comes at a time when R S Sasikumar, a whistleblower and Chairman of Save University Campaign Committee has approached the Kerala High Court and Prime Minister Narendra Modi with requests to monitor how the CMDRF is being used to address the issues cropping up from the Wayanad

Sasikumar, in his letter to the Prime Minister, said that though huge amounts of money was collected from people across the globe to the CMDRF, it could be understood from an auditing that a major portion of the amount that was collected was utilised for the benefit of party Leaders and workers. "No money has reached the victims of the 2018 and 2019 floods and we do not expect any miracles this time too," said Sasikumar.

'Thus, these rumours are baseless and false, just to create confusion and break our party," the DPAP leader said.

#### Meerut South RRTS station opened for passengers



**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Meerut South RRTS station was opened for passenger operations on Sunday, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) said.

Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is now operational, covering nine stations from Sahibabad in Ghaziabad to Meerut South in Meerut, the NCRTC said in a statement.The Namo Bharat trains will operate from 6 am to 10 pm on the entire section from Sahibabad to Meerut South. The first train in both directions will depart at 6 am and the last train will leave the terminal stations - Sahibabad and Meerut South - at 10 pm,

the statement said. The one-way discounted fare for the Namo Bharat trains will be Rs 110 for standard class from Sahibabad to Meerut South and Rs 90 for standard class from Ghaziabad to Meerut South, it stated.

The Meerut South RRTS station will feature the largest region. The station has three parking facility in Uttar Pradesh along the RRTS corridor, enhancing passenger convenience, the NCRTC said.

Two parking lots on either side of the station's entry/exit cover around 13,000 square metres. These lots can accomwheelers and two-wheelers, the statement said.

Additionally, dedicated parking for auto-rickshaws is available. The station has been designed to facilitate easy pick-up and drop-off for vehicles arriving from both Meerut and Delhi, With the addition of this eight-km section, 42 km of the with direct access from the main road, it stated.

To accommodate passengers with disabilities, the station includes a designated parking area and ramps for easy access, ensuring that they can conveniently travel on the Namo Bharat trains, it said.

The NCRTC said the Meerut South station serves as the gateway to Meerut, making travel easier for commuters Mohiuddinpur, Bhudbaral, Bahadurpur, Aminagar, Chhajjupur, Kharkhoda, Kadarabad, and Chhajjupur, nearby areas. With the commencement of Namo Bharat train services from Meerut South, passengers will be able to reach Sahibabad in around

In addition to RRTS trains, the station will also serve local metro services for the Meerut tracks - two for RRTS trains and one for metro services across three platforms. The station comprises three levels: ground, mezzanine, concourse, and platform. It spans approximately 215 meters in length, 36 meters in width, and 22 meters

30 minutes, it stated.

#### SC takes cognisance of...

Doctors and other medical staff have been protesting in different parts of the country affecting the functioning of health facilities. They are pressing for a central law to check violence against healthcare personnel, declaring hospitals safe zones with mandatory s security entitlements among other

Marking a week of the indefinite protest over the rape and murder of a medic in Kolkata on Sunday, doctors continued their strike in the national capital, causing disruption of services and

affecting patients. In the action plan for Sunday, members of the Delhi resident doctors' association (RDA) took out a candle march outside Gate 1 of Rajiv Chowk Metro Station at 6 pm with medical workers holding placards and demanding justice for the victim.

"As approved in today's general body meeting, residents from all medical colleges and institutions in Delhi will gather for a candle march protest in Connaught Place," a statement from the GTB Hospital RDA read.

"We will assemble in groups of 3-4 at Gate No. 1, Rajiv Chowk Metro Station, form a human chain, and light candles at the inner circle to raise awareness about the tragic incident at RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata," it

The indefinite strike by doctors started on Monday and is now in its seventh day. Both private and government hospitals have joined the protest, fighting for justice for the victim and demanding a security act for doctors.

Meanwhile, the move continues to hinder patients to access medical care who come to the city to access health care services. Nonemergency services, such as OPD and diagnostics, and elective surgeries at citymodate around 1,200 four- in height, the statement said. based health facilities,

including at Centre-run AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and RML Hospital, are hit since Monday.

Many patients who were turned away by hospitals expressed their frustration even as they claimed to sympathise with the cause. Inconvenience of patients further increased as personnel of private institutions such as Sir Ganga

Ram, Fortis, and Apollo also joined protests on Sunday following a call by apex doctors' body Indian Medical Association (IMA) for a 24hour nationwide withdrawal of non-emergency services. Earlier, the Union Home

Ministry has asked all state police forces to provide it situation reports every two hours in the wake of protests by doctors, nursing staff and others against the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Kolkata.

communication to the state police forces, the home ministry said that the law and order situation of all states should be monitored in view of the protests. "Henceforth, a continuous two-hourly law and order situation report in this regard may kindly be sent to the MHA control room (New Delhi) by Fax/ Email/ WhatsApp from 1600 today," hours communication sent on

Friday said. The horrific crime, which occurred on August 9, has sparked nationwide outrage, leading to widespread protests and strikes by medical professionals across the country.

Autopsy reports confirmed that the victim had been raped and strangled, with multiple injuries suggesting a violent struggle. The police swiftly arrested a civic volunteer from the Kolkata Police as the prime suspect, with DNA evidence linking him to the crime.

### All does not seem well with Jharkhand Mukti.

Champai triggered speculation about his impending crossover to the BJP when he landed in Delhi on Sunday afternoon accompanied by his personal staff, a day after making a trip to Kolkata. This political development is crucial as the Assembly election is due in Jharkhand this year. However, both the BJP and the JMM insiders said Champai is set to join the BJP in the national capital. Champai is likely to meet top leadership of the BJP on Monday. While JMM sources said differences

emerged within the party after it denied Champai's request to make his son its candidate from the Ghatshila seat in the upcoming Assembly polls.

The JMM leader recalled the events right from the moment he took over as the chief minister of the state on February 2 to him being replaced by Hemant Soren, in whose absence he had led the government. "On January 31, after an unprecedented turn of events, the India Alliance chose me to serve the state as the 12th Chief Minister of Jharkhand. From the first day of my tenure to the last day (July 3), I discharged my duties towards the state with full devotion and dedication. During this period, we took many decisions in public interest and, as always, was always available for everyone. The people of the state will evaluate the decisions we took keeping in mind the elders, women, youth, students and every section of the society and every person of the state," Champai wrote on the X post. He further claimed all his

government programmes were

cancelled on July 3 by the party leadership without his knowledge. Champai said that after Hul Diwas celebrations on June 30, he was told that all his events for the next two days were postponed by the JMM leadership. "One of these was a public program in Dumka, while the other was to distribute appointment letters to PGT teachers. On asking, I came to know that a meeting of the legislative party has been called by the coalition on July 3, till then you cannot attend any program as CM," the veteran leader added

### CBI closes in on crucial...

From Page 1 Ghosh who is also an orthopedic surgeon is known to have told his interrogators that the wall was pulled down because a decision was taken to construct a rest room for the house staff and postgraduate doctors.Meanwhile, even as the police clamped prohibitive orders outside the gates of the RGKMCH till August 23 a galaxy of Tollywood actors on Sunday took out a long procession demanding justice for the victim. "All of us are afraid ... Kolkata

is afraid, Bengal is afraid ... India is afraid ... the world is

at your work place ... now should the ladies stop going outside to word ... and here the police are trying to shield the accused ... it is clear that several persons could be involved in the acquainty and the several persons could be involved in the same and involved in the rape and murder whereas evidence is being destroyed and only one scapegoat getting arrested ... this is not done ... we the women want a secure work place for which justice for the lady doctor is a necessity ... hang the accused persons ... hand this system where women are raped at will," said Sudipta a television actress.

#### Bitter Football Foes of...

afraid ... who will you believe

From Page 1
The football fans of the three clubs said that they converged to protest against the cancellation by the Kolkata Police the Sunday's Durand Cup match between Mohan Bagan and East Bengal clubs. The Police administration had refused to provide force citing shortage of manpower on account of other deployments. Apparently the police had decided to spike the important Derby Match after reports went round that the supporters of the two clubs had decided to jointly raise slogans and show placards

condemning the RGKMCH rape and murder of the lady doctor.

"What have the supporters of football done ... the game itself is a symbol of justice and so we thought to bring some posters and banners but the police administration got the Derby Match cancelled altogether ... and you know Football rests in Bengalis' hearts ... so we decided to jointly converge near the stadium and protest," one of the fans shouted raising slogans of Justice for the RG Kar victim while rest others sang the National Anthem.

### Sriram's IAS coaching centre...

From Page 1

The decision was taken to protect and promote the rights of consumers as a class, the CCPA said.

