**OPINION 6** 

**MESSI JOINS** 

12 SPORTS

**GROUP TRAINING** 

WITH INTER MIAMI

Late City Vol.160 Issue 233 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

# **HOW MEDIA SHAPES PUBLIC PERCEPTION**

**WORLD 9** HK COURT CONVICTS 2 JOURNALISTS

INDIA PLANS REPAIRABILITY INDEX FOR MOBILE, ELECTRONICS TO TACKLE E-WASTE

MONEY 10

**LUCKNOW, FRIDAY** AUGUST 30, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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## Jammu or Kashmir, India will not spare Pakistani terrorists



A security personnel keeps vigil during pre-dawn cordon and search operation after reports of suspicious movement, leading to an exchange of fire, in Rajouri district, on Thursday

**MOHIT KANDHARI** JAMMU

As electioneering gains momentum across different parts of Jammu and Kashmir in the run-up to the first round of polling on September 18, the terrorist handlers sitting across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan are hell-bent on disturbing the peaceful conduct of

Assembly polls, being held after a gap of 10 long years.

On Thursday, the troops of the Indian army eliminated at least three terrorists while they were

the frontier district of Kupwara. These terrorists were gunned down by the alert troops in two separate anti-infiltration operations along the line of control in the Machhal and Tangdhar sectors of Kupwara.

This is the second major incident involving terrorists after the announcement of the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir on August 16.

On August 19, a heavily armed group of Pakistani terrorists targeted an area domination

Group of Jammu Kashmir Police (JKP) in the remote Duddu Basantgarh area of Udhampur in which one Inspector-rank CRPF officer sacrificed his life in the line

of duty.

Official sources said troops deployed along the LoC in the anti-infiltration grid could pick up the movement of the terrorists and neutralised them before they could breach the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle system (AIOS).

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to create a conducive atmosphere three terrorists while they were attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory along the LoC in three terrorists while they were attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory along the LoC in three terrorists while they were patrol party comprising jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Special Operations additional companies of parafor holding of election. The

military forces to be deployed on ground zero to instill confidence among the voters.

During the recently held Lok Sabha polls the Union Territory witnessed over 58 per cent voter turnout across five Parliamentary constituencies. The Election Commission of India is aiming to further improve the voter percentage turnout during the Assembly polls.

In the Jammu region, security forces had also established initial contact with a group of foreign terrorists in the Kheri Mohra Lathi & Danthal areas under the jurisdiction of Budhal police station, Rajouri, past midnight. After a brief exchange of firing as the security forces rushed additional troops to cordon the area the terrorists, taking advantage of the inclement weather, may have fled the area. Residents in the area also claimed heavy firing in the Lathi area of Khwas around midnight.

In Srinagar, Chinar Corps while confirming the killing of two terrorists in the Machhal sector of Kupwara posted on X, "Two terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation in general area Machhal, Kupwara. Two AK-47 Rifles, one Pistol, four Hand Grenades, and other war-like stores were recovered". The troops were still carrying out the searches in the area to rule out the presence of more infiltrators.

**Continued on Page 8** 



### Delhi drowns, yet again

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Incessant rain since Wednesday midnight in Delhi and its neighbouring areas led to a complete collapse of city's drainage infrastructure causing severe waterlogging and traffic congestions in many parts of the national Capital.

There were reports of tree falling and power outages in several areas. According to reports from civic agencies, most of the low-lying areas and underpasses were inundated with rainwater. Visuals showed vehicles struggling to negotiate heavily waterlogged roads and pedestrians wading through ankle to knee-deep water on most roads, with underpasses almost completely submerged. There was also the risk of an overflow of sewers in many areas.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) received a total 34 calls regarding waterlogging and tree falling from different parts of the city in 12 hours till 6 pm. According to the India

Meteorological Department (IMD), the Safdarjung Observatory, the city's primary weather station, recorded 77 mm of rainfall bringing the total rainfall for the monsoon season to 825.5

This figure has already exceeded Delhi's annual average rainfall of 762.3 mm. According to Mahesh Palawat of Skymet Weather Services, Delhi's annual average rainfall is 762.3 mm and the city has already received 825.5 mm so far. August has seen unprecedented rainfall as the number of rainy days shot up to 25 which is the highest number of rainy days reported for the month in the last 13 years, according to IMD record from 2011 to 2024.

There were 22 rainy days reported in August 2012, which is the second-highest mark in this period. Moreover, the month received 378.5 mm of rainfall, the city's

highest in 12 years, according to the IMD, surpassing the previous high of 321.4 mm recorded in August 2013. Continued on Page 8

### **Gujarat flooded with** merciless rains

**PTI** ■ AHMEDABAD

The situation in rain-battered Gujarat improved slightly on Thursday as the rainfall activity subsided, but Vadodara and some other parts of the State are still reeling under a flood-like situation due to overflowing rivers while the authorities continue the rescue and relief operations.

Rain-related incidents have claimed the lives of 26 people in three days till Wednesday, the authorities said earlier. More than 18,000 people have been relocated and around 1,200 people rescued from flood-affected areas in the state. In some cases, choppers were used by the security forces to take people to safer locations, State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said in its latest update.

Vadodara, the worst-hit city due to recent downpour, heaved a sigh of relief as the water level of Vishwamitri river has come down from 37 feet to 32 feet in the morning. However, several low-lying areas are still inundated.

The river had crossed the danger mark of 25 feet on Tuesday morning following heavy rains and the release of water from Ajwa dam. In a post on X, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said, "Gujarat has been receiving incessant rains for the last three days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called me up today on the second straight day and inquired about the situation." Modi spoke to Patel for the second consecutive day and took stock of the situation.

He also asked the CM to ensure that proper steps are taken to prevent the

spread of diseases post floods.

Continued on Page 8

### **Me Too travels from Kerala to Tamil Nadu**

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The MeToo controversy rocking the Malayalam film industry is set to spread over to Tamil Nadu Reddy, popularly known as Vishal to fans, said on Thursday that the disclosures would start surfacing in the coming days. "This is not a phenomenon confined to Malavalam films alone. We have many skeletons in the cupboard which will tumble out soon," said Vishal in a brief interaction with media persons at Chennai. Vishal is the president of Tamil Film Producers Council.

Meanwhile, Siddique, veteran Malayalam actor who had to quit as general secretary of Association of Malayalam Movie Artists following allegations by some actresses that they were harassed by him, was in for a shock on Thursday as an young actress filed a complaint against him Thiruvaanthapuram with Police for rape and physical assault.

"The incident took place in 2016 after the preview show of a Malayalam film. After the show was over Siddique asked me to accompany him to Mascot Hotel owned by Kerala State Tourism Development Corporation where he sexually abused and

assaulted me," said the actress in her complaint.

The police inspected the hotel and reportedly found that the actress and Siddique had stayed in the hotel on the day she mentioned in the complaint. If proved correct, Siddique would imprisonment for seven years. Actor and the CPI(M) MLA Mukesh got a reprieve from the Ernakulam District and Sessions Judge who asked the cops not to arrest the actor till September 3.
Mukesh had approached the court on Thursday morning claiming that the allegations were baseless and have been made with ulterior motives. CPI(M)'s Kerala leadership announced that there was no need for Mukesh to resign as the MLA.

"This is a mere charge and it is

for the police and court to prove the authenticity of the allegation. There were many serious allegations of rape and assault against Congress party leaders in the past and none of them had resigned. Why you are singling out Mukesh?" asked E P Jayarajan, convener, Left Democratic Front and one of the CPI(M)'s top leaders in Kerala.

CPI(M) ideologue MA Baby with interests in Malayalam film industry supported Mukesh on Thursday and other artists involved in the

Marxist leadership pointed out that Congress MLA Eldhose Kunnappillil had raped a schoolteacher in the capital city and had gone underground for weeks to evade arrest.

**Continued on Page 8** 

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** KOLKATA The parents of the victim lady doctor of RG Kar Medical College Hospital rejected the claims of the

Kolkata Police that the portions of the seminar hall here the body of the said doctor was allegedly found in a semi-nude condition had been cordoned off and that the outsiders were not allowed to go near the place of occurrence. The lady doctor was allegedly

raped and murdered in the early hours of August 9.

"First of all we deny and reject the claim made by the Kolkata

Police that the place of occurrence had been safely cordoned off because when we reached the place we found no such cordon," said parents of the doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered in the night of August 8, adding, "not only we were kept waiting more than three hours before we could see the body of our daughter... but also when we reached there we were told by the staff at that hospital that authorities were inspecting the area before which we could not be let in."

The mother of the victim said, "They kept us, the parents of the only child who was dead,



Womens participate in a rally to protest against the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor, in Kolkata, on Thursday

vitiate the area leading to destruction of evidence... now

Kolkata horror gets murkier

waiting for three hours but we wonder what is left for the they allowed outsiders to CBI to find on the sport that could shed light on the crime."

The parents also referred to the

bed sheet that was used to victim's cover complaining how "the sheet was changed thrice." The mother of the victim

doctor said, "My daughter had a red chaadar with her... which was changed to blue and then these three kinds of sheets were on her on three occasions... is this not an example of destruction of evidence... if it is now then what is.'

Meanwhile the audio tape of the telephone call that went to the victim's family for the first time from the hospital on August nine went viral.

Continued on Page 8

### Adani outpaces Ambani in race to riches

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

 $B_{\text{with a net worth of } \text{\ref{1}1.6}}^{\text{illionaire Gautam Adani}}$ lakh crore is the richest Indian. He has elbowed out Mukesh Ambani to clinch the top spot in 2024, according to the Hurun India Rich list released on Thursday. Moreover, a new billionaire is being added every five days this year as compared to last year. Interestingly, 2024 had the best for those people whose zodiac sign is cancer, followed by Gemini and Leo. The number of billionaire in India has reached 334 this



year, rising by 29 per cent as compared to 2023. witnessed

Cancer astonishing 84 per cent increase in cumulative wealth. Gemini follows closely, with a notable 77 per cent increase in wealth. In third place is Leo, with a 68 per cent rise in cumulative wealth.

Similarly, Sagittarius, with a 64 per cent wealth increase, and Libra with 61 per cent are also among the top five. Capricorn saw a 58 per cent increase in cumulative wealth followed by Pisces with a 46 per cent increase. Aquarius and Virgo share the eighth spot, each with a 39 per cent increase in wealth. Aries, Scorpio, and Taurus occupy the final spots, with wealth increases of 34 per cent, 33 per cent, and 32 per cent, respectively.

Continued on Page 8

### **Another wolf on** the prowl in **Bahraich captured**

Operation Bhediya, a mission aimed at controlling a pack of wolves responsible for seven fatalities in the Mehsi tehsil of

After 45 days of terror affecting over 50 villages, the UP Forest department claimed to have captured the leader of the pack of wolves.

the leader of the pack.

With his capture, officials are

Sanjay Srivastava described the

"This male wolf was likely the primary attacker. Even after

pack of six wolves. Despite these captures, attacks persisted. The latest capture is significant, as it is the largest

wolf among them. The remaining wolves in the pack include smaller individuals, a female wolf, and a cub. The chief wildlife warden elaborated on the wolves' behav-

iour, noting that the pack's leader orchestrates their attacks. "Without a leader, the wolves will lack direction. The leader

decides the attack zones and

coordinates the group's move-

ments. They operate stealthily, often targeting children, blending into their surroundings to avoid detection," he added. Regarding the casualties, Srivastava noted there were seven victims, including six children aged 1-8 years from Makkapurwa, Nakwa, Kulela, Singia Nasirpur, Purebasti Gaderiya, and Diwanpurwa.

A 48-year-old woman was also suspected to be a victim, though doubts were raised about whether a wolf could have carried her away. The wolves typically target small animals like children,

aiming for the neck to avoid making noise when attacking. After killing their prey, they consume part of it and leave the remainder near their den, providing clues for tracking,

Continued on Page 8

## Nitish Kumar's dream for Jarasandh moves closer to reality

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

The Bihar Government's ambitious plan to construct a grand memorial for Jarasandh, a key figure from the Mahabharata and from the Mahabharata and the ancient king of Magadha with his capital at Girivraja also known as JP. Additionally, the project envisions the construction of (modern-day Rajgir) at lush green Rajgir wildlife sanctuary, has taken a significant step forward. wildlife Recently, the Central Wildlife panel, headed by Union Environment Minister Environment to realisation.

Situated in the protected area in Nalanda district, this project includes the by highlighting Bihar's rich

installation of an 18-foot tall statue of Jarasandha, various murals depicting his life and achievements, as well as tributes to great freedom fighter and socialist Lok Nayak Jayprakash Narayan an art gallery using prefabricated materials and the renovation of existing

park facilities.
The project is part of the Jay
Prakash Udyan Park situated within the sanctuary and Bhupendra Yadav, approved the project, bringing it closer expected to boost tourism expected to boost tourism given that it is around 100 km from the State capital



historical and mythological heritage. Because of the want of approval, many installed structures are in dilapidated condition. Given that the project falls

within the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, required extensive consideration for wildlife clearance. The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife,

which is the highest decision-making body of the Central Government for projects in protected sanctuaries and reserves, has now endorsed the proposal. This approval signifies that the project has met the necessary environmental and regulatory criteria, as confirmed by an official from the Union

Environment Ministry.
"The State Government had requested the diversion of approximately 1.8436 hectares of forest land within the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary for the installation of the statue and historic murals, alongside the construction of essential facilities such as toilets, a cafeteria, and an art

prefabricated structures," said the officials. The proposal has already received recommendations from the State Chief Wildlife

gallery

Warden, the State Board for Wildlife, and the State Government. According to the minutes of

the meeting of the NBWL, the Chief Wildlife Warden noted that the sanctuary was officially notified in 1978, with park development commencing prior to that and opening to the public in 1979. "The ongoing renovation and provision of basic amenities are crucial to maintaining and enhancing

the park for public use," said wolves' pug marks and had pre-Continued on Page 8 viously captured three out of a

### PNS LUCKNOW A Forest department team on Thursday captured a fully grown male wolf under

Bahraich district.

Chief Wildlife Warden and PCCF (Wildlife) Sanjay Srivastava stated that the wolf, estimated to be 6-8 years old, was the largest and presumably

hopeful that the attacks will decrease, though efforts to capture the remaining wolves will continue with equal determination.

captured wolf as the largest and strongest of the pack.

capture, its aggression was evident. The operation was carried out skillfully using local teams and drone technology. The wolf was first trapped in a net and then secured in a cage," he explained. The team had been tracking the

its Legal Aid Clinic

#### Cattle herder held for murder

Lucknow (PNS): With the arrest of a cattle herder in Banthra, police on Thursday claimed to have worked out the blind murder case. The victim, 85-year-old Balwant, was hacked to death in Banthra on Tuesday. The police are investigating whether more than one person was involved in the crime.

However, the accused, Ajay Yadav from Bhatgaon, report-edly confessed to his crime and said he was alone. According to the police, the murder was a crime of passion.

Ajay allegedly killed Balwant after the elderly man reprimanded him for grazing cattle in his field. Ajay had a history of grazing his cattle in Balwant's field, which the victim opposed. On August 27, Ajay went to Balwant's field again to graze his cattle. Balwant confronted Ajay and objected to his actions. In a fit of rage, Ajay used an axe and a stick that Balwant kept for his own defence to attack him. Ajay continued to assault Balwant until he was exhausted, and then fled the scene.



#### **NOTICE**

I have changed my name from DANISH AKHTER to DANISH AKHTAR. In future I Shall be known as DANISH AKHTAR. DANISH AKHTAR S/o Mobin Ahmad Kothi Nagreha Bari Urf Sarai Akil, Kaushambi, UP

#### **NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that the possession letter of my House no.- MM 4/100, Vinay Khand Gomti Nagar is actually lost whose use will be considered illegal Abida Haque w/o Ziaul Haque 529D/822 Subhash Nagar Kalyanpur vikas nagar Lucknow-226022

#### **NOTICE**

I am Umesh Kumar Jaiswal S/o Late Shri Shamsher Bahadur Jaiswal, R/o-27, Vashundhara Colony, Pakaria Naugawa, Pilibhit, UP. In my daughter Agrima Jaiswal's Class 10 marksheet my name is wrongly printed as Umesh Jaiswal, But my actual name is Umesh Kumar Jaiswal. Which is also mentioned in my Aadhar. Please correct it accordingly.

#### **NOTICE**

Be it known to all that I passed out ICSE Board class X uniquie Id No. 7187381 year 2020 & ICSE Board iquie Id No.7187381 class XII yea 2022 actualy has been lost. Saiyyad Sarvar Sultan S/o Saiyyad Akbar Alam. R/o Gautam Budh Nagar near primary School, Bansi, Bansi Siddharthnagar UP-272153

#### **NOTICE**

Be it known to all that earlier my name was Amirul Haq Siddiqui which has now been changed to Amirul Haq. Now I be known and recognized as Amirul Haq for all future purposes. Amirul Haq son of late Anwarul Haq resident of 639/346 Wasiyabad Nurullah Road Prayagraj

#### सूचना

मेरा HDFC बैंक का FDR NO-KP/2953252 दि॰ 21.01.19 जिसका A/CN.-0267010048097 है। रास्ते मे खो गई है. जिसका प्रयोग अवैध है। शिव मोहन लाल गुप्ता 67/116 कैनाल रोड दौलतगंज कानपुर।

#### **NOTICE**

I hereby declare that in my Passport my me is wrongly registered as SURESH CHANDRA and father's name is wrongly registered as BHAGRAM while in my Aadhar Card and Pan Card my name is registered as SURESH CHANDRA ARYA and father's name is BHAGWAT RAM which correct.Hence,from now in my all documents my correct name SURESH CHANDRA ARYA and father's correct name BHAGWAT RAM will be written and known. Suresh Chandra Arya S/O Bhagwat Ram R/O 319A,Kripa Bhawan,Vijay Laxmi Nagar,Near Punjabi Dharmshala,Arya Nagar-Sitapur (U.P.)

#### **NOTICE**

NOTICE Sri Shashank Dixit and Smt. Divya Shukla (Borrower) have agreed to create mortgage in respect of House No. 128/751 Block Y-1 Scheme No. II Kidwai Naga Kanpur Nagar admeasuring 247 sq. Yds With SMFG India Credit Company Limited, and the Original free hold deed 29/03/2011 executed by KDA in favour of Smt. Mishra which is registered in Book No. 1 at serial no. 3156 at the office of Sub Registrar Kanpur Nagar is lost, If any person having any claim against the said Property can contact to me, within 07 days Bharat Bhatnagar, Advocate Office Room No. 14 Second Floor Mudgal Adhivakta Bhawan Civil Court Kanpur Nagar Mob

## Hardware bizman hangs self | LDA to launch | RPNLUP inaugurates | anti-epidemic | Its Legal Aid Clinic

Ahardware businessman from Banthra allegedly ended his life by hanging himself in a room where loud music was playing, police said on Thursday. His wife found him hanging when she returned home, they added. According to reports, Sushil Rajput, who was a resident of Ambarpur in Banthra, ran a hardware shop in the nearby market.

His wife Pooja informed police that Sushil had returned home around 7 am on Wednesday after dropping their son Abhinav off at school.

Following this, Sushil asked Pooja to visit his elder brother Anil Rajput, who lives nearby. The couple then went to Anil's house.

We were all at Anil's house when Sushil suddenly left, saying he was going to the market to buy some goods," Pooja said. When Sushil did not return for an extended period, Pooja went home, expecting he would be there. She found the gate locked from the inside and heard loud music playing from a

room. After knocking on the door with no response, she peeped through the window and was shocked to see Sushil hanging

from the ceiling. Pooja cried out and alerted neighbours, who broke open the door, entered the room, and brought the body down. However, he was already dead.

The family then informed the police. Inspector, Banthra, Ram Singh said that the cause of the suicide was unclear. "Further action will be taken once the post-mortem report is received," he added.

Meanwhile, a property dealer allegedly ended his life at his residence in Mohanlalganj on Wednesday night, police said on Thursday.

The deceased, identified as Ajay Sharma of Bairisalpur Railway Station Road, was found hanging from the ceiling with a gamcha tied around his neck. His wife Deepika Sharma said that Ajay committed suicide on the night of August 28.

According to the investigation officer who arrived at the scene, Sharma had been living on rent with his family in Bairisalpur Station Road, Mohanlalganj, Lucknow for about a year. Sharma, who was involved in property dealing, had been struggling with financial difficulties related to his work. He reportedly used a white gamcha to fashion a noose and hung himself from a ceiling hook. The

police have sent the body for autopsy, and an investigation is ongoing.

#### RAJ BHAWAN STAFF MEMBER THREATENED

A dentist from Shahjahanpur has been accused of threatening a woman PCS officer over the phone and using intimi-dating language with a staff member at Raj Bhawan, police said on Thursday.
As per reports, the accused

had been staying at a hotel in Gomti Nagar for the past two days. DCP (East) Shashank Singh reported that the doctor obtained the woman's mobile number abruptly and had been harassing her with repeated calls, including during odd

The doctor was not previously acquainted with the victim. Preliminary investigations revealed that the dentist used the hotel's landline to threaten the woman officer.

On August 18, he allegedly threatened to have her imprisoned and boasted about his connections with judicial officials. This was confirmed by CCTV footage from the hotel. According to the Gomti Nagar police, the dentist has been issued a challan for breach of peace. The woman officer chose not

to file a formal complaint

against the doctor, citing personal reservations. The police did not provide details on the motive behind the threats. The inspector from Gomti

Nagar did not respond to calls made to his CUG mobile number for further informa-

The exact reason for the threat remains unclear. The woman officer and the dentist do not know each other," the DCP said.

The police are investigating the data on the dentist's mobile phone. Further investigation revealed that the dentist had also called a landline at Raj Bhawan on Wednesday, using threatening language with the person who answered.

After this call, the police began tracking his mobile number and discovered that he had made threats from various phones, including both mobile and landline numbers.

Sources close to the investigation revealed that the dentist frequently asked passersby for their mobile phones to make threat calls.

He also admitted to using the hotel's landline for these calls. During police interrogation, the doctor confessed to making random calls and stated that he obtained the woman officer's number through another source.

# campaign

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has announced a new initiative to tackle water-borne diseases across its housing schemes, apartments, and commercial establishments. The anti-epidemic campaign, which kicks off this week, is part of a national effort to curb the spread of epidemics, particular-ly during the peak of the rainy season.

Vice-Chairman LDA Prathmesh Kumar emphasised the urgency of the campaign, noting that epidemics spread rapidly in peak seasons. "Prevention and precaution

are crucial for ensuring safety during this period," Kumar said.

The LDA has collaborated with the medical directorate to implement the campaign effectively. As part of the initiative, the development authority has procured two specialised machines from a private machines from a private agency to target mosquito eradication, a key concern during the rainy season due to the diseases they transmit. Kumar highlighted the need for immediate repairs to prevent water stagnation, which can lead to unsanitary conditions and increase the risk of

#### PNS PRAYAGRAJ

Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj (RPNLUP) inaugurated its Legal Aid Clinic and a threeday Para-Legal Volunteer (PLV) training programme on Thursday. Justice Arun Bhansali, Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Patron-in-Chief of the Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (UPSLSA), and Chancellor of RPNLUP, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, senior judge of the Allahabad High Court and Executive Chairman of UPSLSA, was the guest of honour. The event also saw the participation of the member secretary of the State Legal Services Authority and other legal professionals.

Vice-Chancellor of RPNLUP, Prof Usha Tandon welcomed the guests and gave the opening remarks. She emphasised the university's commitment to legal aid and community service, noting the importance of legal aid clinics

and PLVs in enhancing students' education and practical

In his keynote address, Justice Arun Bhansali high-lighted the role of legal aid clinics and para-legal volunteers in improving access to justice for disadvantaged groups. He stressed that legal aid is both a constitutional and moral responsibility and encouraged students to support those in

Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta spoke about socio-legal iustice and the role of PLVs in achieving this goal.

He urged students to

engage in this work, understanding that legal education should include awareness of socio-economic realities.

The PLV training programme, running from August 30 to September 1, will feature sessions by legal experts on legal procedures, practices, and client counselling. Participants will also visit field locations to understand the challenges faced by underprivileged communities and the operation of legal aid services.

### EASSIFIEDS duped of ₹45 lakh

**NOTICE** 

I have changed my name from Sarah Megha Sharma is the same person.In future known me as Megha Sharma W/o Adnan Baig R/o 228/138,Raja Bazar, Chowk, Lucknow-226003

#### **NOTICE**

have changed my name from GULZAR ALI BEG To GULZAR ALI BEIG S/o Qamar Ali Beg R/o 90/208,Phool Wali Gali, Anwar Ganj

#### NOTICE

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM KULVINDER KAUR NAGIA TO KULVINDER KAUR KULVINDER KAUR JAGJEET SINGH R/O 122/176, SANT NAGAR KANPUR NAGAR

#### **NOTICE**

It is informed that the original allotsion certificate of my H. No. 77 C Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar, Unnao actually somewhere.Manju Gupta W/O Vinod Kumar GuptaAddress- H. No. 77 C Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar Unnao

#### **NOTICE**

Mobile no.- 9415747257

My Pass Certificate of Class XII, Sheiling House School, Kanpur, ISC Board, year 2002 Index no. B/8754/077 and SRL No. 27826 is actually Lost. Misuse of the same should be avoided. Chetan Tandon S/o Shri Ashwani Kumar Tandon R/o 8/23, Arya Nagar, Kanpur.

