

OPINION 6

THE BANGLADESH CAULDRON IS BOILING

WORLD 8

THAI PM DISMISSED FOR BREACH OF ETHICS

SPORTS 11

OHIT SHARMA TAKES SECOND SPOT IN ODI RANKINGS BEHIND BABAR AZAM

RAIPUR, THURSDAY AUGUST 15, 2024; PAGES 12 ` 3



Doda terror snuffs out Indian Army's Capt Deepak Singh



Army personnel keep vigil near the site of an encounter between security forces and terrorists, in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday

MOHIT KANDHARI n JAMMU

Fighting valiantly, a young captain of the Indian Army sacrificed his life, on the eve of the 78th Independence Day, while leading an ongoing anti-terrorist operation aimed at flushing out Pakistani terrorists hiding in the forested belt of Assar in Doda district of Jammu on Wednesday.

The security forces also neutralised a Pakistani terrorist while the hunt was going on to eliminate two to three other terrorists hiding in the area. It is suspected the terrorists may have fled the area leaving behind one M4 rifle, three bags, and a blood trail.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday morning convened a meeting in New Delhi on the rising terror-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the 78th Independence Day, it was learnt.

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Director General of military operations-Lieutenant General Pratik

Sharma and heads of the security-related agencies attended the meeting, sources said.

Tension prevailed in the area as residents woke up to the deafening sounds of heavy gunfire. In view of the the Independence Day events on Thursday, the security arrangements were further stepped up to prevent any other incident of terrorist violence across the region. The security forces have already been kept in a State of high alert for the past few days to maintain tight vigil along the International border and the areas closer to the line of control.

Army's White Knight Corps Wednesday posted on X stating, "One terrorist has been neutralised in the ongoing operation. One AK 47 has been recovered in addition to the M4 rifle." "Intermittent exchange of firing continues as the operations are ongoing," said the Army. Meanwhile, the army officer who laid down his life has been identified as Captain Deepak Singh.

Continued on Page 2

Doctors seek Justice for Kolkata colleague, Now

ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

On the third day of their strike on Wednesday in protest against rape and murder of their colleague in Kolkata, junior residents from over 60 Government medical colleges in cities, including Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Rishikesh, Delhi, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Guwahati, and Bangalore among others across the country demonstrated a united front, expressing their frustration at the tragic incident through various forms of protest — from wearing black bands and holding candlelight marches to shouting slogans, and staging demonstrations.

Their anguish was palpable as they refused to relent until enactment of the Central Protection Act for healthcare workers. In Telangana, Seethakka garu, Minister of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development of the State came forward to show solidarity with doctors across the country.

Continued on Page 2

CBI collects evidence from rape and murder scene

SAUGAR SENGUPTA n KOLKATA

Within hours of Calcutta High Court ordering a court-monitored probe by the CBI into the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case, the Central agency slued on Wednesday reached Kolkata and took charge of the case. The CBI team from Delhi comprising medical and forensic experts visited the place of the occurrence after lodging four FIRs and taking custody of the prime accused Sanjoy Das earlier arrested and grilled by the Kolkata Police. Two CBI officers had taken the case diary and other documents pertaining to the case from the Kolkata Police on Tuesday.

Continued on Page 2



Har Pal Aapke Saath

When Freedom meets Assurance

LIC proudly celebrates with the nation



Celebrating **78th** Independence Day

Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 | Follow us: LIC India Forever | IRDAI Reg. No. 512 | www.licindia.in

LICPI/2024-25/03/Eng

Our aim on the 78th anniversary of Independence

Let us pledge to make the country completely healthy, cultured and extremely prosperous by giving it economic freedom, educational freedom, medical freedom, cultural and ideological freedom and freedom from diseases and addictions.

Economic freedom- Every year, foreign companies loot thousands of millions of rupees from the country and remit it abroad. On the other hand, all the profits generated by Patanjali are meant for the service of the country.

Freedom of education is being ensured by imparting modern education along with education of Sanatan Dharma under the aegis of Bharatiya Shiksha Board. Also we are running the world's best Patanjali Acharyakulam and Gurukulam to free the country from the education system introduced by Macaulay.

To make the society free from Diseases, Addictions and all kinds of Evils and Illnesses, lakhs of Patanjali activists are selflessly serving humanity by giving free yoga training.

To bring about **Medical Freedom**, we are conducting scientific research on the knowledge obtained from great sages like Charak, Sushrut, Dhanvantari and Patanjali. Also, we have established the world's best-integrated treatment centers Patanjali Wellness, Yoggram, and Niramayam which are helping crores of people become disease-free and healthy.

Ideological and cultural freedom is being brought about by introducing eternal values, ideals and principles of Sanatan Dharma as everyone's lifestyle in the course of propagating Sanatan Dharma as the Dharma of the epoch.

Boycott foreign products, adopt Swadeshi

Dental Care Country's No. 1 Truthpaste and Dant Kanti Fresh, the new avatar of freshness.

Hair Care Products provide natural nutrition with the power of herbs to stop hair fall and occurrence of dandruff etc.

Personal Care Have naturally glowing skin with products having properties of aloe vera, turmeric, rose etc.

Food Products Range comprises country's No. 1 Cow milk biscuits, healthy cookies and noodles without trans fats and refined flour, country's No. 1 cow ghee, mustard oil, Rice Bran oil and other healthy products.

Health Care There is no ban on any Patanjali medicines. All our medicines are available at Patanjali centers and major stores.

Home Care Boycott phenyl etc., and adopt Patanjali's indigenous and satvik products to contribute to the service of the country.

For treatment at Patanjali Wellness and Yoggram, call:- 8954666111, 8954666222, 8954666333 (Working Hours: 6 AM to 10 PM)

Women to take out midnight march in WB

KOLKATA RAPE AND MURDER CASE

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



At the stroke of midnight when India will rise up to celebrate her 78th year of Independence, lakhs of women from Bengal will converge at more than 250 places across the State demanding justice for the raped and murdered lady doctor and more importantly safety and security for the fairer sex. The all-women midnight march has been christened "night is ours" a la the popular slogan "Take Back the Night" that rent the air at Philadelphia in 1975 calling upon the women to unite against the ghastly rape and murder of a woman. A random call on the Facebook by a student of prestigious Presidency University — to "take control of the night" much in line with the midnight march of Philadelphia — seems to have spread like wild fire with Netizens all over the state down to the village offering to participate in the solidarity march at 11.55 pm. "Laxmir Bhandar, Kanyashree My Foot!" What value do these highly publicised schemes have for us where there is no safety for a doctor inside her second home

the hospital and where the Government comes out shamelessly to shield the heinous rapists and murderers," said a woman activist at Manicktala. "Enough is enough ... on the one hand you will purchase women votes by offering Rs 1,000 and on the other you allow your stooges and fix top play with their bodies ... even doctors are not spared ... and if even the doctors are not spared at their work place then what value the trivial women have before your men ... from Sandeshkhali to RG Kar to any place you name ... enough is enough we want not only justice for our murdered doctor ... we also want freedom," said Ambika a student from

Jadavpur. The apolitical protest march also to be joined by women is likely to assume the status of a statewide movement, Rimjihim the student who first gave out the call said adding "now I am told women will hit the streets in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangaluru, Hyderabad and many other places making it a Nirbhaya type movement. A woman doctor and a Postgraduate student was found raped and murdered in the wee hours of Friday at inside the premium RG Kar Medical College leading to massive protest throughout the State with doctors of all the government hospitals striking work indefinitely till justice was met.

Tendencies that stoke discord on perceived social hierarchies have to be rejected: President

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday emphasised the need to strengthen affirmative action as a tool for inclusion while urging the rejection of divisive tendencies rooted in perceived social hierarchies. In her address to the nation on the eve of 78th Independence Day, Murmu highlighted the steady progress of political democracy in India, asserting that it reflects advancements towards social democracy. She noted that the nation thrives on its diversity and plurality, moving forward as a cohesive entity. "Social justice is a top priority for the Narendra Modi government, which has initiated unprecedented measures for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other marginalised communities," the president stated. She quoted B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, emphasising that "political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy" and said steady progress of political democracy testifies to the progress made towards the consolidation of social democracy. The spirit of inclusion pervades

every aspect of our social life. We move together as a cohesive nation with our diversity and plurality. Affirmative action must be strengthened as an instrument of inclusion. I firmly believe that in a vast country like ours, tendencies that stoke discord based upon perceived social hierarchies have to be rejected," she said. Murmu detailed several government initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalised groups, including the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ), which provides direct financial assistance, and the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), focused on improving the socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). She also mentioned the NAMASTE scheme, designed to eliminate manual scavenging by ensuring sanitation workers do not engage in hazardous tasks. The president stressed the importance of justice in its broadest sense, particularly in terms of gender and climate justice. She acknowledged that while women in Indian society are seen as equals, traditional prejudices persist.

Vested interests blamed for dilly-dally to decommission dam

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In a startling disclosure, veteran legislator P C George said on Wednesday that politicians belonging to the CPI(M)-led LDF and Congress-led UDF own vast farm houses and plantations in the districts of Dindigul, Theni and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu which are all irrigated by water drawn from Mullaperiyar Dam. "This is the reason why they dilly-dally over the demand made by scientists to decommission the 130 year-old Surki dam situated in the border district of Idukki in Kerala," said George, a seven-time MLA and a one-man army who is Kerala's lead whistle blower against corruption. Reacting to recent statements made by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Irrigation Minister Roshy Augustine that the dam was safe, George said that five legislative committees have found out after discus-

sions with experts that the dam was on the verge of bursting out. "This is a surki dam that was built during 1880, the days when there was no cement. The life period of surki is just 50 years and every year the material is washed away by flood waters. You can imagine what would have happened to Mullaperiyar Dam during the last 80 years," said George while referring to the statements made by Vijayan and Augustine. He also said that less one spoke of the duo's honesty, the better. George said C Achutha Menon, the CPI Chief Minister during 1969-1977 was instrumental in giving away the State's rights over the dam to Tamil Nadu for reasons best known to him only. "Though the Dewan of Travancore C P Ramaswamy Aiyer got the Tamil Nadu Government stop the production of power from the Mullaperiyar waters, it was Menon who squandered the gains made by the former," said George. George, a senior BJP leader in Kerala, said the Tamil Nadu Government has the list of all Kerala politicians, bureaucrats and business barons who own plantations and estates in the

lower riparian regions of that State. "If the Kerala politicians go ahead with the move to build a new dam in place of the outdated Mullaperiyar Dam, the Tamil Nadu Government would release their names and that would be the end of the careers of our politicians," said George. In a move which could send shocks across the political class in Kerala, George said if here is one person who could make an amicable settlement over the Mullaperiyar Dam, it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "He has all the details associated with the dam. Let him call Vijayan and his Tamil Nadu counterpart M K Stalin for a discussion and the duo would find it difficult to say no to what Modi decides," said George. At stake is the safety of four million residents in the districts of Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta. "Kerala and Tamil Nadu had identified another site 1300 ft downstream of the existing dam to construct a new dam. But Kerala made a hasty retreat when it was time for action and this is a suspicious move," said George.

Doda terror snuffs out Indian Army's Capt...

From Page 1

He hailed from Dehradun, Uttarakhand. On Thursday when the Nation comes together to celebrate Independence Day his family is expected to receive his mortal remains, wrapped in the tricolor. Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and all ranks of the Indian Army also paid tributes. We salute the supreme sacrifice of the Braveheart Capt Deepak Singh, who laid down his life in the line of duty in J&K. We express deepest condolences to the bereaved family, the post said. Over 20 army personnel, including two army captains, and two para commandos have sacrificed their lives in the recent surge of incidents of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist violence since January 1 this year. At least 15 civilians including seven pilgrims were also killed during the same period. According to official sources, since last week the security forces had launched a hot chase based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the upper reaches of Udhampur. The first contact was established with the group of terrorists after the initial exchange of fire late Tuesday evening. Due to pitch-dark conditions, the operation was halted. On Wednesday, as the search parties started combing the area, a fierce gunfight erupted. The captain of the Indian army who was leading from the front during the ongoing operations received bullet injuries in the heavy exchange of firing. The army officer was safely evacuated to the base and shifted to the hospital but he later succumbed to his fatal

injuries. One of the terrorists was also neutralised in the gunfight. To contain the situation, the Union government has already deployed additional troops across the Jammu region to flush out the foreign terrorists from their safe hideouts carved inside the forested areas of Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar and Kathua. Two battalions of the Assam Rifles have also been inducted in the Machhedi area of Kathua and other upper reaches. Three thousand additional army troops and 2000 BSF men have been deployed across the region to plug the gaps and launch anti-terrorist operations across different sectors. Utrakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, in a tweet, also offered his condolences. "I pay my deepest respects to Captain Deepak Singh, a valiant son of Udhampur, who made the ultimate sacrifice during the encounter with terrorists in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir. His sacrifice in the service of Mother India will forever inspire patriotism among the youth. I pray to God to grant his noble soul a place at His feet and to provide strength to the grieving family to endure this sorrow." Former J&K Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti also expressed her condolences: Another young army officer lays down his life in the line of duty, this time in an encounter in Doda. It is highly unfortunate that the situation in some parts of the Jammu region has been allowed to deteriorate like this. May Captain Deepak Singh's soul rest in peace. I send my heartfelt condolences to his family &

colleagues," posted Omar Abdullah on the micro-blogging site. Mehbooba Mufti also posted on X, "No words will suffice to express the tragedy at Doda today where Captain Deepak Singh was killed during an encounter. The endless cycle of violence & mayhem in J&K continues to devour the lives of innocents despite tall claims of normalcy by the administration. My deepest condolences to his family." **Chronology of Terror attacks since January 1, 2024** **August 10, 2024:** Two Army personnel were killed in Action and one civilian died during an encounter in the Kokernag area of Anantnag. **July 27, 2024:** In BAT operation, One soldier of the Indian army made a supreme sacrifice while four others received injuries along the line of control in the Kamakari sector of Macchal in the North Kashmir district of Kupwara. **July 24, 2024:** A terrorist was neutralized and an Indian army jawan sacrificed his life in the North Kashmir district of Kupwara on Wednesday. **July 23, 2024:** An Army trooper laid down his life while thwarting an infiltration attempt of terrorists along the Line of Control (LOC) in Battal area of Krishna Ghati belt, located in Mehndhar tehsil. **July 22, 2024:** A heavily armed group of terrorists targeted an army post and the house of the Shaurya Chakra awardee in the Gunda village of Khawas tehsil in the frontier Rajouri district in the wee hours of Monday. **July 18, 2024:** Two terrorists were killed as security forces foiled a fresh infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.

July 16, 2024: A Captain of the Indian army along with three other soldiers was martyred during a fierce gunfight with a group of Pakistani terrorists in the Dessa forest area. **July 14, 2024:** Alert troops of the Indian army Sunday foiled a major infiltration bid by neutralizing three heavily armed terrorists along the line of control in the Keran sector of the North Kashmir district of Kupwara. **July 7, 2024:** An Army Sentry was injured as terrorists targeted an Army post at Manjakote in Rajouri district. **June 26, 2024:** 3 Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammed outfit eliminated by security forces at Gandoh, Doda. **June 12, 2024:** Cop injured in encounter at Gandoh, Doda. **June 11, 2024:** 6 security personnel wounded as terrorists target Army and police joint post at Chattergalla, Doda. **June 11 and 12, 2024:** Two terrorists and CRPF jawan killed and a civilian injured in a gun battle at Hiranagar in Kathua district. **June 9, 2024:** Nine civilians, seven of them pilgrims killed and 41 others injured in a terror attack at Teryath, Reasi. **May 4, 2024:** An IAF soldier was martyred and six others were injured when terrorists ambushed their vehicle at Surankote in Poonch district. **April 28, 2024:** A Village Defence Guard (VDG) was martyred in a terror attack at Basantarh in Udhampur district. Terrorists escaped. **April 22, 2024:** A Social Welfare Department (SWD) official was killed by the terrorists. His brother, a Territorial Army jawan, who was the target, survived, at Shahdara Sharief in Rajouri district.

Cops involved in gunning down of Atiq's son among Gallantry medal recipients

PNs ■ LUCKNOW

Police personnel who eliminated gangster Atiq Ahmed's son Asad have been awarded with the President's Gallantry Medal. According to reports, six members of the STF team that gunned down Asad and Mohammad Ghulam in an encounter in Jhansi on April 13, 2023, received the President's Gallantry Medal. As many as 17 men of UP Police have received the President's Gallantry Medal. The President's Gallantry Medal was given to the team of Navendu Singh and Vimal Kumar Singh who had led the team involved in the encounter of Asad. Besides these officers, the other team members include inspectors

Gyanendra Kumar Rai, Anil Kumar Singh, head constables Sushil Kumar and Sunil Kumar. Asad and his accomplice, shooter Mohammad Ghulam, both wanted in the Umesh Pal murder case, were shot dead in an exchange of fire with the Uttar Pradesh Police near Jhansi. Asad was caught on CCTV when Umesh Pal was killed and had been on the run for the about 50 days, police said. Asad and Ghulam, who were carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh each, tried to flee on a motorcycle, police had said. They opened fire at the Special Task Force team when it surrounded them and the policemen retaliated, they said, adding the two men were killed in the exchange of fire.

