

PM Modi gives Zelenskyy a comforting hug



Prime Minister Narendra Modi On Friday told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to find ways to end the ongoing war and that India was on the side of peace since the beginning of the conflict.

In his talks with Zelenskyy in Kyiv that took place under the shadow of the raging war, Modi said India is ever ready to play an "active role" in every effort to restore peace in Ukraine and he would even like to contribute personally in ending the conflict. The Prime Minister's wideranging talks with Zelenskyy primarily focused on ways to end the war and boost bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, healthcare, defence, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and education

"We (India) are not neutral. From the very beginning, we have taken sides. And we have chosen the side of peace. We have come from the land of Buddha where there is no place for war," Modi said in his opening remarks during the talks. 'We have come from the land of Mahatma Gandhi who had given a message of peace to the entire world," he said.

The Prime Minister also asserted strong commitment India's respecting towards the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

"I want to assure you and the entire global community that India is committed to respecting sovereignty



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

integrity (of states) and it is of utmost importance to us," he said. Modi also apprised Zelenskyy of his conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand in September 2022 as well as in Moscow last month. 'Some time back, when I met

President Putin in Samarkand, I had told him that this was not the era of war. Last month when I went to Russia, I said in clear words that a solution to any problem is never found on the battlefield," Modi said.

"The solution comes through talks, dialogue and diplomacy and territorial and we should move ahead in that

direction without wasting time. Both sides should sit together and find ways to come out of this crisis," Modi said. The Prime Minister conveyed to Zelenskyy that he had come to Kyiv with a message of peace, including from the Global South.

Modi arrived in Kyiv this morning on a special train on the first-ever visit to Ukraine by an Indian Prime Minister after it became independent in 1991. The Prime Minister's visit to Kyiv is seen in many quarters as a

diplomatic balancing act as his trip to Russia triggered anguish among the Western countries.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Modi reiterated the need for "practical engagement" between all stakeholders to develop an innovative solution that will help build broad acceptability and contribute towards peace and stability. The Prime Minister conveyed to Zelenskyy India's willingness to contribute in "all possible ways" to facilitate an early return of peace to Ukraine, he said. It was a "very detailed, open and in many ways constructive discussion", Jaishankar said at a media briefing. Continued on Page 2

SEBI bans Anil Ambani from securities market for five years

PTI n NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi barred industrialist Anil Ambani and 24 others from the securities market for five years on charges of diversion of funds from Reliance Home Finance Ltd.

Additionally, Sebi has imposed a penalty of 25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from serving as a director or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) in any listed company or Sebi-registered entity for five years.

Besides, a fine ranging 21 crore to 25 crore have been levied on 24 entities. Also, the regulator barred Reliance Home Finance from the securities market for six months and slapped a fine of `6 lakh on it.

An email sent to Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group company remained unanswered.

After receiving multiple alleging complaints diversion/siphoning of funds of Reliance Home Finance Ltd, Sebi conducted an investigation for the period of FY 2018-19 to ascertain any

regulatory violations. In its probe, Sebi found that Anil Âmbani, with the help of RHFL's KMPs - Amit Bapna, Ravindra Sudhalkar and Pinkesh R Shah — have orchestrated a fraudulent

stop such lending practices and review corporate loans regularly, the company's management ignored these orders. This suggests a significant failure of governance, driven by certain KMPs under the influence of Ambani. Given these circumstances, the company RHFL itself should not be held equally

funds from RHFL by

disguising them as loans to

Although the board of directors of RHFL had

issued strong directives to

entities linked to him.

scheme

responsible as the individuals involved in the fraud.

Further, the remaining entities have played the role of being either recipients of illegally obtained loans or conduits to enable illegal diversion of money from RHFL, the regulator noted. Continued on Page 2





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

RAJESH KUMAR n NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday imposed a penalty of § 98 lakh on Tata-owned Air India Limited for operating flights with nonqualified crew members from Mumbai to Riyadh. Additionally, the aviation watchdog also penalised the Director Operations

and Director Training of Air India, slapping fines of six lakh

and `three lakh respectively. This

incident was highlighted after the

airline submitted a voluntary

DGCA said as per regulations, a

report on July 10.

this case, trainee co-pilot was found flying with a non trainer captain. DGCA has called it a serious scheduling mistake having

serious safety ramifications. According to sources, on landing in Riyadh, the young trainee would have asked the training pilot to sign his SLF (supervised line flying) form. However, the training captain fell ill and rostering replaced him with a

normal line (not training) captain.

Enroute, the two pilots realised this mix-up (which wasn't their

department. The other pilot could

not have sign that form as he was

fault) by

the scheduling



concerned pilot has been warned and asked to exercise caution to prevent such occurrences in future. "M/s Air India Limited operated a flight commanded by a non-trainer line captain paired with a non-line-released first officer which has been viewed by the regulator as a serious scheduling mistake having significant safety ramifications," it **CBI tells SC**, **Kejriwal likely** to tamper with evidence

RAJESH KUMAR n NEW DELHI

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

PTI n KATHMANDU

least 18 Indian Apilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra for a 10-day tour were killed after a tourist bus veered off the highway and fell 150 metres into the fast-flowing Marsyangdi River in Nepal Central approximately **1**20 kilometres from the capital on Friday, according to media reports.

The bus from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh was heading towards Nepal's Capital Kathmandu from the resort town of Pokhara when it drove off the highway in Aaina Pahara in the ' Tanahun district. There were 43 people, including the driver and the co-driver, on the bus with an Indian registration number.

The passengers onboard the bus were part of a group of 104 Indian pilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra in three buses two days ago for a 10-day tour of the Himalayan nation, MyRepublica news portal reported.

They came from Bhusal village in Jalgaon district. After visiting Pokhara for two days, all three buses left for the capital Kathmandu on Friday morning. Madhav Prasad Paudel,

chief of the Armed Police Force (APF), Kurintar, said most of the passengers travelling in the three buses were families and relatives. A list of names of the 43 passengers who were in the ill-fated bus has been released.

'An Indian tourist bus travelling from Pokhara to

Kathmandu with around 43 Indians fell 150 metres into Marshyandi River today," the Embassy of India said in a post on X.

The mission is coordinating local authorities with undertaking relief and rescue. According to Deputy Superintendent of the APF of Police Shailendra Thapa, 14 bodies were retrieved from the crash site and 16 injured were rushed to a local

hospital. The bus that fell on the river bank has been badly damaged. An MI 17 helicopter of the

Nepal Army has left for the accident site at Anbu Khaireni in Tanahun district with a medical team for the rescue operation, MyRepublica reported.

Gandaki Province The Police Office, Pokhara, said 15 of those rescued can speak. Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Government has sent a Sub Divisional Magistrate to the incident site. An ADM has also been appointed to coordinate the relief work.

Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner GS Naveen Kumar in a press statement said, "As per media reports and further confirmed from the MEA Nepal Division, today at about 11:30 am, a bus with registration number — UP 53 FD 7623 carrying approx 43 passengers from passengers Maharashtra, including the driver and one assistant, fell around 150 metres into Marshyandi in river Ambukhereni region in the Tanahu District of Nepal." Continued on Page 2

trainee co-pilot is supposed to fly not a training captain. The trainee with a trainer captain. However in could not have known this. And Routine Indian Army drone

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n JAMMU

tactical drone belonging to Athe Indian Army accidentally crossed the Line of Control (LoC) from the Rajouri sector into Pakistan on Friday morning. The Pakistan Army has reportedly recovered the drone following its unintended landing. The incident occurred at

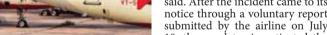
approximately 9:30 am while the drone was engaged in a routine surveillance mission.

In response to the situation, the Indian Army is expected to initiate discussions with the Pakistan Army at the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) level.

was on a routine surveillance



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



the other pilot could not have known the trainee was to do supervised flying under a training captain.

In a statement, DGCA said the

notice through a voluntary report submitted by the airline on July 10, the regulator investigated the operations of the carrier, examination including documentations and spot check of the scheduling facility.

Continued on Page 2

A teenager drowns in Delhi's crosses into Pakistan territory waterlogged Chanakyapuri

SAUMYA SHUKLA n NEW DELHI

As heavy rain lashed several parts of the national Capital on Friday morning, the city was left inundated, causing significant traffic disruptions. Tragically, a teenager drowned on waterlogged road near The British School in the upscale Chanakyapuri area of Central Delhi.

In addition, two people have died due to electrocution in the city in the past two days. A 40-year-old woman died after being electrocuted on a waterlogged street, and a 40-year-old man lost his life when rainwater entered his house and he got electrocuted after the water came into contact with the electrical circuit



In the past one and a half months of the monsoon season, Delhi has witnessed nearly 30 rain-related deaths.

According to the police, the 15year-old deceased Sourabh lived with his family at the Vivekanand Camp in the same area.

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The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday informed the Supreme Court that Arvind Kejriwal is likely to tamper with evidence and hamper its ongoing probe in the excise policy scam case, if he is released on interim bail. In a counter-affidavit filed before the Supreme Court opposing Kejriwal's pleas challenging arrest and seeking bail in the excise policy scam case, the CBI has stated that all critical decisions in the formulation of the excise policy were taken at Kejriwal's behest and there is substantial evidence pointing to his involvement.

The petitioner does not hold any Ministerial portfolio, including that of Excise. However, it emerged over a period of time that all the critical decisions in the formulation of the new Excise Policy were taken at the behest of the Petitioner, in connivance with the then Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Excise Manish Sisodia", the CBI said in its affidavit.

Justifying arrest of Kejriwal, the CBI claimed that it was necessitated after his examination on June 25, 2024 when he remained "evasive and non-cooperative, gave evasive replies regarding his role and that of other co-accused in respect of criminal conspiracy hatched."

'His replies were contrary to the oral and documentary evidence gathered by CBI during the investigation and he failed to disclose the facts truthfully, despite being confronted with incriminating evidence, the CBI said.

Continued on Page 2

Amit Shah launches counter offensive on Congress in Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI n JAMMU

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

Before launching the party's election campaign on ground zero, the top brass of the BJP is also in the process of finalising the names of the party candidates for the 90 Assembly seats in Jammu Kashmir. As per the reports, the NC-Congress alliance has almost finalised its seatsharing formula.

Inside reports suggested the National Conference is laying its claim on at least 60 Assembly seats (41 from Kashmir and 19 from Jammu province) and offering 30 seats to the Congress (24 from



Jammu and 6 from Kashmir arrangement. valley). The alliance partners are yet to formally announce JP Nadda Friday chaired a final the

In New Delhi, BJP president seat-sharing meeting of the core group to

review the report cards of the party aspirants ahead of the final meeting of the Central Čommittee Election on August 25.

The meeting was also attended by Shah and all the group members, core including Union Minister and Election in charge G Kishan Reddy and Ram Madhav, along with other leaders National General Secretary and BJP J&K in charge Tarun Chugh, co-incharge Ashish Sood, MP Jammu Jugal Kishore, State General Secretary (org) Ashok Kaul, State President Ravinder

Raina, Union Minister and MP from Jammu, Dr Jitendra Singh.

Meanwhile, referring to the manifesto of the National Conference the Union Home Minister asked, "Does the Congress support the Conference's National promise of a separate flag for Ĵammu and Ŕashmir? Do Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party support the JKNC's decision to restore Article 370 and 35A, thereby pushing Jammu and Kashmir back into an era of unrest and terrorism?"

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Bombay HC restrains MVA from going ahead with Maharashtra bandh

T N RAGHUNATHA n MUMBAI

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

Maharashtra Government to strictly enforce the verdict given in the case of BG Deshmukh and others vs State of Maharashtra and others in which the court had declared that "a bandh or hartal by a political party, organisation or association would amount to the an unconstitutional act". Following the HC order, the Opposition MVA called off its proposed Maharashtra bandh and said that it would hold silent sit-in protests with

black flags and black bands on their faces, all over the state on Saturday The MVA leaders -- state State Congress President Nana Patole, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) President Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray announced the withdrawal of the bandh call on Friday

evening. On his part, Uddhav said that though the court order was not acceptable to them, they would respect the court verdict and refrain from enforcing the bandh on Saturday.

"The Badlapur incident was very disgusting. Following the incident strong public sentiments emerged in this regard from all levels of the society. The bandh was an attempt to draw the government's attention to this matter. It is within the purview of the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution of India," Sharad Pawar said, adding that the MVA would withdraw the bandh respecting the court and the Constitution. 'Respecting the decision of the

Bombay HC, tomorrow from 11 am-12 pm, all leaders and workers of the Congress party will protest against the antiwomen grand alliance government by tying black bands on their faces and holding black flags in all the districts of the State. I myself will participate in this protest tomorrow at 11 am in Thane," Patole said.

"I shall be sitting near Shiv Sena Bhavan from 11 am tomorrow along with others... The court has ordered no shutdown, we shall even shut our mouths with black masks," said



Thackerav Thackeray also expressed his displeasure at the activists who had challenged the MVA action, saying "that the cause has been ignored... and who will take responsibility for the atrocities on our mothers, sis-

ters and daughters". Earlier in the high court, the petitioners argued that the State-wide bandh would cripple the entire State machinery and cause great inconvenience to the common people. It was

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

Among other things, the peti-tioners also argued that the State-wide bandh would crip-

Court has seen merit in my

Ghosh ever since his joining

the office three years ago had "indulged in all kinds of corrupt

practices from including smug-

gling of unclaimed corpses.

bio-medical wastes, extracting

money from students by failing

them first and then passing

them, forming an unholy nexus

with a trading company outside

the hospital owned by some

politically influential person.