#### सूचना

वास्तविक नाम प्रमिला मिश्र है. जो मेरे आधार कार्ड एवं शैक्षिक दस्तावेजों में अंकित है. जो सत्य व सही है। त्रुटिवश मेरी पुत्री अदिति मिश्रा (नाबालिग) के जन्म प्रमाण पत्र में मेरा पुकारू नाम रानी मिश्र अंकित हो गया है जो कि गलत है प्रमिला मिश्र एवं रानी मिश्र दोनों नाम एक ही महिला अर्थात् मेरे ही हैं। प्रमिला मिश्र पत्नी श्री एस०के० मिश्र, निवासिनी–565क / 135, कानपुर रोड, केनरा बैंक के पास, अमरूदहीबाग, सिंगार नगर, आलमबाग, लखनऊ

#### **AUCTION- NOTICE**

दिनांक 07-09-2024 मध्यान्ह 12:00 बजे उ-प्र- कोआपरेटिव बैंक लि. ,मुख्यालय–2,महात्मा गाँधी मार्ग, ु लखनऊ में निष्प्रयोज्य वाहनो:– यू.पी. 32-डी.के.-2736,यू.पी.32-डी. डब्लू-9109,यू.पी-34-डब्लू-8077 (अम्बेसंडर कारों) की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु.5,000 / -- नगद प्रति वाहन हेतु ,फर्म के जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण के साथ<sup>ँ</sup> जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। आई.पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स

#### **AUCTION- NOTICE**

दिनांक 05-०9-2024 मध्यान्ह 12:00 बजे कार्यालय उ० प्र० राज्य एवं आवश्यक वस्तु निगम, खाद्य 548 / 122, देवपुर-पारा, राजाजीपुरम, लखनऊ में निष्प्रयोज्य घोषित सामग्रियों आदि की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु. 5,000 / - नगद, फर्म के जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण, पैनकार्ड के साथ जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। आई.पी.सिंह एण्ड सन्स.

# **Doc 'digitally arrested',** Rod which pierced through

PNS LUCKNOW

Fraudsters duped a city doctor of Rs 48 lakh by placing him under "digital arrest" and intimidating him with threats of police action related to alleged Hawala transactions and drug trafficking in Vikas Nagar. According to the doctor's com-

plaint, he received a call from an unknown number while on his way home on August 20. The caller claimed that the doctor's Aadhaar card and mobile number had been used in a Hawala transaction and for sending a prohibited MDMA drug parcel. Around 6:35 pm on August 20, as I was returning from my clinic to my home in Aliganj, I received a call from an unknown number and the caller introduced himself as a staff member of FedEx Service, Andheri East, Mumbai. He informed me that my Aadhaar and mobile number were used in a courier shipment to Iran under the name Arman Ali. This shipment reportedly contained four expired passports, one laptop one pendrive, four credit cards, 420 grams of MDMA, and three kilograms of toys," the victim recounted.

The caller further stated that FedEx had filed a written complaint with the Mumbai police and instructed the doctor to file

an FIR. "After a 45-minute conversation, the caller said he would connect me to the Bombay Crime

Branch via Skype to discuss the FIR. I was also told that multiple bank accounts had been opened using my Aadhaar number and mobile number, with transactions worth crores of rupees being conducted through Hawala," the victim said.

The fraudster explained that cross-checking the victim's bank accounts was necessary.

They claimed that money would be sent to suspicious bank accounts through the RBI to help catch the culprits, thus attempting to gain the victim's trust. "I also spoke with the socalled Narcotics DC of the Mumbai Crime Branch and the Mumbai Narcotics Branch through Skype. They misled, intimidated, and threatened me, saying that the CBI and ED were also involved. They instructed me to check my bank balance for any illegal or unaccounted money and to refund any incorrect funds. They assured me that the unaccounted money would be verified by the RBI and the Finance Ministry before my money was returned," the victin stated. The fraudsters threatened that if the victim did not transfer the money to the specified account, his life could be in danger. They instructed him to remain confined in his home for a day and a half without contacting family, friends, or relatives, during which they would verify his claims. After transferring Rs 48 lakh, the victim realised he had been scammed.

## boy's hand removed

PNS LUCKNOW

A complex surgery was performed on a 12-year-old boy at RMLIMS on Thursday.

The patient, Vikas, a resident of Amrapali Crossing, had sustained severe injuries while attempting to snatch a kite. He lost his balance and fell onto an iron gate, causing a sharp, pointed rod to break and penetrate his right hand, passing through his palm. The boy was rushed to the emergency care unit at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS), where a team, including Prof Vikas Singh and Dr Rudramani, admitted him and prepared for surgery.
Upon investigation, it was determined that the injuries were seri-

ous and posed a risk of significant damage to the hand. Under the leadership of Prof Anurag Agarwal, the medical team administered anesthesia and performed the operation. The surgical team, which included Prof Vikas Singh, Dr Harendra Pankaj, and Dr Payal Chaudhary, worked for 2.5 hours to remove the rod. Their efforts not only removed the foreign object but also prevented further damage to the patient's hand. Post-operation, the patient's condition is reported to be stable.

#### DBS SURGERY FOR PARKINSON'S

Apollo Medics Super Speciality Hospital has achieved a significant milestone in private healthcare by performing the state's first 'deep brain stimulation' (DBS) surgery at a private facility. The surgery involved implanting a pacemaker-like device in the brain of a 70-year-old woman suffering from advanced Parkinson's disease. Dr Sunil Singh, a neurosurgeon at Apollo Medics, said that the patient had experienced severe symptoms despite nine years of medication, which led to substantial side effects and a drastic decline in her quality of life.

Prior to the surgery, she had lost the ability to walk, hold objects, or stand without assistance, becoming entirely dependent on others. The DBS procedure, a cutting-edge treatment used internationally but newly introduced in the state's private sector, involves drilling two small holes in the back of the head to insert electrodes into the brain.

These electrodes are connected to a battery-powered device that helps regulate abnormal brain activity associated with Parkinson's disease. According to Dr Singh, DBS is a sophisticated technique that not only reduces symptoms significantly but also lowers the need for medication by about 90%, thereby minimising drug-related side effects.

### THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE) (CIN: L74899DL1956G0I002674)

#### Expression of Interest (EOI) for **Empanelment of Insurance Brokers**

The STC of India Ltd. invites EOIs from interested company / agency / firm / sole proprietor for empanelment of insurance broker on Pan-India basis. For detailed information may visit STC website : www.stclimited.co.in (http://www.stclimited.co.in/ advertisement-notification).

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

PICICI Bank
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli
Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390 007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex Mumbai 400051
GOLD E-AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE ntioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments. ("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an E-Auction of pledged gold ornaments on Sep 09, 2024 as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account /change the E-Auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online- https://gold.samil.in between 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.

	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name		
	Branch Name: Singrauli			
	352905000789	Rahul Sharma		
Date : 30.08.2024 Place : Deoria		Authori For ICICI E		

PUBLICATION DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226 007 DRC No. 200 of 2023 NOTICE UNDER RULE -2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 29 OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993

HDFC BANK LTD, Vs. CERTIFICATE HOLDER BANK M/S VIL LIMITED THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR & JUDGEMENT DEBTOR 1. M/S VIL Limited Through its Director R/O B-5/21, Vishal Khan, Gomti Nagar, Luckno

Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three And Thirteen Paisa Only) together with pendentlif and future interest @7.50% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing of the Original Application i.e. 28.01,2016 with cost jointly & severally till its realization and severally in the DRC No. 200 of 2023, is due on you as per order dated passed by Hon'ble

This is to notify that a sum of Rs. 59,11,963.13 /- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Eleve

Tribunal in O.A. No. 175 of 2016 HDFC Bank Limited Versus M/s VIL Limited Through Its 2. You are hereby directed to pay the aforementioned amount within a period of 15 days from receipt of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the

Recovery of Debts And Bankruptcy Act, 1993. You are hereby ordered to declare on affidavit the particulars of asset on or before

06.11.2024at 10:30 AM. You are hereby ordered to appear before the under signed on 06.11.2024 at 10:30 AM. In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay the following cost:

Detail of Cost Rs. 67,000 Application Fee: NIL NIL Advocate Fee:

Publication charges Miscellaneou Expenses

226010 Uttar Pradesh

Given under my hand and the Seal on this 30th DAY OF July .. 2024 RECOVERY OFFICER II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL LUCKNOW



dated:- 27.08.2024 **RE-E-Bid Notice** 

E-Bids are invited from experience contractor/Agency for

The detailed NIT complete with bid document shall be available for downloading on e-tender portal: https://etender.up.nic.in from 30.08.2024, 9:00 AM to 13.09.2024 up to 5:00 PM. The e-bids (Technical bid & Price bid) can be submitted online in the above e-tender site till 13.09.2024 up to 5:00 PM and the same shall be opened on 14.09.2024 at 11:30 AM. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all E-Bids or annul the bidding process

#### facilities and ensure comprehensive care for serious diseases He highlighted the availability of advanced diagnostic tools at KGMU, including PET scans and SPECT CT, crucial for

E-Bid Ref No: 1245/RMLIMS/M/2024

ARC of Endotoxin test of RO Water in Dialysis Unit in the Institute. E-bid by the advertisement no.- 951/RMLIMS/ M/2024 dated 20.07.2024 has been cancelled. Therefore, those who have already submitted their offers against advertisement no.- 951/RMLIMS/M/2024 dated 20.07.2024 are also required to submit again their fresh offer with earlier proof of deposit of EMD, as they are not required to deposit EMD again, but they are required to deposit tender document cost. New bidders are required to deposit EMD and tender document cost both. All bidders are required to give EMD and tender document cost detail in the technical bid.

without assigning any reason thereof. Director

## the pioneer

#### **NOTICE**

My name is wrongly mentioned as Shweta Garg in my son's school (City Montessorri School, Lucknow) records. My correct name is Rekha Agrawal D/o Vishambhar Dayal Agarwal W/o Mridul Garg R/o T-307, Satluj Apartment, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow. I also confirm that Rekha Agrawal & Shweta Garg both are my names

#### **NOTICE**

That my old address was Plot No. 1. Adil Nagar, Near Tubule Wali Masjid, Kursi Road, Lucknow-226022. But now I am currently Residing at- Flat No. 202, Sunshine Apartment, Second Floor, 34 Ravindra Garden, Sector -E. Aligani, Lucknow - 226024 Asif Ali S/o Mahmood Ali R/o- Flat No. 202, Sunshine Apartment, Second Floor, 34 Ravindra Garden, Sector -E, Aliganj, Lucknow -226024

#### **Important Notice**

The original Sale Deed dated 09.06.201 Registered with Office of Sub Registra Sitapur on 09.06.2011 at Book No.1 Volume No. 3867, Pages from 21 to 70 a Serial No. 3633 & Original Sale Deed dated 30.03.2012 Registered with Office of Sub Registrar Sitapur on 30.03.2012 a Book No. "I, Volume No. 4175, Page from 387 to 430 at Serial No.1880. The aid documents have fallen on 17.08.2024, information about which hasbeen egistered in Police Station Kotwali Nagar Sitapur on GD/SD/DD No. 015 o 26.08.2024 as Lost Property Registration Number 0042/2024. The present owner of the property mentioned in the said documents is Naveen Agarwal Son of Rampati Agarwal.

### Love everything about Lko: Anubhav Sinha

SHARMILA KRISHNA LUCKNOW

Bollywood director Anubha Sinha, alongside actor Vijav Verma, visited Lucknow for the promotion of his latest web series 'IC 814 Kandahar Hijack'. The series is based on the real-life hijacking incident of Indian Airlines Flight IC 814 in December 1999. Sinha, who has previously filmed five movies in Lucknow, expressed his deep

affection for the city. "I love everything about Lucknow—the food, the people, the tea, the city's rich history, and its monuments," he said. He added, "Today, I ordered Raheem's nihari, a dish I relish and wanted Vijay to try as well. There are at least 20 hidden eateries in this city where I've enjoyed meals." 'Twenty-four years ago, I left television due to its direction.

but the medium has evolved significantly. I was approached to direct this series, which was inspired by the Captain's account, 'Flight into Fear'. Although the basic idea wasn't mine, I found the initial account compelling and decided to add more depth through extensive research and rewriting," he explained.

When asked about the accura-

cy of the series, Sinha stated

that while the episodes adhere

to key facts, there is some con-

jecture and fictionalisation

between the historical mile-



the hijacking, Sinha mentioned he did not meet her. "She prefers not to revisit the painful memories. Instead of recreating characters, I drew inspiration from real individuals," he noted.

Sinha also spoke about the production challenges, including the unavailability of the actual Airbus used in the hijacking. "The plane was no longer in service, and similar aircraft near Delhi had been repurposed as restaurants," he

Actor Vijay Verma, who portrays Captain Devi Sharan, shared insights from his preparation for the role. "I had a detailed script and

met the Captain, who briefed me on the cockpit events and his emotional journey. He shared how he maintained hope and led his passengers while dealing with the hijackers, even showing me the scar on his neck from threats," Verma revealed. The series explores the intricate and dramatic events surrounding the hijacking, with Sinha emphasising his focus on storytelling rather than political critiques.

#### health services Lucknow (PNS): Health Minister Braiesh Pathak said on Thursday that health services in Uttar Pradesh are undergoing significant advancements. Speaking at the first Foundation Day celebration

Pathak highlights

of KGMU's nuclear medicine

department, Pathak, who is

also the Deputy CM of Uttar

Pradesh, emphasised that

efforts are underway to

enhance modern treatment

at the medical university.

accurate cancer diagnosis.

He assured that the govern-

ment is committed to increas-

ing resources and eliminating

budgetary constraints to sup-

We are gathering resources for

modern treatment and working

towards eliminating any finan-

cial hurdles. There will be no

shortage of funds," Pathak stat-

ed. "We are investing in state-

of-the-art equipment and

improving medical education systems. The government is

fully supportive, and any new

proposals from KGMU will be

approved promptly to enhance

Pathak also revealed plans to

introduce 'Gamma Knife' tech-

nology in the state, which will

The budget process for this

addition is already underway,

patient care," he added.

be installed at RMLIMS.

he noted.

port patient care.

improvement in

## Yogi targets SP's laal topi, kaale karnaamein

### Initiates development projects worth ₹750 crore in Kanpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, while hitting out at the misdeeds of the previous Samajwadi Party government, said that Uttar Pradesh's identity had transformed from lawless to a development model since 2017.

Addressing the people at a Rozgar Mela held at Government Inter College, Lal Imli Chauraha in Chunniganj on Thursday, the chief minister said the misdeeds of the SP were widely known. "Their history, if examined closely, is filled with 'kaale kaarnamein' (dark deeds).'Samajwadi Party ki topi laal, lekin kaarnamein kaale hain," he remarked.

"These people are repeating history. Hooliganism, anarchy and endangering the safety of daughters and traders have been their hallmarks. Their public image is a facade, hiding their true nature. It is because of them that the people of Sisamau are now facing by-elections," the chief minister

Prior to this, the chief minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for development projects valued at Rs 750 crore. He also distributed appointment letters to over a thousand youths, loans totaling Rs 191 crore to 5,027 beneficiaries, and tablets and smartphones to 8,087 youths. Additionally, the chief minister expressed gratitude for the victories of Ramesh Awasthi from Kanpur and Devendra Singh 'Bhole' from Akbarpur in the Lok Sabha elections.

Criticising the SP, Chief Minister Yogi stated, "SP members grab the property of the poor and incite riots. On the day when the former President (Ram Nath Kovind), a son of this soil, visited Kanpur, the SP MLA from Sisamau was plotting to ignite riots in Sisamau and Kanpur. Now, he is facing the consequences for his actions. The people gave a five-year mandate but they are now confronted with by-elections. The SP never misses an opportunity to foment anarchy." Chief Minister Yogi commented that in Ayodhya, an SP leader raped a 'Nishad daugh-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing the gathering during the inauguration and foundation stone laying programme of various development projects and loan distribution to the beneficiaries of various public welfare schemes in Kanpur on Thursday.

ter', yet instead of addressing the issue, the SP chief shamelessly supported the perpetrator. He also highlighted an incident in Lucknow where SP goons attempted to push a daughter off her bike while she was riding with her father through rain-filled streets.

"At that time, one of their leaders suggested in the House that a 'Sadbhavna' (goodwill) train should run. I responded that for mafia and goons, a Bullet train, not Sadbhavna, will run," he said.

Chief Minister Yogi stated that the double-engine government in Uttar Pradesh has established a model of security, good governance and develop-ment. He urged people to look forward to a bright future with renewed aspirations, reflecting the ongoing efforts of the dou-ble-engine government in the

"Before 2017, Uttar Pradesh was struggling with an identi-ty crisis, marked by anarchy and hooliganism. Riots were common during festivals, and

both daughters and traders were unsafe. The state was unattractive to investors, and vouth were leaving in search of better opportunities. In response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, the public elected the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2017. Over the past seven and a half years, the state has made significant progress. Today, Uttar Pradesh sets the standard for development, good governance, and law and order," Chief Minister Yogi said. The chief minister noted that Lal Imli, which had once been a symbol of Kanpur, was shut down due to Congress' corruption. "A company, which should have provided jobs and employment for the youth, supporting the livelihoods of thousands of families, stands today as a monument of Congress' corruption," he stated. He added: "Our government is committed to revitalising Lal Imli with a significant

revival package. We have

expanded efforts to include the

revival of the entire land and

sick units as part of this initia-

Highlighting that six and a half lakh youths have secured government jobs in the past seven and a half years without the need for recommendations or bribes, Chief Minister Yogi stated, "Our government directly incarcerates those who jeopardise the future of our vouth. We are impounding their illegal properties and redistributing it among the poor. The youth need employ-

Chief Minister Yogi also praised Satish Mahana, a son of Kanpur and the Speaker of the UP Legislative Assembly, for his exceptional work as the industrial development minister from 2017 to 2022. He commended Mahana's efforts in aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision to develop Kanpur as a defence manufacturing hub. "In November 2017, I emphasised the need for industrial investment. Initially, our target was Rs 20,000 crore, but thanks to

the robust law and order situation, the UP Global Investors Summit attracted investment proposals worth Rs 40 lakh

crore," he added. Chief Minister announced that within two vears, two lakh youths will be provided government jobs. The recruitment process for over 60,200 police positions is underway, with written exams being conducted over five days under tight security. "Those who attempt to disrupt this process will face life imprisonment, a fine of one crore rupees, and confiscation of property. Additionally, within two years, one lakh youths will be recruited into the UP Police, with 20 per cent of these positions reserved for women, ensuring that daughters can combat the hooliganism of those associated with the SP on the streets," he said.

He also mentioned that over one crore youths will be provided jobs through various investment proposals. Additionally, 50 lakh youths ment schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Swarojgar Yojana, Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana, One District, One Product scheme, PM SVANidhi, PM Vishwakarma Mukhyamantri Vishwakarma Shram Samman

Yojana, he added. Chief Minister Yogi stated that Kanpur is progressing towards resolving its traffic conges-tion issues and has evolved into a metro city. Previously, sew-erage from Sisamau was discharged into the Ganga, but now, whether in Sisamau or Jaimau, Kanpur is becoming integral to maintaining the Ganga's uninterrupted flow, he added.

He said that the most senior minister in the government had been appointed to oversee Kanpur's development. Chief Minister Yogi empha-sised that the BJP government

is advancing employment generation by establishing new enterprises across the state. The green field expressway between Lucknow and Kanpur is expected to boost develop-ment, while the Ganga Expressway will link Meerut to Prayagraj via Kanpur and Lucknow. The Defence Manufacturing Corridor is poised to be a cornerstone of this development, he added. "While the BJP is setting a standard for development, good governance, and securitv. the SP and Congress must be stopped for their involvement in hooliganism, anarchy and threats to businesses and women's safety," Chief Minister Yogi said. UP ministers Suresh Khanna, Rakesh Sachan, Nitin Agarwal, Ajit Singh Pal, Pratibha Shukla, MP Ramesh Awasthi, Devendra Singh 'Bhole', Mayor Pramila Pandey, zila panchayat chairperson Swapnil Varun, MLA Surendra Maithani, Saroj Kuril, Mahesh Trivedi, Neelima Katiyar, Abhijeet Singh Sanga, Rahul Bachcha Sonkar, MLCs Salil Vishnoi, Arun Pathak, Manvendra Singh Chauhan, Avinash Singh Chauhan, BJP regional president Prakash Pal, district president Deepu Pandey and other were present in the programme.

### UP leads country with over 9.46 cr PMJDY accounts

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, an ambitious financial inclusion initiative launched by the Central government, completed 10 years on Wednesday, with Uttar Pradesh emerging as the leading state with over 9.46 crore Ian Dhan accounts — 18 per cent of the more than 53 crore opened across the country during this period.

A notable achievement in UP is the significant participation of women, with approximately five crore of these accounts belonging to female account holders. The state also leads in the distribution of RuPay cards through the Jan Dhan accounts. The success of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in UP is a testament to the Yogi Adityanath government's commitment to prioritising and effectively implementing Central schemes.

Over the past decade, UP has made remarkable strides in financial inclusion by prioritising the opening of Jan Dhan accounts for the poor. As of August 21, 2024, the state has successfully opened 9,46,62,464 Jan Dhan accounts. The majority of these accounts, 6,81,66,123, have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas, while 2,64,96,341 accounts have been opened through urban and metro bank branch-

The total deposits in Jan Dhan accounts across the state have reached an impressive Rs 48,525.75 crore, representing over 21 per cent of the national total. Following UP, Bihar ranks second with 6,06,80,517

accounts, and other states like West Bengal (5,18,88,115), Madhya Pradesh (4,38,81,099), Rajasthan (3,57,41,553), Maharashtra (3,54,81,136), and Odisha (2,19,54,863) also contribute significantly to the success of the Jan Dhan Yoiana.

UP not only leads in the number of accounts but also in the distribution of RuPay cards, with 6,24,23,540 cardholders, the highest in the country. In the financial year 2023-24 alone, the state opened around 65 lakh new Pradhan Mantri Ian Dhan accounts, with Aadhaar seeding completed for more than 91 per cent of

Launched as a national mission, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has transformed financial inclusion in India over the past decade. The scheme ensures that every family has access to essential banking services, including at least one basic banking account, financial literacy, loans, insurance and pension facilities. Beneficiaries are also provided with a RuPay debit card, which comes with an accident insurance cover of ₹1 lakh. One of the most significant aspects of PMJDY is the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mechanism, which channels all financial benefits from the government — be it from the Centre, state or local bodies directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries.

This system has ensured that beneficiaries receive 100 per cent of the financial aid intended for them, thereby minimising leakages and effectively curbing corruption.

### 2 kids killed in accident

PNS LUCKNOW

Tn a tragic accident, two children were killed and their parents were injured when a tractor-trailer hit their motorcycle near Gadarian Purwa village on the Gonda-Huzurpur road.

As per reports, Alok alias Pinku Singh of Badrauli village in Fakharpur, Bahraich, along with his wife Suman Singh and their children Shivansh Singh aged three, and one-and-a-half-year-old daughter Aradhya, was going to visit his father-in-laws in Kashipur village under Karnail Ganj police station.

Near Barakhandi Nath temple in Gadarian Purwa village, a tractor-trailer hit their motorcycle, injuring all the four. The local residents rushed the injured to a hospital by a 3rickshaw where both children were pronounced dead. Alok and Suman were referred

to the Gonda medical college hospital. The local police have registered a case.

### Ayodhya to have Mumbai-style 'Chowpatty' at Ram ki Paidi

PNS AYODHYA

Following the establishment of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's ambitious vision for development of the city is rapidly unfolding.
Major infrastructural and

tourism projects are being expedited, with the latest focus on setting up a Chowpatty akin to Mumbai's famous Juhu Chowpatty.

Forty-five per cent of the construction work of the Chowpatty has already been completed and it is set to of Lord Ram, Ayodhya has open ahead of Deepotsav in witnessed a dramatic surge in

Ayodhya at Ram Ki Paidi the number of devotees, with along the banks of the river lakhs of people visiting the city Saravu.

The Uttar Pradesh Housing Department approved the Ayodhya Development Authority's proposal, allocating Rs 4.65 crore for the project. The Chowpatty is envisioned as a grand space where tourists and locals alike will relish a variety of hygienically prepared dishes while enjoying the scenic beauty of the riverbank.

lakhs of people visiting the city daily. In response, the Yogi government is tirelessly working to enhance affordable facilities for pilgrims, including developing a dedicated food court inspired by Mumbai's

Chowpatty.
The project will feature 84 shops and restaurants offering local Ayodhya delicacies and a variety of other dishes. The designated Chowpatty area will be beautified, with strict measures in place to maintain cleanliness, including the installation of dustbins to keep the area litter-free. Plans include constructing both seating platforms for visitors to relax by the river Sarayu and modern-design carts for food vendors. A parking facility will also be available to accommodate the influx of tourists. According to ADA Secretary Satyendra Singh, 45 per cent of Chowpatty's construction has been completed and it is expected to be ready for visitors before Deepotsav. Once finished, the grand food court at Ram Ki Paidi will offer a serene and enjoyable space for locals and tourists to gather and savour the beauty of

### **Govt set to hold mega e-auction for** industrial and commercial plots

cant move to enhance industrial and business activities in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government is set to organise a mega e-auction for industrial and commercial plots in September. This initiative, aligned with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of transforming UP into a thriving economic hub, will be spearheaded by the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). The eauction process will involve the allotment of industrial plots in 15 districts and commercial plots in eight districts. The deadline for submission of

application has been set for September 4, with the mega eauction scheduled for September 13 through an online platform. The districts involved in the commercial plot allot-ment process include Amethi, Bareilly, Barabanki, Jalaun, Moradabad, Mathura and Prayagraj. Industrial plots will be auctioned in districts such as Amethi, Amroha, Banda, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalaun, Kanpur Dehat, Mathura, Mainpuri, Muzaffarnagar, Sambhal, Shahjahanpur, Unnao, Saharanpur and Varanasi. Notably, a total of 107 industrial and commercial plots will be made available for auction in

this mega e-auction event. A diverse range of industrial and commercial plots is up for auction, with sizes varying from 145 square metres to 19,769.48 square metres.