Sriram's IAS advertisement made the following claims- "200 plus selections in UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022" "We are India's No.1 Prestigious UPSC/IAS Coaching UPSC/IAS Coaching Institute" CCPA found out that it Sriram's IAS advertised various types of courses but the information with respect

successful advertised candidates

abovementioned UPSC Civil Service exams results was deliberately concealed in the advertisement. This has the effect of consumers falsely believing that all the successful candidates so claimed by the Institute had opted for the paid courses advertised by the Institute on

its website. CCPA found out that Sriram's IAS advertised various types courses but the to the course opted by the information with respect to

the course opted by the advertised successful candidates in the UPSC Civil Service exams results was deliberately concealed in the advertisement. "This has the effect of consumers falsely believing that all the successful candidates so claimed by the institute had opted for the paid courses advertised by the institute on its website," the CCPA said. Sriram's IAS in its response

submitted the details of only 171 successful candidates against its claim of 200 plus

selections in UPSC CSE 2022, the statement said. Out of these 171 candidates, 102 were from Free Interview

Guidance Programme (IGP), 55 were from Free Test Series, 9 were from GS Classroom course and 5 candidates were from different states under the MoU signed between the state government and the institute to provide free coaching. "This fact was not disclosed in advertisement, deceiving consumers," the

### **Israel strikes Gaza as Blinken arrives for ceasefire talks**

**AP** ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed 24 people overnight and into Sunday, including a woman and her six children, local health officials said, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken headed to the region to try to seal a cease-fire deal after months of negotiations. The US and fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar said they were closing in on a deal after two days of talks in Doha, with American and Israeli officials expressing cautious optimism. But Hamas has signalled resistance to what it says are new demands by Israel, and the long-running talks have repeatedly stalled.

The evolving proposal calls for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all hostages abducted during its October 7 attack, which triggered the deadliest war fought between Israelis and Palestinians. In exchange, Israel would withdraw its forces from Gaza and release Palestinian prisoners.



The mediators hope to end a war that has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, displaced the vast majority of the territory's 2.3 million residents and caused a humanitarian catastrophe. Experts have warned of famine and the outbreak of diseases like polio. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the October 7 attack and abducted around

250. Of those, some 110 are still believed to be inside Gaza, with Israeli authorities saying around a third are deceased. More than 100 hostages were released in November during

a weeklong cease-fire. Quadruplets among six children killed in Gaza The latest Israeli bombardment included strike early Sunday on a home in the central town of Deir al-Balah that killed a woman and her six children. according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. An Associated Press reporter at the hospital counted the bodies. Mohammed Awad Khatab,

the children's grandfather, said his daughter, a schoolteacher, was with her husband and their six children when their house was struck. He said the children ranged in age from 18 months to 15 years, and included quadruplets. He said the father was hospitalized after the strike. "The six children have become body parts. They were placed in a single bag," he told reporters outside the hospital. "What did they do? Did they kill any of the Jews? ... Will this provide security to Israel?'

A strike in the northern town of Jabaliya hit two apartments in a residential building, killing two men, a woman and her daughter, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Another two strikes in central Gaza killed nine people, according to Al-Awda Hospital. Late Saturday, a strike near the southern city of Khan Younis killed four people from the same family, including two women, according to Nasser Hospital.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militant group conceals fighters, weapons, tunnels and rockets in residential areas. But the monthslong Israeli bombardment has wiped out entire extended families and orphaned thousands of chil-

Israel says 'cautious optimism' about cease-fire talks The mediators have spent months trying to halt the fighting, efforts that gained new urgency after the targeted killing of two top militants last month, both attributed to Israel, brought vows of revenge from Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah, raising fears of an all-out war across the Middle East. An American official said Friday that mediators were beginning preparations for implementing the latest cease-fire proposal, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's office expressed "cautious optimism" a deal could be reached.

An Israeli delegation is set to travel to Cairo on Sunday for further talks, and Blinken is expected to meet with Netanyahu on Monday. Hamas has cast doubt on

whether an agreement is near, saying the latest proposal diverged significantly from a previous iteration they had accepted in principle. Hamas has rejected Israel's

demands for a lasting military presence along the Gaza-Egypt border and a line bisecting Gaza where Israeli forces would search Palestinians returning to their homes. Israel says both are needed to prevent militants from rearming and returning to the north.
Israel showed flexibility on retreating from the border corridor, and a meeting between Egyptian and Israeli military officials was scheduled for next week to agree on a withdrawal mechanism, according to two Egyptian officials, who spoke on condi-

discuss the private negotiations.Blast wounds peacekeepers in LebanonIn Lebanon, meanwhile, three UN peacekeepers were lightly wounded when an explosion struck their vehicle near the southern village of Yarin. The peacekeeping mission, known as UNIFIL, said the incident is under investigation and did not provide further details. Hezbollah began launching near-daily drone and rocket attacks along the border after the outbreak of the war in Gaza, drawing Israeli retaliation in a cycle of violence that has steadily escalated. UNIFIL says around a dozen peace-keepers have been wounded since the strikes and counterstrikes began. In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which has also seen a surge of violence since the start of the war in Gaza, gunmen marched in a funeral procession for two Hamas commanders killed in an Israeli airstrike in Jenin the

tion of anonymity because they were not authorised to

#### UK orders 'rapid analytical sprint' to clamp down on extremism

London (PTI): The UK government has ordered a socalled "rapid analytical sprint" to map and monitor extremism trends as part of a review to clamp down on radicalisation, hateful beliefs and violence against women and girls. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper told 'The Sunday Telegraph' that she has ordered the review into the government's counter-extremism strategy amid fears that extremist ideologies online and on the streets of the country have been on the rise.

It comes in the wake of a series of violent clashes involving far-right extremists across Britain following the fatal stabbing of three young girls in Southport, north-west England.

"Action against extremism has been badly hollowed out in recent years, just when it should have been needed most," Cooper is quoted by the newspaper as saying. "That's why I have directed the

Home Office to conduct a rapid analytical sprint on extremism, to map and monitor extremist trends, to understand the evidence about what works to disrupt and divert people away from extremist views, and to identify any gaps in existing policy which need to be addressed to crack down on those pushing harmful and hateful beliefs and violence. That work will underpin a new strategic approach to countering extremism from government, working closely with communities to build consensus and impetus for our plans," she said. The review is said to be looking at the rise of both Islamist and far-right extremism in the UK, as well as wider ideological trends, including extreme misogyny or beliefs that fit into broader categories like fixation on violence. Officials will examine emerging ideologies which are gaining momentum and will assess any gaps in the current system which leave the country "exposed" to threats that promote violence or undermine democracy. For too long, governments have failed to address the rise in extremism, both online and

#### Shinawatra becomes Thailand's prime minister after royal signoff

**AP** ■ BANGKOK

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's prime minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed her predecessor. She replaces another leader from the same Pheu Thai Party, at the head of a coalition that includes military parties associated with the coup that deposed the party's last government.

Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her billionaire father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra. Both were removed from office and forced into exile in coups, although Thaksin returned to Thailand last year as Pheu Thai formed a government.

She received the letter of appointment in a ceremony at the party's headquarters in Bangkok, attended by senior members of parties in the governing coalition and her father, who has no formal role but is widely seen de facto leader of



Pheu Thai. The father and daughter arrived in the same car, holding hands as they walked in together with beaming smiles.

Paetongtarn thanked the king, the Thai people and lawmakers, saying she will perform her duties "with an open mind," and will "make every square inch of Thailand a space that allows Thai people to dare to dream, dare to create and dare to dictate their own future. Paetongtarn became Prime Minister days after the Constitutional Court removed

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, after less than a year in office. The court found him guilty of a serious ethical breach for appointing a Cabinet government. The same day, Thaksin returned from exile and briefly in office. The court found him

minister who had been jailed for contempt of court after an alleged attempt to bribe a judge. Paetongtarn is also Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt, and the country's youngest leader at 37.

Pheu Thai is the latest in a string of populist parties affiliated with Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 military coup, which triggered nearly two decades of deep political divisions that nitted a mostly page. sions that pitted a mostly poor, rural majority in the north that supported Thaksin against roy-alists, the military and their urban backers.

Parties linked to Thaksin won the most seats in every national election from 2001 until 2023, when it lost to the more progressive Move Forward Party.Pheu Thai was able to form a government after Move Forward was blocked by the military-appointed Senate, partnering with former rivals in what was widely interpreted as a political bargain with the conservative establishment to stop Move Forward from forming a

### Donald Trump claims he's better looking than Kamala Harris

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

 $R^{\text{epublican presidential can-}}_{\text{didate Donald Trump has}}$ launched fresh personal attacks against his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, disparaging her physical appearance and insisting that he was "much better looking than her".

The former president made the comments at a rally in

Pennsylvania on Saturday while referencing a recent Time Magazine cover that features Vice President Harris. "I'm much better looking than her," Trump, 78, declared after criticising Time Magazine's illustrator for being "too generous" with a portrait of Harris, 59. This isn't the first time he's brought up the topic, which also came up at previous ral-lies. "Time Magazine doesn't have a picture of her. They have this unbelievable artist drawing her," he said. "They took a lot of pictures that didn't work out so they hired a sketch artist." Trump spoke for nearly two hours quickly hitting on Vice President Harris' economic



policy rollout before going off script and calling himself "bet-ter looking", The Hill report-ed. The attack line from Trump was one of many against Harris and her Democratic allies at Saturday's rally.