Cong names Singhvi as RS candidate from Telangana

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday named Abhishek Manu Singhvi as its candidate for the ensuing Rajya Sabha bypoll in Telangana. The Election Commission had announced last week that elections to 12 Rajya Sabha seats in nine states will be held on September 3. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the candidature of Singhvi for the by-election to the Council of States from Telangana, the party said in a statement. "The Rajya Sabha bypolls are being held for 12 seats.

CBI collects evidence from...


From Page 1

The officials visited and collected evidences from the seminar hall of the hospital's Department of Chest Medicine where the 31-year-old doctor was raped and murdered. The CBI officials also reported to have directed the hospital authorities to stop the renovation work right at the place of occurrence sources said. "The hospital administration was dislodging a wall separating the seminar hall reportedly to construct a rest room for the doctors which would have led to the tampering of the evidence so the authorities have been asked to stop the work," one of the agitators inside the hospital said. The Bench of Chief Justice


TS Sivagnanan had on Tuesday found serious lapses in the police investigation promptly handing over the case to the CBI. The CBI's taking over of the case came almost in tandem with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee praising the police for "commendable work" in cracking the case. "The police have done commendable work ... they have cracked the case and arrested the accused," Banerjee said adding she wanted to see the accused person get punished but she was equally against any innocent person getting implicated. "Remember the Dhananjay Chatterjee case ... I don't want any innocent person to get punished ... so I gave the best of officers to investigate the case and they did a good job."

IN BRIEF

DELHI LG KICKS OFF TIRANGA YATRA AT IP UNIVERSITY
New Delhi: Delhi LG Vinal Kumar Saxena kicked off Tiranga Yatra at IP University and joined with around five thousand students, staff, nearby residents and villagers in the walkathon from the Dwarka campus of the university to sector 14 metro station. He said, "Tiranga Yatra is an embodiment of the collective commitment to nation-building and created a personal connection with the Tiranga."



VC RELEASES BOOK 'TREE AND SHRUBS OF AMRITSAR'
Amritsar: Prof Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University released a book "Trees and Shrubs of Amritsar: A Pictorial Field Guide" authored by Prof Avinash Kaur Nagpal and her four Ph.D. students, Dr Gurveen Kaur, Dr Jaskirat Kaur, Dr Akanksha Bakshi and Nitika Sharma of the Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences. Sandhu appreciated the book and congratulated authors for meticulously utilising simple language, common plant names, and vibrant photographs of the plants and their various parts. He remarked that the guide is accessible to a broad audience, extending its utility beyond botanists to anyone with an interest in nature. Nagpal informed that this book documents 100 species of trees and shrubs growing along the roadsides, in public gardens, parks, educational institutes; and residential, commercial and industrial areas of the holy city, Amritsar.



Doctors seek Justice for Kolkata colleague, Now

From Page 1

The strike has had a clear impact on health services particularly elective i.e. non-essential ones, with many patients at the OPD returning home without treatment as they boycotted the services. However, emergency cases were not impacted. Soon after the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) decided to call off their strike following a meeting with Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday, questions arose from various state resident doctors' associations and the Federation of All India Medical Associations (FAIMA). These groups expressed concern over FORDA's decision and chose

to continue their strike, seeking better safety measures for healthcare workers. They emphasised the need for broader systemic reforms to ensure the protection and well-being of all healthcare professionals. In the national capital, the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) at AIIMS, RML and Safdurjung hospitals continued with their strike on the third day. The AIIMS RDA stated, "The AIIMS community has reiterated its demand for the implementation of the Central Protection Act and has decided to continue support for their RG Kar MC&H doctors. By consensus, it has been decided that resident doctors at AIIMS, including foreign

nationals, sponsored candidates, fellows, and graduates, will continue their strike, which includes suspending academic activities, optional OPD services, ward and OT services. However, sub-emergency services, ICU, emergency procedures, and emergency OT will continue." FAIMA Doctors Association President Dr Rohan Krishnan too said that we are continuing with the strike as of now till our Demands are not met. "We have heard that one of the bodies in the Resident Doctors' Association has called off their strike. The FAIMA doctors will be on strike because only one demand has been met, which is transferring the case to the CBI. The High Court has

done this. We have not received substantial support from the state or central government. We want a central protection act for healthcare workers and we seek concrete action on this. " Junior doctors at government-run hospitals in Rajasthan's Swai Mansingh College and Srikakulam Medical College, Andhra Pradesh boycotted outpatient services in support of the nationwide protest while NIMHANS Employees Association extended their support. Similarly, protests in Government Medical College, Ananthapuram, Andhra Pradesh and Gandhi medical College, Secunderabad, Telangana, were held. "We are continuing with the

strike," Telangana JUDA said as nursing staff joined in protest at Kakatiya medical College, Warangal, Telangana. RDA AIIMS Raebareli and PGI Chandigarh doctors protested for safe workplaces in the hospitals. United Doctors Front Association said, "We urge the entire medical community to ensure that no woman ever suffers like this again. It's high time we secure the #CPA for HCWs. It also called upon Drs, paramedics, actors, politicians, media, influencers — to join us in this vital cause." The resident doctors at Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) said, "We the office bearers

of BMC MARD convened a meeting, and have decided that the ongoing strike will continue until all the demands put forth by the association are fully met and provided in writing. The decision to persist with the strike is firm, and no actions will be taken to end it until our demands are addressed satisfactorily." The doctors also sat on strike in front of the ANMMC hospital's superintendent with a placard in their hands, demanding justice. Similarly, Resident doctors of the Agartala Government Medical College (AGMC) staged while Union Doctors of Assam's Guwahati Medical College and Hospital held a candle march to show solidarity with the victim of Kolkata doctor rape-murder incident.

SPECIAL TRAINS GET EXTENSION
Malgao: To clear extra rush of passengers, it has been decided to continue the services of four pairs of weekly special train no 05671/05672 (Guwahati - Anand Vihar Terminal- Guwahati) & 05919/05920 (New Tinsukia-Bhagat Ki Kothi - New Tinsukia) for single tripart train no. 05734/ 05733 (Katihar-Amritsar- Katihar) & 02525/02526 (Kamakhya-Anand Vihar Terminal-Kamakhya) for 4 trips each in both directions. These trains will run with the existing days of service, timings, composition and stoppages. The extension of these trains services will benefit wait listed passengers of other trains in those routes.

HAMDARD'S PHARMACY TOPS IN NIRF RANKINGS
New Delhi: Jamia Hamdard regained top rank (number 1) in India in pharmacy institution category for the 6th times since the NIRF was launched in 2016. Hamdard is on the 40th position in 'University' category and 62nd in 'overall' category. Its ranking in 'medical' category is 37. It has secured 78th position in 'management' and in the 'engineering' category it is in the ranking band of 201-300. Chancellor Hamdard Ahmed and Vice Chancellor Professor (Dr) M Afshar Alam expressed their happiness. Each year, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) releases its list of top educational institutions based on key criteria like teaching quality, research efforts, graduation results, outreach and overall reputation.



CM to hoist national flag at I-Day function in Raipur today

GAD releases list of Chief Guests of I-Day functions in district headquarters

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will hoist the national flag at 9 am at the main function at the Police Parade Ground in Raipur and take the salute on the occasion of Independence Day on August 15.

Union Minister of State Tokhan Sahu will hoist the national flag at the Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district headquarters while Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao will do so in Bilaspur. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma will hoist the flag in Bastar.

Administration Department on Wednesday released the list of chief guests for flag hoisting.

Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh will hoist the flag and take the salute of parade in Rajnandgaon, Minister Ramvihar Netam in Surguja, Minister Dayaldas Baghel in Mahasamund, Minister Kedar Kashyap in Durg, Minister Lakhanlal Dewangan in Korba, Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal in Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara, Minister OP Choudhary in

Janjgir-Champa, Minister Laxmi Rajwade in Balrampur-Ramanujanj and Minister Tank Ram Verma in Sarangarh-Bilagarh district headquarters.

MPs Brijmohan Agrawal will be the chief guest in Gariaband, Vijay Baghel in Balod, Santosh Pandey in Khairagarh-Gandai-Chhuikhadan, Chintamani Maharaj in Jashpur, Rupkumari Choudhary in Bemetara, Radheshyam Rathia in Raigarh, Kamlesh Jangre in Sakti, Mahesh

Kashyap in Dantewada, Bhojraj Nag in Kanker and Devendra Pratap Singh in Narayanpur district headquarters.

MLAs Punnul Mohle will hoist the flag in Mungeli, Dharamlal Kaushik in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Amar Agrawal in Kabirdham, Ajay Chandrakar in Dhantari, Bhayilal Rajwade in Surajpur, Vikram Usendi in Bijapur, Rajesh Munat in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki and Kiran Deo will hoist the flag in Sukma district headquarters.

MLAs Renuka Singh will hoist the flag in Koriya and Lata Usendi will do so in Kondagaon.



Bastar's aspirational districts to benefit under Har Khet Ko Paani

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Central government officials on Wednesday met Chhattisgarh Water Resources Minister Kedar Kashyap and discussed ways to implement the groundwater irrigation scheme Har Khet Ko Paani in seven aspirational districts of tribal-dominated Bastar region.

Borewells are to be dug under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana to benefit the farmers in these districts.

A government official said an action plan has been formulated to drill 3,215 borewells across 19 development blocks of Bastar division.

This initiative is aimed at providing irrigation facilities across 6,578.78 hectares of land. The

proposed budget is Rs 187.69 crores.

Implementation of the groundwater irrigation scheme would benefit 13,852 farmers, including 12,656 of Scheduled Tribes, 560 of Scheduled Castes and 363 farmers of the general category.

As many as 10,498 small and 3,354 marginal farmers would benefit.

Currently, the total sown area in the aspirational districts of Bastar stands at 8,81,949 hectares, against which the existing irrigation capacity is 1,27,052 hectares, accounting for 12.56 percent of irrigation provided through surface water.

In the forest-covered areas of Bastar, irrigation facilities can only be provided through groundwater.

25 C'garh police personnel to be feted on I-Day today



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

President Droupadi Murmu will award 25 Chhattisgarh

police personnel with Gallantry, Distinguished Service, and Meritorious Service medals in New Delhi on the occasion of Independence Day on Thursday.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Home Minister Vijay Sharma, and Director General of Police Ashok Juneja have extended their congratulations.

Murmu will present the Police Medal for Gallantry to 15 personnel, the Meritorious Service Medal to nine and the Distinguished Service Medal to one person.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN
RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st Call)
System Tender No. : 157279/NIT No.: 02/SAC/2024-25, Kasdol, Dated: 12.08.2024

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 03.09.2024 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work - RENOVATION OF PANDARIYA ANICUT BLOCK-BALODA BAZAR, DISTRICT-BALODA BAZAR-BHATAPARA

Probable Amount of Contract- Rs. 266.44 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 01.08.2014))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 20.08.2024, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE:-
All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Water Resources Construction Division, Kasdol
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)
G-242501825/6

Chhattisgarh launches biometric attendance system in liquor shops

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

In a major reform to curb irregularities, Chhattisgarh Excise Commissioner R. Sangeeta on Wednesday launched a biometric attendance system at liquor shops in the state.

She did this virtually at the Mahanadi Mantralaya in Nava Raipur. Officials from all 33 districts were present.

All liquor shop employees in the state will



have their attendance recorded using biometrics.

An official communiqué said Chhattisgarh will be the first state to record the attendance of liquor shop employees through biometrics.

A total of 5,738 employees work in 672 liquor shops in the state. This will enable proper regulation of liquor shops. It will also speed up salary preparation, determining overtime time and similar tasks.

छत्तीसगढ़ स्टेट पॉवर ट्रांसमिशन कंपनी लिमिटेड
(छत्तीसगढ़ शासन का एक उपक्रम) (छत्तीसगढ़ स्टेट पॉवर कंपनी की एक चतुर्वर्ती कंपनी)
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता (संचार एवं टेलीमेट्री) छत्तीसगढ़ पावर ट्रांसमिशन लिमिटेड, गिलाई
E-mail ID-ccentstptcl@hbliaid.cspc.co.in Ph.No-0783-2281300 Website- www.cspc.co.in
क्रमांक 02-18 /CE(C&TM) /2024 /553, गिलाई, दिनांक 13.08.2024

खुली निविदा पद्धति से पंजीयन हेतु सूचना

एतद् द्वारा खुली निविदा पद्धति के माध्यम से इस कार्यालय अंतर्गत सामग्री क्रय करने हेतु इच्छुक आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से निर्धारित आवेदन प्रपत्र में आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।
आवेदन जारी करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि :- 20.08.2024
आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि :- आवेदन प्रपत्र क्रय करने के दिवस से 10 शासकीय कार्य दिवसों तक ही केवल मान्य होंगे।
टीप :- उपरोक्त आवेदन की सामान्य शर्तें एवं निर्धारित आवेदन प्रपत्र पंजीयन हेतु कार्यालयीन दिवसों एवं समय पर स्वयं उपस्थित होकर प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं अथवा छ.ग.राज्य विद्युत कंपनीज के वेबसाइट https://cspc.co.in/cspcl_tendernotices/ पर जाकर भी आनलाईन डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

SAMVAD - 41154/2 मुख्य अभियंता (सी एण्ड टीएम),
सो.एस.पी.टी.सी.एल., गिलाई
स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाए

78^{वें} स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

एनटीपीसी NTPC

ऊर्जा सुरक्षा की सुनिश्चितता, राष्ट्र प्रगति की प्रतिबद्धता

एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड पश्चिमी क्षेत्र- II मुख्यालय
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम) प्लॉट नं. - 87, सेक्टर-24 नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर - 492018 (छ. ग.)

Follow us on: [f/ntpcltd](https://www.facebook.com/ntpcltd) [X/ntpcltd](https://www.twitter.com/ntpcltd) [ntpcltd1](https://www.youtube.com/ntpcltd1) [/ntpcltd](https://www.instagram.com/ntpcltd) [/company/ntpc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ntpc) [ntpc_limited](https://www.ntpc.limited)

Saluting 78th Year of Independent India's Growth and Glory

Greetings on India's 78th Independence Day!

As India celebrates its 78th year of Independence, NMDC stands proudly at the forefront of the nation's industrial growth. As the largest iron ore producer in the country, NMDC is committed to realizing the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' through responsible mining practices and building a strong, self-reliant India by actively engaging in meaningful CSR initiatives.

एनएमडीसी NMDC
Responsible Mining
Scientific | Sustainable | Spreading Smiles

REGD. OFFICE: KHANIJ BHAVAN, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD - 500028, INDIA. CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

[f](https://www.facebook.com/nmdclimited) [X](https://www.twitter.com/nmdclimited) [yt](https://www.youtube.com/nmdclimited) [/nmdclimited](https://www.instagram.com/nmdclimited) [nmdc.co.in](https://www.nmdc.co.in)

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 and requested 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.

SC allows mineral-rich States to claim royalties from 2005 | Modi, Shah recall Partition horrors

PTI | NEW DELHI

In a major victory for mineral-rich States, the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed them to seek dues from April 1, 2005 on royalty and tax on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land from the Centre in a staggered period of 12 years.

A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the argument for prospective effect of July 25 is rejected. Pronouncing the verdict on behalf of the bench, CJI Chandrachud said by a 8:1 majority, this Court had on July 25 answered the questions referred to it and held that legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with States.

He said after the pronouncement of the July 25 verdict, the assessees sought prospective effect of the decision and the matter was listed on July 31 to decide the effect of verdict.

The Centre has opposed the demand of states for refund of royalty levied on mines and minerals since 1989, saying it will impact the citizens and the PSUs will have to empty their coffers by Rs 70,000



crore according to initial estimates.

"The submission that the Mineral Area Development Authority Act (MADA July 25 verdict) be given prospective effect is rejected," the bench said and laid down conditionalities for payment of dues by the Centre and mining companies, including Public Sector Undertakings, to the States, "While the states may levy or renew demands of tax, if any pertaining to Entries 49 and 50 of List II of seventh schedule of the Constitution, in terms of law laid down in the decision of MADA (July 25 verdict). The demand of tax shall not operate on transactions made prior to April 1, 2005," the

bench said. Entry 49 of List II deals with taxes on lands and buildings while Entry 50 deals with taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitations imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development. The bench also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih, said "the time for payment of demand of tax (by States) shall be staggered in instalments over a period of 12 years commencing from April 1, 2026".

The top Court directed that the levy of interest and penalty on demands of taxes by States from the Centre and

mining companies made before the period of July 25, 2024 shall stand waived for all the assessees.