The smallest plot, located in the Kosi Kotvan IIDC Industrial Area in Mathura, spans 145 square metres and has a reserve price of Rs 5.11 lakh. On the other end of the spectrum, a large plot in Trans Ganga City, Unnao, covering 19,769.48 square metres, has a reserve price set at Rs 44.91 crore. This mega e-auction aims to facilitate the development of various facilities, including general industrial plots, commercial complexes, shops, premises use,

boosting industrial and commercial growth in UP. UPSIDA is actively promoting and executing various development projects in industrial areas across the state. As part of these initiatives, CCTV installation and annual maintenance work are underway in key locations. UPSIDA is set to begin the construction of roads, drains, culverts and cycle tracks in Trans Ganga City, Unnao, Under the Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission 3.0, UPSIDA is also fast-tracking projects such as the establishment of a 33/11 kV power feeder line and a 33/11 (1x10 MVA) substation in the TDS City industrial area of Ghaziabad.

#### Priyanka questions UP's new social media policy

PNS LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi has Craised concerns over the new social media policy implemented by the Uttar Pradesh government, questioning its implications for free speech and transparency.
In a post on social media platform X (formerly

Twitter), Priyanka Gandhi criticised the policy, suggesting it is a means to suppress truth and stifle dissent.



Priyanka remarked, "If you say day is night, then it is night, otherwise jail," criticising the policy for potentially categorising dissenting voices and criticisms as offenses. She specifically questioned how the policy would address issues such as the voices of women seeking justice and allegations related to the

69,000 teachers recruitment reservation scam. She further questioned whether exposing the flaws of the Bharatiya Janata Party government by its own leaders and legislators would fall under the policy's restrictions, suggesting that the new policy is another way to suppress truth. Priyanka Gandhi accused the BJP of undermining democracy and the Constitution.

The UP government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, recently approved a new social media policy. The policy aims to create new job opportunities and take strict action against elements spreading misinformation on social media. It includes provisions for advertising arrangements for digital media agencies and firms and claims to offer employment opportunities for social media influencers.

#### Grant for prosthetic limbs, assistive devices hiked for Divyangjans

PNS LUCKNOW

In a significant move to support the Divyangjans, the Yogi Adityanath government has increased the financial grant for prosthetic limbs and assistive devices from Rs 10,000 to Rs

This hike in the grant amount will enable the distribution of costlier and more effective prosthetic limbs and assistive devices to individuals with disabilities across the state.

Previously, the financial grant for these devices was capped at Rs 10,000. The Yogi government has revised this rule, raising the grant to Rs 15,000 to better meet the needs of the Divyangjans. Minister of State for Backward Classes Welfare and PwD Empowerment (Independent Charge) Narendra Kashyap said, "With the welfare of disabled individuals in mind, the Yogi government is dedicated to ensuring they receive the full benefits of all relevant schemes. As part of this commitment, we have amended the rules for providing grants for prosthetic limbs and assistive

devices.

new amendment, the maximum financial grant for prosthetic limbs and assistive devices has been increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per beneficiary. This adjustment will allow for the distribution of more expensive equipment to those in need.

Kashyap further noted that if the cost of the required equipment exceeds the new grant limit of Rs 15,000, the department will cover up to Rs 15,000, while the beneficiary will be responsible for any additional costs. He further elaborated that con-

sidering the needs of the Divyangjan, it is essential to allow for the provision of multi-ple necessary devices within the maximum grant limit of Rs 15,000 under the Artificial Limbs and Assistive Devices Scheme. This adjustment will ensure that Divyangjan can receive all the required assistive devices and prosthetic limbs simultaneously.

Additionally, for Divyangjan with multiple disabilities or

those requiring more than one assistive device, a financial grant of up to Rs 15,000 will be approved at one time. This amendment will take effect from He explained that, under the the current financial year 2024-25.

#### CPI to oppose sale of govt-run hotels in UP Lucknow (PNS): Terming the

move of the Bharatiya Janata Party governments to sell government properties as a step to increase people's hardship, Communist Party of India national secretary Dr Giris said the party would strongly oppose the sale of government hotels by the Uttar Pradesh government.

On August 30, we will launch a state-wide agitation to revive roadways in Madhya Pradesh. We will also raise the UP issue of selling of government hotels," he said.

He further said the CPI would also oppose the plan of the Central government to sell the shares of public undertak-

ings. Dr Girish said the move to sell public properties, which were obtained with tireless efforts after Independence, to capitalists at very low prices would increase the difficulties of the people, rob their money and was contrary to the spirit of socialism.

He said the Bharatiya Janata Party-led governments were ahead of the capitalist form of governments which had no

qualms in selling government properties openly. Only yesterday, the Uttar

Pradesh government has taken the decision to sell government hotels to private companies while the Central government has come up with a plan to sell shares of more than a dozen public sector undertakings to capitalists. The BJP government of Madhya Pradesh has privatised the roadways in the past few years and has forced the common man to stand on the

roads," the CPI leader said. "These hotels were built by the government after independence with the objective of developing tourism in the state and providing cheap and good facilities to the travellers. But in recent decades, the governments ruling the state have made them unprofitable with the intent of selling them to private parties," he pointed

out. He said even today these hotels had valuable land and they provided facilities at reasonable rates and were less expensive and better than pri-

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

(Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION Summons to defendant under Section 19 (4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and financial Institution Act, 1993, read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rule, 1993 )

Original Application No.445/2024 **BANK OF INDIA** 

Date: 20-08-2024 .....APPLICANT

MR. AMARJEET MISHRA & OTHERS

...DEFENDANTS 1. Mr. Amarjeet Mishra, S/o Yadunath Mishra

Malesemau, Lucknow-226010, Uttar Pradesh, Mob:-8573885000 2. Mr. Sarvjeet Mishra S/o Yadunath Mishra

Add: House No. 124, Geetapuri Colony, Gomti Nagar Extension,

Add: House No. 207/7, Awadhpuri, Khand- 2, Khargapur, Gomtinagar Vistar, Malesemau, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226010

3. Mr. Awaneendra Kumar Dubey S/o Girish Kumar Dubey Add: 3/174, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow- 226010, Uttar ..DEFENDANTS

In the above noted Application, you are required to file reply / evidence in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 06.09.2024 at 10.30 AM failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. **REGISTRAR** 

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL** LUCKNOW

## Ganga's rising trend in Varanasi worries people in low-lying areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 $T^{\text{he anxiety of the people living in the low-lying areas,}}$ especially on both sides of Varuna river, has increased once again, as the water level of Ganga river here continued to rise for the second consecutiver day on Thursday. This is the fifth time in this rainy season when such a rising trend is being seen. Just a few weeks ago when the Ganga was close to the warning level of 70.262 metres many localities in Varuna river sides like Saraiyya and Salarpur faced flood, forcing the residents to shift in relief camps. As the Ganga crosses the 69 metres mark, the Varuna starts reverse flow from its confluence point near Adi Keshav Ghat in the northern parts of the city.

As per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC) at 8 am the Ganga was recorded at 67.82 metres and continued to rise with a speed of 30 mm per hour and during the last 24 hours, the water level increased by 1.1 metres, rising from 66.72 metres to 67.82 metres. Besides, the river was recorded rising right from upstream Phaphamau to downstream Ballia, including Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur. In the city Ganga water already entered the famous Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dasaswamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged in the water. Dozens of low-lying temples located at internationally famous 84-odd ghats have either been fully or partially submerged in water. The people are finding it difficult to consign the bodies to the



The rising water level of Ganga in Varanasi on Thursday.

### Water level of twin rivers rising

The water level of the twin Trivers — Ganga and Yamuna has started rising once again in Prayagraj. Both rivers are currently in spate. When the water level of the Ganga reached 79.67 metres on Wednesday night, the water level of Yamuna reached 80.42 meters. The Yamuna increased

Manikarnika and

Harishchandra. However, the

residents of several villages of

Daab areas surrounded by

Ganga and Gomti rivers heaved

a sign of relief as the water level

of Gomti was recorded steady

at upstream Jaunpur. The flood situation in down-

Ganga increased by 10 cm in four hours in Chhatnag. It may be pointed out here that the water level of Ganga and Yamuna had increased very fast a few days ago. Even the water of the rivers had reached the Lete Hanuman temple located on the Bundhwa. But after two days, the water level had

water level of both rivers has started increasing. Due to the rise in the water cern of people has increased

now for the last four days the

level in the rivers, the cononce again. Those living in dozens of areas, including Salori, Chhota Baghada, Govindpur, Beli Kachar and Daraganj, are worried.

flames at two cremation ghats stream UP-Bihar border district of Purvanchal (eastern UP) Ballia may turn grim again as the water level was already above the warning level and close to the danger mark again. The Ganga is flowing in Ballia at 57.52 metres against danger mark of 57.615 metres in the morning and it is expected to

reach 58.05 metres by Friday morning. Recently it had crossed the red mark. In downstream Ghazipur the river was recorded at 60.94 metres against the warning level of 62.10 metres while at upstream Mirzapur it was at 73.28 metres against the warning level of 76.724 metres.

### Robbery worked out

Prayagraj (PNS): With the arrest of a robber, the Bahria police of Prayagraj in collaboration with SOG Surveillance Cell Ganganagar team claimed to have worked out the robbery took place in Bahria. Police have recovered Rs 50160 cash, bike and phone of robbery from him. DCP Ganga Nagar Abhishek Bharti while talking to journalists here on Thursday said Anoop Kumar Patel alias Raja son of Surendra Patel of Buapur Nasarpur village under Mauaima police station has been arrested near the canal culvert located in Bahria Sarai Madan. Anoop's two aides were also involved in the robbery. They are being searched. during investigation, three crooks were seen in the CCTV footages.

On August 26, three mobikeborne miscreants in Prayagraj looted Rs 54,000 from the collection agent of a company at gun point. The crooks escaped on the bike, threatening to shoot him. After the incident, the police reached the spot on getting information given by the agent. The case belonged to Bahria area of Gangapar.

When the police scrutinised the CCTV cameras installed nearby, they found the footages in which the miscreants were seen running away from the bike. Ajay Kumar Bind who hails from Mirzapur, is a collection agent in a finance company in Pratapgarh.The agent does the cash collection in Raniganj, Pratapgarh. He goes from village to village to collect money. On Monday evening, he reached Bahria area for collection. Ajay collected money from the traders in Karanipur area and reached Saari Patti area with money. In the meantime, miscreants reached there on a white bike near the canal and looted the money at gun point from the agent and escaped after threatening him.

### Varanasi div first in health ranking dashboard of UP

Varanasi division has secured the first position in the state in the health ranking dashboard of Uttar Pradesh. In the recently released monthly ranking dashboard, the division has scored 71 percent marks. Three districts of the division, namely Varanasi, Chandauli and Jaunpur are among the best 12 while Ghazipur is at 33rd place. In this health ranking dashboard, Saharanpur division stood second while Moradabad, Chitrakoot and Aligarh divisions were ranked third, fourth and fifth respec-

Additional Director (Medical Health and Family Welfare Department), Varanasi Division, Dr Manjula Singh said that recently the ranking of all 18 divisions and 75 districts has been displayed in the Health Ranking Dashboard of UP (July 2024), in which Varanasi division is at the first place. In this, Varanasi district is at the first place in the entire state with 78 percent. While Chandauli is at the sixth place with 71 percent, Jaunpur is at with 71 percent, Jampur is at the 12th place with 69 percent and Ghazipur is at the 33rd place with 64 percent. The achievement of Varanasi division so far in this financial year is 60 percent while the achieve-



AD(Health) Dr Manjula Singh inspecting a health centre in Varanasi recently.

ment of July month is 71 percent. The achievement of the state so far this year is 54 while the achievement of July month is 63 per cent, she informed. She said that quality medical and health services of maternal-child health and family welfare programmes are being provided at all the government and combined hospitals, community and primary health centres, Áyushman Árogya Mandirs (Health and Wellness Centres) and health sub-centres of the division. For this, necessary guidelines are being given to all medical officers, doctors, health workers and ASHA workers. In view of the Kayakalp Karyakram and NQAS certification, all hospitals, health centres and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are being continuously inspected and evaluated, she added.

Divisional Manager of National Health Mission (NHM) Brijesh Mishra said that in the indicator of monthly ranking, the division has performed better than the state in four or more antenatal checkups (ANC), cesarean deliveries at CHCs, still birth ratio, permanent family planning services and complete vaccination. Efforts are being made to improve home based newborn care (HBNC), cesarean deliveries at hospitals, institutional deliveries, penta third dose in comparison to BCG at the time of birth, TB notification. He informed that services related to delivery and antenatal checkups are being strengthened at all 29 First Referral Units (FRUs) of the division. There are 10 FRUs in Varanasi, 6 in Chandauli, 6 in Jaunpur

### Cyclist falls into pit, dies

**Prayagraj (PNS):** A cyclist died after falling into a pit near the sugar mill warehouse in Yamunanagar Naini police station late on Wednesday night. It is learnt that the cyclist Ganesh Shivji Soni (45), who was going from Leprosy Square towards Naini railway station. Due to darkness around 11.30 pm cyclist Ganesh fell into the pit along with the bicycle. The

falling. After some time, when a local youth noticed him, he immediately informed the police. The Dial 112 team reached the spot and pulled the man out of the pit, but by then he had died. His bicycle, tiffin and Rs 16,500 were also found in his pocket at the spot.

people around did not see him

The police identified the cyclist as Ganesh Shivji Soni, a resi-

dent of Chheoki village, through the mobile phone found with the deceased. The police sent the body to the postmortem house after the family members arrived. The family members said that he was returning from work in the city. Inspector Naini Vaibhav Singh said that the body has been sent to the postmortem

### **Civil Defence volunteers honoured**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Eight employees working in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) and associated with the Civil Defence Organisation India. The Civil Defence volun-

were honoured with the teers are trained to deal with Director General Civil Defence immediate emergency situa-

Award-2023 by the Ministry of tions, protect the public and Home Affairs, Government of restore important services and

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Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex Mumbai 400051 GOLD E-AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments.("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an E-Auction of pledged gold ornaments on Sep 09, 2024 as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account /change\_the E-Auction\_date\_without\_any\_prior\_natice. Auction\_will\_be\_held\_online\_https://jewel-auction.procuretiger.com

chunge the E-Auc	tion date without any	prior notice. Auction	repay the dues. ICIC on will be held onlin
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320805002015 320805001427 320805001427 320805000921 320805000535 Branch N 191705001992 066405003536 066405003536 066405003052 066405003562 081005003321 Branch Name: Naga 754605000190 Branch Name:	Mishra Prashant Kumar Mishra Mukesh Sahani Govind Singh Shashikant Tiwari Jitendra Kumar Sankar Anil Kumar ame: Dadri Amit Bhati me: Deoria Ayush Raj Srivastav Jallauddin Ahmad Sarfuddin Shah Waliullah Ansari iame: Etah Ravi Kumar Sharat * Ghaziabad - Raj r Extin Rajiv Kumar Rajiv Kumar Gunjan Ghaziabad, H.A.S.	320605002667 320605001750 320605001791 320605001708 320605001516 Branch Nam 230605002116 Branch Nam 752005000888 752005000653 Branch Name Kan 24405000865 Branch Nam 24405000865 Branch Nam 081805005693 081805005693 0818050054227	Pravin Kumar Rao Vivekanand Na Ramsagar Ramsagar Irran Ahmad Upendra Nishad Upendra Nishad Akhtar Ansari Mohit Kumar Ise: Khalilabad Nilam Maddheshiya Ise: Maharajganj Arpit Patel Surynarayan Patel Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav Raj Narayan Anil Kumar Upadhyay Pramad Kumar Jaiswal
320805002015 320805001427 320805001427 320805000921 320805000935 Branch N 191705001992 Branch N 66405003542 066405003542 066405003052 066405003895 Branch N 81005003562 081005003321 Branch Name: Nagg 754605000190	Mishra Prashant Kumar Mishra Mukesh Sahani Govind Singh Shashikant Tiwari Jitendra Kumar Sonkar Anil Kumar ame: Dadri Amit Bhati ame: Deoria Ayush Raj Srivastav Jallauddin Ahmad Sarfuddin Shah Waliullah Ansari lame: Etah Rayi Kumar Isharat * Ghaziabad - Raj r Extn Rajiv Kumar Gunjan Shaziabad,H.A.S. Sandhya	320605002667 320605001750 320605001791 320605001708 320605001516 Branch Name 230605002116 Branch Name 752005000888 752005000653 Branch Name Kan 244405000665 Branch Na 081805005729 081805005427	Pravin Kumar Rao Vivekanand Na Ramsogar Ramsogar Irfan Ahmad Upendra Nishad Akhtar Ansari Mohit Kumar e: Khalilabad Nilam Madheshiya e: Maharajganj Arpit Patel Surynarayan Patel Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav Raj Narayan Anil Kumar Upadhyay Pramod Kumar Jaiswal Nilam Devi
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320805002015 320805001427 320805001427 320805000921 3208050009535 Branch N 191705001992 Branch Nc 066405003552 066405003552 0664050031562 081005003561 Branch Name: Nagg 754605000190 Branch Name: 6 695605601477	Mishra Prashant Kumar Mishra Mukesh Sahani Govind Singh Shashikant Tiwari Jitendra Kumar Sonkar Anil Kumar arme: Dadri Amit Bhati ame: Deoria Ayush Raj Srivastav Jallauddin Ahmad Sarfuddin Shah Waliullah Ansari ame: Etah Ravi Kumar Isharat * Ghaziabad,H.A.S. Sandhya Sandhya	320605002667 320605001750 320605001791 320605001708 320605001708 320605001516 Branch Name 752005000683 752005000653 Branch Name 244405000865 Branch Name 081805005729 081805005693 081805004227 081805004227 081805001403 Branch Name	Pravin Kumar Raso Vivekanand Na Ramsogar Ramsogar Irfan Ahmad Upendra Nishad Akhtar Ansari Mohit Kumar e: Khalilabad Nilom Madhheshiya e: Maharajganj Arpit Patel Surynarayan Patel Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav Raj Narayan Anii Kumar Upadhyay Pramod Kumar Jaiswal Nilom Devi Pramond Kumar Pilaswal Piramond Kumar Jubey Pramond Kumar Jubey Pramond Kumar
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320805002015 320805001427 320805001427 320805000921 320805000921 320805000392 Branch N 191705001992 066405003542 066405003542 066405003562 081005003321 Branch Name: Nags 754605000190 Branch Name: 695605601477 Branch Name: Choudt 125605003157 Branch Nam Choudt	Mishra Prashant Kumar Mishra Mukesh Sahani Govind Singh Shashikant Tiwari Jitendra Kumar Sonkar Anil Kumar ame: Dadri Amit Bhati ame: Deoria Ayush Raj Srivastav Jallauddin Ahmad Sarfuddin Shah Waliullah Ansari ame: Etah Ravi Kumar Isharat * Ghaziabad - Raj ar Extn Rajir Kumar Gunjan Ghaziabad,H.A.S. Sandhya e: Ghaziabad- araymare Asif Ali e: Ghaziabad- araymare	320605002667 320605001750 320605001791 320605001798 320605001708 320605001516 Branch Nam 752005000683 752005000683 Branch Name 752005000683 Branch Name 244405000865 Branch Name 24405000865 Branch Name 24805005093 081805005093 081805004227 081805004227 081805004227 0818050010403 Branch Name 259005001004 Branch Name 259005001004 Branch Name 157505002147	Pravin Kumar Rao Vivekanand Na Ramsagar Ramsagar Ramsagar Irfan Ahmad Upendra Nishad Akhtar Ansari Mohit Kumar Ise: Khalilabad Milam Maddheshiya Ise: Maharajganj Arpit Patel Surynarayan Patel Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana me: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav Raj Narayan Anil Kumar Upadhyay Pramad Kumar Jujaswal Nilam Devi Pramand Kumar Dubey Ikamsadin Ikamarudin
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	Branch Name: Gorakhpur- Mayabazar		174205001763	Dheeraj Kumar Dwiwedi		
1	157305002102		Branch Nor	ne: Powayan		
1	157305002086 Srijan Khare		321305002231 Devesh Kumar			
1	Branch Name: Gorakhpur-		Branch Name: Rudrapur - Deoria			
1		ollege Rd	319505002600	Pawan Kumar		
1	191905001965	Akhilsh Kumar Dubey	319505002574	Yadav Mukesh Shukla		
1	191905001960	Sandeep Kumar	3195050025/4	Rudra Prtap		
1		Avadhesh Mishra		Singh		
1	Branch Name: Greater Noida -		319505002541	Sona *		
1		or 16	319505002523	Imran Ahmad		
1	723705000551 Greater Noida -	Srikant Nayak Sector Tech Zone	319505002520	Shailendra		
1	Greater Noida -	Sector Fech Zone	319505002008	Sharma Vishal Yadav		
1	414605001413	Jitendra Kumar				
1	Branch Name:	Greater Noida -	019105009125	Branch Name: Saharanpur 019105009125 Pooja Saini		
-	Sect	or-01	Branch Name: Saharanpur-			
1	723805000535	Reena . Greater Noida -	Ambala Road			
1	Sector	or-16b	192305002423	Paras Mani		
1	723605000543		192305002334	Nandani Vats		
1	723605000541	Srikant Nayak	320105001089	ne: Sahjanwa Ashvani Kumar		
1		Greater Noida-	320105001089	Rudra Singh		
1	348805003430	ma 1 Mahesh Kumar	320105001063	Jayhind Jayhind		
	348805003430	Saraswat	320105000862	Sandeep Singh		
1	348805002873	Pramod Mramod	320105001073	Praveen Kumar		
1	348805001044	Pankaj Kumar	- CANDA - CAND	Maurya		
- 1	348805001619	Devendra Kumar	320105001062	Nilam Singh		
- [		Sharma		e: Saiyadraja		
1	Branch Na	me: Kasganj	090505003731	Pravesh Yadav		
1	198405001430		090505003700	Jalauddin		
1		ame: Kasia		Jalauddin		
	320605003507	Jai Prakash Yadav	090505003204	Pankaj Kumar Singh		
	320605003437	Pravin Kumar	Branch Name			
1		Rao	090805005167	Ritesh Kumar Kanaujiya		
- 1	320605002667	Vivekanand Na	090805005151	Sandeep		
1	320605002661	Ramsagar Ramsagar	090809009191	Kushwaha		
1	320605001750	Irfan Ahmad	090805005018	Ankur Mishra		
1	320605001791	Upendra Nishad	090805004981	Anupam		
- 1	320605001708	Akhtar Ansari		Kanaujiya		
. 1	320605001516	Mohit Kumar	090805004589	Nitin Kumar Rathaur		
1		e: Khalilabad	090805004581	Arvind Kumar		
1	230605002116	Nilam	030003004301	Mishra		
-		Maddheshiya	Branch No	me: Tundla		
1	752005000888	: Maharajganj	320005001044	Zakir Hussain		
1	752005000888		320005000804	Anii Kumar		
1	752005000653	Surynarayan				
- 1	Branch Name:	Patel		me: Bhabua		
- 1			255805002607	me: Bhabua Hoshila Tiwari		
	Kan	Mahiuddin Pur awni	255805002607 Branch Nam	me: Bhabua Hoshila Tiwari ne: Dhaligaon		
1	Kan 244405000865	Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana	255805002607	me: Bhabua Hoshila Tiwari ne: Dhaligaon Pushpa		
	Kan 244405000865 Branch Nar	Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur	255805002607 Branch Nam 217205000343	me: Bhabua Hoshila Tiwari ne: Dhaligaon Pushpa Kushwaha		
	Kan 244405000865 Branch Nar 081805005729	Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav	255805002607 Branch Nam 217205000343 Branch Name: H	me: Bhabua Hoshila Tiwari ne: Dhaligaon Pushpa Kushwaha aridwar - Shivalik		
	244405000865 Branch Nar 081805005729 081805005693	Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav Raj Narayan	255805002607 Branch Nam 217205000343 Branch Name: H	me: Bhabua Hoshila Tiwari ne: Dhaligaon Pushpa Kushwaha aridwar - Shivalik gar		
	Kan 244405000865 Branch Nar 081805005729	Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav Raj Narayan Anii Kumar	255805002607 Branch Nam 217205000343 Branch Name: H No 245905001813	me: Bhabua Hoshila Tiwari ne: Dhaligaon Pushpa Kushwaha aridwar - Shivalik ngar Tejpal Singh		
	Kan 244405000865 Branch Nar 081805005729 081805005693 081805004457	Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav Raj Narayan Anii Kumar Upadhyay	255805002607 Branch Nam 217205000343 Branch Name: H No 245905001813 Branch Na	me: Bhabua  Hoshila Tiwari ne: Dhaligaon  Pushpa Kushwaha aridwar - Shivalik ngar  Tejpal Singh me: Kashipur		
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	Kan 244405000865 Branch Nar 081805005729 081805005693 081805004457	Mahiuddin Pur awni Ashutosh Rana ne: Mirzapur Khushbu Yadav Raj Narayan Anii Kumar Upadhyay Pramad Kumar Jaiswal	255805002607 Branch Nam 217205000343 Branch Name: H No 245905001813 Branch Nar 090905003433 Branch Nar	me: Bhabua  Hoshila Tiwari ne: Dhaligaon  Pushpa Kushwaha aridwar - Shivalik ngar  Tejpal Singh me: Kashipur		
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facilities destroyed or damaged by disaster. Their aim is to save lives, reduce loss of property, maintain continuity of production and keep the morale of the people high. Eight BLW Civil Defence volunteers who have been honoured are Santosh Kumar, S Gururajan, SK Srivastava, Sudhir Kumar Dubey, Dinesh Dhar Dubey, Suresh Kumar, Pradeep Kumar Tiwari and Sanjay Kumar Rawat. They were awarded with the Director General, Civil Defence Award - 2023 by the Executive Director (Civil Engineering / G) Railway Board in the award distribution ceremony organised at the Ministry of Railways, New Delhi, for their significant contribution from time to time in excellent rescue, firefighting and social work in the Civil Defence Organisation. Controller, Civil Defence Organisation and Deputy General Manager of BLW Anuj Katiyar congratulated and wished the awarded employees.