Trump last week said he was "entitled" to personally attack Harris because he doesn't "have a lot of respect for her", as he dismissed calls from allies to refocus his campaign on policy issues in his bid to reclaim the White House on November Trump during Saturday's

rally in Pennsylvania also attacked President Joe Biden for dropping out of the presidential race. Pennsylvania is set to play a deciding role in November's election with its 19 Electoral

College votes up for grabs. Trump narrowly flipped the state in 2016, but then narrowly lost it to Biden in 2020. "What happened to Biden? I was running against Biden and now I'm running against some-one else," Trump said. "I said, who am I running against, Harris? I said, 'Who the hell is

Trump also took several jabs at Harris's economic plan that she debuted on Friday. "Yesterday, Kamala laid out her so-called economic plan. She says she's going to lower the cost of food and housing starting on day one. But day one for Kamala was three and a half years ago," Trump said.Trump, however, insisted he could bring prices down, without providing additional specifics other than the general push for expanding US oil production.
"After causing catastrophic

Harris?'

inflation, Comrade Kamala announced that she wants to institute socialist price controls," Trump said.

Ahead of the Democratic National Convention beginning on Monday, Trump questioned why Harris is going, claiming that she never earned any votes as a presidential candidate. Trump continued to claim

Harris "stole" President Biden's presidential bid, saying Biden "angry" and that he "hates" Harris, ABC News reported. "Joe Biden hates her. This was an overthrow of a president. This was an overthrow," Trump

Trump said he looked forward to debating Harris on September 10, claiming, "She'll be easier."

Trump has struggled to deliver a consistent message targeting Harris, even as Republicans argue they have a strong case against her on the economy and immigration. While the former president has at times focused on the issues, has mocked Harris' laugh and her intelligence.

### citizenship to 177 people

Singapore (PTI): Singapore Sunday welcomed 177 new citizens, including Sudhan Vincent from Tamil Nadu, encouraging them to contribute to the city state's common causes and help the nation to function as a "viable society". "We all have different talents

and different interests. Find and different interests. Find something meaningful to you, purposeful to you and use it for the greater good. Then you contribute to our community," Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper.

newspaper.
Sudhan was among 177 new
Singapore citizens who
received their citizenship certificates at the annual National tificates at the annual National Citizenship Ceremony held by the People's Association at the Singapore Institute of Management Performing Arts Theatre, a state-supported institution. According to the latest statistics, around 23,500 new citizenships were granted in 2023.

### S'pore grants | Experts say famine looming in 4 Yemeni districts as hunger surges among children

AP CAIRO

 $F^{\text{amine is looming in four}}_{\text{Yemeni districts after}}$  instances of hunger have rapidly surged among children in areas controlled by the interna-tionally recognized government, a report by international experts said. All 117 districts in government-controlled areas are expected to suffer from "serious" levels of acute malnutrition. Among them, the four districts — Mawza and Mocha in Taiz province, and Hays and Khawkhah in Hodeida province — are projected to slip into famine between July and October this year, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC. The report reflects the worsening food insecurity in the poorest Arab nation that plunged into civil war in 2014, when Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels took control of the capital, Sanaa, and much of the



then to Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015, backed at the time by the U.S., in an effort to restore the internationally recognized government to power. The war has killed more than 150,000 people including civilians and combatants, and in recent years deteriorated ital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, forcing the government to flee to the south, humanitarian crises.

About half of the country's population — or 18.2 million population — or 18.2 million people — are in need of humanitarian aid this year, according to the United Nations. The number of acute-ly malnourished children has increased by 34% compared to last year, the report said. They include more than 18,500 children under 5 who are projected to be severely malnourished by the end of this year, it said.

Additionally, the report found about 223,000 pregnant and lactating women are expected to be malnourished in 2024. 'The report confirms an alarm-

ing trend of acute malnutrition for children in southern Yemen," said the UNICEF representative to Yemen, Peter Hawkins.

"To protect the most vulnerable women, girls and boys, an investment in and scale-up of prevention and treatment efforts are more critical than

The report attributed the sharp rise of malnutrition to the combined effects of cholera and measles outbreaks, high food insecurity, limited access to safe drinking water, economic decline and inadequate humanitarian aid — all are direct and indicate an indirect results of the decade-old war.The IPC is a global partnership of 15 U.N. agencies and humanitarian organizations working in Yemen and funded by the European Union, the U.S. and the U.K.

#### Harris and Walz to campaign by bus in Pennsylvania

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and running mate Tim Walz will campaign by bus in southwestern Pennsylvania on western Pennsylvania on Sunday, hoping to ride the wave of enthusiasm her candidacy has brought to the presidential race to their party's nominating con-vention in Chicago this week. Vice President Harris and week. Vice President Harris and Walz, the governor of Minnesota, will be joined by their spouses, Doug Emhoff and Gwen Walz, as they get on and off the bus in the Pittsburgh area to glad-hand with voters. Harris and Emhoff were scheduled to deliver remarks at an uled to deliver remarks at an event in the borough of Rochester, in Beaver County, which Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, won in 2020, though he lost the general election to Democrat Joe Biden.

Southwestern Pennsylvania is a critical part of a key battle-ground state that has long commanded the attention of presi-

dential candidates. The state voted for the Republican presidential candidate in 2016 and for the Democratic candidate in 2020. Both Harris and Trump 2020. Both Harris and Trump are vying to see who can put Pennsylvania in their column on Nov. 5. Most polls, including the New York Times/Siena College poll and Fox News, find Harris and Trump locked in a tight race statewide. Trump held a rally Saturday in Wilkes-Barre in the northeastern part of the state following his earliof the state, following his earlier rallies in July in Harrisburg and Butler, where he survived an assassination attempt. The bus tour will be Harris' eighth trip to Pennsylvania this year, and her second this month. The vice president's Aug. 6 announcement that Walz would be her running mate came hours before their first joint appearance as a ticket later that day in Philadelphia. "This is a state that traditionally has been super important but southwestern Pennsylvania has been really kind of the battleground part of the battleground state," said

Kristin Kanthak, associate professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh. Allegheny County, which includes Pittsburgh, is a diverse

on our streets, and we've seen

the number of young people

radicalised online grow.

county with urban, suburban and rural areas, and a lot of people who haven't decided how they will vote, she said.

"It makes sense to come here and ask for votes because there are votes up for grabs here," Kanthak said of Harris. "It's not just about turning out your base. It's about having an opportunity to speak to truly undecided voters."In the 2020 race, Biden won Allegheny County with 60% of the vote, while Trump won neighboring Beaver Rochester, with about 58% of the vote. After Trump's surprise win in the state in 2016, Biden flipped Pennsylvania in 2020 — and, in so doing, won the White House — in part by running up his vote totals in heavily Democratic Pittsburgh, the state's second-largest city and the county seat of Allegheny County.

### **Earth ends 13-month streak of record heat**

**AP** WASHINGTON

 $F^{\text{rom June 2023 until June}}_{2024, \text{ air and ocean sur-}}$ face water temperatures averaged a quarter of a degree Celsius higher than records set only a few years previously. Air temperatures in July 2024 were slightly cooler than the previous July (0.04°C, the narrowest of margins) according to the EU's Copernicus

Climate Change Service.
July 2023 was in turn 0.28°C warmer than the previous record-hot July in 2019, so the remarkable jump in temper-ature during the past year has yet to ease off completely. The warmest global air tempera-ture recorded was in December 2023, at 1.78°C

above the pre-industrial average temperature for December – and 0.31°C erence period, 1850–1900, warmer than the previous was before most greenhouse

Global warming has consis-tently toppled records for warm global average temper-atures in recent decades, but breaking them by as much as a quarter of a degree for several months is not common. The end of this streak does not diminish the mounting threat of climate change.

So what caused these record temperatures? Several factors came together, but the biggest and most important is climate change, largely caused by burning fossil fuels. Temperatures typical of Earth 150 years ago are used for

erence period, 1850–1900, was before most greenhouse gases associated with global industrialisation – which increase the heat present in Earth's ocean and atmosphere – had been emitted. July 2024 was 1.48°C warmer than a typical pre-industrial July, of which about 1.3°C is attributable to the general trend of global warming over the intervening decades. This trend will continue to raise temperatures until humanity stabilises the climate by keepstabilises the climate by keep-ing fossil fuels in the ground

where they belong.
But global warming doesn't happen in a smooth progression. Like UK house prices,

the general trend is up, but there are ups and downs along Behind much of the ups and

downs is the El Niño phe-nomenon. An El Niño event is a reorganisation of the water across the vast reaches of the Pacific Ocean.El Niño is so important to the workings of worldwide weather as it increases the temperature of the air on average across all of Earth's surface, not only over the Pacific. Between El Niño events, conditions may be neutral or in an opposite state called La Niña that tends to cool global temperatures. The oscillation between these extremes is irregular, and El Niño conditions tend to recur after three to seven years.

