



WORLD 5

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE ON GAZA SCHOOL KILLS 80 PEOPLE

MONEY 6

DOMESTIC FOOD MARKET EXPECTED TO GROW BY 47%

SPORT 7

SREEJESH A LEGEND OF HOCKEY: TEAMMATES

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Modi vows to rebuild ruined Wayanad

Two jawans martyred in gunfight with terrorists



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with officials during inspection of the landslide-affected areas, in Wayanad, on Saturday. MoS Suresh Gopi is also seen; the PM (R) interacts with a child survivor at AWS Hospital in Wayanad

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN n KOCHI

In a heart-touching show of solidarity and camaraderie, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday assured the people and the Government of Kerala that the entire nation and the Union Government stand by the State in its efforts to rebuild the Wayanad areas devastated by the recent landslides and deluge.

"Money will not be a problem for the reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Wayanad. We have to stand by the youth who have lost everything and help them realise their dreams," said

Modi. Speaking to the people of Kerala after a whirlwind tour and aerial survey of the regions devastated in the monstrous landslides and flashfloods that claimed more than 400 lives and destroyed hundreds of houses, the Prime Minister asked the State Government to prepare a detailed report about the number of houses destroyed in the nature's fury and what the State Government was planning to do for the construction of a new and safe township in place of the area devastated in the natural calamity. He recalled his experience as

a volunteer in the rescue and rehabilitation team during the 1979 Machchu Morbi dam disaster in which more than 2,000 lives were lost. He asked the medical doctors attending to the survivors to counsel them and those who lost their near and dear ones in the tragedy. All that the State Government has to do is to submit a detailed report about the losses suffered by the people, the scale of fatalities and destruction in the region as also a comprehensive plan by the Kerala Government about the proposed resettlement scheme.

Earlier, the Prime Minister made on-the-spot assessment of the destruction and interacted with the soldiers of the Indian Army and the National Disaster Rescue Team who led the rescue operations in Mundakkal, PUNCHIRIMATTAM Churalmala regions which bore the brunt of the nature's fury. He also visited various hospitals in the district where the injured are undergoing treatment, interacted with them and enquired about their wellbeing. "The Prime Minister asked me about my health and assured of all possible help from the Government. His

words were soothing and reassuring," said Arun, a youth who had a miraculous escape from certain death after he was taken out from underneath tonnes of mud, soil and rocks fallen on him during the landslide. Modi was accompanied by Governor Mohammed Arif Khan, Union Minister of State for Tourism Suresh Gopi, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and senior IAS and IPS officers of the State. It was clear from the body language of the Prime Minister that he was moved by the stories recounted by the victims who had lost their loved ones, houses and sources of life.

Since Friday evening, the Kerala media was agog with reports that the Centre was likely to offer `2,000 crore comprehensive rehabilitation package that includes construction of a safe and secure township. A grim-faced Vijayan, who accompanied the Prime Minister throughout the aerial survey and interaction with the victims, did not speak anything other than reminding Modi that the State was waiting for the `2,000 crore which the Centre must allocate. The basis of the `2,000-crore package demand has been explained neither by the Chief Minister nor the Chief Secretary Venu.

Continued on Page 2

MOHIT KANDHARI n JAMMU

At least two Army personnel, who were critically injured during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, succumbed to their injuries late Saturday evening. Three other injured soldiers have been rushed to the hospital. The Indian Army is yet to confirm the fatalities. However, agency reports claimed two soldiers succumbed to their injuries while three others also injured in the ongoing operation are undergoing treatment. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Ahlan Gagarmandu in the Kokernag area of the south Kashmir district following information about the presence of terrorists there. The gunfight broke out after the terrorists opened fire at the search party personnel, who retaliated, the officials said.

The site of encounter was located deep inside the forests, around 10 kms from the nearest motorable road. In the exchange of fire, two Army personnel were injured. "Based on specific intelligence input, a Joint Operation was launched by the Indian Army, @JmuKmrPolice & @crpf_srinagar today in the general area Kokernag,



FILE PHOTO

Anantnag. Contact was established and a firefight ensued," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Indian Army said in a post on X. "Two personnel have been injured and evacuated from the area," it said. Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released sketches of four dreaded Pakistani terrorists who were last spotted near dhoks (temporary mud houses) in the upper reaches of Malhar, Bani and Seojdhar forests of Kathua district. The sketches were released almost a month after a group of terrorists ambushed two vehicles of the Indian Army in which five soldiers were killed in action and five others received injuries in the Machhedhi area of Basohli in Kathua district on July 8. Since then the security forces

have launched massive search operations in the area to flush out these terrorists hiding in the area. So far no major success has been achieved in the ongoing operations. On Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir police also announced a cash reward of `20 lakh for credible information about the whereabouts of these terrorists. In a post on X, J-K Police released sketches of four terrorists who were last seen in 'dhoks' of Malhar, Bani and Seojdhar forests in the upper reaches of the district. "...a reward of Rs 5 lakhs (has been announced) on each terrorist for actionable information. Anyone with credible information on terrorists will also be suitably rewarded," Kathua police said in its post.

Continued on Page 2

Bangladesh Chief Justice forced to resign

PTI n DHAKA

Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan on Saturday tendered his resignation, five days after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime amid massive street protests and students marching towards the apex court demanding a revamp of the judiciary.

The 65-year-old top judge revealed his decision around 1 pm after protesters of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement gathered at the apex court premises. The students had issued an ultimatum to him and the judges of the Appellate Division to resign by 1 pm. "I feel it is necessary to share a special news with you. Our Chief Justice resigned a few minutes back. His resignation letter has already reached the law ministry," law adviser, equivalent to the Minister of the newly-installed interim Government, Prof Asif



Nazrul said in a Facebook video message. Nazrul added that the resignation letter would be sent to President Mohammad Shahabuddin "without delay for taking necessary measures" and he was expecting the process to be completed very soon. "We have received only the resignation letter of the Chief Justice. There is no update

about (resignation) of others," Nazrul added. Chief Justice Hassan earlier on Saturday said he had decided to step down from his position. "I have made a decision to resign after speaking with Dr Asif Nazrul," he said. Earlier, the full court meeting of the Supreme Court got cancelled as students issued a two-hour ultimatum for the

resignation of the Chief Justice and other justices of the apex Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of unitary Bangladesh. In the face of student protest, Chief Justice Hassan postponed the meeting and later said he would step down. Hasnat Abdullah, a coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, issued the ultimatum at 11 am, asking the Chief Justice and other justices to leave their posts within 1 pm today. Bangladesh Army personnel were deployed at the Supreme Court premises as hundreds of protesting students gathered. Around 1 pm, Army personnel were stationed in the main building, annexe building, and other areas around the Supreme Court. They urged the protesters to maintain peace and called on them to avoid damaging property.



Paris Olympic Bronze medallist Indian Hockey players pose for photos on their arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi, on Saturday

Indian Hockey team gets grand welcome

PTI n NEW DELHI

Hundreds of fans lined up to garland and cheer for them as members of the Indian men's hockey team, including captain Harmanpreet Singh, touched down in the national Capital on Saturday after winning a second successive Olympic bronze medal in Paris. The Indian team extended its record overall Olympic medal haul in the sport to 13 with a 2-1 victory over Spain in the third place match in Paris. However, not all

members of the winning team made their way back home as a few vital cogs remained in the French capital for the closing ceremony on Sunday. Celebrated goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who retired at the end of India's campaign, is the joint flag-bearer for the ceremony along with double-medallist Manu Bhaker. He remained in Paris along with Amit Rohidas, Raj Kumar Pal, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Sanjay. This batch is slated to return after the closing ceremony.

No relief from rain mayhem for Delhiites

STAFF REPORTER n NEW DELHI

Heavy rain lashed Delhi-NCR for the second consecutive day on Saturday, causing waterlogging and traffic jams.

In Dwarka, two people sustained injuries due to the collapse of a wall of a school after a tree fell on it while a two-storey house collapsed in northwest Delhi's Model Town area during heavy afternoon rain. With the help of the local police and other rescue team members, three people were taken out of the rubble and sent to a nearby hospital. Two of them are in critical condition, the official said. Waterlogging was reported in several places in East Delhi, South East Delhi and Central Delhi. The Public Works Department (PWD) said it received 20 complaints of waterlogging during the day, while the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) received five complaints of similar nature as well as uprooting of trees. The national Capital on Saturday recorded 20.4 mm



rainfall. Palam recorded 30.1 mm rainfall, Lodhi Road 20.6 mm and Ridge 22 mm rainfall on Saturday. Choked drains led to waterlogging which in turn caused traffic bottlenecks, slow-moving traffic, and consequent traffic congestion. Rohtak Road, the highway that connects the city to Haryana, saw heavy jams in the wake of the rain. Kashmir Gate ISBT also witnessed heavy traffic jams.

Continued on Page 2

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CPWD suspends 3 engineers involved in renovation of Kejriwal's official residence

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI
The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has suspended its three engineers, namely, Additional Director General (Civil) Ashok Kumar Rajdev, Chief Engineer, Pradeep Kumar Parmar and Superintending Engineer, Abhishek Raj for their role in the renovation and construction of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence at 6 Flag Staff Road.

belonged from the CPWD and currently posted outside Delhi. Parmar and Rajdev are currently posted in Guwahati, Abhishek Raj is posted in Kharagpur. Since the three engineers are currently posted outside Delhi, the Vigilance Department, on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, had requested the Director General (CPWD) to suspend and initiate major penalty against them. "The project of Sheesh Mahal (6, Flag Staff Road) CM Residence was conceived contrary to Rules, Norms, GFR Provisions, PWD Manuals, etc. in order to ensure personal benefits to Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Albeit, the PWD Engineers were entirely at fault for not adhering to the extant Rule position/ norms," said sources in Delhi government. Delhi government's Vigilance department has pointed out that crores of rupees were spent on superior specifications like extra artistic and ornamental works, superior class stone floorings, superior wooden doors & automatic sliding glass doors, providing/ fixing of Vanity in Toilets, marble stone flooring, decorative interiors, decorative pillars, glass shower enclosure and doors, sheer curtain with fabric curtain track & motor with track curtains, wool carpets, wooden blinds, artistic mouldings, defogger glass in



toilets and bathrooms, sliding and folding glass, sauna bath & Jacuzzi. According to sources, there are seven engineers who found responsible for the irregularities that included violation of rules and massive cost escalation in

the name of superior modifications on the instructions of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Out of the five other engineers, three have already been suspended on the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, while recommendation has been made to CPWD to initiate action against one engineer, who has now retired. According to Delhi government Vigilance Department, these engineers, in collusion with the Minister (PWD) allowed the construction of the new bungalow for the Chief Minister invoking an urgency clause, where no such urgency existed, whilst the entire country was grappling with the

Covid-19 pandemic. On one hand, the Finance Department was issuing orders on fiscal management and reduced expenditure due to outbreak of the pandemic, on the other hand Minister (PWD), in utter disregard of the circumstances, was hurrying the proposal for construction of the new house during the same period in the name of addition / alteration of the old house. Also, the DoV has put it on record that the demolition of the old building and construction of a new building and the disproportionate increase in expenditure was done on the directions of the Minister (PWD) and "Hon'ble CM Madam" leading to major

changes in drawings of interiors submitted by consultant which resulted in deviation in total amount paid & sanctioned amount of work. Renovation and construction of Kejriwal's bungalow incurred a total cost of Rs 52.71 crore, according to a "factual report" submitted by the Delhi government's Vigilance Directorate to the Lieutenant Governor. The cost of Rs 52.71 crore included ₹33.49 crore spent on the construction of the house and ₹19.22 crore on a camp office for the chief minister, the report said, citing records of the Public Works Department (PWD). The matter is already being investigated by CBI.

Sisodia hopes Kejriwal will be released soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
A day after his release on bail, a senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday called upon party workers and people to fight against the "dictatorship" in the country and said his party will "take account of every atrocity committed against the people of Delhi". Targeting the BJP, he also said these people are not more powerful than the Constitution. Every person has to fight against this "dictatorship" which is not just putting leaders in jail but also harassing citizens. Sisodia said while addressing Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers at its headquarters. Expressing his gratitude for the support, Sisodia termed Supreme Court's verdict granting him bail in Delhi excise policy case after 17 months as a victory of honesty and truth. "I was hoping that justice would be delivered in 7-8 months. It took 17 months, but honesty and truth have won," he said in a spirited address to AAP workers at party headquarters in Delhi. He claimed that while in jail, he was not worried about getting



bail but was pained seeing businessmen being put in prison in "fake cases just because they did not donate money to the BJP". "This web of ED and CBI was not created because Kejriwal's name became a symbol of honesty in the whole country. BJP, which calls itself the biggest party in the world, could not prove in a single state that honest work is being done in one of their states. 'Bhrastachar ka ek hi kaal, Kejriwal, Kejriwal,'" he said. Sisodia told AAP workers that "we are just horses of a chariot but our real 'saarhi' (charioteer) is in jail, he will come out

soon". Highlighting the struggles of the AAP and its leaders over the last one and half years, Sisodia expressed hope that Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal will also be released soon. "For the past 17-18 months, and even before that, we've been fighting this entire battle. I was in jail, you all were protesting, Arvind is still in jail, but our lawyers are tirelessly moving from one court to another... Soon, we will also bring Arvind Kejriwal back..." he said. Taking a swipe at the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sisodia said that India will

become a developed country by 2047 if every poor citizen of the country received quality education in government schools and that it would be a "jumla" (gimmick) if someone says otherwise. He further vowed to continue his drive to make Delhi schools world class. "Vo (BJP) jail bhejne ki baat karte hai... hum apni jaan bhi dene ko taiyar hai..." he said. Seeking to target the BJP over the Vinesh Phogat issue, Sisodia, without taking the wrestler's name, said she protested against its leader and people saw what happened at the Olympics. Phogat, who was disqualified from the Paris Olympics for being found 100 grams overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final, was at the forefront of a lengthy protest alleging government inaction against former Wrestling Federation of India head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment by women wrestlers. The Supreme Court on Friday gave Sisodia bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged excise policy "scam" and said his long incarceration of 17 months without trial had deprived him of the right to speedy justice.

Ex-deputy CM visits Hanuman Mandir, Rajghat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

From visiting Hanuman Mandir at Connaught Place to Rajghat, AAP leader and former deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday addressed party workers, a day after being granted bail in connection with corruption cases linked to now-scrapped Delhi excise policy case after 17 months of custody. Sisodia visited a Hanuman Mandir at Connaught Place in the morning to seek blessings. "I have prayed to Lord Bajrangbali, and I have received his blessings... Arvind Kejriwal will soon receive blessings from Lord Bajrangbali," Sisodia told the reporters after visiting the temple. The former deputy chief minister along with party leaders also visited Raj Ghat in the national capital. Manish Sisodia was joined by other AAP leaders such as Sanjay Singh and Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Earlier in the morning, Sisodia posted a selfie with his wife on social media on Saturday morning, a day after walking out of jail. In the photo, Manish Sisodia is seen enjoying a cup of tea with his wife, Seema Sisodia. The heartwarming selfie by the former Delhi deputy chief minister comes a day after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the Delhi liquor policy case on August 10. Manish Sisodia had been lodged Tihar jail for the last 17 months. Posting on X in Hindi, Manish Sisodia wrote, "First morning tea of independence... after 17 months! The freedom that the Constitution has given to all of us Indians as a guarantee of the right to live. The freedom that God has given us to breathe in the open air with everyone." In his first post on X after being granted bail on Friday by the Supreme Court, Sisodia shared a picture with his wife and wrote, "First morning tea of freedom... after 17 months."

Delhiites will ensure AAP candidates lose security deposits in Assembly polls, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The people of Delhi will ensure that the AAP candidates lose security deposits from most seats in the Assembly polls due early next year, BJP's city unit chief Virendra Sachdeva said on Saturday. South Delhi BJP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said AAP leaders are celebrating as Sisodia came from the Paris Olympics with a gold medal. The people will give their response to the "boastful" speeches made by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders during the welcome ceremony for Manish Sisodia, who has been released from prison on conditional bail, Sachdeva said. Sachdeva slammed the AAP, saying "the people of Delhi want to know from Manish Sisodia whether it is true that he has been granted bail under unusual conditions, such as having to report to the police station at 10 am twice a week and keep his phone location active round the clock." The AAP, which is celebrating the bail given to the former deputy chief minister, must not forget that their "role model", Lalu Prasad, was also granted bail in



the fodder scam but later received a long sentence in 2016, the BJP leader said. "The AAP leaders, who are dreaming that the BJP candidates will lose their security deposits in the Assembly polls should remember how the people of Delhi rejected their campaign based on jailed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the Lok Sabha polls," he said. In the Assembly polls too, the people of the capital will not only reject the AAP's slogans, but also ensure that most of its candidates lose their deposits, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader added. Addressing a gathering of AAP workers and leaders at the party headquarters here on Saturday, a day after his release from the Tihar jail, Sisodia slammed the BJP-led Centre and called upon people to fight against its "dictatorship".