### **UPCC** chief meets bereaved families

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) president Ajay Rai on Thursday visited various villages here to know the pain and suffering of the bereaved families. He said that some sad incidents happened here recently when he was not in the city but he was not able to meet the families of the victims. During his visit, he reached Rakhuna village and met the eldest son of late Umesh Patel, a contract electricity worker who died in a tragic incident.

Rai also met Surendra Patel of Parsapur village and expressed his sympathy with the bereaved person whose eldest son Raju, wife Neelam and daughter died in a road accident

He, along with party leaders, consoled the bereaved family members and paid his tribute to the departed souls. In the same sequence, Rai also visited the ancestral residence of former gram prad-han Ajit Singh of Rakhuna village, who has been seriously ill for the last few days and Acharya Pankaj, a famous litterateur of Ramsinghpur village of

Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Limite



UPCC chief Aiav Rai meeting a bereaved family in Varanasi on

Harhua and enquired about their health and prayed for early recovery. The state Congress president was accompanied by district president Rajeshwar Singh Patel, Rajiv Gautam, Anand Singh Rinku, Rajiv Ram, Anupam Singh Shimbu, Dharmendra Singh, Shaibu, Dubey, Chakravarti Patel, Brijesh Jaisal, Shahbaz Alam, Akhtar, Anil Pandey, Santosh Kumar Maurya, Ashish Patel etc.

### Man found dead under mysterious circumstances

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

man was found dead under Amysterious circumstances in front of an under-construction house in New Azad Nagar under Sen Pashchimpara police area on Thursday morning. The building contractor said was a labourer the decease and engaged in construction work in the house. After consuming liquor, he fell in front of the house and died. Police and forensic team rushed to the spot and carried out investigations. Bacchilal (45) of Fatehpur was a labourer and lived with his sonin-law Vipin in New Azad Nagar under Sen Pashchimpara police station. He was engaged in the construction work in the house of Shiv Bahadur Singh under the contractor Om Prakash of New Azad Nagar. Late on Wednesday evening, he had gone to take Rs 1,000 from the contractor Om Prakash where he consumed liquor with him and slept there. On Thursday morning, he again consumed liquor and returned home. Immediately after proceeding from there, he fell in front of the under construction house and died after some time. Om Prakash informed his son-in-

law Vipin about his excessive consumption of liquor and deteriorating condition. SO Gautam Singh said he had recovered Rs.1000 from the pocket of the deceased. On the basis of complaint and autopsy report, further action will be initiated in the matter, he said. Meanwhile a woman was killed while her husband seriously injured when a speeding loader hit their bike near Rampur on Rura-Banipara road in Kanpur Dehat late Wednesday night. Police sent the injured to hospital and body for autopsy. Police launched raids to nail the absconding loader driver. The condition of Sunita (35), wife of Amit Sharma of Jajmuiya village had suddenly started deteriorating on Wednesday night. When he was going to Banipara with wife for her treatment on bike, the milk loader hit the couple from behind near Rampur village. After the incident, Sunita was dragged with the loader up to some distance which led to her killing on the spot. Thereafter, the uncontrolled loader fell into a roadside pit. Police sent the injured Amit to community health centre (CHC) Rura and the body, for autopsy. Sub-

Inspector of Rura police station Rakesh Singh said raids are on to arrest the loader driver.

#### INT'L CONFERENCE

Noted sugar technologist and former director, (NSI) Prof Narendra Mohan, has been invited to address the sugar industry personnel from South East Asia during International Conference 'SUG-ARCON-2024' being organised in the QuyNhon city of Vietnam from September 15 to 19. An invitation has been sent by Dr Tran Thanh Son, Organising Secretary requesting Prof Mohan to address the delegates and provide guidance for making the sugar industry of South East Asia sustainable through diversification, Prof Mohan will address on "South East Asian Sugar Industry-Strategies for Sustainable Future" discussing therein various models of production of sugar and other value -dded products from the byproducts and waste from the sugar industry. He will also share his experiences gained while transforming the Indian sugar industry into a hub of green energy with the delegates from about 20 countries participating in the conference.

### National Sports Day celebrated

#### Fit India fitness pledge taken PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The LIC is celebrating National Sports Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey kegend Major Dhyan Chand from The LIC is celebrating August 26 to 31.

During this period various offices of the Corporation will conduct indoor/outdoor sports activity during any one day to encourage employees to involve fitness activities in daily walks of life. In the spirit of celebration, all employees of the Corporation took part in the Fit India Fitness Pledge on Thursday. In Mumbai on Thursday. In Mumbai the LIC will organise Fit India Walkathon on August 31 and celebrate the value of living a physically active and healthy lifestyle.



National Sports Day being inaugurated at KV IIT Kanpur on Thursday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The National Sports Day 📘 was celebrated at Kendriya Vidyalaya, IIT Kanpur, with full enthusiasm on Thursday. It was organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, known as

'The Wizard' of hockey.

The programme began with the lamp lighting ceremony by Vice-Principal Amita Singh, along with teachers and students, Aaradhya, Tanisha and Aditya Shukla of class VI.

Contribute to nation building. The programme was anchored by Poonam Singh.

Various games and sports were conducted under the guidance of Vandana Singh Rathore, Sakshi Mishra, Ravi Maurya and Manish Yadav. Yoga was also demonstrated in which the message of staying fit was given. CCA coordinator Priyanka Tewari conducted the pledge ceremony. The vice- principal motivated everyone to stav fit as only healthy citizens can



## PM Modi to lay stone for ₹76,000 cr Vadhvan Port in M'rashtra today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Drime Minister Narendra Pinne Willister Walenda Modi on Friday will lay the foundation stone of Vadhvan Port worth over Rs 76,000 crore during his visit to Maharashtra. It aims to establish a world-class maritime gateway that will boost the country's trade and economic growth by catering to large container vessels, offering deeper drafts, and accommodating ultra-large cargo ships. Giving details of his visit,

Prime Minister's Office Equipped with state-of-thesaid here on Thursday, Prime Minister

Fest (GFF) 2024 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. Thereafter, Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various development projects at CIDCO ground, Palghar. He will lay the foundation stone of Vadhvan Port. Located near Dahanu town in Palghar district, the port will be one of India's largest deepwater ports and will provide direct connectivity to international shipping routes, reducing transit times and

technology infrastructure, the port will Modi will visit Mumbai and feature deep berths, efficient cargo handling facilities, and will address Global Fintech modern port management



adhering

global trade hub.

systems. The port is expected focus generate significant employment opportunities, stimulate local businesses, and contribute to the overall economic development of the region.

The Vadhvan Port project incorporates sustainable development practices, with a

minimizing on environmental impact and stringent to ecological standards. Once operational, the port will enhance India's maritime

connectivity and further strengthen its position as a Prime Minister Modi will also

foundation stone of 218 fisheries projects worth around Rs 1,560 crores, aimed at bolstering the sector's infrastructure and productivity across the nation. These initiatives are expected to generate more than five lakh employment opportunities in the fisheries sector.

Prime Minister will launch the National Roll Out of Vessel Communication and Support system at a cost of around Rs. 360 crores. Under this project, 1 lakh transponders will be installed in a phased manner on mechanised and motorised fishing vessels in 13 coastal States and Union Territories.

The vessel communication and high-quality inputs to and support system is enhance fish production, and support system is indigenous technology developed by ISRO, which will help in establishing two-way communication while fishermen are at sea and also help in rescue operations as well as ensure safety of our fishermen. Other initiatives to be

inaugurated by the Prime include Minister development of fishing harbours and Integrated Aquaparks, alongside the adoption of advanced technologies such as the Recirculatory Aquaculture System and Biofloc. These projects will be implemented across multiple States and will provide crucial infrastructure

post-harvest improve management, and create sustainable livelihoods for millions involved in the fisheries sector.

Prime Minister will also lay

the foundation stone for important infrastructure projects including upgradation development, and modernisation of fishing harbours, fish landing centres and construction of fish markets. This is expected to provide necessary facilities and hygienic conditions for post-harvest management of fish and seafood.

Prime Minister will address a Special Session of Global jointly organised by the Payments Council of India, the National Payments Corporation of India and the Fintech Convergence Council.

Around speakers, including policymakers. regulators, senior bankers, industry captains, and academicians, from India and various other countries will address more than 350 sessions in the conference. It will also showcase the latest innovations of the fintech landscape. Over 20 thought leadership reports and white papers will be launched at GFF 2024, offering insights, and in-depth industry

### Centre to unveil simplified pension form for its retiring staff: Official

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he Centre will unveil a new}}_{\text{simplified pension appli-}}$ cation form for its retiring employees on Friday, according to an official statement. The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) had vide its notification dated July 16, 2024 released the simplified pension application Form 6-A", it said.

"This form will be available in Bhavishya/e-HRMS (online modules) to all the central Government employees who are going to retire in December 2024 and onwards. The retiring officials, who are on e-HRMS, will fill Form 6-A through e-HRMS (only superannuation cases) and the retiring officials, who are not on e-HRMS, will fill Form 6-A in Bhavishya," the statement issued by the Ministry on Personnel Thursday said.

According to the statement, this new form and its integration with Bhavishya/e-HRMS will be launched on August 30, 2024 by Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh. Form simplification has been an important initiative of the "maximum governance-minimum



forms/formats have been merged, the statement said. This new form and related changes in the business process of Bhavishya will be a game changer as on the one hand it simplifies the pension form submission for the employee through "a single sign only" and on the other hand achieves the end-to-end digitisation of the entire process of pension processing till the start of pension payment after retirement, it added. "This paves the path towards paperless working in the whole process of pension," the statement said. It added that with a pensioner-friendly user interface, pensioners no longer need to worry about the forms they have filled out or might have missed.

Ina related development, the Centre has organised a preretirement counselling (PRC) workshop for its employees to make them aware of retirement benefits, family pension, Income Tax rules and submission of digital life Government" policy, it said. certificates among others, In this new form, a total of 9 according to an official

More than 750 retirees, who are going to retire up to March 31, 2025, benefitted hugely from this pre-retirement counselling (PRC) workshop held here on Wednesday, it said.

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) will continue to hold such workshops as part of good governance to ensure smooth and comfortable transition for the Central Government retirees, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

The department is taking all efforts to keep them updated of the Government initiatives being taken so that they can avail all the benefits post retirement, it said.

"During the 55th preretirement counselling (PRC) workshop, various sessions on BHAVISHYA portal, integrated pensioners portal, retirement benefits, family pension, CGHS process, Income Tax rules, ANUBHAV, digital life certificate, investment modes and Opportunities etc. Were conducted," the statement said. All these sessions have been curated to make the retirees aware of the process to be followed and forms to be filled pre-retirement and to provide information about the benefits available to them post-retirement, it added.

### Health screening, checkup programme by Ayush Ministry soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

 $T^{he\,Union\,Ayush\,Ministry\,is}_{\,\,mulling\,\,to\,\,soon\,\,launch\,\,a}_{\,\,nationwide\,\,health\,\,screening}$ and checkup programme to detect diseases at an early stage and help maintain people's well-being, said Union Minister of State for AYUSH Pratap Rao Jadhav on Thursday at the three-day 7th International Health and Wellness Expo launched here.

He also emphasised the importance of medicinal plants and announced the Government's goal to raise awareness about their benefits and encourage widespread plantation to make India selfreliant in this sector. After the inauguration, he visited several stalls, including the National Medicinal Plants Board's exhibit, where he gathered insights on various medicinal herbs. The mega expo which is a brain child of



stalls by several State and Government Ministries, as well as private

Notable organisations participants include the Ministry of AYUSH, CSIR, MDES, ICAR, NRDC, CDB, the National Medicinal Plants Board, and Uttarakhand Resource Forest Management-JICA, said a statement here. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister also highlighted that such significant expos are opportunities opportunities to raise awareness about health and

wellness among the public. In

his inaugural address, Minister Jadhav stated that promoting a healthy India is a key agenda for the Government.

According to following various initiatives taken by the Government in recent years, the AYUSH market in India has witnessed exponential ballooning from a mere USD

2.85 billion in 2014 to a staggering USD 24 billion in 2024.

### Passport portal to stay shut for four days for maintenance: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The online platform for passport applications will be closed for the next four days for the next for the nexa maintenance activity, Ministry of External Afffairs (MEA) said in a statement. As a result, no fresh appointments can scheduled during the period, the statement added. However, the already booked appointments can be rescheduled. "Passport Seva portal will be down for technical maintenance from 29th August 2024, Thursday



for citizens and for all MEA/RPO/BOI/ISP/DoP/Pol ice Authorities. The already booked appointments for 30th August 2024 will be suitably rescheduled and informed to applicants," the statement read. Contingency plans have reportedly been set in place to keep any public inconvenience at bay. The Passport Seva portal is

booking for used appointments at centres across India, whether for new passport applications

### Two YSRCP Rajya Sabha MPs resign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Two YSRCP members of the Rajya Sabha Beedha Mastan Rao Jadhav and Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi have tendered their resignation from House membership, parliamentary sources said on Thursday.

They said Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankhar has accepted their resignation.

Mastan Rao, whose term was to end in June 2028, had switched from the TDP to the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP). He is likely to go back to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Mopidevi, whose term was till June 2026, may also join the TDP, the sources said. Following



resignations, the strength of the YSRCP in the Upper House of Parliament has dipped from 11 to nine. The TDP, which is a key NDA partner, has representation in the Rajya Sabha. It has been learnt that Mastan Rao could be fielded by the TDP in the bypoll, but Mopidevi is not keen on entering the Rajya Sabha again. In the resultant bypolls, the TDP could get seats in the Rajya Sabha. As a result, the ruling NDA will have two more members on

#### India, South Africa review naval ties, strengthen operational synergy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Tndia and South Africa here I reviewed their defence ties and ways to further strengthen Navy to Navy collaboration during the 12th India-South Africa Navy Staff Talks on Tuesday and Wednesday, navy said on Thursday. Giving details, officials said

the talks were co-chaired by Rear Admiral Nirbhay Bapna, ACNS (FCI) of the Indian Navy, and Rear Admiral David Maningi Mkhonto, Chief Director Maritime Strategy of the South African Navy. The talks underscored mutual commitment to strengthening naval ties and operational synergy. In laying the groun-

future cooperation, the talks

this year focused on several pivotal areas, including operational training at improving readiness and efficiency; establishment of secure information exchange protocols between platforms. Additionally, explored operational interactions to address the evolving complexities in the maritime domain, through continued exchanges and exercises.

### India's second indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine commissioned

September, Monday 06:00 hrs

IST. System will not be

available during this period

hrs IST to 2nd

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India's second indigenously designed and built nuclearpowered ballistic missile sub-marine INS Arighaat was commissioned on Thursday thereby adding to country's nuclear deterrence capabilities and boosting operational readiness. The first nuclear powered submarine INS Arihant was commissioned in 2016.

The second Arihant-Class submarine 'INS Arighaat' was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Defence Ministry said here.

In his address, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that 'Arighaat' will further strengthen India's nuclear this project, and more triad, enhance nuclear employment opportunities

deterrence, help in establishing strategic balance and peace in the region, and play a decisive role in the security of the country. He described it as an

achievement for the nation

and a testament to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi-led Government's unwavering resolve achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence. The defence minister commended the Indian Navy, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Industry for their hard work and synergy in achieving this capability. He termed this self-reliance as the foundation of self power. He appreciated the fact that the country's industrial sector, especially MSMEs, have received a huge boost through



have been created. Recalling former Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's political will which put India on a par with a nuclear weapon state, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, "Today, India is surging ahead to become a developed country. It is essential for us to develop rapidly in every field, including defence, especially in today's geopolitical scenario. Along with economic prosperity, we need a strong military. Our

Government is working on mission mode to ensure that our soldiers possess topquality weapons and platforms made on Indian soil".

The construction of INS Arighaat involved the use of advanced design and manufacturing technology, detailed research and development, utilisation of special materials, complex engineering and highly skilled workmanship. It has the distinction of having the indigenous systems and equipment which were conceptualised, designed, manufactured and integrated by the Indian scientists, industry and Naval personnel.
The technological advancements undertaken indigenously this on submarine make

significantly more advanced than its predecessor Arihant. The presence of both INS Arihant and INS Arighaat will enhance India's capability to deter potential adversaries and safeguard its national interests.

The second submarine INS Arighat was commissioned in Visakhapatnam at Ship Building Centre (SBC). The submarine was launched in 2017 at its manufacturing base, Ship Building Centre (SBC), Visakhapatnam.

In fact, the SBC is building

tive nuclear powered submarines. While Arihant is already operational and Arighat commissioned on Thursday, work is now on the remaining two submarines. They are in advanced stage of construction, it was learnt. INS Arighat is 111.6 meters long and weighs 6,000 tonnes. It plays a crucial role in India's nuclear triad, enabling the nation to launch nuclear

missiles from land, air, and

Powered by an 82.5 MW pressurized light water reactor developed with Russian assistance, INS Arighat can achieve a top speed of 24 knots submerged and 10 knots on the surface

on the surface. Its primary armament consists of 12 K-15 Sagarika submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), each with a exceeding

kilometers. These missiles are housed in four large vertical launch system (VLS) tubes and are a testament to India's indigenous missile development capabilities.
The submarine is divided into

seven compartments, housing propulsion and combat management systems, a platform management center, and a torpedo room. Additional safety measures include two standby auxiliary engines and a retractable thruster for emergency power and mobility.
INS Arighat follows in the

footsteps of INS Arihant, India's first SSBN, which was commissioned in 2016. A third, yet-to-be-named SSBN was launched in 2021, further solidifying India's commitment to developing a credible sea-based nuclear

#### The dialogue included opportunities for exchange of best practices in Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Defence including Damage Control (NBCD); and Diving support, through Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE). A strong emphasis on personnel exchanges, and the potential for availing advanced training courses at respective training facilities were

### Healthy lifestyle can mitigate Type 2 diabetes side-effects, says study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Type 2 diabetes and prediabetes are associated with faster brain aging, causing dementia and Alzheimer's, according to a recent study published in Diabetes Care. However, good news is that adopting a healthy lifestyle can potentially mitigate these effects.

This finding is particularly relevant for India, which has become the Diabetes Capital of the world. The WHO estimates that India has around 77 million people over 18 suffering from Type 2 diabetes and nearly 25 million with prediabetes. The



report, one in seven diabetic adults globally lives in India, and one in three households

has diabetic patients. Researchers from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden analysed data from over 31,000 individuals aged 40 to 70 from the UK Biobank who had undergone brain MRI scans. Using machine learning, they assessed brain age relative to chronological

prediabetes and diabetes note, it seems that corresponded to brains that maintaining a healthy were 0.5 and 2.3 years older than their actual age, respectively. In those with respectively. In those with poorly managed diabetes, the brain appeared more than four years older. Additionally, the gap between brain age and chronological age grew slightly over time in diabetic individuals. These effects were less pronounced among those who were physically those who were physically active and avoided smoking and excessive alcohol

consumption. "An older-appearing brain relative to chronological age may indicate deviations from normal aging and could be an million with prediabetes. The number is expected to surge to 124.9 million by 2045.

According to yet another

According t

lifestyle can positively influence brain health in people with diabetes," she added.

While repeated MRI data were available for only a small number of participants, ongoing follow-up scans aim to further explore the link between diabetes and brain

aging over time.
"With the rising prevalence of Type 2 diabetes, our research aims to help prevent cognitive decline and dementia in people with diabetes and prediabetes," stated Dove.

The research suggests that managing diabetes effectively and living healthily may help protect against brain aging and potentially delay the onset of dementia.

### **SHe-Box portal to enhance workplace** safety for women unveiled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

A mid growing chorus for safety of women in the country, Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi on Thursday launched a centralised platform designed to make workplaces safer for women by addressing and managing complaints of sexual harassment.

'This initiative is a critical step forward in providing a more efficient and secure platform for addressing workplacerelated sexual harassment complaints. It furthers the Government's commitment to creating a safer and more inclusive working environment for women across India," said the Minister. She expressed confidence that the portal will ensure that complaints can be safely registered without personal information being

publicly accessible.
The SHe-Box portal is a significant advancement in the Government's ongoing efforts to safeguard women in



the workplace. The launch event in Delhi also witnessed the introduction of a revamped ministry website.

Emphasising the importance of the initiative in creating a more secure and inclusive working environment for women, Annapurna Devi maintained that the portal would function as a centralised repository for information related to internal committees and local

committees across the country, covering both the Government and private sectors. The portal will allow women to file complaints, track their status, and ensure that the grievances are processed in a timely manner.

It also features a designated nodal officer to enable real-time monitoring of complaints, thereby providing a streamlined and assured redressal process, the statement said.

The launch of the SHe-Box portal aligns with the Government's broader vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, with a strong emphasis on women-led development. "The Sexual Harassment of Women at

Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, serves to protect women from sexual harassment in the workplace and address their grievances. In line with this commitment, the new SHe-Box portal represents a significant step forward in addressing and managing complaints of workplace sexual harassment," said an official from

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

### A close contest!

The rural-urban divide and the Jat-non-Jat paradigm could be crucial in deciding the Harvana assembly elections

s Haryana gears up for its upcoming elections, the state's political landscape is rife with complexities that reflect broader societal divides. Central to this is the rural-urban divide and the Jat-non-Jat paradigm, both of which are poised to play a crucial role in determining the electoral outcome. The recent request by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to change the polling date has added another layer of intrigue to an already charged atmosphere. Haryana's political fabric is deeply influenced by the rural-urban divide, a reflection of the state's socioeconomic disparities. The urban areas, particularly key centres like Gurugram, Faridabad, and Rohtak, have traditionally been BJP strongholds. These cities, with their high migrant populations, represent a significant voter base for the BJP. However, the upcoming election is complicated by the timing of the polling date. Scheduled for October 1, the date falls within a period that could easily be extended into a six-day holiday, thanks to over-



lapping weekends and public holidays. The BJP fears that urban voters, particularly those in the NCR, may choose to use this extended break to travel, thereby potentially lowering voter turnout in areas where the party has a stronghold. Historically, rural turnout in Haryana has been higher than urban turnout, which could tilt the scales against the BJP if urban voters

Another crucial factor in the upcoming elections is the Jat-non-Jat divide. Jats, who form a dominant social group in Haryana, have traditionally been aligned with the Congress, especially in rural areas. The BJP, on the other hand, has found support among the non-

Jat communities, particularly in urban regions. This division was evident in the 2024 general elections, where the BJP won all five Lok Sabha seats in non-Jat dominated areas. The BJP's support base in rural areas has been eroded, particularly among Jats, who have been disillusioned by the central government's response to their protests. The Congress is working to capitalise on this discontent by consolidating a Jat-Dalit-Muslim alliance in rural areas, which could pose a significant challenge to the BJP. In light of these challenges, the BJP's request to change the polling date has sparked controversy. The party argues that the potential for a long weekend could lead to lower voter turnout, particularly in urban areas where it has a strong base. The Congress has dismissed the BJP's request for date change as a sign of nervousness. The Election Commission's decision on the date change will be crucial, as it could influence the electoral outcome in a state where every vote counts. With ten years of incumbency and a narrowing margin of victory, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to secure a favourable result. Whether the ECI will accommodate the BJP's request remains to be seen, but the upcoming elections in Haryana are shaping up to be a closely contest-



Visitors at India Gate enjoy the rains in New Delhi

RANJAN DIMRI

# How media shapes public perception



In a world where sensationalism often trumps substance, it's time to rethink how we engage with the news and what it says about the society we've built.

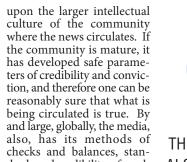
he last few weeks have seen some major convulsions at the basic level of the Indian society The listing can be long, depending upon the predisposition and values of the person making a list, or indeed brief if this person wants to strike a judgmental posture on what he considers important. This debate can merit its own resolution but the common-sense approach would make it obvious that the NEET examination and the Kolkata rape and murder episode have touched a very large number of minds and people who are in touch with the media.

This itself raises another basic question. That has to do with the role of the media in attributing to an episode both circulation and importance. The reach and mode of the media become critical in identifying an issue and formulating it. One of the farthest reach of a media is through the radio. By and large, the radio is controlled by governmental agencies. This is followed by television, which is controlled both by the government and by some powerful private media houses. Both clusters claim a popular following, and both are accused of biases.

Hence, to a fairly complicated question on what constitutes nuch of the news, there is a plausible answer: that which the media of the day decides to project and sustain as news. Thus it is that the role of governance/ownership of the mode of the media, in the identification of news, and sustaining it becomes critical.

This brings us to a basic question: what constitutes news and how is it maintained at the frontlines?