### Indian-origin couple, daughter killed in US car crash; teenage son sole survivor

**PTI** ■ HOUSTON

Tn a tragic incident, an Indian-origin Couple and their teenage daughter were killed in a road accident while driving her to college in the US state of Texas, leaving behind their 14-year-old son as the lone survivor. Arvind Mani (45), his wife Pradeepa Arvind (40) and their 17-year-old daughter Andril Arvind, who all were from Leander, were killed in the car crash on Wednesday near Lampasas County in Texas, the Austin American Statesman reported. Their only surviving immediate family member, son Adiryan (14), was not in the vehicle with them. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, a 2004 Cadillac CTS driven by 31-year-old Jacinto Gudino Duran, of Copperas Cove, was heading southbound on US Route 281

at the same time a 2024 Kia Telluride, operated by Mani, was heading northbound. Evidence at the scene showed the right rear tyre of the Cadillac had a

blowout, crash investigators were quoted as saying by FOX10TV.com.
Witnesses claimed the vehicle passed them at a high speed before the collision. The Texas Department of Public Safety said the blowout caused the driver of the Cadillac to lose control and cross over to the northbound lane into the Kia's path. The Kia crashed into the passenger side of Cadillac, causing extensive damage to both vehicles, officials said.

"It is one of the worst crashes I have seen in 26 years because of the magnitude of the damage and amount of people lost," said Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Bryan Washko.

Twenty-three-year-old Yosilu Gasman Martinez-Lopez, of Copperas Cove, was identified as a passenger in the Cadillac. There were two passengers in the Kia at the time, named Pradeepa and Andril. All five people in both vehicles were pronounced dead at the scene. Mani and his wife were driving their daughter to college in North Texas and had left their son behind because he started school that day, Washko said. Andril graduated from Rouse High School and was going to attend the University of Dallas, where she planned to study computer science, according to the GoFundMe set up for her brother."The Rouse High School family is deeply saddened to share the loss of one of our very

own Raiders from the Class of 2024,

Andril Arvind," said a letter sent to par-

ents from the school's principal.

#### LUCKNOW | MONDAY | AUGUST 19, 2024

### Stock markets to take cues from global trends, FII trading activity: Analysts

With the earnings season drawing to a close, stock markets will take cues from global trends and foreign investors' trading activity this week, analysts said. The US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes will be the major highlight this week, experts

"This week, there are fewer cues on the macro and micro fronts, as the Q1 earnings season has concluded. However, important global economic data, such as Japan's inflation numbers and the minutes from the US FOMC meeting, will be closely watched. The uncertain geopolitical situation remains the primary near-term risk for its near-term risk for the market," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika

Traders will also closely like cooling inflation and monitor institutional flows robust retail sales numbers

Investmart Ltd.



price and crude movement, he added. Easing fears of a recession in the US triggered a global market rally on Friday.
"Positive US economic data

shrugged off recession fears while talks of a rate cut by the US Fed as early as next month fuelled a mega rally across global equities, including Prashanth Tapse, India," Senior VP (Research), Mehta

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 1,330.96 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 80,436.84 on Friday, marking its best single-day gain in more than two months. The NSE Nifty surged 397.40 points or 1.65 per cent to close at a two-week high of 24,541.15.

"The outlook for the market will be guided by the FOMC meeting minutes, US existing home sales and new home sales data," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.
Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 730.93 points or 0.91 per cent, the Nifty climbed 173.65 points or 0.71 per cent.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head -Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said, all eves this week will be on US Fed meeting minutes. "Overall we expect the market to consolidate in a broader range and take cues from global factors," Khemka

### India's holding of American securities hits high of USD 241.9 bn in June

India's holding of US Government securities touched a high of USD 241.9 billion in June as the country continued to increase its exposure for the third straight month.

Japan was the top holder with securities worth over USD 1.11 trillion followed by China at the second spot with a holding valued at USD 780.2 billion in June, according to the latest data released by the

US Treasury Department.
At the third place was the United Kingdom with an exposure of USD 741.5 billion ahead of Luxembourg at the fourth position with a holding to the tune of USD 384.2 billion.

Among the countries and jurisdictions, India was at the 12th place owning American government securities worth USD 241.9 billion in June, higher than USD 237.8 billion value recorded in May. As per the data, India's

holding is the highest in the last one year and it was at USD 237.8 billion in May



2024. In April this year, it touched USD 233.5 billion declining from USD 240.6 billion in March.

In June last year, the exposure was at USD 235.4 billion. countries/

jurisdictions among the top 10 holders were Canada at the fifth spot with a holding of USD 374.8 billion, followed by Cayman Islands (USD 319.4 billion), Belgium (USD 318 billion), Ireland (USD 308 billion), France (USD 307.2 billion) and Switzerland (USD 287.1 billion). At the 11th position was Taiwan with an exposure of USD 265.9 billion.

The global economy is witnessing uncertain times amid high inflation, geopolitical tensions and amid other challenges. There is an uneven growth pattern and in the June quarter, the real GDP in the United States expanded at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent, higher than 1.4 per cent seen in the first three months of 2024.

World Economic In its Outlook Update issued in July, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the global economy is in a sticky spot and projected a growth of 3.2 per cent for this

eauities

Himanshu

Research.

Bhowar added.

less

Associate Director, Manager

Investment Research India,

announcement of an increase

in capital gains tax on equity investments has largely

fuelled this selling spree. In addition, FPIs have been

cautious due to the high

valuations of Indian stocks,

coupled with global economic concerns like rising recession

fears in the US amid weak

jobs data, uncertainty over

attractive,

Srivastava,

Morningstar

post-budget

#### Next round of India-Aus FTA talks from today



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Thief negotiators of India and Australia will begin the next round of talks for the comprehensive free trade agreement from tomorrow in Sydney, where both sides are likely to close negotiations on several chapters of the pact, an official said.

Both countries have already implemented an interim pact and are in discussions to expand its scope under the (Comprehensive CÉCA Economic Cooperation

Agreement). The interim pact - Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) - came into force in December 2022. The tenth round of negotiations is scheduled from August 19-22 in Sydney.

"Out of the total 19 areas of the agreement, we have completed our discussions on four chapters, and we are in very advanced stages in a few others. We hope that in this round, we should be able to close altogether, maybe more than 10 chapters," the commerce ministry official said. In this round, the official said that both countries are likely to get into market access discussions in goods and services.

The ECTA provides duty-free access to Indian exporters of over 6,000 broad sectors, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery in the Australian market. Under the pact, Australia has offered zero-duty access to India for about 96.4 per cent of exports.

On the other hand, the CECA envisages deeper and comprehensive engagement on the five issues - goods, services, digital trade, government procurement and rules of origin - that were agreed under ECTA.

Collaboration in space, mining and sports are among 15 new areas mutually identified by India and Australia for comprehensive free trade agreement. For the first time, these new segments would become part of a trade pact peing negotiated by India

### India will need around 1 lakh company secretaries by 2030: ICSI

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

India will need around 1 lakh company secretaries by 2030 amid rising economic growth and increasing focus on good governance, according to the company secretaries' apex body ICSI. Currently, there are more than 73,000 company secretaries and out of the total, around 12,000 are practising company secretaries.

Company secretaries play a key role in the corporate governance framework in ensuring compliance of companies with various statutory requirements.

of Company Institute Secretaries of India (ICSI) President B Narasimhan said there has been a paradigm shift in the way the country's economy is perceived today above 7 per cent on the and company secretaries have strength of the financial essentially become significant linchpin in making India one of the most Under a reasonable set of preferred investment assumptions with respect to estinations he world.



India will need around 1 lakh company secretaries by 2030, he told PTI during a recent interaction. On an average, the ICSI gives

membership to over 2,500 people every year. Going by projections, India is expected to become a USD 7

trillion economy by 2030. "It is eminently possible for the Indian economy to grow in the coming years at a rate sector and other recent and future structural reforms...

the inflation differentials and

the exchange rate, India can aspire to become a USD 7 trillion economy in the next six to seven years (by 2030)," a finance ministry report said in Ianuary this year.

Meanwhile, to attract more young talent into the profession, the institute has also started direct registration of graduates and post graduates in the company secretary executive programme.

Among other initiatives, ICSI has introduced secretarial standards to bring uniformity in the secretarial practices followed across corporate

### FPIs turn net sellers; pull out ₹21,201 crore from equities in August so far

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{their relentless selling in}}^{\text{oreign investors continued}}$ the Indian equity markets in August, offloading shares worth Rs 21,201 crore due to the unwinding of the yen carry trade, recession fears in the US and ongoing geopolitical conflicts.
This came after an inflow of

Rs 32,365 crore in July and Rs 26,565 crore in June, data with the depositories showed. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused funds in these months on the expectation of sustained economic growth, continued reform measures, better-thanexpected earnings season and political stability.
Before that, FPIs withdrew Rs

25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

Accord

withdrew a net amount of Rs aversion," 21,201 crore in equities so far Director

this month (August 1-17). So far this year, FPIs invested Rs 14,364 crore in equities, data with the depositories showed. FPI outflows witnessed in

August were mainly driven by a combination of global and domestic factors. "Globally, concerns about the

unwinding of the Yen carry trade, potential global recession, slowing economic growth, and ongoing geopolitical conflicts led to growth, and market volatility and risk

Vipul Bhowar, Listed Waterfield Investments. Advisors, said.