The petitioner had earlier

demanded an investigation

either by the Enforcement

Directorate or the CBI. Ali's

lawyer Tarun Jyoti Tewari said

that "it is an order for the CBI

investigation but it will not

prejudice my stand as ED is

bound to come as a scheduled

entry much like in other cases

Corruption: HC orders

ple the entire state machinery and cause great inconvenience to the common people. They told the court that the past bandhs in the State led to destruction of public property and caused economic losses. The lawyer appearing for the petitioners questioned the very need for organising a bandh across the State, saying that while the Badlapur sexual abuse case was indeed serious, the State Government had already constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the crime that the High Court had on Thursday heard the case after taking suo motu cognisance of the incident.

The lawyer said the proposed bandh would result in the disruption of train services for ten hours and there had been instances of stone-pelting in the past.

Învoking Article 51A of the Constitution, the lawyer said that it was the fundamental duty of citizens to safeguard public property and abstain from violence.

Alluding to the case of Bharat Kumar K. Palicha And Anr. vs State Of Kerala And Ors (1997), in which the full bench of Kerala High Court had held that calling of a bandh by political parties was ++unconstitutional and illegal. The Kerala HC had also held that the political parties were liable to pay compensation to the government and private citizens for the losses suffered. It may be recalled that the bandh called by the MVA should be seen in the context of a statement made by Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav

Thackeray was not political

but against "perversion" of the

crime. He had urged the peo-

ple cutting across caste and reli-

Uddhav had said that the

bandh was being observed on

behalf of the people of the state.

Coming down heavily on the

BJP-led MahaYuti government

for the arrests made by the

police in connection with the

protests over the heinous abuse

of two 4 year-old girls at a school, Uddhav said: "Arrests

Pune Porsche

Mudholkar expressed serious

displeasure over the tampering

of the evidence by the accused

in the case, including the par-

ents of the minor boy involved

The Judge observed that even

before the blood of two killed

victims on the motorcycle

could dry, "the tampering with

the evidence commenced and

even concluded to a large

extent, with the help of mone-

tary influence or otherwise at

The six accused whose bail

The statement added, "The UP government has sent SDM Maharajganj to the incident site. The

Nepal's rivers are generally fast-flowing due to the mountainous terrain. Heavy monsoon

downpours in the past few days have swollen the waterways and turned them murky brown,

Monsoon season brings heavy rains to Nepal from June to September, often triggering

Last month, two buses carrying 65 passengers were washed away by a landslide into the swollen

MEA is coordinating the search and rescue operations with local authorities."

odd hours of midnight".

in the mishap.

T N RAGHUNATHA n

MUMBAI

hit-and-run case: Court

denies bail to six accused

gion to participate in it.

are still taking place in Badlapur. The cases against the protesters must be withdrawn or else we have to hit the streets"

It may be recalled that two 4year-old nursery girls were sexually abused by a sweeper when they in the washroom of the kindergarten school run by Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha (AVPS) on August 13 for using the toilet there.

The sexual assault on the two four-year-old girl students took place in the washroom of the kindergarten school run by Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha (AVPS) on August 13 when the two girls had gone to use the toilet there.

Later on, the parent took up the matter with the school management which lodged a complaint with the police on August 16. However, the police registered a First Information Report (FIR) only 11 hours after their complaint. The accused sweeper Akshay Shinde (23) was arrested on August 17. He will remain in police custody till August 24.

Gopi embarrasses BJP with his statements

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN n KOCHI

 $S^{\rm uresh\,Gopi,\,the\,film\,actor-}_{\rm turned-MP-turned-union}$ Minister of state- in the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre has become a major embarrassment to the BJP leadership. According to top leaders in Kerala BJP, Suresh Gopi has lost his mental balance as the union Minister does not know what to tell or what not to tell. "We do not have any issues with George Kurian, the other Minister from Kerala because he behaves in a dignified manner and uses words with caution and care," said a BJP leader from Kerala who is respected by the party's high command.

While attending a function held under the auspices of Kerala Film Chamber at Kochi the other day, Minister Suresh Gopi said he was not Sabha member of BJP to get in the 2024 election.



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



oil and natural gas, two cov-eted ministries with vast potential. "But post-swearing in, his performance as a Minister was anything but satisfactory. Suresh Gopi is a major disappointment as a Minister," said Sudheer Damodaran, a political analyst based in Thrissur who had campaigned for the actor

CBI probe against Ghosh

SAUGAR SENGUPTA n KOLKATA elected from Kerala. He con-

> n what could make proceedlings more difficult for former RG Kar Medical College Principal Sandip Ghosh a single-judge Bench of Calcutta High Court on Friday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate the charges of corruption against him.

While delivering the verdict Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj directed the CBI to take possession of all the relevant documents by 10 am on Saturday. With the judgment the previ-ous order of the State Home Department constituting a Special Investigation Team of senior IPS officers to investigate the charges against him becomes infructuous, lawyers said. The said SIT would not be required to handover all the documents in its possession to the CBI.

Though Ghosh had moved a

of similar merit." Ali, who was the hospital's Ghosh was presently being deputy superintendent till grilled almost on a daily basis 2023, said that "postgraduate students were threatened by the earlier order in the rape and then Principal ... they had to pay Rs 8 lakh for clearing their exams ... the MBBS students

A petition was earlier filed had to pay RS 4 lakh for clearbefore the Bench of Justice ing their exams ... money was Bharadwaj by a former Deputy also charged for giving 75 per-Superintendant of the Hospital cent marks so that some less Akhtar Ali who had brought a meritorious students could get plethora of corruption charges against Ghosh. "I am happy honours.

that the honourable High Court okays case by allowing my petition and ordering a CBI investiga-tion," Ali said alleging how polygraph test on ex-RG Kar principal, 5 others SAUGAR SENGUPTA n KOLKATA

A lower court in Kolkata on Friday allowed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI's) application for conducting a polygraph test --- usually called lie-detection test --- on the for-mer principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh, and five others including four medical colleagues of the victim lady doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered in the small hours of August 9 and a civic volunteer who has been a friend of Sanjoy Das the prime accused in the case.

applications were rejected were The order comes a day after the Pune-based builder Vishal S. Supreme Court directed the Agarwal, his wife Shivani V. Sealdah Court to take a deci-Agarwal, medicos Shrihari B. sion on the CBI's application Halnor and Ajay A. Taware, within a day. The grant of perplus Ashpak B. Makandar and mission to conduct the polygraph test notwithstanding the day of such date has not been fixed as yet.