What is projected in so-called news is impossible for a private citizen to verify. That raises the question of the creditability of a channel. The creditability of the channel is itself a matter of popular perception, and it is also nurtured by reputation and conviction. To understand the gravity and implications of the statements and exposures above, one has to realize that news is both essential and dependent only news which affected



Hence, whereas it may be a worthwhile debate to consider what constitutes news: origin, sustenance, and dissemination of news has certain standards across the globe. These, are like many things in life, having largely acknowledged standards without much vagouness. These are considered givens of a civil society.

dards and credibility, of reach

and sustenance.

Hence the conclusion that if the general media projects something, it must be the truth, or at least the truth in good faith.

Reference has been made above to the NEET episode and the Kolkata murder and rape case. The jury is out on both cases, and a conclusions are awaited. The civil society is maintained on such pillars. However, two questions emerge: given the attention which both of these cases have received, is this the

A STATUE OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

Madam — The recently collapsed statue of Shivaji in Maharashtra, is a grim

reflection of political expediency. That a statue of one of the most revered and

respected figures of Maharashtra has col-

lapsed barely nine months after its inauguration, speaks volumes about the

malpractices that must have gone into the installation of a statue that was



THE BASIC TRUTH IS ALSO THAT IT IS NOT SOME INTRANSIENT STRENGTH AND

**WEAKNESS** OF THE MEDIA THAT SUSTAINS ITS LIFE BUT THE ECONOMIC FORCES WHICH NURTURE ITS EXISTENCE

proportion and inter-se importance of news? To debate the importance of both of the two episodes mentioned above would be a pointless exercise. However, by the same token, it is true that there are other activities effecting every-day living and have been, in a manner of speaking, overlooked.

Hence, after resolving the concerns related to creditability arises an issue of the relative importance of the items being reported. It would be a common place to say that sensational news spreads faster and catches more attention than routine news, no matter how important it may be. Good news travels slower and catches less attention.

The healthiness of a society needs to be assessed against objective indicators of health, and clearly one of them would be how much mileage does a positive news get as compared to the mileage a

negative news gets. comes not only from handling the unhappy episodes which lead to news but also from giving positive news the importance that it deserves. It is here again that the media need continuous help in introspection. The basic truth

the wellbeing of the people, is also that it is not some and is there a question of the intransient strength and intransient strength and weakness of the media that sustains its life but the economic forces which nurture

its existence. As indicated above, if the media disseminates sensational information, it is because that kind of information is read more widely and followed more avidly. The problem therefore originates not just with the media but with the people who use the media. Further, it becomes a question of mass contact and mobilization of mass opin-

The time has come when one needs to revisit what constitutes a civil society and how a civil society exercises its choices and preferences. The economic and financial flows merely run in the channels which have been created with such efforts. Essentially, therefore, a question is: what is the kind of society which one has given to oneself and how do its norms get modified and operated, also, through the media?

The strength of a society As indicated above, this is merely the sub-structure to a much larger edifice that the society has built for itself.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are

### Emotional intelligence: The secret of outstanding leadership



As the next era of leadership unfolds, the demand for emotionally intelligent leaders has never been clearer—are you ready to rise to the challenge?

doday's corporate climate is fast-paced and continually evolving. Emotional intelligence (EI) is the secret weapon that distinguishes great pioneers from average ones; it is accompanied by a long list of excellent technical qualifications. But what precisely is this elusive talent, and why is it becoming a defining characteristic of outstanding leaders?It is the ability to control our emotions and under-

stand and empathise with others. It forms a link between self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management. To speak more specifically to leaders, emotional intelligence is not only desirable but even more crucial for leaders than the desire to influence others and inspire their teams to greatness. This is where EI comes into play, somewhat like the oil that keeps the motor of leadership running. Emotionally intelligent leaders express ideas with clarity and empathy, make judgements based on both logic and emotion and maintain strong team morale and pro-

ductivity. They prefer to ride out the

storm rather than be tossed by it, and instead look to harness it for growth and innovation.But how do aspiring leaders cultivate this crucial

It begins with reflection. Frequent self-analytical practices, such as journaling or meditation, may promote insight. Encouraging feedback—even the difficult kind—and viewing failures as opportunities for improvement are also important com-

The most critical aspect is empathy and listening to others rather than simply hearing them. This final trait will propel a good leader to new heights. Take, for example, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. Since the beginning of his term in 2014, he has been considered as the driving

force behind the company's cultural shift from fierce competitiveness to collaborative innovation. So, what's the magic? A leadership style relies mostly on emotional intelligence. Empathy-driven continuous learning and development mindset not only rebuilt Microsoft's reputation but also its financial performance to unprecedented heights. Another excellent example is Jacinda Ardern, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Ardern's leadership style, which includes speaking with compassion, making clear tough decisions, and uniting the country in the face of tragedy, highlights the importance of emotional intelligence in political leadership. Looking ahead, it is clear that one aspect of good lead-

ership will remain central: emotional intelligence. While the next wave of technology will undoubtedly replace occupations in the future, leaders in any area will need to possess' increasingly humane qualities such as empathy, self-awareness, and emotional regulation.The message is clear: to be an effective leader in the twenty-first century, we must continue to improve our emotional intelligence alongside our technical proficiency. Whether you aspire to be an established CEO or a team leader, investing in your emotional intelligence can pay you in terms of career success and personal fulfilment. Remember that developing

emotional intelligence is a lifetime journey that promises to improve not only your leadership style but also your overall approach to life and relationships. As leaders, we commit to leaving a legacy based on how we make others feel and the relationships we build. The future of leadership is in emotional intelligence: isn't it time you took the initiative? (

The author is a freelance writer, views are personal)

expected to last a good part of a centu-Instead of expressing remorse and regret, the political class is doing what it knows best — ducking responsibility and pointing fingers. The pedestal and all that remains of the statue ought to be cordoned off, and preserved as a reminder of the gross failure of the present day dispensation. Near it, a stone plaque should read — This site is an admission of the government's failure to do justice to the memory of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, whose statue collapsed just nine months after it was dedicated to the people of Maharashtra. We promise that this will never happen

again. We hope to be forgiven by the people of the state with whose money the statue project was commissioned. To atone for our grave mistake, another statue is being constructed nearby. We assure you that it will last many many years and be a fitting tribute to a historical figure who is so dear to our hearts. I know too well that the shameful episode will soon be forgotten by our netas as well as the public.

Avinash Godboley | Dewas

#### **IMPLEMENT MISSION SHAKTI**

Madam — Many people are prone to depression due to the harsh realities of life like low income, pollution, bad relationships, lack of education, etc. During this post-depression, if a person does not hope to become well, then it is a sign of mental illness. The consequences of support systems, women in the country

### The logic of Changing election date

aryana BJP's State Election Management Committee has logically put forward the view that there is a weekend holiday before the assembly election date on October

ment and exploitation. Every day, stories emerge of women who have been failed by the very systems that were supposed to protect them. These are not just isolated incidents; they are symptoms of a much larger problem - a systemic failure to prioritise women's safety. It's time that the country wakes up to the harsh realities and takes a hard look at where we stand and acknowledge that we are failing our women. The outrage over the incident in Kolkata should serve as a wake-up call for the nation. We cannot afford to delay any longer. We need immediate action to fully implement Mission Shakti in a broader sense and the narrow minded approach of neglecting women must be a priority.

In conclusion, addressing the root causes of depression and systemic failures is crucial to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of women in our country. The recent incident in Kolkata is a stark reminder that we cannot continue to inaction are dire. Without effective ignore the harsh realities faced by women daily. It's time for collective are left vulnerable to violence, harass- action to fully implement initiatives like

1 and there are some holidays after that. INLD has also agreed to postpone the assembly elections. Opposition parties are hell-bent on condemning every aspect of the ruling party. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has expressed concern over low voting percentage where people use long weekend holidays

on the day of polling. Shifting the election dates will definitely help in increasing the voting percentage. Earlier also, the dates of elections were changed in Rajasthan, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Therefore, the change of date is not important but the change of mind of voters will be more meaningful. The election Commission is a statutory independent body and should remain firm on its stand rather than bowing to the political pressure which often times is self serving than for the public good.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

Mission Shakti and move beyond narrow-minded neglect. Only by prioritizing women's safety and mental health can we hope to create a society where every woman is protected, respected, and empowered. The time for change is

K Subramaniam | Mumbai

#### **REVIVAL OF VIVACITY**

Madam - As an avid reader of The Pioneer, I am delighted to see that Vivacity is being published regularly for the past few months. I always enjoy reading Vivacity and Agenda, the reviews about art exhibitions, culture and movies being my personal favourites. Your past few features have been great, especially the Rakshbandhan one. Today, I read about the Heritage Walk and I will definitely visit Purana Qila now. The food review section is and has always been

Atharv Singh | Delhi

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### **FIRST COLUMN**

#### **UKRAINE: INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC TIGHTROPE**

PM Modi's historic Ukraine visit signals new foreign policy approach



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

rime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ukraine, last week, comes at an interesting churn of events on the geopolitical landscape. The visit, a first, by any Indian PM since Ukraine was first carved out as an independent sovereign nation, had many layers of interpretations regarding India's new foreign policy approach. The timing was significant as this trip came barely six weeks after PM Modi's state visit to Moscow. The Russia trip was widely criticised by India's strategic ally US, primarily due to the timing.

Even as PM Modi was in Moscow, the NATO leaders were huddled together in Washington, discussing military aid for Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russia bombed a children's hospital in Ukraine leading to the loss of lives for civilians and children. President Zelenskyy had condemned India's PM's first visit to Russia during his third term and the US State Department had also issued stern statements regarding the trip. Indian PM had also avoided participating in the Peace Summit organised in June, to find a political solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. The recent visit by PM Modi to Ukraine, even as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was in Washington DC was a statement regarding India's fine balance diplomacy in times of war. President Biden, called up the Indian PM soon after his visit to Ukraine to apprise him of the prevailing situation.

The readout released from the White House read "President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke today with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to discuss the Prime Minister's recent trip to Poland and Ukraine, as well as the United Nations General Assembly meetings in September. The



President commended the Prime Minister for his historic visits to Poland and Ukraine, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in decades, and for his message of peace and ongoing humanitarian support for Ukraine, including its energy sector. The Leaders affirmed their continued support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict by international law, on the basis of the UN Charter." Interestingly, the Indian PM also spoke to President Biden regarding the ongoing crisis in Bangladesh and expressed concern regarding the safety of minorities, especially Hindus, which was highlighted in the Indian statement after the telephone conversation.

The Bangladesh situation omission from the White House readout did create some murmurs across Delhi corridors. India is now making efforts to have its own Europe policy, which is not curated with a Russia factor in mind. For several decades post-independence, the Cold War era, the block approach mostly guided India's foreign policy, especially where Russia was involved. Russia has been a long-standing ally of India and is also one of the biggest exporters of defence equipment.

While maintaining silence on sensitive Russia-related topics has been India's long-standing approach, things began to change in the past few years. There is a growing sense of having an independent need-based foreign policy, amongst the top policymakers. PM Modi initiated the concept of "not a time for war" at multilateral platforms such as G20, which started finding global resonance when vocalising concerns regarding Ukraine and Russia. He upped the narrative with his clear message to Russia during his Moscow visit that permanent solutions could not be found on the battlefield. The joint statement issued post PM Modi's meeting with President Zelenskyy read "

The Indian side reiterated its principled position and focus on peaceful resolution through dialogue and diplomacy. Prime Minister Modi reiterated the need for sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that will have broad acceptability and contribute towards early restoration of peace." The message to global leaders, particularly the US and Russia that the recent PM Modi visit highlighted was that India is willing to engage with any nation, even if they may be in opposite camps, to find the best possible outcomes

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## Prospects of privatisation of PSUs are bleak



UTTAM GUPTA

As the Modi government shifts its strategy towards 'prudent public wealth management' the prospect of privatising PSBs are increasingly unlikely.



nnouncing Modi - government's policy on disinvestment of central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) in her Budget speech for FY 2021-22 the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman had talked of privatizing two public sector banks (PSBs) and one insur-

A CPSU is an undertaking in which the Central government has majority share holding of more than 50 percent. Disinvestment refers to sale of its shares to private investors. When such sale results private investors. When, such sale results in reduction of the government's shareholding in the CPSU to below 50 percent and concomitant transfer of ownership and management control to

private entity, this is termed as privatization. The disinvestment plans have met with disappointing results so far.

During 2021-22, against a target of Rs 175,000 crore, the actual proceeds from share sale of CPSUs were a meager Rs 15,440 crore. During 2022-23, against a target of Rs 15,440 crore. get of Rs 65,000 crore, the actual was Rs DURING 2021-22, 31,059 crore. For 2023-24, the actual was Rs 14 564 crore against a target of Rs 30 000 crore which itself was watered down from the budget estimate (BE) of Rs 51,000 crore. As for privatization, except for the sale of Air India to the Tata Group during 2021-22, the government has little to show. Apart from offloading 3.5 percent of its shareholding in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), it is selling its stake in the IDBI Bank. The process of selling the latter that started in May 2021 is likely to get consummated during the current FY.

However, it can't be termed as privatization as already the bank was operating as a private lender even as the Centre became its passive shareholder consequent to capital infusions to manage former's bad debt losses. Currently, the government and the LIC collectively own 94.72 per cent of IDBI Bank with shareholding of 45.48 percent and 49.24 percent respectively (the remaining 5.28 percent is with Public shareholders). Of this, the Centre plans to sell a 60.7 percent stake, comprising 30.5 per cent of its own and 30.2 percent of LIC's.

Will the Centre take up selling of PSBs and an insurance company - as promised in the

2021-22 budget? It seems unlikely. If, that were to be the case,

AS FOR PRIVATISATION, EXCEPT FOR THE SALE OF AIR INDIA TO THE TATA GROUP

GOVERNMENT HAS LITTLE TO SHOW. APART OFFLOADING 3.5 PERCENT OF ITS

SHAREHOLDING IN THE LIFE **INSURANCE** CORPORATION (LIC), IT IS

**SELLING ITS** STAKE IN THE IDBI BANK.

the government ought to have set a target for 'receipts from disinvestment' in its budget for 2024-25. But, it hasn't even as the FM has made a provision for Rs 50,000 crore under the head "miscellaneous capital receipts". This has happened for te first time in a decade. Second, Team Modi is reviewing its strategy to shift its focus from sell-

ing CPSUs to what it euphemistically describes as 'prudent public wealth management (PWM), sup-porting not-for-profit enterprises, and ensuring strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors'. Banking, insurance and financial services (BIFS) were one of the four strategic sectors mentioned by Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech for 2021-22.

BIFS also qualifies for not-for-profit enterprises categorization espe-cially when it comes to PSBs which are expected to contribute to realizing social objectives such as reaching out banking services to remote and inaccessible areas: making concessional credit available to small and marginal farmers and other vulnerable/deprived sections of the society; funding infrastructure development particularly in areas (for instance, rural roads, housing for the poor etc) where private banks

may not be so keen to come. Modi - government's commitment to a strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors juxtaposed with support for not-for-profit enterprises clearly signals that it has lost interest in privatizing PSBs and insurance companies.

Third, unlike the previous two terms when BJP had an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha on its own, in the third term, it depends on the support from its major allies namely TDP and JD (U) for implementing far reaching decisions such as privatization. Moreover, in the current political environment wherein even a small move such as 'lateral entry' of specialists from the private sector (the sole intent

more effective governance in sync with contemporary challenges) is opposed by the opposition parties forcing the government to retreat, it wouldn't be inclined to make a big move such as privatization of

About a decade back, many of PSBs were on the brink. The present dispensation has made a lot of efforts to them pull back. These included amongst others capital infusion, enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for expedictions of the Insolvency and Italian and It ditious resolution of non-performing assets (NPAs), banks consolidation into fewer entities for achieving scale and greater efficiencies, computerization of bank branches and so on. Today, they are robust and healthy even as the performance of some of them is even better than private banks.

this is fine. But, we shouldn't miss the big picture. Fundamentally, most of the ister Vajpayee (1999-2004). It had ills associated with the functioning of CPSUs including PSBs have a lot to do with their continued majority ownership (share holding of more than 50 percent) and control by the government. This brings them under a plethora of controls and monitoring/surveillance/vigilance and has the effect of shackling its management.

Armed with it, the political establishment makes all board level appointments viz. CMD/MD etc and deputes bureaucrats on a bank's board to represent its overwhelming ownership. In other words, the entire board is geared to listen to his master's voice (read the political bosses) when it comes to taking policy decisions or even in its day-to-day running. In the past, meddling in the affairs of PSBs took the form of what came to be known as the cult of 'crony capitalism'.

The businessmen patronized by the ruling class managed loans on considerations other than merit and got them ever-greened (taking

behind this step was to deliver a new loan to payback the earlier one). Neither, the banks insisted on repayment, nor the defaulters had any sense of fear as those who were expected to take action, chose not

> In the past, the political brass also rode piggy back on PSBs for absorbing losses/liabilities created by populist policies such as supplying power to farmers and households at subsidized rates, (or even free in some states). Be it a spate of bail-outs given to power distribution companies (discoms) or loan waivers given to farmers etc, these inflicted heavy loss on PSBs.

zhe idea of disinvesting PSBs should be seen as a befitting response to the dire need for reducing bureaucratic interference and granting autonomy to their management for speedy decisions and improved functioning. It was first mooted by the NDA - dispensation under the then, prime minproposed reduction in government's shareholding in PSBs to less than 50 percent initially and eventually to 33 percent.

In 2015, a RBI committee headed by P Nayak recommended setting up of a bank investment company (BIC) where all government shares in PSBs will be vested and divestment of its shareholding in all PSBs to below 50 percent. It also proposed setting up of an autonomous Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) to select their top manage-

ment. In 2020, the RBI recommended reduction in the shareholding of the government in six top PSBs to 51 percent. In a follow up meeting, it went a step further to recommend reduction in government's stake to 26 percent. The 2021-22 budget announcement to privatize two PSBs was a good step forward, though belated. To put it on the backburner now doesn't bode well for banks' health in the long-term.

> (The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## Global interference and India's economic sovereignty

As India rises to become a global superpower, it faces challenges not only from within but also from international entities that aim to disrupt its economic and political stability

The prosperity and progress of a nation hinge on the efficiency of its governance, particularly in upholding the rule of law by those in top constitutional, administrative, and judicial positions. This also involves the transparency and accountability of regulatory regimes across various sectors of law and economy. In our modern era, characterized by freedom, equality, and democracy, many developing countries have emerged from the shadows of colonialism. Despite independence, the remnants of colonialism persist in governance and social structures, and former colonial powers often carry a lingering sense of superiority. This is evident in their interventions in other countries, where they create international cartel, often



political and economic crises under the guise of promoting cosmopolitan values.

These interventions are particularly harmful to independent and dynamic leaders in Third World countries. A recent example is the destabilization of the Hasina Wazed government in Bangladesh, fueled by agitation with foreign backing. In recent years, such external forces have formed an

referred to as the "deep state." This group, supported by a segment of religious extremists and a political elite, acts against their own country's interests for selfish reasons.

This insidious influence is spreading to stable democracies like India. Direct military intervention is difficult in modern times, so these forces resort to destabilizing social, political, and economic fabrics with the help of internal col-

They present themselves as the arbiters of morality, creating narratives to discredit certain groups, undermine social harmony, and ultimately destabilize economies. Their goal is to generate public unrest and overthrow democratically elected governments by eroding the state's capacity to man-

age public welfare. This is a fallout of globalization and an attempt to reassert hegemonic control.

One prominent example is the Hindenburg Research firm, which targeted Adani Enterprises last year, leading to a severe crash in the Indian stock market and a major political storm just before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Congress party seized the

opportunity, and the Supreme Court ordered an inquiry, which eventually discredited Hindenburg's report. However, this month, Hindenburg targeted the SEBI Chairperson, accusing her of investing in Adani companies abroad. Both SEBI and Adani Group denied any wrongdoing, explaining that the investments were made before she took on her



role at SEBI. Similar uproar was seen when the Rafale aircraft deal was signed in 2015. When Hindenburg first targeted Adani, it made a profit of \$4 million, while Adani lost \$153 million in market value. However, this time, the public saw through the ruse, dismissing it as the tantrum of a disgruntled entity. It is common for companies to

establish subsidiaries abroad, and such activities are always under regulatory surveillance, operating within the law. Historically, India lacked a

robust private sector, with Tata being the only notable corporate entity during the era of the "license raj." However, thanks to economic liberalization under the Narsimha Rao government, the private sector has grown significantly and now contributes around 27% of the country's GDP. The Indian private sector is now a crucial engine for employment, service delivery, capital flow, and industrial growth. The public sector, on the other hand, focuses on activities serving the general public, funded by tax revenues. Gautam Adani's conglomerate plays a central role in India's ambition to

become the third-largest economy, with its involvement in key sectors like electricity, port management, mining, natural gas, and infrastructure.

Among the top taxpayers in 2022-2023, only the State Bank of India (SBI) was a public sector entity, with Reliance Industries leading the list, followed by SBI and HDFC. The GDP at constant prices in May 2024 was tentatively estimated by the Indian Statistical Office at Rs173.82 lakh crore, with real Gross Value Added at Rs158.74 lakh crore for 2023-24, marking an 8% increase over the previous year. Various private sector industries played a pivotal role in this growth. Adani Group dominated the list of top value gainers in 2022, adding Rs 8.42 lakh crore to investor wealth.

When any country challenges the supremacy of these foreign powers, they attempt to destroy it by spending vast sums of money. The 'Make in India' initiative is gradually positioning Adani as a global industrial leader, alongside other Indian giants like Ambani, Tata, and Mahindra. India's technological advancements and the so1cietal contributions of companies like Tata are gaining recognition. This is precisely why foreign forces forge alliances with frustrated leaders and antinational elements, funding them to gain control over governance. The current government must take stronger actions rather than merely offering rhetoric.

(The writer is a former civil servant; views are personal)

## Technical panel appointed to probe Shivaji statue collapse

T N RAGHUNATHA

A mid continued protests by the Opposition Maha Vikass Aghadi (MVA) over the sudden collapse of a 35-feet tall statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Malvan Sindhudurg district, the Indian Navy and Maharashtra Government on Thursday announced the formation of a ioint technical committee comprising Naval officials, civil engineers and experts, to investigate the cause of the statue collapse and fix responsibility for the mishap.

To be headed by the Indian Navy, the technical committee will comprise representatives from the Maharashtra government, civil engineers and experts, including the ones from the Indian Institute of Technology (ITT), Bombay, JJ School of Art and renowned cers for constructing a grand sculptors from across the state. and magnificent statue of

Apart from into the cause and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj circumstances leading to the collapse of the imposing Shivaji Statue inside Rajkot at Malvan in Maharashtra's Sindhudrug district, the technical committee will also fix responsibility for

The decision to constitute a technical committee to investigate the Shivaji statue collapse follows a joint meeting that chief minister Eknath Shinde held with the senior Naval officials, his senior ministers, bureaucrats at his official residence "Varsha" in South Mumbai on Wednesday

In a statement issued by the state government, Shinde said that he had asked the State Piblic Works Department (PWD) to set up a committee comprising the nation's best sculptors; civil engineers, expert officers and Navy offi-

that portrays his achievements in a best way.

'The collapse of the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is unfortunate and the feelings and emotions of the Maratha warrior and Shiv Bhakts are intense. Due care should be taken by all of us so as to ensure against recurrence of such type of incidents in the future," Shinde said. .

In a separate statement issued earlier in the day, the Indian Navy was committed to assisting in all measures to repair, restore, and reinstate the statue at the earliest.

The Statue was unveiled on December 4, 2023 as part of the Navy Day celebrations conducted, for the first time, in Sindhudurg, aimed at honouring the legacy of the Maratha Navy Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj towards maritime defence and security, and its historical link-



age with the modern Indian Navy," the Navy said in its statement"The project was conceptualised and steered by the Indian Navy, in coordination with state govt which also provided funding for it.The Indian Navy remains committed to assisting in all measures to repair, restore, and reinstate the statue at the ear-

liest," the statement added. It may be recalled that the 35feet tall statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with a sword in his hand at 12.30 pm on August 26, within nine months after it was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 4, 2023 as part of the Navy Day celebrations. The collapse of Shivaji statue

has triggered a major political uproar across the state, with the Opposition MVA staging protests across Maharashtra demanding the resignations of chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy chief ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar. Ajit Pawar on Wednesday publicly apologised to the "13 crore people of Maharashtra" for the Shivaji statue collapse. Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena

(UBT), a constituent of the Opposition Shiv Sena, staged protests for the fourth consecutive day. Shiv Sena (UBT)'s deputy leader and party spokesperson Sushma Andhare led the protest morcha in Pune on Thursday.

Talking to media persons, Andhare hit out at senior BJP leader and MP Narayan Rane for resorting to "intimidation tactics" and handing threats to the media, police and the

justice was delivered to the

victim lady doctor who was

allegedly raped and murdered

in the intervening night of

"The Chief Minister has indi-

rectly threatened us with

action ... or FIR or similar

things ... but we are not scared

because we are fighting with

our back against the wall ... it

is now or never ... we are fight-

ing for justice for our dead

colleague and we are deter-

August 8 and 9.

MVA workers staged a protest in Malvan on Malwan.

