



OPINION 6 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: UNHEEDED CRIES

WORLD 9 HASINA'S DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT REVOKED

MONEY 10 GOLD PRICES DECLINE BY ₹350, SILVER DROPS ₹200

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.160 Issue 228 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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NEERAJ FINISHES 2ND IN LAUSANNE DIAMOND LEAGUE 12 SPORTS

PM Modi gives Zelenskyy a comforting hug



PTI ■ KYIV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to find ways to end the ongoing war and that India was on the side of peace since the beginning of the conflict. In his talks with Zelenskyy in Kyiv that took place under the shadow of the raging war, Modi said India is ever ready to play an "active role" in every effort to restore peace in Ukraine and he would even like to contribute personally in ending the conflict. The Prime Minister's wide-ranging talks with Zelenskyy primarily focused on ways to end the war and boost bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, defence, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and education. "We (India) are not neutral. From the very beginning, we have taken sides. And we have chosen the side of peace. We have come from the land of Buddha where there is no place for war," Modi said in his opening remarks during the talks. "We have come from the land of Mahatma Gandhi who had given a message of peace to the entire world," he said. The Prime Minister also asserted India's strong commitment towards respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. "I want to assure you and the entire global community that India is committed to respecting sovereignty and territorial



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives warm welcome by Indian community during his arrival at Kyiv, in Ukraine, on Friday

PIB

integrity (of states) and it is of utmost importance to us," he said. Modi also apprised Zelenskyy of his conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand in September 2022 as well as in Moscow last month. "Some time back, when I met President Putin in Samarkand, I had told him that this was not the era of war. Last month when I went to Russia, I said in clear words that a solution to any problem is never found on the battlefield," Modi said. "The solution comes through talks, dialogue and diplomacy and we should move ahead in that

direction without wasting time. Both sides should sit together and find ways to come out of this crisis," Modi said. The Prime Minister conveyed to Zelenskyy that he had come to Kyiv with a message of peace, including from the Global South. Modi arrived in Kyiv this morning on a special train on the first-ever visit to Ukraine by an Indian Prime Minister after it became independent in 1991. The Prime Minister's visit to Kyiv is seen in many quarters as a diplomatic balancing act as his trip to Russia triggered anguish among the Western countries.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Modi reiterated the need for "practical engagement" between all stakeholders to develop an innovative solution that will help build broad acceptability and contribute towards peace and stability. The Prime Minister conveyed to Zelenskyy India's willingness to contribute in "all possible ways" to facilitate an early return of peace to Ukraine, he said. It was a "very detailed, open and in many ways constructive discussion", Jaishankar said at a media briefing. **Continued on Page 8**

SEBI bans Anil Ambani from securities market for five years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has barred industrialist Anil Ambani and 24 others from the securities market for five years on charges of diversion of funds from Reliance Home Finance Ltd. Additionally, Sebi has imposed a penalty of ₹25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from serving as a director or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) in any listed company or Sebi-registered entity for five years. Besides, a fine ranging ₹21 crore to ₹25 crore have been levied on 24 entities. Also, the regulator barred Reliance Home Finance from the securities market for six months and slapped a fine of ₹6 lakh on it. An email sent to Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group company remained unanswered. After receiving multiple complaints alleging diversion/siphoning of funds of Reliance Home Finance Ltd, Sebi conducted an investigation for the period of FY 2018-19 to ascertain any regulatory violations. In its probe, Sebi found that Anil Ambani, with the help of RHFL's KMPs — Amit Bapna, Ravindra Sudhakar and Pinkesh R Shah — have orchestrated a fraudulent



scheme to "siphon off" funds from RHFL by disguising them as loans to entities linked to him. Although the board of directors of RHFL had issued strong directives to stop such lending practices and review corporate loans regularly, the company's management ignored these orders. This suggests a significant failure of governance, driven by certain KMPs under the influence of Ambani. Given these circumstances, the company RHFL itself should not be held equally responsible as the individuals involved in the fraud. Further, the remaining entities have played the role of being either recipients of illegally obtained loans or conduits to enable illegal diversion of money from RHFL, the regulator noted. **Continued on Page 8**

UP bus in Nepal veers off into a river, killing 27 Indians



Rescue work underway after an Indian number plate bus with 40 passengers coming from Pokhara to Kathmandu fell into the Marsyangdi river at Tanahun, Abu Khaireni, Nepal, on Friday

PTI

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

At least 17 Indian pilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra for a 10-day tour were killed after a tourist bus veered off the highway and fell 150 metres into the fast-flowing Marsyangdi River in Central Nepal approximately 120 kilometres from the capital on Friday, according to media reports. The bus from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh was heading towards Nepal's Capital Kathmandu from the resort town of Pokhara when it drove off the highway in Aaina Pahara in the Tanahun district. There were 43 people, including the driver and the co-driver, on the bus with an Indian registration number. The passengers onboard the bus were part of a group of 104 Indian pilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra in three buses two days ago for a 10-day tour of the Himalayan nation, MyRepublica news portal reported. They came from Bhusal village in Jalgaon district. After visiting Pokhara for two days, all three buses left for the capital Kathmandu on Friday morning. Madhav Prasad Paudel, chief of the Armed Police Force (APF), Kurintar, said most of the passengers travelling in the three buses were families and relatives. A list of names of the 43 passengers who were in the ill-fated bus has been released. "An Indian tourist bus travelling from Pokhara to

Kathmandu with around 43 Indians fell 150 metres into Marshyangdi River today," the Embassy of India said in a post on X. The mission is coordinating with local authorities undertaking relief and rescue. According to Deputy Superintendent of Police of the APF Shailendra Thapa, 14 bodies were retrieved from the crash site and 16 injured were rushed to a local hospital. The bus that fell on the river bank has been badly damaged. An MI 17 helicopter of the Nepal Army has left for the accident site at Anbu Khaireni in Tanahun district with a medical team for the rescue operation, MyRepublica reported. The Gandaki Province Police Office, Pokhara, said 15 of those rescued can speak. Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Government has sent a Sub Divisional Magistrate to the incident site. An ADM has also been appointed to coordinate the relief work. Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner GS Naveen Kumar in a press statement said, "As per media reports and further confirmed from the MEA Nepal Division, today at about 11:30 am, a bus with registration number — UP 53 FD 7623 carrying approx 43 passengers from Maharashtra, including the driver and one assistant, fell around 150 metres into river Marshyangdi in Ambukhereni region in the Tanahu District of Nepal." **Continued on Page 8**

DGCA imposes ₹98 lakh penalty on Tata-owned Air India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday imposed a penalty of ₹ 98 lakh on Tata-owned Air India Limited for operating flights with non-qualified crew members from Mumbai to Riyadh. Additionally, the aviation watchdog also penalised the Director Operations and Director Training of Air India, slapping fines of ₹six lakh and ₹three lakh respectively. This incident was highlighted after the airline submitted a voluntary report on July 10. DGCA said as per regulations, a trainee co-pilot is supposed to fly with a trainer captain. However in

this case, trainee co-pilot was found flying with a non trainer captain. DGCA has called it a serious scheduling mistake having serious safety ramifications. According to sources, on landing in Riyadh, the young trainee would have asked the training pilot to sign his SLF (supervised line flying) form. However, the training captain fell ill and rostering replaced him with a normal line (not training) captain. Enroute, the two pilots realised this mix-up (which wasn't their fault) by the scheduling department. The other pilot could not have sign that form as he was not a training captain. The trainee could not have known this. And



the other pilot could not have known the trainee was to do supervised flying under a training captain. In a statement, DGCA said the

concerned pilot has been warned and asked to exercise caution to prevent such occurrences in future. "M/s Air India Limited operated a flight commanded by a non-trainer line captain paired with a non-line-released first officer which has been viewed by the regulator as a serious scheduling mistake having significant safety ramifications," it said. After the incident came to its notice through a voluntary report submitted by the airline on July 10, the regulator investigated the operations of the carrier, including examination of documentations and spot check of the scheduling facility. **Continued on Page 8**

Routine Indian Army drone crosses into Pakistan territory

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A tactical drone belonging to the Indian Army accidentally crossed the Line of Control (LoC) from the Rajouri sector into Pakistan on Friday morning. The Pakistan Army has reportedly recovered the drone following its unintended landing. The incident occurred at approximately 9:30 am while the drone was engaged in a routine surveillance mission. In response to the situation, the Indian Army is expected to initiate discussions with the Pakistan Army at the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) level. According to reports, the drone was on a routine surveillance



mission when it crossed the line of control and it landed in Pakistan due to some technical snag.

A teenager drowns in Delhi's waterlogged Chanakyapuri

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

As heavy rain lashed several parts of the national Capital on Friday morning, the city was left inundated, causing significant traffic disruptions. Tragically, a teenager drowned on a waterlogged road near The British School in the upscale Chanakyapuri area of Central Delhi. In addition, two people have died due to electrocution in the city in the past two days. A 40-year-old woman died after being electrocuted on a waterlogged street, and a 40-year-old man lost his life when rainwater entered his house and he got electrocuted after the water came into contact with the electrical circuit. **Continued on Page 8**



In the past one and a half months of the monsoon season, Delhi has witnessed nearly 30 rain-related deaths. According to the police, the 15-year-old deceased Sourabh lived with his family at the Vivekanand Camp in the same area. **Continued on Page 8**

CBI tells SC, Kejriwal likely to tamper with evidence

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday informed the Supreme Court that Arvind Kejriwal is likely to tamper with evidence and hamper its ongoing probe in the excise policy scam case, as he is released on interim bail. In a counter-affidavit filed before the Supreme Court opposing Kejriwal's pleas challenging arrest and seeking bail in the excise policy scam case, the CBI has stated that all critical decisions in the formulation of the excise policy were taken at Kejriwal's behest and there is substantial evidence pointing to his involvement. "The petitioner does not hold any Ministerial portfolio, including that of Excise. However, it emerged over a period of time that all the critical decisions in the formulation of the new Excise Policy were taken at the behest of the Petitioner, in connivance with the then Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Excise Manish Sisodia", the CBI said in its affidavit. Justifying arrest of Kejriwal, the CBI claimed that it was necessitated after his examination on June 25, 2024 when he remained "evasive and non-cooperative, gave evasive replies regarding his role and that of other co-accused in respect of criminal conspiracy hatched." "His replies were contrary to the oral and documentary evidence gathered by CBI during the investigation and he failed to disclose the facts truthfully, despite being confronted with incriminating evidence," the CBI said. **Continued on Page 8**

Amit Shah launches counter offensive on Congress in Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Congress over its decision to ally with the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference in the upcoming Assembly polls beginning September 18. Accusing the Congress of repeatedly putting at risk the country's unity and security in its greed for power, the Union Home Minister also sought clarification while he posted 10 straight questions for the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi on the microblogging

site X. Before launching the party's election campaign on ground zero, the top brass of the BJP is also in the process of finalising the names of the party candidates for the 90 Assembly seats in Jammu Kashmir. As per the reports, the NC-Congress alliance has almost finalised its seat-sharing formula. Inside reports suggested the National Conference is laying its claim on at least 60 Assembly seats (41 from Kashmir and 19 from Jammu province) and offering 30 seats to the Congress (24 from



Jammu and 6 from Kashmir valley). The alliance partners are yet to formally announce the final seat-sharing arrangement. In New Delhi, BJP president JP Nadda Friday chaired a meeting of the core group to

review the report cards of the party aspirants ahead of the final meeting of the Central Election Committee on August 25. The meeting was also attended by Shah and all the core group members, including Union Minister and Election in charge G Kishan Reddy and Ram Madhav, along with other leaders National General Secretary and BJP J&K in charge Tarun Chugh, co-in-charge Ashish Sood, MP Jammu Jugal Kishore, State General Secretary (org) Ashok Kaul, State President Ravinder

Raina, Union Minister and MP from Jammu, Dr Jitendra Singh. Meanwhile, referring to the manifesto of the National Conference the Union Home Minister asked, "Does the Congress support the National Conference's promise of a separate flag for Jammu and Kashmir? Do Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party support the JKNC's decision to restore Article 370 and 35A, thereby pushing Jammu and Kashmir back into an era of unrest and terrorism?" **Continued on Page 8**

Police rescue armed student who locked himself in room

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Police rescued the Class XI student who had locked himself in a room at his home in Gudamba and threatened to shoot himself with his father's licenced pistol. The rescue operation, which began around 3 pm on Thursday, concluded around 3 am on Friday. According to DCP (North) Abhijeet R Shankar, the boy threatened to harm himself but eventually surrendered after being counselled by an inspector. "The inspector's counselling proved effective. The boy first handed the pistol out through the window and then unbolted the latch before emerging

from the room," the DCP stated in an e-byte released around 3:35 am on Friday. Shankar explained that the police had cordoned off the area and made numerous attempts to persuade the boy to communicate with them or his family. Despite their efforts, initial attempts proved futile. "The police officer, who was knowledgeable in child psychology, assured the boy of proper treatment and a solution to his problems. This approach worked, leading the boy to follow the counsellor's instructions and agree to surrender," Shankar said. The DCP said that the boy seemed unwilling to continue his studies and was reportedly under pressure from his par-

ents. He was also said to be in a state of intoxication, and initially, the situation was a means to pressurise his parents. When the situation escalated and his parents called for help, the boy became frightened of the potential consequences. Reports said that both police officers and the boy's parents tried to engage him in dialogue, but their efforts were exhausting. As time passed, the effects of the intoxicants diminished. The police took measures to avoid actions that might provoke the boy into taking drastic steps and waited for him to calm down. The incident unfolded when the student locked himself in a room at Sulabh Apartment in

Gudamba and threatened to shoot himself on Thursday. The DCP and his team were on the scene throughout the rescue operation. Shankar clarified that the boy had fired two rounds using his father's licenced pistol, which he had accessed by locating the key to the locked almirah where it was kept. The DCP mentioned that the boy had threatened to shoot himself, prompting the police to take careful, calculated measures. He dismissed media reports suggesting the boy wanted his mother to come and speak to him, stating that the boy was unwilling to talk to anyone, including his brother, with whom he has a close bond.

Food delivery boy tortured over religious identity

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The city is set to receive relief from traffic congestion at the Engineering College Crossing and Atal Crossing in Jankipuram. The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has approved a re-modelling project for these intersections, with an estimated cost of approximately Rs 2.25 crore. The tenders for the project have already been issued following instructions from LDA Vice-Chairman Prathamesh Kumar. Kumar noted the heavy traffic load at both the crossings on the ring road. "Traffic congestion worsens during peak hours, leading to frequent jams. To address this, the LDA conducted a survey and received recommendations for re-modelling these intersections," he said. The re-designing and road safety improvements will cost Rs 1.52 crore for the Engineering College Crossing and around Rs 75 lakh for the Atal Crossing. The plans include expanding the median with new road construction, enhancing the central island, installing curb stones, and building new footpaths. Additionally, signage boards will be added and road markings will be improved for safety. A traffic official pointed out that the Engineering College Crossing experiences significant congestion during office

Traffic congestion to ease at two crossings in Jankipuram

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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hours in the morning and evening. The traffic signal at the crossing is currently non-operational, and the road conditions are poor, contributing to the traffic snarls.

The crossing serves four major routes: towards Bhitau, Tedhipulia, the new campus, and Ram Ram Bank. The official also acknowledged that there are no traffic constables assigned to the Atal Crossing.

Youth flees home due to physical abuse, blackmail

Lucknow (PNS): Fed up with physically abuse and blackmail for money allegedly by a married man, a youth fled his house in Ashiyana and was reported missing by his father. In his complaint given to police, the victim's father said that his son was being physically abused and exploited by one Sandeep. "My son had told me a couple of days before his disappearance that Sandeep had forcibly established physical relations with him and was blackmailing him for money," the complainant alleged. He alleged that Sandeep used to call his son everyday to demand extortion money. "My son had given nearly Rs 70,000 to Sandeep and his wife through UPI in various installments," the complainant alleged. He said his son got scared of the exploitative tactics of the couple in question and he ran away from the house to save himself the physical abuse on August 21. A spokesman said the police were conducting a probe into the allegations.

ATS nabs man selling sensitive info

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The sleuths of the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Uttar Pradesh claimed to have arrested a youth involved in earning money illegally through cryptocurrency and UPI by sharing sensitive information through Telegram channel and dark web. According to an official communiqué released on Friday evening, the sleuths of the Uttar Pradesh ATS received intelligence from its partner agencies that a person was earning money illegally through cryptocurrency and UPI by sharing sensitive information through Telegram channel and dark web. Developing the intelligence through physical and electronic surveillance, the suspect was called to the ATS field unit in Shravasti for questioning. During the initial interrogation, the suspect revealed that he was

associated with various groups on Telegram, in which he used to get links to download various types of sensitive data available on the dark web. He used to download the data using VPN/Orbot/Tor browser from the received links. The suspect, identified as Noor Alam, had created a private group to share the downloaded data, in which he used to share this data. Various people from India and abroad were added to the private group by taking money. The money received in exchange for data shared in the private group was received in cryptocurrency so that the identity of Noor Alam could remain secret. Noor Alam used to receive cryptocurrency in his bank account through a crypto exchange application which he later used to withdraw from his bank account. Around Rs 8-10 lakh have been received through this method till now.

He also disclosed that to hide his identity he used to chat under a pseudonym on a secret handle. On the basis of facts obtained during interrogation and evidence available in his phone, Noor Alam, son of Safat Ali of village Bhelaya Madanpur under Sadullana police station of Balrampur district, was arrested by ATS from Shravasti on Thursday evening. He was charged for downloading suspicious and private data from the dark web and selling it on Telegram channels to various persons in the country and abroad under a pseudonym. A case (number 07/2024) was registered against the accused at ATS police station, Lucknow under sections 318(4), 319(2), 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaa Sanhita and 66B/66C of the Information Technology Act. Further legal action is being taken against the accused.

National Space Day celebrations highlight India's achievements

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

National Space Day was celebrated with a two-day programme organised by the Council of Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh, at the Sir C.V. Raman Auditorium. The event featured a science quiz, painting competition, speech contest, and scientific lectures, attracting students from seven prestigious city schools and universities. The first day included a space quiz, poster-making, and speech competitions, with around 250 students participating. Prizes were awarded for the quiz: Rs 5,000 for first place, Rs 3,000 for second, Rs 2,000 for third, and two consolation prizes of Rs 1,000 each. Lectures were delivered by Dr Mohammad Hasan from ISRO Bengaluru, Dr Aniruddh Uniyal from RSAC in Lucknow, and Rajeev Kumar from ISTRAC, ISRO. The students learned about Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, and various space-related topics from these experts. The awards were presented by Principal Secretary, Science and Technology, Pandhari Yadav. Dr Hasan discussed Chandrayaan-3, Dr Uniyal focused on the moon, and Kumar gave a presentation on satellites. Secretary, CST UP, Sheelkhar Singh Yadav, encouraged students to pursue careers in space, while director Dr DK Srivastava thanked the atten-

dees. The Central government used National Space Day to launch a month-long campaign highlighting India's space missions under the theme "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga". This theme underscores the significant impact of space exploration on society and technology. August 23 was officially declared National Space Day to celebrate the Chandrayaan-3 mission's success, including the Vikram lander's soft landing at the 'Shiv Shakti' point and the deployment of the Pragyan rover on the lunar surface. The Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) also marked the occasion with events reflecting its involvement in planetary and space research. Director Prof MG Thakkar highlighted the importance of the day and unveiled the new logo of the Earth and Planetary Exploration Group (EPEG). Scientist Dr Anupam Sharma introduced EPEG, emphasising its role in planetary exploration. The chief guest, Prof AK Singh from the University of Lucknow, delivered a lecture on "The Sun-Earth Interaction and Climatic Variability", discussing the impact of space weather on Earth's climate and infrastructure. The celebrations included a student exhibition of space-themed posters and a quiz competition. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony.

Man found with 179 turtles at city hotel

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a joint operation conducted on August 22 night, the Forest department (Lucknow Range) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) apprehended a man at a hotel in Chargagh with 179 turtles, including spotted pond turtles and Indian roofed turtles. These species are listed in Schedule I of the endangered animals category. DFO (Awadh) Sitanshu Pandey said that the Naka police station had been informed, and further investigations were underway. According to Pandey, the suspect was attempting to sell these turtles to a buyer at a private university. He said that the turtles were supposed to be smuggled to Nepal. Pandey noted that it was the third successful operation in four months. "In the first operation, a man was arrested at Integral University; in the second, an individual coming from Sultanpur was detained upon entering Lucknow. This is our third operation," he said. Regarding the smugglers' modus operandi, Pandey explained that these activities often originate in Sultanpur,

with operatives coming to Lucknow to finalise transactions. "They also involve people from Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich, districts with porous borders with Nepal. The turtles are sold in Nepal for amounts ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 5,000, depending on the negotiations," he added. The turtles are reportedly used for various purposes, including consumption, decoration, and as auspicious objects. To combat such smuggling activities, Pandey said they are closely monitoring both the supply and demand aspects of the trade. "We will involve our teams from Gauri Phanta, Katarniyaghat, and Mailani to prevent buyers from acquiring these turtles. Our focus is on disrupting the demand-and-supply chain," he stated. Pandey also noted that while cases of turtle smuggling have not increased, heightened vigilance by their teams has brought more incidents to light. "We have good coordination with the SSB at the borders, the UP Special Task Force, and the Wildlife Crime Bureau, which has been instrumental in highlighting these issues," he added.

LDA to launch high-tech township in Oct

Lucknow (PNS): The proposed Mohan Road Hi-Tech Urban Township is set to launch in the first week of October this year. The Lucknow Development Authority has acquired 1,112 acres of land so far for the project, which was originally planned to cover 1,650 acres. Vice-Chairman Prathamesh Kumar said during a review meeting held on Friday. Two teams, each consisting of three members, have been formed on the VC's initiative. These teams are meeting farmers to persuade them to transfer their land to the LDA. Earlier on Tuesday, the state government addressed farmer dissatisfaction by increasing compensation for the Kaliaskhed land. The previous low compensation had led to significant unrest and protests among the farmers. With the enhanced compensation, the discontent has been resolved. According to the VC, the farmers have agreed to transfer their land to the development authority within two days, and additional land acquisitions are expected to be completed within a month. The VC will inspect the acquired land next Tuesday to evaluate the feasibility of laying sewer and water lines.