CJI Chandrachud said this verdict will be signed by eight-judges of the bench who by majority decided the July 25 judgement giving the State's power to levy taxes on mineral rights.

He said Justice Nagarathna will not sign Wednesday's verdict as she had given a dissenting view in the July 25 verdict.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for Jharkhand, said there still remains one issue that the State's Act to collect royalty on minerals and mineral-bearing land, which was set aside needs to be upheld. "Unless the Act is declared valid, we cannot collect taxes on minerals and mineral-bearing land.

Please list it expeditiously before the appropriate bench," Dwivedi, who appeared along with senior advocate Tapesh Kumar Singh for Jharkhand, said.

Dwivedi was referring to the decision of Ranchi bench of the Patna High Court that had struck down Section 89 of the Mineral Area

Development Authority Act of 1992 vide its judgment dated March 22, 1993. Section 89 of the Mineral Area Development Authority Act empowered the State Government of then undivided Bihar to levy tax on not only mineral-bearing land but also land used for commercial or industrial purposes.

CJI Chandrachud assured Dwivedi that he will issue directions on the administrative side for urgent listing of the matter. During the hearing on July 31, the Centre and mining companies have opposed the demand of States for refund of royalty collected since 1989.

The July 25 verdict had overruled a 1989 judgement and subsequent decisions of the apex Court, which held that only the Centre has power to impose royalty on minerals and mineral bearing land.

Some Opposition-ruled mineral rich States then sought refund of royalty levied by the Centre and taxes from the mining companies since the 1989 verdict.

The matter of refund was heard on July 31 and order was reserved.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday paid tributes to all those who suffered during India's partition. Modi recalled the sufferings of people impacted by it and reiterated the commitment to always protecting the bonds of unity and brotherhood in the nation.

The Modi Government has been observing August 14 as the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' since 2021 in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the country's partition.

On the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, Prime Minister Modi said on Wednesday, "We recall the countless people who were

impacted and greatly suffered due to the horrors of Partition. It is also a day to pay tributes to their courage, which illustrates the power of human resilience.

A lot of those impacted by Partition went on to rebuild their lives and attain immense success."

He added, "Today, we also reiterate our commitment to always protect the bonds of unity and brotherhood in our nation."

Home Minister Shah on Wednesday paid tributes to all those who suffered during India's partition in 1947, saying a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge as a powerful country. Pakistan was carved out as a Muslim country after the division of India by the British colonial rule on this day in 1947.

Millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives as large scale rioting took place following the partition.

"On Partition Horrors Remembrance Day my homage to the millions who suffered inhumane pains, lost lives, turned homeless during this most hideous episode of our history," Shah said in a social media message.

The Home Minister said a nation that remembers its history can build its future and emerge powerful.

He said observing this day is a foundational exercise in the process of nation-building under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While making the announcement about the 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' in 2021, Modi had said the day would be observed in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people as the pain of partition can never be forgotten.

Modi had also noted that millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence caused by the partition. India will be celebrating its Independence Day on Thursday.

Uproar over Kolkata doctor rape-murder case

Rahul criticises handling of case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

Amid the uproar over the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises serious questions on the hospital and the local administration.

The entire country is shocked by the gruesome incident of rape and murder of the junior doctor in Kolkata, said the former Congress President, adding there is an atmosphere of insecurity among the doctors' community and women with the revelations about the manner of the cruel and inhuman act against her.

"The attempt to save the accused instead of providing justice to the victim raises serious questions on the hospital and the local administration," Rahul said in a social media post.

"This incident has forced us to think that if doctors are not safe in a place like a medical college, then how can the parents send their daughters outside for studies? Why are even the strict laws made after the Nirbhaya case unsuccessful in preventing such crimes?" he said.

Every party, every section of



the society will have to hold serious discussions and take concrete steps on the continuously increasing incidents against women from Hathras to Unnao, and from Kathua to Kolkata, he said.

"I stand with the victim's family in their unbearable pain. They should get justice at all costs and the culprits should be given such a punishment that it serves as an example in society," Rahul said.

The body of the woman post-graduate trainee was found inside a seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on the morning of August 9. A civic volunteer was arrested on Saturday in connection with the crime. Junior doctors across West Bengal continued to cease work on Wednesday, the sixth day on

the trot, protesting against the alleged rape and murder of the woman doctor at the State-run medical college and hospital and demanding justice for her.

The ongoing protest affected the healthcare services and long queues of patients were seen at the outpatient departments (OPDs) of all Government hospitals. The agitating junior doctors have been pressing for a magisterial probe into the killing of the woman doctor and the removal of senior officials from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered the transfer of the probe into the alleged rape and murder of the trainee doctor from the Kolkata Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

BJP seeks Mamata's resignation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of siding with the accused instead of the victim in the case of rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata, and demanded her resignation.

BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed that no woman in the State will feel safe if she continues as Chief Minister. "You (Banerjee) did not perform your moral duty. You should immediately resign," he told reporters, alleging that she tried to save the accused of the crime, which has shocked the nation.

Bhatia cited the critical comments of the Calcutta High Court about the handling of the case before it transferred the investigation to the CBI, as he addressed the CM as "nirmamta" (pitiless) Banerjee.

He expressed confidence that the CBI will ensure a thorough probe and that the guilty are hanged. He said the local police first informed the victim's parents that their daughter was sick and then claimed that she had committed suicide.

The parents were made to wait for three hours before they could see her body, he said, alleging that attempts



were made to destroy evidence and shield the accused. Before doing a thorough probe, the police rejected the possibility of a gangrape, he said.

The State Government instead of acting against the principal of the medical college, where the victim worked and the incident happened, transferred him in the same position to another college, he said.

The police did not initially lodge an FIR and termed the case as that of an unnatural death, Bhatia said, hitting out at Banerjee for allegedly shielding the accused and trying to brush the crime under the carpet.

Amid outrage, Banerjee said she will transfer the case to the CBI if it was not solved in a few days, he noted, suggesting that it was a deliberate attempt on her part to destroy evidence as first 48 hours are very important in such cases.

Law and order has collapsed in the State, he said, while also referring to the Sandeshkhali case in which a

local Trinamool Congress strongman was the main accused.

The Chief Minister tried to protect the accused in this case as well, and he was acted against only after the Court handed over the probe to the CBI, he said.

In the doctor's rape and murder case, the victim's family has expressed its lack of confidence in the local police, he said. Bhatia also slammed INDIA bloc, of which the TMC is a part, saying they are "political cultures" who have chosen to maintain silence over the case for political reasons.

He accused the Opposition parties of pandering to minorities votes, especially Muslims, by keeping selective silence over the targeting of Hindus in Bangladesh.

He said only after the BJP raised the issue, the Congress at a "belated stage" made comments on the matter as well but tried to create an "artificial equivalence" that Hindus also indulge in such acts.



India's conservation push sees three wetlands get Ramsar designation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

In a boost to India's environmental conservation efforts, three new wetlands---the Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, along with the Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh have been designated as Ramsar sites, elevating the country's total to 85 such globally significant ecosystems.

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav proudly announced this development on social media platform X, stating, "As the nation gears up to celebrate its Independence Day, we are thrilled to share that we have added three Ramsar sites to our network. This takes our tally to 85 Ramsar sites, covering an area of 1,358,068 hectares in India.

The achievement reflects the emphasis Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid on establishing harmony with nature, calling our wetlands Amrit Dharohars, and working relentlessly for their conservation."

This achievement highlights India's growing commitment to preserving its rich and diverse wetland habitats, which are crucial for maintaining global biodiversity and supporting human livelihoods, added an official from the Ministry.

Tamil Nadu now boasts the highest number of Ramsar sites, with a total of 18,

followed by Uttar Pradesh with 10.

This impressive increase in Ramsar sites, from 26 a decade ago to 85 till date, reflects a significant policy push from the Government. Over the past three years alone, 41 sites have been added, underscoring the country's proactive stance on environmental conservation, he said.

The Ramsar Convention, named after the Iranian city where the treaty was signed in 1971, is an international agreement focused on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

India ratified this vital treaty on February 1, 1982, committing to the protection and wise use of its wetland ecosystems.

The latest additions to the Ramsar list span over 1.35 million hectares, showcasing a diverse array of ecological significance.

The Ramsar list aims to create and maintain an international network of wetlands that are crucial for conserving biological diversity and sustaining human life through the preservation of their ecosystem functions and benefits.

This recent expansion of Ramsar sites not only enhances India's role in global environmental stewardship but also reinforces the country's dedication to preserving its natural heritage for future generations.

Modi to unfurl Tricolour for 11th time in a row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the national flag for the 11th time in a row on Thursday on Independence Day, the annual event where he lays out his Government's agenda, presents its report card, makes important policy and programme announcements and speaks about burning issues.

His first Independence Day address of his third term will take him past Manmohan Singh, who unfurled the Tricolour 10 times from the

ramparts of Red Fort during 2004-2014, and place him behind Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, who did the honours 17 and 16 times respectively.

While the theme of 'Viksit Bharat' is expected to animate his address, there is a view that the crisis in Bangladesh, especially the targeting of minority Hindus, may find a mention in his speech, more so as Hindutva groups have strongly taken up the issue and hit the streets.

Modi may also speak about the mandate for his



Government for a third straight term, though with a reduced majority, and dwell at length on how reforms, development programmes and welfare measures rolled out in the last 10 years have impacted the lives of the people.

It will be eagerly seen if the Prime Minister announces any new initiative or expand the ambit of some ongoing welfare programmes at a time when a combined Opposition, at its strongest in the last 10 years, has pivoted to populist welfare promises to draw support. Jammu and

Kashmir has often figured in his August 15 speeches as the Government has worked overtime to reconfigure the security and development paradigms in the erstwhile State, now a Union territory, since scrapping Article 370 in 2019.

The Supreme Court has set September 30 as the deadline for the holding of assembly elections there. There is also anticipation that some of the key decisions taken by the Government since he assumed the office in June for a third term may be highlighted by him.

India's first dengue vaccine enters phase 3 trials

ARCHANA JYOTI | NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec marked a significant milestone with the launch of the Phase 3 clinical trial for DengiAll, India's first indigenous dengue vaccine from Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak where the first participant in the trial was vaccinated on Wednesday.

The Phase 3 trial will involve over 10,335 healthy adult participants across 19 sites in

18 States and Union Territories.

This extensive study aims to evaluate the vaccine's efficacy and will follow participants for two years.

In light of the escalating dengue cases, which have become a public health crisis in India, Union Health Minister JP Nadda praised the move saying that "The initiation of this Phase 3 clinical trial for India's first indigenous dengue vaccine marks a critical advancement in our fight against dengue." Emphasising the importance

of the collaboration between ICMR and Panacea Biotec for the development of the dengue vaccine, Nadda noted that "Through this partnership, we are not only taking a step towards ensuring the health and well-being of our people but also reinforcing our vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in the healthcare sector."

India faces a significant challenge with dengue, having no antiviral treatments or licensed vaccines available. The complexity of developing an



effective vaccine lies in the need to address all four serotypes of the dengue virus, which circulate extensively

across various regions. Dengue has over the years become a major public health concern in India, ranking among the top 30 countries with the highest incidence of the disease. The rising incidence of dengue in India has raised significant concern. Earlier this month, the Health Ministry informed Parliament that India had seen 32,091 dengue cases in the first six months of 2024, representing a 75 per cent increase compared to the 18,391 cases reported during the same period in 2023.

The tetravalent dengue vaccine strain (TV-003/TV005), initially developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, has shown promising results in preclinical and clinical trials globally.

Panacea Biotec, one of three Indian companies to receive this strain, has made the most progress in developing a complete vaccine formulation.

The trial is primarily funded by ICMR with partial support from Panacea Biotec. The company holds a process

patent for this work. Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials of the Indian vaccine formulation were completed in 2018-19, yielding promising results.

According to a WHO report approximately 75-80 per cent of infections in India are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes.

Among the 20-25 per cent of cases where symptoms are clinically apparent, children are at a significantly higher risk of hospitalisation and mortality.

BJP sweeps Panchayat polls in Tripura, wins 97% of seats



PTI n AGARTALA
The ruling BJP swept the three-tier Panchayat polls in Tripura, winning 97 per cent of seats, an official said on Wednesday. The BJP secured victory uncontested in 71 per cent of the seats in Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads. The voting for the remaining 29 per cent seats was held on August 8 and the counting ended on Tuesday. The party won 584 Gram Panchayats out of 606, 34 of 35 Panchayat Samitis and eight out of eight Zilla Parishads, the official said. The saffron party had won the both Lok Sabha seats in the northeastern state in June. Out of 96 seats contested in eight Zilla Parishads, the BJP won 93 seats, while the Congress and CPI(M) emerged victorious in two and one seat respectively, State Election Commissioner Asit Kumar Das said.

In the case of Panchayat Samitis, the state's party won 173 of the total 188 seats where voting was held. The CPI(M) and the Congress bagged six and eight seats respectively. Das said that the BJP won 1,476 of the 1,819 Gram Panchayats seats contested. The CPI(M), Congress and the Tipra Motha got 148, 151, and 24 seats respectively. The BJP thanked people for reposing faith in the BJP in the Panchayat elections. The opposition parties, however, said that they could not field candidates in 71 per cent of the seats because of the alleged terror tactics of the ruling party. Chief Minister Manik Saha said, "The mandate shows the people continue to keep faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his development programmes. The BJP won 97 per cent of the seats with huge margins. There must be an effort to win 100 per cent of seats in the Panchayat polls in

future." BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee said the party's average winning margin stands at 97 per cent. The opposition CPI(M), however, termed the poll verdict as "an alarm call" for the ruling dispensation as the saffron party faced tough fight in those areas where the opposition parties managed to field candidates. "One CPI(M) candidate of Zilla Parishad was killed at Rajnagar in South Tripura district by the ruling party's goons. Despite winning 71 per cent seats, the ruling party terrorized workers of the opposition parties during the election and counting process," Leader of the Opposition in the Tripura Assembly Jitendra Chaudhury said. The BJP faced strong resistance and defeat in the areas where the opposition could field candidates, the CPI(M) leader claimed.

Kerala landslides: CM announces ` 6 L compensation to kin of deceased

PTI n THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday announced a compensation of Rs six lakh to the next of kin of those who died in the massive landslides that hit Wayanad district recently and claimed over 200 lives. Vijayan said that of the Rs six lakh, Rs four lakh would come from the State Disaster Relief Fund and the remaining from the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund (CMDRF). He also announced that Rs 75,000 would be allocated from the CMDRF to those who lost eyes and limbs or suffered disability up to 60 per cent in the landslides. The CM also said that Rs 50,000 financial assistance would be given to those who suffered disability between 40 to 60 per cent or suffered very

serious injuries in the disaster. Besides that, the survivors opting for rented accommodation or living with their relatives will get Rs 6,000 per month towards rent as part of the rehabilitation of the victims, he said. This amount, however, will not be available to those who get rent-free or fully sponsored accommodation, he added. In cases of partial sponsorship, the remaining amount will be allowed as monthly rent up to a maximum of Rs 6,000, the CM said at a press conference here. Vijayan also said that so far 231 bodies and 206 body parts have been found, following the massive landslides that hit parts of Wayanad on July 30. A total of 401 samples of bodies and body parts underwent DNA testing and of them 349 were found to be



of 248 persons — 121 males and 127 females, he further said. The CM also said that the five-member expert team led by senior scientist John Matthai of the National Centre for Geosciences,

which has been tasked by the State Disaster Management Authority to inspect the landslide-hit areas in Wayanad's Meppadi panchayat, was carrying out its work. The team will assess the

possible dangers in different parts of the disaster-stricken area and nearby sites as well as how the disaster happened and what phenomena occurred in the landslides, he said. Vijayan further said that additionally a drone-based LIDAR survey will also be carried out to determine what is underneath the disaster-stricken areas and how the land there can be used in future. Major landslides hit the Mundakkai and Chooralamala regions of Wayanad on July 30 almost decimating both the areas. On the same day, several landslides had also hit Vilangad in Kozhikode district, the CM said, adding that a separate rehabilitation package will be worked out for that area also once the authorities complete their inspection and evaluation of the devastation there.