The outflow was triggered due to the unwinding of the Yen carry trade after the Bank of Japan raised interest rates to 0.25 per cent. Domestically, after being net

buyers in June and July, some FPIs might have chosen to book profits following a strong rally in previous quarters.

Additionally, mixed quarterly valuations have made Indian

the timing of interest rate cuts, and the unwinding of yen carry trade, he added. A significant trend in FPI flows recently, which became pronounced in August, is the sustained selling by them through the exchange while continuing to invest through the 'primary market and others' category. This difference in FPI behaviour is negotiations under earnings and relatively higher due to the differences in

### Cognizant says entry-level annual pay for engineers at ₹4-12 lakh; best in industry

 $F_{\text{backlash over the Rs 2.52}}^{\text{acing social media}}$ lakh annual salary offer for freshers, IT giant Cognizant on Sunday said it offers Rs 4-12 lakh salary to fresh engineering graduates, and the salary being quoted on social media is for nonengineering undergraduate degree holders.

The firm also faced social media ridicule for doling out annual salary hikes of as low as 1 per cent, but what is being quoted is the lower band of the 1-5 per cent annual increments that the firm has dished out based on individual performance. Cognizant annually hires fresh engineers and non-

engineering/IT graduates for varied roles. With the two recruitments



running almost parallel, hiring for three-year nonengineering/information technology undergraduate degree holders picked up and was widely shared as Cognizant's salary package for freshers.

"Our recent job posting for talent from non-engineering backgrounds, with a 3-year undergraduate degree has been grossly misrepresented. This job posting, with compensation of Rs 2.52 lakhs annually, was only for

candidates with a 3-year undergraduate degree and not for engineering graduates.

'Our annual compensation fresh engineering graduates ranges from Rs 4 lakhs to Rs 12 lakhs annually, depending on the category of hiring, skill set, and advanced accredited industry ' said Surya EVP and certifications," Gummadi, Cognizant President. Americas.

Cognizant hires engineering undergraduate holders degree administrative and other roles and invests substantial time and money in upgrading their skills and IT training, after which they get absorbed in various roles.

"The compensation we offer for engineering graduates is highly competitive within the IT services peer group," he

Cognizant's salary package for engineering graduates matches the best in the industry, and at some levels, it is even higher than peers.

"We have been recruiting and upskilling freshers from engineering institutions as well as colleges offering degrees in science, arts, and commerce. Today, as AI increasingly powers modern businesses, we are creating new pathways for talent to thrive in India's technology

industry," Gummadi said. Gummadi — who joined Cognizant as a fresher twoand-half-decades back and rose through ranks to now head geography, which forms three-fourths of Cognizant's revenues — said the firm has a robust training programme that has benefited freshers across the board.

### Foxconn working on plans to set up battery energy storage system unit

**PTI** ■ SRIPERUMBUDUR

electronics **T**aiwanese manufacturing **▲** manufacturing giant Foxconn is working on plans to set up a battery energy storage system unit in India, its Chairman Young Liu said

With an eye on the electric vehicle segment, Foxconn has been expanding its battery manufacturing business, with the first plant already set up in Taiwan. Liu told PTI that Foxconn's

information communication technology segment has just started in

"We are also waiting to put our 3+3 future industry in India. I have been talking to



the minister for industries here about how can we collaborate on BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) in Tamil Nadu...," Liu said. As part of the "3+3 strategy",

Foxconn has prioritised the three kev industries -- electric vehicles, digital health, and robotics — each has a

significant growth potential with current scale at USD 1.4 trillion and over 20 per cent compound annual growth

rate. Foxconn's battery storage business is more focused on electric vehicles.

Battery energy systems (BESS) enable energy

Indian businesses need to align cyber security

from renewable sources like solar and wind. Foxconn has set up its first BESS unit in Taiwan for e-Buses. The unit is expected to start mass production this year. The company is also in discussion to set up a BESS factory in Indonesia.

The proposed BESS factory in India will complement Foxconn's electric vehicle manufacturing business in India, which is under works. When asked about the status of EV production, Liu said it will start "very soon".

Foxconn has invested over USD 1.4 billion in India to date, and its business has grown to USD 10 billion. At present, the company

employs over 48,000 people in

#### **FMCG** players expect volume trends to sustain amid rising demand in rural markets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{goods (FMCG) companies}}^{\text{ast-moving}} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{consumer} & \text{worried about elevated food} \\ \text{inflation as coffee and cocoa} \end{array}$ expect to sustain volume prices have gone up growth in the coming quarters, buoyed by recovery of demand in rural markets and good monsoon, despite concerns over growing food inflation.FMCG majors, inflation.FMCG majors, including HUL, ITC, Dabur, Britannia, Nestle and Emami, in their June quarter earnings have reported 'green shoots' from the rural markets and strong growth from echannels, commerce particularly from quick-

commerce platforms. The industry had around 6.6 monsoon,

worried about elevated food unprecedently. Amid expectations of an increase in cereals and grains prices, some of the players have even indicated price hikes.

Dabur CÉO Mohit Malhotra said, "Going forward, the volume will increase on the back of rural inching up for us. So I expect the subsequent quarters to be better than our existing quarters, definitely not worse."

He expressed optimism, saying that with a good improving per cent volume growth in the macroeconomic indicators

April-June period of this fiscal. and rural-centric government However, companies are spending, FMCG demand will see a gradual uptick. Malhotra also mentioned

inflation in food is very high today and "we might have to take some price increases in food, but it depends upon how the situation is." Marico MD & CEO Saugata Gupta said the FMCG sector continued to witness gradual improvement in demand trends in the June quarter, with better rural growth."We expect volume trends to sustain the trajectory, aided by stable retail inflation, a healthily progressing monsoon season, and the Govt's budgetary allocation towards boosting the rural economy," he said.

#### Hero MotoCorp gets over ₹17 cr tax notice from Delhi GST authorities

Rs

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

demand

 $H_{ ext{Sunday said it has}}^{ ext{ero MotoCorp on}}$ received a demand notice of over Rs 17 crore from Delhi GST authorities.

The company has received an order dated August 17, 2024, for disallowance of input tax credit for FY 2019-20 from the Office of the GST Officer, Government of NCT of Delhi, the twowheeler major said in a regulatory filing. The company said the tax

is for

9,38,66,513, interest Rs 7,32,15,880 and penalty Rs 93,86,651 as per the notice. Based on the company's assessment, the tax demand is not maintainable in law, it added.

The input tax credit disallowed by the office of the GST Officer, New Delhi, was rightfully claimed by the company as per the provisions of the GST law but disallowed on account of supplier's compliance, which is not attributable to the company, Hero MotoCorp said.

### budgets with growth objectives, says Kaspersky

Tndian businesses need to align cyber security budgets with their growth objectives to ensure sustainable expansion in the face of increasing digitalisation and associated risks, a top official

of Kaspersky has said. The emergence of new-age technologies, including artificial intelligence and GenAI, is critical for companies to boost their

businesses. "In order to grow businesses, you need to digitise. If you don't digitise, you are not going to have that business growth value," Adrian Hia, Managing Director for the APAC region at Kaspersky,

At the same time, the digitalisation of businesses increases the attack surface area, opening avenues for like risks sophisticated cvberattacks.

If Indian businesses aim to grow by 20 per cent, they also need to boost their cyber security budget by 20 per cent in the course of preparedness against these attacks, Hia noted.

Further, he said that organisations need to upkeep their systems and data while moving towards digital transformation.

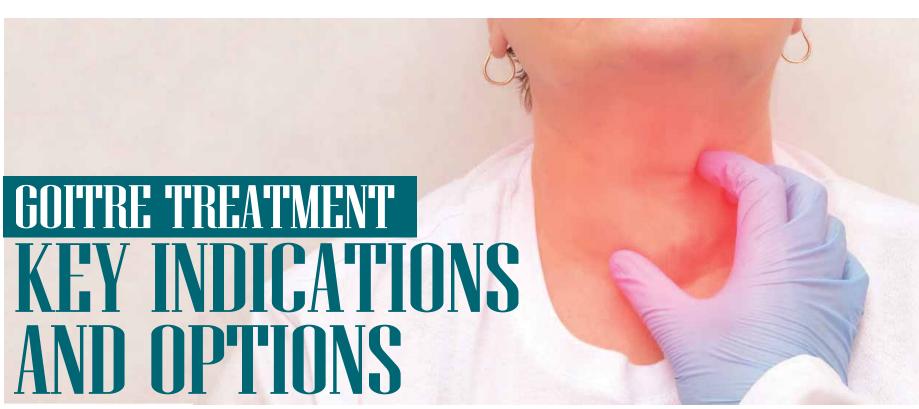
In India, malware attacks climbed 11 per cent to 13,44,566 in 2024 against 12,13,528 a year ago, a report

by SonicWall said earlier this month. The number of brute force or

targeted attacks is escalating in India, with every third cyber incident reported due to ransomware in 2023, cyber security firm Kaspersky has noted. According to Hia, the cause

for such attacks is the amount of data exposed on the internet, which has grown to nearly 10-fold, either through applications or web server data. proliferation

"The smartphones, where everyone has two smartphones...has led to data from 3 billion smartphones in India. So, the attack surface has increased,"





DR SUNIL CHUMBER Professor and Head

In this concluding part of the series on Multinodular Goitre (MNG), ARCHANA JYOTI speaks with DR SUNIL CHUMBER and his team from the Department of Surgical Discipline at AIIMS, Delhi about critical factors for intervention and available management strategies

#### TREATMENT INDICATIONS AND OPTIONS

NG is essentially a non-cancerous enlargement of the thyroid. Not all people with this condition will need treatment and your doctor will advise you with a treatment plan based on certain indications which are described below.