Deceased lawyer's brother alleges harassment, torture by her husband

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rashtriya Lok Dal general secretary Trilok Tyag, said on Friday that youths had an important role in taking forward the ideology of Bharat Ratna Chaudhary Charan Singh. He was speaking as chief guest at a conference of representatives and office-bearers of Yuva Rashtriya Lok Dal at the party's headquarters here. The programme was chaired by RLD youth wing state president Ravindra Singh Patel. Tyagi said that the participation of youths in the conference proved that the future belonged to Rashtriya Lok Dal. "Youth play an important role in the organisation of any political party and today's conference of Yuva Rashtriya Lok Dal is an important step towards strengthening the organisation," he said. He appealed to the youth to expand the organisation by October 31 and spread the ideology of Bharat Ratna Chaudhary Charan Singh among the masses. RLD spokesperson Anil Dubey and national secretary Anupam Mishra were also present in the conference.

RLD asks youths to propagate ideology of Charan Singh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Yuva Rashtriya Lok Dal state president Ravindra Singh Patel said that due to the short-sightedness and inaction of the previous governments, unemployment had emerged as the biggest problem facing the youth in the present times. JD (U) LEADER AND BIHAR MINISTER IN CITY TODAY Janata Dal (United) leader and Rural Development Minister in Bihar government, Shrawan Kumar, who is also the party in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, will be visiting the city on Saturday. Kumar will be participating in a state-level meeting to be chaired by JD (U) state president Anoop Singh Patel at party office ON Vidhan Sabha Marg. He will review the JD (U) state organisation and give suggestions and necessary guidelines to strengthen and activate the party in Uttar Pradesh. The party leaders said the meeting was important as it would focus on organisational issues. Senior leaders, including the veterans, would take part in the meeting. Kumar will also address the media after the meeting.

40 kids hurt as private school balcony collapses

Lucknow (PNS): Forty children were injured, four of them critically, when a portion of the balcony of a private school in Barabanki collapsed on Thursday. The incident occurred at Awadh Academy School in Barabanki district when several children, during the morning assembly, gathered on the balcony with a weak foundation and it collapsed. As the news of the collapse of the balcony spread through the town, a crowd gathered there and the local police also came. "During the morning assembly, several children ended up on the balcony while coming downstairs and the balcony's foundation must have been weak, which is why it collapsed," said Barabanki Superintendent of Police Dinesh Singh. The injured children were transferred to the trauma centre of the district hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

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Tender Enquiry No. 1701/TGM/O&M/PC-2579 Dated: 22-08-2024
Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Scaling and Antisizee Compund. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 22-08-2024 at 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
GHTP-72/24
76155/12/3341/2023/36973 Dated CHD :- 8/23/2024

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Tender Notice Reference No.GNDU/Gen/69/2024
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Imaging of Part-C & Part-D of OMR front cover. Scanning of OMR Front cover having Part-C and Part-D with Scan No. and processing of Data in the form of marks list.	10 Lac for Two semesters (5 Lacs per semester)

Closing date & Time: 07-09-2024 at 5:00 PM
For details log onto: www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only
Assistant Registrar (General)
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
NA/12/24953/2023/36955 Dated CHD :- 8/23/2024

"Form No. INC-25A"
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for conversion of Public Company into a Private Company
Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Northern Region
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of M/s RITU MALL LIMITED having its registered office at 117/K/13, Gutaiya, Kanpur-208025 U.P.
Applicant
Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company is intending to make an application to the Central Government under Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid Rules and is desirous of converting into a Private Limited Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting held on 13th August, 2024 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director B-2 WING, 2ND FLOOR, PT. DEENDAYA ANTYODAYA BHAWAN, 2ND FLOOR CGO COMPLEX, NEW DELHI - 110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
117/K/13, Gutaiya, Kanpur-208025 U.P.
Date: 22.08.2024 For and on behalf of Ritu Malls Limited
Place: Kanpur Sd/-
Vineet Kumar
Director
DIN: 08759844
Complete address of registered office:-
117/K/13, Gutaiya, Kanpur-208025 U.P.

CONTINENTAL CHEMICALS LIMITED
CIN : L24123UP1984PLC014111
Regd. Office: A-7, Sector - VII, NOIDA, Distt.: Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. Pin - 201301
Website : www.continentalchemicals.com; Email: info@continentalsoft.com;
Ph. No: 91-120-2423316

INFORMATION REGARDING 39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CONTINENTAL CHEMICALS LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given that the Thirty Ninth (39th) Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the Members of Continental Chemicals Limited ('Company') will be held on Friday, September 20, 2024 at 04.00 p.m. IST, through Video Conferencing ('VC')/Other Audio Video Means ('OAVM') facility, without the physical presence of the Members at the meeting, in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with Circular No. No. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021 and Circular No. 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022 and General Circular No. 9/2023 dated September 25, 2023 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs ('MCA Circulars') and SEBI circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022, SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD/2/CIR/2023/4 dated January 5, 2023 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/CIR/2023/167 dated October 7, 2023 (collectively referred to as 'SEBI Circulars') and Master Circular SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD/2/CIR/P/2023/120 dated July 11, 2023 ('SEBI Circulars') to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of the AGM.

In compliance with the said Circulars, the Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for FY 2023-24 ('Annual Report') will be sent in due course only through electronic mode to those Members whose email ids are registered with the Company/Registrar and Transfer agent ('RTA') and Depository Participants ('DP'), those Members who have not registered their e-mail address so far are requested to register their e-mail address for receiving all communication including Annual Report, Notices, Circulars, etc. from the Company electronically.

In case you have not registered your email id with depository you may register your email id in following manner:

Physical Holding	Send a signed request the Company, at info@continentalsoft.com ; compliance@continentalsoft.com providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN (Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address.
Demat Holding	Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP.

The Notice of the AGM and Annual Report will also be made available on the Company's website at www.continentalchemicals.com, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the website of CDSL (agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility and e-voting system during the AGM) i.e. www.evotingindia.com.

The Company is providing the remote e-Voting facility before the AGM and e-Voting facility at the AGM to its members to exercise their right to vote on all the resolutions set forth in the Notice and proposed to be transacted at the AGM by electronic means. The facility of casting votes will be provided by CDSL.

The Members who had already casted their vote by remote e-Voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM. Detailed process and manner of remote e-Voting, e-Voting at the AGM and instructions for attending the AGM through VC/OAVM is being provided in the Notice of the AGM.

Members may follow the instructions for remote e-Voting as well as e-Voting at the AGM as provided in the Notice of the AGM. If you have any queries or issues regarding attending AGM & e-Voting from the CDSE e-Voting System, you can write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact at 1800 21 09911.

Candidature for the appointment of Independent Directors- Notice is also hereby given that Pursuant to Section 160 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 13 of Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014, the Board of Directors has received a notice in writing, proposing a candidature of Mr. Raghav Nathani (DIN:01463962) and Mr. Gaurav Sachdeva (DIN:10746363) for appointment as the Independent Director of the company in the 39th AGM of the Company.
For CONTINENTAL CHEMICALS LIMITED
Sd/-
Naresh Kumar Chibba
Managing Director
DIN 00376963
Place : Noida
Date : August 23, 2024

CLASSIFIEDS
NOTICE

NOTICE
I have changed my name from MOHAMMAD FARDEEN to MOHD FARDEEN. In future I shall be known as MOHD FARDEEN, Mohd Fardeen S/o Mohd Farid, 156B/43B, Karela Bagh Prayagraj.

NOTICE
My father's name is wrongly written in my school record as JAGDISH ARAHARI. But my father's correct and actual name is JAGDISH AGRAHARI. My (Bhagyashree Raj AGRAHARI) father's correct name JAGDISH AGRAHARI R/o 19 A New Azad Nagar KIDWAI Nagar Kanpur 208011

Information
My name is Shakuntla wife of Prem Narayan. Due to some mistake, my son's service records and Aadhaar have been changed to Shakuntla. I should be known and recognized by the name Shakuntla only. Shakuntla W/o Prem Narayan Vill. Heekpur Sujapur Rasulabad Kanpur Dehat.

NOTICE
Notice- It is inform that Arazi NO-69 Mauza Bandhwa Tahripur Jhuasi Allahabad dated 03.07.2024 document No. 5184 Sale deed original copy have lost and could not be recovered a FIR is lauged against this. This property is going to mortgage in ICI Bank Ltd. Allahabad. If anybody having any objection contact within 7 days on these contact Nos. Somil Srivastava (Adv.) Mob. 9415485448 Branch Sales Manager Rajan Chaurasia, Mob. 9911810244

आवश्यकता है
मदरसा हिदायतुल मुस्लेमीन दौदीपुर प्रयागराज में सं०अ० तहतािनियों का एक पद रिक्त है, शैक्षिक योग्यता आलिम अथवा उर्दू से इण्टर निर्धारित वेतनमान 35400-112400 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञापन को तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र सम्पन्न शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रबन्धक के पदनाम से मदरसा उपरोक्त पर भेजें।

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मदरसा हिदायतुल मुस्लेमीन दौदीपुर प्रयागराज में सं०अ० तहतािनियों का एक पद रिक्त है, शैक्षिक योग्यता आलिम अथवा उर्दू से इण्टर निर्धारित वेतनमान 35400-112400 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञापन को तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र सम्पन्न शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रबन्धक के पदनाम से मदरसा उपरोक्त पर भेजें।

Police recruitment exam held peacefully on first day

DGP denies any paper leak

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Director General of Police Prashant Kumar on Friday refuted allegations of UP police constable recruitment exam question paper leak and warned of strict action against rumour mongers. He asserted that the examination was conducted peacefully and the district magistrates and police officials were reviewing the arrangements and keeping a check.

The DGP said that the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board had also denied paper leak claims. His comments followed media reports which suggested that the Special Task Force had arrested a woman constable in Gorakhpur for allegedly leaking a question paper in exchange for money. He said an FIR had been lodged and action would be taken against the guilty. "No information about the question paper leak has been received and people spreading misinformation will be booked," the DGP said.

Talking about the examination process, he said it involved a lot of steps, including storage of question papers, taking them to the centres, verifying Aadhaar cards and then conducting the exams. This time arrangements were made keeping in mind that the candidates appearing for the examination are not inconvenienced, he claimed. Candidates from other states are also trying their luck in the UP police constable recruitment exam, the DGP said. He said that after healthy competition, brilliant candidates would be selected to serve the police force and the public for 30-35 years.

Meanwhile, besides Gorakhpur, a candidate was caught in Rae



Police personnel check candidates as they arrive to appear in Police Constable Recruitment Examinations in Lucknow on Friday. PTI

Bareilly taking the exam with an electronic device. The police and administration are interrogating the accused.

Reports said that during the police recruitment examination in the city's Acharya Dwivedi Inter College, Upendra Singh, son of Motilal Singh, resident of Bela police station area of Auraiya district, serial number 4943762, was cheating through his mobile 7060030488. When the centre administrator noticed the cheater, the matter was revealed. The cheating candidate has been taken into custody by the police. Circle Office (City) Amit Singh said that the arrested accused was being questioned. He was cheating by connecting the mobile to Bluetooth. The matter is being thoroughly investigated and further necessary legal action will be taken against him, he added. Singh, however, denied any paper leak. Earlier in Gorakhpur, a lady constable, identified as

Pinki Sonkar, posted in Shrawasti, was held with five admit cards. She allegedly came in contact with a senior political leader over Facebook and was collecting Rs 20 lakh per candidate, ensuring their selection in the police recruitment exam. One Devendra Pratap Singh was also held along with the constable. He claimed himself to be national general secretary of Rastriya Jan Adhikar Yuva Manch. He presently hails from Sangam Vihar Colony in New Delhi. The sleuths of the Special Task Force are interrogating them along with three other suspects. The lady constable was also put under suspension. It may be mentioned that the Uttar Pradesh Police Constable Recruitment Exam 2024 commenced on Friday amid tight security arrangements. The examination was conducted peacefully across the state on the first day and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere, the police

headquarter claimed on Friday evening. The examination was conducted in two shifts. Over 48 lakh students are registered for the exam to be held at examination centres in 67 districts across the state in five days (August 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31) in two shifts. For the convenience of the aspirants, Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation buses will provide them free rides to examination centres upon showing their admit cards. The Uttar Pradesh Police have made extensive security and support measures to ensure the smooth conduct of the police recruitment examination. The re-examination is being conducted as the Uttar Pradesh Police Constable Recruitment Exam was cancelled in February due to allegations of a paper leak. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had announced that the examination would be conducted within six months.

Role of media as fourth pillar cannot be ignored: Yogi

PNS ■ GHAZIABAD/LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised on Friday that while India has embraced parliamentary democracy to reinforce democratic foundations, each branch of government – judiciary, executive and legislature – has its own boundaries. He noted, "However, the role of the media as the fourth pillar cannot be ignored."

Speaking at the inauguration of a private channel in Ghaziabad, the chief minister emphasised, "The media plays a vital role in accurately informing the public, providing reliable information, spearheading significant initiatives when needed, and addressing issues through detailed reporting. This critical role has been evident throughout India's history, even after Independence."

Yogi Adityanath highlighted India's status as the largest democracy of the world, often called the mother of democracy. He remarked, "Throughout history and mythology, there are numerous examples where the ruling power of the time made decisions by prioritising public sentiment. When the government advances with the public as its highest priority, its decisions become popular, universally accepted and widely endorsed." Chief Minister Yogi emphasised the need to adapt and evolve with the times. He noted that the media must cater to the needs of society, including youth, common households and farmers, by providing information tailored to their preferences. He reminded that people relied on radio and newspapers to follow national and global events. "With the emergence of numerous media channels and platforms, including social media, the landscape of information dissemination has rapidly changed," he said. He observed that digital and

'Overconfidence can be dangerous, stay connected with the public'

PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, urged party workers to guard against overconfidence and stay connected with the common people and establish strong communication and coordination.

Addressing Bharatiya Janata Party workers ahead of the Ghaziabad assembly by-election, the chief minister emphasised, "The Central and state governments have provided schemes for every section of society without any discrimination. Inform voters about the development work done by the government and encourage them to support the Bharatiya Janata Party. Each worker should add 10 people to their team and focus on booth-level campaigning. 'Booth jeeta, chunav jeeta' is the key mantra for victory."

During the meeting, the chief minister emphasised the importance of the voter list, urging party workers to take it seriously. He stressed the need to ensure accuracy, advising them to keep revising the list until it is finalised.

Yogi instructed the workers to ensure that no voter is left out and asked them to go door-to-door, contact voters and inform them about the various beneficial schemes provided by the government.

Yogi Adityanath stated, "The oppo-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing a workers' meeting in Ghaziabad on Friday.

social media platforms have had a significant influence on recent elections. "Looking ahead to the next few years, print and visual media may play a more secondary role, while digital media could become increasingly impactful. As such, the launch of this new channel aims to integrate these evolving dynamics," he said. Chief Minister Yogi expressed confidence that this media organisation, with its commit-

ment to unbiased reporting, will effectively deliver news that reflects India's values and become a trusted pillar of the media landscape, achieving its goals and earning the trust of the public.

ment, small industry, educational institutions, and law, shared their perspectives and updates.

BJP's regional president Satyendra Sisodia, former Union minister General (Retired) VK Singh, MP Atul Garg, Mayor Sunita Dyal, state government ministers Kapildev Agarwal, Brijesh Singh, Narendra Kashyap, district panchayat chairperson Mamta Tyagi, MLC Dinesh Goyal, MLAs Ajit Pal Tyagi, Nandkishore Gurjar, Manju Siwah, Dharmesh Tomar, regional vice-president Mansingh Goswami, Mayank Goyal, regional general secretary Hari Om Sharma, district president Satpal Pradhan, and general secretary Gopal Agarwal, among others, were present in the meeting conducted by BJP's Mahanagar president Sanjeev Sharma.

Dhankhar lauds UP's development model



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid a courtesy call on Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar in New Delhi on Friday.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid a courtesy visit to Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday morning at his residence in Delhi. Demonstrating mutual respect and cordiality, Chief Minister Yogi reached out to enquire about Vice President Dhankhar's well-being. During the meeting, Vice President Dhankhar praised the developmental strides made by Uttar Pradesh under Chief Minister

Yogi's leadership, acknowledging the progress made by the state in multiple sectors. Following the meeting, Chief Minister Yogi took to his social media platform X to share his gratitude. He wrote, "Paid a courtesy visit to Honorable Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar ji in New Delhi. Thank you very much for giving your valuable time."

Vice President Dhankhar's official X handle also shared a photograph of the meeting, highlighting the cordial interaction

and mutual respect between the two leaders. This is not the first time Vice President Dhankhar has commended Uttar Pradesh's governance under Chief Minister Yogi. Last year, he praised the improved law and order situation in the state, describing Uttar Pradesh as a global role model in maintaining public safety and security. He also referred to Chief Minister Yogi as a "person of action", recognising his proactive approach to governance and development.

Yogi Adityanath best CM in country, reveals study

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is way ahead of his counterparts from other states in popularity and is considered the best chief minister in the country, a latest study has revealed.

The 'Mood of the Nation' survey, conducted by a prestigious media group, saw Yogi Adityanath emerging as the top choice among the public. Out of more than 1.36 lakh respondents nationwide, over 33 per cent rated him as the best chief minister. Yogi Adityanath has been selected as the best chief minister in the country for the third consecutive time in this survey. Making this claim here on Friday evening, an official spokesman of the government said that in comparison, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu lag significantly behind.

In the 'Mood of the Nation' survey, Yogi Adityanath garnered the highest number of votes in a poll conducted across 30 states to determine the most popular chief minister. When asked who they consider the best chief minister in the coun-



try, over 33 per cent of respondents chose Yogi Adityanath, the spokesman claimed.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was considered popular by 13.8 per cent of respondents, placing him second. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee secured the third spot with 9.1 per cent support. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin ranked fourth with 4.7 per cent of the votes, followed by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who received support from 4.6 per cent of the respondents.

Other chief ministers, including Maharashtra's Eknath Shinde, Karnataka's Siddaramaiah, Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma, Uttarakhand's Pushkar Singh Dhami, and Bihar's Nitish

EX-CONG LEADER WHO ONCE 'HIJACKED' PLANE DIES

Ballia (PTI): Former Congress MLA Bholanath Pandey, who hit the headlines in 1978 when he and another man hijacked a plane with a toy gun, demanding the release of Indira Gandhi from prison, died Friday, a party leader said here. Congress Ballia district president Umashankar Pathak said Pandey (71), who was ill for a long time, died at his

"Form No. INC-25A"

Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for conversion of Public Company into a Private Company

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Northern Region

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s RITU INFRACON BUILDS LIMITED having its registered office at 117/K/13, Gutaiya, Kanpur-208025 U.P.

Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company is intending to make an application to the Central Government under Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid Rules and is desirous of converting into a Private Limited Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting held on 13th August, 2024 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director B-2 WING, 2ND FLOOR, PT. DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA BHAWAN, 2ND FLOOR CGO COMPLEX, NEW DELHI - 110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

117/K/13, Gutaiya, Kanpur-208025 U.P.

Date: 22.08.2024 For and on behalf of Ritu Infracon Builds Limited
Place: Kanpur Sd/-
Atul Gupta
Director
DIN: 08759843

Complete address of registered office:-
117/K/13, Gutaiya, Kanpur-208025 U.P.

Ensure peaceful celebration of Janamshtami: DGP

Lucknow (PNS): To ensure peaceful celebration of Krishna Janmashtami, Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, on Friday, issued guidelines, directing the officials to make all necessary arrangements.

In a circular dispatched to all the senior officers concerned, Kumar said that entries in No. 8 festival register available at every police station should be studied and no new tradition should be allowed.

He said the list of anti-social/undesirable elements should be updated and strict preventive action should be taken against them as per the need. Besides, he said, all events, Krishna leela venue, pandals, temples and processions related to Krishna Janmashtami should be listed and police arrangements should

be made in a planned manner. Estimating the possible number of devotees coming to all the events/programmes, strong security and traffic management should be made accordingly, he added.

According to the guidelines issued by Kumar, meetings should be held with the organisers/managers and religious leaders of various programmes planned on Krishna Janmashtami and the problems brought to notice should be resolved in time by establishing coordination with the department concerned. At places related to Krishna Janmashtami festival, if any dispute has been witnessed in the past years or this year, gazetted officers of the police and Revenue department should study the situation and take action to resolve the dispute. During the beat visit, all types of

disputes should be thoroughly investigated and on receipt of the beat information, senior officers should visit the spot and get the dispute resolved in time. As per requirement, the district magistrate, superintendent of police, sub-district magistrate should visit the dispute sites and routes. As per Kumar's directive, police parties should be sent out regularly for patrolling and checking in all districts. Intensive checking should be ensured by the morning patrol checking party (poster party). Proper videography should be done during the procession for security purposes. CCTV cameras located around the entire event and on the route of the procession should be activated. Checking should also be done with drone cameras at important sensitive places. Adequate police arrangements

should be made in a planned manner for security of processions and marches. Police arrangements should be made under the leadership of gazetted officers at all important events. Police station heads/circle officers should take every small incident seriously and immediately inspect the site of incident and ensure effective measures to resolve the dispute. Regular mobile/foot patrolling should be done as per requirement at all public places such as bus stations, railway stations and sensitive places/religious places, ensuring adequate security arrangements. To prevent crimes against women, an adequate number of male and female police personnel in plain clothes should be deployed. Kumar further asked the officers to hold meetings of the peace committees constituted earlier in the district.

He added, active cooperation of respectable citizens and members of peace committees should be taken and as per the need, the active cooperation of officers/members of civil defence committees etc. should be taken. On this occasion, comprehensive arrangements should be made in advance by using planning and technology while following the principles of crowd management and crowd control. By keeping the officers/personnel of the local intelligence unit alert, strict vigil should be kept on the activities of anti-social and undesirable elements and effective preventive action should be ensured on the basis of useful information received through intelligence units. Social media should be monitored round the clock and a close watch kept on various social media platforms.

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

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Possession Notice Branch : Kalyanpur, Kanpur

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

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

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

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

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property & O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date	
Borrower : Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Babu Ram, R/o : MIG-356, Awass Vikas Colony, Kalyanpur, Kanpur Nagar. Demand Notice Date: 08-01-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 22-08-2024	
Property : Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Situated at MIG-356, Awass Vikas Colony, Yojna Keshavpuram, Kalyanpur, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Babu Ram, Area : 154.50 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : 12 Mtr. Road, South : House No. MIG-359, East : 9 Mtr. Road, West : House No. MIG-355.	
O/S Amount as per Demand Notice Dated 30-12-2023 : Rs. 47,69,635.00 + Intt. + Others Charges	
Total Dues as on Dated 22-08-2024 : Rs. 47,69,635.00 + Intt. + Others Charges	
Date : 22-08-2024	Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer

Minister: Govt's special emphasis on making women self-reliant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Fee and Registration Ravindra Jaiswal on Friday inaugurated the Kashi Prerna Cafe-run by the women's self-help group



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal inaugurating a cafe in court premises in Varanasi on Friday.