Sharad, Uddhav instigating caste riots in Maharashtra: MNS's Raj

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



issue to trigger caste riots in the state ahead of the State Assembly polls. "Shouldn't Sharad Pawar take the stand that caste politics should not spread in Maharashtra? On the contrary, they (Pawar and Uddhav) are contributing... Therefore, I request the people of all castes of Maharashtra not to support their dirty politics. Otherwise, I don't even think about what will happen to Maharashtra in the future," the MNS chief said. Demanding to know as to why the ruling BJP which has been in power at the Centre for 10 days had failed to accord reservation to the Maratha community so far, Raj said: "It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi

who said that he entered politics holding the finger of Sharad Pawar. He was in majority at the Centre for 10 years. So why did not give the quotas. Uddhav Thackeray was also (an ally) at the Centre and state for five years, why did not insist on the Maratha reservation." Replying to a question Raj said: "If Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray believe that they got big votes in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on their own merits, they are mistaken as the vote was against Modi and Amit Shah. "Whether the Muslims or Dalits voted against BJP in Maharashtra or across India, it happened due to a narrative that the Constitution would be changed," the MNS chief said. On the Maratha reservations agitation undertaken by Jarange Patil, Raj said: "Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray used Jarange's agitation to do politics and the unfortunate part is that some journalists from Marathwada whose names I know, how some of them got contracts, how they got cars"

MVA Govt tried to implicate Shinde, Fadnavis: Mumbai ex-Police Chief

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh on Saturday made a sensational allegation that the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government tried to "implicate and arrest" then Urban Development Minister and current chief minister Eknath Shinde and then the leader of Opposition and current deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. "Then State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had brought pressure on me to arrest Eknath Shinde and some BJP leaders... Instructions were also there to implicate and arrest Devendra Fadnavis... At some point in time, instructions were also there from the top bosses in the MBA to only implicate and arrest me in that case but to implicate Devendra Fadnavis, the then leader of the opposition," Mumbai's ex-CP said, alleging that instructions to arrest Fadnavis had come directly from Anil Deshmukh, Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray. "At a meeting held at Sharad Pawar's residence 'Silver Oak' where then state Home

Minister Anil Deshmukh was present, pressure was brought on to implicate the then Opposition leaders, including Fadnavis. But, I refused to carry out the orders, saying that I can not register fake cases against any one," Singh said. In an interview to a news agency, Singh also alleged that he was under pressure to arrest a senior BJP leader in a Mumbai bank irregularities case. Singh is believed to be close to Fadnavis. The latest allegations by Singh should be seen in the context of the running tussle between Singh and Anil Deshmukh. It may be recalled that Singh had created a sensation on March 20, 2021 by alleging that State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had asked now arrested and dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to "collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources in Mumbai. Deshmukh had resigned from his post as the State Home Minister on April 5 2021 within hours after the Bombay High Court ordered a "Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the serious

charges of corruption made against him by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. Based on a case of corruption registered by the CBI, Deshmukh was arrested by the ED November 2, 2021 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of bribery, conspiracy and misuse of office. Deshmukh was behind the bars for 14 months before he was released on bail December 28, 2022. The development had come fortnight after the Bombay High Court granted him bail in an alleged corruption case registered against him by the CBI. Following his allegations against Deshmukh, Singh was booked for several serious offences registered against him in four different police stations in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane district. He was later suspended from service in view of serious offences registered against him and the disciplinary proceedings launched into "certain irregularities and lapses" committed by him, including his unauthorised absence from duty.

Budget has failed to address unemployment, says Mamata's advisor

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Principal Chief Advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister, Amit Mitra, on Saturday slammed the Centre for presenting an "irresponsible" Union Budget 2024-25, asserting that it was "ineffective" in addressing the country's economic challenges. Mitra claimed that the Budget has "failed to tackle unemployment and misled the public with subsequent amendments to its proposals". "Why am I calling it irresponsible? The Finance Ministry made a lot of amendments to the budget proposals. So, were they wrong? There has been a somersault on LTCG and indexation," he said. "If whatever they were doing was for a simplified tax regime, then why the somersault within 72 hours or within a week?" he wondered. Property owners would have a sigh of relief and market sentiments would improve with the Centre deciding to give taxpayers the option to choose between the new 12.5 per cent long-term capital

gain (LTCG) tax rate and the old 20 per cent rate with indexation benefit for assets purchased before July 23, according to industry bodies. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who in her budget for 2024-25 proposed to cut LTCG tax to 12.5 per cent from 20 per cent but without the indexation benefit, moved an amendment to the bill to give the option. Indexation benefits allow taxpayers to arrive at property cost after adjusting for inflation. Accusing the government of "shirking its responsibility", the principal chief advisor to the West Bengal chief minister, pointed out that the budget relied heavily on the private sector to generate employment, citing the "unrealistic expectation" of 500 companies absorbing 2 lakh interns each year as an example. He also highlighted a "decline" in overall consumption growth, household savings, LPG subsidy, and food subsidy, along with a "drop in average monthly income" for both regular and self-employed workers.

IN BRIEF

SRIVASTAVA APPOINTED POWERGRID DIRECTOR
New Delhi: Naveen Srivastava has been appointed as Director (Operations) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE under Ministry of Power, Government of India. Prior to his joining as Director (Operations), he worked as Executive Director (NR-III) handling challenging and flagship works & delivered results consistently in dynamic business environment.



PSPCL DETECTS 1,108 CASES OF THEFTS
Patiala: Under directions of Power Minister Punjab Harbhajan Singh ETO, a mass checking drive was conducted in five zones of Punjab State Electricity Board (PSPCL), to check cases of theft, unauthorised use of electricity (UUE) and unauthorised extension of load (UE) and others on Saturday.

FREIGHT LOADING OVER NF RAILWAY INCREASES
Maligaon: NF Railway is working dedicatedly round the clock to serve its customer and ensure essential commodities reach end users in time. For that NFR, is constantly progressing in freight loading. During the month of July 2024, 0.913million tonnes of loading was registered of various commodities. This is an increase of 23.2 per cent in comparison with the same period of the last year.

Modi vows to rebuild ruined Wayanad

From Page 1
Sources close to the Chief Minister said that the administration was dependent on the initial amount of Rs 2000 crore while the remaining Rs 1000 crore could be allocated at a later stage. Narayanan Nambuthiri, senior BJP leader, told 'The Pioneer' that he was yet to understand the logic behind the demand of Rs 2000 crore aid. After touring the disaster-struck region for more than four hours, Modi participated in a review meeting at Wayanad civil station attended among others by the Governor, Union Minister Suresh Gopi and Chief Minister Vijayan.

Two jawans martyred in gunfight with...

From Page 1
"The identity of the informer will be kept secret so that more and more people come forward to assist the police, as the public's help is crucial in preventing potential threats to national security," a police spokesperson said. Let's work together for a safer community, he

said. The ambush in Kathua was followed by another attack by a separate group of terrorists in Desa forest in Doda district on July 15, resulting in the killing of four army personnel including a captain. Police in Doda district had also released the sketches and cash reward of Rs 5 lakh each on

four terrorists involved in the attack as efforts are continuing to hunt them down. Earlier on June 9, nine passengers, including seven pilgrims returning from Shiv Khori temple, were killed by terrorists in Reasi district. The terrorists involved in the attack are also on the run despite a cash reward on their heads.

No relief from rain mayhem for...

From Page 1
Besides Nityanand Marg, Seelampur, Indralok, Rajouri Garden, Palam, Mehrauli-Badarpur road, Chirag Dilli, Laxmi Nagar, Kishan Ganj were also among the affected due to traffic jams and water logging. The Delhi Police issued a traffic advisory in response

to the disruptions. Traffic has been diverted at Ch Fateh Singh Marg due to waterlogging, shifting routes from Mall Road red light to Majnu Ka Tila. The traffic was also hampered on Old Kakrola Road, Najafgarh near Shyam Vihar Chowk, and Najafgarh-Nangloi Road due to potholes and collection of water, police

said. The weather department has predicted more rains in the coming days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had sounded an orange alert for many parts of Delhi-NCR, predicting light to moderate rain or thunderstorms accompanied by gusty wind (30-40 km/hour).

According to police, a tree got uprooted amid heavy rain in Dwarka's Baba Haridas Nagar, and it fell on the wall of an MCD school, causing it to collapse. The two men, who were taking shelter, got trapped under the tree and the debris. They were rescued by locals and rushed to a hospital. In another incident, a two-

storey house collapsed in northwest Delhi's Model Town area due to rain. The incident took place in Mahendru Enclave where the old house, which was being repaired, collapsed around 2.45 pm, police said. Three fire tenders have been deployed for the rescue operation, an official of the Delhi Fire Service said.

Chief Justice stresses to ensure quality life for disabled children

STAFF REPORTER
BILASPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha on Saturday called for joint efforts to enhance policy effectiveness to secure a dignified life for children with disabilities.

He was addressing the ninth round of the state-level stakeholders' consultation in Bilaspur district on the protection of children with disabilities.

He stressed the need for collective efforts in legislative enforcement, inclusive education practices, healthcare improvements and



The High Court organized by the State Commission for Protection of Children with Disabilities. The event saw an exhibition to provide a platform for children with disabilities to showcase their artistic talents.

found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."

Chief Justice Sinha also stressed the need for sensitization and awareness regarding the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act to ensure that rape victims receive quick and necessary assistance.

A flip chart was released documenting the role of stakeholders to ensure proper implementation of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

The event saw an exhibition to provide a platform for children with disabilities to showcase their artistic talents.

Five Maoists' aide held for extorting tendu leaf collection contractors

STAFF REPORTER
MOHLA

Five Maoist supporters were arrested on Saturday from Bijapur and Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki for allegedly extorting tendu leaves worth crores of rupees from contractors of Bijapur in Chhattisgarh.

Sonaram Farsa, Vijay Jurri, Ramlal Karma, Rajendra Kadti and Vivek Singh were taken into custody, Inspector General of Police Rajnandgaon (Range) Deepak Jha said.

The first four resided in Bijapur while Singh hailed



from Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki.

The first four had extorted Rs 60 lakhs from the contractors engaged in tendu leaf collection in Bhairamgarh area of Bijapur.

For a long time they were collecting levy from contractors besides supplying ration, medicines and other essential materials to the Maoists. Later, they handed over the money to the Maoists.

160 technical institutes to be transformed into model ITIs



STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

In a bid to prepare youths as per the demand of local industries, the Chhattisgarh government had decided to upgrade 160 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the state into model ITIs.

The Department of Employment and Training has approved Rs 484.22 crore for the transformation of the ITIs as model ITIs where training would be imparted in line

with what the industrial houses require.

Describing the project as a significant achievement, Revenue Minister Tank Ram Verma said the work of transforming the ITI located at Sakri in Baloda Bazar will start soon. For this, an approval of Rs 20.13 crore has been issued. He said Rs 3.23 crore has been allocated for machine tools and equipment, which includes Rs 1.05 crore for computer hardware and network maintenance.

BJP government insulted tribals on Indigenous People Day: Congress



STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

The Congress in Chhattisgarh on Saturday alleged that the BJP government had insulted tribal people in the state by

'boycotting' the functions on the International Day of World's Indigenous People on August 9.

Speaking to reporters, PCC chief Deepak Baij said BJP leaders including Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai

skipped the programmes at Indoor Stadium in Raipur and at the art gallery of Mahant Ghasidas Museum.

The RSS and the Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (ABVKA) had openly opposed the

Indigenous People Day function claiming that it was an international conspiracy against the tribals, the Congress leader said.

The ABVKA works according to instructions of the RSS and the move was against the interest of tribals, he said.

The Chief Minister celebrated the auspicious day just by making a tweet on the social media and boycotted the function in which he was supposed to be the Chief Guest, Baij said.

A photo exhibition to be held at the art gallery at Mahant Ghasidas Museum was cancelled without any notice, he said.

All these prove that the BJP government is ruled by the RSS and the government acts on its instructions, he added.

Man held for cheating doctor of Rs 2.92 Cr



STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Saturday arrested a young man from Delhi for cheating a doctor of Rs 2.92 crore by promising him higher interest through share trading.

Ankit Kumar Singh (19) has been taken into custody, Raipur Additional Superintendent of Police Lakhman Pawar Patle said.

Singh told the police that he took money by creating bogus firms and companies.



Glimpses of the Aviation Security Culture Week celebrations in Chhattisgarh. The festivities will conclude on Sunday.

CCCI seeks extension of Saral Samadhan scheme



STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) on Saturday urged the government to extend the duration of the state Outstanding Tax, Interest and Penalty Settlement Act, 2023 (Saral Samadhan Yojana) till December 31.

A delegation led by CCCI President Amar Parwani submitted a memorandum to Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary.

Parwani said the deadline for this scheme should be extended till December 31 so that more entrepreneurs can pay their dues and the government can boost its revenue.

A notice was issued under the scheme to pay outstanding taxes, interest and penalties for March 31.

Due to a number of holidays in March, many entrepreneurs could not participate in the scheme, he said.

Choudhary gave assurances that positive steps would be taken.

Four Maoists held



STAFF REPORTER
BIJAPUR

Four Maoists, one of them carrying a bounty of Rs 1 lakh, were arrested on Saturday in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

Midiyam Lachchu and Midiyam Kamla Sharmila alias Some Uike among those apprehended near a forest near Mallepalli-Bandagada villages, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said.

Midiyam Lachchu carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh.

The four were involved in firing at a police team and security camp

The four were involved in firing at a police team and security camp

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Regional Office, 3rd Floor, LIC Investment Building, Phase - III, Jivan Bima Marg, Pandri Raipur (C.G.) PIN- 492004

Appendix-IV A (See the proviso to rule 6(B))
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 29.08.2024 between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower (s) & Guarantor (s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

S. No.	Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch	Short description of the properties	Total dues (in Rs.)	Reserve Price EMD/Bid increase amount (in Lacs)
01	Mr Arvind Kumar Shukla And Smt Jyoti Shukla/Charoda Branch	Mouza- Kugda Near Kabera Nagar, Ward Pc No 3, Ric Bhalai-3, Patan, Kh No 63/10 Part, Ward 21, Kurnhari Area 1890 Sq Feet Owner- Arvind Shukla.	₹ 9.70 Lacs + Legal & other charges	₹ 6.50 lacs ₹ 0.65 lacs ₹ 0.065 lacs
02	Smt Pratibha Pandey And Mr Pawan Kumar Pandey/Charoda Branch	Residential House At LIG-04, Cg Housing Board Umda Kh No 547, 549 Area 83.62 Sq Mtr RIC- Bhalai 3 Block And Tehsil- Patan, Dist- Durg C. G.	₹ 10.02 Lacs + Legal & other charges	₹ 16.00 lacs ₹ 1.60 lacs ₹ 0.16 lacs
03	Tikeshwar Pd. Chandrakar/Supeta Bhalai Branch	Land admeasuring 2000 sq.ft. and single stored residential house situated thereon at Mouza - Umda, Kh.No. 858/11 (part of 858/1), P.C.No.01, RIC -Bhalai 03, Tehsil- Patan, Dist-Durg (C.G), in the name of Mr. Tikeshwar Prasad Chandrakar.	₹ 16,37,905.82 + Legal & other charges	₹ 27.00 lacs ₹ 2.70 lacs ₹ 0.27 lacs
04	Mr. Girish Kumar Tarwani and Vanshika Tarwani (Co-Aplicant) Tatibandh Branch	Flat no B-5 108 1st floor built on Kh no 65/3,64,65/5 situated at DM tower Birgaon sunder lal sharma ward no 20 Raipur CG.	₹ 21.80 Lacs + Legal & other charges	₹ 19.00 lacs ₹ 1.90 lacs ₹ 0.019 lacs
05	M/s Maa Gauri Power Tools and Company Prop- Mr Mukesh Kumar Prajapati. Raipur Pandri LIC Branch	Plot No. 16 "Lotus City" Kh. No. 115 of Part No. 04, Near Kaivlyadharm, NRM- Bhalai-3, Tehsil- Patan, Village- Parsada.	₹ 19.10 Lacs + Legal & other charges	₹ 16.00 lacs ₹ 1.60 lacs ₹ 0.16 lacs
06	M/s Shree Nirvignam Prop: Mr. Manmohan Vishwakarma, Mr. Nidhish Khandelwal. Durg Branch.	Residential Land & Building at Kh No. 711/313, P H No 18, Khata No 3199, B N 64, Kasardin, Tah-Durg, Dist-Durg of total Area 450 sq.ft.	₹ 12.05 Lacs + Legal & other charges	₹ 10.00 lacs ₹ 1.00 lacs ₹ 0.10 lacs
07	Mrs Sukhwant Kaur, Mr Ranjit Singh, Mr. Ashok Khushwani/ Durg Branch	Residential House At Survey No: Kh No. 1177/130, PC No-16, Behind Old Gurudwara, Santrabadi, Tah-Durg, Dist-Durg of total Area 500 sq.ft.	₹ 3.88 Lacs + Legal & other charges	₹ 19.00 lacs ₹ 1.90 lacs ₹ 0.19 lacs
08	M/s Welcome bakery, Mr Amar Deep Jimnani, Mr Vatumul Jimnani/ Durg Branch	Extension of Commercial Land and Building- Kh No 61/139, PH No 17, admeasuring 2000 sq ft and KH No 61/180, PH No 17 admeasuring 1500 sq ft situated at PREM NAGAR, RAM NAGAR, SKOLA, Ward No 14, Durg, Chhattisgarh-491001 of total area 3500 sq.ft.	₹ 5.45 Lacs + int. since 01.02.2024 + Legal & other charges	₹ 50.00 lacs ₹ 5.00 lacs ₹ 0.50 lacs
09	Mr Vinay Khatri, Mr. Sunil Panjwani/ Durg Branch	Residential House At Survey No: Kh No. 1267/73, PH No-16/24, Behind Gajanan Temple, Vijay Nagar, Tah-Durg, Dist-Durg of total Area 667.50 sq.ft.	₹ 14.15 Lacs + Legal & other charges	₹ 13.00 lacs ₹ 1.30 lacs ₹ 0.13 lacs
10	MR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY / Tatibandh Branch	Lig-131, Ph No 3 Kh No 565/1, 565/3, 565/4 & 729/2 Situated At Dindayal Awasi Yojna C G Housing Board, Khillora, Abhanpur Dist Raipur.	₹ 11.55 Lacs + Legal & other charges	₹ 10.00 lacs ₹ 1.00 lacs ₹ 0.10 lacs

Detail of encumbrance over the above properties, as known to the bank - Not known
Date & Time of E-Auction: 29.08.2024, at 11.00 Am to 5.00 PM

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit The Online E-Auction will be held through web portal/website <https://ebkraj.in> for further detailed enquiry please contact: For No. 01 & 02- SUNIL MAURYA- MOB - 9919175656, For No. 03- SHRI PRADEEP BARIK- MOB- 7077103753, For No. 4- NEHA CHANDRAKAR- MOB- 8109030610, For No. 5- SHRI MUKESH DEWANGAN- MOB - 9981545454, For No. 6, 7, 8 & 9- SHRI Amit Kumar- Mob. 9425253979, For No. 10- NEHA CHANDRAKAR- MOB- 8109030610.