#### **INDICATIONS**

Patients hyperthyroidism: All MNG patients who also have hyperthyroidism (increased thyroid hormones) on blood tests will need some form of treatment.

without Patients hyperthyroidism: Goitre on "antithyroid medications" compressive like symptoms such as difficulty in breathing, difficulty in swallowing, cough, difficulty sleeping, etc. needs to be However, if patients who do treated. Also, if your doctor suspect's thyroid cancer based on size/rate of growth/ scans can be kept on these These urgent treatment. Lastly, an alternative but is not very readily available. patients may choose to receive treatment for MNG size of the goitre. due to cosmetic reasons.

#### TREATMENT OPTIONS

or a part of the thyroid gland. This is the treatment of capsule. It gets taken up by compressive suspicion of thyroid cancer, few



DR REVA SHANKAR SAHU

supplementation is needed when the entire thyroid gland is removed.

•Medical treatment: All patients hyperthyroidism are started carbimazole, and methimazole till hormone which surgery can be done. not want surgery or are not fit to undergo surgery, they effective in decreasing the

"Radioactive iodine" is a solution containing hormone an alternative to surgery in provided.

occurs, blood vessels within

the bone and surrounding

tissues are damaged, leading

to the formation of a



DR AMOL SOOD

patients who are unfit or unwilling to undergo surgery. Pregnant ladies and lactating mothers have to be very careful and inform your doctor immediately as this method is not safe for them.

procedures: Ablative These are ultrasound-guided levels become normal, after procedures that involve injection of medical alcohol or the use of radiofrequency (RFA) or laser to destroy diseased thyroid tissue procedures or needle test, he will advise medicines for a long time as relatively new and not

•Annual surveillance: For people with goitre but no •Radioiodine treatment: other symptoms, not having hyperthyroidism, and not being suspicious of cancer, •Surgical treatment: The I131which is given to annual surveillance is an surgeon removes the whole patients either as an oral option. For this, the doctor liquid to drink or as a conducts a yearly checkup, checks thyroid function test, choice in patients with the thyroid alone and and neck ultrasound. If an symptoms, destroys it from within in a indication for treatment weeks. It is arises or the patient desires, and large goitre. A lifelong recommended by doctors as appropriate treatment is

#### **OPERATIONS IN MNG**

Indications for surgery in MNG are local compressive symptoms (difficulty in swallowing and shortness of breath), suspicious malignancy features on imaging, large substernal development, drugresistant hyperthyroidism, and cosmetic concerns. If MNG is limited to one lobe

of the thyroid, the standard surgical procedure is a hemithyroidectomy only the lobe with nodule(s) is removed and the other half thyroid is left intact.

In these cases, it is crucial to assess the other lobe not being removed, for any involvement through an ultrasound scan before surgery, and feeling with hands during the surgery that it does not have any nodules.

Two main categories of surgeries can be performed for MNG cases involving both lobes First category limited and includes "bilateral subtotal thyroidectomy" where both lobes of the thyroid are removed but small pieces of normal thyroid from both are left behind. This method will be performed by your surgeon

produce

cosmesis.



DR YASHWANT RATHORE

to decrease the risks associated with the other procedures, such as injury to nerve and parathyroid gland.

The second type includes total and near-total thyroidectomy, which tends to be a more aggressive approach. In these again both the lobes of thyroid are removed, but minimal-tono thyroid is left behind. This group of surgery is need for repeat operation which might be required to remove the left-behind thyroid if the disease appears again or higher risks of injury, only



adequately equipped centers. All surgeries on the thyroid have some degree of risk of damage to important structures in the neck like the nerve that controls our voice, the parathyroid gland which controls calcium levels in the body, or even the food pipe and the airway especially if the recommended to reduce the thyroid has become very large and both side surgeries have to be done. Also if both thyroid lobes are removed you will require taking thyroxine if carcinoma is found in the hormone supplements lifelong removed thyroid. As these and based on Thyroid procedures are known to have Function Tests reports doses will be adjusted by your doctor.

#### CONCLUSION-

MNG is a widely occurring breathing, eating, and disease of thyroid gland sleeping. Not having enough Iodine in where small nodules form food is an important cause of inside the thyroid causing it to become bigger and problems of

iodisation of salt, the large contact a nearby doctor.

goitres seen before the 90s have largely come down. The nodules are mostly noncancerous but anytime any this problem, but due to such enlargement is seen in government efforts of front of your neck, you should

Mediterranean diet and nature's healing power are key to lower stress and better mental health. THE PIONEER reports on two insightful studies

#### **Mediterranean Diet Linked** to Lower Stress Levels

 $F_{\text{a}}^{\text{eeling stressed? Adopting}}_{\text{Mediterranean diet}}$ could be beneficial, according to recent research. A study by Binghamton University, State University of New York, compared the Mediterranean diet to the traditional Western diet to explore their effects on diet has been shown to stress levels. The Mediterranean diet,

known for its emphasis on

fruits, vegetables, nuts,

extra virgin olive oil, may help reduce stress and mental distress. Lina Begdache, The findings suggest that Associate Professor of Health and Wellness Studies, noted that the study, published in Nutrition and Health, found that this diet lowers mental distress and improves

perceptions of stress. In contrast, the Western diet, which is high in processed foods and low-quality carbohydrates, is linked to increased stress and mental distress. Research has shown it to contribute to the globally rising risk of noncommunicable diseases like diabetes, and death by nearly 25 per hypertension and cancers. The research, involving over

machine learning to analyze survey data and found that the Mediterranean diet is associated with lower levels of stress and mental distress. In addition to mental health benefits, the Mediterranean support overall health. A recent study published in Heart highlighted its benefits in reducing the risk of legumes, and healthy fats like cardiovascular disease and death, especially among women, by nearly 25%.

incorporating more

Mediterranean diet

components could be a simple yet effective way to manage stress and improve overall health. A recent study, published in the journal Heart, too showed the association between a Mediterranean diet and incident risk of cardiovascular disease CVD and death. Focusing especially on women, the study showed that a Mediterranean diet can boost your heart health and lower the risk of heart disease

#### **Spending 10 Min in Nature** can Boost Mental Health

We recognize that nature plays a crucial role in human health, yet behavioral and providers frequently overlook its potential as an intervention. But now a new study published in the peer-Ecopsychology, has revealed that spending time in nature—even as little as 10 minutes—can yield short-

term benefits for adults with mental illness. 'We know nature plays an resources, important role in human community support or health, but behavioral health equipment to venture into the and health care providers often neglect to think about it as an intervention," said Joanna Bettmann, a professor water-based outdoor spaces at the University of Utah rivers, lakes, oceans—and College of Social Work and camping, farming, and lead author of the study. "We set out to distill some evidence-based guidance for those providers."

The amount of time study some participants spent as little as 10 minutes in a city multiple days in immersive environments," wilderness experiences. We Bettmann.



urban nature is far less intimidating, expensive, and time-consuming for people who do not have the time, derness for days or week wrote the authors. The analysis also indicated that camping, farming, and gardening activities had the greatest positive effect. Urban nature, mountains, and forests also offered significant effects. "All of these different types of participants spent in nature outdoor spaces delivered varied from study to study; positive results, which underscores the importance of preserving green spaces in park, while others spent our natural and built

### Ayurvedic Medicines Accelerate Bone Fracture Healing

Rich in essential nutrients, many ayurvedic medicines like Hadjod, Aama haldi, and Lakshadhi guggul can significantly speed up bone fracture recovery and improve bone quality, offering an effective complement to conventional treatments, says DR RP PARASHAR

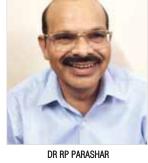
The healing process of immediately after a fracture **■** bone fractures is crucial for effective treatment and rehabilitation. It is a complex, highly regulated series of events that involves a variety hematoma (a localized activities, cellular molecular signals, and mechanical factors.