(SHG) near the old registry office of the Collectorate complex by cutting the ribbon and also paid a starting amount of ₹500. District Magistrate S Rajalingam and Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal were also present. On the occasion Jaiswal said that the government has a special emphasis on making women self-reliant. Kashi Prerna Cafe, being run by the women's SHG, will help them become self-reliant while

the people coming to the court will also get clean breakfast. MAHARALLY: Local people of the city came out on the streets, taking out Jan Aakrosh Maharally' here on Thursday evening and protested against the atrocities being committed on Hindus in Bangladesh.

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' said in Bangladesh which was born with the help of India, today the Hindus are being killed and attacked and their women are being raped apart from burning of their houses and demolishing of temples. "There is a lot of anger among the Hindus of India regarding this. Today, a large number of Hindu society is expressing its anger under the banner of Hindu Raksha Samiti. We demand from the Bangladesh government that the lives and property of the minority Hindu community there should be protected", he said. City BJP president Vidyasagar Rai said there is anger in the Hindu society of Kashi regarding the atrocities being committed on Hindus in Bangladesh. People from various Hindu organisations, including RSS, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), ABVP etc participated in the rally.

Stadium, Sajjan trjunction and Tilak statue. Regional BJP president Dilip Patel in his addressed expressed concern over the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh. He also paid tribute to those Hindus who were killed. He said the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh should stop and strict action should be taken against the guilty.

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' said in Bangladesh which was born with the help of India, today the Hindus are being killed and attacked and their women are being raped apart from burning of their houses and demolishing of temples. "There is a lot of anger among the Hindus of India regarding this. Today, a large number of Hindu society is expressing its anger under the banner of Hindu Raksha Samiti. We demand from the Bangladesh government that the lives and property of the minority Hindu community there should be protected", he said. City BJP president Vidyasagar Rai said there is anger in the Hindu society of Kashi regarding the atrocities being committed on Hindus in Bangladesh. People from various Hindu organisations, including RSS, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), ABVP etc participated in the rally.

Later, Swami Jitendra Prasad Saraswati, while handing over the memorandum addressed to Deputy Commissioner of Police Gaurav Banswal, said the entire Hindu community of Kashi is angry with the atrocities being committed on Hindus in Bangladesh. To express this anger, today the Hindu community is coming out on the streets and demanding protection for the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains of Bangladesh. He said the Hindu community has given the message of religion and peace to the whole world and the Hindu community has never spread anarchy but today Hindus are being killed en masse in Bangladesh. He demanded that the Indian government should intervene or make every possible effort to control the situation through the United Nations. Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Nagendra Raghuvanshi, Rakesh Sharma, Navratan Rathi, Santosh Solapurkar, Gaurav Rathi, Shalendra Mishra, Jagdish Tripathi, Naveen Kapoor, Ashok Patel, Madhukar Chitransh, Kishore Seth, Nirmala Patel, Atma Visheshwar, Rachna Agarwal, Neeraj Jaiswal, Kishan Kanaujia etc were also present in the rally.

Iconic Central Library in BHU set to double seating capacity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The iconic Central Library (Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) with a student and faculty footfall of over 6000 every day, houses more than 15 lakh books, 90,000 e-books and over 17,000 journals. The limited seating capacity of the library has been a challenge for many years. With the Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain's relentless focus on creating state-of-the-art student amenities and strengthening the teaching-learning infrastructure, the seating capacity of the historic library is now set to be more than doubled than it was three years ago. In 2021, the capacity of the Central Library was just 850 students. With the growing demand to enhance



the library's capacity, Prof Jain issued a road map to prioritise space management and increase the seating and reading capacity. In a phased manner the first floor of the portion used by UGC-HRDC was made available to the library, adding 350 seats by the end of 2022. Further, the whole portion used by UGC-HRDC was converted into a reading hall and 250 additional seats were added taking the overall capacity of the Central Library to 1,450. Prof Jain formally inau-

gurated this new reading hall facility which is created by shifting UGC-HRDC on the occasion of Independence Day. The V-C said, "We are emphasising development and enhancement of student amenities to facilitate academic and professional excellence. Enriching our Central Library with resources as well as ample space is one of the steps we have taken in this regard. A G+5 extension block of the Central Library is nearing completion, which will further add more than 600 reading and seating capacity besides housing 70,000 books. With this the Central Library will have a reading hall capacity of nearly 2,000 students." University Librarian Dr DK Singh said that the library has seen a major uplift in the past three years. "Thanks to the university administration, we are no

more faced with scarcity of funds, nor do we have challenges regarding availability of resources as well as books", said Dr Singh. The up-gradation of library facilities is greatly benefiting the university community at large and especially the students from the under privileged background, he added. The university has taken a number of measures in order to make the library more accessible and student friendly. The annual allocation to library in the financial year 2023-24 was nearly five times than it was three years ago. The reading hall facility is open overnight from 8 am to 5 am next day as compared to 15 hours a day 3 years back. Efforts are ongoing to uplift and upgrade the Central Library with state of art modern facilities under the Institution of Eminence - BHU, initiative of the Government of India.

Youth's body found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prayagraj (PNS): The body of an unidentified youth was found near Chaukhata village in Iradatganj Hawaipatti area under Ghoorpur police station of Yamunanagar on Friday morning. On getting the information, a crowd of people gathered there. The victim, around 25 years of age, had serious wounds on his head. It is believed that he was shot after being strangled with a bicycle chain. On getting information the police reached the spot and tried to get the body identified, but to

no avail. On being informed the police officers of the district reached the spot with dog squad and forensic team. Samples were collected. The deceased was wearing blue pants and a brown shirt. It is believed that he was brought from somewhere and murdered here. The police sent the body for the post-mortem examination. SHO Vinay Singh said the youth could not be identified yet. The police have questioned the people of the area. A cycle chain was found around his neck.

Samarth felicitated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Samarth Sudeep Goenka, Srandon of Goldiee Masale's Managing Director Som Goenka and a class I student of Seth Anandram Jaipuria School here was felicitated with a gold medal and a citation for his best performance at the school level in the International Hindi Olympiad 2023-24 organised by the Hindi Vikas Manch. Samarth is the son of Goldiee Masale's Director Sudeep Goenka.



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MLA's appeal to maintain cleanliness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former UP Minister and Varanasi City South MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, along with the senior citizens and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers planted 100 saplings in Shri Kamalakar Choubey Adarsh Inter College under the 'Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam' campaign here on Friday. It was the MLA's 50th day of his 75-day ward stay programme being organised prior to the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In Ishwarganj Ward, the MLA appealed to the people to maintain cleanliness by running a cleanliness campaign in various localities of the area and gave strict instructions to the Nagar Nigam officials to keep the entire area free

from garbage and debris. The MLA then planted saplings and after the tree plantation programme, Dr Tiwari held a public meeting and discussed various topics with the local people. He also met senior citizens. On the occasion, UP Minister of State for AYUSH and Food Security (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLCs MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma and Dharmendra Rai, regional BJP president Dilip Patel, city party chief Vidyasagar Rai, Mahant Shankarpuri of Annapurna Temple, Mahant Balak Das of Patalpur Math, Dr Virendra Pratap Singh, Dr Alok Srivastava and many others, including college principal, teachers and students, were present.

26-year-old youth found hanging under mysterious circumstances

Kanpur (PNS): A 26-year-old youth was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in Shiv Nagar under Dahli police station area of Unnao on Friday morning. Police probed the issue and sent the body to autopsy. Pyarelal (26), son of Mata Prasad, was a school van driver. On finding the door of his room closed on Friday morning, his family members suspected some wrong. On breaking open the doors, they found hanging. Meanwhile a youth was found hanging in Bidhuna of Auraiya district on Friday morning. The mother of the deceased alleged the involvement of his paramour and her family members in the killing of her son. Police sent the body for an autopsy. Ashwani (26) of Kishoreganj, Bidhuna, had affair with a girl for the past six months. The mother of the

deceased Sudha said her son was living with the girl at her house for the past six months. On Friday morning he was found hanging in front of her house and accused the girl and her mother of killing Ashwani and hanging the body. Police have taken the girl and her school van driver. On finding the door of his room closed on Friday morning, his family members suspected some wrong. On breaking open the doors, they found hanging. Meanwhile a youth was found hanging in Bidhuna of Auraiya district on Friday morning. The mother of the deceased alleged the involvement of his paramour and her family members in the killing of her son. Police sent the body for an autopsy. Ashwani (26) of Kishoreganj, Bidhuna, had affair with a girl for the past six months. The mother of the

Intra-moot court competition held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAVARGAJ

The Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University here organised a two-day Intra-Moot Court Competition. The competition aimed to provide an opportunity to budding lawyers to compete and hone their skills in arguing matters in the moot court competition. The moot proposition was based on the Law of Contract. It revolved around the basic concept of promissory estoppel, principles of limitation law and maintainability of a civil dispute and particularly delved into the scope of a contract and its formation under the principles of the Law of Contract. On Wednesday the teams participated in two intellectually demanding and grueling preliminary rounds which were adjudged by practicing advocates of Allahabad High Court — Anoop Baranwal, Shashank Bhatt, Avendra Khare, Harsh Tiwari, Shivendra, etc. The teams were thoroughly tested on their knowledge of law and facts. The preliminary rounds were followed by the semi-final rounds which included the top 4 teams.

The semi-final rounds were conducted on Thursday and were adjudged by division judge benches each consisting of senior advocates and practicing lawyers. The judges for the semi-finals were Senior Advocate Praveen Kumar Giri (Advocate Advocate General), advocates Pankaj Tripathi, Vijay Kumar Ojha, and Parijat Mishra. The semi-final rounds pushed hard for a straight win against the opposite teams. The riveting and most significant final round was conducted on Thursday. The team comprising Srilal Mishra, Suryansh Mishra, and Saumya Sachan emerged victorious. The team comprising Tejaswi Sharma, Janhavi Singh and Pratibha Gaur was adjudged runner-up. The team comprising Siddhi Sharma, Rounak and Vipul Sinha bagged the award of Best Memorial. Abhyuday Sharan was adjudged as the best speaker. Nandini bagged the award of Best Researcher. "The competition provided a platform to assess the knowledge of law and facts of the budding lawyers and to test their moot and advocacy skills" said Vice-Chancellor Usha Tandon.

Karnataka Govt mulls safety steps for doctors, hospital staff post-Kolkata incident

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Friday suggested a slew of measures to be adopted to ensure the safety and security of doctors working in hospitals across the state.

A meeting chaired by Minister for Medical Education Sharanprakash Patil discussed safety measures for doctors, nurses and hospital staff. Members of the doctors' association were asked to draft a document so that the Department of Medical Education can prepare a standard advisory. After the recent rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata, which has shocked the entire nation, the safety profile for the working doctors has once again been reviewed, the Director of Medical Education Dr Shobha Rathod said. "On the instructions of our minister, we have held a meeting with all the directors of the government institutes and the super specialty hospitals to identify the



gaps in the safety profile for our working doctors," she told PTI. According to DME, there are 71 medical colleges including 22 government medical colleges under the Department of Medical Education. Apart from them, there are nursing and paramedical institutes in the state. During the meet, the department also reviewed the safety lapses. Following the Nirbhaya advisory, the department has been insisting that there are no dark corridors anywhere and

all the places should be well lit, Rathod said adding that CCTV cameras should be installed in most of the areas. "The security personnel are the ones who can walk anywhere with the consent in all the areas of the institute, so whether we have a good background check of all these people whom we take under security and house-keeping, that was one issue." All the institutes have the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) committees, which can also suggest a

precautionary measure so that if there is any such incident then an alert can be sounded. Rathod said the POSH committees have been regularly conducting meeting to make sure that there are no incidents of harassment of women. The department is also using Artificial Intelligence for the safety of each doctor. Self-defence training of the doctors and counseling of medical professionals regarding their stress levels were also discussed, she explained. "We are also encouraging pink boxes so that in case of unbiased complaints, the administration can look into it," Dr Rathod said. "Introducing of 'code white' system. - If there is something called a code white, which we have already seen, it being worked out in our Indian Institute of nephro-urology, that will make all of them alert, how quickly we can be alerted if there is an untoward incident which is happening," she added.

Withdraw cases against Badlapur protesters, or we will hit the streets: Uddhav

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Friday demanded the withdrawal of cases against those who had protested in Badlapur against the alleged sexual abuse of two kindergarten girls, warning that the opposition would have to hit the streets if it is not done.

Addressing a news conference, Thackeray said the August 24 'Maharashtra Bandh' called by the opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is not political but against "perversion" and urged people cutting across caste and religion to participate in it. He claimed the bandh would be observed on behalf of the people of the state. Slamming the Eknath Shinde government's action over the Badlapur protest, Thackeray said, "Arrests are still taking place in Badlapur. The cases against the protesters must be withdrawn or else we have to hit the streets." A massive protest rocked Badlapur town in Thane dis-



trict on Tuesday after thousands of people hit the streets and spilled onto railway tracks to protest the alleged sexual assault of two four-year-old girls by a male attendant at a local school. At least 25 police personnel were injured in the incidents of stone-pelting at the railway station and other parts of Badlapur during the protest. Police have arrested 72 persons in connection with the violence during the stir. The accused was arrested on August 17. He has been sent to police custody till August 26. Thackeray said the bandh should be "strictly" followed till 2 pm, ensuring that emergency services remain operational.

Himachal Govt signs pact with MSTC for e-auction of mines

PTI ■ SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh government has signed a pact with MSTC Ltd to facilitate e-auction services for mining leases and composite licenses in the state, Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan said on Friday.

Chauhan said the state government will auction two big blocks of limestone in Arki tehsil of Solan district and Sunni tehsil of Shimla district. The limestone from these blocks is of fine quality, making it highly valuable for use in cement, steel, glass and fertilizer industries, the minister said. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Director of Industries Rakesh Kumar Prajapati on behalf of the state government and Regional Manager Nitin Anand representing Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) Ltd, a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Steel, according to a statement issued here.



Further, Chauhan highlighted that the auction of these mineral mines would not only boost the state's revenue but also create employment opportunities for the local population. On Friday, the minister also presided over the 231st meeting of the Board of Directors of HP General Industries Corporation Ltd here. During the meeting, the board approved a 7 per cent dividend payment to the Himachal Pradesh government for FY23, amounting to Rs 50.06 lakh. This dividend represents a 2 per cent increase over the state government's standard directive of 5 per cent, the statement said.

Shivraj lauds Modi Govt's efforts to uplift backward classes, mocks Cong for 'lip service'

PTI ■ PATNA

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday praised the Narendra Modi government for its efforts to uplift backward classes and accused the Congress-led opposition of merely offering "lip service" to the cause.

The Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development was addressing a party function in memory of Ramphal Mandal, a freedom fighter who went to the gallows

at the age of 19 for killing three British officials who were blamed for a police firing during the 1942 Quit India movement. Chouhan, a former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, noted that Mandal was a "dhanuk", a backward class "known for its contribution in nation building, in my home state as well as Bihar". "Our opponents only pay lip service to backward classes who have got their due only under the current BJP regime, with an 'ati pichhda' (extremely backward class)

Narendra Modi at the helm", said Chouhan. He added, "It is Modi who gave 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs in entrance tests like NEET. It is this government which granted constitutional status to the National OBC Commission. Compare this with the Congress which slept over recommendations of the Kalelkar Commission." Chouhan's aversion comes in the backdrop of the opposition, led by Rahul Gandhi, making a strong pitch for "caste census", which implies enumeration of



social groups other than SCs, STs and religious minorities, which was last undertaken about a century ago. The BJP leader said, "Mere talks will not do. We need to make a difference to the lives of the common people. The Modi government is committed to build 13 lakh houses in the next four years for the benefit of the homeless. Entrepreneurship is being encouraged among women through schemes like Lakhpati Didi". "We are also trying to ensure an increase in agricultural output,

alongside a reduction in cost of farming, so that agriculture is not seen as an economically unviable activity. Activities like horticulture and floriculture are also being encouraged and farmers are being provided support when they face losses because natural calamities," the agriculture minister said. Earlier, Chouhan held a discussion with farmers and said he was "amazed" to see stalls of local items like makhana, rice, honey and maize put up at the state-of-the-art 'Krishi Bhavan'. "In Bihar, we do not have large

tracts of land. More than 90 per cent of cultivators are marginal farmers. But they are working wonders", remarked Chouhan. The Minister also said that "makhana" (fox nuts), which is cultivated mostly in Bihar, is in huge demand abroad and its export would bring immense benefits to farmers. "Diversification of agriculture is on the government's roadmap... Along with traditional crops, we will encourage cultivation of items which could bring in more money", the minister added.

Himachal to launch new flight routes to connect Chandigarh, Kullu, Dharamshala

PTI ■ SHIMLA

In a bid to further boost tourism in the state, the Himachal Pradesh government is set to introduce new flight routes connecting Chandigarh, Kullu and Dharamshala, officials said on Friday.

According to the officials, the government is already in discussions with airlines and other stakeholders to launch flights in these routes. The direct flight between Kullu and Dharamshala is expected to significantly benefit the tourism sector, addressing a long-standing demand from visitors, a statement issued here said. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu emphasised the government's commitment to attracting high-end tourists to the state. "Strengthening air connectivity was crucial to achieving our tourism goals and reducing travel time and costs for tourists is essential," he



said. "Himachal Pradesh is blessed with breathtaking landscapes and has immense potential for tourism. Systematic development of tourism infrastructure would not only increase tourist footfalls but also bolster the local economy," CM Sukhu said. Four flight routes, linking a few popular tourist destinations in the state with other parts of the country, are currently operational. Flights on the Delhi-

Shimla-Delhi and Shimla-Dharamshala-Shimla routes operate daily, while the Amritsar-Shimla-Amritsar and Amritsar-Kullu-Amritsar routes are operational thrice a week. In addition to expanding flight routes, the Himachal Pradesh government is also developing new heliports to further improve air connectivity for tourists, the statement said. "Rs 13 crore has been allocated for the construction of heli-

ports in Rakkar and Palampur in Kangra district, Reckong Peo in Kinnaur district and another in Chamba district," it said. "The hilly terrain of Himachal Pradesh makes the construction of heliports beneficial," the chief minister. "These heliports would attract more tourists by saving travel time and they would also provide assistance to local residents in emergencies, if any," he added. The more tourists we attract, the more benefits would accrue to the people of the state, Sukhu said, adding that the state government was adopting a focused approach to establish these heliports, ensuring that each district headquarters was connected to this facility. Furthermore, the state government has declared Kangra district as the tourism capital of Himachal Pradesh and is upgrading the necessary tourism infrastructure in the district, the statement said.

Prime suspect in schoolgirl's sexual assault at fake NCC camp case commits suicide

PTI ■ KRISHNAGIRI (TAMIL NADU)

The prime suspect in a schoolgirl's sexual assault at a fake NCC camp at Bargur in the district died allegedly by suicide on Friday, said police. Sivaraman reportedly consumed rat control paste ahead of his arrest on August 19, they said. He was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Krishnagiri, where he was undergoing treatment for fracturing his leg when he attempted to escape from being caught by the police. Later, he was referred to the Government Medical College Hospital, Salem as his condition worsened, and he died today. Incidentally, Sivaraman's father Ashok Kumar died in a road accident when he was riding a two-wheeler in an inebriated



condition on Thursday, a senior police official said. Sivaraman was among 11 people, including the school authorities, who were arrested by the Bargur All-Woman police. He had organised the fake NCC camp where the girl student studying in class 8 and several other girls were sexually assaulted. About 41 students, including 17 girls, participated in the fake NCC camp recently and the incident of sexual assault came to light after the girl narrated her trauma to her par-

ents, who then lodged a complaint with the police. Opposition parties AIADMK and BJP have raised suspicion over the death of Sivaraman by suicide following his father's demise allegedly due to a road accident and wondered if any attempt was being made to shield the real culprit involved in the sexual assault and abuse of the girls at the fake NCC camp. Citing media reports, AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami said the timing of Sivaraman's death before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) commenced the probe into the case, and also that of Ashok Kumar on Thursday night raises doubts. "The public wonders whether Sivaraman has been killed fearing he might reveal the names of real culprits involved in the criminal activity and

that the police are trying to shield the real culprits," Palaniswami said in a statement here. He demanded that a SIT undertake a thorough probe and expose those involved in the sexual assault and abuse at the fake NCC camps. Also, he sought to know how many such camps were organised so far and if any action has been taken on the schools that allowed their children to participate in such fake camps. Expressing similar doubts, BJP state chief K Annamalai said, "both the deaths are suspicious... A strong doubt arises whether those involved in the case have actually been arrested or whether the two deaths took place to save someone," he said in a post on social media platform X. He urged the SIT to conduct a detailed enquiry and bring out the truth.

Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar in Delhi to discuss MUDA 'scam' with Congress high command



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar arrived in the national capital on Friday for crucial meetings with top Congress leaders. Sources indicate that the primary focus of these discussions will be to formulate a strategy ahead of next week's high court hearing on the controversial Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) 'scam' case. The MUDA 'scam' has been a thorn in Siddaramaiah's side, with allegations of illegal land dealings involving the chief minister and his wife Parvathi flying thick and fast. At the heart of the controversy are claims that Parvathi received 14 plots in exchange for 3.16 acres of land, which was allegedly

acquired illegally by MUDA. Adding to political pressure, Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot has recently sanctioned investigations under the Prevention of Corruption Act, intensifying scrutiny of the chief minister. Sources privy to the matter suggest that the Delhi meetings will also address pending corruption cases against the state BJP leaders. The Congress leadership is expected to devise a counter strategy to exert pressure on the governor. Accompanying Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are several key state ministers, including Home Minister G Parameshwar, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa and Minority and Housing Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, MLC K Govindaraju and Power Minister K J George.