The language used by Rane displayed his character... He was intimidating the media persons, the police and the Opposition leaders carrying out a peaceful protest at the Rajkot Fort. His sole intention is to spoil the communal atmosphere in the state and create disturbances," Andhare

She questioned Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis of the ruling BJP if it was he who had asked Rane and his cheap hoodlums to indulge in a ruckus ar Rajkot fort and quell any forms of public protests in Sindhudurg to create castecommunal divides in the state. "If anything untoward happens, then it is only Fadnavis who will be responsible as the state home minister. We demand that Rane should be booked and arrested for disturbing peace and fomenting violence there," Andhare said.. Rane's supporters virtually clashed with the MVA workers at Malvan's Malvan fort. So heated was the atmosphere at the Rajkot fort at Malvan that the workers of the BJP and the rival MVA elbowed one another and shouted fierce slogans against each other. At one stage, Rane snatched the mic of a television journalist capturing the developments at

Andhare said that despite tough efforts by the Sindhudurg Police, Rane and his supporters proved to be uncontrollable as they staged a siege and prevented the MVA leaders like leaders of Opposition in the State Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar, his counterpart from the State Council Âmbadas Danve, NCP (SP) state President Jayant Patil, SS (UBT)'s Aditya Thackeray and others from entering the Rajkot Fort.

### Supreme Court reprimands Telengana CM

PNS NEW DELHI

Irked over Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's comments towards alleged deal between the BJP and the BRS for securing bail for BRS leader K Kavitha in cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, the Supreme Court on Thursday reprimanded him, saying such statements might create apprehensions in minds of people. The top court asked"why should they (politicians) drag the court in political rivalry?".

The reprimand came as a threejudge bench of Justices BR Gavai, PK Mishra, and KV Viswanathan was hearing a plea seeking transfer of the 2015 cash-for-votes case against the Chief Minister to Madhya Pradesh. The petitioners argued he could influence witnesses and tamper with evidence.

"Have you read in the newspaper what he said? Just read what he has stated. What sort of statement is this by a responsible chief minister.

That might rightly create apprehension in the minds of people. Is this a kind of statement which should be made by a chief minister. A constitutional functionary is

speaking in this manner? Why should they drag court in political rivalry? Do we pass orders on consultations with political parties. We are not by politicians or if We do our duty as per conscience and oath," a threejudge bench headed by Justice B will pass orders to appoint an R Gavai told senior advocate independent public prosecutor

Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for to inspire confidence.

Jammu or Kashmir...

The operation was still in routine crime in the areas.

Senior

Reddy. In an interaction with mediapersons, Reddy on Tuesday had said there are doubts' over MLC Kavitha

getting bail in five months when Manish Sisodia got it after 15 months and Kejriwal is yet to get it. "It is a fact that BRS worked for the victory of the BJP in the 2024 LS polls. There is also talk that Kavitha got bail because of the deal between BRS and BJP," he had alleged. The apex court said it a fundamental duty to have mutual respect for institutions and maintain arm's distance. The top court said it a fundamental duty to have mutual respect for institutions and maintain arm's distance. The bench said, "We always say we will not interfere in the legislature, then that is expected from them also. Do we pass considerations?" advocate C Aryama Sundaram, appearing for BRS MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy and three others, sought transfer of trial saying the Telangana chief minister has publicly making statements on the case. "Only on apprehension, how can we entertain...If we entertain such petitions, we will be disbelieving our judicial officers," the bench observed. Sundaram submitted that Telangana chief minister is himself the home minister. anybody criticises our orders. that no person should be a judge in his own cause," he argued. The bench then said it

Mamata Govt to bring law for death penalty to rape convicts **SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government has The Bengal Government Convened a special two-day Assembly Session on September 2 where it will get a stringent anti-rape law passed senior Bengal Minister Sovandeb Chattopadhyay on Thursday said.

"A Bill will be passed mandating capital punishment for a convicted rapist, Chattopadhyay said. Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee too said that the Bill would be brought for discussion Monday and would be passed on

The State Cabinet had already cleared the tabling of the Bill inside sources said.

Earlier Chief Minister who was under tremendous pressure from the civil society and the citizenry for her Government's alleged shoddy handling of the RG Kar medical College lady doctor rape and murder case told a Trinamool Congress students' rally that her Government would convene a special session and bring a stringent anti-rape law with death sentence for the rape convicts.

wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi for brining similar laws but the Centre brought some Sanhitas or things like that ... what use in bringing weak laws ... Now we will bring stringent laws giving death sentence to the rapists who are convicted ... we will also ensure fast track trial," she said leading to a widespread criticism among the civil society members and the lawyers who said that there were already stringent laws in place. "The only issue is implementation of such laws and the Government's intention to act tough," senior lawyers of

Calcutta High Court said. Meanwhile, reports came in from South Dinajpur of a minor girl being raped. "The girl was first raped and then murder was attempted, police sources said adding the accused had been arrested.

The girl is a Class V student at a school in Bangshihari village of South Dinajpur district in North Bengal. She was allegedly raped by a miscreant on

RABINDRA SARAVAR MORNING take against them insisting Wednesday midnight, police said adding, "her parents were they would in no condition withdraw their strike until

alerted by her screams ... when her mother went to her room someone pushed her aside and fled ... she is presently admitted in Gangarampur Super Specialty Hospital." Her mother said the miscreant tried to

Meanwhile, the junior doctors protesting of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College Hospital put up a brave front daring Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday to take whatever action she wanted to mined to take that ... we are doing nothing illegal ... so no amount of pressure or threat from anyone including the Chief Minister will be shake us," a striking doctor on Thursday said. This even as the Chief

Minister ate her words writing on the X handle that her words were being misinterpreted as she had never threatened the doctors but requested them to join work.

"Let me most emphatically clarify that I have not uttered a single word against the [medical etc.] students or their movements. I totally support their movement. Their movement is genuine. I never threatened them, as some people are accusing me of doing. This allegation is completely false," Banerjee

Asking the doctors to withdraw cease work Banerjee had on Wednesday said that "the Supreme Court has given powers to the State Governments to take action ... but I am not registering any FIR as this might spoil the

young doctors' careers ... they may not get visa for studying abroad ... but I request them to join back duty as the continuous cease work is affecting the poor people the most." She also wrote that she had not incited the Trinamool Congress to attack the opposition workers saying she was only targeting the BJP and none else. "I have spoken against BJP. I have spoken against them because, with the support of the Government of India, they are threatening the democracy in our State and trying to create anarchy. With support from the Centre, they are trying to create lawlessness and I have raised my voice against them."

Referring to the bandh called by the BJP and the Tuesday's march by some rightwing students;' groups to the State secretariat Nabanna demanding her resignation Banerjee had on Wednesday asked her party men to sometimes bark at the opposition if not bite them adding, "I don't have to say what you need to do

#### Another wolf ...

From Page 1 Srivastava said.

The recent floods, which filled their dens with water, forced the wolves out of hiding. The Forest department used drones, baits, and other tracking methods, and advised villagers to stay indoors.

To further deter the wolves, they used elephant dung and urine to create the impression of nearby elephants.

DFO (Bahraich) Ajit Singh noted that while over 50 villages were affected, Makkapurwa, Nakwa, Kulela, Purwibasti Gadariya, and Diwanpurwa were the hardest hit. He explained that wolves, the residents of Bahraich.

According to a Chinar Corps

Tangdhar area of Kupwara.

progress till the time of filing

Joginder Singh visited the

border belt of RS Pura-Arnia

including Border Police Posts (BPP's) & reviewed the

operational preparedness along the border grid.

Police have recently deployed more newly trained

jawans in various border

villages across the Jammu

region to bolster the anti-

infiltration and anti-terrorism grid. Besides,

Village Defence Group

committees have been strengthened to further

augment the border grid. The Jammu and Kashmir

police have established 19

Jammu,

the report.

preying on small animals, find refuge in tall grasses near rivers and become more dangerous when they get a taste of human

Singh also mentioned that one of the remaining wolves is lame. The department has been actively engaged in capturing wolves, raising awareness, and ensuring the safety of villagers. Of the three wolves previously captured, two were sent to the Lucknow Zoo, and one died. The use of bait was less effective compared to leopard captures. The captured wolf will be relocated to Gorakhpur Zoo, providing some relief to

terror-hit districts of Jammu.

Panchari of Udhampur

district. Malhar, Bani of

Chassana, Gulabgarh, and

Passana of Reasi district.

Dessa/Kastigarh, Assar of

Drabshalla of Kishtwar

Chanderkote/Batote

Sangaldan/Dharamkund of

Ramban district. Kalakote of

Baffliaz/Behramgalla,

district.Dachhan,

stationed at

Pouni/Ransoo,

Kathua

Doda

district.

Rajouri

special counterterror units, Mandi/Loran, Gursai of

each headed by a Dy SP, in 8 Poonch district.

### Delhi...

From Page 1

As rains lashed the city, office goers and commuters faced a d time as they had to wad through knee deep water with heavy traffic witnessed at several areas where the vehicles were seen crawling. Many areas including Shankar Vihar, Cantonment, Sainik Farms, Mehrauli-Badarpur road, ITO, Geeta Colony and area around MCD Civic Centre between GB Pant Hospital and Delhi Gate were severely submerged in water.

Other areas such as Kalindi Delhi-Gurugram border, Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan and GT Karnal among others, witnessed traffic jams for more than an hour. Besides, traffic congestion was also reported from North Campus of Delhi University and some areas of east Delhi.

Delhiites expressed their frustration as reaching their workplace became a hassle amid trying to wade through the waterlogged streets. A 22 year old Suraj Bahuguna said, "I commute daily from Badarpur to Noida for work, and the monsoon months of July and August have been especially challenging due to These teams will remain severe waterlogging in my spokesman, another terrorist stationed and will conduct area. The traffic congestion caused by this is another was eliminated in the counterterror operations alongside looking after major headache."

### Kolkata horror...

A popular Bengali channel showed how a woman calling up the parents of the doctor asking them to rush to the hospital

When the father of the victim doctor called back asking as to what had happened to her daughter they asked him to rush to the hospital quickly as she was seriously ill and had been carried to the Emergency. Subsequently a third phone call came from the same number from the same woman who got herself identified as the Assistant Superintendent of the Hospital who said, "now I have to tell you that I am the Assistant Super speaking ... it seems that your daughter has committed suicide so you have to come quickly to the

### Me Too travels from Kerala...

From Page 1

"But the Congress leadership instead of taking action against him, in 29were seen saving him from arrest and legal proceedings," said a CPI(M) leader.
The complaint filed by Sreelekha Mitra against director Ranjith which opened a can of worm

reached new heights as the Special Investigation Team probing the case called on Joshy Jose, another movie director to whom the former had confided about the incident.

The sexual abuse about which Tamil actor Vishal mentioned on Thursday brought back the memories of popular play back singer Chinmayi Sripaada against lyricist and Padma Bhushan awardee Vairamuthu in 2018. Thiugh there were many more allegations of sexual abuse against Vairamuthu, no action has been taken against him.

The controversies against film personalities has caused a vertical split in the LDF as the CPI leaders were unanimous in their demand that Mukesh should quit as MLA and face probe. But the CPI(M) leadership os of the view that one need not give any importance to the CPI. "They keep on barking but they will not bite," said a senior CPI(M) leader.

### **Gujarat flooded with...**

"He expressed concern over

the floods in Vishwamitri river and wanted to know about what relief and rescue measures are being taken for people of Vadodara," the CM said. The PM took stock of the relief measures in all the districts of the state and assured all help to the state. He also instructed that proper measures for cleaning be taken to ensure that diseases do not spread after floods, Patel added. In the 24 hours ending 6 am, Bhanvad in Devbhumi Dwarka district recorded 295 mm rainfall, while Abdasa in Kutch received 276 mm, while Kalyanpur in Devbhumi Dwarka witnessed 263 mm rainfall.

Twenty talukas in Gujarat received over 100 mm rainfall during this period, official data said. Mandvi taluka in Kutch recorded 101 mm rainfall in four hours ending 10 am. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has given a warning of heavy rains in the coastal areas of Saurashtra and Kutch on Thursday. Teams of Army, National

Disaster Response Force (NDRF), counterpart SDRF along with local administration are engaged in relief and rescue operations in the most-affected districts of Vadodara, Dwarka, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Kutch, officials said.

### **Nitish Kumar's dream for Jarasandh** moves closer to reality

the minutes quoting the Bihar Government officials about the project being overseeing by the Divisional Forest Officer of the Nalanda Forest Division.

Following deliberations, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the stipulation that the region's flora and fauna remain undisturbed. The Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary is home to various species, including wild boar, cheetal, jungle fowl, porcupine, hare, langur, monkey, and jackal. The central wildlife panel emphasised that the legal status of the land will remain as part of the sanctuary and will be dedicated solely to eco-tourism

The project proponent has assured that no trees will be cut down as the area falls within an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) for which the final notification was issued in 2017. The park,

established in 1979, has been in use since its opening. However, many of its structures are now in disrepair. The planned upgrades include the installation of essential amenities such as toilets, seating benches, platforms, drinking water facilities, landscaping, and water drainage systems.

These improvements are vital to prevent further deterioration of the park. "Upgrading the park is aimed at integrating the ecological, cultural, and historical aspects of Rajgir," said

"This initiative will bring the glory of ancient India to the forefront, providing educational opportunities for park visitors and enhancing their understanding of the region's rich heritage," he said.

### Adani outpaces Ambani in race

From Page 1

Overall, Cancer leads in terms of wealth growth, Gemini tops the list in total

Kaivalya Vohra (21) of Zepto and his co-founder Aadit Palicha, 22, is the second youngest in the list. For the first time, actor Shah Rukh Khan made his debut

rising value of his holdings in the IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders, with a fortune estimated at Rs 7,300 crore, which was much higher than business partner Juhi Chawla with Rs 4,600 crore networth secured second place among the entertainers.

In 2023's report, Adani's wealth declined by 57 per cent to Rs 4.74 lakh crore, and Ambani was way ahead with a fortune of Rs 8.08 lakh crore. It can be noted that Adani's networth declined sharply following various allegations levelled by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research. The conglomerate has denied all the allegations.

had pegged Adani's fortunes at Rs 44,000 crore, which made him the 10th richest Indian then. Shiv Nadar and family of HCL gained one spot to be the third richest with a networth of Rs 3.14 lakh crore, while Serum Institute of India's Cyrus Poonawalla slipped by one notch to the fourth position with a networth of Rs 2.89 lakh crore in 2024. Sun Pharmaceuticals' Dilip Shanghvi continued his ascent on the list, securing the fifth richest tag against sixth last year with a networth of Rs 2.50 lakh

Radha Vembu of Zoho was the wealthiest among selfmade women with a fortune of Rs 47,500 crore, while Navil Noronha at Rs 6,900 new billionaire every five inequalities, Ramesh said.

Zepto's co-founders Kaivalya crore, according to the days throughout 2023. Vohra and Aadit Palicha, who are in their early 20s, were the youngest on the list with a networth of Rs 3,600 crore and Rs 4,300 crore, respectively.
The list, which captures

Indians having a networth of over Rs 1,000 crore, grew by 220 individuals to 1,539 people in 2024. The cumulative wealth has seen a 46 per cent jump in the year.

Interestingly, professionals also made it to the list with Arista Networks' chief executive Jayshree Ullal being the wealthiest at Rs 32,100 crore and followed by D-mart chief executive Ignatius

list.Gera Developments' Kumar Pritamdas Gera's wealth grew the fastest at 566 per cent in the 2024 list, while Ambani and Adani had the biggest growth by quantum, the list said. Meanwhile, the Congress

attacked the Centre, alleging Minister Prime Narendra Modi's "billionaire raj" is more unequal than even the British Raj and it is also the cornerstone of the government's economic policy-making. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh shared on X a media report which cited the silent and continues to Hurun India Rich List to remain blind to rapidly state that India created a

"India has had billionaire for every five days in 2023, and the nonbiological Prime Minister's closest friend is the foremost among them all," Ramesh said on X. Billionaire Raj is more unequal than even the British Raj. But it is also the cornerstone government's economic policy-making," he alleged. This is why, at a time when countries across the world are coalescing around the idea of a global billionaire tax, the Indian government has been conspicuously increasing

#### The units have been set up in the areas that witnessed terror attacks in recent Superintendent of Police months across the Jammu province. According to official sources, these units will remain

district.

Mahore,

Ramsoo,

district,

contribution, representing 9.9 per cent of the richest individuals on the list. The youngest on the 2024 Hurun India rich list is

on the list owing to the In the 2014 edition, Hurun

### HK court convicts 2 journalists in landmark sedition case

Hong Kong court convicted two former editors of a shuttered news outlet on Thursday, in a sedition case widely seen as a barometer for the future of media freedoms in the city once hailed as a bastion of free press in Asia.

Stand News former editor-in-Stand News former editor-in-chief Chung Pui-kuen and for-mer acting editor-in-chief Patrick Lam were arrested in December 2021. They pleaded not guilty to the charge of con-spiracy to publish and repro-duce seditious publications. Their trial was Hong Kong's first involving media since the first involving media since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Stand News was one of the city's last media outlets that openly criticised the government amid a crackdown on dissent that followed massive prodemocracy protests in 2019. It was shut down just months after the pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper, whose jailed founder Jimmy Lai is fighting

collusion charges under a sweeping national security law enacted in 2020.

Chung and Lam were charged under a colonial-era sedition law that has been used increasingly to crush dissidents. They face up to two years in prison and a fine of 5,000 Hong Kong dollars (about USD 640) for a first offense.

Best Pencil (Hong Kong) Ltd., the outlet's holding company, was convicted on the same charge. It had no representatives during the trial, which began in October 2022.

Judge Kwok Wai-kin said in his written judgement that Stand News' became a tool for smearing the Beijing and Hong Kong governments during the 2019 He said a conviction is deemed

proportional "when speech, in the relevant context, is deemed to have caused potential damage to national security and intends to seriously undermine the authority of the Chinese central government or the Hong Kong government, and that it must be stopped".



Chung Pui-kuen, the former chief editor of Hong Kong's now-shuttered outlet Stand News, walks outside on bail after he was found guilty in a landmark sedition trial under a colonial-era law, in Wanchai District Court in Hong Kong on Thursday. AP/PTI

The case was centred on 17 articles. Prosecutors said some promoted "illegal ideologies", or smeared the security law and law enforcement officers. Judge Kwok ruled that 11 carried seditious intent, including com-

ing Deputy Defence Minister Timur Ivanov, who was arrest-

ed for bribery in April and later

mentaries written by activist Nathan Law and esteemed journalists Allan Au and Chan Pui-man.

Chan is also Chung's wife. The judge found that the other six did not, including interviews

with pro-democracy ex-lawmakers Law and Ted Hui, who are among overseas-based activists targeted by Hong Kong police bounties.

Chung appeared calm after the verdict while Lam did not

appear in court due to health reasons. They were given bail pending sentencing on September 26. Defence lawyer Audrey Eu

read but a mitigation statement from Lam, who said Stand News reporters sought to run a news outlet with fully independent editorial standards. The only way for journalists to defend press freedom is reporting," Eu quoted Lam saying. Eu did not read out Chung's mitigation letter in court. But local media outlets quoted his letter, in which he wrote that that many Hong Kongers who are not journalists have held to their beliefs, and some have lost their own freedom because they care about everyone's freedom in the community.

"Accurately recording and reporting their stories and thoughts is an inescapable responsibility of journalists," he wrote in that letter. The delivery of the verdict was

delayed several times for several reasons, including awaiting the appeal outcome of anoth-

### Xi meets Sullivan, keen to keep ties on even keel

Chinese leader Xi Jinping Cmet with US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on Thursday as the latter wound up a three-day visit with the stated aim of keeping communications open in a relationship that has become increasingly tense in recent years.

Sullivan, on his first trip to China as the main adviser to President Joe Biden on national security issues, earlier met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and a top general from the Central Military Commission.

Starting with a trade war that dates back to 2018, China and the United States have grown at odds over a range of issues, from global security, such as China's claims over the South China Sea, to industrial policy on electric

presidency in January. They said they remain committed to managing the relationship, following up on a meeting between Xi and Biden in San Francisco last November.

"While great changes have taken place in the two countries and in China-US relations, China's commitment to the goal of a sta-ble, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship remains unchanged," Xi said.

"President Biden is committed to responsibly managing this consequential relationship to ensure that competition does not veer into conflict or confrontation, and to work together where our interests align," Sullivan

The two countries agreed to work toward a phone call between Xi and Biden in the coming weeks, and Sullivan indicated the two could meet in

### Former Russian defence official detained in fraud case

AP MOSCOW

A former Defence Ministry Official was ordered held in a fraud case Thursday, the lata fraud case Thursday, the latest high-profile arrest in what appears to be a sweeping investigation into abuse of office in Russia's military leadership. Former Deputy Defence Minister Pavel Popov faces up to 10 years in prison if he is charged and convicted following his detention on suspicion ing his detention on suspicion of committing fraud, Russian state news agencies reported, adding that he was ordered held until at least October 29. The case against Popov relates to business activities at a sprawling park in Moscow sometimes called Russia's "military Disneyland."

Patriot Park, a pet project of former Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, is designed to inspire national pride in younger generations and showcases Soviet and Russian weaponry. It has a office in recent months, includ-



firing range, air base, museums and conference centre and a massive, khaki-coloured Cathedral of the Russian Armed Forces, which features mosaics of Soviet and Russian soldiers. President Vladimir Putin personally donated money to commission the main icon for the church, according to the Kremlin. Popov is the eighth top military

figure to be arrested on charges

dismissed from his position. The arrests began shortly before Putin replaced Shoigu with an economist, Andrei Belousov. Analysts suggest the arrests are a sign that Shoigu's associates are being removed from power and that the most egregious corruption in the Defense Ministry will no longer be tolerated.

Popov was responsible for developing and maintaining Patriot Park and is accused of renovating his own properties in the Moscow region at the park's expense, according to the state news agency Tass. He is accused of fraud alongside the director of the park and Maj. Gen Vladimir Shesterov, deputy of the Defence Ministry's innovations department, both of whom have already been detained.

### Russia continues aerial attack on Ukraine for 4th straight day

Russia conducted a heavy aerial attack on Ukraine for the third time in four days Thursday, again launching missiles and scores of drones that mostly were intercepted, Ukraine's air force said.

Russian forces fired five missiles and 74 Shahed drones at Ukrainian targets, an air force statement said. Air defences stopped two missiles and 60 drones, and 14 other drones presumably fell before reaching their target, it said.

Authorities in the capital, Kyiv, said debris of destroyed drones fell in three districts of the city, causing minor damage to civilian infrastructure but no injuries. Russia's relentless and unnerving long-range strikes on civilian areas have been a feature of the war since it invaded its neighbour in February 2022.

ly become more vocal in their long-standing insistence that Western countries supporting their war effort should scrap restrictions on what Ukraine is allowed to target inside Russia with long-range weapons they have provided. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy renewed his pleas for Western allies to untie his hands in

Russian soil. "All our partners should be more active — much more active — in countering Russian terror," Zelenskyy said late Wednesday. "We continue to insist that their determination now — lifting the restrictions on long-range strikes for Ukraine now — will help us to end the war as soon as possible in a fair way for Ukraine and the world

deciding what to strike on

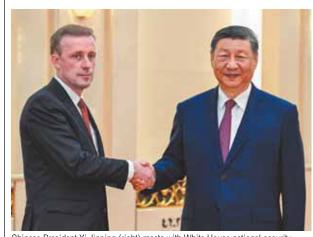
as a whole." as a whole.

The European Union's top diplomat on Thursday backed Zelenskyy's push for international backers to end their limits. Ukraine has deployed domestically produced drones to strike Russia.

The Russian military said on Thursday it had thwarted an overnight attack on Crimea. The Russian Defence Ministry said its forces destroyed three Ukrainian sea drones aimed at the Black Sea peninsula that Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014. The Russia-installed governor of Sevastopol Mikhail Razvozhayev added that four Ukrainian aerial drones and three sea drones were destroyed "at a significant distance" from the peninsula's shore.

In the meantime, Ukraine's Army General Staff acknowledged Thursday Ukraine's involvement in strikes this week on oil depots deep inside Russia, where blazes broke out. The attacks in the Rostov and

Kirov regions were part of Ukraine's effort to disrupt logistical infrastructure supporting Russia's war machine.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) meets with White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. AP/PTI

vehicle and solar panel manufacturing. Sullivan's trip this week is meant to keep the tensions from spiralling into conflict.
"We believe that competition with China does not have to lead to conflict or confrontation. The key is responsible manage-

ment through diplomacy," he told reporters at a news conference shortly before leaving Beijing.

year. "The likelihood is they'll both be there and if they are, it would only be natural for them to have the chance to sit down with one another," he said. Xi and Sullivan's meeting also touched on the issues of American citizens detained in

person at the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation or Group of 20 summits later this

China, on Taiwan and also on Both governments are eager to keep relations on an even keel ahead of a change in the US the clashes between the China and Philippines in the South

## Dhaka court issues travel ban on 14 former Awami League lawmakers

PTI DHAKA

Dhaka court on Thursday Aissued a travel ban on 14 former Awami League ministers and lawmakers in connection with corruption allegations brought against them by the interim government in Bangladesh, according to a media report.

The development comes after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League resigned and fled to India on August 5 following the mass movement against her government.

An interim government replaced her regime and 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was named its Chief Adviser -- a position equivalent to prime minister. The Daily Star newspaper reported that the travel ban has been issued against former social welfare minister Dipu Moni, former health minister Zahid Maleque, former education minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, former food min-

#### 'Over 1,000 killed during anti-govt protests'

Over 1,000 people have been killed during the protests against the Sheikh Hasina-led government in Bangladesh while more than 400 were blinded by police fire, with some of them losing sight in one or both eyes, a top adviser of the interim government said on Thursday. Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum disclosed this during a

ister Sadhan Chandra Majumder, former industrial minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun and former industrial deputy minister Kamal Ahmed Majumder.