for "conspiring" to swap blood samples, and protect their son from the legal consequences of

 $A^{\operatorname{Pune}\ \operatorname{court}\ \operatorname{has}\ \operatorname{rejected}\ }$ his action. It may be recalled that in the six accused in the much-dissmall hours of May 19, the 17year-old boy – after partying with his friends at a Pune bar cussed Pune Porsche hit-andrun case over the alleged tam--- who had driven off in his pering of evidence on the ground that "it could send a Porsche car in his inebriated wrong message to society". In a detailed order rejecting the state at a speed of some 200 kmph and rammed into a motorcycle killing killing Ashwini Koshta and Aneesh bail made available to the media a day after the hearing Awadhiya (both aged 24 years) of the case, Pune's Additional Sessions Judge U. M.

who were returning home after a reunion with friends. Earlier the police had arrested the Dr. Ajay Taware, Head of the Forensics Department, Dr.

Shrihari Halnor Halnor, the chief medical officer of the hospital, and a peon for allegedly manipulating the blood sample of the accused.

Dr Taware and Dr Halnor, who have been suspended from their service by the Maharashtra government, have been charged with the alleged 'manipulation" of blood samples and destruction of evi-

dence in the case. The police have recovered Rs 3 lakh during the raid conducted on the homes of Dr. Halnor and another hospital poen Atul Ghatkamble. The money had allegedly been accused boy for manipulating

A teenager drowns in... From Page 1

The teenager and some of his friends were playing in the rain on the waterlogged road near the British School when he accidently ventured into deep water and drowned. The victim's friends informed his family

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

Division Bench challenging the order there was no report body of the victim has been sent for of his appeal being immediately admitted as the higher Bench of Justice Harish Tandon had asked for the order copy to be placed before it first.

members, who immediately reached the spot, the hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival, the officials said. The police said the brought dead. by the CBI in the wake of an murder case of a postgraduate lady doctor of the RGKMCH.

Amar S. Gaikwad.. The Judge came down heavily paid by the family of the on all the accused, including the parents of the minor boy, the blood sample.

INBRIEF

OPERATIONS BETWEEN BHAIRABI, HORTOKI AUTHORISED

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

STALIN LAYS FOUNDATION FOR SEMBCORP'S PLANT

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

BERI GETS EXTENSION AS DIRECTOR, FINANCE, PSPCL

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

LECTURE ON LITERATURE OF THE MARGINS AT GNDU

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

MANY GNDU STUDENTS QUALIFY PPSC TEST

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

Zelenskyy a...

From Page 1

The talks revolved around to some extent on the military situation, on concerns like food and energy security, and on "conceivable pathways to peace". The Ukrainian side wanted continued involvement of India with the Global Peace summit, he said. "It is India's view that the two sides (Ukraine and Russia) need to engage with each other to find a solution," he said.

The external affairs minister said the two leaders reiterated their readiness to continue cooperation to uphold principles of international law such as respect for territorial integrity and protect the sovereignty of states.

Jaishankar said the prime sought minister the president's assessment both of the ground situation as well as the diplomatic scenario and Zelenskyy

spoke on both issues. The external affairs minister described Modi's visit to Kyiv as a "landmark" trip. Jaishankar said a significant part of discussions between PM Modi and President Zelenskyy was devoted to the

bilateral relations. There were discussions on trade, economic issues, defence, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, education, he

said. Modi and Zelenskyy also tasked the India-Úkraine inter-governmental commission to specifically focus on rebuilding trade and economic relations.

PM Modi gives UP bus in Nepal veers off... CBI tells SC, Kejriwal...

From Page 1

From Page 1 "The balance of convenience in

the present case lies in favour of the CBI. Any release of the Petitioner on bail will gravely prejudice the trial of the case, which is at initial stage and key witnesses are yet to depose. No case has been made out by the Petitioner to be released on medical bail, which ought to be granted only if the treatment is not possible in the Jail. All other averments have already been dealt with by the CBI above, and not repeated herein for brevity," it said.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan allowed the CBI to file its counter affidavit in the matter and gave two days' time to Kejriwal to file a rejoinder, and deferred the matter till September 5.Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, has told Supreme Court that Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is deliberately delaying the hearing in Arvind Kejriwal's bail petition. Singhvi pointed

out that the affidavit by CBI was filed late last night at 8 pm so that it doesn't reach judges on time for the hearing today.SV Raju for the CBI however said that he had already filed the first counter and was seeking time to file another one and that today was the first returnable date.

Trishuli River in Nepal. The bodies from the two buses were washed away down the Trishuli The CBI stated the now River as far as 100 kilometres. Extensive search operations, including the deployment of a 12defunct policy was notified on member team from India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), have not yet located the May 25, 2021 having the two missing buses and many passengers swept away by the landslide. The bodies of five Indian nationals have been recovered so far while two are still missing. provisions of enhanced profit margin of 12% for the wholesalers. "As such, the file SEBI bans Anil Ambani from securities... relating to new excise policy of Delhi was moved in very hurried manner during the peak of 2nd wave of the corona From Page 1 pandemic. It has been confirmed by Pravesh Jha, Additional Secretary to the petitioner that he was asked by

Bibhav Kumar, PA to the petitioner that Chief Minister has desired that the draft excise policy has to be got approved by Council of Ministers

through circulation urgently," it

Sebi said that findings have established the "existence of fraudulent scheme, orchestrated by Noticee No. 2 (Anil Ambani) and administered by the KMPs

of RHFL, to siphon off funds from the public listed company (RHFL) by structuring them as 'loans' to credit unworthy conduit

making it even more difficult to see the wreckage.

landslides in the mountainous Himalayan country.

borrowers, and in turn, to onward borrowers, all of whom have been found to be promoter linked entities'

Ambani has used his position as 'chairperson of the ADA group' and his significant

shareholding in the holding company of RHFL to orchestrate the fraud.

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

Amit Shah launches counter offensive on Congress...

From Page 1

The Union home minister asked whether the Congress promoting supports separatism again by engaging in dialogue with Pakistan instead of Kashmir's youth and the National Conference's decision to start LoC trade with Pakistan, thereby nurturing terrorism and its ecosystem across the border.

His other queries fired to and Gandhi Congress included whether the party supports reinstating relatives of those involved in terrorism and stone-pelting into government jobs, "thereby into bringing back terrorism, extremism and the era of strikes"

said.