Teen gangraped in Assam, massive protests erupt

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

A 14-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three persons in Assam's Nagaon district, triggering massive protests by people on the streets. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma promised that stern action would be taken against the perpetrators. The girl was allegedly assaulted and raped by three persons while she was returning home from her tuition on her bicycle in Dhing area around 8 pm on Thursday, police said. Three persons came in a motorcycle and surrounded the girl, who was then allegedly raped by them and left in an injured and unconscious state on the roadside near a pond. The class 10 student was later rescued by locals, who informed the police. She was initially taken to a health centre in Dhing and later shifted to a hospital in Nagaon for treatment and medical examination. "The criminals who dared to commit such a heinous crime against a minor Hindu girl of Dhing will not be spared by I have directed the DGP and



Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika to rush to Dhing and take the toughest action," Sarma told reporters in Hailakandi. Sarma alleged that after Lok Sabha elections, "a section of members of a particular community have become very active and have been encouraged to commit such crimes. We will, however, come down heavily on the perpetrators and nobody will be spared." In the last two months, 22 such crimes against women have taken place and this is

the 23rd such incident in the state, he added. "In Lower and central Assam and Barak Valley districts, where indigenous people have become a numeric minority, they are living in constant fear. People outside these regions cannot gauge this harsh reality," he said. The chief minister urged all to be sensitive about these issues of the indigenous people. "We should identify the real perpetrators behind these heinous crimes and not be

stuck in blaming communities within the Hindu society," Sarma said. The police said that one person had been already arrested and another detained while a search was on to nab the others. DGP G P Singh reached Dhing and visited the crime scene along with district police officials. Meanwhile, people from all sections of the society hit the streets on Friday morning demanding the arrest of the culprits. Shopkeepers downed the shutters of their business establishments and social and political organisations demanded stringent action against the culprits and security for women and girls. Tension prevailed in the area and police patrolling and vigil have been intensified. Earlier, Sarma had said that "the horrific incident at Dhing, involving a minor, is a crime against humanity and has struck our collective conscience". "We will NOT SPARE anyone & BRING the perpetrators to JUSTICE. I've directed @DGPAssamPolice to visit the site and ensure swift action against such monsters," Sarma posted on X.

Four labourers among 5 killed as under-construction cottage's roof caves in at MP resort

PTI ■ MHOW (MP)

Five persons -- four labourers and their contractor -- were killed after the roof of an under-construction cottage at a resort collapsed in Indore district amid heavy rains, a police official said on Friday. The incident occurred at Choral village in Mhow tehsil, about 40km from the district headquarters, on Thursday night when four labourers and their contractor were sleeping under the freshly laid concrete slab, which suddenly came crashing down, trapping them, he said. Two of the deceased were brothers. Police were informed about the roof collapse at around 6.30 am and they immediately rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation, Indore (Rural) Superintendent of Police Hitika Wasal told PTI over the phone from the construction site which is surrounded by forests and hillocks. The operation ended with the recovery of five bodies, which were sent to a hospital, she said, adding "We have launched an investigation

into the incident." The accident came to light in the morning when other labourers turned up for work at the site, said inspector Amit Kumar of the Simrol police station. The deceased were identified as labourers Hariom Malviya (22), Ajay Malviya (20), Gopal Prajapati (45), Raja (22) and their contractor Pawan Panchal (35), Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Umakant Chaudhary said. Hariom and Ajay Malviya were brothers, he added. "The roof slab which collapsed was constructed just one or two days ago," Chaudhary added. The police officer said six cottages were being readied at the resort and their structures appeared weak at the first glance. The department concerned will check the quality of construction work, Chaudhary added. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the tragedy and announced financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to the family of the deceased. Indore District Magistrate Ashish Singh said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Surging ahead

Kamala's socialism resonates with people while personal attacks by Trump diminish his chances in the US elections

As the United States gears up for another contentious election, the spotlight is once again on Vice President Kamala Harris. Her steadfast commitment to secularism has struck a chord with a diverse electorate that values the separation of church and state. In contrast, former President Donald Trump's attacks on Harris, aimed at undermining her credibility, may be backfiring, potentially diminishing his chances in the upcoming elections. As the political climate in the United States continues to evolve, Vice President Kamala Harris has emerged as a prominent advocate for policies rooted in democratic socialism. Her focus on social justice, economic equality, and government intervention to address systemic issues resonates with a growing segment of the American electorate. Meanwhile, former President Donald Trump's attacks on Harris appear to be weakening his appeal, potentially diminishing his chances in the upcoming elections. Kamala Harris's brand of socialism centres on creating a fairer society through progressive taxation expanded healthcare access, and stronger social safety nets. Her policies aim to address the widening wealth gap, ensure affordable education, and promote racial and gender equality. These ideas have gained traction, particularly among younger voters, minorities, and working-class Americans who feel left behind by the current economic system. Harris's commitment to these principles is seen as a response to the pressing needs of a diverse and economically stratified nation. By advocating for policies that prioritize the needs of the many over the interests of the few, Harris is tapping into a widespread desire for systemic change. In contrast, Donald Trump's strategy has often relied on personal attacks, attempting to discredit Harris by questioning her policies and character. However, these comments have not only failed to undermine Harris's growing support but may also be backfiring on Trump himself. Many voters perceive Trump's rhetoric as divisive and out of touch with the issues that matter most to them, such as healthcare, education, and economic justice. Moreover, Trump's focus on personal attacks rather than substantive policy debates could be alienating voters who are looking for solutions to real problems. As the electorate becomes increasingly concerned with issues like income inequality, climate change, and access to healthcare, Trump's attacks may come across as a distraction from the pressing issues at hand. Kamala Harris's approach, rooted in democratic socialism, offers a vision of an America where everyone has a fair shot at success. This vision is resonating with a growing number of voters who are frustrated with the status quo and are seeking leaders who will champion their interests. Meanwhile, Trump's jabs may be costing him the support of those who are tired of political mudslinging and are looking for a leader who can address their needs.



ping into a widespread desire for systemic change. In contrast, Donald Trump's strategy has often relied on personal attacks, attempting to discredit Harris by questioning her policies and character. However, these comments have not only failed to undermine Harris's growing support but may also be backfiring on Trump himself. Many voters perceive Trump's rhetoric as divisive and out of touch with the issues that matter most to them, such as healthcare, education, and economic justice. Moreover, Trump's focus on personal attacks rather than substantive policy debates could be alienating voters who are looking for solutions to real problems. As the electorate becomes increasingly concerned with issues like income inequality, climate change, and access to healthcare, Trump's attacks may come across as a distraction from the pressing issues at hand. Kamala Harris's approach, rooted in democratic socialism, offers a vision of an America where everyone has a fair shot at success. This vision is resonating with a growing number of voters who are frustrated with the status quo and are seeking leaders who will champion their interests. Meanwhile, Trump's jabs may be costing him the support of those who are tired of political mudslinging and are looking for a leader who can address their needs.

Violence against women: Unheeded cries

As public outrage grows, the challenge before the authorities is to provide safety and dignity of women across the country



RAJDEEP PATHAK

In a flashback all the past horrendous incidents of violence against women, particularly incidents of rape cross the mind. Here in our country, newspaper pages more than often bring out horrifying accounts of sexual violence – a 65-year-old grandmother assaulted in Kharagpur or a teenage girl, native of Uttar Pradesh, was gang-raped inside a government bus at the Dehradun Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in Uttarakhand on August 12, 2024, and the latest from Maharashtra, when on August 20, 2024, two minor girls, aged 4, studying in Nursery, were sexually assaulted by a school sweeper in the washroom of a well-known Adarsh Vidya Mandir in Badlapur school near Mumbai. These incidents happened within days when the entire nation was gripped by the horrors of the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital at Kolkata. And these are not isolated incidents – they are part of a grim reality where a rape is reported every 21 minutes. Yet, despite the horror these crimes evoke, they are quickly forgotten by all except the victims and their families, who are left to fight lonely, often futile battles for justice for years, which sometimes is only the ray of hope for them. India's response to sexual violence remains disturbingly inadequate. More than a decade has passed since the Nirbhaya case – a brutal gang rape that shocked the nation and led to the passage of new sexual assault laws. But the situation has barely improved. Nearly 50 years before Nirbhaya, the fearless, Aruna Shanbaug, a 25-year-old nurse, was viciously assaulted by a hospital cleaner in Mumbai. Sodomized, strangled with a metal chain, and left for dead, she survived – only to remain in a vegetative state for 41 years until her death. Her ordeal led to a landmark judgment on passive euthanasia in India, yet her suffering stands as a testament to the enduring failures of a society that continues to fail its women. The recent brutal rape and murder of a 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata serves as a grim reminder that little has changed. Female healthcare workers or



women workers per se, still fear for their safety even in supposed sanctuaries such as hospitals. This ongoing crisis underscores the dire need for real change – a change that goes beyond laws and addresses the deep-seated cultural and institutional failures that allow such atrocities to persist. This incident of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital has shaken the conscience of West Bengal, and the ripple effects are being felt across the political landscape – and the entire nation. The public's reaction to this crime has been fierce and unforgiving. Protests have erupted across the state, with citizens demanding justice not only for the victim but also calling for broader reforms to ensure such incidents are not repeated. The political and social response to the incident has been equally chaotic. The decision for a swift call for a CBI investigation and capital punishment, alongside the rally for "Khela Hobe Divas," has been met with criticism for its timing and focus. Additionally, state actions, such as the transfer of doctors allegedly involved in protests and the use of social media to counter celebrity critiques (read singers), have further fueled debates about the handling of the case. The political implications of this incident



HIGH-PROFILE CASES OF ASSAULT, TRAFFICKING, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGHLIGHT THE PERSISTENT VULNERABILITIES FACED BY WOMEN

could be far-reaching. But beyond politics, the safety of women and girls in India remains a critical concern, deeply rooted in societal norms, legal frameworks, and institutional practices. Despite advancements in legislation and public awareness, instances of violence and harassment against women are prevalent. High-profile cases of assault, trafficking, and domestic violence highlight the persistent vulnerabilities faced by women and girls. The legal system, while equipped with laws like the 'Protection of Human Rights Act' and the 'Criminal Law Amendment Act', or for that matter, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO of 2012), often struggles with implementation and enforcement. There are systemic delays in justice delivery and shortcomings in police response, which exacerbate the sense of insecurity. Protective measures, including the establishment of fast-track courts and specialized police units, aim to address these issues and provide some ray of light in this dark world for women. Further, societal attitudes towards women play a significant role in undermining these measures. Deep-seated patriarchal views and cultural practices continue to normalize gender-based violence, making it difficult for protective laws to translate into tangible safety for women. The lack of comprehensive sexual education and community engagement further perpetuates harmful stereotypes and behaviours. Right education for the boys at home is another crucial area for intervention by the government and NGOs. The role of NGOs and grassroots movements has been pivotal in advocating for women's rights and safety. Effective safety measures must involve not only legal reforms but also significant shifts in overall attitudes and community involvement. The challenge before the authorities is not just one of governance but of moral leadership – a test that will define their legacy to guarantee safety to women and girl children. *Aami tomari maaitro konya, janoni bosundhara /Tobe aamar manobojanmo keno bonchito kora... (I am no other, but the daughter of yours, O' motherland/Why deprive me of the legacy of my human life...).* Written in the year 1933 by Rabindranath Tagore, these lines echo far and wide and call for collective action. It is time to stand up to see where we stand and where we fail. *(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)*

PICTALK



A mahout bathes an elephant at Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawala

PTI

Empowering Women: Mandatory self-defence training in schools

This proactive approach could provide women with the skills and confidence to fend off potential attackers, empowering them

The cauldron of public rage is boiling over in the aftermath of the rape and murder of a young resident doctor in Kolkata. It isn't the first time that the nation is witnessing such gruesomeness, and it won't be the last either unless something drastic happens at all levels – societal, legal and psychological. It isn't that there were no horrific instances of sexual assault on women before Nirbhaya. There were, but Nirbhaya's case brought the issue of women's safety (or the lack of it) front and centre, and it resulted in instituting legislation that offered women more protection and legal support. Stringent measures have been implemented, yet incidents keep happening across the country. It nearly feels like no external force can stem this rot, and it is time for women to take their protection into their own hands, literally. In light of the above, I am wondering if it wouldn't be more prudent and practical to arm our girls with self-defence tactics right from the beginning. Crimes against women have become so reg-



ular, that attention must now turn towards finding means to empower women in a way that will give them confidence and security in different realms of their professional and private lives. The violations can probably be attributed to a deep-rooted patriarchal mindset that has been the bane of women (not just in India), but fixing the blame on society or its vagaries does not help us fight critical issues such as this. It's worse when women themselves are held responsible for the abuses they are subjected to. If society wants to pin the responsibility of safety on women, then there must be an action plan to arm women with the necessary armament. In simple words, why not

make martial arts and other self-defence lessons compulsory in the school curriculum? If there can be a sports or PT period, there can be a martial arts period too. The very idea of equipping our girls with the skills to fend off troublemakers makes me jubilant and offers hope that no legislation can offer. Widespread condemnation and demand for punitive action cannot pre-empt future instances. What can curb it is the general knowledge among errant men that the woman they have cornered is capable of packing a punch, a chop or a kick that will neutralise them. Martial arts has been an optional activity for girls in an urban setting, but only when it is introduced as a part of the curriculum from primary grades in every school and they must be genuinely emancipated from the dangers that lurk at every corner of their daily lives. It is encouraging to learn that the government is intent on its aim to ensure the safety of women in the country and hand out the severest punishment to perpetrators,

but these are steps taken post-incident. What is suggested in this piece is a plan to provide a pre-emptive measure, a way to forestall violent attacks against women by their defences. It can deter a good majority of men on the loose with vagrant ideas. Parents who are better informed enrol their daughters in self-defence programmes, but they are few and far between. The real difference will be seen only when every school-going child is taught the techniques to ward off an offender by dint of their physical prowess. If our women can win medals in the boxing and wrestling rings, if they can build enough brawns along with brains in school, if every man who casts a salacious glance on a woman remembers that his prospective victim is not a push-over, then there will be change. Let us empower our girls with the spunk to keep the marauders at bay. *(The author is a columnist, author and writing coach based in Dubai; views are personal)*



ASHA IYER KUMAR

VALID CONCERNS ON E-COMMERCE

Madam — Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has raised valid concerns about the questionable practices of e-commerce companies, particularly regarding predatory pricing, cash burning, successive years of losses, and the use of FDI to cover these losses. His concerns emphasize the need for policymakers to ensure a level playing field for local businesses and industries. More troubling is the destination and intent behind the FDI in these companies. E-commerce companies consistently declare significant losses in their income tax returns, carrying them forward year after year to offset against future profits. This cycle continues with mergers, where the losses of merged companies are also carried forward. In contrast, local traders and entrepreneurs pay regular taxes on their incomes, while e-commerce companies avoid taxes through their accounting strategies. This tax advantage, along with the convenience and wide range of products offered by online trade, gives e-commerce companies a significant edge. Goyal suggests that cash burn by e-commerce companies should not be allowed as a deduction, and the period for carrying forward losses should be limited to a maximum of two years. The impact of e-commerce on local traders is already evident, with potential job losses on the horizon. Another concern is the shift of youth from traditional businesses and agriculture to delivery jobs, leading to their migration from rural areas to metro cities. **Vinod Johri | New Delhi**

MODERN SLAVERY

Madam — "I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed more if only they knew they were slaves". One need not look beyond these thought-provoking words of American abolitionist Harriet Tubman to decipher the evils of slavery. Though Tubman spoke at the end of the 19th century, her words hold true for modern slavery as well. Human trafficking, bonded

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lateral entries rolled back



propos to "The Govt steps back" published on 22nd August, it is my response". Efficient bureaucracy leads to good governance and with this good intention the gov-

ernment wanted to rope in 45 lateral entries into our civil services, which was not the first time. It has been happening since Nehru's days. But such is the compulsion of coalition politics that the government had to give in to the demands of its own allies. Prime Minister Modi had also rolled back critical three farm laws which were in the larger interest of the farmers. So now after this decision, it is going to boost opposition' morale to put Gol on the mat again in future, and it has given Modi's government a negative and weak government's image. Hopefully it will learn its lessons and take opposition and allies on board before rolling out any sensitive changes or policies in future. It is the most democratic thing to do anyway because what is democracy if it is not inclusive and does not reflect people's will. **Bal Govind | Noida**

NO LIMITS FOR PARA PLAYERS

Madam — The season of Paralympics is all set to begin with Indian athletic contingent start reaching over there in the Game village of Paris. So far, the closing of Paris Olympics done, with India taking on six medals only, however some sports spectators and aficionados are setting the medal count limit with 12 medals at the Paralympics. India has successfully lifted 19 medals in Paralympics Tokyo edition of 2021, for all those are setting the bar before the real talent actually comes up, it is crucial to appreciate the talent and zeal of our para players. Let's don't set any specific boundary of medals that they have to win for the nation. Why just 12, our players have the capability of winning much more. May their competitive spirit and sportsmanship, let them conquer the sports laurels in a celebrated manner without any pressure. **Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur**

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Ganapathi Bhat | Kolkata



FIRST COLUMN

THE ESSENCE OF BEING:
BEYOND BODY AND MIND

The soul is envisioned as pure and tranquil, the mind remains latent and unmanifest.



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

It is now becoming something of a cliché in various circles of modern life—from religion to psychology to holistic medicine—to use the phrase “body-mind-soul” or “body-mind-spirit” when referring to our totality as human beings. So, what do we exactly mean when we ask, What is the body? What is the mind? What is the soul? and What is the spirit? It is often said that the real self is behind the mind or intellect. It is also said that we can experience and know the self when we go beyond the mind, which is like a sheath of the soul.

This is truly said, but it means something different than what is generally understood because to experience or perceive the soul, we do not have to cross the mind which is considered to be a subtle form of matter. No! Instead, we have to calm the ripples of the mind, stop it from being agitated by the outer world, and check its outward tendency. From a spiritual perspective, it should be understood that when the soul is in the soul-world, it is pure, calm, tranquil, and above all bondages or attributes.

There, the mind is unmanifest, and its abilities of volition, action, desire, understanding, ascertainment, etc., are not at play but at rest—not emerged but latent and merged. While in the soul-world, the soul is pinned, so to say, only on one thought, one consciousness, one feeling, one understanding, viz—‘I am a Soul, I am a Soul, I am a Soul’. That is all—nothing more. The turbulence, the vagrancy, the sportiveness of the mind is at rest, or you may say that, in a sense, it is in deep sleep. Therefore, when it is said that “If we want to experience the peace and tranquility



of the soul or have to know the self, we will have to go beyond the intellect and the mind.” it does not mean that we will penetrate, percolate through, tear away, or cross over to a material form as the mind is understood to be. No! It means that to know ourselves, we will have to concentrate our mind on the maxim: “I am a soul, a child of the Supreme Soul.”

We will have to make our intellect and mind one-pointed and disposed to understand the Self alone. We will have to lay all our memories, thoughts, feelings, etc., to rest. This is what would be ‘going beyond’ the mind. For this, there are so many methods that have been advocated, demonstrated, advised, and laid down by various spiritual and religious teachers. However, the all-knowing Almighty has offered His supreme advice that we should control the mind using the intellect. This means that we have to know the Self, the Supreme, etc., and using that, know the Self to calm ourselves. He has sermonized that it can be best done by pinning the mind on the name, form, attributes, and relation of the Supreme with the soul.

His sermon is, “Manmana Bhav,” i.e., concentrate your mind on me, your love, your faith in me. And I assure you that I will bless you with supreme sanctity, peace, and bliss, and you will attain me. I will purge you of all sins, rest assured. If we act as HE says, all our inner conflict will end, and we will work only as His divine instrument. By aligning ourselves with the Supreme, our mind will cease its endless wandering, and we will find ourselves centred and at peace. We will then be able to adjust ourselves easily and quickly in any situation. Having been freed from other psychological memories, except that of the Supreme and our duty, our energy potential will find no resistance and will be free for full performance. We will thus be able to attain excellence and experience peace and tranquillity without putting in much effort. This state of effortless being is what every soul seeks, whether knowingly or unknowingly. The Supreme guides us to this state of fulfillment, away from the darkness of ignorance. Now, it's up to us whether to listen to the Almighty or keep wandering in the darkness of ignorance.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

Reject calls for extraditing
Sheikh HasinaHIARANMAY
KARLEKAR

India must stand firm in its refusal to hand over a leader who has been a steadfast ally, particularly when such demands come from factions with anti-India sentiment

India must not pay the slightest heed to the demand by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's secretary-general, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, to extradite Sheikh Hasina to his country. From reports in Indian newspapers, he seems to have cited two grounds, both utterly laughable, for his demand. The first is that she should stand trial for the murder and other charges levelled against her. The question is: will she receive a fair trial under the conditions now prevailing in Bangladesh? The matter is important. Even if the charges levelled against her are true, and she has done terrible things, she has an inalienable right to a fair trial.

This, she will not get with large mobs literally baying for her blood, statues of her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of the country's emergence from East Pakistan to sovereign Bangladesh, are being pulled down, the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum of 32 Dhanmondi, Dhaka, his erstwhile residence, ransacked and burnt, and the Liberation War Museum at Suhrawardy Udyan Dhaka, razed to the ground.

Clearly, a section of people is trying to take advantage of the situation created by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement (ADSM), to target the symbols of Bangladesh's liberation struggle. Undoing the country's independence and its re-unification with Pakistan is, of course, out of the question. But cultivating closer ties with Pakistan, pursuing a stridently hostile policy towards India, which such elements have never ceased hating for playing a decisive role in Bangladesh's independence by routing Pakistan in the 1971 war, and replacing Bangladesh's secular, democratic polity by one practicing fundamentalist Islam, has been a part of the agenda of the country's fundamentalist Islamist groups.

It is no secret that the Jama'at-e-Islami Bangladesh, recently re-incarnated as Bangladesh Jama'at-e-Islami (BJEI), its students' organization, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (BICS)—which was Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS) in 1971—and allied organisations like al-Badr, al-Shams, Razakars, and Shanti Committee, had sided with Pakistan and committed despicable war crimes during the liberation war of 1971. A number of them have been punished, including some who have been executed, by the International Crimes Tribunal set by the Bangladesh Government in 2009 by an amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, to investigate and prosecute personnel of the Pakistan Army and BJEI, Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams, and Shanti Committee, accused of committing genocide during the 1971 liberation war.

The BJEI and the BICS, which have close links with Islamist terrorist organisations like Ansar al-Islam, linked to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-continent (AQIS) and Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), clearly joined the ADSM to further their own agenda, which is transforming a secular and democratic Bangladesh into an Islamic emirate. To do this, they must eliminate from the political scene not only the Awami League and its leaders, particularly Sheikh Hasina, but all secular, democratic and humanist civil society organisations and leaders.



GIVEN THAT THE AWAMI LEAGUE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO SUCH STRAITS THAT IT COULD NOT EVEN OBSERVE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRENADE ATTACKS ON AUGUST 21, 2004, IT COULD HARDLY BE IN A POSITION TO CONSPIRE TO DEFEAT THE STUDENTS' UPSURGE

Revealingly, circulating in Bangladesh in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's ouster, is a list of intellectuals, scholars, lawyers, academics, human rights social activists, who its shadowy authors want to “see.”

Included in the list of 50 or more were the Professor Abul Barakat (a well-known economist who had exposed the sources of the BJEI's phenomenal wealth), Rana Dasgupta (general secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council), AAMS Arefin Siddique, (former vice-chancellor, Dhaka University), and Professor Sadeka Halim (vice-chancellor, Jagannath University) and a number of journalists and film personalities. In these circumstances, Sheikh Hasina's life will be in danger if she is extradited to Bangladesh: nor can she be assured of a fair trial, particularly given the fact that judges will either be under tremendous pressure or will be pre-disposed to convict her as they have been appointed by the Interim Government and are hostile to her.