Former lawmakers Salim Uddin, Mamunur Rashid Kiron, Kujendra Lal Tripura, Kajim Uddin, Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury Liton, Shahjahan Khan, Kamrul Islam and Ziaur Rahman have also been barred from leaving the country.

visit to the Central Police in both," Nurjahan was quot-Hospital in the capital's Rajarbagh where she interact-

"So far 1,000 people have been killed and more than 400 students and members of the general public have lost their

ed with the police personnel

injured in clashes and spoke to

those at the surgical depart-

ment to ask about their condi-

sight. Many have been blind in one eye, while others are blind Judge Mohammed Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special

Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order after Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Abu Hena Ashiqur Rahman, who is also conducting the investigation, submitted an application.
ACC Public Prosecutor

Mahmud Hossain Jahangir had moved the petition on behalf of

ed as saying by the bdnews24.com news portal. An anti-discrimination student movement against the government started in mid-July over a controversial quota system in jobs. The protests turned violent after crackdown by the forces.

Several protesters were killed and injured during clashes with the police in different parts of the country.

In the application, Jahangir said the former ministers and lawmakers, who have graft allegations against their names, were trying to flee the country. So, a travel ban is needed to prevent them from leaving the country.

The ACC informed the court that an investigation is underway into the allegations that they all amassed huge amounts of money through illegal means during their tenure.

#### **Danish court turns** down extradition of suspect to India

**AP** COPENHAGEN

**PURULIA CASE** 

A Danish court on Thursday Arejected the extradition request from India of a Danish national accused of being involved in an arms smuggling case 29 years ago, going against Denmark's top prosecuting authority which had given the green light to sending Niels Holck abroad.

Holck admitted taking part in dropping assault rifles, rocket launchers and missiles from a cargo plane at Purulia in West Bengal in 1995. Indian police said they were meant for a revolutionary group in the coun-

The Hilleroed District Court said that despite "the additional diplomatic guarantees" given by India "there is a real risk" that Holck will face torture or other inhumane treatment in



Holck, 62, said he feared for his life, if extradited.

"I would like to be held accountable in front of a judge because I believe it is a justified emergency, but I would rather not die from it," Holck told Danish radio DR Thursday morning before the ruling was announced. While a British citizen and five Latvians were arrested by Indian authorities after they dropped arms, Holck
— previously known as Niels
Christian Nielsen — escaped.
India first asked Denmark to extradite Holck in 2002. The government agreed, but two Danish courts rejected his extradition, saying he would risk torture or other inhumane treatment in India. That led to tense diplomatic relations between the countries.

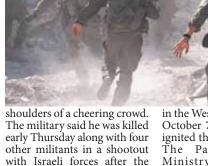
In June 2023, Denmark again looked into a 2016 Indian extradition request, saying that the requirements in the extradition act had been met.

### Israel kills prominent militant, four others in West Bank raids

The Israeli military said it killed five more militants, including a local commander, early Thursday in the West Bank as it pressed ahead with what appeared to be the deadliest military operation in the occupied territory since the start of the war in Gaza.

Israel says the simultaneous raids across the northern West Bank — which have killed a total of 16 people, nearly all militants, since late Tuesday are aimed at preventing attacks. The Palestinians see them as a widening of the Israel-Hamas war aimed at perpetuating Israel's decades-long military rule over the territory.
The Islamic Jihad militant

group confirmed that Mohammed Jaber, known as Abu Shujaa, was killed during a raid in the city of Tulkarem. He became a hero for many Palestinians earlier in the year when he was reported killed in an Israeli operation, only to make a surprise appearance at the funeral of other militants, where he was hoisted onto the



Israelis, including a deadly shooting in June, and was planning more. The military said another militant was arrested in the operation in Tulkarem, and that a member of Israel's paramilitary Border Police was lightly

five had hidden inside a

mosque. It said Abu Shujaa was

linked to numerous attacks on

wounded. The overall toll of 16 killed in less than two days would make it the deadliest Israeli operation in the West Bank since Hamas October 7 attack out of Gaza ignited the war there.

The Palestinian Health Ministry says over 650 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank since the start of the war.

Most appear to have been militants killed in gunbattles during Israeli operations like the one this week, but civilian bystanders and rock-throwing protesters have also been killed, and the territory saw a surge of settler violence. Israel says the operations are required to prevent attacks on its citizens, which have also risen since the

### **Telegram CEO barred from leaving** France, pending further probe

**AP** PARIS

 $F^{\text{rench authorities handed preliminary charges}} \\ \text{To Telegram CEO Pavel Durov on Wednesday}$ for allowing alleged criminal activity on his messaging app, and barred him from leaving France pending further investigation. Both

free-speech advocates and authoritarian governments have spoken out in Durov's defence since his weekend arrest. The case has also called attention to the challenges of policing illegal activity online, and to the Russia-born Durov's own unusual biography and multiple passports.

Durov was detained on Saturday at Le Bourget airport outside Paris as part of a sweeping investigation opened earlier this year, and released earlier

Wednesday after four days of questioning. Investigative judges filed preliminary charges Wednesday night and ordered him to pay 5 million euros bail and to report to a police station

twice a week, according to a statement from the Paris prosecutor's office. Allegations against Durov, who is also a French citizen, include that his platform is being used for child sexual abuse material and drug trafficking, and that Telegram refused to share information or documents with

investigators when required by law. The first preliminary charge against him was for "complicity in managing an online platform to allow illicit transactions by an organised group", a crime that can lead to sentences of up to 10 years in prison and 500,000 euro fine, the prosecutor's office said. Preliminary charges under French law mean magistrates have strong reason to believe a crime was committed but allow more time for further investigation. David-Olivier Kaminski, a

lawyer for Durov, was quoted by French media as saying "it's totally absurd to think that the person in charge of a social network could be implicated in criminal acts that don't concern him, directly or indirectly".

#### **AP** ■ COPENHAGEN (DENMARK) Astrong wave was likely responsible for the capsizing of a Viking ship replica ear-lier this week off Norway's coast that killed a US citizen, police said on Thursday, describing it as a "tragic accident" that did not constitute a criminal matter. The wooden replica, called Naddodd, was crossing the

North Atlantic from the Faeroe Islands to Norway with an international team of six people. The 10-metre (33-feet) double-

masted vessel built on the Faeroes had departed the islands located halfway between Scotland and Iceland on Saturday.



Strong wave likely capsized Viking

replica ship off Norway, police say

On Tuesday, it sailed into strong winds and high waves and late that night, the ship capsized off the coastal town of Stad, about 346 kilometers (215 miles) from the capital of Oslo. Survivors told police that

the weather "suddenly turned significantly worse than predicted with very high waves." Rescuers said some of the waves were up to 5 metres (16 feet) high at the time. The five survivors had man-

aged to get into an inflatable life raft and were were later airlift-ed to safety by helicopter. A sixth person, who had been trapped underneath the vessel, drowned, police said. The victim's body was found on Wednesday.

Police have not released the name of the victim but Norwegian and Faeroese media identified her as 29-year-old archaeologist Karla Dana, from Florida. "Thrilled to be a part of this crew, fearlessly embarking on

this Nordic voyage on a Viking ship replica across the North Sea, pushing through physical and mental limits to sail into history," Dana had posted on her LinkedIn profile before

# Sensex, Nifty scale all-time high levels

 $E_{\text{Sensex and Nifty hit their}}^{\text{quity benchmark indices}}$ all-time high levels on Thursday, driven by a rally in index majors Reliand Industries and Tata Motors. Reliance The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 349.05 points or 0.43

per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,134.61, extending its winning momentum to the eighth day in a row. During the day, it soared 500.27 points or 0.61 per cent to hit a lifetime intraday peak of 82,285.83.

Rallying for the 11th straight session, the NSE Nifty surged 99.60 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 25,151.95. During the trade, the benchmark climbed 140.55 points or 0.56 per cent to hit a fresh record intra-day peak of 25,192.90.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Tata Motors jumped over 4 per cent, followed by Bajaj



Finserv, Bajaj Finance, HCL Technologies, ITC, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, Maruti and State Bank of India.

Reliance Industries climbed nearly 2 per cent after Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of the firm, said the board of the company will meet on September 5 to consider

issuing bonus shares in the ratio of 1:1.

"When Reliance grows, we reward our shareholders handsomely," Ambani said. Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharma, JSW Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys and Tata Steel were among the biggest laggards.

Extending its winning run to the seventh day in a row, the BSE benchmark climbed In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled 73.80 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 81,785.56.

25,129.60.

### SEBI proposes mandatory UPI block mechanism facility for secondary marketing trading

Capital markets regulator Sebi has proposed mandating Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) to offer the facility of trading in the secondary market using the UPI-based block mechanism to their clients, similar to the ASBA facility. In the UPI block mechanism,

clients can trade in the secondary market based on blocked funds in their bank accounts, instead of transferring the funds upfront to the trading member. The facility is currently optional for investors, and not mandatory for Trading Members (TMs) to offer as a service to clients. Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA)like facility already available for the primary market which ensures that money from an investor gets moved only when an allotment happens.

In its consultation paper on Wednesday, Sebi has suggested that QSBs must provide the facility of trading using the UPI block mechanism in the cash

the facility of trading using the UPI block mechanism at

segment for their clients individuals and HUFs with an appropriate glide path for implementation. Also, it has been suggested that QSBs can offer a "3-in-1 trading account facility" as an alternative to making the ASBA-like mandatory.

In the case of 3-in-1 trading accounts, the clients would have their funds in their bank account, earning interest on the cash balances. In addition, the 3-in-1 facility would be available for cash as well as derivatives segment, without amount restrictions, while

present shall be available only for cash segment with some restrictions on number of blocks allowed on a daily basis, Sebi said.

"However, compared to UPI facility, the facility of 3-in-1 trading accounts provide adequate, albeit lower protection to the clients, lower considering that the pay-in and pay-out of funds are routed through the TMs," it added.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) sought public comments till September 12 on the

proposals. Trading Members are classified as Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) based on factors such as the size and scale of their operations, including the number of active clients, the total assets held by clients with the TM, the end-of-day margin of all clients, and the trading volume of the TM.

Being designated as a QSB, brings with it enhanced responsibilities obligations. Further, QSBs are also subjected to enhanced monitoring by Market Infrastructure Institutions.

The regulator had introduced the use of RBIapproved Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the facility of blocking of funds, as a payment mechanism for retail investor applications submitted intermediaries for public issues such as IPO from January 2019.

The Beta version of trading through block mechanism for secondary markets was launched on January 1, 2024, for individuals and HUFs, and was made applicable only to the cash segment.

### India plans repairability index for mobile, electronics to tackle e-waste

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is planning a repairability index for mobile phones and electronic products to address the growing e-waste problem and encourage manufacturers to produce more easilv repairable items, officials said on Thursday.

The Consumer Affairs Ministry is spearheading the initiative, which will provide a score on key parameters to inform consumers about the ease with which a product can be repaired, the officials said at a national workshop on the

emerges as the third largest economy in the world, we should have a vibrant and tech-savvy repair system." She also added, "India can democratizing repair become a repair hub for the information to enhance

The proposed



similar to initiatives in other countries, such as France's repairability index. It will rate products on criteria including availability of technical documents. ease disassembly, spare parts availability and pricing.

Addressing the workshop, Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said: "As India emerges as the third."

The workshop was aimed at establishing a consensus among industry stakeholders on "key parameters." accessing and evaluating repairability index" besides promoting longevity in product design, and repair consumer experiences in reusing the mobile and

electronics products they Additional Secretary Bharat

Khera emphasized the need for transparent and affordable repair solutions, increased consumer awareness, and support for local repairers.

Joint Secretary Anupam Mishra highlighted concerns about the lack of genuine spare parts in local markets, compatibility issues with product components, and the absence of information for consumers to repair their own devices. He also mentioned that the

Repairability Index of France rates products on five criteria. while the EU has additional parameters.

HCL Technologies Founder Ajai Chowdhry called for legislation to drive change. 'Today, most products are not repairable. We need to design products which can be repaired.... Unless we create a law, things will not change,"

### Infosys, NVIDIA expand partnership to develop GenAl-powered solutions

Institutional

Wednesday,

on

25,052.35. The benchmark surged 111.85 points or 0.44

per cent to hit a fresh intra-

day all-time peak of

**T**nfosys on Thursday said it has expanded partnership with American chipmaker NVIDIA to GenAI-powered develop solutions telecom for operators. The IT major has developed

three generative AI solutions powered by its AI-offering Topaz, which make use of NVIDIA NIM inference NVIDIA microservices, NeMo Retriever embedding models. and NeMo Guardrails to customise and deploy generative AI telco domain-specific largelanguage models.

It has also used NVIDIA Riva allow real-time transcription and translations for call centre agents, according to a regulatory

adopting generative solutions to improve the productivity their businesses with smarter networks, more efficient operations, and enhanced customer service.

"Leveraging NVIDIA's fullstack accelerated computing and AI platform, Infosys Topaz is delivering a suite of domain-specific solutions that will help telcos accelerate and streamline their adoption of generative AI," Ronnie Vasishta, Senior Vice President of Telecom at NVIDIA, said. These generative-AI solutions

have resulted in up to 61 per cent lower latency and 22 per cent absolute improvement in accuracy, the filing said. Shares of Infosys settled 0.35 per cent lower at Rs 1,932.40 ece on the BSE

## Rupee rises ten paise to close at 83.87 against US dollar

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 83.87 (provisional) against the American currency on Thursday, supported by easing crude oil prices and a firm trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the market is awaiting cues from the US GDP and the US Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) inflation data, as this data point is crucial since it could sway the Federal Reserve's decision on whether to implement a 25 or 50 basis point rate cut at its September meeting.
At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.92 and touched an intra-day high of 83.84 against the US dollar. The domestic currency finally settled at 83.87 (provisional), 10 paise higher from its

previous close. n Wednesday



depreciated 4 paise to close at 83.97 against the American curr ency.

According to Jateen Trivedi, Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, the rupee gained 10 paise, as expectations of interest rate cuts continue to provide support, preventing the rupee from falling below 84.00.

The strong demand around 84.00 keeps the rupee buoyant, with resistance seen at 83.75. The rupee is expected to trade in a positive

84.00-83.70, Trivedi said. Meanwhile, dollar index, which gauges greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies. trading 0.11 per cent higher at

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.34 per cent to USD 78.38 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex rose 349.05 points, or 0.43 per cent, to close at 82,134.61 points. The Nifty closed 99.60 points, or 0.4 per cent, up at 25,151.95 points.

101.20.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Wednesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,347.53 crore, according to exchange

#### Skill upgradation and certification programme launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) has launched the Lineman Certification Programme under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) initiative in association with BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) aligned with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Safety Regulations.

This strategic programme aims to enhance the skill sets of BYPL's workforce, particularly those engaged in electrical operations, ensuring adherence to the

highest safety standards.
The PSSC has been actively engaged in the task to deliver on the objectives with active support of industry stakeholders.

### Final guidelines on project loans likely in 2-3 months: RBI official

The final project loan guidelines are likely to be announced in the next two to three months, a senior RBI official said on Thursday. The norms regarding the Expected Credit Loss (ECL)-

based provisioning are in an advanced stage of discussion, the official told reporters here.

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to set aside 5 per cent of the total exposure to a project till the construction of the project is on.

Fearing a hit to profits, banks have been asking for a relook into it, as per reports. The RBI official said up to 60

responses have been received on the project loans draft, and the central bank is going through all the suggestions.
When asked about the timelines by when the final

guidelines will come in, the official said it will take "at least 2-3 months", but did not give a specific answer on whether the guidelines will be implemented from April 1 next year onwards.

framework, the official said the norms are in the "advance stages" of discussion. The official admitted that

To a question on the ECL

there is an "overlap" on both the ECL and project finance norms, but seemed noncommittal on whether both the guidelines will come in together.

These are two concurrent streams running together, the official said, assuring that the intent of the RBI is to be nondisruptive and take into account all the impact of the guidelines before finalising. Meanwhile, on reports of higher delinquencies in

microloans, the official said there is no systemic risk and entry-specific concerns are discussed bilaterally as part of the supervisory framework. regulatory some

interventions are required, they are also initiated, the official said, citing the November 2023 regulations hiking risk weights on unsecured lending. There is "nothing on the table"

right now on the MFI sector, the official added. If any action is taken, it will be for the entire sector and not entity-specific, the official

Speaking at the annual GFF here, RBI's chief general manager Vaibhav Chaturvedi asked financiers to be more "responsible" while engaging in their core lending activities and the industry to take steps towards this aim.

clarified.

### Green hydrogen firm Ohmium bags financial aid for 137-MW capacity under SIGHT scheme

PTI NEW DELHI

Green hydrogen firm Ohmium on Thursday said it has secured financial assistance for setting up a 137-MW electrolyzer manufacturing capac under the SIGHT scheme. capacity Electrolyzer is a device that uses electricity to split water

into hydrogen and oxygen through a chemical process called electrolysis. International Ohmium (Ohmium) has been selected for the second time as a SIGHT Incentive Program award winner by the Ministry of New and Renewable

Energy (MNRE), a company

statement said. "Our selection for this award demonstrates both Ohmium team's commitment to excellence as well as to decarbonization in India and across the globe," said Arne



Ballantine, Ohmium CEO in the statement.

This award is a continuation of Ohmium's success in Tranche I of the SIGHT program. The tenders, implemented by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) are intended to incentivize 1.5 GW of domestic electrolyzer manufacturing capacity in support of India's sustainability goals.

"India has ambitious green hydrogen goals, and this program supports India's

evolution as a global Energy hub. These funds will accelerate the expansion of Ohmium's Gigafactory in Bangalore as well as support future local manufacturing facilities", noted Ballantine. Ohmium is the PEM electrolyzer leader in India, with partnerships with industry leaders such as NTPC and Tata Projects.

The company has an active green hydrogen project pipeline of over 2 GW across four continents, serving a diverse range of customers across energy, transportation, steel production, and heavy industry. Headquartered in the United States with manufacturing

facilities in India and operations worldwide, operations Ohmium has a global green hydrogen project pipeline exceeding 2 GW across three continents.

### India rating at BBB with stable outlook PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch retains

with a stable outlook. India's

India's ratings are underpinned by its strong medium-term growth outlook, which will continue to drive improvement in structural aspects of its credit profile, including India's share of GDP in the global economy, as well as its solid external finance position, it said in a

Strengthening fiscal credibility from recent achievement of deficit targets, enhanced transparency and buoyant revenues, have increased the likelihood that government debt can follow a modest downward trend in the

including governance indicators and GDP per capita, also weigh and also weigh on the rating, it

### Gold slips ₹100; silver plunges ₹600

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices slipped Rs 100 to Rs 74,250 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had ended at Rs 74,350 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver prices also plunged by Rs 600 to Rs 87,200 per kilogram, extending the losses in the second straight session on Thursday from the previous close of Rs 87,800

per kg. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also declined Rs 100 to Rs 73,900 per 10 grams



on Thursday. It had settled at Rs 74,000 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Traders attributed fall in the gold prices due to reduced demand by jewellers in the local markets.

On the global front, comex gold is trading at USD 2,555.10 per ounce, higher by USD 17.30 per ounce or 0.68

### Tyre exports from India rise 17 per cent in Q1: ATMA PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tyre exports from India grew 17 per cent year-on-year to reach Rs 6,219 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal with the US emerging as the biggest market, industry Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) said on Thursday.

Tyre exports from India recouped in the first quarter of FY25, increasing by 17 per cent YoY. Tyre exports had declined by 14 per cent in the corresponding quarter in the previous year, ATMA said citing data just released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Sustained focus on R&D and



technology products aided by competitive pricing and branding efforts helped Indian tyre manufacturers drive growth in exports despite a challenging environment, ATMA Chairman Arnab Banerjee said in a statement. "Improving demand prospects in key export destinations and

expected monetary easing also helped growth," Banerjee

added. The rise in exports is a testament to the Indian tyre industry's enhanced integration with global supply chains, he added.

"The globally aligned regulatory environment in the country for manufacturing of tyres also augurs well for increasing the addressable market Indian manufactured tyres," Banerjee

During Q1FY25, the US was the largest export destination for Indian manufactured tyres accounting for 17 per cent share. Other large export destinations included Brazil, Germany, France and Italy, the statement said.

### Over 500 international, domestic exhibitors take part in Delhi event

PNS NEW DELHI

 $B_{\text{show on business, leisure,}}^{\text{LTM 2024, India's leading}}$ travel and MICE, kicked off on Thursday at Yashobhoomi (IICC), Dwarka here.

This edition marks

significant milestone, with the event doubling in size and featuring an impressive lineup of 500 plus exhibitors from around the globe, including national tourism organisations, convention bureaus, State Governments, and hotels resorts. destination managment companies (DMCs) and tour

operators among others. The event is expected to witness a record footfall of

10,000 trade visitors. MICE refers to meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions. Over 500 international and domestic exhibitors, including

hosted buyers and over

National Tourism Organisations, convention bureaus, airlines and leading hotel chains besides travel tech providers are participating in the event, tech State tourism boards, BLTM 2024 has official participation from five National Tourism Organisations.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and seven State Tourism Boards are also participating in the

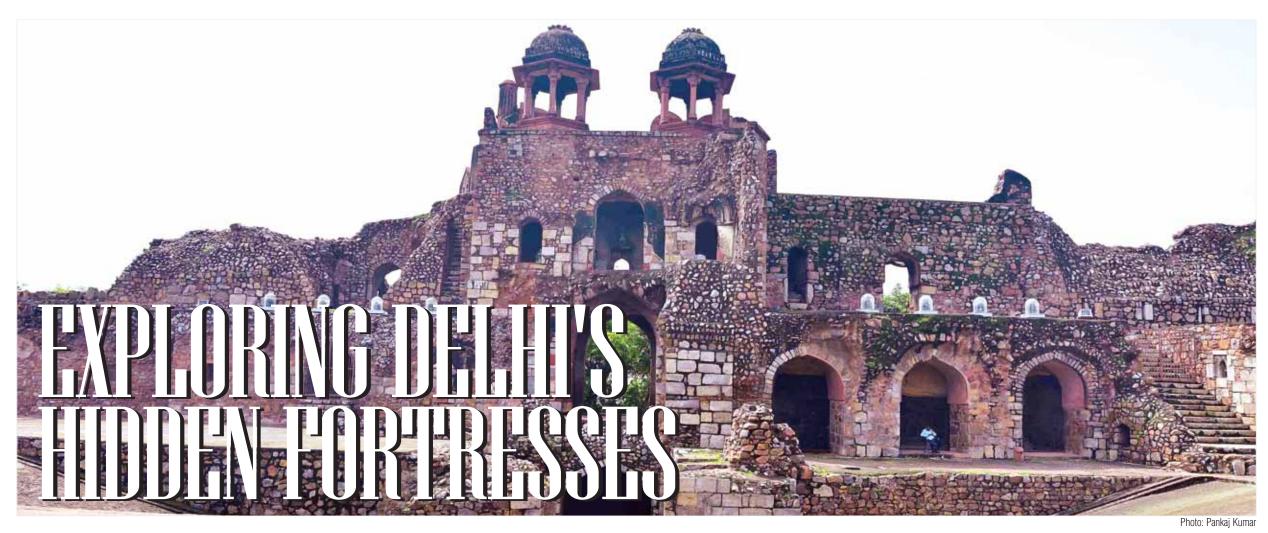
Global rating agency Fitch Gon Thursday affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBBrating has remained unchanged at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade, since August 2006. "Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a Stable Outlook," the global rating agency said in a statement.

statement.

medium term, it said. Nevertheless, it said, fiscal metrics remain a credit weakness, with deficits, debt and debt service burden all high compared to 'BBB' range peers. Lagging structural metrics,

added. Observing that India is set to remain among the fastest-growing sovereigns globally, it of 7.2 per cent in the fiscal year

said, "we forecast GDP growth ending March 2025 (FY25) and 6.5 per cent in FY26, down slightly from 8.2 per cent in FY24."



Discover the rich history and architecture of Delhi's forts in *Delhi Heritage: Top 10 Forts* by Vikramjit Singh Rooprai, offering an engaging and insightful exploration of the city's past, says SAKSHI PRIYA

by Vikramjit Singh Rooprai is an engaging journey of ten prominent forts in Delhi. As part of the Delhi Heritage series, this book dives deep into the architectural and historical significance of these forts, offering readers a comprehensive view of Delhi's rich past. Rooprai, a dedicated heritage activist and educator has put together a guide that blends historical facts with intriguing stories, making it accessible to both history

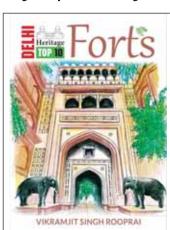
enthusiasts and casual readers. One of the highlights of the book is how it sheds light on not just the famous forts like the Red Fort and Purana Qila, but also on the lesserknown ones, such as Qila-i-Rai Pithora and Nai ka Kot. Rooprai takes readers on a journey through

elhi Heritage: Top 10 Forts the history of these forts, detailing their construction, purpose and the events they have witnessed over centuries. The book stands out because it goes beyond the typical tourist information, offering a more detailed look at how these forts fit into the broader historical and cultural context of Delhi.

> The book opens with a vivid portrayal of the Red Fort, a symbol of Mughal grandeur. Rooprai captures the momentous day of 18 May 1648, when Emperor Shahjahan inaugurated this architectural marvel. The description of Shahjahan's grand entry, with Prince Dara Shikoh showering him with coins, sets the tone for the book's rich narrative style. The Red Fort's formidable outer walls, crowned with ornate chhatris and punctuated by five

principal gates, are brought to life through Rooprai's evocative prose. Following the Red Fort, Rooprai delves into the history of Purana Qila, a site steeped in both myth and historical significance. The fort is traditionally believed to be built on the grounds of Indraprastha, the legendary capital of the Pandavas. Rooprai skilfully interweaves folklore with historical facts, recounting legends such as Lord Krishna's demand for Khandavprastha. The Darwaza (large gate) of Purana Qila stands as an attestation to its historical importance and Rooprai's detailed descriptions make it clear why it has been a must-visit site since the British era.