This may also be treated as STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) & Rule 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002, to the borrower/s and guarantor/s.

Date: 10.08.2024, Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Rahul pursuing politics of deception, deceit: BJP

PNS n NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday hit out at Rahul Gandhi, alleging non-fulfillment of his party's poll promises in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, and said the Congress leader has become synonymous with politics of deception, lies and deceit.

Addressing a Press conference at the party headquarters here, BJP National spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed the Congress Government in Karnataka has fulfilled just two out of a total of 59 promises that the party made during the State Assembly elections. "People of Karnataka are feeling cheated. Wherever the Congress is in power, people of the State are feeling cheated. People of Himachal Pradesh are feeling cheated. Rahul has become synonymous with politics of deception, propaganda, lies and deceit," he said. Bhatia also hit out at Rahul



while raising the issue of farmers suicide in Karnataka as he accused the Congress leader of pursuing "politics of pretense" to win votes. "He has time to meet the farmers delegation in Delhi but there are media reports that as many as 1,200 farmers have committed suicide in Karnataka. Why couldn't Rahul Gandhi spare even a minute to meet them or direct the Karnataka Chief Minister to

take cognizance of these cases," he said. "It's because Rahul Gandhi's priorities are different. That's why it becomes worrisome when he gives the people of Karnataka a Chief Minister who is himself promoting corruption. We all know about the MUDA scam in which SC and ST community members' land has been allotted to the Chief Minister's wife," he added.

Centre responded quickly to Wayanad tragedy: Officials

PNS n NEW DELHI

The Central Government took immediate measures following the landslide tragedy in Kerala's Wayanad as it deployed more than 1,200 personnel from National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Army, Air Force, Navy, fire services and civil defence among others for rescue and relief operations at the incident site, official sources said on Saturday.

More than 100 ambulances along with doctors and other staff were deployed for medical support and treatment, they added as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Wayanad to take stock of the relief and rehabilitation work and meet survivors. The Indian Army, the sources said, erected a 190-foot Bailey bridge in Wayanad which was crucial in facilitating the movement of heavy machinery and ambulances.

The bridge was completed in 71 hours, significantly enhancing rescue operations by allowing



heavy vehicles and machinery to be mobilised to rescue around 200 people who were stranded due to damage to a bridge. Till now, 30 people have been rescued and 520 evacuated, and 112 bodies recovered by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rescue teams, they said. The sources added that an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has been constituted by the Central Government to visit the affected areas. The Centre has always lent a helping hand to Kerala through timely provision of funds to meet the challenge of disaster, the sources said.

This year, the Kerala's State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) account had around Rs 395 crore on April 1. The first instalment of the central share of SDRF for the ongoing year of over Rs 145.60 crore was released in advance on July 31, they said.

In the last five years, around Rs 1,200 crore has been released by the Modi Government as the Centre's share in SDRF out of the total State Disaster Response Fund of Rs 1,780 crore. In addition to this, the Government has also released Rs 445 crore for the State Disaster Mitigation Fund in the last five years, they added.

Deadline for submission of Ravi-Beas tribunal report extended

PNS n NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the deadline for the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal to submit its report by another year, moving the deadline to August 5, 2025.

The extension comes as part of a series of delays in the submission of the tribunal's report, which has been pending since its constitution in April 1986 under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal was established to address disputes and verify claims related to the Punjab Settlement, according to an official gazette notification.

Initially, the tribunal submitted its report on January 30, 1987. However, the Central Government sought further clarification and guidance on certain aspects of the report, leading to multiple extensions over the years.

The most recent extension, as stated in the Government's notification, acknowledges the "enormous exercise" under-



taken by the tribunal in preparing its report. In consideration of the extensive work required, the Government deemed it necessary to provide additional time for the tribunal to complete its task.

This marks the latest in a long line of extensions, reflecting the complexity of the issues at hand and the ongoing challenges in resolving inter-state water disputes.

The original deadline for the tribunal's report has been extended numerous times, with the latest amendment replacing the previous deadline of August 5, 2024, with the new date in 2025.



PM to unveil 109 high-yield, resilient crop varieties today

PNS n NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release 109 high yielding, climate resilient and biofortified varieties of crops at Indian Agricultural Research Institute here on Sunday.

According to an official statement, the Prime Minister will also interact with farmers and scientists during the event. The 109 varieties of 61 crops to be released include 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops, it added.

Among the field crops, seeds of various cereals, including millet, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, fibre and other potential crops will be released, the statement said. Among the horticultural crops, different varieties of fruits, vegetable crops, plantation crops, tuber crops, spices, flowers and medicinal crops will be



released, it added. Prime Minister Modi has always encouraged sustainable farming and adoption of climate resilient methodologies, the release said.

He has also emphasised on promoting biofortified varieties of crops by linking them with the several Government programmes such as mid-day meal

and Anganwadi, to make India free from malnutrition, it said. "The Prime Minister has stressed that these steps will ensure good income for the farmers along with opening new avenues of entrepreneurship for them. This step of release of 109 high yielding varieties is yet another step in this direction," it added.

IAF returns after successful exercise in Malaysia

PNS n NEW DELHI

After successful participation in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 in Malaysia, the Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent returned on Saturday.

The joint air exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) from 05 to 09 August at Kuantan, Malaysia. The IAF participated with Su-30MKI fighter jets. During the exercise, IAF's Su-30MKI fighter jets engaged in air combat missions alongside the RMAF's Su-30MKM fighters, enabling the crew of both air forces to familiarise with each other's operational protocols, thereby enhancing interoperability, commonality and overall effectiveness in Su-30 aircraft operations, IAF said here.

Tricolour atop Africa's highest peak unfurled

PNS n NEW DELHI

In run-up to 78th Independence Day, the Divyangjan expedition team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), under the aegis of Ministry of Defence, has unfurled 7,800 sq ft Indian national flag atop Uhuru Summit of Kilimanjaro, the highest peak of African continent. It was the first time an amputee climber successfully climbed the summit using crutches.

The team led by Group Captain Jai Kishan, including Divyang Uday Kumar and others undertook Mission Kanchanjanga National Park to Mt Kilimanjaro (Mission K2K) to script another historic achievement, as for the first time an amputee climber successfully completed the endeavor using crutches, defence ministry said here on Saturday.



The team started their journey from the base camp, and reached Kibu Hut, situated at an altitude of 15,500 feet on August 7 where they proudly displayed the national flag, measuring 7,800 square feet, with the aid of ropes, ground nets and anchors. Taking into account the weath-

er conditions and the medical fitness of all members, the team began their ascent to Uhuru Peak at 0300 hours on August 8.

After a grueling 10-hour climbing through treacherous terrain characterised by loose scree, a steep climb of 85 degree gradient and alpine desert, they successfully reached the summit of Uhuru Peak at 1300 hours, standing at an altitude of 5,895 meters (19,341 feet) and unfurled the 7,800 sq ft Indian national flag over the summit of Uhuru Peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The historic expedition serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder of what can be achieved through perseverance and support. It aims to inspire future generations of Divyangjan and other underprivileged youth to pursue their dreams, no matter how daunting they may seem.

NIDM explores use of AI for disaster management

PNS n NEW DELHI

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is exploring the use of GIS, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning for improving disaster risk assessment and crop insurance, a Government statement said Saturday.

The institute, operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Friday celebrated the inaugural National Space Day with a workshop focused on 'Space Technology in Disaster Management' where presentations were given on the use of geographic information system (GIS) and AI in handling of disasters, it said. The event which was attended by Vivek Shrivastava, Director General of Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards, and Rajendra Ratnoo, Executive Director of NIDM, had panel discussions on the critical role of Government-private sector collaboration in advancing technological innovations for disaster resilience, it added.

K H V Durga Rao, Group Director of the Department of Space (NRSC), Chandrashekar S, Deputy Director of LBSNAA, and Surya Parkash, Head of the GMR and CRBN Division at NIDM also participated in the national workshop, which drew over 300 attendees.

Addressing the gathering, Shrivastava underscored the importance of risk reduction, citing the zero casualties achieved during Cyclone Biparjoy as a model of success, it said. Ratnoo highlighted the value of learning from past disasters and conducting thorough post-disaster evaluations to enhance future preparedness. "The workshop featured technical sessions on the use of GIS, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning in disaster risk assessment and crop insurance," the release stated. A discussion chaired by Safi Ahsan Rizvi, Advisor at NDMA, focused on improving data collection and integrating AI/ML tools for more accurate crop yield predictions and insurance assessments. In the valedictory session, Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain, an NDMA member, emphasised the disciplined application of space technology in disaster management.



Social bonds key to big cats survival

ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

On World Lion Day on Saturday, a study published in the University of Oxford has revealed that better-connected female big cats live longer. Analysing 30 years of data, researchers found that strong female bonds are crucial for protection against threats such as infanticidal males, territory defense, hunting, and cub rearing—all requiring cooperation. The research highlights the importance of social connections for lion survival.

Indeed, the insights from the study on African lions can serve as a valuable framework for researchers studying Asiatic lions in the Gir Forest in India. About social connectivity and longevity, the researchers noted for females, strong bonds with other females are crucial. These connections provide essential support for various survival aspects such as defence against threats, hunting, and cub rearing. Females with robust social networks tend to live longer, they said. The study also gives insight into social ageing patterns noting that social connections change with age. Lead author Lauren Rudd from University of Oxford said, "The

importance of close female bonds, particularly in early adulthood, could be because 'friends' can help protect against threats such as infanticidal males. They could also be valuable allies for territory defense, hunting, and cub rearing—all of which require cooperation. Combined these factors potentially explain why better-connected females live longer." Interestingly, for males, the number of social connections is more significant than the strength of individual relationships. They benefit from having a larger number of associates, which correlates with a longer lifespan. Conversely, for females, the quality of social bonds is more critical than the sheer number.

The study also has implications for understanding disease outbreaks. As females age and their social networks shrink, they might be less exposed to pathogens. In contrast, ageing males, with their increasing number of associates, might face higher exposure risks. The research is based on over 150,000 observations of 665 lions over nearly 30 years. Shedding light on the association between females and males, the study pointed out that the strength of females' connections to males tends to be at its highest in midlife, and then declines as they age. In contrast, females' social connection to other females declines linearly with age, being highest in early adulthood.

T V Somanathan appointed Cabinet Secretary

PNS n NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer TV Somanathan was on Saturday appointed Cabinet Secretary, succeeding Rajiv Gauba. A 1987-batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, Somanathan is currently serving as Union Finance Secretary and Secretary, Expenditure. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of T V Somanathan, IAS, as Cabinet Secretary with a tenure of two years from 30.08.2024. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also approved the appointment of T V Somanathan, IAS as Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat from the date he joins the assignment till he takes over as Cabinet Secretary," an official order said. Gauba took over the charge of Cabinet Secretary five years ago on August 30, 2019.

214 women among 1,389 Navy Agniveers graduate from INS Chilka

PNS n NEW DELHI

A significant milestone was achieved as 1,389 Agniveers, including 214 women Agniveers, of the Indian Navy passed out from the portals of INS Chilka, Odisha on Friday, Navy said here on Saturday. Giving details, officials said Passing Out Parade (POP) for the fourth Batch of Agniveers (01/24) marked the culmination of 16 weeks of rigorous naval training in a unique post-sunset ceremony. The post Sunset POP was reviewed by Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

The POP signifies not only the successful completion of initial training but also marks commencement of a new chapter for the Agniveers in the Indian Navy. While addressing the parade, Navy chief congratulated the trainees on parade and



exhorted the passing out course to uphold the Navy's core values of Duty, Honour, and Courage in their pursuit of nation-building. He urged them to focus on their subsequent phases of training and become technologically proficient sea warriors. Admiral Tripathi awarded medals and trophies to meritorious Agniveers during the POP.

SC to hear Kavitha's bail plea

PTI n NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on August 12 the pleas filed by BRS leader K Kavitha challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict denying her bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The high court had on July 1 dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both the cases, saying she was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

According to the cause list of August 12 uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan is slated to hear her petitions. While dismissing her bail pleas, the high court had said no case for grant of regular bail was made for now as the investigation is at a crucial stage.



Kharge for legislation to nullify SC's sub-quota order

PNS n NEW DELHI

Asserting that the idea of denying reservation to SCs and STs on account of the creamy layer concept is "condemnable", Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the Government should have bought a legislation in Parliament to nullify the Supreme Court judgement on the issue. Earlier this month, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud ruled in a 6:1 majority judgement that state Governments were permitted to sub-classify communities within the SC list based on empirical data.

Supreme Court judge Justice B R Gavai had said States must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) and deny them the benefit of reservation. "Who do you want to benefit by bringing a creamy layer? By bringing a creamy layer (concept) on one hand you are denying untouchables and giving to those who have enjoyed privileges for thousands of years. I condemn this," Kharge told reporters here. This issue of creamy layer that has been raised by the seven judges shows that they have not thought about SCs and STs in a serious manner, he said. "Till the time untouchability exists, reservation should be there and will be there. We will fight for it," Kharge said.

Wild plant on Gaya hills offers hope for diabetes: Study

PNS n NEW DELHI

A recent study has identified a variety of medicinal plants on Brahmayoni Hill in Gaya, Bihar, with Gymnema sylvestris, commonly known as Gurmar, standing out for its anti-diabetic properties. The researchers also noted that Gurmar is instrumental in the CSIR-developed ayurvedic formulation BGR-34, aimed at managing diabetes which is on the increase in the country due to changing lifestyle and unhealthy diet. Gurmar's effectiveness in reducing blood sugar is attributed to gymnemic acid, which interferes with sugar absorption in the intestine by blocking receptor sites. This action helps diminish cravings for sweets and lowers blood sugar levels. Additionally, Gurmar contains



flavonoids and saponins. Flavonoids offer antioxidant benefits, while saponins assist in lowering cholesterol and regulating lipid metabolism, according to the study by Magadh University professors. It is published in the International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT). The study highlights Gurmar among three medicinal plants

found on Brahmayoni Hill, which has long been valued by traditional healers for its extensive range of natural remedies. Gurmar is particularly noted for its anti-diabetic effects. "Gurmar is a key ingredient in BGR-34, an ayurvedic formulation developed by CSIR and marketed by Aamil Pharma," said the researchers in the study "Ethnobotanical research on certain therapeutic plants

found on Gaya's Brahmayoni Hill. In 2022, a study by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, also validated that the herbal formulation BGR-34 is effective in reducing obesity along with blood sugar levels. It also improves the body's metabolic system. Dr. Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director of Aamil Pharma, said that the herbal formulation also includes other herbal components like Daruharidra, Giloy, Vijaysar, Manjishtha, and Fenugreek. These have been proven effective in managing diabetes, Sharma said and pointed out the rising popularity of herbal Ayurvedic medicines in response to the increasing incidence of lifestyle-related diseases and a growing emphasis on preventive health.

Israeli airstrike on Gaza school kills at least 80 people

AP n DEIR-AL-BALAH

An Israeli airstrike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City early Saturday, killing at least 80 people, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest strikes in the 10-month-old war between Israel and Hamas. The Israeli military acknowledged the strike, claiming it hit a Hamas command centre within the school. Hamas denied that. The strike on the Tabeen school in central Gaza City also wounded 47 people, the Health Ministry said. The facility, like almost all of Gaza's schools, has been used as a shelter for people who have been forced to flee their homes by the war. Video from the scene showed walls blown out on the ground level of a large building.

Concrete chunks and twisted metal lay atop the blood-soaked floor, along with clothing, toppled furniture and other debris. A blackened car with the windows blown out was covered in rubble. Fadel Naeem, director of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, told The Associated Press that the facility received 70 bodies of those killed in the strike and the body parts of at least 10 others. The strike hit without warning in the early morning before sunrise as people were praying at a mosque inside the school, according to Abu Anas, a witness who worked to rescue people. "There were people praying, there were people washing and there were people upstairs sleeping, including children, women and old people," he said. "The missile fell on them without

warning. The first missile, and the second. We recovered them as body parts." Three missiles ripped through the school and the mosque inside, where about 6,000 displaced people were taking shelter from the war, said Mahmoud Bassal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defense first responders who operate under the Hamas-run local government. Many of the dead were unrecognisable, he said, adding that he expected the death toll to rise. Many of the casualties were women and children, he said. According to the United Nations, 477 out of 564 schools in Gaza had been directly hit or damaged in the war as of July 6. In June, an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in central Gaza killed at least 33 people, including 12 women and children,

according to local health officials. On Thursday Israel's military hit two schools sheltering displaced people in eastern Gaza City, killing at least 15 people, according to hospital officials. Israel has blamed civilian deaths in Gaza on Hamas, saying the group endangers noncombatants by using schools and residential neighbourhoods as bases for operations and attacks. Israeli intelligence indicated about 20 militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, including senior commanders, were using the Tabeen school compound to plan attacks on Israeli forces, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman said in a statement on the social media platform X. Izzat al-Rishq, a top Hamas official denied there were militants in the school.

Shoshani also questioned the casualty numbers issued by the Palestinian Health Ministry. Israel said the targeted school was located next to a mosque serving as a shelter for Gaza City residents. A cameraman working for The Associated Press said, however, that the mosque and the classrooms were in one building, with the prayer hall on the ground floor and the school above it. A missile appeared to have penetrated through the floor of the classrooms to the mosque below and then exploded, according to the cameraman. The strike came as American, Qatari and Egyptian mediators renewed their push for the two parties to achieve a cease-fire agreement that could help calm soaring tensions in the region following the assassination of

top Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut. Egypt, which borders Gaza and serves as a key mediator, said the strike on the school showed Israel had no intention of reaching a cease-fire deal and ending the war. Neighboring Jordan also condemned the attack, calling it a "blatant violation" of international law. Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 39,600 Palestinians and wounded more than 91,700 others, according to the enclave's Health Ministry. The war was triggered by Hamas' Oct 7 attack, in which militants from Gaza stormed into southern Israel, killing around 1,200 people and abducting 250 others.