Assembly adopts resolution for grant of statehood to Puducherry

PTI n PUDUCHERRY
The Puducherry Assembly on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to concede the plea of the union territory for full statehood. The resolution was first tabled jointly by the DMK legislators R Siva, A M H Nazeem and R Senthilkumar and by independent member G Nehru alias Kuppusamy. The resolution was subsequently adopted as an official resolution on a request by Chief Minister N Rangasamy. Earlier moving the resolution, Siva said Puducherry had been a Union Territory since its freedom from French rule

some seventy years ago. While other Union Territories like Goa have become full-fledged states and have made stupendous progress, Puducherry had been under the rule by the Union Home Ministry since its merger with the Indian Union. "If Puducherry becomes a state the expectations of the people for fast development in all sectors would be realised in practice," Siva said. The demand for statehood for Puducherry had been made since 1972 and the Centre's attention had also been drawn to the plea, the resolution said. Despite repeated pleas, Centre had not formed any committee and had taken the stand that the present status

(of Puducherry being a Union Territory) would continue. Hence, the Centre should be urged without a break for grant of full-fledged statehood so that the rights of the people would be respected. "The Centre should concede the demand," the resolution stated. The other DMK members Nazeem and Senthilkumar and the independent member Nehru made a convincing case for grant of statehood for Puducherry. There was also a suggestion that a joint delegation of leaders of all political parties, legislators and Ministers should go to Delhi and persuade the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Finance Minister to ensure

that Puducherry became a full-fledged state. After listening to the views of the members and also their 'emotional and spirited' demand for statehood, the Chief Minister pointed out that the private member resolution be treated as an official resolution. He welcomed the suggestion of the members who had tabled the resolution that a delegation be taken to the Centre to meet the Prime Minister, Home and Finance Ministers to push the demand for statehood. He also said that the cooperation of MPs from different states could also be sought to back the demand of Puducherry for statehood.

Potholes on Goa roads: Show-cause notices to over 100 contractors

PTI n PANAJI
The Goa government on Wednesday issued show-cause notices to more than 100 contractors and said government engineers would be held responsible for any accident due to pothole on roads in the coastal state. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who holds the Public Works Department (PWD) portfolio, told reporters that roads in the state would be pothole-free by the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. Ganesh Chaturthi, one of the most prominent festivals of Goa, would be celebrated next month. Sawant held a meeting with senior PWD officials to take stock of the road conditions in the state. The CM said he has instructed senior PWD officials that if there is any accident due to pothole on a road, then the engineer concerned would be held responsible and action would be initiated against him/her. Show-cause notices have been issued to engineers and more than 100 road contractors, he said. The road contractors will have to fill the potholes on a priority basis and they are supposed to do so as per the "defect liability" clause, he said. There would be no additional financial burden on the state government to fill these potholes, he said. All the contractors will be asked to re-do the roads after October, without being paid extra money, the CM said. "The system will have to be accountable" and that is why the state government is taking several stringent steps for the safety of people, he said.

20 years after I-Day blast, victims' families hold on to SC as last straw for justice

PTI n DHEMAJI (ASSAM)
Shanti Gogoi has been waiting for 20 long years, seeking justice for the killing of her daughter-in-law and her unborn child in an ULFA-orchestrated bomb blast during the Independence Day celebration in Assam's Dhemaji town. Gogoi's daughter-in-law and 12 other people, including three children, were killed in the explosion that occurred minutes before the flag hoisting ceremony at the parade ground in the northern Assam town in 2004. The explosion was a defining moment in ULFA's history, as the outfit began losing support and sympathy for targeting innocent people since then. An apprehension that justice has eluded the victims has seeped in since the Gauhati

High Court acquitted all the accused in the case, exactly a year ago. Gogoi, a retired school teacher, and others are now pinning their last hopes on the Supreme Court for justice. "The blast happened in front of hundreds of people after they gathered at the Dhemaji College field for the Independence Day celebration. But there is no witness to say who planted the explosives or who was behind it," questions Gogoi, whose daughter-in-law Namita died in the blast with the two-month foetus in her womb. She wondered whether the police expected the witnesses to testify without any apprehension in such cases. In August 2023, Gauhati High Court acquitted all six accused due to "lack of sufficient evi-



dence", overturning a conviction by a lower court. The Dhemaji district and sessions court had in 2019 sentenced four of the accused to life imprisonment and two others to four years in jail in the

case. For Gogoi, her neighbour Nityananda Saikia and families of other victims, the last hope is the Supreme Court, which is hearing a case filed by the Assam government challenging the High Court order. "The High Court order needs to be reviewed. We remain hopeful that the Supreme Court will give us justice," Saikia, who lost both his teenage sisters in the blast, told PTI. A class 12 student himself in 2004 who was present at the blast site, Saikia is now a lawyer, having taken up the profession to better understand how the culprits can be brought to book through the legal system. "We received a letter informing us that the state government will be taking up the case in the apex court," Saikia said. He showed the letter, kept by his mother in a plastic folder along with other papers related to her two daughters' death. Saikia's younger brother is a businessman and the family may appear to have moved on

over the years, but the scar runs deep. "Bomb detectors did not work. The police submitted a charge sheet with plenty of loopholes. And there was no political will to bring those responsible to justice," Saikia claimed. He also questioned the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), which had initially denied involvement but later tendered a public apology, for the reasons behind such killings. "For whom were they fighting? What were their objectives?" the distraught brother of two young sisters who perished in front of him asked. The hexagenarian Gogoi echoed similar sentiments. "Whatever be their objective, the ULFA could have surely tried to attain it without shedding so much blood of the

innocent," she said. A day after the blast, ULFA's then chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa, who signed a peace pact with the government last year, had said in a statement that security forces had used school children as shields to defy the outfit's boycott call. In 2009, the outfit's commander-in-chief Pares Barua had sought a public apology and claimed that they were misled by some cadres for which they were forced to deny the outfit's involvement. Barua is still waging an armed struggle for a 'sovereign' Assam, leading ULFA (Independent) faction. With Independence Day being celebrated with pomp over the years, the sorrow of these victims' families looms in the shadows, holding on to the last flicker of hope for justice.

innocent," she said. A day after the blast, ULFA's then chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa, who signed a peace pact with the government last year, had said in a statement that security forces had used school children as shields to defy the outfit's boycott call. In 2009, the outfit's commander-in-chief Pares Barua had sought a public apology and claimed that they were misled by some cadres for which they were forced to deny the outfit's involvement. Barua is still waging an armed struggle for a 'sovereign' Assam, leading ULFA (Independent) faction. With Independence Day being celebrated with pomp over the years, the sorrow of these victims' families looms in the shadows, holding on to the last flicker of hope for justice.

Assam hospital cancels advisory to women doctors

PTI n GUWAHATI
The Silchar Medical College and Hospital in Assam on Wednesday cancelled its advisory to women doctors and other staffers asking them to avoid going alone to isolated places at night. SMCH's Principal cum Chief Superintendent Dr Bhaskar Gupta had issued the advisory, following the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. They are "alone," the advisory said. The authorities also urged them to "refrain from leaving hostels or lodging rooms during night hours, unless absolutely necessary without prior information to the concerned authority." They were also asked to "avoid going off-campus during late or odd hours, to avoid associating with unknown individuals and to ensure that they can make emergency contact in case of urgent situations." The advisory also stated that while on duty "you should be well composed emotionally, remain alert about the surroundings and should graciously interact with the



public so that you don't attract unnecessary attention from unscrupulous people." Any issue or grievance should be immediately communicated to the chairman/ members of the gender harassment committee and anti-ragging and disciplinary panels, the advisory stated. The students, however, protested against the advisory and demanded that the security on the campus be improved. Junior Doctors' Association (JDA) president Salman Choudhury said they were 'deeply saddened and ashamed.' "The advisory fails to address the key issues, pertaining to SMCH and is outrageous," he said. Choudhury urged the authorities to ensure proper functioning of lighting in the hospital area, enhanced security measures, dedicated washroom facilities, security in doctors' rooms and installation of CCTV cameras.

public so that you don't attract unnecessary attention from unscrupulous people." Any issue or grievance should be immediately communicated to the chairman/ members of the gender harassment committee and anti-ragging and disciplinary panels, the advisory stated. The students, however, protested against the advisory and demanded that the security on the campus be improved. Junior Doctors' Association (JDA) president Salman Choudhury said they were 'deeply saddened and ashamed.' "The advisory fails to address the key issues, pertaining to SMCH and is outrageous," he said. Choudhury urged the authorities to ensure proper functioning of lighting in the hospital area, enhanced security measures, dedicated washroom facilities, security in doctors' rooms and installation of CCTV cameras.

Vet team treks 22 km to save over 600 goats, sheep in remote Himachal



PTI n SHIMLA
A four-member team led by a veterinarian trekked 22 km to reach Gaddi shepherds to save hundreds of goats and sheep from a respiratory disease in Himachal Pradesh's tribal Lahaul and Spiti district, officials said on Wednesday. A three-day camp was set up at Batal from August 3-6 for treating the ailing livestock in the remote Bindi Padhar grazing area near Chandratol, a statement issued here said. The sheep and goats had developed lung congestion and respiratory issues, to respond to which the shepherds crossed several streams without proper safety equipment for seeking help. Upon information about the outbreak, a specialised team led by Veterinary Officer Dr Anurag, who was accompanied by pharmacist Amar Singh and two attendants — Roshan Lal and

Kujang Thilley — was dispatched from Keylong to Batal, the release said. Dr Amitabh, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry Department, who supervised the entire planning and execution, said after reaching the Bindi Padhar grazing area, the team inspected over 2,000 goats and treated over 600 sick goats, it added. They also monitored the health of 13 herds over the three days and physically examined them. Anurag said the team focused on treating goats that were severely ill by arranging immediate medical facilities and vaccines, which led to a noticeable improvement in the condition of the animals. The Gaddi shepherds appreciated the efforts of the veterinary team, saying their livestock could have suffered significant losses without the timely medical assistance, the release added.

BANGLADESH TURMOIL Cong MLA urges PM not to hesitate to take action like Indira did in 1971

PTI n BENGALURU
Expressing concern over the political turmoil and reported atrocities against Hindu minorities in Bangladesh, a Karnataka Congress legislator on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to hesitate to take decisive military action like former PM late Indira Gandhi did in 1971. Rizwan Arshad, who represents Shivajinagar Assembly constituency in Bengaluru, in a letter to Modi, also appealed to him to take "decisive action" to not only address concerns of minorities in Bangladesh but also in India, who have been under "constant attack both economically and socially by the right wing." "I write to you today as a concerned citizen of India deeply distressed by the recent reports and videos circulating on social media, highlighting the ongoing political turmoil in Bangladesh and the atrocities being reported against Hindu minorities in the region," Arshad said. If these reports are true, given the historical and cultural ties between India and Bangladesh,



it is imperative that India takes a "proactive stance" in addressing these issues, he said. Noting that the safety and well-being of the Hindu minorities in Bangladesh should be of paramount concern, the MLA urged the Prime Minister to engage with the new Bangladeshi government to ensure that immediate and effective measures are taken to protect their rights and dignity. "The right-wing social media influencers and handles in India have been circulating news which if true (many have been found fake too), I urge the Government of India to ascer-

tain the authenticity of these reports/videos. If they are proven true, the Government of India should take firm action," he said. The people of India have always stood for justice, peace, and the protection of human rights, Arshad said. "As our Prime Minister, you should not hesitate to take decisive military action like Smt. Indira Gandhi did in 1971. I request you to use your esteemed office to extend a hand of support to our Hindu brothers and sisters in Bangladesh during this critical time." "I trust that under your leadership, India will take decisive action to not only address concerns of minorities in Bangladesh but also in India, who have been under constant attack both economically and socially by the right wing," he said, and requested him to work towards ensuring the safety and security of our Hindu brethren in Bangladesh and fellow citizens, in particular minorities of India.



www.dailypioneer.com

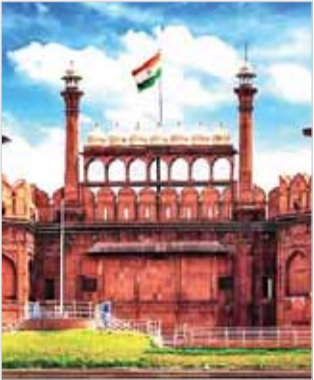
facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Happy Independence Day

As the proud nation celebrates the 78th Independence day it is time to ponder over the journey so far

As we celebrate 78th Independence Day, the air is filled with pride, nostalgia, and hope. This day is not just a commemoration of freedom from colonial rule but a reflection on the journey that has shaped the country. The path to where we stand today, has been nothing short of a roller coaster-marked by triumphs and challenges. As the nation looks back on its accomplishments, it must also cast its eyes forward, contemplating the road that lies ahead. India's post-independence journey has been a remarkable tale of resilience and growth. From the ashes of partition and the burden of colonial exploitation, the nation emerged with a spirit of unity and determination. The early years were fraught with challenges – economic instability, social unrest, and the monumental task of nation-building. Yet, India persisted. The Green Revolution transformed India from a food-deficient country to a self-sufficient one, while the White Revolution made the country the largest producer of milk. It made great strides in space exploration and reached the moon. The nation also saw the rise of a strong industrial base. However, the road was never smooth. India saw wars, political turmoil, and economic crises. The Emergency period in the mid-1970s was a dark chapter, testing the resilience of its democracy. The 1991 economic liberalisation marked a turning point, propelling India onto the global stage, but it also brought new challenges in the form of inequality and social disparities.



The turn of the millennium saw India making strides in various fields. The IT revolution positioned the country as a global technology hub, while advancements in space exploration and nuclear technology showcased

India's scientific prowess. Social progress was evident in the growing emphasis on education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. Landmark legislation such as the Right to Education Act and the decriminalisation of Section 377 reflected the country's commitment to social justice. Yet, there was no dearth of challenges. The rise of communal tensions, growing environmental concerns, and the struggle for inclusivity have reminded the nation that the journey is far from over. The COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent challenge, exposed vulnerabilities but also highlighted India's resilience, as the country emerged as a global leader in vaccine production and distribution. The nation today stands at a crossroads. The country must tackle environmental degradation, and ensure that economic growth is inclusive and sustainable. India's youth, now the largest demographic group, will play a crucial role. We must continue to uphold the democratic values and secular fabric. As the tricolor flutters in the wind this Independence Day, it is a reminder that this was achieved with many sacrifices and efforts on the part of millions of people who make it what it is. The road ahead may be challenging, but it is also filled with possibilities. No country is perfect; it's always a work in progress. But if the people of India commit to making it a shining example for the world, it will become one. Jai Hind!

PICTALK



Young students participate in a programme on the eve of Independence Day at a school, in Moradabad, PI

Nano technology revolutionises car care

This cutting-edge technology is changing the car detailing process by enhancing protection, durability, and aesthetic appeal of cars

The automotive industry is progressing rapidly, with nanotechnology emerging as a transformative force in redefining car care. This cutting-edge technology is revolutionising the car detailing process and offering unmatched protection, durability, and aesthetic appeal, ushering in an exciting new era for car owners and enthusiasts.



and chemical protection. Nanotechnology offers a revolutionary approach to car detailing, providing superior protection and easier maintenance than traditional methods. There are several benefits of nanotechnology in car detailing, such as:

Enhanced protection: Nanoparticles form a microscopic barrier that shields the car's paint and glass and protects it from UV rays and environmental problems, such as bird droppings, during weather conditions. This results in a long-lasting shine and reduced risk of fading or wear and tear.

Deeper cleaning and glossier finishing: Nano-formulated polishes and cleaners can penetrate deeper into the car's surface due to the particles' tiny size. It removes dirt and grime more effectively,

revealing a glossier finish to the car after detailing. **Durability & longevity:** Nanotechnology car care products typically offer extended protection compared to traditional waxes and sealants. It translates to fewer detailing sessions and keeps the car looking its best for longer.

Easier maintenance: The hydrophobic coatings created by nanoparticles make future washes a breeze. Dirt and grime slide off, requiring less scrubbing and reducing the risk of introducing swirl marks.

While the benefits of nanotechnology in car care are undeniable, it is important to approach its implementation with a clear eye. Not all nano-coated products are created equal, and selecting reputable brands that adhere to stringent quality standards is crucial. Moreover, proper application and maintenance are always vital to maximising the performance and longevity of these treatments.

As nanotechnology evolves in the rapidly increasing technology world, there are expected to be even more groundbreaking advances

ments in the car care industry. The future holds immense potential, from self-healing paintwork to intelligent coatings that adapt to environmental conditions. By embracing this technology, the automotive industry can be poised to deliver cars that look stunning and offer unparalleled protection and convenience. From the car owner's perspective, there will be several benefits, such as enhanced car ownership experiences characterised by less time spent on maintenance and greater pride in the cars' appearance, instilling a sense of hope for the future of car care. In conclusion, nanotechnology is ushering in a new era in the car maintenance industry by improving aesthetics, protection, and durability & longevity. By understanding the principles and applications of this technology, car owners can make informed decisions to optimise the care of their cars and enjoy the full benefits of this exciting development, empowering them as informed consumers in the automotive industry.

(The writer is an expert on car care; views are personal)



KUNAL SETHI

The former Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, abruptly left her country a week ago, causing immediate concern in her country and the region. According to the BBC, Hasina's family, not security officials, convinced her to leave due to safety concerns. Her son stated, "We begged her to leave as soon as the violent mob arrived." Crowds entered her residence shortly after her escape. Political, social, and economic issues, external involvement, and unhappy political opposition caused the downfall.