Tughlaqabad Fort, the largest surviving fort in Delhi, takes centre stage next. Commissioned by Sultan



Ghiasuddin Tughlaq between 1321-1323 CE, the fort's imposing ruins and its strategic significance during the Tughlaq dynasty are examined. Rooprai brings to light the fort's intriguing lore, including the

reputed curse by Sufi mystic Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya condemned it to remain abandoned. The fort's role in defending Delhi from Mongol invasions underscores its military importance, a facet Rooprai explores with both depth and clarity.

The book also highlights the contributions of Feroz Shah works and irrigation earned him the title 'Father of the Indian Irrigation System'. Rooprai describes Feroz his subjects and his legacy of ruler's priorities and the architectural innovations that characterised his reign. Salimgarh, Delhi Heritage: Top 10 Forts by Pages: 214

introduced as a strategic outpost than just a guide, it's a celebration of built by Islam Shah Suri, son of Sher Shah Suri. Rooprai's account of fortification network.

Rooprai's narrative is enriched by Tughlaq, whose focus on public His engaging writing style and meticulous research offer readers a window into the past, highlighting how these structures reflect the Shah's efforts to improve the lives of evolving history of Delhi. The book is peppered with narrative and equality and prosperity. This detailed descriptions that humanise making their stories accessible and compelling.

another significant fort, is Vikramjit Singh Rooprai is more Publisher: Niyogi Books

Delhi's rich historical and architectural heritage.. Rooprai's Salimgarh's strategic location on a engaging narrative brings these riverine island near the Yamuna and majestic structures to life, making it its role in defending Delhi adds a an invaluable resource for both layer of understanding to the city's history enthusiasts and those curious about Delhi's cultural legacy. Through its insightful and his ability to convey the fort's meticulously researched content, historical and cultural significance. the book highlights the importance of preserving our historical landmarks and provides a compelling journey into the depths of Delhi's heritage.

**BOOK DETAILS:** 

Book Name & Author: Delhi section provides insight into the the history of these fortresses, Heritage: Top 10 Forts by Vikramjit Singh Rooprai Price: INR 499

**NEW ARRIVAL** The Battle of Haji Pir: The Indian Army's



"The Battle of Haji Pir" by Kulpreet Yadav offers a profound exploration of the 1965 Indo-Pak war. focusing on the pivotal yet often overlooked Haji Pir battle, which was surrendered under the Tashkent Agreement. Yadav's book brings to life the valor and sacrifices of Indian soldiers, making

the complexities of military history accessible to all readers. Yadav's detailed account highlights the strategic maneuvers of the Indian Army during Operation Gibraltar and their critical role in defending Kashmir. The book also delves into the behindthe-scenes diplomacy and concessions made for peace, providing an insider's perspective on

With over 15 books to his name, Kulpreet Yaday combines thorough research with engaging storytelling, making "The Battle of Haji Pir" a compelling read for military enthusiasts and history buffs. Available this September in major bookstores and online platforms.

#### **Human at Work by Richard Lobo**



In "Human at Work," Richard Lobo, Chief People Officer at Tech Mahindra, delves into the evolving workplace, emphasising the importance of keeping humans at the center of technological shifts. The book explores themes like agile leadership, ethical decision-making, and

human-centric technology, offering practical insights and real-world examples. Lobo underscores that every company today. regardless of industry, is fundamentally a tech company, driven by human expertise and

"Human at Work" highlights the power of microtransformations to spark significant change, making it a valuable read for HR professionals, managers and anyone navigating today's complex work landscape. Lobo's approach is particularly relevant to the Indian market, with timely discussions on hybrid work models and managing technological disruptions. Available this September in major bookstores and online. this book serves as a roadmap for leading with a human-first mindset in an increasingly digital

## Genetic Study Refutes Eelam Tamil Origins

A new genetic study reveals that Sri Lanka's Tamil and Sinhala populations are genetically similar, challenging claims of distinct Eelam Tamil origins and questioning the basis for separatist movements

BY KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

 $A^{\rm n}$  international team of scientists, drawn mainly from Sri Lanka and India, have demolished the concept of Eelam Tamils in the island nation through a comprehensive genetic study. A three-year long molecular biology research spanning across Sri Lanka and India have established that the population in the island nation is homogeneous in nature and there is no scientific basis for the claims by the Tamils that they had their origin in that country. The findings prove that the demand for a separate Eelam(country) for Tamils is bunkum and thousands of Tamils and Sinhalese massacred in the war for Eelam died for a non-existent cause. "The Sri Lankan population, mainly the Sinhala and Tamils, have massive genetic mixing. If the Tamils had their origin in Sri Lanka, their DNA should be visible and discernible. But it is missing," said Prof Gyaneshwer Chaubey, Department of Zoology, Banaras Hindu University who led the team of scientists in this path breaking research.

The peer-reviewed research paper "Reconstructing the Population History of the Sinhalese, the major ethnic group of Sri Lanka," has been published in iScience, a widely respected scientific portal. While Dr Chaubey led the team of Indian scientists, R Ranasinghe (Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University Colombo) led the researchers from the island nation. It may be remembered that Dr Chaubey and a team of researchers from Estonia, Harvard and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (Hyderabad) had demolished the Aryan and Dravidian linguistic theory and proved that both of these groups share the same Lanka, the Kauravas converted to



Dr Gyaneshwar Chaubey in discussion with a Sri Lankan student of his research team

the frequency of various genetic mutations showed a tight cluster of Sinhalese and Tamil populations, suggesting strong gene flow beyond the boundary of ethnicity and language. A further connection of Sinhalese with the West of India has been established based on the traces of DNA segments. Overall in the South Asian context, Sri Lankan ethnic groups are genetically more homogenous than others", said the team leaders.

The study also found that the Sinhala language spoken in the country is a combination of Konkani, Marathi, Sanskrit and Gujarati and reached the island nation through Arabian Sea. According to K M Raghavan, a Sri Lankan historian, the Tamils could have reached Sri Lanka as part of the Kaurava army units hired by the princes of the island nation to fight for them as private army warriors.The Kauravas, who were defeated by the Pandavas in the Mahabharata War took refuge in the East Coast of India and reached Sri Lanka at the invitation of various Kings in the island nation. Following the Portuguese occupation of Sri forefathers. "The analysis based on Christianity and their name was

changed to Karavas, Raghavan in his book. Ramaswami Wijayabalan, plantation owner and Tamil scholar based in Colombo, told The Pioneer

that the Tamils in north and north east of Sri Lanka are descendants of migrant workers from Malabar province in present day Kerala. "The Tamil they speak, their food habits and social life have their origin in Malabar. The priests in temples in North and East are addressed as Gurukkal as they had come here for teaching martial arts and offering poojas," said Wijayabalan. He asked how puttu, appam etc became the staple food of the Jaffna and Batticaloa Tamils. Interestingly, Ceylon and Colombo find mention in novels and short stories in Malayalam whereas the same is not that common in yesteryear literary works in Tamil, said Josephine Jayashanthi, leading novelist in Tamil Nadu. Dr S Kalyanaraman, Indologist of repute, concurred with the findings of Dr Chaubey and his team. "You may be able to distort history but you cannot distort science. The study by Dr Chaubey is based on pure science and no force can repudiate the same," said Dr Kalyanaraman who has deciphered the Indus script.

### **Revolutionising India's Dairy Industry:** The Inspiring Legacy of Verghese Kurien

MS Meenakshi's "Verghese Kurien: The Man Who Brought Milk to a Million Homes" chronicles the transformative journey of the 'Milkman of India,' whose visionary leadership and innovative approach revolutionised India's dairy industry and empowered rural communities, writes TEAM VIVA

Verghese Kurien: The Man Who Brought Milk to a Million Homes by MS Meenakshi is a compelling tribute to the 'Milkman of India,' whose visionary leadership and relentless transformed dedication India's dairy industry and rural economy. This book, part of the Pioneers of India meticulously series. chronicles Kurien's journey from unconventional engineer in Anand, Gujarat to becoming the architect of the White

Revolution and a pivotal figure in post-Independence MS Meenakshi vividly captures the essence of Kurien's pragmatic leadership his many accomplishments in the development of cooperative societies, which became a bedrock of India's dairy sector. The book emphasises Kurien's commitment to unwavering dedication to sustainable development and social entrepreneurship, iron will to stand by his highlighting how he championed the interests of rural stakeholders. Through initiatives like the creation of AMUL and the Institute of Rural Management in Anand, Kurien not dairy management but also spurred significant changes in rural

industries,

developmental policies.

socio-economic structures, One of the book's strengths



prominent Indian leaders such as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Jawaharlal Nehru. These collaborations played a crucial role in the growth of India's economy post-Independence.

The author also delves into the challenges Kurien faced, from bureaucratic hurdles and corruption to dealing with inefficient officials and self-serving lobbies. Despite these obstacles, Kurien's rural development and his principles shine through. His first loyalty was always to the and farmers rural stakeholders, a stance that led him to establish a network of small-scale cooperatives that empowered millions of farmers and made India a self-sufficient producer of BOOK DETAILS: milk by the 1970s.

The narrative is enriched with Format: Paperback insights into Kurien's Pages: 176 personal growth, from a Publisher: Paper Missile misfit engineer who initially Imprint, part of the Pioneers lies in its detailed portrayal of struggled to find his place in of India series by Niyogi Kurien's partnerships with Anand to a formidable social Books.

initiatives under Operation Flood linked the entire country through milk, a staple necessity. Meenakshi's portrayal of Kurien's character is both respectful and intimate, offering a balanced view of a leader who was as astute as he was compassionate.

MS Meenakshi's writing is both informative and engaging. Her expertise is evident in the way she presents complex economic and social concepts in a manner that is accessible to readers, making Kurien's achievements all the more inspiring.

Verghese Kurien: The Man Who Brought Milk to a Million Homes is more than just a biography, it's an inspiring roadmap for future thinkers and leaders in sustainable development. It reminds us of the power of visionary leadership and the impact that one dedicated individual can have on a nation. For anyone interested in the history of India's economic development, social entrepreneurship or the story of a man whose legacy continues to feed millions, this book is a must-read.

Price: INR 299

## INDIA'S CHANCES OF WINNING IN AUSTRALIA **WILL DEPEND ON BATTERS: JOHN BUCHANAN**

ormer Australia coach John Buchanan believes India's chances of completing a hat-trick of Test series wins Down Under will hinge on how the visiting batters, including "ageing" stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, tackle the hosts' battery of pace bowlers.

For the first time since 1991-92, India will tour Australia for a five-match Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with the opening game scheduled to be played at Perth from November 22.

Buchanan, who presided over Australia's golden run in all forms in the first decade of this millennium as head coach, said both India and Australia have plenty of ageing players at disposal but that will not be a deterrent to the competition between the sides.

"Australia (has), since losing to Australia (nas), since losing to India in the last series, the pace bowling attack with (off-spinner Nathan) Lyon, backed up now by Cameron Green or Mitch Marsh, is just a really, really powerful bowling lineup," Buchanan told PTI on Thursday after the launch of Ready Steady Go Kids' multisport program for the CP Goenka International School. "India's top order, (Yashasvi) Jaiswal, (Rohit) Sharma himself, (Virat) Kohli, possibly Iyer... they've got to bat really well to establish totals and then the likes of (Jasprit) Bumrah, Shami, (Mohammed) (Mohammed) Siraj will come



into their own," he said. Buchanan said there won't be much of a psychological impact of India's wins in Australia on the previous two tours given that two of the mainstays then - Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane are not likely to be a part of the touring squad for the

upcoming series. "The previous series that India won - important from both, Indian perspective and an Australian perspective - a little bit of the mind games will go into the pre-series," he said. "But for all that, those games

have passed, those players are gone and the current players we have both in the Australian side and the Indian side, they're at a stage of their careers where they all want to

perform."
"I looked at the ages and India

has got some aging players in that side notably Rohit who's 37 and Kohli is 35, (Ravichandran) Ashwin, if he tours, he's 37 and you look at the Australian side, there's only one or two players who are under 30.

"It'll be very much a battle again between the very good pace bowling attacks of both sides and how well the top order players of both sides can deal with the ball that will bounce, seam and probably swing a little bit more in the day-night game in Adelaide," he said.

BATTING FOR LONGER **PERIODS:** Buchanan said it will be key for India to bat for longer periods in Australia and tire out their bowling attack, something that Pujara executed to perfection in 2018-19 facing 1,258 balls. Two years later, Puiara faced 928 balls as India once again won the series

"Why Australia plays well at home is they do bat well, they understand their conditions, but that lineup of (Pat) Cummins, (Mitchell) Starc, (Josh) Hazlewood, backed up by Lyon, is just one of the alltime best all-round attacks that world cricket has seen," he said. "Albeit that, Starc is (nearly) 35, Hazlewood is 33, and Cummins is 31 - it's a five-Test series - so if India can not only bat well, but bat for long periods of time, then it will test the physical capacities of that Australian bowling attack and therein potentially lies a little bit of a key to how India can look at winning the series," he said.

Buchanan said the lack of preparation among travelling India will face as well.

India will play a two-day pink-ball match against the Prime Minister's XI on November 30 and December 1 ahead of the day-night Test.

"Australia is favourite going into the series right at this stage. When you look around world cricket these days - and it has been (the case) for some time - it's very difficult to tour other countries," he told reporters later.

"(The) travelling teams no longer have that preparation in a country. They don't play two or three games prior to playing the first Test match to adjust to a country, because nobody wants to tour for that long.
"That makes it very difficult

when you go to Perth, when it's fast and bouncy, for a side that's coming from, they will have played Bangladesh (and New Zealand) obviously, but Bangladesh at home isn't it?

"The wickets are going to be completely different, albeit it's fantastic lead-in that they're playing some Test cricket, but it's going to be quite difficult to go to Perth to start with," he said. Buchanan added that he was also not in favour of Steve Smith continuing as Australia's opener.

"Not personally. He's made his mark at No 4. But I'm not a selector, and I'm not the captain, and I'm not Steve Smith and so those three people will end up making the decision that they think best fits the make-up of that side,"

champion Krejcikova



### Paralympic Games opening ceremony starts the final chapter of a long summer of sport in Paris

Tust weeks after hosting the Olympics, Paris inaugurated the 2024 Paralympics on Wednesday with a nearly fourhour-long opening ceremony in the heart of the city.

Against the backdrop of a setting sun, thousands of

athletes paraded down the famed Champs-Elysées avenue to Place de la Concorde in central Paris where French President Emmanuel Macron officially declared the Paralympic Games open.

About 50,000 people watched the ceremony in stands built around the iconic square, which is the biggest in Paris and is visible from afar because of its ancient Egyptian Obelisk. Accessibility for athletes in wheelchairs was facilitated with strips of asphalt laid along the avenue and placed over the square. More than 4,000 athletes with physical, visual and intellectual impairments will compete in 22 sports from Thursday until Sept. 8. Organizers say more than 2 million of the 2.8 million tickets have been sold for the various Paralympic events.
The opening ceremony was

held outside the confines of a stadium, just like when the Olympics opened in the city on July 26. Fighter planes flew overhead, leaving red-white-and blue vapors in the colors of the French national flag, before the delegations entered the square in alphabetical order. Some delegations were huge more than 250 athletes from

less than a handful from Barbados and just three from Myanmar.

Brazil - and some were tiny -

Ukraine's delegation got a loud cheer and some of the crowd stood to applaud them. Flag bearers Steve Serio and Nicky Nieves led the U.S.

Team's delegation. The French arrived last and to roars from the crowd, which then sang along to popular French songs, including "Que Je T'aime" by late rocker Johnny Hallyday. Throughout the show, directed

by Thomas Jolly who also led the Olympic opening ceremony, singers, dancers and musicians with and without disabilities performed on stage together seamlessly, projecting a theme of inclusion and overcoming overcoming physical differences. Lucky Love, a French singer who lost his left

arm at birth, was joined by performers in wheelchairs. Other acts featured dancers with crutches.

International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons said he hoped the Paris Paralympics would start an "inclusion revolution" beyond the field of sport.

"The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will show what persons with disabilities can achieve at the highest level when the barriers to succeed are removed," he said in a speech. The fact these opportunities largely exist only in sport in the year 2024 is shocking. It is proof we can and must do more to advance disability inclusion - whether on the field of play, in the classroom, concert hall or in the boardroom."

As the ceremony concluded, the Paralympic torch was carried into the area by former Olympic wheelchair tennis gold medalist Michaël lérémiasz, who surrounded on stage by dozens of torchbearers. Five French Paralympians lit the Olympic cauldron, which is designed to look like a hot air balloon and

glowed gold-like in the night.



### Nitish-Thulasimathi duo makes winning start in Paralympics

**PTI** PARIS

India's Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan had little difficulty overcoming country-mates Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli in the opening group stage match of badminton mixed doubles (SL3-SU5) at the Paralympic Games here on

Thursday. However, mixed doubles duo of Sivarajan Solaimalai and Nithya Sre, seeded second, lost their SH6 group play stage match in straight games to the American pair of Miles Krajewski and Jayci Simon.

The Nitesh-Thulasimathi duo won the Group A contest 21-14, 21-17 in 31 minutes.

Nitesh, 29, who hails from Karnal district in Haryana, and young Thulasimathi, a veterinary science student from Tamil Nadu who had won the mixed bronze at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, encountered little challenge in the first game and at one stage they were leading by seven points. Unable to counter the pair's net play and deep tosses, Suhas and Palak quickly

**AP** ■ FORT LAUDERDALE

Miami on Wednesday, more than six weeks after the

Argentina captain left the

Copa America final with a

timetable for when Messi, the eight-time Ballon d'Or

winner, will play again for

Inter Miami - which has the

best record in Major League

Soccer so far this season.

Inter Miami visits Chicago on

Saturday, then doesn't return

to MLS play until a Sept. 14 match with Philadelphia. If

badly sprained right ankle. There is still no official

(FLORIDA)

found themselves trailing, losing the game in just 14 minutes. The second game too went on similar lines with Palak clearly not able to match the prowess of her senior partner on court and giving away points.
SL3 players have moderate

impairment on one side of the body, affecting either both legs or the absence of limbs, while SU5 players have significant impairments in their upper limbs. In Group B, Sivaraian and Nithya gave a tough challenge to the American pair before going down 21-23, 11-21 in 35 minutes in SH6 category. SH6 is for badminton players with short stature.

Sivaraian, who trains at the Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad, and partner Nithya were equal to the task in the opening game and also took a slender one-point lead but the young American pair, who are both in their late teens, were too agile on court and fought for every point.

The second game turned out to

continue rehabbing before

Messi was not selected by Argentina to play in World Cup qualifiers in early

"To see him on the field is

great," Inter Miami goalkeeper Drake Callender

said after the Wednesday workout. "I know he's been

getting treatment every single

day, training every single day. He's dealt with things before.

He's been there, done that and

he's still doing it at the highest

returning to game action.

September.

great,"

Lionel Messi returned to group training with Inter have two more weeks to

Messi doesn't play this level. To see him recoup from

weekend, that means he'd the kind of injury we saw at

Frances Tiafoe is getting the rematch he wants, a second shot at Ben Shelton at the U.S. Open. But there won't be a second straight Grand Slam title for Barbora Krejcikova.

The Wimbledon champion was knocked out of the U.S. Open in the second round on Wednesday, defeated by Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-4,

The No. 8-seeded Krejcikova won her second Grand Slam singles title this summer, but then she didn't play any matches after the Paris Olympics. She acknowledged last week not knowing where her level of play was. Turns out, it wasn't good enough.

"I mean, winning Wimbledon is nazing. It's a great, great, great result.

I'm very proud about it and how I was able to handle everything there," said Kreicikova, who hadn't played a tournament on hard courts since February.

"I think I was playing quite well, definitely better than in the first match. I think my game was improving, but it just wasn't enough." No woman has won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in the same year since Serena Williams in 2012. Tiafoe had short work on the

steamiest day of the tournament thus far, with temperatures in New York surpassing 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius). Three men's matches ended when an opponent stopped playing, the last one sending defending champion Novak Djokovic to the third round when Laslo Djere retired early in the third set with what



appeared to be pain near his hip after they played for more than two hours across the first two sets.

"You know, in the end, not the kind of finish that we players or crowd wants to see, but I think it's probably due to that physical battle that we had in the opening two sets," the No. 2-seeded Djokovic said.

Tiafoe, the No. 20 seed, won the first two sets before his opponent, Alexander Shevchenko, retired after the first game of the third set.

Shelton, the No. 13 seed, later beat Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. He ousted Tiafoe last year in the quarterfinals, stopping Tiafoe from what would have been a second straight trip to the U.S. Open

"Obviously he's very much like me in now excited and energetic he is on the

court," Tiafoe said, "and has such a big game and big shots and serves big and gets the crowd going."

Well, maybe not quite as well as

Tiafoe does. "I know that the people love him here. Probably more than me. He's electric

here, and his crowds are electric here," the 21-year-old Shelton said. "It will be a battle. It will be a war just

like the last two times we've played. Yeah, I'm more than excited to be out there with him again."

They were two of the four American men to reach the third round in the bottom half of the draw. No. 12 Taylor Fritz got there by beating Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-1, while Brandon Nakashima beat Arthur Cazaux and will next play No. 18 Lozenzo Musetti, the bronze medalist

**Kush Maini** 

completes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

second Formula

Kush Maini, India's sole representative in Formula 2

series, has completed his second

Formula 1 test at Italy's Imola

circuit as a member of Alpine's

Maini had driven Alpine's 2022

car for the first time at the Red

junior driver program.

1 test at Imola

AU.S. Open match that Novak Djokovic already expected to be difficult was threatening to become a toss-up as he struggled with his serve. Missing more than he made, Djokovic couldn't get many quick points Wednesday night. He acknowledged that he should have lost the second set, and if his opponent didn't get injured and have to stop, maybe he wouldn't even have won that match. Once he had, the defending champion was only looking ahead.

Djere was leading 4-2 in the second set when he appeared to be troubled by pain near his hip and was visited by a be one-sided with the tiring Indians losing in just 14 minutes. I trainer later in the set. He finished that



set, which lasted 69 minutes after the first one went 60, but didn't last much

we players or crowd wants to see, but I think it's probably due to that physical battle that we had in the opening two sets," Djokovic said.

ANOTHER STEP TOWARD HIS RETURN AFTER ANKLE INJURY

It was the 90th win at the U.S. Open for Djokovic, making him the first man to reach that total at all four Grand Slams. The 24-time major champion will play No. 28 seed Alexei Popyrin on Friday. Djere was the only player to win a set

third-round encounter before Djokovic

"So I knew coming into the match that if I don't serve well, which was the case, I'm going to have to really grind and work for my points a lot," Djokovic said. "That's what I guess caused the two sets to be played over two hours."

Djokovic made only 47% of his first serves and appeared to be struggling physically himself earlier in the match, which was just his second since winning the gold medal in the Olympics. Djere had two chances to break Djokovic's serve for would have given him a 5-2 lead in the second set. Instead, he wouldn't win another game, with Djokovic breaking to win the set when Djere yanked a forehand out of

"All in all, of course, I have to be happy with the win," Djokovic said, "and happy that in important moments I managed to play one ball more than him over the net, I guess find the right shots or anticipate well as I did in the set point in the second set.

Bull Ring in June.
The two-day test at Imola, a track renowned for its challengbounds.

ing layout and rich motorsport history, saw Maini behind the wheel of the Alpine A522, the 2022 season race car. Maini was a part of a two-day testing event for the Alpine team alongside Jack Doohan,

who recently secured a promotion to Formula 1. This latest test comes at a crucial time, as the team's reserve driver spot opened up earlier last

week, presenting a significant opportunity for Maini. After 99 laps and close to 500 Km of high speed and adrenaline, the 23-year-old shared his

thoughts. "Can't thank Alpine enough for this opportunity. Very strong

day, both qualification and race pace looked very good. Can't wait for the next one." Representing Invicta in Formula

2, Maini will return to action at

Monza over the weekend. In his second season in the F1 feeder series, Maini is ninth in the standings with 74 points. He bagged his first ever Formula

2 win by topping the sprint race at the Hungarian GP.

## Novak Djokovic reaches US Open third round

**AP** ■ NEW YORK

"The matches are only going to get tougher from here. I know that, but I'm fine," Djokovic said. "I'll find my way, as I have done many times in my career." Diokovic reached the third round when Laslo Djere had to retire with the No. 2 seed leading his Serbian countryman 6-4, 6-4, 2-0.



'In the end, not the kind of finish that

against Djokovic at last year's U.S. Open, grabbing the first two in their

Messi joins group training with Inter Miami leaving in the second half of Argentina's win over Colombia in the Copa America final. He was dealing with leg issues throughout that tournament, Copa America and be available for us this season, it goes to show the quality of plus left the field briefly in the first half of the final care we have here." Messi has 12 goals and 13 assists in 12 MLS games with Inter Miami this season. He's because of a left ankle issue then got hurt again in the second half and had to leave missed 14 of the club's league matches, including each of the last eight either because

for good. If Messi doesn't play until the Sept. 14 match, he'll have had he was playing for Argentina or recovering from the ankle injury. Also missed by Messi exactly two months to recover in that span: all four of Inter Miami's matches in Leagues Cup play, as the team tried to defend the trophy it won a

and rehab plus gear up for the MLS playoffs. Inter Miami is the only team so far to have clinched a playoff berth and is currently four points clear with a match in hand - over year ago. the LA Galaxy for the Messi last played on July 14, overall record in MLS. the LA Galaxy for the best

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