UN-sanctioned official named head of Iran's nuclear agency

AP n TEHRAN

Iran's newly-elected president reappointed a US-educated official who came under United Nations sanctions 16 years ago as head of the country's nuclear department, state TV reported Saturday.

Mohammad Eslami, 67, will continue his work as chief of Iran's civilian nuclear programme and serve as one of several vice presidents. Eslami's reappointment by President Masoud Pezeshkian comes as Iran remains under heavy sanctions by the West following the collapse of the 2015 deal that curbed Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief. Pezeshkian had said during his presidential campaign that he would try to revive the nuclear deal.

The United Nations sanctioned Eslami in 2008 for "being engaged in, directly associated with or providing support for Iran's proliferation of sensitive nuclear activities or for the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems", when he was the head of Iran's Defense Industries Training and Research Institute. He was appointed as the chief of Iran's nuclear department for the first time by late President Ebrahim Raisi in 2021, before that, from 2018, in moderate former President Hassan Rouhani's era. Eslami served as Transport and Urban Development Minister. He has experience working in Iran's military industries, for years, most recently as deputy defense minister responsible for research and industry. Eslami holds degrees in civil



engineering from Detroit University of Michigan and the University of Toledo, Ohio. The US, France, Britain and Germany accused Iran of escalating its nuclear activities far beyond limits it agreed to in the 2015 deal and of failing to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran accused the US and its allies of continuing to apply economic sanctions that were supposed to be lifted under the deal, and insisted its nuclear programme is peaceful and geared towards generating electricity and producing radioisotopes to treat cancer patients and remains under constant oversight by the IAEA. Iran is building two nuclear power facilities to supplement its sole operational 1,000-megawatt reactor at the southern port town of Bushehr, which went online with Russia's help in 2011. Under its long-term energy plan, Iran aims to reach 20,000-megawatt nuclear electric capacity. The nation has in recent months faced country-wide power outages.

Russia tightens security in area of Ukraine attacks

AP n KYIV

Russia on Saturday announced what it called a counterterrorism operation to increase security in the border region where an incursion this week by Ukrainian forces caught Russian troops off-guard and exposed its military vulnerabilities in the 2 1/2-year-old war.

The Russian Defence Ministry said fighting was continuing in the Kursk region and that the army has conducted airstrikes against Ukrainian forces, including using a thermobaric bomb that both causes a blast wave and creates a vacuum that suffocates its targets. The measures announced for Kursk and for the neighbouring Belgorod and Bryansk regions that border Ukraine allow the government to relocate residents, control phone communications and requisition vehicles.

The raid that began on Tuesday is the largest cross-border foray of the war and raises concerns about fighting spreading well beyond Ukraine. In neighbouring Belarus, where Russian troops are deployed but which has not sent its own army into Ukraine, President Alexander Lukashenko said Saturday that its air defences shot down unspecified objects launched from Ukraine that were flying over Belarusian territory.

"I do not understand why Ukraine needs this. We need to figure it out. As I said before, we made it clear to them that any provocations will not go unanswered," Lukashenko said, according to state news agency Belta.

A Russian plane-launched missile slammed into a Ukrainian shopping mall on Friday, killing at least 14 people and wounding 44 others, authorities said. The mall in Kostiantynivka, in the eastern Donetsk region, is located in the town's residential area. Thick black smoke rose above it after the strike. "This is another targeted attack on a crowded place, another act of terror by the Russians," Donetsk regional head Vadym Filashkin said in a Telegram post.

It was the second major strike on the town in almost a year. Last September, a Russian missile hit an outdoor market

there, killing 17. July saw the heaviest civilian casualties in Ukraine since October 2022, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said Friday. Conflict-related violence killed at least 219 civilians and injured 1,018 over the month, the mission said.

Russia's Defence Ministry said reinforcements are being sent to Kursk to counter Ukraine's raid, with Russia deploying multiple rocket launchers, towed artillery guns, tanks transported on trailers and heavy tracked vehicles.

The ministry reported fighting in the outskirts of Sudzha, about 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the border. The town has an important pipeline transit hub for Russian natural gas exports to Europe.

There has been little reliable information on the daring Ukrainian operation and its strategic aims are unclear. Ukrainian officials have refused to comment on the incursion, which is taking place about 500 kilometres (320 miles) southwest of Moscow.

Asked about Ukraine's incursion, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Friday the United States was "in touch with our Ukrainian counterparts" but that he would not comment until "those conversations are complete".

"There's been no changes in our policy approaches," Kirby said when asked about US policy on use of weapons. "They're using it in an area where we had said before that they could use US weapons for cross-border strikes. The end goal here is to help Ukraine defend itself." Mathieu Boulegue, a defence analyst at the Chatham House think tank in London, said the Ukrainians appear to have a clear goal, even if they're not saying what it is.

"Such a coordinated ground force movement responds to a clear military objective," Boulegue told The Associated Press. Also, the raid has spooked the Russian public and delivered a slap in the face to Russian President Vladimir Putin, offering Ukraine "a great PR coup," he said. The attack "is a massive symbol, a massive display of force (showing) that the war is not frozen," he said.

Bangladesh Chief Justice steps down

AP n DHAKA

The Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Obaidul Hassan on Saturday decided to step down from his post in the face of protests by the students who issued an ultimatum to him and judges of the Appellate Division to resign by 1 pm, according to media reports.

The 65-year-old judge will tender his resignation after consulting President Mohammed Shahabuddin in the evening, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. The chief justice revealed his decision around 1 pm after protesters of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement gathered at the court premises.

Hasnat Abdullah, one of the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, issued an ultimatum demanding the resignation

of the chief justice and the justices of the Appellate Division.

Abdullah said the protesters threatened to besiege their residences, The Daily Star newspaper said.

Earlier, Chief Justice Hassan called for a full court meeting with all justices from both divisions of the Supreme Court. However, the protesting students viewed the convening of the full court meeting as a judiciary coup and announced a siege of the High Court premises.

In the face of student protest, Chief Justice Hassan postponed the meeting and later said that he would step down. Bangladesh Army personnel were deployed at the Supreme Court premises as hundreds of protesting students gathered.

Around 1 pm, army personnel were stationed in the main building, annex build-



ing, and other areas around the Supreme Court. They urged the protesters to maintain peace and called on them to avoid damaging government properties. Chief Justice Hassan told journalists at the apex court premises that he has decided to resign considering the safety of the judges of Supreme Court, High Court and lower courts across the country amid the emerging situation, The Daily Star reported.

"There are some formalities for the resignation. Completing those, I will send my resignation letter to President Mohammed Shahabuddin by this evening," he added. Asked whether other judges of the Supreme Court will also resign, the Chief Justice said, "It's their decision." Following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who resigned and fled to India on Monday following the political turmoil in Bangladesh, 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was sworn in on Thursday as the head of an interim government. His government is expected to announce fresh elections after bringing the law-and-order situation under control following the deadly anti-government demonstrations against the Hasina government that had led to massive violence, now abating.

Brazilian authorities probing cause of plane crash that killed 61

AP n VINHEDO

Brazilian authorities worked Saturday to piece together what exactly caused the plane crash in Sao Paulo state the prior day that killed all 61 people on board.

Local airline Voepass' plane, an ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop, was headed for Sao Paulo's international airport in Guarulhos with 57 passengers and 4 crew members when it went down in the city of Vinhedo.

Images recorded by witnesses showed the aircraft in a flat spin and plunging vertically before smashing to the ground inside a gated community, and leaving an obliterated fuselage consumed by fire. Residents said there were no injuries on the ground.

Rain drizzled down on rescue workers as they recovered the first bodies from the scene in the chill of the Southern Hemisphere's winter. Some residents of the condominium silently left to spend the night elsewhere.

It was the world's deadliest airline crash since January 2023, when 72 people died on board a Yeti Airlines plane in Nepal that stalled and crashed while



making its landing approach. That plane also was an ATR 72, and the final report blamed pilot error.

A report Friday from Brazilian television network Globo's meteorological center said it "confirmed the possibility of the formation of ice in the region of Vinhedo," and local media cited experts pointing to icing as a potential cause for the crash.

An American Eagle ATR 72-200 crashed on October 31, 1994, and the United States National Transportation Safety Board determined that the

probable cause was ice buildup while the plane was circling in a holding pattern.

The plane rolled at about 8,000 feet and dove into the ground, killing all 68 people on board. The US Federal Aviation Administration issued operating procedures for ATRs and similar planes, telling pilots not to use the autopilot in icing conditions.

But Brazilian aviation expert Lito Sousa cautioned that meteorological conditions alone might not be enough to explain why the plane fell in the manner that it did on Friday.

"Analysing an air crash just with images can lead to wrong conclusions about the causes," Sousa told the AP by phone. "But we can see a plane with loss of support, no horizontal speed. In this flat spin condition, there's no way to reclaim control of the plane."

Speaking to reporters Friday in Vinhedo, Sao Paulo Public Security Secretary Guilherme Derrite said the plane's black box had been recovered, apparently in a preserved state. Marcelo Moura, director of operations for Voepass, told reporters Friday night that, while there were forecasts for ice, they were within acceptable levels for the aircraft.

Likewise, Lt. Col. Carlos Henrique Baldi of the Brazilian air force's centre for the investigation and prevention of air accidents, told reporters in a late afternoon press conference that it was still too early to confirm whether ice caused the crash.

The plane is "certified in several countries to fly in severe icing conditions, including in countries unlike ours, where the impact of ice is more significant," said Baldi, who heads the centre's investigation division.

King Charles praises 'community spirit' after UK's violent riots

PTI n LONDON

Britain's King Charles III has praised the "community spirit" of the peaceful counter-protesters in a call for unity after the "aggression and criminality" of the far-right riots that broke out across different cities in the country and have resulted in over 700 arrests. According to Buckingham Palace, the 75-year-old monarch had several phone calls on Friday evening to express his thoughts, including a call with Prime Minister Keir Starmer and the police chiefs tackling the response to the violent clashes.

A palace spokesperson said the King spoke to Starmer and held a joint call with the chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, and UK Gold Commander Ben Harrington, Chief Constable of Essex. The disorder initially began in the wake of a mass stabbing attack in Southport that killed three little girls on July 29 and injured several others after misinformation about the immigration status of the sus-

pect spread across social media.

"In these calls, His Majesty was updated on the current situation and expressed his heartfelt thanks to the police and emergency services for all they are doing to restore peace in those areas that have been affected by violent disorder," the spokesperson said.

"Additionally, the King shared how he had been greatly encouraged by the many examples of community spirit that had countered the aggression and criminality from a few with the compassion and resilience of the many." "It remains His Majesty's hope that shared values of mutual respect and understanding will continue to strengthen and unite the nation," the spokesperson added.

It emerged that the monarch has also been holding private calls to be kept updated on the situation and expressed his "heartfelt" gratitude to the police and emergency services for their work to restore peace in the areas that have been affected by violent disorder. It comes as police forces across the UK remain on high alert amid fears of further unrest over the weekend.

Harris makes an immigration pitch : Trump looks to young voters

AP n GLENDALE

Vice President Kamala Harris drew on her prosecutorial background to make her first expansive pitch on immigration to border-state voters as she and her new running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, attracted thousands to a campaign rally in Arizona during their tour of battleground states. Harris, the former attorney general of California, reminded the crowd that she, as a law enforcement official, targeted transnational gangs, drug cartels and smugglers.

"I prosecuted them in case after case, and I won," Harris said in front of a crowd of more than 15,000 in Glendale, a suburb of Phoenix. "So I know what I'm talking about."

Harris promoted a border security bill that a bipartisan group of senators negotiated earlier this year, which Republican lawmakers ultimately opposed en masse at Republican nominee Donald Trump's debate.

"Donald Trump does not want to fix this problem," Harris said. "Be clear about that: He has no interest or desire to actually fix



the problem. He talks a big game about border security, but he does not walk the walk."

Her effort to address immigration — a political liability that has dogged Harris for most of her vice presidency — head-on in the critical battleground state is part of a broader push from her campaign to make gains in Sun Belt states that had become increasingly out of reach with Joe Biden at the top of the ticket.

Trump and his allies, who had long hammered Biden over the influx of migrants

during his term, are now shifting their attacks to Harris. Kari Lake, who is running against Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego for the open Senate seat in Arizona, bashes Gallego in a recent ad for supporting Biden's and Harris' "radical border agenda," featuring repeated clips of the vice president chortling.

"It's very easy for us to segue and switch our sights and focus on her," said Dave Smith, Pima County's Republican party chairman.

But Harris has been courting the state's fast-growing Latino population and released a new ad of her own, highlighting how Harris, the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica, rose to the highest echelons of American politics.

And, as she has done in other campaign stops, Harris during the rally infused the theme of "freedom" throughout her remarks, especially as it came to voting rights, gun safety, LGBT rights and access to abortion. "Arizona, ours is a fight for the future and it is a fight for freedom," Harris said, who had walked out on the stage as Beyonce's "Freedom" blared throughout Desert Diamond Arena.

AP n WEST PALM BEACH

As Donald Trump adjusts to the reality of his new race against Kamala Harris, his campaign is counting on younger male voters to give him the edge in November in a presidential contest they insist is his to lose. Trump and his Republican campaign now face a dramatically different race than the one just three weeks ago, before President Joe Biden abandoned his bid. While they acknowledge polls have tightened with Harris as the Democratic nominee, they maintain that the fundamentals of the race have not changed, with voters deeply sour over the direction of the country, and particularly the economy.

"What has happened is we are witnessing a kind of out-of-body experience where we have suspended reality for a couple of weeks," Trump campaign pollster Tony Fabrizio told reporters during a briefing in West Palm Beach on Thursday of the current state of the race.

It was a message echoed by Trump during a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago club. "The honeymoon period's gonna end," he insisted while minimising the size of the



crowds Harris has been drawing and lashing out at his new opponent. "Let me tell you: We have the enthusiasm."

Campaign officials acknowledge that Harris had energised the Democratic base and that her team has taken the lead on fundraising. But they insist they have more than enough to do what they need to win. Trump's campaign and its affiliates reported raising USD 138.7 million in July — far less than the eye-popping USD 310 million sum reported by Harris. Her campaign began August with more cash on hand.

With less than three months to go, senior campaign officials are focused on a group of persuadable voters that they believe is key to victory. The targets, which they say comprise about 11 per cent of the electorate in key battleground states, skew younger and are disproportionately male and moderate. While more than half are white, they include more nonwhites, especially Asians and Hispanics, than the broader electorate. They are especially frustrated by the economy, including their personal finances, and are pessimistic things will improve.

"It's a very narrow band of people that we are trying to move," Fabrizio said of the efforts. Since these voters don't engage with traditional news outlets and have traded cable for streaming services, the campaign has been working to reach them in novel ways. "There is a reason why we're doing podcasts. There is a reason why we're doing Adin Ross," Fabrizio said, referring to the controversial internet personality who ended his interview with the former president earlier this week by giving him a Tesla Cybertruck wrapped in images of Trump raising his fist after his assassination attempt.

Garment sector facing uncertainty due to Bangladesh crisis: Sitharaman

Normalcy may return soon, says FM

PTI n NEW DELHI

The Indian garment and knitted fabric sector is witnessing a bit of uncertainty due to the Bangladesh crisis, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday, expressing hope that the interim government there will settle things 'sooner rather than later.'

Interacting with the media on the sidelines of customary post Budget address to the central board of Reserve Bank of India, she said efforts are being taken to ensure that borders with the neighbouring country are safe.

With regard to Indian investments, she said, the textile industry particularly from Tamil Nadu has made investments there in good faith and they have done well having gone there.

"The exports from Bangladesh also increased because of the duty and quota



liberal approach that we have towards low-income countries. They (Indian garment industry based in Bangladesh) could even export to India."

Particularly, she said, the garment and knitted fabric sector is seeing a bit of uncertainty because of the crisis in the neighbouring country.

"I hope that the investments are all safe... It's too early for me to see what kind of an impact this situation in

government.

The 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus on Thursday took oath as the head of an interim government, replacing Sheikh Hasina who abruptly resigned and fled to India leaving the country in turmoil following deadly protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs.

On Friday, Bangladesh's interim leader Yunus announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors and named a former top diplomat to head the foreign ministry.

The Nobel laureate's first task is to bring stability to Bangladesh after he responded to a call by student protesters for him to temporarily lead the country following weeks of deadly anti-government demonstrations against the government led by Sheikh Hasina.

Sovereign green bonds trading at IFSC to begin in 2nd half of this fiscal: RBI Guv

PTI n NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday said trading of sovereign green bonds can commence at the International Financial Services Centre in Gujarat during the second half of the current fiscal.

"We are in discussion with the IFSC, it will be operationalised very soon. I think in the second half (of the current financial year), it will be possible," Das said.

In April, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced that it will issue a framework to enable the trading of sovereign green bonds in GIFT City.

The government has been raising funds through green bonds since 2022-23 and has raised a total of Rs 36,000 crore in the last two years.

So far in the current financial year, the government has raised only Rs 1,697 crore out of the stipulated Rs 12,000 crore scheduled to be raised in the first half ending in September through green bonds as it did not find favourable bids.

Asked about the tepid



response from investors to such bond issuance, Das said, "as the debt manager of the government, we are watchful of what exactly is happening and if something needs to be done we will interact with the government and deal with it."

He further said, one major announcement in this year's budget about developing a climate taxonomy.

"I think that will have a significant long-term impact on mobilisation of funds for the green sector, not only through green bonds but also overall

VA Tech WABAG Ltd secures repeat order from CMWSSB

PTI n CHENNAI

Water treatment player VA Tech WABAG Ltd has secured a repeat order of Rs 415 crore from the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, the company said on Saturday.

The order is towards the Operation and Maintenance of 110 million litres per day Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Desalination Plant at Nemmeli in Chennai for a period of 7 years, city-based VA Tech WABAG Ltd said.

VA Tech WABAG had bagged an Operation and Maintenance contract from the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) and it was completed in 2021.

In a BSE filing today, the company said, "CMWSSB floated a public tender for the Operation and Maintenance of the plant and WABAG secured this repeat order for Operating and Maintaining the plant for another 7 years."