The second ground that, according to the reports, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has cited for Sheikh Hasina's extradition, is that the Awami League and she were conspiring in New Delhi to falsify (sic) the victory that students and other citizens of Bangladesh have achieved. Nothing could be more ludicrous. Most Awami League leaders are in Bangladesh, busy defending themselves in courts

against charges brought against them, or in hiding. A number of them have been lynched. The homes and business establishments of many of them have been destroyed and set aflame.

In fact, the Awami League has been reduced to such straits that, unlike in the earlier years, it could not stage an event to observe the anniversary of the grenade attack on an Awami League rally in Dhaka on August 21, 2004, to protest against increasing terrorist attacks on its cadres and leaders. Perpetrated by the terrorist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (HUJIB), it left at least 24 persons dead and over 300 injured. Among the wounded was Sheikh Hasina, whose hearing has been permanently impaired. Ivy Rahman, secretary of the Awami League's women's affairs wing and wife of its general-secretary, Zillur Rahman, who subsequently became Bangladesh's president, was also seriously hurt. She later died later in hospital.

Given that the Awami League has been reduced to such straits that it could not even observe the anniversary of the grenade attacks on August 21, 2004, it could hardly be in a position to conspire to defeat the students' upsurge. It may well be argued that Sheikh Hasina needs to be present in courts to stand trial and face cross-examination to establish the veracity of the charges levelled against her, or examine the complexity of others involved.

For that, the interim government or its successor must establish that a prima facie case exists against her and then request India to allow an emissary to question her in any facility that New Delhi may provide. Meanwhile, there can be no question of extraditing her. The BNP-BJEL coalition government, in office from 2001 to 2006 with Begum Khaleda Zia as prime minister, made no bones about its hostility to India. Indeed, except those headed by Sheikh Hasina, all governments of Bangladesh since the murder of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, have been hostile to India and pro-Pakistan.

To cite one example, under them, Bangladesh provided sanctuary, assistance and training to north-east India's secessionist rebel groups. On the other hand, Sheikh Hasina not only closed down their sanctuaries but handed over to India some of the leaders of these secessionist terrorist groups. In fact, India-Bangladesh relations were perhaps more cordial under her than even when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman headed the government in Dhaka. Extraditing Sheikh Hasina would send the message round that even the most loyal friends of India cannot depend on it for support in times of distress. That is not something that New Delhi should want.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Lateral entry in bureaucracy: A double-edged sword of reform and controversy

The implementation of lateral entry has sparked serious concerns about social justice and the representation of marginalised groups in the Indian bureaucracy

The introduction of lateral appointments in India's bureaucracy has sparked intense debate, particularly due to the absence of reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The issue gained traction with a recent UPSC advertisement for 45 senior positions, which did not include the constitutionally mandated quotas, raising concerns about social justice and the representation of disadvantaged groups in high-level government roles. The lateral entry system, introduced by the Modi government in 2018, was intended to enhance transparency and efficiency, addressing the opaque practices of previous adminis-



K S TOMAR

trations. However, the lack of provisions for reservations in this system has led to widespread criticism. Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition, accused the NDA government of undermining the Constitution by excluding reservations from these appointments. He argued that this move was a direct attack on social justice, sidelining the underprivileged and diluting their representation in the

higher echelons of bureaucracy. In response, Arjun Meghwal pointed out the Congress's past practices, highlighting the appointments of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as Finance Secretary in 1971 and Montek Ahluwalia as Planning Commission Chairman without transparent procedures. Since the inception of the lateral entry system in 2018, the government has received 6,077 applications, resulting in the appointment of 63 individuals to senior positions across various ministries, with approximately 35 from the private sector. While these appointments aim to bring in expertise and fresh perspectives, the exclusion of reservations has overshadowed the intended benefits. The backlog of vacancies

in proportion to these 63 officials can only be addressed if the government creates new posts specifically for candidates from SC, ST, OBC, and EWS categories. The delay in amending recruitment rules has already caused significant harm, as many eligible candidates may have crossed the age limit. The introduction of lateral appointments has been met with mixed reactions within the bureaucracy. While it brings in specialized knowledge and fresh perspectives, it also poses several risks to the traditional bureaucratic structure:

Impact on Bureaucracy: A Mixed Bag; the introduction of lateral appointments has been met with mixed reactions. While it brings in specialized



knowledge and fresh perspectives, it also poses several risks to the traditional bureaucratic structure. **Demoralization of Bureaucrats:** Traditional bureaucrats, who have risen through the ranks, may feel demoralized seeing lateral entrants appointed to senior positions without undergoing the rigorous training and years of service they have endured. This could lead to a perception that meritocracy is being

undermined and create uncertainty regarding career progression. **Integration Challenges:** Lateral entrants may struggle to integrate into the established bureaucratic culture, leading to friction with traditional bureaucrats. **3rd. Potential Conflicts of Interest:** Lateral entrants from the private sector may face conflicts of interest, where their decisions could be influenced by their previous affiliations. This raises concerns about policy bias and the potential prioritization of private sector interests over the public good. **Accountability and Transparency Issues:** Unlike career bureaucrats, lateral entrants might not undergo the same level of public scruti-

ny and evaluation, leading to concerns about transparency in decision-making. Their lack of deep institutional knowledge could also affect the quality of their decisions, especially in complex policy areas. **Impact on Administrative Cohesion:** The introduction of lateral entrants at senior levels could fragment authority within the bureaucracy, leading to inefficiencies and delays. **Positive Takeaways:** Lateral entry into senior government positions offers several benefits: **Expertise Infusion:** Brings specialized knowledge from various sectors, enhancing policy-making. **Diverse Perspectives:** Introduces new viewpoints, fostering innovative solutions.

Increased Efficiency: Private sector professionals bring a focus on performance and efficiency. **Skill Gap Bridging:** Addresses deficiencies in areas like technology and finance. **Meritocracy Promotion:** Emphasizes skills over seniority, potentially improving leadership quality. **Governance Flexibility:** Allows for quick adaptation to new challenges with experienced professionals. **Public-Private Collaboration:** Strengthens ties between government and private sectors. (Writer has been ex chairperson of Standing Committee of All State Public Service Commissions in India and former chairman of HP Public Service Commission; views are personal)

Bombay HC restrains MVA from going ahead with Maharashtra bandh

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major development, the Bombay High Court on Friday restrained the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) from going ahead with the "Maharashtra bandh" called by it on Saturday to protest against the sexual abuse of two kindergarten girls in a school at Badlapur in Maharashtra's Thane district. Hearing a public interest litigation filed by activist-lawyers Gunratan Sadavarte and Subhash Jha seeking a declaration of bandh as "illegal" and "unconstitutional", a HC division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar asked all the political parties not to enforce a bandh on August 24 or any other subsequent day. In an oral order passed by it, the HC bench said: "Until further orders, all parties are restrained from proceeding with the bandh on August 24 or any other subsequent date." The Judges directed the

Maharashtra Government to strictly enforce the verdict given in the case of BG Deshmukh and others vs State of Maharashtra and others in which the court had declared that "a bandh or hartal by a political party, organisation or association would amount to an unconstitutional act". Following the HC order, the Opposition MVA called off its proposed Maharashtra bandh call and said that it would hold silent sit-in protests with black flags and black bands on their faces, all over the state on Saturday. The MVA leaders -- state State Congress President Nana Patole, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) President Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray announced the withdrawal of the bandh call on Friday evening. On his part, Uddhav said that though the court order was not acceptable to them, they would respect the court verdict and refrain from enforcing the bandh on Saturday.

"The Badlapur incident was very disgusting. Following the incident strong public sentiments emerged in this regard from all levels of the society. The bandh was an attempt to draw the government's attention to this matter. It is within the purview of the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution of India," Sharad Pawar said, adding that the MVA would withdraw the bandh respecting the court and the Constitution. "Respecting the decision of the Bombay HC, tomorrow from 11 am- 12 pm, all leaders and workers of the Congress party will protest against the anti-women grand alliance government by tying black bands on their faces and holding black flags in all the districts of the State. I myself will participate in this protest tomorrow at 11 am in Thane," Patole said. "I shall be sitting near Shiv Sena Bhavan from 11 am tomorrow along with others... The court has ordered no shutdown, we shall even shut our mouths with black masks," said



Thackeray. Thackeray also expressed his displeasure at the activists who had challenged the MVA action, saying "that the cause has been ignored... and who will take responsibility for the atrocities on our mothers, sisters and daughters". Earlier in the high court, the petitioners argued that the State-wide bandh would cripple the entire state machinery and cause great inconvenience to the common people. It was

stated that the past bandhs/agitations in the State led to destruction of public property and caused economic losses. One of the lawyers appearing for the petitioners told the court that the bandh would impact schools, where children get mid-day meals and that it would cause hardships to economically weaker sections of society. Among other things, the petitioners also argued that the State-wide bandh would cripple

the entire state machinery and cause great inconvenience to the common people. They told the court that the past bandhs in the State led to destruction of public property and caused economic losses. The lawyer appearing for the petitioners questioned the very need for organising a bandh across the State, saying that while the Badlapur sexual abuse case was indeed serious, the State Government had already constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the crime that the High Court had on Thursday heard the case after taking suo motu cognisance of the incident. The lawyer said the proposed bandh would result in the disruption of train services for ten hours and there had been instances of stone-pelting in the past. Invoking Article 51A of the Constitution, the lawyer said that it was the fundamental duty of citizens to safeguard public property and abstain from violence.

Alluding to the case of Bharat Kumar K. Palicha And Anr. vs State Of Kerala And Ors (1997), in which the full bench of Kerala High Court had held that calling of a bandh by political parties was unconstitutional and illegal. The Kerala HC had also held that the political parties were liable to pay compensation to the government and private citizens for the losses suffered. It may be recalled that the bandh called by the MVA should be seen in the context of a statement made by Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray was not political but against "perversion" of the crime. He had urged the people cutting across caste and religion to participate in it. Uddhav had said that the bandh was being observed on behalf of the people of the state. Coming down heavily on the BJP-led MahaYuti government for the arrests made by the police in connection with the protests over the heinous abuse of two 4 year-old girls at a school, Uddhav said: "Arrests

are still taking place in Badlapur. The cases against the protesters must be withdrawn or else we have to hit the streets". It may be recalled that two 4-year-old nursery girls were sexually abused by a sweeper when they in the washroom of the kindergarten school run by Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha (AVPS) on August 13 for using the toilet there. The sexual assault on the two four-year-old girl students took place in the washroom of the kindergarten school run by Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha (AVPS) on August 13 when the two girls had gone to use the toilet there. Later on, the parent took up the matter with the school management which lodged a complaint with the police on August 16. However, the police registered a First Information Report (FIR) only 11 hours after their complaint. The accused sweeper Akshay Shinde (23) was arrested on August 17. He will remain in police custody till August 24.

Gopi embarrasses BJP with his statements

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI



Suresh Gopi, the film actor-turned-MP-turned-union Minister of state- in the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre has become a major embarrassment to the BJP leadership. According to top leaders in Kerala BJP, Suresh Gopi has lost his mental balance as the union Minister does not know what to tell or what not to tell. "We do not have any issues with George Kurian, the other Minister from Kerala because he behaves in a dignified manner and uses words with caution and care," said a BJP leader from Kerala who is respected by the party's high command. While attending a function held under the auspices of Kerala Film Chamber at Kochi the other day, Minister Suresh Gopi said he was not

happy in remaining a union minister as cinema was his first love. "I have some 20 or 22 movies lined up for me and would like to focus on my profession as a film star. Though I met union Minister Amit Shah the other day and told him about the predicament, he threw away the files handed over by me and asked me to continue as a Minister," said Gopi while addressing the Film Chamber meeting. Suresh Gopi is the first Lok Sabha member of BJP to get

elected from Kerala. He contested from Thrissur constituency which was a Congress stronghold and won by a comfortable margin thanks to Hindus and Christians who voted for him in large numbers. The Prime Minister set Suresh Gopi's campaign in mission mode with a public meeting on 3rd January itself and had attended the marriage of Bhagya, the daughter of the actor. The star has been given glamorous portfolios like tourism, oil and natural gas, two coveted ministries with vast potential. "But post-swearing in, his performance as a Minister was anything but satisfactory. Suresh Gopi is a major disappointment as a Minister," said Sudheer Damodaran, a political analyst based in Thrissur who had campaigned for the actor in the 2024 election.

A teenager drowns in...

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The teenager and some of his friends were playing in the rain on the waterlogged road near the British School when he accidentally ventured into deep water and drowned. The victim's friends informed his family members, who immediately reached the spot, pulled him out of the water and rushed him to the hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival, the officials said. The police said the

body of the victim has been sent for postmortem and further investigations are underway. DCP Central M Harsha Vardhan said on Friday, an incident of electrocution of a lady was received at Ranjeet Nagar police station and the place of incident was flooded due to heavy rains. The victim was identified as Seema, who was electrocuted through current in water in the street while she was going towards her house. She was immediately taken to RML hospital where she was declared brought dead.

IN BRIEF

OPERATIONS BETWEEN BHAIIRABI, HORTOKI AUTHORISED Maligaon: The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Sumeet Singhal has authorised operation of freight and passenger trains in the 16.725 km newly laid BG line between Bhaiirabi and Hortoki on 22nd of August, 2024. Earlier CRS had completed the statutory inspection of the said section at the end of last month. This section is a part of the ongoing 51.38 km long Bhaiirabi - Sairang new rail line project. CRS has approved operations of trains through the newly laid railway line at a maximum speed of 75 KMPH after successful inspection and speed trial. This newly laid line will be helpful for carrying more freight and passenger traffic through this route.

STALIN LAYS FOUNDATION FOR SEMBCORP'S PLANT Chennai: MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu today virtually laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art green ammonia plant in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. In his address the CM said, "Tamil Nadu has been a frontrunner in renewable energy initiatives, playing an important part in advancing India's energy transition targets. I am confident that this project in Tuticorin will be a stepping stone to establish Tamil Nadu as a global hub for green hydrogen production. This collaborative project reflects the commitment of all the partner nations - India, Singapore, and Japan - to work towards a sustainable future for the region."

BERI GETS EXTENSION AS DIRECTOR, FINANCE, PSPCL Patiala: Punjab Government has extended the term of appointment of Surinder Kumar Beri as Director (Finance), Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL) for one year or till a successor is appointed, whichever is earlier. An order to this effect has been passed on Friday by Rahul Tewari, Secretary to Government of Punjab Department of Power.

LECTURE ON LITERATURE OF THE MARGINS AT GNDU Amritsar: Special Lecture on "Literatures of the Margins" was organised by School of Punjabi Studies, Guru Nanak Dev University. Renowned writer and educationist, Dr. Ishmeet Kaur Chaudhary, Professor at Central University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, delivered a special lecture during the event. It was presided by eminent Punjabi scholar Dr Manmohan Singh IPS, Professor of Eminence at Guru Nanak Dev University, Dr Manjinder Singh, Head, School of Punjabi Studies School highlighted the sensitivity and significance of its theme. He emphasised that literature plays a crucial role in addressing the existential concerns of marginalised sections and creating a balanced and peaceful society.

MANY GNDU STUDENTS QUALIFY PPSC TEST New Delhi: It is a matter of pride for Guru Ramdas School of Planning of Guru Nanak Dev University that 39 of its graduates have been called for documentation verification after qualifying the written test of Public Service Commission Punjab for 37 posts of Assistant Town Planners in the Local Bodies Department of Government of Punjab. A total of 46 candidates have been called for the documentation verification, constituting 85% from GRDSP.

Corruption: HC orders CBI probe against Ghosh

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what could make proceedings more difficult for former RG Kar Medical College Principal Sandip Ghosh a single-judge Bench of Calcutta High Court on Friday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate the charges of corruption against him. While delivering the verdict Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj directed the CBI to take possession of all the relevant documents by 10 am on Saturday. With the judgment the previous order of the State Home Department constituting a Special Investigation Team of senior IPS officers to investigate the charges against him becomes infructuous, lawyers said. The said SIT would not be required to handover all the documents in its possession to the CBI. Though Ghosh had moved a Division Bench challenging the order there was no report of his appeal being immediately admitted as the higher Bench of Justice Harish Tandon had asked for the order copy to be placed before it first. Ghosh was presently being grilled almost on a daily basis by the CBI in the wake of an earlier order in the rape and murder case of a postgraduate lady doctor of the RGKMCH.

A petition was earlier filed before the Bench of Justice Bharadwaj by a former Deputy Superintendent of the Hospital Akhtar Ali who had brought a plethora of corruption charges against Ghosh. "I am happy that the honourable High Court has seen merit in my case by allowing my petition and ordering a CBI investigation," Ali said alleging how Ghosh ever since his joining the office three years ago had "indulged in all kinds of corrupt practices from including smuggling of unclaimed corpses, bio-medical wastes, extracting money from students by failing them first and then passing them, forming an unholy nexus with a trading company outside the hospital owned by some politically influential person. The petitioner had earlier demanded an investigation either by the Enforcement Directorate or the CBI. Ali's lawyer Tarun Jyoti Tewari said that "it is an order for the CBI investigation but it will not prejudice my stand as ED is bound to come as a scheduled entry much like in other cases of similar merit." Ali, who was the hospital's deputy superintendent till 2023, said that "postgraduate students were threatened by the then Principal ... they had to pay Rs 8 lakh for clearing their exams ... the MBBS students

had to pay RS 4 lakh for clearing their exams ... money was also charged for giving 75 per cent marks so that some less meritorious students could get honours."

Court okays polygraph test on ex-RG Kar principal, 5 others

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A lower court in Kolkata on Friday allowed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)'s application for conducting a polygraph test --- usually called lie-detection test --- on the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh, and five others including four medical colleagues of the victim lady doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered in the small hours of August 9 and a civic volunteer who has been a friend of Sanjoy Das the prime accused in the case. The order comes a day after the Supreme Court directed the Sealadh Court to take a decision on the CBI's application within a day. The grant of permission to conduct the polygraph test notwithstanding the day of such date has not been fixed as yet.

Pune Porsche hit-and-run case: Court denies bail to six accused

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Pune court has rejected applications made by the six accused in the much-discussed Pune Porsche hit-and-run case over the alleged tampering of evidence on the ground that "it could send a wrong message to society". In a detailed order rejecting the bail made available to the media a day after the hearing of the case, Pune's Additional Sessions Judge U. M. Mudholkar expressed serious displeasure over the tampering of the evidence by the accused in the case, including the parents of the minor boy involved in the mishap. The Judge observed that even before the blood of two killed victims on the motorcycle could dry, "the tampering with the evidence commenced and even concluded to a large extent, with the help of monetary influence or otherwise at odd hours of midnight". The six accused whose bail applications were rejected were Pune-based builder Vishal S. Agarwal, his wife Shivani V. Agarwal, medicos Shrihari B. Halnor and Ajay A. Taware, plus Ashpak B. Makandar and Amar S. Gaikwad. The Judge came down heavily on all the accused, including the parents of the minor boy,

for "conspiring" to swap blood samples, and protect their son from the legal consequences of his action. It may be recalled that in the small hours of May 19, the 17-year-old boy -- after partying with his friends at a Pune bar -- who had driven off in his Porsche car in his inebriated state at a speed of some 200 kmph and rammed into a motorcycle killing killing Ashwini Koshta and Aneesh Awadhya (both aged 24 years) who were returning home after a reunion with friends. Earlier the police had arrested the Dr. Ajay Taware, Head of the Forensics Department, Dr. Shrihari Halnor Halnor, the chief medical officer of the hospital, and a peon for allegedly manipulating the blood sample of the accused. Dr Taware and Dr Halnor, who have been suspended from their service by the Maharashtra government, have been charged with the alleged "manipulation" of blood samples and destruction of evidence in the case. The police have recovered Rs 3 lakh during the raid conducted on the homes of Dr. Halnor and another hospital poen Atul Ghatkamble. The money had allegedly been paid by the family of the accused boy for manipulating the blood sample.

PM Modi gives Zelenskyy a...

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The talks revolved around to some extent on the military situation, on concerns like food and energy security, and on "conceivable pathways to peace". The Ukrainian side wanted continued involvement of India with the Global Peace summit, he said. "It is India's view that the two sides (Ukraine and Russia) need to engage with each other to find a solution," he said. The external affairs minister said the two leaders reiterated their readiness to continue cooperation to uphold principles of international law such as respect for territorial integrity and protect the sovereignty of states. Jaishankar said the prime minister sought the president's assessment both of the ground situation as well as the diplomatic scenario and Zelenskyy spoke on both issues. The external affairs minister described Modi's visit to Kyiv as a "landmark" trip. Jaishankar said a significant part of discussions between PM Modi and President Zelenskyy was devoted to the bilateral relations. There were discussions on trade, economic issues, defence, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, education, he said. Modi and Zelenskyy also tasked the India-Ukraine inter-governmental commission to specifically focus on rebuilding trade and economic relations.

CBI tells SC, Kejriwal...

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"The balance of convenience in the present case lies in favour of the CBI. Any release of the Petitioner on bail will gravely prejudice the trial of the case, which is at initial stage and key witnesses are yet to be deposed. No case has been made out by the Petitioner to be released on medical bail, which ought to be granted only if the treatment is not possible in the Jail. All other averments have already been dealt with by the CBI above, and not repeated herein for brevity," it said. A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan allowed the CBI to file its counter affidavit in the matter and gave two days' time to Kejriwal to file a rejoinder, and deferred the matter till September 5. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, has told Supreme Court that Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is deliberately delaying the hearing in Arvind Kejriwal's bail petition. Singhvi pointed

out that the affidavit by CBI was filed late last night at 8 pm so that it doesn't reach judges on time for the hearing today. SV Raju for the CBI however said that he had already filed the first counter and was seeking time to file another one and that today was the first returnable date. The CBI stated the now defunct policy was notified on May 25, 2021 having the provisions of enhanced profit margin of 12% for the wholesalers. "As such, the file relating to new excise policy of Delhi was moved in very hurried manner during the peak of 2nd wave of the corona pandemic. It has been confirmed by Pravesh Jha, Additional Secretary to the petitioner that he was asked by Bibhav Kumar, PA to the petitioner that Chief Minister has desired that the draft excise policy has to be got approved by Council of Ministers through circulation urgently," it said.

UP bus in Nepal veers off...