India's Foreign Minister, S. Jaishankar, has informed Parliament about her visit to India and the potential impact on India's relationship with Bangladesh. The unrest that led to her departure resulted in around 560 deaths and could strain the relationship between the two countries, potentially impacting regional security and foreign relations. Initially, in her long reign of 15 years, Hasina was perceived as a democratic and secular leader of Bangladesh, overseeing an economic turnaround. However, she later became intolerant and authoritarian, cracking down on media critics and imprisoning opponents. She maintained cordial relationships with Indian leaders, which sparked anti-India protests.

Prime Minister Modi mentioned that he had met her ten times last year. The friendship has been mutual, as Begum Hasina also reciprocated by driving out the terrorists who targeted India and allowed concessions for transit facilities. She was the first state guest during the Modi government's third term. India has had a special relationship with Bangladesh since it was born in 1971. After her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh, was assassinated in 1975, Hasina spent six years in India. After that, she shifted to Dhaka to lead the Awami League. The current student protests, which started on July 5 against the 30% reservation for descendants of freedom fighters



and the 56% quota for government positions, have impacted the political situation in Bangladesh. The Hasina government's proposal to expand this quota led to widespread protests and 200 deaths. Bangladesh opposition parties organized a 'long march' to express growing discontent with the government's policies. At the international level, tensions rose between Hasina and the U.S. when her American visa was revoked after she fled the country. The U.S. State Department emphasized the importance of the interim government in establishing long-term peace and political stability in Bangladesh. The U.K. and other countries also took the same stand. The international community is working to support the interim government led by Yunus, who is responsible for restoring normalcy. New Delhi has set up a monitoring committee and increased border control to address the situation. Madam Khaleida Zia and other opposition leaders were released after Hasina's departure. During Khaleida's two terms, Bangladesh-India relations weakened. Her visit to Delhi was also a disaster. Khalida's release may enable her to lead her party, and she stressed the

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS WORKING TO SUPPORT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT LED BY YUNUS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTORING NORMALCY. NEW DELHI HAS SET UP A MONITORING COMMITTEE AND INCREASED BORDER CONTROL TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION

need for a democratic Bangladesh and emphasized peace and unity. Hasina blames the U.S. for her ouster. Her son claims she had no time to resign and is still the Prime Minister. Bangladeshis have protested in front of the White House and the U.K. New Delhi closely monitors the situation, especially concerning border and regional security, as well as the security of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. The Modi government is apprehensive about the safety of the Hindu minority in Bangladesh. Prime Minister Modi has called for the protection of Hindus in Bangladesh after violent incidents targeted them. The Hindu minority also protested on the streets. Bangladesh's economy, which was looking up, is declining due to Hasina's intolerance, violence, unemployment, and inflation. The country relies on India for essential commodities and

infrastructure. India needs to reconsider its Bangladesh policy after the leader's departure. The third issue concerns the porous border between India and Bangladesh, with allegations of Bangladeshi infiltrators and refugees entering India. A friendly Hasina government helped check this problem while Khalida was in denial mode. New Delhi's decision to adopt a wait-and-watch policy is a positive step. The situation depends on the elections' timing and the two Begums' potential return. If new leadership emerges, New Delhi will need to take a stand. To maintain regional peace, India's role in assisting Bangladesh in returning to normalcy is crucial and urgent. A peaceful, stable, and prosperous Bangladesh is in India's best interests. India should do everything to ensure it. The situation is still evolving, and the uncertainty of the future political landscape of Bangladesh is palpable. We will know more once the elections are announced and the plans of the two begums are revealed. The potential return of the dynastic rule adds an element of intrigue to the situation.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LHAMO'S NEVER SAY DIE SPIRIT

Madam — Kinzang Lhamo of Bhutan may have crossed the finish line last in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics, but she captured the admiration of many with her remarkable tenacity and unwavering determination. Despite battling adverse conditions, Lhamo completed the grueling 26.2-mile course in 3 hours, 52 minutes, and 59 seconds, choosing to persevere rather than quit. Lhamo, embodying the spirit of the "last woman running," sends a powerful message: regardless of the final outcome, we must maximize our capabilities and approach our tasks with a positive, persistent mindset. There is no shame in finishing last if the effort was sincere and wholehearted. Bhutan has already gifted the world with its unique concept of Gross National Happiness, which measures progress through health, education, and environmental parameters rather than traditional economic metrics. The country has also demonstrated the essence of democracy by having its Royals voluntarily relinquish power to allow for a citizen-led government through free and fair elections. Now, Kinzang Lhamo emerges as Bhutan's latest treasure. At just 26 years old, she has a promising future ahead. With more experience and exposure, Lhamo is poised to elevate Bhutan's presence on the international stage.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

PARIS OLYMPICS COME TO A CLOSE

Madam — The 2024 Paris Olympics have concluded, with India securing a total of six medals: five bronze and one silver. Despite its status as the world's most populous nation, with a staggering 1,450,935,791 people, India's medal haul, though commendable, highlights a larger issue. The United States led the medal tally with 126 medals, including 40 gold, while China followed with 91 medals and Japan with 45. These countries, despite their smaller populations compared to India, have achieved greater success by investing uniformly in a wide range of sports. In

Har ghar tiranga!



The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative has sparked a nationwide movement, awakening the spirit of patriotism across the country. This campaign has united people from every corner of India, creating an atmosphere

of pride and respect for the national flag. It fosters a deep sense of unity and encourages active participation, bringing neighbors and fellow citizens together. By embracing this movement, people are enhancing their understanding of the significance and values embodied by the Indian flag.

The campaign has revolutionized the nation's ideology, symbolizing our independence, pride, and commitment to a developed India (Viksit Bharat). It underscores India's rise as a global power, moving swiftly from a nation once seen as economically challenged to one poised to become the third-largest superpower in the world. As citizens, we are reminded of our duty to uphold the guiding principles enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy, the Preamble, and the Constitution of India.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

WAYANAD TRAGEDY COULD BE AVERTED

Madam — The picturesque Wayanad, a hilly district located in the Western Ghats Mountain range in Kerala, is prone to landslides during heavy rains. In Kerala's history, the landslide that occurred recently there and claimed over 400 lives was the deadliest. According to the Geological Survey of India half of Kerala's land area is vulnerable to landslides. Wayanad region has had many tea and coffee plantations. The first landslide occurred in an uninhabited forest area with no access road. The torrent of water carrying mud and boulders swept away or buried the villages of Panchirimattam, Mundakkai and Chooralmala, and wreaked havoc in Meppadi, Attamala and Kunhome.

Mundakkai is a village located more than a kilometre down from the hill that slid first. Chooralmala caved in under the pressure of gushing water from the first landslide and heavy downpour. Irunjipuzha river split into two raging streams and wreaked havoc along its path. When it comes to discussing the early warning of rainfall, the less said, the better.

On July 24, the Agricultural Meteorological Division of the Indian Meteorological Department issued a forecast for Wayanad that predicted only 15 mm rainfall, the day when landslides occurred. Mundakkai, where the landslide hit Wayanad first, got 572 mm of rainfall within 48 hours. However, it shouldn't be overlooked that the Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, an NGO specializing in weather patterns of Wayanad with a network of more than 200 weather monitoring units, had warned of possible landslides two days before the landslide happened.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

THE DIVINE PARENTAL ROLE

Unlike parents, whose guidance can be flawed, God encompasses all wisdom, power and impartiality



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

The following verse will shed light on this, which is, "You alone are my mother; You alone are my father; You alone are my relative and You alone are my friend; You alone are my knowledge and You alone are my wealth; O Lord of all Lords, You alone are my everything." In verse #7.19 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, Lord Krishna states, "After efforts of many births, a yogi in the end becomes wise, and he takes My shelter. A great soul, who considers Lord Vasudeva thus as everything is very rare." The answer, therefore, is: that God is very much more than a mother or father can ever be. These entities, i.e., a mother or a father have severe limitations. Their knowledge is very limited. They don't know the Big Picture.

Far from it, they may guide their children wrongly. On the other hand, God is omniscient. He knows past, present and future also. Lord Krishna informs us what He can do. "By being specially kind, I, situated within, destroy the darkness, born of ignorance, by the shining lamp of knowledge." (10.11) Then, a parent has limited resources that he or she can give to his or her children, whereas God has all the opulence in full. Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame informs, "Where there is yogeshwara Shri Krishna, and where there is a soul linked to Him, there will be opulences ('soubhagya'), victory (success), wealth, and morality." (18.78) A parent can help only in a limited way. Suppose his or her child is unwell. What can he or she do besides arranging medical facilities and taking care of the best way possible?



A good parent prays additionally for the rapid cure of the child. Because Only God has the power to help us get out of the trouble we get into quickly (18.53); only God has the power to forgive. Parents can be whimsical in their decision-making. They can be partial in dealing with their children: it is natural, but God is always impartial. Lord Krishna states, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings, no one is hateful for Me, and no one is dear; that is God has no preconceived and prejudiced notion towards anyone." (9.29) Many parents are poor role models. They lie but expect their children to be truthful.

What has God instructed us to do? "Whatever a superior person does, other people follow that only. Whatever standard he establishes a common man tries to emulate that." (3.21) What does God do? He always goes by dharma. God is so strict about dharma that He incarnates to reestablish it if it becomes weak. (4.7) Additionally, God is always engaged in doing duties, Lord Krishna says, "I am always carefully engaged in action, because men follow My lead in all respects." (3.34) For parents, only their children are their own, but for God, all souls are His parts. (15.7) He has to consider all of them in all His actions. God is very compassionate towards all of them. Lord Krishna confirms, "I am a well-wisher of all living entities."

Our children are forever competing against children of other parents, but for God, all children are His parts and must be dealt with fairly. That is the reason our selfish prayers are not answered. Many parents do not consult their children about their future and try to impose their desires on them. God has forbidden this, when He stated, "Svadharm (duty) of all souls are according to what their natures are." "The four divisions of the human society, based on qualities and activities, have been created by Me." (4.21)

One can excel in whatever suits one's nature because it comes naturally. What is the message? God is a parent alright but not in a conventional way. He only takes charge of those souls, who take His shelter. Parents should also try to be self-supporting to the end by taking active shelter from God; He will take care. Is God not responsible for keeping the Creation going? Is it not our responsibility as parents to do ours? I take mine towards my descendants very seriously.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

Water crisis and the battle for resources



B K SINGH

As the world grapples with the escalating effects of climate change, the urgent need to rethink our approach to water management becomes ever more pressing

Whenever we face drought and heat waves we are reminded to take a relook at efficiency of water management. More than one-fourth of the global population, nearly 2.2 billion people do not have proper access to clean drinking water. United Nation's (UN's) goal in this regard is to provide clean drinking water and sanitation for all by 2030. UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation (UN-Water) sets the theme every year. This year's theme was "Leveraging Water for Peace". Air and water are important to sustain life on Earth. The conflicts between the countries, between the states and within society arise when we have to share water for crop irrigation, household purposes, industrial uses and power generation.

The conflict gets often aggravated especially when the availability of water becomes scarce during the pinch period. Treaties between the countries have resolved the disputes. Different forums are also available for the resolution of conflicts at international and national levels. India has 25 major river basins with most rivers flowing across the states. There is the Interstate Water Dispute Act, of 1956 for resolving disputes in the use, control and distribution of river and river valleys. The disputes are continuing challenges to federal water governance in the country. To resolve the disputes, there are water dispute tribunals in India namely the Ravi and Beas Water Tribunal, Vansadhara water dispute tribunal, Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal, Mahanadi water dispute tribunal, Krishna water dispute tribunal and Cauvery dispute tribunal etc.

The sharing of water of the Cauvery River has been the source of serious conflict between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In 2018, the tribunal awarded Karnataka to annually release 192 tmc of water in ten equal monthly instalments to Tamil Nadu. 2023-24 was El Nino (Spanish word meaning little boy) year and there has been a deficit in rainfall in the catchment of the river from July 2023 onwards. As a result, the reservoirs were half empty and it became difficult for Karnataka to follow the orders of the tribunal.

Two states started a blame game till early July 2024 when there were good rains in the Cauvery catchment in the latter part of July. As nature was kind, the dispute was resolved and the blame game stopped. The prolonged dispute between the states for sharing water is always traced back to destruction as well as poor maintenance of the catchment of the river and unfavourable weather conditions like El Nino. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that El Nino, a climate pattern associated with the warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean has impacted the monsoon causing below-normal rainfall last year, has gradually weakened.

This has been one of the five strongest El Nino on record but remained weaker than 1997-98 and 2015-16. "El Nino typically has the greatest impact on global climate in the second year of its development - in this instance 2024," WMO said. This impact has led to above normal temperature in India till June 2024. WMO further added that there is a chance of La Nina (Spanish word meaning little girl) developing later in the year. La Nina is a climate pattern associated with periodic cooling off the ocean sur-



face temperature and brings normal rains in the region. Western World, Canada and the US are experiencing heat wave conditions even in August this year. The underground water table receded during summer. There has been a public hue and cry in many places in central and peninsular India to access potable water for household needs. The Government and Civic agencies are facing the challenge. Karnataka is one such state where there was an acute drinking water problem in the summer.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the district administration to establish a helpline and control room to enable the public to register grievances and supply water in tankers to all affected areas. He also directed to tender the work of digging more bore wells to tap underground water for public emergencies. Bengaluru too faced a water shortage. Water supply to the city comes through the pipeline from the Cauvery River located 100 km away. The water has also to be pumped up at many intermediate locations to achieve an altitude of 1 km, where the city is. The arrangements have been made to supply water in tankers from adjoining towns.

Water supply to high-rise apartments was also reduced. Residents used disposable cutlery and wet wipes to ration their water consumption. It will generate more waste and agencies may have to step up the disposal. They have also banned vehicle washing and swimming pool activities. Deepening of the bore wells is another environmental challenge. Every time the groundwater level recedes, we go for the deepening. Is it environmentally sustainable? Recharging the ground through rain harvesting structures has to be adhered to by each Government continuously.

Rivers originating from the Himalayas are snow-fed and satisfy the water needs of the people, especially in the northern belt of the

country from west to east. Rivers in the central Indian landscape and peninsular India originate from forests.

Often big rivers originate from the same place and flow in different directions. Johila, Narvada and Son originate from Amarkantak and flow in different directions. Five rivers namely Koyana, Krishna, Venna, Savitri and Gayatri originate from Mahabaleshwar near Pune. Several important rivers like Tungbhadra and Cauvery also originate from the Western Ghats. Apart from providing drinking water to several villages and towns, there are numerous irrigation and power projects located on these rivers.

Life is fully dependent on these rivers and except the Himalayan Rivers all others originate from forests. Let us be clear that water is not produced by forests, yet the rivers originate there. Forests are the mothers of rivers and are systems to conserve rainwater in the subsoil and the roots of the trees.

The river source provides a small volume of water trickling from the roots of each of the millions of trees on undulating hills around. As it forms the stream and the flow of water proceeds under gravity, many more such streams join to increase the volume of water. Sometimes bigger streams or even rivers also join to increase the volume of flowing water in the river. The water in the streams is nothing but rainwater. During the monsoon substantial quantity of water is absorbed by the earth charging the underground aquifers and some portion of it is retained in the subsoil and roots of the trees.

The roots hold the water like a sponge and continuously release it during warm weather, making the streams perennial. While traversing in the forests we come across several perennial streams even in summer months when there is no rainfall. Every stream has a catchment and if it is a forested catchment, the

stream would be perennial in the non-rainy season, or else it would be a seasonal stream flowing on rainy days. Forests play a significant role in conserving water and making the streams perennial. Further, the streams flowing out of forested catchment would always carry cleaner water without even soil particles in it.

On the contrary, streams flowing through areas dominated by human activities would be muddy and mixed with chemicals and sewage. Further, the rainwater carries a lot of soil and the reservoirs get silted up losing their water holding capacity.

Reservoirs located closer to forested areas have a longer life. Maintenance engineers have a difficult time in de-silting reservoirs receiving water from human areas. The rainfall pattern and distribution not only depends upon weather conditions and the direction of wind but also depends upon the density and distribution of forests on land. The pledge we must take is to preserve and conserve natural forests. Forests also play a vital role in the maintenance of the water cycle. More than two years ago, on the sidelines of COP 26 at Glasgow, leaders holding 90% of forests on the planet had pledged to end deforestation by 2030.

Of course, India did not sign this pledge. Two more COP meetings have taken place since then, but the issue has not been reviewed by those who pledged. On the contrary, there are reports suggesting that natural forests are being lost at an alarming rate unprecedented warming has also taken its toll and forest fires have remained uncontrolled for months in the US, Canada, European countries, Russia, China, Brazil, and Australia. If we don't save our forests, the perennial water streams will become seasonal.