Fractures may be Simple (closed) when the bone breaks but does not penetrate the skin or Compound (open) when the bone breaks and penetrates through the skin, increasing the risk of

when the bone is shattered multiple pieces. Greenstick fractures occur mostly in children when the bone bends and cracks. Stress fractures are small

cracks in the bone caused by repetitive forces or overuse. Bone healing is a dynamic process that typically occurs in four overlapping stages: hematoma formation, inflammatory phase, reparative phase, and remodeling phase.

collection of blood). This hematoma serves as a scaffold for the influx of inflammatory cells and provides a provisional matrix for the next stages of healing. Inflammatory phase begins within hours of the fracture and can last for several days. During this phase, the body's response is immune Comminuted fractures occur activated, and various inflammatory cells such as macrophages, neutrophils, and lymphocytes migrate to the fracture site. These cells help remove debris and release cytokines and growth factors that promote healing. The inflammatory phase is essential for initiating the healing process and setting the stage for the formation of new bone tissue. Reparative phase characterized the formation of a soft callus, Hematoma formation starts which eventually transitions



into a hard callus. Within a few days to weeks after the fracture, fibroblasts, chondroblasts, osteoblasts migrate to the

fracture site. These cells produce collagen and other extracellular components, forming a soft callus made of fibrous tissue and cartilage. This soft callus bridges the fracture gap and

provides initial stability. Over the next few weeks to months, the soft callus is gradually replaced by a hard callus composed of woven

down new bone tissue. The hard callus increases the mechanical stability of the fracture site and is a crucial step toward complete bone

difficulty

healing.

The final phase of bone healing is the remodeling phase, which can last for several months to years. During this phase, the hard

callus is remodeled into mature lamellar bone, restoring the bone's original structure and mechanical properties. The bone gradually regains its normal strength, shape, function.

Several factors can influence the rate and quality of bone healing. These factors can be broadly categorized into biological, mechanical, and systemic factors. Biological Factors are age,

blood supply to the fractured bone delivering oxygen, nutrients, and cells to the fracture site.

The intrinsic quality of the bone, influenced by factors bone. Osteoblasts play a key such as bone density and role in this process by laying microarchitecture,



healing. Conditions like alignment and stabilization osteoporosis compromise bone healing.
Mechanical factors include the mechanical stability of

Systemic factors include adequate intake of nutrients, particularly calcium, vitamin D, proteins, etc. Hormones such as parathyroid hormone, growth hormone, and sex hormone,

of the fracture through

immobilization or surgical

fixation promote callus

formation and bone repair.

significant role in bone metabolism and healing. every phase of bone healing.

These medicines escalate the Boswellia serrata, B. sacra, healing process and can be used alone or in combination other allopathic medicines. Some of the medicines include Hadjod, Aama haldi, Lakshadhi guggul, Shatavari, Ashwagandha, etc Botanical name of Asthishrinkhala or Hadjod quadrangularis which reduces swelling, relieves pain, treats allied illnesses associated with fracture and aids in healing fracture. The herb contains high levels

of calcium, phosphorus & vitamin D and is nowadays being used in many combinations of allopathic medicine also. Lakshadi guggul is a combination of lakhsa (Laccifer lacca), Asthishrinkhala (Cissus quadrangularis) Arjun bark (Terminalia arjuna), Ashwagandha (Withaniya somnifera) Nagbala( Grewia hirsuta) and Guggul, which There are a number of is a gum resin obtained from Ayurvedic medicines which a variety of plants including are quite effective in each and species Commiphora wightii, C. gileadensis, C. mukul,

etc. The combination is a rich source of calcium, vitamins & antioxidants which is known to fasten the healing process in bone fracture, low bone density, and pain in joints. It's quite effective in osteoporosis also. haldi (Curcuma amada) is another herb having antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and rejuvenative properties. Shatavari ( Asparagus racemosus) is highly rich in antioxidants and acts as a rejuvenator and strength provider in bone healing. These medicines not only shorten the recovery time but also aid in the quality healing of the bones.

With appropriate care and intervention, most fractures can heal effectively, allowing patients to regain full function and return to their normal activities by the use of Ayurvedic medicines.

(The author is Chief Medical Officer (Avurveda), Municipal Corporation of

# Our fight will continue, truth will prevail: Vinesh

verwhelmed by the grand reception she received on her arrival from the Paris Olympics, wrestler Vinesh Phogat said that her fight against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) would continue and hoped that "truth will prevail". Hundreds of supporters had gathered outside the IGI airport here on Saturday to give a rousing welcome to Vinesh who was disqualified for being overweight after reaching the 50kg final at the Olympics.

Vinesh's appeal against her disqualification was rejected by the ad-hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

On her way to Balali from Delhi, Vinesh was felicitated by her supporters and 'khap' panchayats in several villages as it took her almost 13 hours to cover 135 kms.

She reached her native village she reached her native village in Balali around midnight and was accorded a grand welcome by the villagers. Her neighbours and friends met her with tears and smiles and patted her for the courage she had shown

ĥad shown.

Exhausted after a tiring journey that began in Paris, Vinesh addressed the gathering before calling it a day.



"Our fight has not ended and the fight will continue and I pray to god that the truth will prevail," said Vinesh while

addressing the people.

During their sit-in at Jantar Mantar, Vinesh along with Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik had spent nights on the streets.

They had accused the then WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual harassment of women grapplers. They were evicted when they tried to march towards the new Parliament building

The case against Brij Bhushan is being heard by a Delhi court. Vinesh said that the welcome she had received on arrival would give her the courage to pick up the threads and get on with life.

"As I got love from my fellow Indians, my village and my family members, it would give me some courage to make this wound heal. Maybe, I could return to wrestling," said the 29-year-old Vinesh.

"Missing the Olympic medal is the biggest wound in my life. I don't know how much time it would take to heal this wound. I don't know if I would pursue wrestling or not but the kind of courage I got today, I want to use that in the right direction,"

she added Vinesh said she does not know if she deserved the accolades or not.

"But I feel extremely lucky to be born in this village. I would always fight for the honour of the women and of this village." two-time World Championships medallist wished that someone from Balali would better her wrestling achievements.

She is a two-time CWG gold

champion and has won eight Asian Championships medals. "I want it from the bottom of my heart that somebody from the village carries my legacy forward and breaks my records. If I can promote women wrestlers of my village, it would be my biggest achievement," she said.

achievement," she said.
"It would be disappointing if no wrestler emerged from this village. We have paved the way with your achievements. I request you all to support the women in this village, they need support if they have to replace us. replace us.

"They can achieve a lot. All they need is your support. I will always be indebted to this nation, this village. Whatever I have learnt, I will share with my sisters from this village and I wish someone from this village breaks my record."

Vinesh had announced her retirement from the sport after her disqualification.

ner disquaincation.

In an emotional post on social media, Vinesh shared her childhood dream, the hardships she faced after losing her father, and also put on accord the contribution made. record the contribution made by people in her extraordinary iourney.

However, she did not mention her uncle Mahavir Phogat, something that irked her cousin sisters Geeta and

#### **BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY**

# Lyon seeks English spinner Hartley's inputs to tame Yashasvi

Ace off-spinner Nathan Lyon has already started his homework on rising batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal with England spinner Tom Hartley's inputs on the southpaw safely stored in his memory bank ahead of the five-Test Border-Gavaskar series between India and Australia starting from November 22.

Jaiswal, who scored a century on debut in the West Indies last year, scored an astounding 712 runs in the five Test series against England at home earlier this

But the pace and bounce on offer on Australian tracks will pose a different challenge for the Mumbaikar.

"I haven't come across him [Jaiswal] yet, but that will be a massive challenge for all us bowlers," Lyon was quoted as

saying by ESPNCricinfo. "The way he (Jaiswal) played against England, I watched that quite closely and thought

that quite closely and thought that was quite amazing.
"I had some really good chats with Tom Hartley (England left-arm spinner) about different ways he went about it to different guys which I found quite interesting."

Lyon had a stint in English county with Lancashire and had an opportunity to share notes with Hartley, who had 20 wickets in four Tests

against India and he is about come to true, then I someone who has first-hand think it will be." knowledge of Jaiswal's

The 36-year-old Lyon, who has 530 wickets from 129 Tests, feels that with so much series "floating information around", Aussies have the best chance to accomplish the "unfinished business" against record.

"I love talking about cricket, so if I can talk to someone who has played Test cricket, I might be able to pick up something I'm not aware of.

There's so much knowledge floating around this game that we can always tap into."
Since winning the 2014-15
Border-Gavaskar 2-0, Australia have lost the next four series against India -two to Virat Kohli's side (2016-17, 2018-19), Ajinkya Rahane (2021) and Rohit

exploits.

Sharma (2023). "If the plans we've spoken

Along with Lyon, Josh Hazlewood is another survivor from the 2014-15 and conceded Australia's recent results against India present a significant hole in their

"It's been ten years of unfinished business, it's been a long time, and I know we're extremely hungry to turn things around, especially here at home," Lyon said.

"Don't get me wrong, India is an absolute superstar side and extremely challenging but I'm extremely hungry to turn things around and make sure we get that trophy back," he

Lyon feels that this Australian team under Pat Cummins is slightly different compared to Tim Paine's team that lost back-to-back series against India at home.

#### Maharaj helps South Africa secure 40-run win over West Indies in 2nd test

**AP** ■ PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

 $S_{\mathrm{out}}^{\mathrm{outh}}$  Africa bowled out West Indies for 222 to secure a 40-run victory on day three of the second test Saturday after Keshav Maharaj wrapped up the win with his fifth wicket of the match.