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The statement added, "The UP government has sent SDM Maharajanji to the incident site. The MEA is coordinating the search and rescue operations with local authorities." Nepal's rivers are generally fast-flowing due to the mountainous terrain. Heavy monsoon downpours in the past few days have swollen the waterways and turned them murky brown, making it even more difficult to see the wreckage. Monsoon season brings heavy rains to Nepal from June to September, often triggering landslides in the mountainous Himalayan country. Last month, two buses carrying 65 passengers were washed away by a landslide into the swollen Trishuli river in Nepal. The bodies from the two buses were washed away down the Trishuli River as far as 100 kilometres. Extensive search operations, including the deployment of a 12-member team from India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), have not yet located the two missing buses and many passengers swept away by the landslide. The bodies of five Indian nationals have been recovered so far while two are still missing.

SEBI bans Anil Ambani from securities...

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Sebi said that findings have established the "existence of a fraudulent scheme, orchestrated by Noticee No. 2 (Anil Ambani) and administered by the KMPs of RHFL, to siphon off funds from the public listed company (RHFL) by structuring them as 'loans' to credit unworthy conduit

borrowers, and in turn, to onward borrowers, all of whom have been found to be 'promoter linked entities' i.e. Entities associated/ linked with Noticee 2 (Anil Ambani)". Ambani has used his position as 'chairperson of the ADA group' and his significant indirect

shareholding in the holding company of RHFL to orchestrate the fraud. Sebi, in its 222-page order on Thursday, noted the cavalier approach by the company's management and promoter in approving loans worth hundreds of crores to companies that had little to no assets, cash flow, net worth, or revenue.

Amit Shah launches counter offensive on Congress...

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The Union home minister asked whether the Congress supports promoting separatism again by engaging in dialogue with Pakistan instead of Kashmir's youth and the National Conference's decision to start LoC trade with Pakistan, thereby nurturing terrorism and its ecosystem across the border. His other queries fired to Congress and Gandhi included whether the party supports reinstating relatives of those involved in terrorism

and stone-pelting into government jobs, "thereby bringing back terrorism, extremism and the era of strikes". The alliance has exposed the Congress party's anti-reservation stance, he said. "Does Congress support the JKNC's promise to end reservations for Dalits, Gujjars, Bakarwals and Pahadi communities, thereby inflicting injustice upon them? Does the Congress want 'Shankaracharya Hill' to be known as 'Takt-e-Suleiman', and 'Hari Hill' as

'Koh-e-Maran,' he sought to know. Shah asked whether the Congress supports the politics of pushing Jammu and Kashmir's economy back into corruption and handing it over to selected Pakistan-supported families and whether it endorses the National Conference's politics of "discrimination" between Jammu and the Valley. "Do the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi support the JKNC's divisive politics of granting autonomy to Kashmir?" he asked.

DGCA imposes ₹98 lakh...

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"Based on investigation, it was prima facie revealed that there are deficiencies and multiple violations of the regulatory provisions by several post holders and staff, which could significantly affect safety," the release said. DGCA also said the flight's commander and the post holders of the airline were provided an opportunity to explain their position through show cause notices issued on July 22. The reply submitted by the

concerned persons failed to provide satisfactory justification. As such, DGCA has initiated enforcement action in terms of provisions of the extant rules/ regulations and imposed the above penalty, the watchdog noted. Air India was also fined in March earlier this year for violating regulations regarding Flight Duty Time Limits (FDTL) and the fatigue management system (FMS) of flight crew. The fine was around Rs 80 lakhs.

KAMALA HARRIS ACCEPTS DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

Warns Americans of consequences of putting Trump back in White House

PTI ■ CHICAGO

Kamala Harris used her forceful presidential acceptance speech to present herself as a leader who could unite the country to chart a "new way forward" and warned Americans of "extremely serious" consequences of putting her Republican rival Donald Trump back in the White House.

Vice President Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, on Thursday night accepted her party's presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, on the 10th wedding anniversary.

The 59-year-old leader walked on stage to thunderous applause and a standing ovation from the audience. Chants of "Yes You Can!" erupted before her remarks.

Taking the stage at the United Center in Chicago to accept her nomination, Harris, who was a tough prosecutor in California before becoming US Vice President, said she is no stranger to unlikely journeys.

"I promise to be a president for all Americans. You can always trust me to put country above party and self, to hold sacred America's fundamental principles, from the rule of law, to free and fair elections, to the peaceful transfer of power," she said in the most important speech of her

amazing political career.

While introducing herself to Americans, Harris fondly remembered her mother Shyamala Gopalan and said that she misses her every day, especially when she is on the verge of breaking the highest glass ceiling of the United States.

She said the November 5 election is the most important in America's history.

"Our nation with this election has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past. A chance to chart a new way forward. Not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans," she said in her 40-minute speech.

Vice President Harris outlined her plans for a "new way forward" if she's elected to be the 47th president of the United States.

"I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations. A president who leads — and listens. Who is realistic, Practical and has common sense. And always fights for the American people. From the courthouse to the White House, that has been my life's work," Harris said. She laid out the consequences of electing former president Trump, 78, to a second term.

"In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man, but the consequences of putting Donald Trump back in the



White House are extremely serious," she warned.

She spoke about the "chaos and calamity" of his years in the Oval Office and also pointed to him questioning election results in 2020 when he lost his reelection bid to Biden.

"Donald Trump tried to throw away your votes. When he failed, he sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol where they assaulted law enforcement officers. When politicians in his own party begged him to call off the mob and send help, he did the opposite. He fanned the flames," she said.

Harris also highlighted that Trump

was convicted on 34 felony counts in a hush-money case and that a federal jury in his civil defamation trial found that the former president had sexually abused writer E Jean Carroll.

"He was found guilty of fraud by a jury of everyday Americans, and separately found liable for committing sexual abuse," she said.

In describing her "unexpected" ascent to the top of the Democratic ticket after President Joe Biden decided to leave the race in July, Harris said that she is "no stranger to unlikely journeys."

"America, the path that led me here in recent weeks was no doubt unexpected. But I'm no stranger to unlik-

ly journeys," Harris said.

Harris said she remembers her mother every day and the values that she instilled in her and said that she misses her every day, especially when she is on the verge of breaking the highest glass ceiling in the US.

Her mother, she said, taught her to "never do anything half-assed."

If elected, Harris would break one of the highest glass ceilings left for women in the United States — that of occupying the country's top office. She also wished her husband, Doug Emhoff, a happy anniversary at the top of her remarks. Thursday was the couple's 10th wedding anniversary. She said she would ensure America strengthens and not abdicate its global leadership.

"I will make sure that we lead the world into the future on space and Artificial Intelligence, and that America-not China-wins the competition for the 21st century. And that we strengthen not abdicate our global leadership," Harris said.

Harris doesn't fight for the middle class. "Instead, he fights for himself and his billionaire friends. He will give them another round of tax breaks that will add five trillion dollars to the national debt," she said.

Harris also called for reforming the broken immigration system.

"We can create an earned pathway to citizenship- And secure our border.

America, we must also be steadfast in advancing our security and our values abroad," she said.

Harris has said that, if elected the commander-in-chief of the US, she will ensure that the country always has the strongest and most lethal fighting force in the world.

"And I will not cosy up to tyrants and dictators like Kim-Jong-Un, who are rooting for Trump. Because they know he is easy to manipulate with flattery and favours. They know Trump won't hold autocrats accountable—because he wants to be an autocrat," Harris said.

"As President, I will never waver in defence of America's security and ideals. Because, in the enduring struggle between democracy and tyranny, I know where I stand—and where the United States of America belongs," she said.

Harris said as Vice President, she has confronted threats to security, negotiated with foreign leaders, strengthened alliances, and engaged with brave troops overseas.

"As commander-in-chief, I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world. I will fulfil our sacred obligation to care for our troops and their families," she said.

"And I will always honour, and never disparage, their service and their sacrifice," she said.

Indian woman disappears down sinkhole in Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur (AP): A woman from India disappeared in Malaysia's capital Friday when pavement collapsed beneath her and she fell into a sinkhole where she may have been swept away by an underground water current, police said.

The woman plunged into the 26-foot-deep sinkhole in the Dang Wangi area of the Malaysian capital, where local police chief Sulizmie Affendy Sulaiman said witnesses saw the paved walkway suddenly collapse under her while she was walking.

The woman was identified as a 48-year-old tourist from India. Rescuers barricaded part of the area and used an excavator to clear debris in the sinkhole, but there was no immediate sign of the victim.

Sulizmie declined to comment when asked about the possible condition of the woman, or the cause of the incident.

The woman had come to Malaysia with her husband and several friends about two months ago for a vacation and they were due to return home Saturday, he said.

Ukraine regains some land in Kharkiv

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's military says it used high-precision glide bombs provided by the United States to carry out strikes in Russia's Kursk region while also claiming to have recaptured some territory in the eastern region of Kharkiv, where Russia launched an offensive in the spring.

Ukraine's Air Force Commander Lt Gen. Mykola Oleschuk issued a video Thursday night purporting to show a Russian platoon base being hit in the Kursk region. He said the attack with GBU-39 bombs resulted in Russian casualties and the destruction of equipment.

The video showed multiple explosions and plumes of smoke rising at the site.

Separately, Ukraine's 3rd Separate Assault Brigade said its forces advanced nearly two

sq km (about three-quarters of a square mile) in the Kharkiv region. Details were not divulged about the timing, scale, and area of the offensive, and it's hard to predict if it will have any more impact on the battlefield.

Ukraine's forces have gained new momentum this month after delayed deliveries of US weaponry were finally released. Kyiv launched a shock offensive into Russia's western Kursk region on August 6, while simultaneously intensifying a drone war against military and fuel targets that sparked blazes deep in Russia this week.

On Friday some new details emerged about damage and injuries caused by some of those attacks.

A Ukrainian drone attack targeting a distant Russian air base in its Volgograd region caused significant damage to an airfield that reportedly housed

glide bombs used by Moscow in the war, satellite photos analysed Friday by The Associated Press showed.

Meanwhile, an attack on a cargo ferry at the port of Kavkaz in Russia's Krasnodar region on Thursday injured 13 people, Russia's state news agency Tass reported Friday. Citing health officials, Tass said that four of the injured have been hospitalised and one other person remained unaccounted for.

Ukraine's gains have reshaped the battlefield and buoyed the morale of Ukrainians 10 years after Russia first invaded their country, and 2 1/2 years after Moscow launched a full-scale invasion that has led to mass death and destruction and created Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II.

Ukraine and its Western allies hope that the regained momen-

tum could strengthen Kyiv's hand on the diplomatic front.

A visit to Kyiv by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is meeting Friday with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is being closely watched. There are Ukrainian hopes that Modi, who has maintained cordial ties and economic relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, could play a role in forging a mediated peace.

The incursion into Russia has highlighted Russian vulnerabilities but also further stretched Ukrainian forces, who were already fighting on a frontline running hundreds of km (miles). It has possibly compromised Ukraine's ability to hold back Russian forces who have slowly but steadily gained ground in the Donetsk region, diverting Ukrainian forces who otherwise could bolster defence there.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Ukrainian students who are learning Hindi language at the School of Oriental Studies, in Kyiv (Ukraine). PTI

4 hostage-takers in Russian prison, claiming allegiance to Islamic State, shot dead

AP ■ MOSCOW

Snipers from Russia's national guard on Friday killed four inmates who had seized prison guards as hostages and declared allegiance to the Islamic State group, Russian media reports said.

The National Guard Service said the rebellious inmates were "neutralised" and all the hostages had been freed, although the number of hostages was not immediately specified, the reports said.

Details of the violence at the prison in Surovino, 860 kilometers (535 miles) southeast of Moscow, were sparse and it was not clear how the inmates had taken hostages several hours earlier.

Before the inmates were shot, state news agency Tass said four victims were taken to a local hospital and two of them were in serious condition. Unconfirmed reports on Telegram messaging channels said one or two people died.

Russian news site Meduza posted a video that it said was from the scene, showing men wielding knives inside and in a prison yard and several men in what appeared to be guard uniforms lying in blood on the ground.

In the video, the alleged attackers claimed support for the Islamic State Group and for the suspects arrested in the March terrorist attack on a Moscow concert hall that left 145 people dead. An IS affiliate claimed responsibility for that attack, in which gunmen killed patrons waiting for a popular music group to perform and set the building on fire.

Tass said court records showed that the hostage-takers were from former Soviet Central Asian countries; all the concert hall attack suspects are from Tajikistan.

Bangladesh interim govt revokes Sheikh Hasina's diplomatic passport

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government has revoked ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's diplomatic passport along with all members of the former Cabinet, over two weeks after she resigned and fled to India following a student-led uprising against her government.

A statement by the Security Services Division of the Home Affairs Ministry on Thursday said diplomatic passports received by the former prime minister, ex-PM's advisors, ex-cabinet members and all members of the recently dissolved Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) and their spouses would be revoked immediately, the official BSS news agency reported.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin in August dissolved the 12th Parliament after Hasina, 76, fled the country. Currently, an interim government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus is running the country.

Diplomatic passports of the officials would also be revoked immediately upon termination of their tenure or appointment, it said.

The release said ordinary passports may be issued in their favour based on the reports of at least two investigating agencies, it added.

Hasina fled to India after being forced to resign in the face of a student-led mass

uprising on August 5.

According to the Indian visa policy, Bangladeshi citizens holding diplomatic or official passports are eligible for visa-free entry and a stay of up to 45 days, The Daily Star newspaper said.

As of Thursday, Hasina has already spent 18 days in India.

Hasina does not hold any passport other than the diplomatic passport issued in her name, the paper said quoting government sources.

The cancellation of her diplomatic passport and its associated visa privileges may put her at risk of extradition.

The extradition of Hasina, who is facing 51 cases, including 42 for murder, falls within the legal framework of the extradition treaty signed between Bangladesh and India, the BSS report said.

According to the treaty signed in 2013 and amended in 2016, "extradition may be refused if the offence for which it is requested is an offence of a political character."

It also says that certain offences — like murder — "shall not be regarded as offences of a political character" for the purposes of the treaty.

However, one of the grounds for refusal of extradition is if the charges being pressed have not been "made in good faith, in the interest of justice", the report said.

Ex-general named special assistant for security

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government chief Professor Muhammad Yunus on Friday appointed retired Lieutenant General Abdul Hafiz as his special assistant on security national reconciliation affairs with the status of an adviser or minister.

"He (Hafiz) will extend his assistance to the Chief Adviser (Yunus) on security and affairs related to the development of national reconciliation," an official gazette notification said. According to the gazette, Hafiz would enjoy the status of an adviser in the interim government's council of advisers or ministers. Officials familiar with his background said 67-year-old Hafiz, a former chief of general staff (CGS), belongs to the military's infantry corps.

During his career, Hafiz served as the force commander of UN peacekeeping missions in Western Sahara and Cote d'Ivoire.

Beyond his professional courses in Bangladesh, he studied small and heavy arms of infantry in China, Advanced Infantry Officer's course in the US and graduated from the Defence Intelligence College of France.

Toll in rocket attack by dacoits on Pak police vans now 12

PTI ■ LAHORE

The death toll in a rocket attack on police vans by dacoits in Pakistan's Punjab province rose to 12 on Friday after one of the wounded officers died in a hospital, as police pursued suspects in Punjab province, officials said.

Two vehicles carrying around 22 policemen were on their way back from a police camp in riverine area Rahim Yar Khan district, some 400 km from Lahore, when the vans stuck in a muddy roadway at Machah point on Thursday evening.

A group of dacoits reached there and attacked them with rockets and also opened fire on the police team. At least 11 cops were killed in the attack on the spot, while some of them were taken hostage and the remaining were injured, police said.

"On Friday one more policeman succumbed to his injuries, reaching the death toll to 12," a Punjab police spokesperson said.

He said a heavy contingent of police has launched an operation in Rahim Yar Khan pockets where the outlaws have been hiding. "Police today eliminated prime suspect, Bashir Shar, who was behind the killing of 12 cops. Five outlaws have also been injured," he said.

"Punjab police retaliated in response to the attack by terrorists in the kutcha (riverine) areas. The main suspect who attacked policemen yesterday, Bashir Shar, has reached his logical end," the Punjab police said on X.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the police operation in riverine areas of the province will continue till the elimination of the last outlaw.

Organised criminal gangs have been active in the riverine border areas of southern Sindh and central Punjab for decades, often making money through kidnap-for-ransom assaults.

Macron holds talks to form a new government

AP ■ PARIS

After the excitement of the Paris Olympics and a Mediterranean vacation, now French President Emmanuel Macron has to figure out how to make his country governable again.

Faced with a hung parliament, social tensions and ballooning debt, Macron kicked off talks Friday with key political players in a bid to choose a new prime minister who would form a government and end the deadlock created by snap legislative elections last month.

Members of the left-wing New Popular Front coalition that won the most seats pressured Macron for a quick decision. Their nominee for prime minister, little-known civil servant Lucie Castets, said after Friday's

meetings in the Elysee Palace that she was ready to govern, and ready for compromise to get things done.

But the party only has about a third of the seats in the National Assembly, France's powerful lower house of parliament, and no party has a majority. Macron's centrist alliance came in second and the far-right National Rally came in third.

There's no rulebook that requires Macron to name a candidate from the party that won the most seats, or lays out a timeline for a decision. The absence of any dominant political bloc is unprecedented in France's modern Republic.

Centrists and conservatives are also meeting with Macron on Friday, while National Rally leaders Marine Le Pen and Jordan Bardella are expected at the Elysee on Monday. Macrons

office said he will name a prime minister based on these consultations, which are aimed at "moving towards the broadest and most stable majority possible."

Castets said that in her meeting with Macron, he "recognised that a message was sent by the French during the elections" but seemed reluctant to allow an opposition party to form a government.

Left-wing leaders have decried Macron's decision to delay the prime minister nomination while he spent time at the Olympics and at the presidential holiday retreat in Bregancon on the French Riviera.

"We need a response Tuesday," said the national secretary of the Greens party, Marine Tondelier. "There are urgent issues, and leaving weeks roll by without facing them is grave, and even

irresponsible."

The New Popular Front, which includes the hard-left France Unbowed, the Socialists and the Greens, has insisted that the prime minister should come out of their ranks as the largest group.

Macron last month appeared to dismiss Castets, saying in a televised interview "the issue is not a name provided by a political group" and stressing instead the need for a parliamentary majority behind the candidate.

Politicians from the centre, the right and the far right have suggested they would try to bring down any government that includes members from France Unbowed.

Macron appears more keen to seek a coalition that could include politicians from the centre-left to the traditional right.

Other names that have emerged in French media as potential prime minister candidates include centre-left politician Bernard Cazeneuve, who served as France's top cop during a series of bloody terror attacks in 2015, and Xavier Bertrand, a former minister considered relatively moderate within the French right.

Conservative politician Michel Barnier, EU's chief negotiator for post-Brexit talks, is also considered a potential candidate.

As president, Macron has sole power to name the prime minister according to the French Constitution.

The French president said last month he would keep the outgoing centrist government on a purely caretaker role to "handle current affairs", notably during the Olympics that ended on August 11.

2 freelance journalists killed in Myanmar

AP ■ BANGKOK

Two freelance journalists in the strife-torn nation of Myanmar were killed, one allegedly after being captured, when security forces raided the home of one of them in the southern state of Mon, colleagues and media reports said Friday.

Win Htut Oo, 26, a freelancer working for DVB — the Democratic Voice of Burma, an online and broadcast news agency — and Htet Myat Thu, 28, were the latest journalists to be killed by the security forces of the ruling military, which seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

At least five other media workers have been killed and others tortured while in detention, according to colleagues who keep a tally of killings and arrests.

"The killing of journalists Win Htut Oo and Htet Myat Thu is an atrocity against the free press and must not go unpunished," said Shawn Crispin, Southeast Asia representative of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, in an emailed statement. Myanmar is one of the world's biggest jailers of journalists, according to the France-based group Reporters Without Borders, and ranks near the bottom of its 2024 World Press Freedom Index, placing 171st out of 180 countries.

Sensex, Nifty edge up in volatile trade ahead of US Fed chief speech

PTI ■ MUMBAI

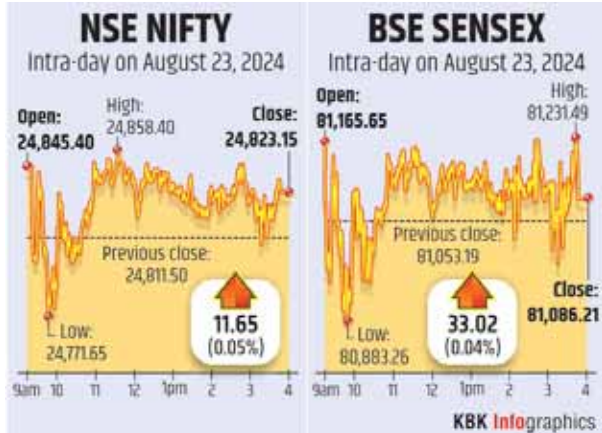
Benchmark Sensex and Nifty edged up in volatile trade on Friday following buying in blue-chip stocks such as ICICI Bank and Bharti Airtel amid mixed global trends ahead of the US Fed chair Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium.

Rising for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 33.02 points or 0.04 per cent higher at 81,086.21.

In early trade, the benchmark declined 169.93 points or 0.20 per cent to a low of 80,883.26. Later, it bounced back 178.3 points or 0.21 per cent to hit a high of 81,231.49 but gave up gains towards the end.

The NSE Nifty edged up 11.65 points or 0.05 per cent to close at 24,823.15 registering gains for the seventh session in a row.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors, Sun Pharmaceutical, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv,



ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra and JSW Steel were the gainers. Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Titan, Infosys, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank were the laggards.

"Ahead of the FED chair Powell's speech, the Indian indices oscillated around the flat trajectory and mixed

global market sentiments further catalysed this scenario," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. Investors are exercising caution and awaiting Powell's signals for more insights on the interest rate path, Nair added. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.15 per cent, however the midcap index fell 0.66 per cent. Among the indices, Services

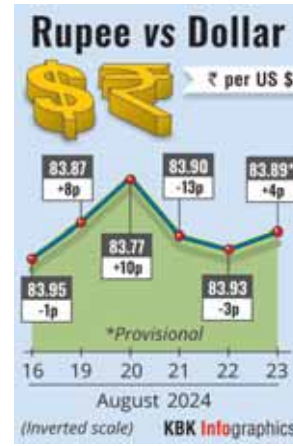
surged by 1.07 per cent, Auto by 0.93 per cent, Industrials by 0.26 per cent and Consumer Discretionary by 0.13 per cent. Realty, IT, Oil & Gas and Teck were among the laggards. "Indian market struggled for direction in early trade on Friday as investors awaited cues from US Federal Reserve Jerome Powell's speech at the ongoing Jackson Hole Economic Symposium. "Markets are looking for new clues on the timing and pace of possible interest rate cuts by the Fed this year," Avdhut Bagkar Technical and Derivatives Analyst at StoxBox. Bajaj Auto stock jumped 5 per cent after the company became the first automotive original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to receive a domestic value addition certificate for all 15 electric models it submitted for clearance from the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).