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests, Karnataka; views are personal)



FORESTS PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN CONSERVING WATER AND MAKING THE STREAMS PERENNIAL. FURTHER, THE STREAMS FLOWING OUT OF FORESTED CATCHMENT WOULD ALWAYS CARRY CLEANER WATER

The perils of blind faith and the rise of India's fraudulent godmen

While India has a rich tradition of genuine spiritual leaders, the influence of these charlatans has surged, fueled by politics and societal insecurities

The Mundaka Upanishad warns of the dangers posed by those who, though ignorant, present themselves as wise. The verse (1.2.8) loosely translates to, "Living in the midst of ignorance and considering themselves wise, fools think of themselves as learned. They wander around, bewildered, like blind men led by the blind." This verse serves as a caution against self-proclaimed spiritual gurus who mislead others. India has long been a land of genuine spiritual gurus who have guided millions, providing a path for the masses to follow. However, times have changed. Today, genuine spiritual leaders are often overshadowed by flashy godmen, or "babas," who frequently



PRABHA GUPTA

deceive people for personal gain. This trend has become particularly dangerous when combined with the politics of numbers, creating a powerful politico-religious phenomenon. These so-called babas often become demigods with political leaders as their disciples, wielding immense power and wealth, even though they claim to have renounced it. A recent incident in Hathras

highlights the tragic consequences of such influence. Over 150 people, mostly women from poor Dalit families, were killed in a stampede during a satsang by Bhole Baba, also known as Narayan Sakar Hari. Baba, a former policeman who retired 28 years ago amid rape allegations, had attracted around 150,000 people to the event, despite only 80,000 being allowed. The stampede occurred when the crowd rushed to collect soil believed to have healing powers after Baba's departure. His popularity and wealth have only grown, despite such tragedies. While some of his followers were arrested, Bhole Baba himself was not named in the FIR, and his ashrams remain untouched by authorities.

And he is not alone. Many others are doing just that. A couple of years back a proclaimed baba gave unique recipe for peoples woes: keep 500 rupees in your wallet for prosperity, keep your spouse photo for better relationship and so on. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Insan ran schools for girls in which they had to eat rose petals as prasadam to which he walked.

Figures like Asaram Babu and Gurmeet Ram Rahim Insan are serving prison sentences for serious crimes. The number and influence of such godmen have grown, partly due to the rise of religious politics. This trend is mirrored globally, though it is particularly pronounced in India. The following of these god-



men often stems from the insecurity and faith of their followers, who may feel abandoned by both God and the system. This combination distances them from rational thinking. In countries with less economic and social insecurity, the influence of religion tends to wane, but not entirely. In the United States, faith

healers or Televangelists wield significant influence over their followers, claiming to cure people in the name of Jesus Christ. While the number of those cured remains questionable, these healers amass enormous wealth, the owning Caribbean islands and flying in private jets. Addressing the influence of these Babas is a significant challenge. The Indian Constitution's Article 51A emphasises the duty of citizens to develop a scientific temper and humanism, which these fake godmen often ignore. While organizations like the Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti in Maharashtra work to expose fraudulent practices, activists like Dr. Narendra Dabholkar have paid the ultimate price,

allegedly at the hands of conservative groups like Sanatan Sanstha. Similar forces were responsible for the deaths of Govind Pansare, Gauri Lankesh, and Professor Kalburgi. Following Dr Dabholkar's murder, the Maharashtra Assembly passed a law against superstition and miracle cures. To curb the influence of fake godmen, a combination of education, awareness, and strong legal frameworks is essential.

Promoting critical thinking and spiritual education can empower individuals to discern genuine spiritual guidance from deception. Educational institutions, community programs, and media can play a crucial role in spreading awareness about

the characteristics of false gurus and the dangers of blind faith. Encouraging open discussions about spirituality and ethics can help people recognise the difference between authentic spiritual leaders and charlatans. Additionally, it is crucial to strengthen laws and regulations to hold fraudulent godmen accountable. Publicising such cases can also serve as a warning to potential victims. Ultimately, by encouraging critical inquiry, supporting victims, and ensuring justice, society can reduce the influence of fake godmen and safeguard the integrity of spiritual practices.

(The writer is a freelance writer, social activist and business coach; views expressed are personal)

Thai PM dismissed for breach of ethics

Another case filed against Sheikh Hasina

AP n BANGKOK
A court in Thailand on Wednesday removed Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin from office over an ethical violation, further shaking up Thai politics after the court-ordered dissolution of the main opposition party a week ago. The Constitutional Court ruled on a case involving Srettha's appointment of a Cabinet member who had been imprisoned in connection with an alleged attempt to bribe a court official. The court voted 5:4 against Srettha and the ruling removed him from office immediately. The Cabinet will remain in place on a caretaker basis until Parliament approves a new prime minister. There is no time limit for Parliament to fill the position. The caretaker Cabinet could also dissolve Parliament and call a new election. The acting PM is expected to be Phumtham Wechayachai of the Pheu Thai party.

Phumtham was first deputy prime minister and commerce minister under Srettha. If Parliament is given the task of choosing a new prime minister, it can select from a roster of candidates nominated for the post last year by the major political parties. The Pheu Thai Party, to which Srettha belongs, has two eligible candidates, including Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Another frontrunner would be Anutin Charnvirakul, head of the Bhumjaithai Party, which ran third in last year's election. He is currently a deputy prime minister and interior minister. Anuthin, a powerbroker in the vote-rich northeast whose family owns a major construction group, has served in both a military-backed government and the civilian one that it replaced. Also in the running would be two former senior military officers: Prayuth Chan-ocha, who served as prime minister for nine years after staging a coup in 2014, and Prawit



Wongsuwan, who was one of Srettha's deputy prime ministers. Srettha, speaking at Government House shortly after the verdict, thanked the judges for giving him the opportunity to defend himself. He said he respected the ruling and that he always sought to act ethically during his time in office. "I'm sorry that I'd be considered as a prime minister who's unethical, but that's not who I am," he said. Srettha had appointed Pichit Chuenban as a minister of the Prime Minister's Office in a Cabinet reshuffle in April. Pichit was jailed for six months in 2008 on contempt of court charges after he allegedly tried to bribe a judge with 2 million

baht (USD 55,000) in cash in a grocery bag over a case involving Thaksin, the former prime minister. Pichit resigned from the post weeks after being appointed when controversy over the incident was revived. The court said that although Pichit has already served his jail term, his behavior — as ruled by the Supreme Court — was dishonest. Srettha as prime minister has sole responsibility for vetting the qualifications of his Cabinet nominations, the court ruled. It said he knew about Pichit's past but still nominated him, and therefore it ruled that he violated the ethics codes. The petition against Srettha was initiated by former members of the military-installed Senate who had refused to approve Move Forward's prime ministerial candidate when the party was attempting to form a government after its election victory. The petition against Srettha was seen as a move favouring a pro-military political party in

his coalition government. Thailand's courts, especially the Constitutional Court, are considered a bulwark of the country's royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent state agencies such as the Election Commission to issue rulings to cripple or sink political opponents. Srettha became prime minister in August last year, despite his Pheu Thai party finishing second in the general election. After Move Forward was denied power by the Senate whose term ended in May, Pheu Thai — then the biggest partner of Move Forward — excluded it from the coalition and joined hands with parties affiliated with the previous military-controlled government to gather enough support from other parties and the Senate to approve a new prime minister. Srettha, 62, was a real estate executive before entering politics. He prioritized opening up Thailand after almost a decade of military-backed rule, frequently travelling abroad for trade negotiations. His party pushed a populist plan for a 10,000-baht (USD 286) hand-out policy to stimulate the economy, a key promise in its campaign last year, though it has been delayed by technicalities largely involving funding. His government also promoted Thai cultural products through a "soft power" agency and the critical tourism sector by loosening entry requirements and other measures. Srettha, who tried to project an image of a strong CEO, was seen by critics as an agent for Thaksin, who returned last August to submit to a plea deal his detractors say was essential to Srettha gaining the premiership. The Constitutional Court last week ordered the dissolution of the progressive Move Forward Party over an accusation that the party violated the constitution by proposing an amendment to a law against defaming the country's royal family. The party has already regrouped as the People's Party.

PTI n DHAKA
A case of enforced disappearance was filed on Wednesday against Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several others, including former ministers of her cabinet, on the charge of kidnapping a lawyer in 2015. The case is the second to be filed against 76-year-old Hasina since she resigned and fled to India on August 5 following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system. "The victim of the forced disappearance, Supreme Court lawyer Sohail Rana filed the case application, The Daily Star newspaper reported. The court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Farzana Shakila Sumu Chowdhury ordered the allegations to be accepted as a case. Other accused in the case include senior ministers of Hasina's cabinet, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former Law Minister Anisul Haq, former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahidul Haque, former Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) Benazir Ahmed, and 25 unidentified members of the RAB. "On 10 February 2015, I was detained from Sector 5 in Uttara and forced into a vehicle. As soon as I was inside the car, I was nearly made unconscious by electric shocks to my ears and genitals," the report quoted Rana as saying. "After enduring various forms of brutal torture over time, I was eventually released in August in Godagari, Rajshahi," he said. On Tuesday, a murder case was lodged against Hasina and six others over the death of a grocery shop owner during last month's violent clashes that led to the fall of her government. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-July.

Belgorod declares emergency as Ukrainian forces press incursion

AP n KYIV
Russia's Belgorod border region declared an emergency Wednesday under heavy shelling by Ukrainian forces that are pressing a major cross-border incursion into the adjacent Kursk region for a second week. Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov described the situation there as "extremely difficult and tense" as the attacks destroyed homes and caused civilian casualties, unnerving local people. Children in particular are being moved to safety, he said on his Telegram channel, adding that about 5,000 children are in camps in safe areas. He said the previous day that around 11,000 people had fled their homes, with about 1,000 staying in temporary accommodation

centres. The surprise Ukrainian charge onto Russian soil that began August 6 has rattled the Kremlin. The daring Kursk operation is the largest attack on Russia since World War II and could involve as many as 10,000 Ukrainian troops backed by armour and artillery, military analysts say. An emergency was declared in Kursk last Saturday. A Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Tuesday that Kyiv has no intention of occupying the Russian territory it says it is holding. The goal is to stop Russia from firing missiles into Ukraine from Kursk, he said. It was not clear how or when — or whether — Ukraine would attempt to extricate itself from the ground it has taken. The Ukrainian military claims it controls 74 settlements, believed

to be villages or hamlets, in the Kursk region. Russian officials say more than 100,000 people have been evacuated, mostly from Kursk. Ukraine's 1+1 TV channel published a video report Wednesday it said was from Sudzha, a Russian town about 10 kilometres from the border. The report showed burnt-out Russian military columns on roads in the area as well as Ukrainian soldiers handing humanitarian aid to local residents and taking down Russian flags from an administrative building. Russia's predicament is whether to pull troops from the front line in Ukraine's Donetsk region, where achieving a breakthrough is currently a primary war goal for the Kremlin, to defend Kursk and stop the incursion from ballooning.

Complaint filed against Hasina, others at International Tribunal

PTI n DHAKA
A complaint was filed on Wednesday with the investigation agency of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several others, accusing them of committing genocide and crimes against humanity during the mass movement of the students against her government. "The complaint was filed by the father of one of the students who died in police gunshots during the massive street protests," an official of the agency said. A Supreme Court lawyer filed the case on behalf of Bulbul Kabir, father of slain Arif Ahmed Siyam, a class 9 student who was shot dead by police during the protest on August 5.



Students shout slogans during a protest demanding the trial of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on Tuesday.

"We have registered the complaint and thus the investigation of the case has started," Ataur Rahman, deputy director of the agency, was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper. "Upon completion of the

probe, we will submit the report to the Chief Prosecutor's Office of the tribunal for the next procedures," he added. Hasina and several others were accused of "genocide and crimes against humanity in

the complaint," state-run BSS news agency reported. The complaint comes on a day when the interim government said that the murders conducted within the period from July 1 to August 5 will be tried by the International Crimes Tribunal. The complaint accused 76-year-old Hasina and the others of perpetrating the mass killings between July 15 and August 5, the day when Hasina resigned and fled the country, while the students and others who died during the period would come under the purview of the complaint as well, the official said. Meanwhile, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk made a phone call to Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday.

Kishida not to seek re-election, paves way for new Japanese PM

AP n TOKYO
Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in a surprise move Wednesday, announced he will not run in the upcoming party leadership vote in September, paving the way for Japan to have a new prime minister. Kishida was elected president of his governing Liberal Democratic Party in 2021 and his three-year term expires in September. His drop out of the race means a new leader who wins the party vote will succeed him as prime minister because the LDP controls both houses of parliament. Kishida, stung by his party's corruption scandals, has suffered dwindling support ratings that have dipped below 20%. He announced he will not run



in the September vote, allowing for a fresh leader in an effort to show that his party is changing for the better. Kishida will support a new leader, he said. Local election losses earlier in the year eroded his clout, and LDP lawmakers have voiced the need for a fresh face

ahead of the next general election. Since the corruption scandal broke, Kishida has removed a number of Cabinet ministers and others from party executive posts, dissolved party factions that were criticized as the source of money-for-favor politics, and passed a law tightening political funds control law. But support for his government has dwindled. The scandal centers on unreported political funds raised through tickets sold for party events. It involved more than 80 LDP lawmakers, mostly belonging to a major party faction previously led by assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Ten people — lawmakers and their aides — were indicted in January.

House of Hindu family targeted in fresh arson

PTI n DHAKA
Arsonists torched a house belonging to a Hindu family with no political affiliation in northwest Bangladesh, a media report said on Wednesday, in the latest incident of targeted attacks on the minority community after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government. The incident in Farabari Mandirpara village in Akcha union under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila took place on Tuesday evening, hours after Chief Advisor to the interim government Yunus Muhammad assured the distressed minority community that his government would punish the perpetrators. The targeted arson incident also came on the same day when the Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance claimed that the minority community faced attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 and termed it as an "assault on

the Hindu religion." Unidentified individuals set fire to Kaleshwar Barman's house around 7:30 pm on Tuesday in Farabari Mandirpara village in Akcha union under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, Subrata Kumar Barman, chairman of Akcha Union Parishad (UP), told newspaper The Daily Star. Local people quickly responded and managed to control the fire, and the house's occupants were able to escape unharmed, he said. The UP chairman said Kaleshwar Barman had no political affiliation. ABM Firoz Waheed, Officer-in-Charge of Thakurgaon Police Station, said: "Police visited the spot the same night, and an investigation is ongoing to identify the perpetrators." The Daily Star report said that a similar incident had happened a few days earlier in Nimbari Kamarpara village of the same Union when Ananta Barman's house was burned down, leaving all valuables destroyed.

Students still managing roads in Bangladesh

PTI n DHAKA
Several Bangladeshi students, who were behind the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, are still controlling traffic on the roads in the country despite traffic police personnel rejoining their workplaces. A wave of violence, including revenge killings and arson, persisted after Hasina fled to India on August 5. Almost all of the country's police officers went into hiding, afraid of reprisals for the force's role in the deaths of hundreds of young protesters demanding the scrapping of quotas in government service jobs. In such a situation, the students came out on the streets and tried to regulate traffic. However, traffic police personnel rejoined their workplaces on Monday. Still, the students say they do not want to leave the traffic management to the designated units of the police, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Even on Wednesday, students were seen controlling traffic on the roads. There are also members of Ansar, Border Guard Bangladesh Red Crescent, Scouts and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC). A limited number of traffic police were also seen on the roads. Students were managing traffic, checking licenses and reminding people to use helmets. The students say that they want to stay on the streets until full order is restored. Meanwhile, traffic police personnel say that students have played a commendable role in controlling traffic during a critical period. But now that the traffic policemen have rejoined work, the students are no longer needed there. Enayet Ullah, a student of psychology at Dhaka College and a volunteer of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society said: "We have been working on traffic control since August 7 on behalf of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Shehbaz Sharif to unveil 5-year plan for Pakistan's economic stability

PTI n ISLAMABAD
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday announced that he would soon unveil a new five-year plan to bring cash-strapped Pakistan out of the economic crisis and asked countrymen to undertake self-inspection to correct mistakes of the past. Sharif's remarks came as the nation commemorated the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. The Prime Minister said a "fresh journey with new zeal should be started to steer the country out of existing crises" and a five-year economic programme will soon be launched. He said that there is a need for self-introspection to correct mistakes of the past. The nation would hear good news regarding the reduction in electricity prices in the next few days, Radio Pakistan quoted him as saying at the main ceremony held in Islamabad. Turning to issues being faced by the country, Sharif pledged to work hard till the last drop of his blood to reduce inflation and electricity prices and revamp Pakistan's battered economy. He said the reduction in inflation and electricity bills is vital for the development of agriculture and industry, enhancing exports and providing solace to domestic power consumers. Sharif also urged the youth to focus on their studies, training, and skills and avoid becoming prey to the forces of chaos, anarchy and



A driver decorates his rickshaw with national flag colors to celebrate the country's 78th Independence Day from British rule in Peshawar on Wednesday.