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das during the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India in the customary post-Budget meeting, at Reserve Bank of India in New Delhi, on Saturday

Domestic food market expected to grow by over 47% to touch USD 1,274 bn: Report

PTI n CHENNAI

The domestic food market is expected to grow by over 47 per cent to reach USD 1,274 billion by 2027, a report released by the Confederation of Indian Industry and supported by Danfoss India said.

India's food processing industry sees innovative startups emerging with cutting-edge technology, the report titled 'Food Processing Sector in India - Potential for Southern States. And released by CII, CII FACE (Confederation of Indian Industry -- Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence) and Danfoss India, said.

Danfoss India is a leader in heating, ventilation and air-conditioning and is the



subsidiary of Denmark-headquartered engineering major Danfoss.

Some of the key highlights of the report, which was released at the CII-FoodPro 2024 include the potential that southern states hold for food processing industry.

"Tamil Nadu leads India's export of processing fruits, juices and nuts, with a 33 per cent share by quantity and 27 per cent by value, exporting

2,08,370 metric tonnes worth USD 220.81 million in 2023-24," the report said.

The food processing industry in India sees innovative startups emerging with cutting-edge technology, the report said.

The study carries insights on emerging trends, technologies and export opportunities enabling businesses to make informed decisions and tap into the sector's potential

South India's food processing sector is on the cusp of a revolution, with innovative segments like millets, ready-to-eat and plant-based dairy alternatives unlocking a treasure trove of economic opportunities for farmers. The newly launched report reveals, technology holds the key to supercharging this growth, ensuring the highest standards of safety and quality and propelling India's exports onto the global stage," CII National Council for Cold Chain and Agri Logistics Chairman Ravichandran Purushothaman said.

"At Danfoss India, we are excited to be a part of this transformative journey, driving sustainable food processing solutions that will shape the future of Indian agriculture and food sector," he said in a statement on Saturday.

Banks should focus on their core business, bring innovative products to mobilise deposits: FM

PTI n NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday exhorted banks to focus on their core business and explore new ways to attract deposits, as household savings are increasingly shifting towards alternate investment products.

"Both RBI and the government have been asking banks to focus on their business activity... They should be aggressive in deposit mobilisation and then lend. That is the core activity of banks," she said.

Interacting with the media after her customary post Budget address to the central board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), she said there is mismatch between credit and deposit

growth presently.

Stressing that banks should give emphasis on collecting deposits, she said, "RBI has given them some liberty in managing the interest rates. Using that liberty, they should make deposits attractive... Bring innovative products and mobilise deposits."

She also urged bankers to shun lazy banking and focus on small savers rather than big or bulk deposits.

"Trickles (small savings) are going to be your bread and butter, money to bank on... That trickle which was the emphasis long back, which kept nothing for the other side (big deposits). Now we've (banks) gone to the other side completely. Now they are chasing bulk deposits to meet their targets," she said.

But the requisite small deposit mobilisation is one of the very critical jobs of a bank, she said, adding "it might be grinding monotony, but that's where your bread and butter lies." Echoing a similar view, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said "we have been witnessing about 300 to 400 basis points gap between deposits and credit growth, deposits are lower."

"So at the moment, our effort is to highlight this point. It is kind of a proactive caution for the banks' management that going forward, this may create structural issues with regard to liquidity management. As it stands today, we don't see a crisis. But it has to be attended to."

Banks should leverage their



vast branch network to mobilise deposits through innovative means and products, he emphasised.

He further said interest rates are deregulated and often banks raise deposit rates to attract funds.

market."

RBI Governor while unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy earlier in the week, also had expressed concern of deposit-lending mismatch in the banking sector.

He had said that banks were taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental credit demand.

This, he had warned, "may potentially expose the banking system to structural liquidity issues. Banks may, therefore, focus more on mobilisation of household financial savings through innovative products and service offerings and by leveraging fully on their vast branch

network."

Earlier in the day, Sitharaman addressed the central board of RBI on the sidelines of the 609th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India here.

She interacted with the directors in the Central Board, outlined the vision of the Union Budget 2024-25, its focus areas and the expectations from the financial sector.

The Finance Minister also underlined the priorities for 'Viksit Bharat'.

Sitharaman was accompanied by Minister of State Pankaj Chaudhary, T V Somanathan, Finance Secretary and Secretary, Department of Expenditure; Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment

and Public Asset Management and other senior officials.

The Board also reviewed the global and domestic economic situation and outlook, including the challenges posed by geopolitical developments and global financial market volatility.

Deputy Governors Michael Debrabara Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan J and other Directors of the Central Board - Satish K Marathe, S Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Anand Gopal Mahindra and Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel - attended the meeting.

Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, also attended the meeting.

REC CMD honoured

PNS n GURUGRAM

Vivek Kumar Dewangan, IAS, CMD, REC Limited received 'Distinguished Fellow' Award at the 2024 Director's Conclave & 34th IOD Annual Day.

The Institute of Directors organised this event to recognise and honour the leadership and contribution of individuals in the corporate sector.

The 'Distinguished Fellow' Award was presented to Dewangan by the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal, acknowledging his outstanding dedication and innovative approach towards leading REC Limited to new heights of success.

The award recognises Dewangan's visionary leadership towards fostering infrastructure growth and innovation, and promoting all round prosperity.



His contributions have further strengthened India's global position in the energy sector, it said.

Dewangan said, "I am humbled and honoured to receive the award. This accolade is a reflection of our collective ambition at REC to innovate and lead in the energy sector. It is a moment of pride for all of us, as it acknowledges our unwavering commitment to excellence and sustainability. I accept this award with a promise to continue our journey towards empowering a brighter, greener future for our nation."

Diversify ethanol production, Shah urges sugar mills

PTI n NEW DELHI

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday called on sugar mills to explore alternatives to sugarcane for ethanol production, pushing for a multi-dimensional approach to biofuel manufacturing.

Speaking at an event organized by the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF), Shah said India would achieve its 20 per cent ethanol blending target by 2025-26, ahead of the original 2030 deadline.

The minister highlighted that the government's ethanol blending programme has helped reduce the country's crude oil import bill and address environmental concerns.

"You need to be futuristic and



look at opportunities and expand. Ethanol can be made from multiple sources," Shah said, urging cooperative sugar mills to shed their "orthodox" approach and explore alternative feedstocks such as maize and bamboo.

Shah said about 1,000 crore litres of ethanol is required for blending, and the necessary infrastructure to achieve this target is in place.

He emphasised the need for

sugar mills to modernise and adopt new technologies, citing potential export opportunities once the Global Biofuels Alliance is established.

The minister challenged NFCSF to expand its operations, suggesting the federation to set up one cooperative sugar mill for every three districts in four states within a year.

Shah also advised NFCSF to hire professionals to guide loss-making cooperatives and set a target of increasing mills' annual turnover by 25 per cent in two years.

"We have a habit of working inefficiently and seeking help from the government. The government will be willing to help more if you work efficiently.Make a dynamic Federation, not a demand-

driven Federation," he added.

The push for diversification comes as India seeks to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and promote sustainable energy alternatives.

Shah also gave away the best NFCSF awards for performing cooperative mills under different categories.

NFCSF President Harshvardhan Patil said the sector faces several challenges and demanded an increase in the minimum selling price of sugar, the rates of B-Heavy molasses and sugar syrup used for ethanol making, and export of 10-20 lakh tonnes of sugar.

The federation is in the process of preparing a roadmap for the sector for the next ten years and is likely to be ready by September 5.

Amara Raja Group opens battery pack plant, lays foundation stone for cell manufacturing in T'gana

PTI n HYDERABAD

The Amara Raja Group on Saturday held a groundbreaking ceremony for its Customer Qualification Plant for cell manufacturing and inaugurated Phase 1 of the battery pack plant with a current capacity of 1.5 GWh in Mahabubnagar district of Telangana.

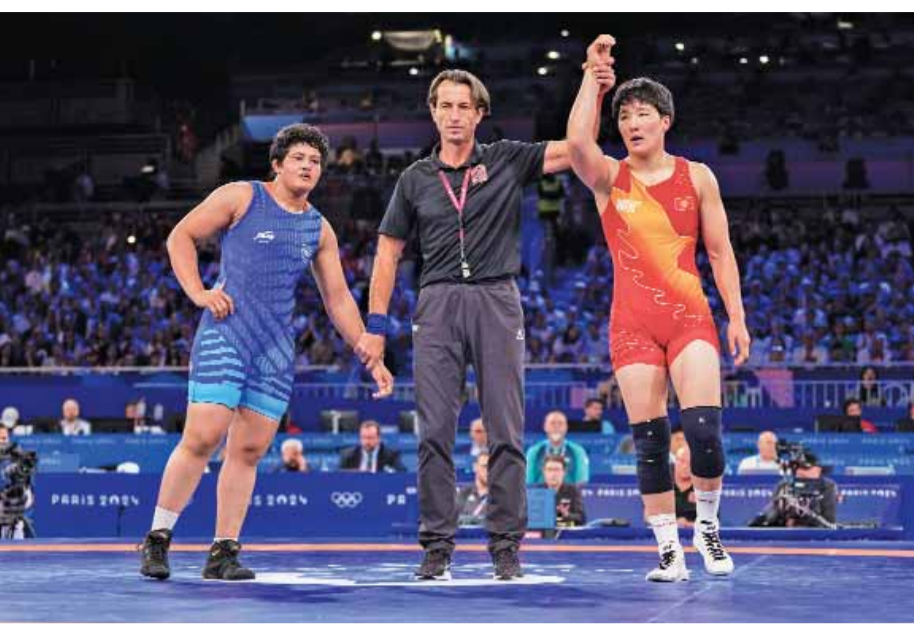
Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies (ARACT), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Amara Raja Energy & Mobility Limited (ARE&M), one of industrial and automotive battery majors, held the ceremony.

Along with the battery pack plant inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of the Customer Qualification Plant (CQP), Amara Raja signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Piaggio.

The battery maker had earlier signed an MoU with the state government for setting up research and development and a greenfield manufacturing facility for Lithium-Ion battery-making in the state with an ultimate capacity up to 16 GWh and a Battery Pack Assembly unit up to 5 GWh with an investment of Rs 9,500 crore.

"The first phase of it (16 MWh), when we are getting to 8 to 10 GWh, we are planning to do it with our own internal accruals and borrowings. But to go beyond that, we need to raise money through equity," Jayadev Galla, Chairman and MD of ARE&M, told reporters in a press conference.



REETIKA LOSES QUARTER-FINAL BOUT AGAINST MEDET

Indian wrestler Reetika Hooda lost a close quarter-final bout against Aiperi Medet Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan in the women's 76 kg freestyle category at the Paris Olympics here on Saturday. The wrestlers were locked 1-1 after six minutes of top-



Sreejesh a legend of hockey, will inspire next generation of players: Teammates

Just-retired India goalkeeper JPR Sreejesh is a legend of the game and will inspire the next generation of hockey players in the country, said his teammates on Saturday, after returning from Paris Olympics with a second successive bronze medal. Olympic champions India clinched a bronze medal in Paris, beating Spain 2-1 in the play-off match. The last of India's Olympic hockey golds came in 1980. "Sreejesh is the best person, a legend, and India calls him the 'Great Wall', amazing, that is all I can say he played his best hockey, and he has contributed to the country by playing hockey, and the standard he has set as a goalkeeper, it will inspire the next generation," forward Lalit Upadhyay said during a felicitation ceremony here. "I would like to thank the entire country because of the overwhelming support you have given to hockey, like the last time but even more so now, hockey is still in the hearts of people, they continue to love the sport and continue to support." Lalit was also full of praise for inspirational skipper Harmanpreet Singh, who scored 10 goals to emerge as the highest scorer of the tournament. "The country has given him (Harmanpreet) a new nickname (Sarpanch). I am glad that the country gave him this nickname, the ones who love hockey, as a great captain,

Netherlands defends women's hockey title

The Netherlands defended its title in Olympic women's field hockey, rallying from an early deficit to beat China 2-1 in a shootout in the final at the Paris Games on Friday night. The victory followed the Dutch men's team taking gold a day earlier. The Netherlands became the first country to sweep the field hockey medals at the Games since the women's tournament was added in 1980. Much like the men, the women did so surrounded by a sea of orange, with Dutch fans filling Yves-du-Manoir Stadium and making for a festive atmosphere. Also like the men,



it did not happen easily. The Netherlands fell behind 5:54 in when a defensive lapse in front allowed Chen Yi to redirect Dan Wen's setup past goalkeeper Anne Veenendaal. After trailing for just six minutes all tournament until the final, the Dutch generated plenty of quality chances through three quarters, including Frederique Malta ringing one penalty corner shot off the left post and missing wide right on another. Yibbi Jansen tied it with 9:11

Chopra, Nadeem look to popularise javelin throw

With their "healthy competition" on the field and "strong friendship" off it, javelin superstars Neeraj Chopra and Arshad Nadeem have set out to fulfil their common mission of inspiring youngsters of India and Pakistan and getting them hooked on the sport. Nadeem won the men's javelin gold in the ongoing Paris Olympics with a stunning 92.97m throw — which was also an Olympic record — while Chopra, who was defending his title, took the silver with a season's best effort of 89.45m. "It's already grown a lot. We're already seeing more talented javelin throwers in India. The same is happening in Pakistan," Chopra said when asked whether their success will lead to a boom in athletics in both India and Pakistan. "When we went to the Asian Games and Arshad couldn't compete due to a knee injury, his replacement, Yasir Sultan, threw very well. The medal Arshad just won will inspire more kids to follow, which is great," Chopra said on Jio Cinema. He was referring to last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, where he had won a gold. Asked whether the India-Pakistan rivalry will switch from cricket to javelin, Chopra said, "That'll be possible if we had more competitions like in cricket. We have two major competitions: the Olympics every four years and the World Championships every two years. "If we had more competitions, more



people would watch, like the Diamond League and some others," said the 26-year-old from Khandra village near Panipat. The 27-year-old Nadeem also spoke about the significance of Pakistan and India winning gold and silver in Paris Olympics. "I'm really happy. Out of the hundreds of countries participating, Pakistan and India have performed really well. Neeraj won gold at the (2023) World Championships in Budapest, and this is a golden moment for me," he said. "Our friendship is really strong, and I wish it continues for a long time." Asked how many times he's watched the clip of his Olympic record throw that fetched him the gold, he said, "I've watched it a few times, and I feel I have the capacity to do even better. One day I hope I can showcase this capacity." Chopra hoped that the competition with Nadeem would continue to grow. "It was a very healthy competition, with Arshad doing a great job and breaking the Olympic record. Big congratulations to him. I wish our competition continues to be this strong. "We will keep working hard and give javelin support in our countries while motivating kids who may want to take up the sport." On his efforts to breach the elusive 90m mark, Chopra said, "I've wanted to cross that mark since the 2018 Asian Games where I threw 88m. I feel like I'll cross 90m, but there are technical and injury reasons behind why I'm struggling to hit my maximum reach. "I have to work harder for that and keep myself fit."

Nadia breaks Africa's stranglehold on 10,000-metre podium

For three straight Olympics, nobody born outside of Africa had even come close to finishing on the podium in the women's 10,000 meters. Italy's Nadia Battocletti ended that streak Friday night at the Paris Games, claiming silver in an event that had come to be dominated by Kenyans, Ethiopians and runners from those countries representing other nations. Battocletti first served notice of her potential when she swept the 5,000 and the 10,000 at a home European Championships in June. But, there were no Africans in Rome. During the 5,000 at these Games, when Battocletti finished fourth, the Africans realized how competitive she was. Battocletti crossed fourth in that race, then was upgraded to bronze when Kenya's Faith Kipyegon was disqualified for trading elbows with Gudaf Tsegay before Kipyegon had her bronze restored on appeal. "After the 5,000, they started greeting me, appreciating me. I received lots of compliments from the Kenyan and Ethiopian girls," Battocletti said. "I imagine they had a little bit of fear... I heard them talking in the last laps about who amongst them was about to sprint." When Beatrice Chebet of Kenya burst ahead in the final 100 meters of the 25-lap race, Battocletti was the only one who could follow her. Chebet won in 30 minutes, 43.25 seconds to complete a sweep of the 5,000 and 10,000; Battocletti crossed second a mere 0.10 behind, and Ethiopian-born Dutch runner and defending champion Sifan Hassan was third, nearly a full



second back. "In the last 500-600 meters, I kept my eyes wide open and I told myself, 'Don't let them run away,'" Battocletti said. "I tried to be as smart as possible, like a fox." And to think, this was only the fourth time in her career that Battocletti has run a 10,000. She's only 24 and distance runners tend to mature later in their careers. Milan-Cortina Winter Games. "The event that changed my life was the historic Ciaspolada della Val di Non, a snowshoe race that my father won for the third time in 2007," Battocletti said, thinking back to when she was six years old. "The organizers told me that if I wanted to, I could symbolically run the final stretch with him. That allowed me to cross the first finish line of my life." Beyond running, Battocletti also studies architecture, building and construction engineering at the University of Trento. Before the 10,000, Battocletti taped up one of her ankles due to an Achilles tendon issue. But, the tape peeled off as the race wore on and was dragging around her spikes. "At a certain point, I felt like I was skating," she said. "Then at the end, I heard the stadium exploding in celebration."

Tamirat wins men's marathon to end Kenya dominance

Ethiopian runner Tamirat Tola won the men's marathon at the Paris Olympics to end Kenya's dominance of the race. Tola finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 6 minutes, 26 seconds, with Belgium's Bashir Abdi finishing 21 seconds behind and Benson Kipruto taking bronze for Kenya, 34 seconds back. Tola looked back as he neared the line and had time to soak up the applause. Two-time defending champion Eliud Kipchoge struggled throughout was more than eight minutes behind Tola. The last non-Kenyan to win was Ugandan Stephen Kiprotich at the London Games in 2012.