Rupee rises 4 paise to close at 83.89 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee traded in a narrow range and settled higher by 4 paise at 83.89 (provisional) against the American currency on Friday, as traders remained cautious ahead of Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium. Forex traders said weak US Dollar, foreign fund inflows and a positive tone in the domestic markets supported the rupee. However, overnight gains in crude oil prices capped sharp gains.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.93 and touched an intraday high of 83.85 against the US dollar. The domestic currency finally settled at 83.89 (provisional), 4 paise higher from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee traded in a narrow range and settled lower by 3 paise at 83.93 against the American currency. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias as traders remain cautious ahead



of Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium which could provide some cues on Fed's path to cut interest rates. "Weak US and Asian markets and a recovery in crude oil prices may pressure the rupee while positive domestic markets may support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary -- Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Meanwhile, the dollar index,

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.10 per cent lower at 101.40. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.05 per cent to USD 78.03 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 33.02 points, or 0.04 per cent, to close at 81,086.21 points. The Nifty rose 11.65 points, or 0.05 per cent, to 24,823.15 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Thursday as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,371.79 crore, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, the minutes of the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday noted that the calibrated increase in policy repo rate by 250 basis points since May 2022 and subsequent change of stance to the withdrawal of accommodation have facilitated gradual disinflation over 2022-23.

India's forex reserves jump by USD 4.546 bn to USD 674.664 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 4,546 billion to USD 674.664 billion during the week ended August 16, the RBI said on Friday.

In the previous week, the forex kitty had dropped by USD 4.8 billion to USD 670.119 billion. On August 2, the overall reserves hit an all-time high of USD 674.919 billion.

In the week ended August 16, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 3,609 billion to USD 591.569 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by USD 865 million to USD 60.104 billion during the week, the RBI said.

Sebi asks CAs to be 'extra careful' while auditing listed SMEs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sebi's whole-time member Ashwani Bhatia on Friday asked chartered accountants to be more diligent while auditing companies listed on the SME exchange platforms. Addressing an industry event of CAs, Bhatia said it is important to look at the listed SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) in a more careful way because the same companies will grow to be a part of the main board in the future.

"We have seen some challenges there (SME platform). We request you to be extra careful as far as SME IPOs and fundraising are concerned because these small companies will become much, much bigger going forward," the banker-turned-capital markets regulator said. Bhatia expressed satisfaction with the progress of the SME platform, stating that Rs 14,000 crore has been raised by such entities, with Rs 6,000 crore being raised in FY24



alone. He compared the CAs to "doctors", and added that they act as first-level regulators by ensuring orderly conduct of companies. Bhatia said many Sebi investigations and orders, which take over a year to complete, may not be necessary at all if the CAs had done their work more diligently. It can be noted that in March this year, Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch had flagged concerns around "price manipulation" in the SME platform listings and trading, and asked investors

to be cautious. Meanwhile, addressing CAs on Friday, Bhatia recalled the conduct of SBI's past chairman R K Talwar and said that the strength of character of the leader helps create "great institutions". He also said that despite the regulator coming out with regulations to enable delisting, the experience has been the "reverse" with little interest on that front. The whole-time member hinted that the low interest in delisting is due to high valuations, and added that even foreign companies are looking at listing in India.

Registration of housing properties in Noida, Gr Noida up 29 per cent in Apr-Jun at 8,212 units: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Registration of residential properties in Noida and Greater Noida rose 29 per cent annually in the June quarter to 8,212 units, according to housing brokerage firm Square Yards. As many as 6,354 units were registered in the year-ago period. Residential real estate activity in Noida and Greater Noida saw a marked uptick in the June quarter of 2024, with 8,212 residential transactions registered with the Inspector General of Registration (IGR). "The combined sales value of these transactions reached Rs 6,013 crore, representing a 59 per cent year-on-year surge, outpacing the growth in transaction volume," the consultant said in a statement. In Noida, Square Yards said that 3,200 units were registered during the April-June period against 2,408



units a year ago. Greater Noida saw a 27 per cent increase in registration of residential properties at 5,012 units compared to 3,946 units in the corresponding period of the previous year. Among developers, realty firm Nirala World topped both the number of transactions and sales value in April-June 2024. Its project, Nirala Estate in Tech Zone-4 (Greater Noida), led the pack with 620 units registered, amounting to Rs 565 crore in sales value, the consultant said.

Gold prices decline by ₹350, silver drops ₹200

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined by Rs 350 to Rs 73,800 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. In the previous session, gold of 99.9 per cent purity traded at Rs 74,150 per 10 grams. Silver declined by Rs 200 to Rs 87,000 per kg from Rs 87,200 per kg in the previous day. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also dropped by Rs 350 to Rs 73,450 per 10 grams against Rs 73,800 per 10 grams on Thursday. The yellow metal extended losses on Friday, weighed down by rising US Treasury yields and a recovery in the dollar index, market experts said. Prices of precious metal were also influenced by the minutes of the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) released by RBI on Thursday. Reserve Bank Governor



Shaktikanta Das said that the current policy rate of 6.5 per cent is broadly balanced, and any justification for policy easing at this juncture can be misleading, according to the MPC minutes. Governor Das and three other members voted for the status quo on the repo rate in the MPC, while two members advocated a rate cut. Globally, gold at Comex gained USD 18.20 to trade at USD 2,534.90 per ounce. Silver was trading 1.24 per cent higher at USD 29.84 per ounce in the international markets. Minutes from the US Federal Reserve's July meeting

revealed a strong inclination toward a rate cut next month, a move supported by at least two Fed officials, Prathamesh Mallya, DVP- Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One Ltd, said. "Speculators overstated the likelihood of an aggressive rate cut before the end of the year; now they trimmed their bets and are pricing three 25-basis-point cuts across the remaining three Fed policy meetings this year, down from around four cuts priced two days ago," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities.

US top trading partner, highest trade deficit with China in January-June 2024: GTRI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The US has emerged as India's top trading partner during January-June this year, while the country has recorded its highest trade deficit of USD 41.6 billion with China during the period, according to think tank GTRI.

It also said the country's merchandise exports rose 5.41 per cent to USD 230.51 billion during the first of 2024.

"China topped the list with a substantial trade deficit of USD 41.6 billion, as exports to China were USD 8.5 billion, while imports reached USD 50.1 billion during January-June 2024," it added. The data analysis for the first half of this calendar year by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) showed



India exports goods to 239 countries and out of these, 126 countries showed positive growth in exports. These nations account for 75.3 per cent of India's total exports. Major countries with increased exports include the USA, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, and China. However, exports declined in

98 countries, which account for 24.6 per cent of India's exports, with notable declines in Italy, Belgium, Nepal, and Hong Kong. "The US is India's top export partner. Exports to the US increased from USD 37.7 billion in January-June 2023 to USD 41.6 billion in January-June 2024, reflecting

a growth of 10.5 per cent. The UAE saw a significant rise in exports, increasing from USD 15.8 billion to USD 19.7 billion, marking a 24.9 per cent growth," it said. In the first half of 2024, China remained the largest import supplier, with imports increasing from USD 46.2 billion to USD 50.1 billion. "In FY2024, China was India's top trading partner, just ahead of the US. However, from January to June 2024, the US became India's largest trading partner, with total trade growing from USD 59.4 billion to USD 62.5 billion, a 5.3 per cent increase," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said. China followed as the second-largest trading partner, with total trade rising from USD 54.4 billion to USD 58.6 billion, marking a 7.7 per cent increase.

India steel market hit by unfair imports, dumping amid slump in China: Former Steel Secretary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian steel market is hit by "unfair imports and dumping" amid a demand slump in China and the government needs to take action in a time-bound manner, former steel secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha has said. "If you take flat steel products, imports are certainly an issue. The slump in the Chinese market has really shaken the (domestic) market," Sinha, who superannuated on July 31, said at the 7th edition of BigMint's Indian Iron Ore and Pellet Summit on Friday. He also warned of the price realisations getting affected due to surging imports impacting the profitability of steel makers. "To the extent the imports currently happening are



unfair and there is dumping going on and the Indian government should certainly respond to them in a timeframe," Sinha said. His statement assumes significance as local steel players have been raising the issue of imports for months from select countries

including China. Steelmakers have raised concern that India is becoming a net importer of steel against the aim to become a global supplier of the commodity. Sinha said "...Duty prayers for imposition of the duty are being considered at a longer

timeframe for about a year and a half that is not going help industry at least give them a fair hearing." On August 16, the government initiated an anti-dumping probe into the import of hot-rolled steel products from Vietnam following a complaint by a domestic industry. The commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is probing the alleged dumping of hot rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel." According to the DGTR notification, Indian Steel Association has filed an application on behalf of domestic producers - JSW Steel Ltd and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd - seeking initiation of an anti-dumping investigation on imports from Vietnam.

Peak power demand to grow by 15GW/year for next 6 years: Govt Official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power demand in the country will grow at a higher rate of 15GW per annum for next six years compared to 11GW per annum in last one decade, a senior government official said on Friday.

By 2030, about 85 GW of additional demand will be added during the solar hours and during the non solar hours more than 90 GW will be added to the peak demand, said Additional Secretary Power Srikanth Nagulapalli at an Industry Conclave organised by IEEMA. "...The CAGR may not reflect these numbers truly, but if you see the absolute numbers it's a big jump and to meet

this growth, substantial expansion of our coal capacity and along with solar, wind, storage and also transmission capacity is being undertaken," Nagulapalli added. Nagulapalli noted that "India's peak demand grew at an average of 11GW for the last 10 years and going forward for the next 6 years, we expect that the demand is going to grow at an average of 15 GW per year." He further stated that approx 40 GW will be through storage. "By 2030, we intend to rely on storage capacity, be it long storage batteries to supply our non solar hour peak," he said. The Ministry of Power has set a target of 500 GW capacity from non-fossil fuel-based



sources by 2030. "... We have already crossed 200 GW (RE capacity addition) and additional 300 GW has to be realised in the next 6 years, of this (300GW) almost 225 GW will be from solar and wind," he said.

On capacity addition, he said this plan prioritises the RE zones of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh etc. As there are large chunks of solar potential lands available. He also talked about plan to

install offshore wind farms near Gujarat and Tamil Nadu coast and added that the country is also gearing up to add green hydrogen capacity in a big way especially coastal areas of Odisha, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and so on. "We have large demand that is going to come from EVs and also data centres," he pointed out. Together with the electrification of the economy all these will drive the demand that is going to come up in the near future, he stated.

The whole country, if you see, is connected into a single grid running on single frequency and it is capable of transferring 170 GW power from one end to another even

remote regions in Arunachal and Ladakh are connected. He noted that the government is promoting the storage through PSPs (pumped hydro storage projects) and batteries. "We aim for 40 GW of BESS (battery energy storage system) and 19 GW PSP capacity in next 6 years and in the budget also an announcement made that a new PSP Policy would come to push PSP projects," he stated. The government has also improved about 4GWh of BESS through VGF (viability gap funding). Beyond this we are creating a policy framework for bringing battery energy storage systems in a short-term in a big way, he added.

Foxconn infuses ₹1,200 crore in Karnataka unit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn has infused about Rs 1,200 crore -- approximately USD 144 million -- into its Karnataka-based Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd, the company said in a recent regulatory filing. The iPhone contract manufacturer's Singapore-based arm Foxconn Singapore Pte has bought over 120.35 crore stocks of Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd at Rs 10 per share on August 21. The Karnataka government

in a statement last week said Foxconn is planning to invest Rs 25,000 crore to establish a massive manufacturing plant near Doddaballapur that will create 40,000 jobs. "The unit in Karnataka will soon become the second-largest Foxconn plant after China's unit. It will create 40,000 direct jobs, especially for middle-level educated individuals, and our investment will not stop here; in the future, we plan to explore other sectors also," Foxconn Chairman Young Liu was quoted as saying in the statement. With the fresh infusion, Foxconn Singapore has invested over Rs 13,800 crore in the Karnataka unit.



UNCOVERING THE PAST

THE LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASE

Aparna Vaidik's *Revolutionaries on Trial* offers a fresh perspective on the Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1929, highlighting the trial's intricate political and legal dimensions. By examining the roles of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, Vaidik reveals the trial's broader significance beyond martyrdom, providing a deeper understanding of its impact on India's independence struggle, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Aparna Vaidik's *Revolutionaries on Trial* is a riveting examination of one of the most significant and controversial events in India's struggle for independence - The Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1929. This book distinguishes itself with its insightful portrayal of the trial, not merely as a moment of colonial injustice but as a complex interplay of legal, political and cultural forces that shaped the course of Indian nationalism.

One of the most striking aspects of Vaidik's work is her ability to reframe the Lahore Conspiracy Case from a simplistic tale of martyrdom into a multifaceted historical event with far-reaching implications. While Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru have been venerated as heroes of the Indian independence movement, Vaidik challenges the reader to look beyond this familiar narrative. She delves into the intricacies of the trial, revealing the colonial state's calculated efforts to use the legal system as a tool for suppressing



revolutionary activities while simultaneously attempting to undermine the moral authority of the independence movement. The book challenges the conventional focus on Bhagat Singh as the central figure, providing a more holistic view of the revolutionary movement. By highlighting the contributions and experiences of Sukhdev and Rajguru, Vaidik corrects the often narrow historical lens that tends to elevate Singh's martyrdom while marginalising his comrade's significant roles. This nuanced

portrayal helps to appreciate the collective nature of the HSRAs struggle and the ideological and personal dynamics within the revolutionary group. Vaidik's approach is particularly compelling because she does not merely focus on the courtroom drama. Instead, she broadens the scope to include the roles played by the colonial government, the revolutionaries, the Indian press and the public. This holistic view allows readers to appreciate the trial's significance as a cultural and political spectacle that extended



far beyond the legal proceedings. Vaidik's detailed examination of the motivations and strategies of all the actors involved provides a richer understanding of the dynamics at play during this critical period in India's history. The book's exploration of the colonial state's decision to prosecute the revolutionaries is particularly eye-opening. The author argues that the trial was not just about dispensing justice, it was a deliberate move by the British to assert their authority and counter the growing influence of

revolutionary ideologies. This perspective adds a new layer of complexity to the story, highlighting the colonial government's strategic use of public trials to shape public opinion and maintain control. Moreover, Vaidik's analysis of the revolutionaries actions during the trial challenges the conventional view that their courtroom tactics were purely propagandistic. She presents a nuanced argument that these actions were part of a broader political strategy designed to galvanise public support and expose the hypocrisies of the colonial regime. This interpretation enriches our understanding of revolutionary politics and underscores the significance of the trial in the broader context of India's nationalist movement. Vaidik's scholarly rigor is matched by her engaging writing style, making *Revolutionaries on Trial* both accessible and informative. The book is meticulously researched, drawing on a wide range of sources, including

archival documents, personal letters and contemporary press reports. This thoroughness not only enhances the credibility of Vaidik's arguments but also brings the historical events to life, making the book a compelling read. *Revolutionaries on Trial* is a significant contribution to the study of Indian history. It offers fresh insights into a well-known event, challenging readers to reconsider their understanding of the Lahore Conspiracy Case and the broader struggle for independence. Vaidik's work is essential reading for anyone interested in the complexities of colonial justice, revolutionary movements and the enduring legacy of India's fight for freedom. Whether you are a historian, a student of political science or simply someone interested in the depth of India's past, this book is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Book Name — Revolutionaries on Trial
Author — Aparna Vaidik
Publisher — Aleph book company
Price — Rs. 999

Through the Eyes of a Top Indian Cop

Jayaram Padikkal (1937-1997) was an IPS officer who served as the chief of Kerala Police during 1993 to 1994. He was the youngest DIG in the country as he excelled in investigation and intelligence gathering. Had it not been for a controversy associated with the custodial death of a young Maoist leader by name P Rajan of the Regional Engineering College (now NIT) at Kozhikode during the black days of the internal emergency, Padikkal would have retired as the top echelon of the Home Ministry either as the chief of IB or CBI.

It is strange that the entire media in Kerala went gaga when Padikkal was suspended from service following the Rajan case. Though he was reinstated in service following the Court acquitted him of all charges, the Kerala media never left him alone and went after his blood with their own findings which were far from reality. All columns, books and even films of those days portrayed him as a villain. Even today, young journalists who do not have any idea about the Rajan case, lambasts Padikkal. The truth is that there was a period in the history of Kerala Police when people, cutting across political lines, demanded that cases of murder, corruption and misuse of power should be investigated by Jayaram Padikkal! Newspapers and periodicals in the State stand proof of this demand.

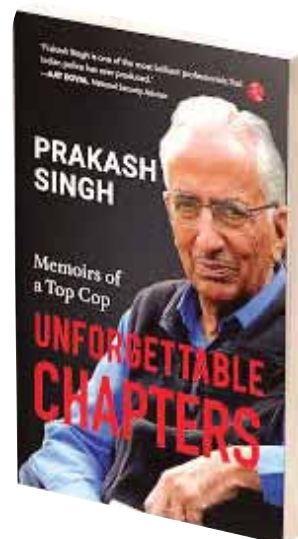
What happened to Padikkal was his success in exposing the hypocrisy and double standard of the Communists. Interestingly it was during the tenure of EMS Namboodiripad as chief minister that a separate unit was set up in the State for tackling the Maoist menace. Padikkal was appointed as head of the special unit and he did not let his bosses down. The Maoists, they were known as Naxalites those days, ran for their lives and within a couple of years, Padikkal and his "boys" finished them off. But they struck back during the emergency days and

A revealing account of the challenges, controversies and victories faced by one of India's top police officers, as detailed in Prakash Singh's *Unforgettable Chapters: Memoirs of a Top Cop*, shedding light on the complex world of law enforcement in the country, says **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

murdered three cops including a deputy superintendent of police. Rajan was taken into custody for facilitating the escape of the Maoists who were the perpetrators of the heinous crime. While a lot of tears were shed for Rajan, the Kerala society ignored the sacrifice made by the cops and that was how Padikkal became the "evil character". Padikkal, the super cop of Kerala, breathed his last in 1997 and had a peaceful death.

Despite the persecution and attack by the media and intellectual, Padikkal kept his cool. "I was not a public relations officer of the Kerala Police and my mission was to safeguard the Constitution of India," he reportedly told a close associate when he was asked why he was indifferent to criticism by the media.

Memories about Jayaram Padikkal crept into the mind while going through "UNFORGETTABLE CHAPTERS", *Memoirs of a Top Cop* by Prakash Singh, a former IPS officer who had served as police chief of Uttar Pradesh, assam, Punjab, Nagaland and as the director general of Border Security Force. Prakash Singh also fought for reforms in police, which if implemented would have elevated our cops to the best force in the world. But politicians do not want to liberate police from their shackles. The importance of our political leaders is known by the number of armed cops guarding them. A chief minister like Pinarayi Vijayan, whom the



CPI(M) in Kerala portrays as the most popular politician in India, does not move out of his palatial house without a heavy posse of commandoes and a cavalcade of fifty SUVs and siren wielding ambulances. Singh's memoirs take the readers through a period in India filled with terrorism, political turmoil and insurgency. He has hands-on experience in tackling terrorism in States like Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Nagaland and the mafia raj of Uttar Pradesh. Singh has diagnosed the root cause of insurgency in North East India in an exemplary manner. No other political historians, security experts or observers have gone into the basics of these issues like Prakash Singh. While serving as DGP in Uttar Pradesh, Singh had alerted his colleagues and subordinates about the danger posed by Mukhtar Ansari, the dreaded don of Uttar Pradesh. Ansari,

nephew of a former vice-president of the country, was an accused in cases of murders, dacoity and rape. He was described as a shaheed by Asaduddin Owaisi much to the anguish of the law abiding citizens in India. Though Prakash Singh did not approve the Sangh Parivar demolishing the disputed structure at Ayodhya in 1992, this police officer makes it unambiguously clear that the Babri Mosque was nothing other than the temple where Lord Rama was born. What makes this book a must read for all who are interested in knowing the political and social chaos is the kind of information provided by the author. He has shared with the readers the reasons for the fall in standards of policing in the country. Post-retirement, Singh drew the attention of the Supreme Court to factors like the executive misuse and abuse of the police in frequent postings and transfers, recruitment procedures vitiated by political recommendations, promotions getting influenced, tampering of investigations, and unlawful directions to the police as matters of concern.

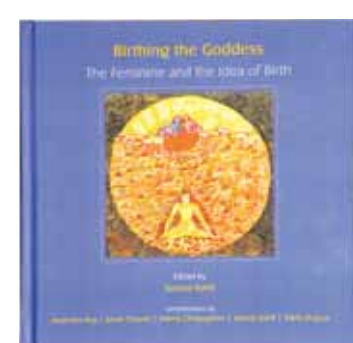
Singh is no ordinary police officer and is proved by his admission that he regrets his failure in mastering Sanskrit and not learning martial arts. His third regret that he could not divide his life in the four ashrams prescribed by our ancestors is uncalled for. We need officers like Prakash Singh to share their experiences with the new generation cops. It will make major changes in the spirit and soul of young officers. Prakash Singh had won a historical case against the Union of India when the Supreme Court ordered that IPS officers selected to head the police force should get a minimum two-year tenure as chief. Super cops like Padikkal and Prakash Singh belong to a different genre and they are the ones described by Chanakya as the real policemen.

Birthing the Goddess: The Feminine and the Idea of Birth is a profound anthology exploring the intersection of femininity and creation through diverse cultural and spiritual lenses. With essays that challenge conventional narratives and illuminate the sacred dimensions of birth, this collection offers a fresh and insightful perspective on the divine feminine, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Birthing the Goddess: The Feminine and the Idea of Birth is a captivating anthology that navigates the rich ground where birth, creation and the feminine divine intersect. Compiled by a diverse group of contributors, including Seema Kohli, Anamika Roy, Janet Chawla, Nilima Chitgopekar and Stella Dupuis. This volume extends the inquiry begun in *Experiencing the Goddess*, offering an even deeper exploration of the spiritual and cultural significance of the feminine principle. The book opens by reframing birth as not just a biological event but as a transformative process imbued with profound spiritual and cultural meaning. Anamika Roy's essay, "Radha Was Created Not Born," sets the tone by exploring the origins of Radha, a central figure in Hinduism whose existence stems from artistic and poetic creation rather than traditional birth. This interpretation of Radha's origin as a divine construct rather than a born deity is both refreshing and thought-provoking, challenging readers to reconsider the boundaries of creation.