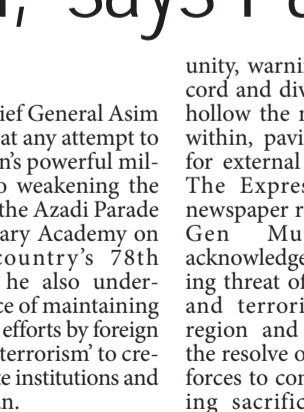
deception. He said the foes of Pakistan have continuously been targeting the minds of young people through digital terrorism to mislead them. In a separate message, Prime Minister Sharif said: "We pay homage to the immense sacrifices of our forefathers and countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan Movement, who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, where they could live according to their beliefs and values. He also said Pakistan shall continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir until they achieve their universal right to self-determi-

nation. President Asif Ali Zardari in his message said: "Today, we need to set aside our differences and work committedly for unity, integrity, and economic stability." He called for upholding the rule of law and strengthening democratic institutions and also reaffirmed its support to the people of Kashmir and Palestine for their legitimate rights. India has repeatedly said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. India has asserted that the "Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India." President Zardari on the occasion of Independence Day approved the conferment of awards upon 104 Pakistani and foreign nationals in recognition of their services to Pakistan. These awards will be given at a special ceremony on 23rd March next year. Former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), will be conferred upon Nishan-e-Pakistan for his marvellous contribution to the field of public service. Arshad Nadeem, Pakistan's sensational javelin thrower who won the country's first individual Olympic gold in 40 years, will get Hilal-e-Imtiaz, the second-highest civilian award.

'Weakening military is weakening nation,' says Pak Army chief

PTI n ISLAMABAD
Pakistan's Army chief General Asim Munir has said that any attempt to undermine the nation's powerful military is equivalent to weakening the country. Addressing the Azadi Parade at the Pakistan Military Academy on the eve of the country's 78th Independence Day, he also underscored the importance of maintaining national unity amidst efforts by foreign powers using 'digital terrorism' to create a gulf between state institutions and the people of Pakistan. "We emerge as a strong nation after trial and tribulations. To weaken Pakistan's armed forces is tantamount to weakening the country itself," Geo News quoted him as saying. Asserting that the nation's unwavering trust in the Pakistan Army is the military's most valuable asset, he said, "Neither any negative force has ever been able to weaken this relationship of trust and love nor can it do so in future." "Historically, we as a nation have always emerged stronger after every hardship," he said, adding that mutual trust between the country and the armed forces played a key role. He also highlighted the importance of

unity, warning that discord and division could hollow the nation from within, paving the way for external aggression, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Gen Munir also acknowledged the ongoing threat of extremism and terrorism in the region and reaffirmed the resolve of the armed forces to continue making sacrifices for the nation's security. He blamed foreign powers for a wave of 'digital terrorism,' which he said aimed to create a gulf between state institutions and the people of Pakistan, the Dawn newspaper reported. Last week, addressing a conference of Islamic clerics here, Gen Munir warned against attempts to create chaos in the cash-strapped country, saying the armed forces will foil any such move and safeguard national integrity. The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled coup-prone Pakistan for many years of its existence, has wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy.



his appearance in a corruption case. His arrest sparked countrywide protests and riots by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters who damaged civilian as well as military installations across the country. Meanwhile, at least 70 people were injured by aerial firing in different areas of Karachi during the celebrations of Independence Day on Tuesday night, Geo News reported. Last year, two people lost their lives while more than 80 sustained injuries due to aerial firing in different areas of the city during the Independence Day celebrations.

Gen Munir's remarks came days after jailed former prime minister Imran Khan refused to apologise for the May 9 riots and said that the Army owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by the paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence. Khan, 71, was on May 9, 2023, arrested by the Pakistan Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises during

Judge rejects Trump's latest demand in hush money case

AP n NEW YORK

Donald Trump has lost his latest bid for a new judge in his New York hush money criminal case as it heads toward a key ruling and potential sentencing next month.

In a decision posted Wednesday, Judge Juan M. Merchan declined to step aside and said Trump's demand was a rehash "rife with inaccuracies and unsubstantiated claims" about the political ties of Merchan's daughter and his ability to judge the historic case fairly and impartially.

It is the third that the judge has rejected such a request from lawyers for the former president and current Republican nominee. All three times, they argued that Merchan, a state court judge in Manhattan, has a conflict of interest because of his daughter's work as a political consultant for prominent Democrats and campaigns. Among them was Vice President Kamala Harris when she sought the 2020 nomination for president. She is now her party's 2024 White House nominee.

A state court ethics panel said

last year that Merchan could continue on the case, writing that a relative's independent political activities are not "a reasonable basis to question the judge's impartiality".

Merchan has repeatedly said he is certain he will continue to base his rulings "on the evidence and the law, without fear or favour, casting aside undue influence".

"With these fundamental principles in mind, this Court now reiterates for the third time, that which should already be clear — inuendo and mischaracterisations do not a conflict create," Merchan wrote in his three-page ruling. "Recusal is therefore not necessary, much less required."

But with Harris now Trump's Democratic opponent in this year's White House election, Trump lawyer Todd Blanche wrote in a letter to the judge last month that the defence's concerns have become "even more concrete".

Prosecutors called the claims "a vexatious and frivolous attempt to relitigate" the issue. Messages seeking comment on the ruling were left with Blanche.

The Manhattan district attorney's office, which prosecuted the case, declined to comment.

Trump was convicted in May of falsifying his business records to conceal a 2016 deal to pay off porn actor Stormy Daniels to stay quiet about her alleged 2006 sexual encounter with him. Prosecutors cast the payout as part of a Trump-driven effort to keep voters from hearing salacious stories about him during his first campaign.

Trump says all the stories were false, the business records were not and the case was a political maneuver meant to damage his current campaign. The prosecutor who brought the charges, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, is a Democrat.

Trump has pledged to appeal. Legally, that cannot happen before a defendant is sentenced. In the meantime, his lawyers took other steps to try to derail the case. Besides the recusal request, they have asked Merchan to overturn the verdict and dismiss the case altogether because of the US Supreme Court's July ruling on presidential immunity.

That decision reins in prosecutions of ex-presidents for official acts and restricts prosecutors in pointing to official acts as evidence that a president's unofficial actions were illegal. Trump's lawyers argue that in light of the ruling, jurors in the hush money case should not have heard such evidence as former White House staffers describing how the then-president reacted to news coverage of the Daniels deal.

Earlier this month, Merchan set a Sept 16 date to rule on the immunity claim, and Sept 18 for "the imposition of sentence or other proceedings as appropriate".

The hush money case is one of four criminal prosecutions brought against Trump last year. One federal case, accusing Trump of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, was dismissed last month. The Justice Department is appealing. The others — federal and Georgia state cases concerning Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss — are not positioned to go to trial before the November election.

'Americans give Harris an advantage over Trump on honesty, discipline'

AP n WASHINGTON

Vice President Kamala Harris has a perceived advantage over former President Donald Trump on several leadership qualities such as honesty, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds, although Americans are slightly more likely to trust Trump on the economy and immigration.

Nearly half of Americans say that "committed to democracy" and "disciplined" are attributes that better describe Harris. About 3 in 10 say these qualities better describe Trump.

About 4 in 10 say Harris is someone who "cares about people like you" while about 3 in 10 say that about Trump. About 4 in 10 say "honest" better describes Harris and 24% say that quality better describes Trump.

Both parties are racing to define Harris as she prepares to accept the Democratic nomination at the party's convention next week. The poll suggests she carries some of the same baggage that weighed down President Joe Biden before he ended his reelection bid but has advantages over Trump when they're compared to each other. And Democrats continue to be much happier about her candidacy than they were about Bidens.

Trump has spent the campaign championing himself as a strong leader who is capable of handling tough crises facing the country and suggesting that foreign leaders wouldn't respect Harris in the White House. But he doesn't have an advantage with Americans on that characteristic, according to the survey. Four in 10 US adults see Trump as a strong leader, and roughly the same share say that about Harris. About 4 in 10 say Trump is capable of handling a crisis, and a similar share say Harris is better positioned to do so.

Americans are about evenly divided between who they think is more capable of winning in November — Trump or Harris. In July, before Biden dropped out of the race, only about 2 in 10 Americans thought he was more capable of winning, while about twice as many thought that about Trump.

"Trump had a better chance when Joe Biden was running," said Lisa Miller, a 42-year-old student in Elko, Nevada, and a Republican. "I think a lot of people who were insecure about Joe Biden are more secure with Kamala Harris' age and cognitive abilities."

Trump has advantages on the economy and immigration:

Americans are more likely to trust Trump over Harris when it comes to handling the economy or immigration, but the difference is slight — 45% say Trump is better positioned to handle the economy, while 38% say that about Harris. The difference is similar in handling immigration. Independents are about twice as likely to trust Trump over Harris on economic issues, and they give him the advantage on immigration as well.

Howard Barnes, a 36-year-old artist in San Francisco, is a Republican who says he trusts Trump over Harris on the border.

"She doesn't really seem to be proactive about it or even interested in it," Barnes said.

Harris has more of an advantage over Trump when it comes to handling issues related to race and racial inequality, abortion policy, and health care. Roughly half of US adults say Harris would do a better job than Trump handling each of those issues, compared with about 3 in 10 for Trump. Harris is especially strong among Democrats, independents and women on the issue of abortion policy. Democrats and independents give her the edge on health care, as well as on issues of race and racial inequality. About two-thirds of Black adults say Harris is the candidate they trust more on that issue, as well as about half of Hispanic adults and white adults.

Harris' strengths also accentuate two areas where Republicans give Trump relatively low marks: abortion policy and issues related to race and racial inequality. Only about 6 in 10 Republicans trust Trump over Harris on these issues.

There are possible signs of trouble for Harris in the poll, though. Only about 6 in 10 Democrats trust her over Trump to do a better job handling the war in Gaza, her lowest rating within her party on the issues asked about. About one-quarter of Democrats say they trust neither Trump nor Harris on this topic.

NZ food bank distributes candy made from potentially lethal Methamphetamine

AP n WELLINGTON

A charity working with homeless people in Auckland, New Zealand unknowingly distributed candies filled with a potentially lethal dose of methamphetamine in its food parcels after the sweets were donated by a member of the public.

Auckland City Mission told reporters on Wednesday that staff had started to contact up to 400 people to track down parcels that could contain the sweets —

which were solid blocks of methamphetamine enclosed in candy wrappers. New Zealand's police have opened a criminal investigation.

The amount of methamphetamine in each candy was up to 300 times the level someone would usually take and could be lethal, according to the New Zealand Drug Foundation — a drug checking and policy organisation, which first tested the candies.

Ben Birks Ang, a Foundation spokesperson, said disguising

drugs as innocuous goods was a common cross-border smuggling technique and more of the candies might have been distributed throughout New Zealand.

The sweets had a high street value of NZ\$ 1,000 (\$608) per candy, which suggested the donation by an unknown member of the public was accidental rather than a deliberate attack, Birks Ang said.

The City Missioner, Helen Robinson, said eight families, including at least one child, had

reported consuming the contaminated candies since Tuesday. No one was hospitalized and Robinson said the "revolting" taste meant most had immediately spat them out.

The charity's food bank only accepts donations of commercially produced food in sealed packaging, Robinson said. The pineapple candies, stamped with the label of Malaysian brand Rinda, "appeared as such when they were donated", arriving in a retail-sized bag, she added.

Calmer winds, reinforcements help battle scattered fires in Athens suburbs

AP n ATHENS

Firefighters in Greece battled scattered fires in hopes of containing the remains of a major wildfire that burned into the northern suburbs of Athens, triggering multiple evacuations and leaving at least one person dead.

With strong winds that had fanned the flames on Sunday and Monday dying down overnight, the fire department on Tuesday said the fire no longer had any active, advancing fronts and firefighters focused on extinguishing hundreds of slow-burning areas. Reinforcements of water-dropping aircraft and firefighters were arriving from abroad after Greece requested assistance from Europe's joint disaster response mechanism. Dozens of homes and businesses were reported to have burned, although authorities did not yet have an exact number. Winds strengthened again Tuesday afternoon, but no new major flare-ups were reported. The European Union's Copernicus Emergency Management Service, which

provides mapping services for natural disasters using satellite images, said that by Monday the blaze had burned 8,500 hectares (21,000 acres, 85 square kilometres).

Helicopters, planes and hundreds of firefighters and vehicles were arriving from France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Serbia and Romania. Turkey's Agriculture and Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said two firefighting planes and one helicopter had taken off Tuesday morning headed to Greece. "I wish all the best to our colleagues who work with the motto Forests are the world's common heritage," Yumakli posted on the social media platform X.

Relations between neighbours Greece and Turkey are frequently tense over territorial disputes, but they tend to put differences aside and send each other help when faced with natural disasters such as earthquakes and forest fires. Several other Balkan countries also struggled with wildfires. Water-dropping planes and helicopters from Cyprus, Germany and Slovenia were

helping North Macedonia tackle blazes that have been burning for weeks, while Bosnian firefighters and local authorities appealed for international help to tackle fires raging in a national park in the east of the country. The Athens blaze began Sunday afternoon near Lake Marathon, about 35 kilometres (22 miles) northeast of the city, and coursed across Mount Pendeli, descending into the city's suburbs.

Firefighters found the burned body of a woman in an industrial building in the suburb of Vrilissia just after midnight. The woman, an employee of the business, was believed to have become trapped inside the building.

More than a dozen people were treated by paramedics, mostly for smoke inhalation, while five firefighters suffered light burns and breathing problems, the fire department said. Three hospitals, including a children's hospital, two monasteries and a children's home were evacuated on Monday, while about 30 push alerts were sent to cell phones warning people in several Athens

suburbs and outlying settlements to flee.

Authorities said some people who refused to leave their homes later became trapped and required rescuing, endangering the lives of firefighters. The affected areas — at the closest, some 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the heart of Athens — typically have thousands of residents. However, it was unclear how many were away on vacation at the height of the summer season, and how many had obeyed the evacuation orders or stayed to fight the blaze. Ten water-dropping planes and 10 helicopters were fighting the remaining flames Tuesday, backing up hundreds of firefighters on the ground, the fire department said.

Earlier in the week, the fire reached heights of about 25 metres (80 feet). It raced through pine forests left tinder-dry by repeated heat waves this summer. June and July were the hottest months ever recorded in Greece, which also recorded its warmest winter ever. An early start of the fire season this year has strained Greece's firefighting force.

UPSIDA
उपरो राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
टीकेएस सिटी, गाजियाबाद | E-Mail- ed2@upsida.co.in

उत्पत्कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एलए द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जगहों में निम्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत विकास/अनुसंधान कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिचर/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/उकेदारों से उत्पत्कालीन ई-निविदों का अनुरोध की जाती है।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा का प्रकार	संकेतिक क्र.सं.
1.	Supply and Installation of CCTV Camera system including Annual services charge and 05 year AMC at IA. Bulandshahr Road, Loha Mandi, SSGT Road, Site-4 Sahibabad, Loni Industrial Estate, Meerut Road, Kavi Nagar and Loni Road, Ghaziabad.	उत्पत्कालीन	65.77

निविदा दिनांक 15.08.2024 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 22.08.2024 को 18:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 23.08.2024 को 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात् खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा उपलब्ध शब्द पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्यदिवस में पंजीकृत डाक/व्यक्तित्व रूप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है।

नोट: 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित दरें अंकित करें, अलग से मात्र जीएसटी/0 देय होगा। 2. निविदादाताओं को निविदा उपलब्ध करते समय Eligibility Criteria के अनुसार समस्त प्रश्न अवलोक करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी की website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्वागत लिंक यूपीएलसी की website: <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। **सचिव प्रमुख, उपरो राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspscil.in
Mobile No.96461-22067

E-Tender Enq. No. 7593/P-1/EMP-12772 dated 12-08-24
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tendor ID No. **2024_POWER_125417_1** for the Procurement of HRC fuses under EP Group for the year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & Tendor Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from **13.08.24/ 02.00 PM** onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> **RTP-89/24**

76155/12/3304/2023/36668 Dated CHD - 8/13/2024

Equinox India Developments Limited (formerly Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)					
Statement of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024					
Sl. No.	Particulars	3 months ended	Preceding	Corresponding	Rs. in million
		30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Refer Note 2)	30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations	4,033.9	395.4	2,091.0	4,687.5
2	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(224.0)	(3,010.4)	(479.7)	(3,937.2)
3	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period before Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(224.0)	(3,010.4)	(6,770.4)	(10,227.9)
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(284.7)	(3,020.2)	(6,795.5)	(10,386.5)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year/period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(91.4)	(3,036.4)	(6,377.2)	(9,072.0)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,268.7	1,082.2	1,082.2	1,082.2
7	Earnings per Share (of Rs. 2/- each)				
	- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.49)	(5.58)	(12.55)	(19.20)
	- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.49)	(5.58)	(12.55)	(19.20)

Notes to the consolidated financial results:

- The above consolidated financial results of the Group for the quarter ended 30 June 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors (the Board) at its meeting held on 14 August 2024. These results have been subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- Figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the financial year.