Brazil beats Canada in tense three-set women's beach volleyball

Not even a tense tête-à-tête in the gold medal game could spoil the vibe at Paris' biggest beach party. Canada's Brandie Wilkerson and Brazil's Ana Patricia got into a finger-pointing shouting match across the net in the tiebreaking third set of the beach volleyball final of the Paris Olympics on Friday night. The referee tried to keep the peace, but it was the Eiffel Tower Stadium DJ who cooled tempers on the sand by playing John Lennon's "Imagine" over the PA system. The players laughed and clapped. The crowd applauded and sang along. Wilkerson was shown a yellow card. The top-ranked Brazilians left with the gold medal. "Were competitors and we are fighting for the same thing: There's only one gold medal," Wilkerson said during a post-match news conference in which the two laughed and jokingly put up their fists as if



they were going to brawl it out. "Immediately after the game, it's all love and respect," she said. "We bring out the best in each other, and I'm honored to play against this team." Ana Patricia and Duda rallied from an 11-5 deficit to take the first-to-21, win-by-two first set 26-24, and Canada won the second 21-12. Brazil opened up a 12-7 lead in the first-to-15 tiebreaker when, after a joust at the net, Wilkerson and Ana Patricia began pointing fingers at each other. The second referee, the one at

Boxer Imane wins gold

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif has won a gold medal Friday at the Paris Olympics, emerging as a champion from a tumultuous run at the Games where she endured intense scrutiny in the ring and online abuse from around the world over misconceptions about her womanhood. Khelif beat Yang Liu of China 5:0 in the final of the women's welterweight division, wrapping up the best series of fights of her boxing career with a victory at Roland Garros, where crowds chanted her name, waved Algerian flags and roared every time she landed a punch. After her unanimous win, Khelif jumped into her coaches' arms, one of them putting her on his shoulders and carrying her in a victory lap as she pumped her fists and grabbed an Algerian flag from the crowd. "For eight years, this has been my dream, and I'm now the Olympic champion and gold medalist," Khelif said through an interpreter. Asked about the scrutiny, she told reporters: "That also gives my success a special taste because of those attacks." "We are in the Olympics to perform as athletes, and I hope that we will not see any similar attacks in future Olympics," she said.

CA COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
(An autonomous statutory authority of Ministry of Education, Government of India)
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No.CA/15/2024/AE(PN)-1 Dated: 09/08/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention: General Public, All Municipalities, Development Authorities, Foreign Architects, Consultants, Govt. Departments and all concerned.

The Council of Architecture an autonomous statutory authority of Government of India set up under the Architects Act, 1972, is mandated to register qualified professionals as "Architects" and to regulate the standards of architectural education and profession in the country in order to safeguard the interest of the society.

The Act mandates that only a qualified person be registered as an "Architect" with the Council of Architecture and only he/she can use the title and style of "Architect" for carrying out the profession of an architect in India. An "Architect" is rigorously trained and groomed with special knowledge and skills to design buildings for comfort & life safety of the citizens duly complying Local development control regulations and various other laws & standards. An "Architect" is governed by Architects (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 1989 approved by Central Government and thus remains accountable for the professional services rendered by him/her.

In view of the above, general public and all concerned persons/ competent authorities are advised to avail the professional services of an "Architect" including designing buildings and getting statutory approvals from local authorities.

The registration status of the "Architect" may be verified from website www.coa.gov.in of the Council before appointing them.

Issued in Public Interest.
New Delhi Registrar

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hinsa Ram Banjara alias Hinchchha Ram S/o Ratan Banjara R/o-445 Sheelta-Para Demar-Arjuni Dhamtari Chhattisgarh-493773 changed my name to Hichha. PD(666)A

I, Sonia Arora alias Sonia Vijay Arora D/o Vijay Arora R/o Block-No-39 Behind Krishna Shopping Complex Chaitanya Raigarh, Chhattisgarh-496001 changed my name to Soniya Arora. PD(667)A

WRESTLER AMAN SEHRAWAT BECOMES INDIA'S YOUNGEST OLYMPIC MEDALLIST

PTI n PARIS

Grappler Aman Sehrawat became India's youngest ever Olympic medallist by clinching the 57kg free-style category bronze less than a month after his 21st birthday to complete a memorable Games debut and lift the sagging spirits of the controversy-hit national wrestling contingent here on Friday.

Sehrawat, who turned 21 on July 16, notched up a commanding 13-5 win over Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz in a high-intensity third-place contest.

Before him, the celebrated P V Sindhu held the title of being India's youngest Olympic podium finisher after she claimed a silver in the 2016 Games at the age of 21 years, one month and 14 days.

Sehrawat has not even completed a month since turning 21. His effort helped India win its sixth medal and move closer to the Tokyo Games tally of seven. The country has so far secured one silver and five bronze, including today's medal.

"It's been a long time since I won a medal for my country. I had to do something about it.

I would like to say to the people of India that I will definitely win a gold for you in 2028," the youngster, who was raised by his grandfather after losing his parents as a child, said after his triumph.

"The target was gold but I had to be content with bronze this time. I had to forget the semifinal defeat. I told myself, let it go and focus on next. Sushil pahlawan ji won two medals, I will win in 2028 and then in 2032 also," he added enthusiastically.

The U-23 world champion was the lone Indian male wrestler to qualify for the Paris Games and he did not disappoint. Wrestling has not missed a medal at the Olympics since 2008 and Sehrawat's effort ensured the streak remained unbroken.

Sushil Kumar broke the glass ceiling by winning the bronze in Beijing (2008), and since then Yogeshwar Dutt (2012), Sakshi Malik (2016), Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia (2021) have kept the tradition intact.

Coach Jagmender Singh and Virender Dahiya said they spent a sleepless night to monitor Sehrawat's weight.

"We took special precautions to reduce his weight. We kept checking his weight every

WINS 57KG FREE-STYLE BRONZE IN PARIS



hour. We didn't sleep the whole night," Dahiya said.

LIFTS SPIRITS OF WRESTLING CONTINGENT: A lot was expected from women wrestlers but Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), and Nisha Dahiya (68kg) could not reach the medal rounds in their respective categories.

On the other hand, Vinesh Phogat (50kg) lost despite entering the final as she was disqualified from the gold-medal bout for being 100gm overweight.

The disqualification led to a huge uproar in the country and Vinesh has challenged her ouster in the ad-hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The hearing concluded on Friday and a decision is expected by Sunday evening.

Teenager Panghal also landed herself in trouble for sending her sister to the Games Village on her accreditation card. She was deported along with her entourage on Thursday after a first-round loss.

SHOWS OFF AGGRESSIVE MOVES: It was a fast-paced bout with quick moves from the two rival wrestlers.

Once Sehrawat got a measure of his opponent, he did not give much of a chance to the

Puerto Rican.

He built a healthy 6-3 lead by the end of first period with consecutive takedown moves. As is usually the case, Sehrawat, who thrives on a high-endurance game, first tried to wear down his opponent and then went for the kill.

With dominating technical-superiority wins over Vladimir Egorov and Zelimkhan Abakarov, the Indian wrestler stormed into the semifinals without conceding a single point but was no match for Japan's Rei Higuchi in the semifinals.

TOUGH BEGINNING: Having lost his parents at a tender age of 12, the famed Chhatrasal stadium — where his father had enrolled him in 2013 — became Sehrawat's second home.

The stadium that became his shelter was the one gave India four Olympic medallists — Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya.

And Sehrawat ensured that he joined the roll of honour as the youngest among the giants who did it before him.

Reetika Hooda (76kg) will be in action on Saturday, and if she wins a medal, India will match its Tokyo tally.



Upton and boot camp with Mike toughened us mentally before Olympics: Harmanpreet

PTI n NEW DELHI

From conceding goals under pressure to becoming mentality monsters, who pulled off clutch moments in the Olympics for a second successive bronze.

The Indian men's hockey team has come a long way and captain Harmanpreet Singh credits mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton and a three-day boot camp with Swiss adventurer Mike Horn for the fortitude that his players displayed during the campaign in Paris.

"Yes, definitely, the mental toughness of this side is totally different. We are a united bunch and we backed each other and motivated each other when chips were down," Harmanpreet told PTI after returning to the country on Saturday.

"From first to last (game), we played as a unit and backed each other in search of the gold medal. Definitely Paddy Upton has a big role to play in this. Even the three-day camp with Mike Horn before the Olympics made our bond more strong. So mentally we were in a good space," he added.

Upton, who has previously also worked with the 2011 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team, came on board in June last year.

It was his idea to have a camp with Horn before the team made its way to Paris. The three-day stay in Switzerland included activities like walking on a glacier with harnesses, cycling, climbing and rappelling down waterfalls.

The exercises were meant to foster team spirit and build a strong bond of trust among players.

Harmanpreet said all of it helped when the team was faced with nervous situations like the quarterfinal against Britain in which it played with 10 men for more than 40 minutes after Amit Rohidas was red-carded for dangerous

play.

The team didn't just manage to hold Britain to 1-1 in regulation time, it went on to win the shootout with star goalkeeper P R Sreejesh coming up with a brilliant performance.

It was a refreshing outcome for a side which had the reputation of being a late conceder.

Harmanpreet and his men managed to completely shed that image with the gritty show in Paris and Sreejesh could take a lot of credit for it thanks to his inspiring and reassuring presence in front of the goal-post.

The 36-year-old Kerala retiree at the end of India's campaign after another memorable performance in the bronze playoff which India won 2-1 against Spain, another high-pressure game.

Harmanpreet, who exchanged his medal with Sreejesh on the podium just as he did in Tokyo, wants the veteran goalkeeper to continue for some more time but said he understands his close friend's desire to go out on a high.

"Sreejesh and I are like more brothers, we have played together for long. Yes, I want him to continue playing for some more years but at the end of the day it's completely his personal decision and we should support it.

"He is a legend and Indian hockey will only benefit when he joins the Indian junior team as coach," he said.

Harmanpreet said they went to Paris eyeing gold and although that could not happen after their semifinals loss to Germany, a second consecutive bronze is something they can be proud of. "It is a proud moment for us and India, a back-to-back bronze in hockey is a huge achievement and nothing is bigger than this. We really deserved it as we played really well, we targeted the gold medal and wanted to win the gold medal and bring it home.

Women's Olympic marathon in Paris records a 1st by running last instead of men's race

AP n PARIS

There was a time, not that long ago, when those in charge of the Olympics thought it was too dangerous for women to run a marathon.

On Sunday, in a break with tradition that stamps an exclamation point on how much has changed over the last 40 years, the women, not the men, will have the honour of closing out the Olympic track meet with the traditional 26.2-mile run.

Organizers of the Paris Games are using the Sunday women's marathon as another way to highlight the conquering of a long-sought benchmark at the Olympics; these are the first Summer Games to have an equal number of men and women competing.

In another nod to the historical significance of the moment, the marathon route traces the steps of the Women's March on Versailles.

That was a seminal moment during the French Revolution when women in a Paris marketplace organized a march to Versailles to bring their complaints to King Louis XVI over the high price of bread.

Joan Benoit won the 1st Olympic marathon Watching all this with interest will be Joan Benoit Samuelson, who won the first Olympic marathon, which wasn't run until the Los Angeles Games in 1984.

"All these years later, all these centuries later, women are again tracing routes that changed the course of history, and in this case, certainly for the positive," Samuelson said in an interview with The Associated Press.

For years, before Samuelson's history-making marathon, women were restricted to races of 800 meters or less. The 1,500 was added in 1972.

Some of the arguments against women running longer distances included the idea that they couldn't handle the psychological stress of long races, and also that the taxing runs could cause infertility.

In 1966, Roberta Gibb, after being denied entry into the Boston Marathon, hid behind a bush near the start line and ran the course.

Not until 1972 were women officially allowed in Boston, and it was another



12 years before the Olympics joined in. Carey Pinkowski, the executive race director for the Chicago Marathon, said that when he began working with the race in 1990, around 5% of participants were women. He said that now, 50% of the field for Chicago's race is made up of women.

JOAN BENOIT RAN THE HIGHWAYS OF LA FOR THE FIRST MARATHON GOLD: In 1984, the women's marathon took place on the first Sunday of the Olympic track meet, not the last. The route ran from Santa Monica and went mostly along freeway routes before ending at the LA Coliseum.

Samuelson, then known as Joan Benoit, was the world record holder, but not a favourite because she was coming off knee surgery.

Her main competition was the reigning world champion, Grete Waitz. Benoit started fast, finished strong, ran the distance in two hours, 24 minutes, 52

seconds and secured her mark in history as the first women's Olympic marathon winner.

"I sort of lived by the adage, Run your own race" since that time," Samuelson said. "You can't run anybody else's race in life but your own."

BILES AND LEDECKY SHINED, AND NOW A WOMAN MARATHONER GETS CENTER STAGE: In an Olympics, in which Simone Biles, Sha'Carri Richardson and Katie Ledecky dominated the headlines, and where a toxic debate over gender in women's boxing drove a good portion of the hard news, women will own the spotlight to close out the track meet, the traditional centrepiece of the Games.

"That means most of the people will be watching as they wait for closing ceremonies," said two-time Olympic 5,000-meter silver medalist Hellen Obiri, the Kenyan standout who is the favourite and is drawing her own new

audience as the subject of a documentary titled "The Heart to Race" that's produced by the sportswear company "On."

"It's a great opportunity for millions of people to watch you. That's on your mind. I want to work extra hard to make these people happy."

Obiri and the other 91 women, who entered the race, will find this journey through Parisian history to be far from an easy stroll.

The course is a bruising run, filled with winding inclines that reach grades as steep as 13.5% and is viewed as the most difficult the Olympics has seen. There were times on Saturday when the men, struggling to negotiate the hills, looked like they were jogging.

"It is simply the toughest course that's ever been for a major championship, and we believe that makes it the most interesting of tactical races," said Jon Ridgeon, the former sprinter who is CEO of World Athletics. "I think for the athletes, it makes it more unpredictable. It's going to be a fascinating mindset."

FOR SIFAN HASSAN, THE MARATHON WILL BE HER THIRD RACE OF THE OLYMPICS: If only the decision-makers from a generation ago - the leaders who thought women were too fragile to run long distances - could see what Sifan Hassan is doing this week.

Not 48 hours after winning the bronze medal in the 10,000 meters for her second distance bronze of the Paris Games, Hassan, the Ethiopian-born runner who competes for the Netherlands, will trade the track at the Stade de France for the brutal marathon course.

She also ran two 5,000-meter races and finished third in the final there. If Hassan can wind her way through this hilly tour of French history, then finally past the Esplanade des Invalides and across the finish line, she will have run more than 62 kilometres over nine days - more than any person, man or woman, at the Paris Games.

If she wins a medal, she will duplicate her feat from the Tokyo Games, when she won three medals in three distance events. That time, she ran the 1,500, not the marathon.

"Endurance on Sunday, that's not a joke," Hassan said.

Afghan refugee breaker disqualified for wearing 'Free Afghan Women' cape at Paris Olympics

AP n PARIS

Refugee breaker Manizha Talash, or "b-girl Talash," was disqualified from the first-ever Olympic breaking competition on Friday, after she wore a cape that said "Free Afghan Women" during her pre-qualifier battle against India Sardjoe - known as "b-girl India."

The 21-year-old, originally from Afghanistan and representing the Olympic Refugee, team lost in the pre-qualifier battle against Sardjoe, and would not have advanced even if she hadn't been disqualified.

Political statements and slogans are banned on the field of play and on podiums at the Olympics. World DanceSport Federation, the governing body for breaking at the Olympics, issued a statement afterward that said she "was disqualified for displaying a political slogan on her attire during the Pre-Qualifier battle."

Talash sought asylum in Spain after fleeing Taliban rule in her home country in 2021.

"I'm here because I want to reach my dream. Not because I'm scared," she told The Associated Press before the Olympics from Spain, where she was granted asylum.

The one-off pre-qualifier battle between Talash and Sardjoe was added in May, when Talash was included in the Olympic roster after the b-girl from Afghanistan missed registration for qualifying events. The International Olympic Committee's executive board invited her to participate after learning of her efforts to defy the strict rule of the Taliban in her home country.

India batter Mandeep moves to Tripura from Punjab ahead of upcoming domestic season

PTI n NEW DELHI

Indian batter Mandeep Singh on Saturday announced that he will play for Tripura in the upcoming domestic season, ending his 14-year stint with Punjab.

Mandeep played three T20 Internationals for India in 2016 against Zimbabwe.

"I have had the most amazing journey at PCA from junior level all the way to senior level whilst also having the best fortune of being the Winning Captain of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for 2023-2024," Mandeep wrote in Instagram.

"However, after a lot of deliberation, I think it's time for me to open a new chapter in my career. I have decided that now is the right time to go ahead and play cricket for Tripura in the upcoming domestic season," he added in the social media post.

The 32-year-old thanked Punjab association and former cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh for the "constant support."

"I want to extend my appreciation to



Dilsher Khanna, secretary of PCA, Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh, for their constant support throughout the years. I would also like to thank the members of PCA Management and to the staff that have been by my side over the years," he said.

Mandeep said he wanted to achieve many more milestones with Tripura.

"I am excited for the new beginnings at Tripura and to celebrate the many milestones and achievements that are yet to come," he added.

Mandeep made his debut for Punjab in 2010, and the experienced batter's presence will come handy for Tripura after wicketkeeper batter Wriddhiman Saha moved back to Bengal prior to the upcoming season.

Mandeep has made 6448 runs from 99 matches at an average of 47.76, including 15 centuries with a top score of 235.

Besides Mandeep, Tripura will also have the services of former Punjab batter Jwanjot Singh this season.

"There are so many roads you can take that will lead you the wrong way, that nobody will hear your name"
— Maria Sharapova



DELHI-DEHRADUN EXPRESSWAY DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH DAMAGE?

The Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project, nearing completion, is expected to be an example for the world with the longest wildlife corridor in Asia. It will cut the travel time between the two cities to 2.5 hours but apprehensions remain about its impact, writes **PARITOSH KIMOTHI**

Uttarakhand has for long been a popular destination for pilgrims and tourists. While Haridwar is a major pilgrimage centre in the plains, the provisional State capital Dehradun hosts a number of prominent national-level institutions including the Survey of India and Indian Military Academy along with famous educational institutions, apart from being the gateway to the popular hill station of Mussoorie and other tourism activities especially in the mountainous regions of Garhwal in the State. Apart from long weekends and special occasions, the summer months frequently witness a large number of people arriving here especially from Delhi-NCR. Similarly, snowfall in the nearby hills also attracts a number of tourists from neighbouring regions. At present, people travel between Delhi and Dehradun/Haridwar by road, train or by air. The time taken to travel between Doon and the national Capital by road ranges from five to seven hours depending on the time when one travels and the location one is going to. Similarly, it takes about five to six hours by train and though the flight takes 40 minutes to one hour, one may spend more than an additional hour to get to the destination from the airport. This scenario is expected to be changed drastically in the near future with the completion of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project of the National Highways Authority of India. The completion of this 212-kilometre six-lane access controlled expressway with a project cost of Rs 14,000 crore, which is in its final stage of construction, will drastically cut down the travel time between Delhi and Dehradun/Haridwar to 2.5 hours. This expressway is also expected to be an example for the world as it also features a 13.8 kilometre elevated road, making it Asia's longest wildlife corridor. The authorities involved in the project state that the

“THE DEHRADUN-BASED WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA (WII) SET UP 80 CAMERA TRAPS ON THIS STRETCH AND STUDIED WILDLIFE MOVEMENT HERE FOR THREE MONTHS. THE MOVEMENT OF ABOUT 40 TO 50 DIFFERENT WILDLIFE SPECIES RANGING FROM DEER AND WILD BOAR TO LEOPARDS AND ELEPHANTS WAS ASCERTAINED HERE IN THIS DURATION. AS PART OF THE EXPRESSWAY PROJECT, THE AUTHORITIES WILL ALSO WORK ON AN ECO-RESTORATION PLAN.”



stretch where the elevated road has been built has Rajaji National Park on the one side and the Shivalik Wildlife Reserve on the other. An average of 35,000 vehicles pass daily through this stretch. Widening the existing stretch of the highway between Ganeshpur in the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh and Asharodi in Dehradun would have been cheaper but might have ended causing more environmental damage and exacerbating human-wildlife conflict. Widening the existing highway would have entailed the cutting of about 1.5 lakh trees while about 11,000 trees had to be cut for building the elevated road. The Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) set up 80 camera traps on this stretch and studied wildlife movement here for three months. The movement of about 40 to 50 different wildlife species ranging from deer and wild boar to leopards and elephants was ascertained here in this duration. As part of the expressway project, the authorities will also work on an eco-restoration plan. Further, budget

has been allocated for the WII to place cameras on the 550 pillars to study wildlife movement on this corridor for a period of five years. Similarly, the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun will undertake a three-year Sal tree regeneration project in this area to enhance the environment. According to officials involved in the project, the elevated stretch is expected to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and also prove beneficial for the wildlife and environment. At present, the longest such wildlife corridor in India is about eight kilometres long and is located in Pench, connecting Madhya Pradesh with Maharashtra. While this project promises to bring about drastic changes not just in Dehradun and Haridwar but also in Delhi, there are many who have apprehensions about the impacts of this major development. Dehradun-based anthropologist and heritage expert Lokesh Ohri says that the project will certainly have benefits but questioned whether Dehradun and Mussoorie are prepared for what is to come. "The opening of

this expressway will practically turn Dehradun into a part of the NCR like Ghaziabad or Faridabad. The flood of visitors has already converted Rishikesh into a trap for the locals who struggle to move around the city through traffic congestion resulting from the rush of tourists, who in turn also face the problem. The pressure on the forest wealth of this region and real estate will also increase after the expressway becomes functional. Though such projects do benefit all, the focus should also have been on ensuring that the locals benefit more. Apart from this, the authorities here do not seem to have taken any measures to prevent the negative impacts the project will have on Dehradun and Mussoorie," he said.

Human rights lawyer Reenu Paul who had also challenged the Ganeshpur-Asharodi stretch of the project in the Uttarakhand High Court for conservation of the Shivalik ecosystem, opined that damage to the Shivalik range will cause considerable damage to the

environment and climate of the Doon Valley. She points out, "The Shivaliks play a vital role in insulating the Doon Valley against high winds, heat, dust and pollutants from the plains on the south western side of the valley. In the Gazetteers of Dehradun published in 1910, HG Walton had remarked that the climate of Dehradun differs from the plains owing to its elevation, while the wooded range of the Shivalik partly suppress and partly moisten the scorching winds that blow during the hot weather in the plains. Apart from this, the project doesn't appear to be sustainable as the hillocks of the Shivalik are highly eroding. The tributaries of the Ganga river including Mohan Rao, Sukh Rao, Saloni and Chilla Rao have also been disturbed and obstructed, disturbing the hydrology of the area. The wildlife corridor has also been fragmented," she opined. The authorities are confident that the opening of the Delhi-Dehradun expressway will not only enhance public convenience by drastically cutting down the travel time, but also boost economic activities further in the region. Infrastructural development is a major focus of the Union government and is a vital requirement for achieving the desired level of economic progress and public welfare. On the other hand, many in Dehradun remain sceptical about the impacts this project will have. The once green and serene Doon Valley has witnessed a considerable drop in greenery and rise in congestion and pollution in recent years. The city's existing infrastructure struggles to meet the requirements of the locals and visitors as factors like congestion and inadequate parking space have impacted the very character of Doon and life here. Expected to be completed in the next couple of months, the opening of the expressway for traffic is sure to bring about drastic changes. However, only time will tell the real cost of this major development.

CHARMING COONNOOR

PROMISES A TRANQUIL RETREAT!

Inhaling the scents of fresh blooms, sipping freshly brewed tea, I witnessed sunrise magic from the folds of Nilgiris, sitting in the garden of the charming villa, The Xanadu in Coonnoor. Here I sealed every moment as the celebration of Nature

BY SHARMILA CHAND

Tucked at the edge of a cliff, the villa is my home for three days with a magnificent view of the rolling Nilgiri hills, tea plantations and the plains below. I tell my friend, Aparna Bharathan, the humble owner of this pretty home, that I have 'checked in and breathing out'. She bursts into laughter as that exactly is the tagline she has chosen for her Xanadu chain of premium, fully serviced vacation rental villas.

For me, a trip to Coonnoor is essentially to relish slow travel without ticking off 'must do' list. Hence, a game of Jenga or Monopoly in the plush living room while watching the pitter patter of raindrops, is luxury. There is a whiff of pleasant aroma in the room, I can't resist and peep into the kitchen where Ganga Ram is busy making rasam and lemon rice. He is little more generous in using curry leaves in tadka, and that makes me impatient to have the meal. By now, Ganga has spoilt me thoroughly with several glasses of cutting chai and delicious food.

MAGICAL NIGHT

I wait for the spectacular night view when the sky is full of pretty stars in coherence with the lights of the



plains shimmering below. This is luxury for me. The weather throughout the day plays its own hide and seek, the clouds enveloping the hills in a stroke of misty white and next moment letting the hills magically appear in the famous 'Nilgiri' blue haze.

NILGIRIS ENDOWED WITH UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY

The Nilgiri mountains stretch over the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, connecting Western Ghats with the Eastern Ghats. Located at the convergence of both Ghats, lends Nilgiris vibrant flora and fauna. From Evergreen forests

and lowland Savannas to lush Shola grassland, enchanting flora encompasses the region. Various endangered species including Nilgiri Langur thrive here. What I love is the heady fragrance of cypress, eucalyptus and pine. The soft purple haze of my favourite jacaranda trees keeps my eyes longing for more. I can't get over seeing magnificent trees of Pont Setia, the same festive plant with bold red leaves we have in small pots during Christmas time. And then the lush mosanda in white and pink, another favourite of mine that seems to be calling me back soon!

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY - THE TODAS

It is said that Toda community settled here around 3500 years ago, thus the oldest inhabitants of the region. Known for their pastoral way of life and vegetarian lifestyle, the Todas have a distinct identity. Every aspect of their life, including their artistic skills, are inspired by nature. The traditions they follow further prove how nature is significant in their lifestyle. I was told by locals that during an infant's naming ceremony, the grandfather uncovers the child's face out in the open air for the first time, showing various elements of nature - the rising sun, the birds, the cows, buffaloes etc. I visited one Toda

village and saw women busy at their art work. Their embroidery represents an ancient art form and has been granted a GI patent by The Government.

A CUP THAT CHEERS!

Visiting Nilgiris and not taking a trip to a tea plantation, is unfair. Though you see the sweeping vistas of carpets of tea all around, blooming on the slopes as far as eye can see, but experiencing a walk through the plantation and completing it with tea tasting, is a beautiful outstanding experience. And who can do this better than Sandeep Subramani, a fourth generation tea planter and founder of Tranquillitea which runs a chain of experiential boutique holidays in the Nilgiris and conducts a highly acclaimed gourmet tea tasting experience in their estate in Coonnoor called the 'Cups That Cheer'.

Sandeep takes one and half hour glorious session on tea which is full of stories, facts and secrets. One secret he tells with great pride and a smile - "The Nilgiris has the world's highest tea estates. At around 8000 feet there is simply no other place on earth that grows tea as a plantation crop as high as in the Nilgiris. Darjeeling, the region that makes the other famous Indian tea has its highest tea estates at just over



6000 feet. Let me explain why tea doesn't grow at such heights anywhere else. The weather is generally too cold for tea to grow at these elevations. However, the geographical location of the Nilgiris provides the perfect temperature band through the winter months, for tea to grow even at these heights. Talking about temperature, tea thrives between 13° C and 30° C and we are always within that range. Though night-time temperatures in winter can drop below 13° C, day temperatures are always within the optimum range. This results in a tea that is intensely flavourful and typically floral in nature," he concludes.

INTERESTING ATTRACTIONS TO VISIT

Though I am contented to luxuriate in the comfort of home Xanadu, but for those discerning travelers who might like to have a sightseeing plan, here are few top things to do in Coonnoor.

Dolphin's Nose Point — Located at an altitude of 1,500, it is set amidst the rolling hills, the tip of the peak of the enormous rock resembles the nose of a dolphin hence the name Dolphin's Nose. Gigantic ravines are on both sides of the place offering a view of inspiring Catherine Falls.

Lamb's Rock - enjoy fascinating



views of the valley at this vantage point with jagged rock that drops down several hundred feet to bury itself in the luxuriant jungle below. The place got its name after Captain Lamb who attempted to open a path to this place.

Droog Fort — The historical Droog Fort at an altitude of about 6000 feet above the lush plains, is said to be used by Tipu Sultan as an outpost. To reach this place, one has to go up to Nonsuch Estate and trek down for about 4 kms. According to locals' tales, the fort is linked with the legend of a local demon, Bakasura. Due to this, it is also called Bakasura Malai by the natives.

Sim's Park — Spend sometime in the park which was developed around the natural contours of the land by JD Sims and Major Murray in the year of 1874. Spread over 30 acres of land, the park was started as a pleasure resort for the residents and visitors, and later developed into garden. It has wonderful landscaped gardens & walkways lined up with beautiful flowers spread across, also a lake inside the park that offers boating facility as well.

KETTI VALLEY

Embark on the toy train to enjoy this beautiful valley. It is also famous for bird watching and trekking. You can also visit the famous Shiva Lingam temple here.

GOURMET CHEESE

Coonnoor is now also famous for selling gourmet cheese. You can take a tour of cheese farms or simply visit a popular old store Nilgiris Store or 'Baker's Junction' just 100 m from Bedford circle.

SHOPPING

Shopping in Coonnoor is pretty good. From pretty embroidered shawls, apparels, Toda jewellery and handicrafts items to natural oils, fruit jams, homemade chocolates and of course, the huge variety of tea, shopping here is really good.

Spend at least a week, soak in fresh crisp mountain air and come back rejuvenated till you return to the spectacular queen of hills.

Sharmila Chand is an author and journalist who writes on Travel, Food, Culture and Lifestyle.



EXPLORING PARADISE

A journey through the pristine beauty of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Nestled in the azure waters of the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a tropical haven that offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, vibrant marine life, and rich cultural heritage, writes SANTANU GANGULY

Every Indian should visit the Andaman Islands at least once in their lifetime to complete their journey. The Andaman Islands offer an incredible blend of natural beauty, historical significance, wildlife, and adventure sports. The Andaman Islands are well-connected by regular flights from Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kolkata, and one can also reach them by ship from Kolkata, Chennai, and Visakhapatnam. However, traveling by flight is recommended to witness breathtaking aerial views that resemble slices of heaven.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprise a total of 836 islands, of which only 31 are inhabited. Visitors are not allowed on all the islands, and even the non-tribal Andamanese people cannot visit the restricted islands.

Only government officials from departments such as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Forest Department, and Police are permitted to access these islands for official purposes. As a general tourist, the only chance to see some of these islands is from the sky before landing or after takeoff at Veer Savarkar Airport in Port Blair, the capital of the union territory. While the Andaman Islands are open to tourists year-round, the best time to visit is from October to May. Monsoon tourism runs from June to October.

There are numerous hotels and guest houses available for online booking, and package tours are also offered to suit various budgets. The local businesses are known for their honesty, adhering to strict rules and regulations throughout the islands. For



example, if the local authority sets the price of coconut water at forty rupees, the rate will be consistent everywhere. In Port Blair, the major attractions include the Cellular Jail, Chatham Saw Mill, Forest Museum, Samudrika Naval Museum,

Anthropological Museum, Fisheries Aquarium, Science Center, and Corbyn's Cove. The historic Cellular Jail will not only enrich your knowledge of history but also evoke a deep emotional connection as you learn about the struggles of lesser-known

freedom fighters and the inhumane torture they endured under British rule. To reach Shaheed Dweep (formerly known as Neil Island) and Swaraj Dweep (formerly known as Havelock Island) from Port Blair, you must travel by small ships,



following a process similar to airport check-in. Plan to stay at least one night on each of these islands to explore them fully. Must-visit beaches on Shaheed Dweep include Bharatpur, Lakshmanpur, and Sitapur, while Elephant and Radhanagar beaches on Swaraj

Dweep are not to be missed. Scuba diving at Shaheed Dweep offers an unforgettable experience.

Other popular attractions include Hudi Tikri, Red, Bird and Bat islands, Amkunj Beach near Rangat; Dhaninallah Mangroves and Karmatang Beach near Mayabunder; limestone caves and mud volcanoes near Diglipur; Craggy Island; Ross & Smith Islands, and various national parks and protected sanctuaries.

The indigenous tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are divided into two groups: the Onge, Sentinelese, Jarawa, and Andamanese of Negroid descent living in the Andaman Islands, and the Shompen and Nicobarese of Mongoloid descent living in the Nicobar Islands. It is strictly prohibited by law to enter tribal reserves,

meet, or photograph these tribes. Respect their peaceful haven and adhere to the law.

During my visits to the Andaman Islands, I was fortunate enough to encounter the Jarwa people. However, last year, I had an incredible experience while traveling by local public bus from Diglipur to Port Blair. As we entered the Jarwa forest after crossing a river, four Jarwa boys waved at our bus driver for a lift. The bus stopped, and they quickly got on board. One of them sat beside me, admiring my bracelet made of beads, which they seem to have a fascination for. Though I wanted to give it to him, I had to refuse due to the law prohibiting the exchange of items with the tribes. Their innocent laughter, however, was priceless.

Photos: Santanu Ganguly

As a dedicated disciple of Padma Bhushan Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Kaushalya Reddy, Adiva Agarwal have beautifully embodied the spirit of Kuchipudi. Her recent performance was a heartfelt expression of her growth and the profound influence of her esteemed gurus, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**



A DANCE OF DREAMS

EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF KUCHIPUDI

In the vibrant world of classical dance, few traditions are as richly expressive and historically significant as Kuchipudi. Originating from the Andhra Pradesh region of India, this classical dance form is renowned for its intricate footwork, elaborate gestures and profound storytelling. It embodies a fusion of dance, drama and music, bringing ancient narratives to life with remarkable grace.

Adiva Agarwal's recent Kuchipudi performance, marking her Rangapravesham, was a stunning demonstration of this art form's enduring allure. From the moment she stepped onto the stage, it was clear that her recital was more than just a display of technical skill; it was a heartfelt journey into the essence of Kuchipudi. Under the guidance of her esteemed guru, Padma Bhushan Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Kaushalya Reddy, Adiva has honed her craft with dedication and precision, resulting in a performance that both honoured tradition and showcased her personal artistry.

The evening commenced with "Ganapati Vandana," a customary invocation to Lord Ganesha, setting a tone of reverence and anticipation. This opening act seamlessly transitioned into "Dashavatara," where Adiva's portrayal of Lord Vishnu's ten avatars was nothing short of mesmerising. Each avatar was brought to life with a delicate balance of intricate footwork and expressive storytelling,



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

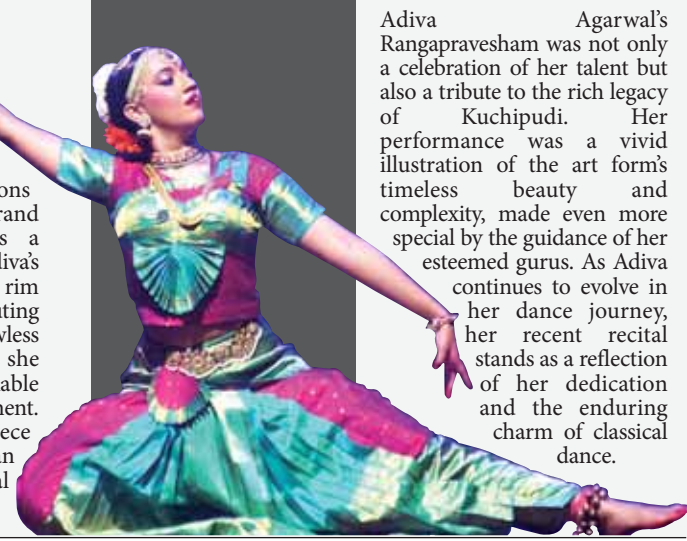
demonstrating Adiva's deep understanding of the form and its narratives.

The highlight of the performance was the "Tillana," a vibrant piece characterised by its rhythmic complexity and energetic movements. Adiva's ability to navigate the intricate patterns and maintain dynamic engagement with the audience was a showcase of her exceptional skill and stage presence. Her performance was a beautiful embodiment of Kuchipudi's essence, blending technical brilliance with artistic flair.