The alliance has exposed the Congress party's antireservation stance, he said. "Does Congress support the JKNC's promise to end reservations for Dalits, Gujjars, Bakarwals and Pahadi communities, thereby inflicting injustice upon them? Does the Congress want 'Shankaracharya Hill' to be known as 'Takht-e-Suleiman', and 'Hari Hill' as

'Koh-e-Maran'," he sought to know. Shah asked whether the Congress supports the politics of pushing Jammu and Kashmir's economy back into corruption and handing it over to selected Pakistansupported families and whether it endorses the National Conference's politics of "discrimination" between Jammu and the Valley.

"Do the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi support the JKNC's divisive politics of granting autonomy to Kashmir?" he asked.

DGCA imposes ` 98 lakh...

From Page 1

"Based on investigation, it was prima facie revealed that there are deficiencies and multiple violations of the regulatory provisions by several post holders and which staff, could significantly affect safety," the release said.

DGCA also said the flight's commander and the post holders of the airline were provided an opportunity to explain their position through show cause notices issued on July 22.

The reply submitted by the

concerned persons failed to provide satisfactory justification.

As such, DGCA has enforcement initiated action in terms of provisions of the extant rules/ regulations and imposed the above penalty, the watchdog noted.

Air India was also fined in March earlier this year for violating regulations regarding Flight Duty Time Limits (FDTL) and the fatigue management system (FMS) of flight crew. The fine was around Rs 80 lakhs.

Entities associated/ linked with Noticee 2 (Anil Ambani)".





RAIPUR | SATURDAY | AUGUST 24, 2024

Shah to hold review meeting of MoU to incorporate modern Manist affected states today Skills in schools education Maoist affected states today

STAFF REPORTER n RAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is on a threeday visit to Chhattisgarh and will review the inter-state coordination among Maoistaffected states at a meeting in Raipur on Saturday.

Later, in another meeting the same day, he will also review security and development initiatives in Maoists-hit areas of Chhattisgarh.

The Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, besides top security officials of the Central government, are expected to attend the inter-state coordination



meeting. During his visit to the state, Shah will also visit the Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya

Ashram in Champaran review the functioning of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Raipur and attend a meeting related to the Ministry of Cooperation.

Since the BJP took power in Chhattisgarh last year, about 125 Maoists have been killed, 352 arrested and about 175 have surrendered. According to the Home

Ministry data, the number of Naxalite incidents fell from 14,862 in 2004-14 to 7,128 in 2014-23.

The number of deaths of security forces personnel due to the Maoists plunged by 72 per cent, from 1,750 in 2004-14 to 485 in 2014-23. The number of civilian deaths was down by 68 per cent, from 4,285 to 1,383, in the same period.

STAFF REPORTER n RAIPUR

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) in Chhattisgarh and the Magic Bus India Foundation have signed an MoU to incorporate 21st century life skills education into the government school curriculum.

An official communiqué said on Friday that the threeyear partnership will benefit about 40,000 children from grades 6 to 10 in 800 government schools in the

The programme includes skill training such as information literacy, decisionmaking, problem solving, effective communication, and more to make students selfempowered.



first implemented in the tribal and aspiring districts of the Bastar division. Then it will be expanded to the remaining districts. Katara said this initiative will

Master trainers will first train the teachers, who will then impart the skills to the

session-tracking system will also be implemented by a WhatsApp-based AI chatbot. On this occasion, SCERT

Director Rajendra Kumar

improve the quality of education and turn students

The Magic Bus India Foundation is a non-profit working in the field of education and skills. It has empowered over 30 lakh adolescents and 3.7 lakh youths across the country.

U-Genius Quiz finals

CHAMPIONS

Two Maoists with Rs 16 lakhs bounty surrender in Sukma



STAFF REPORTER n SUKMA

 ${
m T}$ wo Maoists carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 16 lakhs surrendered on Friday in Sukma district in Chhattisgarh. Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan identified them

as Madkam Muya (22) and Madkam Sanna (35) Muya was a member of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army

battalion no 1 of the outlawed Maoist outfit. Sanna was its platoon party committee member. Both carried a bounty of Rs 8 lakh each on their heads. They were involved in several instances of Maoist violence.

Sachin Pilot slams Cong MLA arrest DPS Bhilai reaches UBI's

Congress to stage protests across state today

STAFF REPORTER n RAIPUR

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Friday slammed the BJP government in Chhattisgarh for arresting his party MLA Devendra Yadav in connection with the June 10 arson in Balodabazar city.

The BJP was targeting political opponents both at the Centre and the state using central agencies and police, the Congress' in-charge for Chhattisgarh told reporters outside the Raipur Central Jail after meeting Yadav. "An unfortunate incident

happened in Balodabazar which was the result of the state government's failure.

Neither the Centre nor the state government is able to ensure protection to Satnamis, Dalits and Adivasis. Instead of taking action against the anti-



social elements involved in that incident, our two-time MLA Devendra Yadav was arrested as part of a political conspiracy," he said.

Pilot also claimed there

were reports of alleged involvement of those linked to the ruling party in the arson. Yadav was cooperating in the police interrogation but the state government has set

a bad example by arresting him without any evidence against him, he said.

"His arrest is clearly political vendetta. If they will do such things against their political opponents then people will not tolerate it," he said.

"I met Yadav today in jail and he is ready to fight for tribals, Satnami and backwards. We will fight against his arrest both politically and legally," he said.

On Saturday, Congress workers will stage protests across the state against Yadav's arrest, he said.

Yadav, who represents Bhilai Nagar constituency in Durg district, was held on August 17 in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district. He is in judicial remand till August 27. the final stage, and DPS Bhilai won by scoring 450 marks.

The UBI is organising round will be held in Mumbai.

U-Genius Quiz Competition held in Raipur on Friday. About 700 students from second prize.

from

this competition nationally. One team is being selected from each state, and the final

The winners will be awarded Rs 2 lakh as the first prize and Rs 1 lakh as the

85 schools participated. There were six rounds in

The team of Delhi Public

Chhattisgarh's Bhilai has

reached the finals of the

Union Bank of India's (UBI)

STAFF REPORTER n

RAIPUR

L School



Six more EV charging stations in Raipur soon

STAFF REPORTER n RAIPUR

T he Raipur Municipal Corporation is set to establish fast EV charging stations at six parking locations, it was announced on Friday.





Presently, fast four-wheeler EV charging stations are operational at four locations: the RMC headquarters parking area, the Interstate Bus Stand at Bhatagaon, the multi-level parking in front of the Collectorate and the old bus stand multi-level parking near Jaistambh Chowk in Raipur city, an official statement said

Between April and July 2024, a total of 3,499.17 units of electricity have been consumed at these stations. The revenue from these stations

is approximately Rs 10.50 per unit, providing significant earnings to the **RMC**

The consumption of electricity at the EV charging stations has increased by about 30 per cent each month, indicating a positive response from citizens.