Janet Chawla's "Birth as Magic and Dai as the Shaman" is another standout, delving into traditional Indian birthing practices. Chawla's exploration of the sacred roles of traditional midwives (dais) offers a poignant contrast to the sterile, clinical approaches of modern medicine. Her essay is a compelling reminder of the deep spiritual connections that can exist in the birthing process, connections that modern practices often overlook or undervalue.

Nilima Chitgopekar "Not from the Womb - Birthing in the Devi Mahatmya" examines the divine birth of Durga, highlighting her emergence not as a typical birth but as a product of divine assembly. This essay powerfully underscores the symbolic and theological weight of Durga's creation, positioning her as a pivotal figure in maintaining cosmic



balance. Seema Kohli's essay, "Journey of Surya, from Martanda to Hiranyagarbha - Immortal Cycle of Creation and Recreation," adds a fascinating dimension to the anthology. By weaving Vedic concepts of creation with personal reflections, Kohli brings ancient symbols like the Golden Womb (Hiranyagarbha) and the Sun (Martanda) into contemporary relevance, offering readers a unique blend of mythology and modern interpretation. In "Birth of a Hero - The Pursuit of Immortality," Stella Dupuis explores the universal motif of heroism and immortality. She connects Amazonian women warriors, India's Sati memorial stones and Ladakh's Matsyendranth sculpture. Her analysis of the birth and quests of mythical heroes across different cultures enriches the anthology by showing the diverse ways divine favor and heroic journeys are

conceptualised. *Birthing the Goddess* is a deeply engaging and intellectually stimulating collection that offers new perspectives on the feminine divine through the themes of birth and creation. Each essay challenges conventional narratives and invites readers to go through into the sacred dimensions of the feminine, making the book a valuable addition to studies in mythology, spirituality and cultural traditions.

What stands out most about this anthology is its ability to work together diverse perspectives into a coherent and profound meditation on the feminine principle. The author's willingness to challenge traditional narratives and explore lesser-known stories is both brave and necessary in today's cultural landscape. This book is not just an academic exercise; it's a spiritual journey that prompts readers to reflect on their own understanding of birth, creation and the divine feminine. For anyone interested in mythology, spirituality or cultural studies, *Birthing the Goddess* is a must-read. Its rich content and thought-provoking essays will leave a lasting impression, inspiring deeper contemplation and appreciation of the sacred feminine.

Book Name — Birthing the Goddess: The Feminine and the Idea of Birth
Publisher — Aryan Books International
Price — Rs. 1950

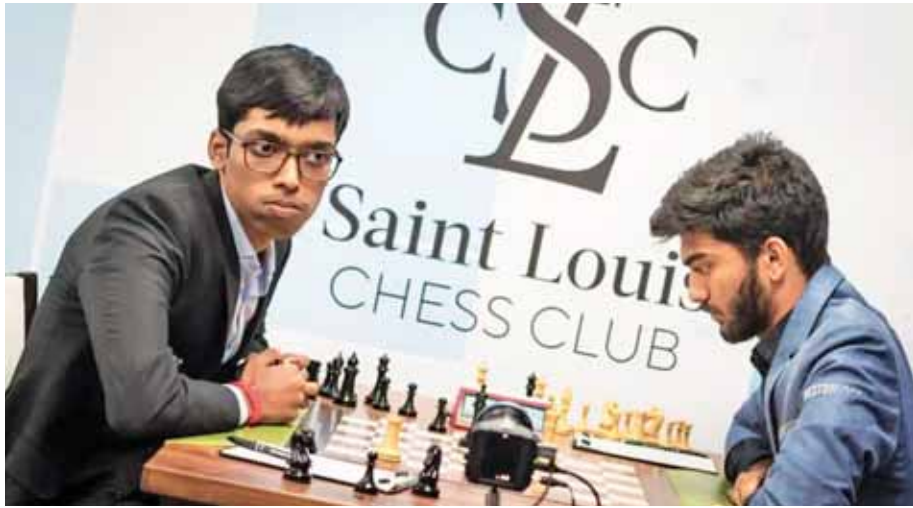
GUKESH, PRAGGNANANDHAA DRAW AGAIN IN SINQUEFIELD CUP

PTI ■ SAINT LOUIS (USA)

World Championship challenger D Gukesh enjoyed an advantageous position against tournament co-leader Alireza Firouzja of France but eventually settled for a draw in the fourth round of the Sinquefield Cup, here.

Gukesh, who is set to play the World championship match against Ding Liren of China next November, proved that he is made of sterner mettle as he made Firouzja's life tough. Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa also drew his game against Anish Giri of Holland and almost at the half way stage in this 10-player round-robin tournament, the Indians stand at a level fifty percent score.

The day when Wesley So of United States won the lone decisive game, the news down the round through unconfirmed sources was that Firouzja has been offered to play for United States.



For Prag things were not difficult as he meticulously handled Anish Giri with black pieces and even though the Dutchman believed he had some chances, they were thwarted in no time.

After three decisive games in round three the fourth round yet again produced just a lone decisive game with Wesley So overcoming Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia.

With Wesley winning and Nepomniachtchi on the losing side, the former joined Firouzja in lead on 2.5 points after four rounds and they are now followed by Fabiano Caruana of United States, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, Nepomniachtchi, Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh.

Abdusattorov and Giri share the ninth spot with 1.5 points each.

Results round 4: Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 2); D Gukesh (Ind, 2) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 2.5); Wesley So (Usa, 2.5) beat Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fide, 2); Ding Liren (Chn, 2) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 2); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5).

Sri Lanka-New Zealand opening Test at Galle to have a rest day

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sri Lanka's opening Test against New Zealand at Galle next month will be a six-day affair with the provision of a rest day owing to the presidential election in the island nation.

The Test, scheduled to commence on September 18, will have a rest day on

September 21, "owing to the Presidential Election of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka", said an ICC release on Friday.

It will be the first time in more than two decades that Sri Lanka have been scheduled to host a Test across six days, with their match against Zimbabwe in Colombo in 2001 also including a rest day due to

Poya Day (full moon), said the ICC. The two-match series is part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship cycle with the second Test scheduled at the same venue from September 26-30. Rest days were a common feature in Test cricket in the last century, with several matches in the cricketing world being played across six days with Sunday

usually being an off day. More recently, Bangladesh played a Test-series opener against Sri Lanka in December 2008, which was a six-day affair because of a parliamentary election.

New Zealand and Sri Lanka are currently placed third and fourth respectively in the World Test Championship standings.

India A bowlers fight back but Australia A's lead surges

PTI ■ GOLD COAST (AUSTRALIA)

India A bowlers led a spirited fightback but Australia A tightened grip on the unofficial one-off women's Test, with the hosts' overall lead surging to 192 runs here on the second day on Friday.

India A skipper Minnu Mani completed her match haul of 10 wickets but Kate Peterson returned an impactful 12-5-16-5 to hand Australia a slender 28-run lead in the first innings, as the visitors were bowled out for 184 in reply to the host's 212. Resuming at 100/2, India A looked on course to take a substantial lead but fell short as Peterson ran through the middle order. India's set batters Tejal Hasabnis (32) and Shweta Sehrawat (40) were the first to fall as the tourists lost five wickets for 27 runs before Sayali Satghare (21),



Mani (17) and Mannat Kashyap (19) put up 56 runs to deny Australia a huge lead. Mani then swung into action with the ball immediately as Australia A batters' once again struggled against Indian spinners. The off-spinner first removed opener Georgia Vull and her Australian counterpart Charli Knott for ducks in consecutive overs to reduce the hosts to 0/2 at one stage. Mani, who claimed a five-wicket haul in the first essay, also got rid of

Nicole Faltum (16) before she cleaned up Tess Fintoo with an off-break.

However, opener Emma de Brouge continued to hold form on one end as she scored 58 runs off 117 balls before falling prey to rookie leg-spinner Priya Mishra. Wicketkeeper Maddy Drake took matters into her own hands by hitting an unbeaten half century (54 not out of 100 deliveries) to lead Australia's recovery further as the hosts reached 164/7 at the end of play.

Drake added 54 for the sixth wicket with Maitlan Brown (26 off 45) before the latter became Mani's tenth wicket in the game.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia A 212 and 164 for 7 (Emma de Brouge 58, Mandy Darke 54 not out; Minnu Mani 5/47) lead India A 184 (Shweta Sehrawat 40, Tejal Hasabnis 32; Kate Peterson 5/16) by 192 runs.

Neeraj finishes second with season's best 89.49m

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second in the Diamond League here after producing a season's best effort of 89.49m from his last attempt in a gritty performance despite lingering fitness concerns.

The 26-year-old was at the fourth spot till the fourth round before sending his spear to 85.58m in his fifth attempt. He saved the best for the last and his final attempt measured 89.49m on Thursday, a marginal improvement on the 89.45m achieved in the Paris Olympics a few days ago.

He was in danger of missing the sixth throw but his fifth round effort of 85.58m saved him. Only the top three after five rounds get their respective final attempts.

Two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze-medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada won the event with a monster throw of 90.61m in the second round while Julian Weber of Germany took the third spot with 87.08m.

"The feeling wasn't great at



first, but I am happy with my throw, especially the second (career) best throw on my last attempt. It was a tough start, but the comeback was really nice and I enjoyed the fighting spirit I showed," Chopra said after the event.

"Even though my early throws were around 80-83m, I pushed hard in the last two attempts finishing strong. Competing at this high level, it's important to

stay mentally tough and fight through."

Peters, who had struggled to find form last year, led the competition here from beginning to end and he stamped his class with the 90m-plus throw in the last round.

He has a personal best of 93.07m achieved in 2022. With seven points from Thursday's second-place

finish, Chopra is joint third alongside Weber in Diamond League standings with 15 points. Peters jumped to top spot with 21 points. Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, who finished seventh (82.03m) on Thursday, is in second spot with 16 points.

Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra claimed a silver in the Paris Olympics on August 8 adding to his historic

gold in the Tokyo edition of the Games three years ago. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem had beaten Chopra for the gold in Paris with an Olympic record throw of 92.97m. Nadeem was missing from the field here.

On Saturday, Chopra had confirmed his participation here, postponing a decision on a possible surgery till the end of the season.

Chopra had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlejch in the winner-takes-all Diamond League final in Eugene, USA, last year.

This season's DL finals will be held in Brussels on September 14. He needs to finish in the top-six of the series standings to qualify for the finale.

There is another DL meeting - in Zurich on September 5 - which has a men's javelin throw event on its roster.

Chopra is yet to win a DL meeting this year. He finished second behind Vadlejch in Doha on May 10.

The Indian has been managing his groin injury since winning the gold in the Budapest World Championships last year.



Verstappen under pressure in front of home crowd as F1 returns at Dutch Grand Prix

AP ■ ZANDVOORT (NETHERLANDS)

The Dutch Grand Prix has generally been a party for Max Verstappen and his legions of orange-clad fans. This year could be very different.

Verstappen has won all three races at the beach-side Zandvoort track since the Dutch Grand Prix returned to the Formula 1 schedule in 2021. For once though, home star Verstappen is under pressure in the standings. He enters the first race after the summer break without a win from any of the previous four - his longest winless run since 2020. "Last year coming here, I was a lot more confident that we had a big chance of winning the race, but that's how the season is already," Verstappen said Thursday.

"It's a lot more competitive and

from our side, I think we're still trying to improve, trying to find a better car balance."

It will be Verstappen's 200th race and the 26-year-old Dutch driver, who has a contract with Red Bull through 2028, said he believes he's closer to the end of his F1 career than the start.

McLaren and Mercedes are both closing in on Verstappen and his Red Bull team, which started the year in such a dominant style. Beating Verstappen at his home race would be a real statement of intent.

Perez under pressure Verstappen's 78-point lead over McLaren's Lando Norris in the drivers' standings gives him some room for error. But, teammate Sergio Perez's poor performances mean Red Bull's 42-point lead over McLaren in the constructors' championship could be vulnerable.

Zonal Office
128/24 Om Laxmi Tower, H-Block,
Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur-208001
Tel: 0512-2985004

Bank of India
Relationship beyond banking

E-Auction Notice

The vehicle seized by our branch are proposed to be sold by tender on the basis of "As is Where is".

S.I. No.	Name of Account Holder/ Branch/Outstanding	Description of Hypothecated Vehicle	Reserve Price (In Lakh)	EMD (In Lakh)	Bid Increment Amount
1.	Mrs. Ruby Yadav Co-Borrower: Mr. Rishi Pal Yadav Branch: Manik Chowk, Jhansi Outstanding Dues: 7,20,731.80 Lakh + Interest	Vehicle Reg. No.: UP 93 BK-4164 Make: Mahindra Thar CRDE 4WD 5STR Model: NA Chassis No.: MA15L4BUNK2A855004 Engine No.: BUJ4M97808	Rs. 4,21,000.00	Rs. 43,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00
2.	Mr. Mukesh Kumar Branch: Banda Outstanding Dues: 5,67,061.60 Lakh + Interest	Vehicle Reg. No.: UP 90 AA 8798 Make: Renault Tribler RXLMT 1LECE Model: 2023 Chassis No.: MEERBC002P1166768 Engine No.: B4DF424E001296	Rs. 5,20,000.00	Rs. 52,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00

Date and Time to Deposit E.M.D. 08.09.2024 Time till 04.00 P.M.
Opening Date & Time of E-Auction 09.09.2024 from 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION- 1. The Auction Sale bidding will be online through the website <https://www.ebkra.in>. **2.** Bidder may visit <https://www.ebkra.in>, for Guidelines. **3.** The Bid Amount should be higher than the Reserve Price. **4.** The highest/ successful bidders shall deposit 25% of bid/ purchase money adjusting the earnest money already paid immediately on the same day or next working day, after acceptance of e bid, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited. **5.** The balance 75% of purchase price shall be payable on or before 15 days of confirmation of the sale by the authorized officer or such period as agreed upon in writing solely at the discretion of the Authorized officer. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited and the Authorized officer/bank will beat at liberty to cancel the auction and conduct fresh auction. **6.** The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned on the closure of the e-auction sale proceedings. The EMD shall not carry any interest. **7.** The movable Property is sold in 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and 'AS IS WHAT IT IS BASIS' and 'WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS'. The intending bidders should make their own enquiries regarding any sort of liabilities. **8.** The undersigned has the absolute rights and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason. **9.** The purchaser shall bear all subsequent charges. **10.** The amount due is exclusive of interest and other charges. **11.** Further any corrigendum will not be published in newspaper. Interested advised to refer above website regularly. **12.** The Employee's of Bank of India are barred from participation of e-auction. **13.** Interested Bidders need to create their user id and password by own and it will take minimum time of 2 days therefore it is requested to the bidder to kindly create his/her user id before the last date. **14.** In case of sole bidder, the bid amount quoted in his bid from must be improved by at least one bid incremental value, lest the sale shall be cancelled/ deferred. **15.** In case of single bidder, the authorized officer should ensure that the said bidder has quoted a price which is higher than the reserve price fixed. This condition should be mentioned clearly in the notification for auction.

Date: 24.08.2024 Place: Kanpur Authorised Officer, Bank of India

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
UNDER SECTION SARFAESI ACT 2002

Bank of India
Relationship beyond banking

Zonal Office
128/24 Om Laxmi Tower, H-Block, Kidwai
Nagar, Kanpur-208011, Tel: 0512-2985004

S.I. No.	Name of Borrower /Guarantors, Demand Notice date, Amount & Possession Date/Type of Possession	Description of Mortgage Properties & Owner of Property	Reserve Price (in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Lakh)
Branch: 2A/157 Hastling Ave Azad Nagar Nawabganj, Kanpur U.P.-208002				
1.	Borrower: Mr. Dinesh Sharma s/o Mr. Ganga Charan Sharma, Address: H No.J-425 Gujaini Udyog Nagar Kanpur U.P. 208022 Co Borrower: Mr. Ankit Sharma, Address: F-332 Gujaini Kanpur U.P.208022 Demand Notice Date: 26.12.2023 Amt.: Rs. 24,31,938.00 + Interest w.e.f. 26.12.2023 + other charges Possession Notice: 21.06.2024/Symbolic	EQM of Property situated at H.No. J-647, Block J Yojana EWS-3 Gujaini (KUDP) Kanpur Nagar U.P.208022 Owner: Mr.Dinesh Sharma Built up Area: 36.75 Sq mtr Boundaries of Premises: East: House No.646, West: House No.648, North: 3.50 Mtr Wide Road, South: House No.630	Rs. 22.59	Rs. 2.26
Branch: Highway City, Premises No.385/30 Maheshwari Puram, Bhabha nagar Sanigwan Kanpur, U.P.-208002				
2.	Borrower: Mr. Hira Lal s/o Gajraj, Address: H No.41/1550 Ratanpur Colony Panki Pankabahadur Nagar, Panki Gangaganj Kanpur Nagar-208020 Address-2: H.No. EWS 876/93 Ratanpur Colony Panki Kanpur Demand Notice Date: 31.12.2022 Amt.: Rs. 16,94,788.04 + Interest w.e.f. 01.12.2022 + other charges Possession Notice: 03.05.2023/Symbolic	All Part and parcel of land and building situated at plot no.EWS 876/93 Ratanpur colony panki Kanpur nagar U.P. Owner: Mr.Heera Lal s/o Gajraj Built up Area: 32.67 Sq mtr Boundaries of Premises: East: House No.92, West: House No.94, North: 7.50 Mtr Wide Road, South: House No.68	Rs. 16.20	Rs. 1.62
Branch: Kamia Market opposite Jhule Lal Park, Elite Crossing Jhansi-284003				
3.	Borrower: Mrs. Kalpana Gupta w/o Mr. Sandesh Gupta, Address: 91/2 Civil Line Jhansi U.P.-284001 Guarantor: Mr. Sandesh Chandra Gupta S/o Babu Lal Gupta, 91/2 Civil Lines Jhansi Demand Notice Date: 01.11.2020 Amt.: Rs. 5,73,818.07 + Interest w.e.f. 30.12.2017 + other charges Possession Notice: 20.03.2021/Symbolic	All Part and parcel of land and building situated at One Plot No.477 Muza Bijoli Abadi Rajgarh Ward No.15 Tehsil City & Distt- Jhansi Owner: Sandesh Chandra Gupta Built up Area: 1050 Sq FT Boundaries of Premises: East: Plot Of Seller, West: Rasta 20 Fit Wide Road, North: Plot of Purchaser, South: Road	Rs. 18.21	Rs. 1.82
Branch: Pukhraya, Main Road near Police Chauki, PO - Pukhraya, Kanpur U.P.-209111				
4.	Borrower: M/s Maa Kela Devi Construction (Firm), Address: Krishna Nagar Mandi Samiti Pukhraya, UP -209111 H.No.J-425 Gujaini Udyog Nagar Kanpur U.P.208022 Proprietor: Mrs. Alka Singh W/O Shambhu Singh, Address: 109, Chandra Nagar, Orail, District- Jalaun, UP -285001 Demand Notice Date: 17.11.2022 Amt.: Rs. 15,28,777.92 + Interest w.e.f. 21.10.2022 + other charges Possession Notice: 20.06.2024/Symbolic	EQM of all Land and building situated at Arazi No. 50-ba (part), at on parharperu to saray Road Mauja Umariya Pargana and Tehsil Bhognipur Dist. Kanpur Dehat. Owner: Mrs. Alka Singh (Proprietor) Area: 2050 Sq mtr Boundaries of Premises: East: Field of Mr. Imran then other field, West: Field of Mr. Rais Ahmad then other, North: Field of Mr. Jalla then other field, South: Link Road (Parharapur-Saray) thereafter otherland	Rs. 26.75	Rs. 2.68

Last date for submission of tender for all the above properties is 24.09.2024 by 04.00 PM
E-Auction of above mentioned properties will be held on Date 25.09.2024 Time at Morning 11 AM to 5.00 PM
(with unlimited extension of 5 min. interval)

Terms and Conditions of Sale :- 1. This e-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER IT IS" basis. **2.** The property being auctioned by the Authorized Officer is free of charge till the maximum information and belief, yet the intending tenderer should independently enquire all the encumbrances, title claim statutory dues (Customs and Excise Tax / Income Tax) before participating in the e-auction and any other government agency etc. All claims are being sold with all current and future encumbrances known or unknown. The Authorized Officer will not be liable for any claim rights and liabilities of any third / third party. **3.** It is the responsibility of the tenderers to inspect the property and satisfy itself completely before participating in the e-auction. You can contact the concerned branch of Bank of India for property inspection. **4.** Interested tenderers will be able to get their User ID and Password free of cost by registering on the web portal <https://www.ebkra.in> and EMD can be deposited through this portal. **5.** After registration in the web portal, the interested bidders should upload the following documents in the web portal before submitting the tender. **1.** Copy of PAN Card. **2.** ID Proof (KYC) like Self Attested Aadhar Card / Voter ID - Card / Driving License / Passport etc. **6.** Only tenderers having valid User ID, Password will be able to participate in the e-auction process. **7.** Only those interested bidders who have made EMD payment by 24.09.2024 within the stipulated time will be able to participate in the e-auction process. **8.** If the reserve price of the property is up to Rs. 50 lakh the incremental value bid will be in multiple of 25000 and if reserve price is above 50 lakh it will be Rs. 50000. **9.** The highest bidder shall be declared the successful bidder with the permission of the authorized officer. The information of which will be given - to him by electronic mode in his email address. **10.** The Authorized Officer will not be bound to accept the highest bid and the Authorized Officer will have the right to accept/reject any bid. **11.** EMD amount of successful bidder will remain in eBkray Wallet and all unsuccessful bidder's amount can be withdrawn from eBkray. No interest will be payable by eBkray on the EMD amount. **12.** The successful bidder will have to deposit 25% (including EMD amount) of the selling price (i.e. maximum bid amount) immediately. He has to deposit the remaining balance amount within 15 days. In case successful bidder failed to deposit bid amount in prescribe time the amount deposited will be forfeited without any prior notice. **13.** Bidders are advised to go through the detailed terms and condition at <https://www.ebkra.in> before submitting the tender. **14.** TDS tax will be payable by the successful bidder on the maximum sale price under Income Tax Act 1941 (A), if the selling price exceeds Rs. 50 lakhs or more and additional GST will be payable (wherever applicable) on the sale price as per Government regulation. **15.** The intending tenderer should have proper resources related to the bid, no objection will be accepted in this regard. **16.** Bids above reserve price will be accepted.

30 days sale notice to borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors

The above mentioned borrower / depositor / mortgagor is informed to pay the amount mentioned in section 13(2) before the date of auction. In case of failure to deposit the amount, the property will be auctioned and the balance amount along with interest and cost will be recovered from you or the borrower can also participate in the auction organized by the bank on the above date to recover the amount due in his account.

Date: 24.08.2024 Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer: Bank of India

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