Adding emotional depth to the evening was "Chhaap Tilak Sab Cheeni," a devotional poem by

Amir Khusro.

Adiva's interpretation of this piece was imbued with spiritual reverence, showcasing her ability to convey profound emotions through dance. The grand finale, "Tarangam," was a breathtaking display of Adiva's virtuosity. Dancing on the rim of a brass plate while executing intricate footwork with flawless synchronisation, she demonstrated a remarkable level of skill and commitment. This climactic piece beautifully capped off an evening of exceptional performances.



Adiva Agarwal's Rangapravesham was not only a celebration of her talent but also a tribute to the rich legacy of Kuchipudi. Her performance was a vivid illustration of the art form's timeless beauty and complexity, made even more special by the guidance of her esteemed gurus. As Adiva continues to evolve in her dance journey, her recent recital stands as a reflection of her dedication and the enduring charm of classical dance.

Discovering Absence Through Visual Expression

Antra Srivastava's latest exhibition challenges us to delve into the unseen, revealing the hidden depths of absence in our lives, says **TEAM AGENDA**



The allure of absence is a peculiar paradox; it quietly demands attention, shaping our perceptions and provoking our thoughts. Artist Antra Srivastava's exhibition, *The Inescapable Presence of Absence*, invites viewers on a profound journey of reflection. This solo exhibition captivates audiences with its surreal yet deeply philosophical exploration of what lies beyond the visible.

Antra Srivastava, a Dehradun-based artist, her experiences as an avid traveler deeply influence her work, resulting in paintings that capture the vibrancy and diversity of the world. Through her art, she blends surrealism with poetic expression, drawing inspiration from the vitality of nature and the profound energy that flows through her creative process. She describes herself as both a participant and a witness in this artistic journey, immersing herself in the boundless realm of creative energy.

The theme of *The Inescapable Presence of Absence* delves into the paradox where absence becomes a palpable presence. This theme challenges viewers to rethink their perceptions, urging them to reflect on the significant impact of what is not present. It invites an exploration of the unseen and the unheard, asking profound



questions about the nature of existence. Srivastava's artistic journey is profoundly influenced by ancient Indian scriptures and the wisdom of sages, providing a foundation for her introspective quest. Her collection is a philosophical interpretation of the 18 chapters of the Gita, reflections on Sant Kabir's dohe and saakhees and a portrayal of six elements: air, water, earth, fire, space and consciousness. This unique

perspective allows her to seamlessly blend multiple layers of colours, creating harmony and rhythm, blurring the lines between abstraction and realism and evoking a surreal effect. In the Kabir series, Srivastava resonates with Kabir's ability to express complex ideas with simplicity. She emphasises that life's intricacies are self-created and that true knowledge emerges from inner silence rather than

external teachings. This series, inspired by Kabir's dohe and saakhees, underscores the experiential aspect of wisdom, offering a fresh perspective on life's fundamental truths. Srivastava's art invites a profound connection with the self, urging us to explore the deeper implications of absence alongside presence. Her work is a reflection of our existence, challenging us to look beyond what is visible and consider the unseen forces that shape our lives. The exhibition's title itself, *The Inescapable Presence of Absence* suggests a haunting elegance. It forces us to contemplate the spaces in between, the silence between words and the pauses in conversation that often carry more weight than the spoken. In these gaps, Srivastava finds beauty and complexity, offering her audience a mirror to their inner worlds. This exhibition stands as an attestation to art's power to transcend the ordinary, provoke thought and inspire change. Her exploration of absence is not merely an artistic endeavor; it is a call to acknowledge and embrace the unseen, the unheard and the unmet aspects of our existence. Through her work, Srivastava offers a profound reminder that art is not just a reflection of the world but a gateway to understanding the intricacies of our inner selves. By the time visitors exit,

A CANVAS OF WONDERS

Experience the magic of watercolor through a captivating exhibition that celebrates the beauty of nature, architecture and human expression, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

At the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, a captivating solo exhibition showcases the evocative power of watercolor art. The exhibition "This Beautiful World," featuring the watercolor works of Dr. Sushma Mahajan and curated by Dr. Alka Pande, offers a captivating glimpse into the world through the eyes of a talented and passionate artist. The collection of 35 watercolor paintings is a vivid celebration of beauty, nature and the intricate details of everyday life.

The exhibition successfully highlights Mahajan's extraordinary skill with watercolors, showcasing her ability to create vibrant and realistic images that evoke emotion and wonder. Her unique perspective as both an artist and a medical professional adds depth to her work, and it is evident that she views the world with a keen sense of appreciation for its many facets.

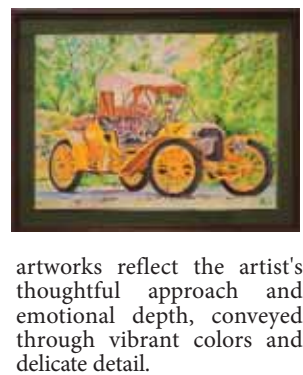
One of the standout pieces is *Spotted Charm*, a painting of a leopard that captures the animal's grace and mystery with stunning accuracy. The richness of the colors and the attention to detail make this piece particularly memorable. Similarly, *Magic of Night Glow* is a beautiful depiction of vintage cars on cobblestone streets, bathed in soft, atmospheric light. This piece resonates with a sense of nostalgia and transports viewers to a timeless scene that feels both familiar and enchanting.

The Sun Chariot is a fascinating work that pays homage to the Nalanda temple art. Artist meticulous rendering of the astronomical sundial, with its eight spokes representing the "prahars" of the day, is both educational and visually captivating. The painting serves as a reminder of the rich cultural heritage and architectural marvels that continue to inspire artists today. Her ability to capture both natural and architectural beauty with precision invites



viewers to appreciate the power of art and the beauty that surrounds us.

In *Anchored in Serenity* the artist depicts a tranquil boat scene that encourages reflection and peace. The painting's serene composition invites viewers to pause and consider the importance of finding calm amid the chaos of modern life. *The Bridge* similarly highlights the significance of connections and relationships, celebrating the beauty of bridges as symbols of unity and continuity. *The Power of Music*, celebrates music as a universal language of the spirit, while *Sunflowers*, presents a spiritual perspective on these bright blooms. These



artworks reflect the artist's thoughtful approach and emotional depth, conveyed through vibrant colors and delicate detail. The curation of the exhibition by Dr. Alka Pande further enhances the experience, providing context and insight into the themes and techniques that define Mahajan's work. Pande's expertise in Indian arts and

aesthetics brings an added layer of understanding, making the exhibition not only visually engaging but also intellectually stimulating. *This Beautiful World* is an exhibition that beautifully captures the essence of the world around us. Mahajan's paintings are a tribute to her talent and dedication and the exhibition as a whole serves as a reminder of the power of art to inspire, uplift and connect us to the world. The blend of nature, culture and emotion in her work offers a refreshing perspective and an opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary beauty that exists in the ordinary moments of life.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, you'll find yourself managing an influx of activities or responsibilities, which calls for strategic balance in your life. You are currently handling multiple projects or commitments, making adaptability and effective time management crucial to your success. While you possess a natural drive that propels you forward, it's important to prioritize tasks and delegate when necessary. It's important to keep a balanced approach to prevent exhaustion. Consider revisiting your strategies around work or financial planning to secure long-term benefits. Being flexible and open to making adjustments will serve you well. Remember, it's okay to seek assistance when overwhelmed. This period is ripe for refining your methods, which will boost both your efficiency and overall well-being.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour teal
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week heralds a period of emotional refreshment and the opportunity for new ventures in personal and creative spheres. There's a sense of promise for beginning anew in emotional or creative pursuits. The current cosmic atmosphere supports embracing novel experiences and connections, encouraging an optimistic and welcoming approach. Whether you find yourself drawn to a new passion, embarking on a project that stirs your soul, or achieving a personal revelation, you are well-placed to nurture profound emotional ties. Let your intuition lead, and do not hesitate to share your innermost thoughts and desires. This period is ripe for achieving emotional satisfaction and stirring creativity. Engage wholeheartedly in pursuits that deliver happiness and fulfillment, as your positive energy is likely to draw equally uplifting situations and enhance your relational bonds.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week promises a period of intellectual curiosity and a heightened drive to pursue new knowledge. It's an opportune time to delve into unfamiliar subjects or tackle intricate challenges. Your environment supports a deeper engagement with learning and effective communication, enhancing your ability to analyze and assimilate complex information. Embrace your natural propensity for exploration and stay open to adopting fresh viewpoints. However, exercise caution to avoid miscommunication or premature conclusions. Focus on refining your communicative abilities and remain vigilant for new learning opportunities. Your keen insight and analytical prowess are key to overcoming obstacles and discovering meaningful revelations during this period. Maintain a balanced approach to ensure that your quest for knowledge is both thorough and thoughtful.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Mint
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week heralds a time for fair judgment, urging you to seek balance and uphold integrity in all dealings. The universal energies prompt a focus on addressing any imbalances or unresolved issues with a clear, honest approach. Expect a period where matters of agreements or legality come into play, emphasizing the necessity for straightforward communication and a strict adherence to ethical standards. Now is the moment to consider your choices and actions, making sure they align with your core principles. The celestial influences highlight the significance of accountability and making choices based on righteousness over convenience. It's a favorable moment to pursue resolutions in disputes or conflicts and to reestablish harmony in both personal and professional spheres. Maintaining fidelity to your principles ensures that fairness will triumph.

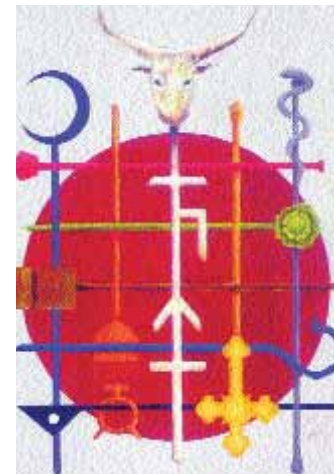
Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week brims with vigor and an eagerness for exploration, making it an ideal time to pursue your ambitions with zest. You'll find yourself fueled by an intense desire to act decisively and with conviction, moving swiftly toward your objectives. The current influences encourage a spirited approach to new ventures and ideas, igniting your creativity. However, it's crucial to temper this rapid momentum with thoughtful planning and strategic foresight. While enthusiasm can propel you forward, careful consideration will ensure your actions are both effective and sustainable. Embrace this period of high energy to overcome obstacles and advance significantly, but keep your foundational goals well in focus to steer your efforts toward success.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week heralds a period of deep reflection and the necessity to release aspects of your life that no longer contribute positively to your personal growth. It's a time to critically evaluate your engagements and relationships, discerning which of these no longer align with your deeper desires and values. Embracing change may be essential now, possibly by choosing a new direction that better serves your quest for fulfillment and alignment with your true self. Trust in your intuitive guidance as you navigate through this phase of transformation. This is an opportunity to grow, to shift away from the familiar yet unfulfilling, and to move towards experiences that genuinely enrich your life. Focus on what brings you a sense of purpose and joy as you make these significant shifts.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Plum
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week heralds a period of positive outcomes and successful endeavors for you. Expect a surge in clarity and joy, enhancing your overall sense of achievement. It's an excellent time to engage in creative pursuits or personal projects, as your vigor is peaking and your efforts are likely to meet with success. Your interactions and communications are set to thrive, paving the way for new partnerships and connections. Seize the opportunities for personal growth and development that present themselves. Allow your radiant energy to be your guide, celebrating your victories, no matter the scale. This infectious enthusiasm not only uplifts you but also serves to inspire those around you, aiding in the realization of your aspirations with relative ease. Revel in this prosperous phase and let your passion lead you to even grander achievements.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week marks a time of festivity and community unity. Emphasizing the value of community, friendship, and happiness, this period is marked by a sense of fulfillment through connection with others and the enjoyment of shared experiences. The cosmic influences favor collaborative efforts and social gatherings, presenting a prime opportunity for attending social events, engaging in parties, or participating in group activities. This is a time to strengthen bonds, relish in the support and fellowship of peers, and focus on crafting enduring, positive memories. Leverage your innate ability to manage social interactions with ease, allowing the happiness and encouragement from your social circle to uplift and invigorate you. Enjoy this harmonious phase by fully immersing yourself in the joy and unity it brings.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Amber
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, you find yourself in a particularly potent phase for creating and achieving. Your innate flair for innovative thinking is heightened, setting the stage for you to craft ambitious objectives and actively pursue your aspirations. You possess a unique knack for transforming your visions into tangible outcomes, so have confidence in your abilities and instincts. The current environment favors novel and original approaches, allowing you to tackle any hurdles in unique ways. This period also favors effective communication; expressing your ideas with clarity and conviction can draw in the support you need. However, take care to avoid overcommitment or a narrow focus on a single project, as maintaining a balanced approach is crucial. Embrace your role as a driver of change and actively seek out opportunities.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week marks a period of financial solidity and practical achievements. You may find yourself taking on roles that demand authority or responsibility, especially in areas related to your career or financial management. It's a prime time to concentrate on fortifying your economic or work-related stability. The current influences favor wise management of resources and strategic planning. Balancing your nurturing tendencies with a practical approach will enable you to support both yourself and others effectively. Consider this a favorable moment to establish long-term objectives, make sound investments, or explore career advancement opportunities. Embrace the leadership skills you possess and apply your practical knowledge to strengthen your position and achieve greater success.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Olive
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week calls for continued resilience as you navigate through persistent challenges. You may feel a sense of fatigue as if you've been in a long battle, yet it's crucial to remain steadfast and determined. The current influences hint that you are nearing the fruition of your efforts, emphasizing the importance of staying alert and proactive. Reflect on the lessons learned from previous trials to strengthen your stance. Concentrate on safeguarding your interests and maintaining a solid front against difficulties. Leveraging your past experiences and inner resilience will be vital in overcoming these hurdles and moving forward. Trust in your own resourcefulness and do not shy away from seeking assistance when necessary. Your perseverance will soon be rewarded with a fulfilling sense of achievement and triumph.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week invites you to embrace new beginnings and a spirit of adventure. It marks a period ripe for fresh starts, encouraging you to approach the unknown with optimism and trust. This is an ideal time to dive into new ventures or explore opportunities that ignite your curiosity. Allow yourself to step out of your usual boundaries and discover new horizons. Whether it's initiating new projects, chasing dreams, or innovating on traditional challenges, your guiding force should be your inner voice. Trust in your instincts and open your heart to the unfolding path before you. This period is about shedding past reservations and meeting life's adventures with awe and openness. Embrace this phase of spontaneity and transformative potential, letting your adventurous spirit lead the way.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Charcoal
Lucky day Monday

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Shakti trinity influences thought trends

It comes out from the previous issue that the primal source - the root of all creations - is beyond all limitations of creativity, knowledge, time, space, and laws of causation. Ordinary mortals, on the contrary, are in the first place, armed with limited creative ability. Second, the primal source is all-knowing, as it lends intelligence to all levels of creation, and also to all creations at the levels respectively due to each. But all manifest creatures, including human beings, lack all-knowingness. Consequently, one's scope of vision and thereby awareness level gets narrowed down, offering us a fractioned view of the world process. Third, for the above reasons, human beings are born with an inherent 'sense of want', which excites the urge to make up for the void. Thus, comes into play the sense of craving, desire, lust, possession and such other related tendencies. Fourth, unlike the creator, we are bound by the limitation of time, in the sense that we measure happenings in the frame of past, present, and future. As we are aware, all live existences

have a limited stay in this world, and so their stay could be measured in time frame. Because of this limitation, ordinarily, our attention keeps shifting from past, which is nothing but history; to future, which is uncertain. Consequently, our level of focus on the callings of the present gets compromised. We, thus, fail to remain riveted to the present, which sets the premise of the future. So, because of attention deficiency, we fail to put in our whole. We are thus, often left behind in the run of time, and with obvious consequences. Fifth, one remains bound by the laws of causation. It keeps all human actions bound to cause and effect chain. In this scheme of things there has to be a cause behind any effect, which in turn, sets the premise for fresh happening. And there is no scope for having a free lunch in this world. So, we have to bear with the consequences, for all our deeds, good or bad, depending on the intent and character of our actions. We, thus, get trapped into an unending chain of cause and effect - Karmic cycle. It is something like the seed of mango will



bear mango tree only, and that of neem, a neem tree. But then the primal source is self-caused, inexhaustible and eternal, and therefore is beyond the binds of the laws of causation.

Finally, human beings are bound by the limitation of space. Here it needs to be appreciated that the primal source being a unified energy-field, its constituents can't be differentiated by any measure of space, and so free from

any such limitation. On the contrary, all form-existences including human beings are bound by space. We, therefore, identify ourselves with our gross body, differentiated from all others, and belonging to a particular place. With such an individualised sense of identity, the sense of essential unity underlying all diverse existences takes a back seat. The sense of all-inclusiveness thus getting lost, one gets tempted to differentiate one from the other, and begin to compare each other in relative terms. Consequently, a sense of divide comes into play. It is in this sense that out of many, one meaning ascribed to the word 'Maya' is the sense of measure. It is important to note here that the way a human being perceives, is how s/he would react, respond, or act upon in day-to-day life. And since human minds have limited perceptive and comprehensive abilities, an ordinary mortal is not able to have holistic understanding of the world process. Naturally, with a fractioned vision, one fails to perceive things in right perspective, and with obvious consequences

Owing to the above limitations of mind, the essential unity of the Shakti-trinity, vital to our dynamic existence does not ordinarily remain live in our minds. We rather look at them in apparent terms. So, invariably we remain under the influence of the particular shakti variant that would be prominently displayed. It needs to be appreciated here that there would be no existence, live or inert, but for any of the three. Their mix would, however, vary from person-to-person, with one or the other attribute playing heavy over the other two. That distinguishes a being from the other in terms of one's thought process, which defines a person's unique character and thereby one's usual conduct. Now, according as which particular aspect of the Shakti-trinity is prominently displayed defines individual specific mind-trends, which sets the terms of how one views life.

The issue continues.....
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