In April 2024, the four EV charging stations consumed 378.83 units of electricity. In May, this totalled 701.24 units. In June, it went

up to 1,050.10 units and in July it reached 1,369 units.

Over the four months from April to July 2024, the total electricity consumption at these four EV charging stations was 3,499.17 units.

The Modak pest has attacked certain villages in tribal-dominated Sukma district of Bastar region in Chhattisgarh. Agriculture scientists have prescribed the farmers use of Chlorpyriphos 50 per cent EC to get rid of them.

Netam in a statement

organized

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Outreach programme to benefit PVTG from today

STAFF REPORTER n RAIPUR

Aspecial outreach programme will be launched in Chhattisgarh on Saturday to benefit the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) including Baiga, Pahari Korwa, Kamar, Abujhmadia and Birhor tribés.

Chhattisgarh Minister for Tribal Welfare Ramvichar Netam on Friday outlined the mega event and the IEC level mega event. (Information, Education, and Communication) campaign, which will be held across 18 districts from August 23 to organized in all the PM September 10. JANMAN districts.

Govt issues advisory to tackle Swine flu, seasonal diseases

STAFF REPORTER n BILASPUR

said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will With the rising cases of swine flu and participate in the seasonal diseases, the national mega event to be under Chhattisgarh Health Pradhan Mantri Janjati Department on Friday Adivasi Nyay Maha urged people to take precautions, issued Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) scheme in Jharkhand. Helpline numbers and an advisory for Bilaspur From there, he will district. address all the districts

For any help, one can with PVTG settlements contact CIMS Helpline across the country. One of the PVTGnumber 75874-85907, the District Hospital on 07752dominated districts in 480251, Apollo Hospital Chhattisgarh will be on 97555-50834 and the identified for the state-Health Department toll free number 104. In addition to the The Helpline numbers mega event, district-level will be operational 24 programs will also be hours a day and will

immediate

provide

assistance.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Prabhat Srivastava said the symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of the common cold, cough and fever.

Appealing for caution, he said to wear a mask while in the presence of sick people and maintain a distance of at least one metre.

Also, wash hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Wear a mask in crowded places, he said.

Eat nutritiously, get enough rest and reduce stress. Maintain hygiene and clean surfaces and objects regularly. Seek medical attention immediately if you notice symptoms, he said.

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India, US sign key defence pacts during Rajnath's Washington visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen defence ties, India and US have inked two major agreements - Security of Supplies Arrangement (SÓSA) and Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers, Defence Ministry said in New Delhi on Friday.

These pacts were signed coinciding with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's arrival on a four-day visit to Washington late Thursday. During his visit, Rajnath will hold a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin.

He will also meet the US Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Jake Sullivan, defence Ministry said.

In addition, he will chair a high-level round-table meeting with the US defence industry on the ongoing and future defence collaborations. The visit is expected to further deepen and broaden the India-US Comprehensive

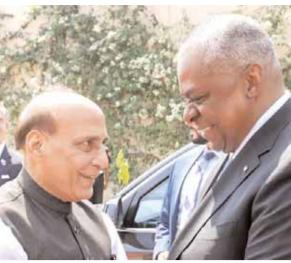
Global Strategic Partnership, officials said.

The agreements signed on Thursday pertain to the Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA) and a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Öfficers.

'Two important documents have been signed in Washington DC as Raksha Mantri Shri @rajnathsingh's visit to the United States begins. Senior Defence officials from both sides concluded the Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA), and Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers," Defence Ministry

said in a social media post. The US and India entered into a "bilateral, non-binding Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA)", the US Department of Defence (DoD) said in a press release on Thursday.

Through this SOSA, the US and India agree to provide reciprocal priority support for goods and services that promote National defence.



The Arrangement will enable both countries to acquire the industrial resources they need from one another to resolve unanticipated supply chain disruptions to meet national security needs, it said

The SOSA was signed by Dr Vic Ramdass, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Industrial Base Policy, on behalf of the US,

Govind takes

charge as

Secretary

NEW DELHI

Secretary

Secretary last week.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n

Cenior IAS officer Govind

Mohan on Friday took charge

as the Union Home Secretary following the retirement of incum-

Mohan, a 1989-batch IAS

officer of Sikkim cadre, was

serving as Union Culture

appointed as Union Home

before

being

various

bent Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

Union Home

and Samir Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary and Director Ġeneral (Acquisitions), on behalf of the Ministry of Defence

(MoD). This Security of Supply Arrangement represents a pivotal moment in the US-Îndia Major Defence Partner relationship and will be a key factor in strengthening the US-India Defence

and Trade (DTTI)," said Fechnology Initiative Ramdass.

look forward to OUSD(A&S) hosting the next deepen cooperation between our respective defence industrial bases and pursue bilateral co-development, coproduction, and co-sustainment initiatives," he said

In the Arrangement, the US and India commit to support another's priority one delivery requests for procurement of critical national defence resources. The US will provide India assurances under the US Defence Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS), with programme determinations by DoD and rating auti rating authorisation by the Department of Commerce (DÕC).

India will in turn establish a Government-industry Code of Conduct with its industrial base, where Indian firms will voluntarily agree to make every reasonable effort to provide the US priority

support, the release said. With an expanding global supply chain for DOD, SOSAs are an important mechanism for DoD to DTTI meeting this fall to strengthen interoperability with US defence trade partners.

The Arrangements institute working groups, establish communication mechanisms, streamline DoD processes, and proactively act to allay anticipated supply chain peacetime, and armed issues in emergency, conflict.

They are also a useful tool in developing investment strategies to ensure redundancy and security, it said. India is the 18th SOSA partner of the US. Other SOSA partners include Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. Meanwhile, Rajnath said India and US, together, are a formidable force which can ensure peace, prosperity and stability in the world.

He made this assertion while interacting with the Indian diaspora after landing in Washington.

other countries. He described India and US as The highlighted the fact that the natural allies, which are destined to be strong government has successfully partners, and brought 25 crore people this above poverty line. collaboration is growing continuously.

Rajnath re-asserted the fact that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's stature has grown on the of \$675 billion. global stage.

Earlier, India's words at international fora were not heeded; but today, the whole world listens carefully," he said. Rajnath pointed out that before 2014, India was among the 'Fragile Five' nations, as coined by investment firm Morgan Stanley, and today it finds itself among the 'Fabulous Five' economies of the world.

He cited the firm's recent report, which says that India will become the third largest economy by 2027.