It was South Africa's tenth consecutive test series win against West Indies and was highlighted by Maharaj becoming South Africa's most successful spinner in tests with 171 wickets after taking his series tally to 13 when he had Jayden Seales out for the final wicket.

That overshadowed a six-wicket haul by Seales in South Africa's second innings as the tourists were dismissed for 246 after resuming on 223-5. That set the West Indies a winning target of 263 but they were in big trouble on 104-6 before Gudakesh Motie and Joshua Da Silva put together a 77-run stand to give the hosts hope of a victory. But Maharaj accounted

for them both and then surpassed Hugh Tayfield as South Africa's most successful spinner when Seales was caught by David Bedingham at short leg to cue the African South

celebrations. South Africa scored 160 in its first innings after choosing to bat first and West Indies replied with

The teams played to a rain-affected draw in the first test in Trinidad.

# India to open campaign against WI in 2025 Women's U19 T20 WC

PTI DUBAI

 $D_{\text{will open their campaign}}^{\text{efending champions India}}$ against the West Indies in the second edition of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup to be played in Malaysia from January 18 to February 2 next

India have been clubbed along side hosts Malaysia, West Indies and Sri Lanka in Group

India defeated England to win the inaugural edition of the tournament in South Africa last vear.

England, neighbours Ireland, Pakistan and the USA are

placed in Group B. South Africa, along with New Zealand, new entrants Samoa and a qualifier from Africa and a qualifier from Africa will form Group C, while Group D comprises Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, and a qualifier from Asia.

Each team will play the other sides in the round-robin

phase, making for three games

each in the group stage.

The top three sides from all four groups will then progress to the Super Six stage.
The bottom-ranked sides

from Groups A and D, and B and C will contest in last place play-off on January 24. The 12 sides in the Sup



stage are further divided into two groups, with the top three teams from Groups A and D

making up Group 1, and those of Groups B and C making up

carry forward the points, wins and NRRs (Net Run Rate) they secured against fellow Super Six qualifying sides.

Each side will contest two fixtures in the Super Six, against opponents

corresponding groups that finished at different group positions.

The top-two sides from each

The top-two sides from each group will qualify for the semifinals to be held on January 31, with the final slated for February 2.

The semifinals and final will all be played at Bayuemas Oval. If India qualify for the semifinals, they will play semifinal 2, which will take place on January 31.

There are reserve days for both

There are reserve days for both the semifinals and final. While February 1 is a reserve day for the semifinals, February 3 has been kept as a reserve day for the summit clash.



### announced; Bagan, EB head for potential derby final

The quarterfinal fixtures of the 133rd Durand Cup was announced on Sunday with the city hosting Bengaluru FC versus Kerala Blasters match of the tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium on Friday.

Fearing security concerns in the wake of widespread protests for a trainee doctor's alleged rape and murder case in Kolkata, the organisers had on Saturday abandoned the Durand Cup marquee league fixture between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

Both the teams were awarded one point each as reigning champions Mohun Bagan qualified as group A toppers to be pitted against Punjab FC in the third quarterfinal which will be held at Jamshedpur.

East Bengal made the cut as one of the two best secondplaced teams to be drawn against Shillong Lajong FC for the second quarterfinal which will now be held in Shillong instead of the Salt Lake Stadium because of the prevailing unrest in the city. Salt Lake Stadium, however, will get to host the fourth quarterfinal, the match that

Kolkata heavyweights. "After the FC Goa versus

Shillong Lajong FC Group F game in Shillong concluded on Saturday evening and it became clear who the eight qualified teams were, a video call was arranged where representatives of all qualified teams came on board. A live draw of lots was then conducted in front of them and two teams to play in each venue was finalised," stated a release.

Both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal now find themselves in the opposite end of the draw with a potential derby clash in the Durand Cup final on August 31.

The organisers are however yet to confirm the venue for the semifinals and final which are slated at the Salt Lake Stadium. OF Lineups

August 21: Northeast United FC vs Indian Army FT (SAI Stadium Kokrajhar; 4pm); Shillong Lajong FC vs East Bengal (Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Shillong; 7pm).

August 23: Mohun Bagan vs Punjab FC (JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur; 4pm); Bengaluru FC vs Kerala Blasters FC (Saltlake Stadium;

#### Abhay wins maiden Formula 1600 National Championship

PTI CHENNAI

Bengaluru's Abhay Mohan Clinched his maiden national title by winning the prestigious Formula 1600 National championship with 10 consecutive wins after the end of the fourth and final round of the MRF-MMSC Indian National Car Racing Championship on Sunday. The 2022 junior national karting champion, who graduated to single seater racing this year, took to the powerful Formula cars like a duck to water, with a phenomenal all-win record till

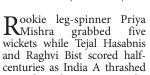
the penultimate race of the last round. The 16-year-old had an impressive unbeaten run of 10

Commissariat and Raaj Bakhru -- finished second and third respectively in the championship.
"This is my first year in single

consecutive races and conceded points only after clinching the championship that featured 12 races. Two Mumbai drivers -- Zahan

seater Formula cars, but it has been a memorable season. It on the tour, Priya dismissed opener Maddy Darke (22) and feels really amazing to be the National champion and to have 10 consecutive wins," said top-order batter Tess Flintoff (20) as the home team was left





and Raghvi Bist scored halfcenturies as India A thrashed Australia A by 171-run in the third and final one-dayer here on Sunday.

India A finally achieved success in the third and final one-dayer after having lost five successive games -- three T20s in Brisbane and two onedayers here -- in the six-match white-ball series. India A scored a modest 243/9,

thanks to middle-order batter Tejal's 66-ball 50 and Raghvi's 64-ball 53 before 20-year-old Delhi cricketer Priya took a fifer (5/14) to dismiss the Australia A batting for just 72 runs for a massive win. Playing in only her first match reeling at 52/4 in the 15th over of the chase. She then destroyed the middle

order taking the wickets of Nicole Faltum (2), Kate Peterson (1) and Nicola Hancock (0) as the hosts were dismissed in 22.1 over, which gave India A a consolation win. The one-off unofficial Test will be played in Gold Coast from August 22.

Earlier, a 104-run partnership between Tejal and Raghvi helped India A overcome a shaky start, which saw them reeling at 43/3 in the ninth

over. The duo, which has stood out in the series for its batting, then carried the team to 147 before Tejal was dismissed in the 28th over. Raghvi too followed suit before Sajeevan Sajana (40) and captain Minnu Mani (34) took the team beyond the 200-run mark. Brief scores: India A 243 for 9

in 50 overs (Tejal Hasabnis 50, Raghvi Bist 53, Sajeevan Sajana 40, Minnu Mani 34; Maitlan Brown 3/39, Charli Knott 2/26). Australia A 72 in 22.1 overs (Priya Mishra 5/14, Minnu Mani 2/4).

# Pegula outlasted Leylah

### l'op-ranked Iga, Jannik reach semifinals in Cincinnati possible," Sinner said. "First and finals, because we're

AP MASON (OHIO)

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek and Jannik Sinner fended off challenges Saturday to reach the semifinals in the Cincinnati Open.

Swiatek extended her match winning streak to 15 with a 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 victory over 17year-old Mirra Ándreeva. Swiatek will face third-

6-3, 6-2 winner over 10th-6-3, 6-2.

Sinner avenged last week's loss to No. 6 Andrey Rublev in the quarterfinals in Montreal with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 Cincinnati semis in the Open era.

"It was very windy and I ranked Arnya Sabalenka, a tried to be as consistent as of deserve to be in semifinals

ranked Liudmila Samsonova time that I've played a semifinal in this place, so

that's very positive."
Swiatek and Sabalenka have met twice already this year, with Swiatek winning finals victory to become the first at Roland Garros and Italian man to reach the Madrid. Swiatek is 8-3 against the two-time Grand Slam winner. "We're both players that kind

working very hard," Swiatek said. "I respect Aryna so much. Physically, she's always fighting and has lots of power. Neither player has reached

the final in Cincinnati. Swiatek lost to eventual champion Coco Gauff last year in her first semifinal appearance. Sabalenka is a three-time semifinalist.



two years. 'We've had a lot of great

battles in the past," Sabalenka said. "It's always a high-intensity match. I'm really looking forward to another great battle against her."
Sinner will face No. 3 Alexander Zverev, Zverev,

the only remaining former champion in the draw, beat Ben Shelton 3-6, 7-6, 7-5.

including each of the past Zverev has won four straight against Sinner.

Frances Tiafoe advanced to the semifinals for the second consecutive year when Hubert Hurkacz retired in the second set because of a calf injury. Tiafoe will face the winner of the late match between Holger Rune and Jack Draper.

In the other women's

Fernandez, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6 for her first semifinal berth in Cincinnati. Pegula, coming off a successful title defense Monday in Canada, will face Paula Badosa. Badosa beat

Pavlyuchenkova 6-3, 6-2. "Paula is really playing some good tennis," Pegula said. "She turned her year around quarterfinals, No. 6 Jessica and is finding some form.

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