Equinox India Developments Limited (formerly Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)					
Statement of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024					
Sl. No.	Particulars	3 months ended	Preceding	Corresponding	Rs. in million
		30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Refer Note 2)	30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	31 March 2024 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	86.7	523.6	98.0	802.1
2	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(120.4)	96.2	22.4	31.1
3	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(120.4)	(35,733.2)	22.4	(35,798.3)
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(121.0)	(35,736.3)	22.2	(35,802.3)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	70.0	(35,741.8)	438.4	(34,482.5)
6	Earnings per Share (of Rs. 2/- each)				
	- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.21)	(66.05)	0.04	(66.17)
	- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.21)	(66.05)	0.04	(66.17)
7	Paid-up equity share capital (face value of Rs. 2 per equity share)	1,268.7	1,082.2	1,082.2	1,082.2
8	Other equity				31,839.9

Notes to the standalone financial results:

- The above standalone financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors (the Board) at its meeting held on 14 August 2024. These results have been subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- Figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the financial year.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://equinoxindia.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: Office No 01-1001, WeWork, Blue One Square, Udyog Vihar Phase 4 Rd, Gurugram, Haryana 122016 (CIN) : L45101HR2008PLC095409

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Place : Mumbai
Date : 14 August 2024

Sachin Shah
Executive Director

JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED CIN - L60231CT2008PLC016434									
Regd. Office: A-11 (7), Udy Society, Sector-3, Tatibandh, Dharsina, Raipur- 492099, Chattisgarh Corp. Office: Jindal ITF centre, 28, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi- 110015									
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2024									
(₹ Lacs)									
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter Ended		Year ended		Quarter Ended		Year ended	
		30.06.2024 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Refer Note 1	30.06.2023 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited	30.06.2024 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Refer Note 1	30.06.2023 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited
1	Total Income from operations	83.77	75.63	85.73	320.81	67,000.17	90,904.54	67,437.35	333,624.71
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax and share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	6.62	3.78	10.13	22.99	4,242.30	2,809.33	785.56	13,045.51
3	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax and after share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and exceptional items	6.62	3.78	10.13	22.99	4,245.45	4,708.65	790.32	14,955.18
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	4.96	2.82	7.57	17.19	2,311.93	4,095.21	(574.62)	9,082.33
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period/year [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period/year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	5.20	3.77	7.57	18.14	2,401.32	4,613.34	(575.35)	9,641.19
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07	514.07
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as at Balance Sheet date				31,528.69				(56,063.28)
8	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each)(Not annualised)								
	(1) Basic (₹)	0.02*	0.01*	0.03*	0.07	3.75*	12.67*	(5.81)*	13.78
	(2) Diluted (₹)	0.02*	0.01*	0.03*	0.07	3.75*	12.67*	(5.81)*	13.78

Note:

- The figures for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 are the balancing figures between the audited figures for the financial year ended March 31, 2024 and the published unaudited figures for the nine months ended December 31, 2023.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter on 30th June, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2024 are available on the websites of stock exchanges (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.jindalinfra.com).

On behalf of Board of Director of JITF Infra Logistics Limited

Sd/-
Amarendra Kumar Sinha
Whole Time Director
DIN: 08190565

Place : Raipur
Date : August 14, 2024

Saluting 78th Year of Independent India's Growth and Glory



Greetings on India's 78th Independence Day!

As India celebrates its 78th year of Independence, NMDC stands proudly at the forefront of the nation's industrial growth. As the largest iron ore producer in the country, NMDC is committed to realizing the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' through responsible mining practices and building a strong, self-reliant India by actively engaging in meaningful CSR initiatives.



REGD. OFFICE: KHANIJ BHAVAN, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD - 500028, INDIA. CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

[f](#) [i](#) [x](#) [v](#) /nmdclimited nmdc.co.in

Saluting 78th Year of Independent India's Growth and Glory



Greetings on India's 78th Independence Day!

As India celebrates its 78th year of Independence, NMDC stands proudly at the forefront of the nation's industrial growth. As the largest iron ore producer in the country, NMDC is committed to realizing the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' through responsible mining practices and building a strong, self-reliant India by actively engaging in meaningful CSR initiatives.



REGD. OFFICE: KHANIJ BHAVAN, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD - 500028, INDIA. CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

[f](#) [i](#) [x](#) [v](#) /nmdclimited nmdc.co.in



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

Greetings to all fellow citizens on 78th Independence Day

Jai Hind

Best wishes to all fellow citizens on Independence Day. At this historic moment, let's strengthen the resolve of building Viksit Bharat during the Amrit Kaal.

- Narendra Modi

Hoist Tiranga at your home and adorn it with colours of national unity, pride and progress

To upload selfie with Tiranga visit harghartiranga.com or scan the QR code



cbc 22201/13/0006/2425

Big stars Kohli, Rohit exempted as Gill, Pant, Rahul, Jadeja set to play Duleep Trophy

PTI NEW DELHI
Senior stars including skipper Rohit Sharma, premier batter Virat Kohli, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and leading spinner R Ashwin received exemptions as the national selectors struck a fine balance between domestic performers and potential talent while picking up four squads for the Duleep Trophy starting September 5 in Bengaluru. The tournament will feature international stars such as Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, leading all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav and pacer Mohammed Siraj. T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav, who had played one Test against Australia in 2023 has also been picked. Apart from Surya, the others have confirmed slot in the team. Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, who was part of India's T20 World Cup winning team, will also be featuring in the tournament, making it his first red-ball assignment after coming back from that horrific car accident in 2022. Also back in business will be another left-handed keeper Ishan Kishan, who was removed from BCCI's central contracts list after he skipped the Ranji Trophy tournament last season giving priority to cash-rich IPL. Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel, both of whom played vital role in India's home series win against England are also in the mix. Keepers Aryan Juyal and Abhishek Porel are also part of the various squads.



India players were supposed to play only one match and hence Kohli, Rohit, Bumrah and Ashwin were given exemptions. They had the choice to opt out as first reported by PTI on July 16. Suryakumar is part of Team C, led by Rituraj Gaikwad, which also has two exciting young pacers — Anshul Khamboj and Himanshu Chauhan, who would be under the scanner of the selectors following their exploits last season. Mohammed Siraj and Jadeja will turn up for Team B which also comprises Pant, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Washington Sundar, while Shubman Gill will captain Team A, which consists of Kuldeep, KL Rahul, Shivam Dube and Riyan Parag among others. Apart from Parag, Goalpara-born Akash Sengupta is the other cricketer from Assam to feature in the tournament. He is part of Team D, which will be led by Shreyas Iyer with Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh as other teammates. Pace sensation Mayank Yadav, who is recovering from lower abdominal injury, is yet to regain fitness and will miss the event. Nitish Kumar Reddy's participation is also subject to fitness. India are slated to play two Test matches against Bangladesh - from September 19 at Chennai and from September 27 at Kanpur. "The athletes who will be selected to represent India for the home Test series against Bangladesh will be replaced in the Duleep Trophy," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a release.

The Duleep Trophy was earlier scheduled to kick-off with two sets of first round matches at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh from September 5, but now one of those games has been shifted to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here to reduce the logistical inconveniences. **The four squads for the first round of the tournament:**
TEAM A: Shubman Gill (C), Mayank Agarwal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, KL Rahul, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep, Prasad Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Vidvath Kaverappa, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat.
TEAM B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy*, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohd Siraj, Yash Dayal, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK).
TEAM C: Rituraj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abhishek Porel (WK), Suryakumar Yadav, B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Umran Malik, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Marmake, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier.
TEAM D: Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ishan Kishan (WK), Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Tushar Deshpande, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar.

Morne Morkel appointed India's new bowling coach, to take charge from Bangladesh series

PTI NEW DELHI
Former South Africa pace great Morne Morkel has been roped in as the Indian cricket team's new bowling coach, BCCI secretary Jay Shah told PTI on Wednesday, completing the appointment of new head coach Gautam Gambhir's preferred support staff. It is understood that the 39-year-old, who replaces Paras Mhambrey, will take over as the bowling coach from the Bangladesh series that starts with the opening Test in Chennai from September 19. He has been appointed till the end of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa. "Yes, Morne Morkel has been appointed bowling coach of the senior India men's team," Shah told PTI. The other members of Gambhir's support staff are assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, and fielding coach Ryan Ten Doeschate. Morkel was also Gambhir's preferred choice, having worked with him at Lucknow Super Giants during the Indian's two IPL seasons as mentor of the franchise. Morkel has played 86 Tests, 117 ODIs and 44 T20Is for South Africa with a total of 544 international wickets. He will be reporting in Bengaluru's National Cricket Academy at the start of next month and is expected to watch the Duleep Trophy games. Once there, he will also touch base with VVS Laxman and head of bowling in NCA,



Troy Cooley. According to sources, Morkel was directly appointed on Gambhir's recommendation ahead of other options like Lakshmi Prasad Balaji and R Vinay Kumar. "The Cricket Advisory Committee's (CAC) mandate was to interview the candidates for the head coach. When it came to choice of support staff, it was imperative that Gambhir's choice prevailed. He has worked with Morne and thinks of him highly as a bowling coach," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. "Also with the big series against Australia coming up Down Under from last week of November, there isn't a better choice than the South African, who has himself enjoyed fair bit of success over there. Also there will be the five-Test tour of England next year with a potential sixth match if India reach WTC final."

It is understood that Balaji and Vinay's names weren't considered once it was clear that Morkel would carry forward the good work done by Mhambrey. One half of the famous fast bowling duo that featured Dale Steyn, Morkel is a cricketing heavyweight and has also played quite a lot in India to have a fair idea about the conditions. Also, his stint in the IPL has allowed him to have a ringside view of India's next crop of fast bowlers including the most exciting of them all — Mayank Yadav, Avesh Khan and Yash Thakur to name a few. A lot of observers believe that Morkel worked quite a lot with Mayank during the past two seasons of IPL even though he remained injured for the better part. Morkel's biggest challenge will be to handle the transition phase as Mohammed Shami enters the business end of his illustrious career and Jasprit Bumrah needs more potent support apart from Mohammed Siraj, especially in red-ball cricket. Morkel had last year worked with the Pakistan team till the end of the ODI World Cup and quit before his contract expired. India have never had any spin bowling coach as such although former director Ravi Shastri was a distinguished left-arm spinner in his playing days. Sairaj Bahutule, who is a part of Laxman's team at the NCA, has travelled on and off with the senior team.



Rohit Sharma takes second spot in ODI rankings behind Babar Azam

PTI DUBAI
India skipper Rohit Sharma jumped one spot in the latest ICC ODI rankings for batters on Wednesday, moving to second place, following his superb performance in the recently concluded ODI series in Sri Lanka. India lost the three-match series 0-2 but Rohit scored 157 runs, including two half-centuries, at an average of 52.33. The opening match of the series ended in a tie. Shubman Gill slipped one spot to third, while Virat Kohli remained static at No.4 in the rankings. Pakistan's Babar Azam is currently leading the charts with 824 rating points, while Rohit has 765 points. The other Indian in the top-20 is Shreyas Iyer at 16th, while KL Rahul is placed 21st after dropping one spot. Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav remained the top-ranked Indian at fourth spot in the bowling rankings, trailing top-ranked South African spinner Keshav Maharaj, Australia's Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa, who occupy the top-three spots. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained stationary at eighth, while Mohammed Siraj slipped five spots to occupy the joint ninth position with New Zealand's Trent Boult. Senior seamer Mohammed Shami is ranked 12th. The 33-year-old is currently rehabilitating at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru following an ankle surgery and is expected to be back for the two-match Test series against Bangladesh in Chennai and Kanpur next month. Washington Sundar, India's highest wicket-taker during the Sri Lanka ODIs (5 wickets, 3 matches), has risen 10 places to 87th spot. Ravindra Jadeja remains the highest-placed Indian in the all-rounders' section at 16th spot, while Hardik Pandya has dropped four places to 26th. Team India sits at the summit of the ODI rankings with 118 rating points, while Australia are second at 116, followed by South Africa (112).

AP WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND)

The omission of New Zealand from the world map which was a centerpiece of the Paris Olympics closing ceremony might have seemed a particular snub to the nation of 5 million which finished 11th on the medal table with 10 golds and 20 medals overall. It was explained the map represented the five inhabited continents and that Australia stood in for Oceania. That in itself might have irritated New Zealanders for whom Australia is the most bitter of sporting rivals. The Parisian omission had a particular sting because New Zealand had just produced its best-ever Olympic performance. Measured on gold medals alone, New Zealand finished ahead of Canada and Spain, nations many times its size. On a per-capita basis, New Zealand won one gold medal for every 533,890 people or one medal of any color for every 258,000 people. That placed it third on the per-capita medal table behind Dominica and St. Lucia which both won one gold medal. Dominica has a population of about 67,000 and St. Lucia around 184,000.

Punching well above their weight, New Zealand Olympians celebrate outstanding medal count in Paris

Of the 20 medals New Zealand won in Paris, 14 - including eight golds - were won by women or women's teams. In a letter to New Zealanders from Buckingham Palace, British monarch King Charles commended the Kiwi performances. "From the rugby field to the velodrome, the team ably and successfully demonstrated the grit and spirit of true Olympians - and true Kiwis," the king said. "It has been enormously impressive to see just how extraordinarily successful your athletes have been in securing New Zealand's highest gold medal count at a single Olympics to date and I hope that all of New Zealand shared in my joy at witnessing the wonderful sporting culture of this great nation on the world's stage." New Zealanders had to wait several days for the first medal, a gold won by the women's sevens rugby team. Hayden Wilde was among the favorites to win the men's triathlon, led until the final meters when he was overtaken by Alex Yee of Britain. The New Zealander took silver. Brook Francis and Lucy Spoor won gold in the women's double sculls rowing event and Finn Butcher won the men's kayak cross. "I'm just super, super proud of all our work and to be able to bring this medal back to New Zealand," Butcher said on his return to New Zealand on Wednesday. "We're just really, really proud to be part of the New Zealand team and to be part of that success." The second week brought a flurry of gold medals. Lisa Carrington won three golds in women's sprint kayaking, bringing her tally to eight golds over three Olympics. Alicia Hoskin won two kayaking golds and Ellesse Andrews won two golds in women's sprint track cycling. Hamish Kerr won gold in the men's high jump after his American opponent, Shelby



McEwan, passed up an offer to share the gold and chose to have a jump-off for the gold medal. Lydia Ko won the women's golf gold medal and now has a full set of medals after winning silver in Rio de Janeiro and bronze in Tokyo. Her win also qualified her for the LPGA Hall of Fame - at the age of 27. New Zealand beat its previous best tally of eight gold medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics at which it finished eighth on the medal table in the Soviet-boycotted Games. It won seven golds and 20 medals at Tokyo in 2021 and 18 medals at Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Many New Zealanders were bleary-eyed through the Games. New Zealand is 10 hours ahead

of Paris which meant many events were held late at night or in the early hours of the morning New Zealand time. When the Olympics ended The Times newspaper of London posed the question "Who Won The Olympics?" It named New Zealand as the over-achiever of the Games. "Athletes from New Zealand logged an impressive haul of 20 medals at Paris 2024, despite having a population of just over 5 million. Their rate of one medal per 258,000 people is the best among nations to win at least four this summer," the Times said. The New Zealand government ruled out an official national celebration of the Olympic success as the athletes were not returning home in big groups. But large crowds greeted returning athletes at Auckland airport. "I've been extremely proud of the way our athletes have conducted themselves both on and off the field of play," New Zealand chef de mission Nigel Avery said. "There has been a huge amount of manaaki (the Maori word for hospitality) from our team towards the other nations and it's been great to see them showcasing our values and culture."

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED
(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur, 302020

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned as below. The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
RAMGOPAL CHATURVEDI, MEENU CHATURVEDI (A/C NO.) LNRAI01217-180065087	6 JUN 24 Rs. 327390/- 4 JUN 24	PART OF KHASRA NO.20,SITUATED AT BHATAGOAN,P.H.NO.105/47,RNM-RAIPUR-1,WARD NO.63,DR.SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHARI WARD,TEHSIL & DIST:RAIPUR,C.G. ADMEASURING 600 SQ.FT.	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 12 AUG 24

Place : Jaipur Date: 15-08-2024 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री



मुख्यमंत्री विष्णु देव साय से
जुड़ने के लिए QR CODE स्कैन करें।

हर घर तिरंगा



15 अगस्त 2024

स्वतंत्रता दिवस

हमारी शान तिरंगा
हमारी जान तिरंगा

आइये मनाएँ अपनी
आजादी का उत्सव

विश्व के सबसे बड़े लोकतंत्र भारत में
छत्तीसगढ़ महतारी के आँगन में
शान से लहराता रहे हमारा तिरंगा
गाँव में हो या शहर में
तिरंगा लहराए हर घर में

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ...

- विष्णु देव साय
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़



विष्णु के सुशासन से सँवर रहा छत्तीसगढ़