He stressed that the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

notification of Positive Indigenisation Lists comprising over 5,000 items. He emphasised that the consistent efforts are being made to ensure that state-ofthe-art defence items are manufactured on Indian soil domestic companies. Rajnath acknowledged the fact that the defence exports, which were Rs 600 crore

nation 04

ensured that the Indian

economy was not adversly

impacted as compared to

He added that as per latest

data, retail inflation fell to a

five-year low of 3.54% and

foreign exchange reserves

have reached an all-time high

He enumerated the steps

taken by the Government to

achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in

defence, including the

minister

defence

before the current government came to power, have now risen significantly to over Rs 21,000 crore.



President Murmu lauds ISRO's debris-free space mission goal by 2030

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{P}^{ ext{resident Droupadi Murmu}}_{ ext{on Friday voiced concern}}$ over increasing space debris as a result of numerous satellites being placed in orbit and lauded ISRO for setting itself a target to make future space missions debris free by 2030.

She was speaking at the celebration of the maiden National Space Day to mark the first anniversary of the landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 project. Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted people on the first National Space Day, and said his Government has taken a series of futuristic decisions relating to this The President appreciated the ISRO System for Safe and

A B.Tech from Banaras Hindu Sustainable Operations Management facility, which University and PG Diploma ensures continuous progress from IIM, Ahmedabad, the of space research activities. senior bureaucrat has a wide "I am also happy to note that experience of serving both the India is moving forward to Sikkim and the Central make all its space missions Governments in capacities. Mohan is considered debris free by 2030," Murmu said. The President said ISRO to be one of the brilliant officers remarkable made had presently serving in the Government and known for his achievements in the space sector as well as invaluable diligence. He had earlier served contributions to the country's the Home Ministry as social and economic additional Secretary handling development. several key divisions. A She appreciated the dedicated seasoned bureaucrat, Mohan scientists who placed India's

was also the Government's key space programme among the officer during the COVID-19 best in the world by using pandemic and tasked with minimum resources. overseeing implementation of The President said the decisions taken for various progress of Indias space protocols and ensuring smooth sector was extraordinary. "Be coordination with States. it a successfully completed As Union Culture Secretary, Mars mission with limited Mohan has successfully launched two flagship programmes of the Modi resources or the successful launch of more than a Government 'Azadi Ka Amrit hundred satellites at once, we have made many impressive Mahotsav' and 'Har Ghar Tiranga movemenť. achievements," she said. At the event, Dr Jitendra The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' Singh announced that an is an initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Indian will land on the surface of Moon, fifteen years Independence of the country and the glorious history of its from now, in the year 2040 and highlighted the historic culture people, landing of Chandrayaan-3 on achievements. the Moon's South Pole, a feat Hosting of the national flag in every home, 'Tiranga Yatras', 'Tiranga' rallies and 'Tiranga' that astonished the world and established India as a leader runs are key initiatives under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga in space exploration. Later the President also presented movement'. After the launch of awards to winners of the Robotics Challenge and the the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Bharatiya Antariksh movement', job opportunities Hackathon on the occasion. were created for thousands of "In the last six decades, India women associated with selfhas not only touched the lives help groups (SHGs), which have increasingly taken over of its citizens but also reached flag production to meet the the Moon," said Dr. Jitendra massive demand, officials said. Singh.

Steps to mordernise railways discussed at ASSOCHAM meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

ndia is the country with maximum electrification for expansion of tracks, Mukul Saran Mathur, Additional Member, Commercial, Ministry of Railways, said in his inaugural address at the ASSOCHAM National Conference held on Friday in New Delhi.

Eminent experts, stakeholders and senior government officials from the Railway Ministry deliberated upon a range of issues and transformative technical solutions for 'Modernisation of Railway for Viksit Bharat'. Mathur, while focusing on the achievements of the railways, said the rail network has been increased to 68,000 km currently and more capacity must be created immediately because two crore people travel every day by train in the country.

He added that more than 5,000 special trains have recently been operated to transport migrants. He also mentioned an example for Vande Bharat trains, a major "flagship product" in India. According to Mathur, Rs



provided for railways expansion in 2023-24.

He said the railways' refund process for tickets has become efficient as it has been reduced by one-two business days. Deepak Sharma, Senior Member ASSOCHAM and CEO, River Engineering Pvt Ltd, highlighted the modernisation of railways as a key component in India's vision of 'Viksit Bharat'

(Developed India). Sharma said the initiative aims to transform the Indian Railways into a world class network that supports economic growth, enhances connectivity, and improves the quality of life for millions of people.

Sanjay Bajpai, Co-chairman, the National Council on since

Director, the Container Corporation of India Ltd talked about how AI and machine learning are useful in terminals for 100 per cent cargo visibility. We aim to have the last mile connectivity as we are working on the Gati Shakti plan, he added.

Animesh Gupta, a scientist at Goldratt Research Labs USA, discussed the gaps in railways related to technology and freight. "We need to reach 40 per cent freight by rail to meet the demands. There's a need to reduce the environmental footprint of railway operations. The railway sector needs to ensure that digital solutions are secure and protected from cyber threats," Gupta said.

Concentrating on transportation dependability, President of ACTO Manish Puri said that in order to satisfy capacity and demand, infrastructure and logistical output are the main areas of concern due to the increase in trade activity. In order to realise the goal of 'Viksit contemporary Bharat, railway transition is essential it advances the Logistics and Warehousing, country's economy, society,

India seeks return of

seized Guru Granth Sahib copies from Qatar

taken up with Qatar reports of seizure of copies of the Guru Granth Saĥib, and is according high priority to the matter.

"We have seen reports regarding the Guru Granth Sahib seized by the Qatari authorities and the demand of their release by the Sikh community," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

He said the Government has already taken up the matter with the Qatar side and the Indian embassy in Doha has kept the Sikh community in the Qatari capital abreast of the developments.

responding to media queries on the issue. "One Swaroop of the Holy Book was returned by Qatari authorities and it was assured that the other Swaroop is also kept with respect," Jaiswal "We continue to follow up the

without

rendered all



two Swaroops of Guru Granth Sahib were taken by Qatar authorities from two ndia on Friday said it has individuals/groups who were charged for running religious establishment approval of the government of Qatar," Jaiswal said. "Our Embassy

possible assistance within the ambit of local laws and regulations," he said. Spokesperson was The

said

matter with Qatar authorities with high priority and hope

PM-JANMAN

campaign to uplift tribes

He said in a social media post, "Greetings to everyone on the first National Space Day. We recall with great pride our nation's achievements in the space sector. It is also a day to laud the contributions of our space scientists."

President Murmu said "Space debris can cause problems for space missions," she said during the event at Bharat Mandapam here that was attended by Union minister Jitendra Singh, Indian Space Organisation Research Chairman (ISRO) Somanath, engineers, ISRO scientists and representatives of the country's nascent space industry.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n

the black robe and cap for con-

vocation ceremonies and instead

the Union Health Ministry has

directed its institutes including

AIIMS to develop a new dress

code for convocation cere-

monies that reflects local tradi-

their colonies," said

Ministry in a statement.

NEW DELHI

tions.

convocation

Plea for clarity on new captive elephant genetic data rules

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI and

> Cenior Congress Leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday urged Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav to provide clarity on a recent circular regarding the trans-

port of captive elephants. Ramesh sought detailed information on the process used by the Ministry to establish the genetic profiles of elephants, including how this data is being generated and who is responsible for maintaining the database.

In a letter to Yadav, the former Environment Minister Ramesh drew the attention of the Government that on August 20, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change reminded the Elephant Range States of the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024.

'In particular attention was drawn to the provision of clause (7) Terms and Conditions, sub-clause (3) which mandates that 'No transfer of an elephant shall be permissible unless genetic profile of the elephant has been entered in the electronic monitoring application of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change," Ramesh said in his letter to Yadav. Ramesh said this condition itself raises four issues on which there is need for clarity in the public domain.

How exactly is the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change establishing the genetic profile of each elephant, Ramesh asked.

Docs resume work after SC order, easing patients woes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

 $M^{\mathrm{uch}}_{\mathrm{patients, resident doc-}}$ tors across the country returned to work on Friday, bringing an end to their 11-day strike which was sparked by the alleged rape and murder of a junior doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata on August 9.

The strike, which began on August 12, had led to the shutdown of non-emergency services, including outpatient departments (OPD) and diagnostics, causing significant delays in patient care.

The medics have been advocating for a central law to prevent violence against healthcare professionals in the workplace.

After the Supreme Court made an appeal to all the resident doctors across the country to resume work, the Federation of Resident Association Doctors' (FORDA), which was the first to give the nationwide strike call, on Friday said that they are suspending nationwide elective services halt and resuming duties.

However, while resident doctors across the country resumed their duties, protests continue in West Bengal, where the issue originated. In Bengal, the agitating junior doctors have maintained their ceasework, leading to ongoing disruptions in State-

run hospitals. The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), a key resident doctors association, said "FAIMA has decided to call off the strike following

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI To deliver crucial services and benefits to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups No Safety (PVTGs) in 194 districts across India, the Government has No Duty launched a nationwide cam-

paign under the Pradhan Mantri anjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan (PM-JANMAN) which was conceived last year. The campaign to be running until September 10 seeks to address the social, economic, and educational challenges faced by PVTGs by providing essential services such as clean housing, water, sanitation, education,

healthcare, and improved connectivity. India's Scheduled Tribe (ST) population stands at 10.45 crore, with 75 communities classified as PVTGs in 18 states and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. PM-JANMAN was launched by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on November 15 last year in Jharkhand with an aim to provide essential services like housing, clean water, sanitation, education, healthcare, and better road and telecom connectivity to PVTG

families. A budget of Rs 15,000 crore has been allocated over three

years starting from 2023. Last year, a similar campaign reached 100 districts, covering 500 blocks and 15,000

habitations. This year, the effort will expand to cover 28,700 habitations and reach 44.6 lakh individuals in 194 districts.



"The above tradition is a colonial legacy which needs to be changed," the communication to all of its

Health Ministry to replace colonial

convocation attire with local dress

"Currently, the black robe and cap is being used during by various institutes of the ministry," the communication said. This attire originated in the middle ages in Europe and was introduced by the British in all the

stated.

institutes said. "Accordingly it has been decided by the ministry that the various institutes of the Ministry including AIIMS/INIs engaged in imparting medical education will design (an) appropriate India(n) dress code for the convocation ceremony of their institute -

based on local traditions of the state in which the institute is

located," the communication Overall, the goal is to modernise and localise the convocation experience, making it more relevant and reflective of India's rich and

varied cultural landscape. The proposed dress codes will need to be submitted for approval by the Union Health Secretary

"Who is generating this data and maintaining database? How exactly does the Ministry of Environment,

Forest and Climate Change intend to use this genetic data for the protection of captive and wild elephants?" he said. I presume that we have the laboratory infrastructure with the necessary facilities,

necessary sequencing Ramesh said. On August 20, the Ministry had issued a memorandum to Chief Wildlife Wardens and Principal Chief Forest Conservators regarding the Captive Elephant (Transfer

this

and Transport) Rules. These rules are designed to regulate the movement of captive elephants within and between States in India.

tracking and management of

captive elephants.

A key provision, sub-clause 3, mandates that no elephant can be transferred unless its genetic profile is recorded in the Ministry's electronic monitoring application. The memorandum instructs State officials to ensure full compliance with these requirements to facilitate proper

When White Coat



positive directions from the

Chief Justice of India. We

welcome the acceptance of our prayers for interim

protections and the necessary

steps to enhance hospital

Dr. Dhruv Chauhan, the

Coordinator of the Indian

Medical Association-Junior

Doctors Network (IMA-

JDN), said that their

demands for the Central

Protection Act, which is in

the hands of the Government

of India is still the same, and

will continue to fight for our

The United Doctors Front

Association (UDF) also said

in response to the SC's

proactive and reassuring

directives, they have resolved to suspend the ongoing

The Supreme Court had

professionals to return to

work, emphasising that both

judges and doctors, who

handle matters of life and

liberty, should not engage in

coercive action would be

taken against the striking

medics and instructed the

Centre to enhance safety

measures for healthcare

It also assured that

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

PTI n BENGALURU

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

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



gaps in the safety profile for our working doctors," she told PTI. According to DME, there are 71 medical colleges including 22 government medical colleges under the Department of Medical Education. Apart from them, there are nursing and paramedical institutes in the state.

During the meet, the depart-ment also reviewed the safety lapses. Following the Nirbhaya advisory, the department has been insisting that there are no dark corridors anywhere and



all the places should be well lit, Rathod said adding that CCTV cameras should be installed in most of the areas. "The security personnel are the

ones who can walk anywhere with the consent in all the areas of the institute, so whether we have a good background check of all these people whom we take under security and housekeeping, that was one issue." All the institutes have the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) commit-

tees, which can also suggest a

precautionary measure so that if there is any such incident then an alert can be sounded. Rathod said the POSH committees have been regularly conducting meeting to make sure that there are no incidents of harassment of women. The department is also using Artificial Intelligence for the safety of each doctor.

Self-defence training of the doctors and counseling of medical professionals regarding their stress levels were also discussed, she explained. "We are also encouraging pink boxes so that in case of unbiased complaints, the administration can ook into it," Dr Rathod said. "Introducing of 'code white' system. - If there is something called a code white, which we have already seen, it being worked out in our Indian Institute of nephro-urology, that will make all of them alert, how quickly we can be alerted if there is an untoward incident which is happening," she added.

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

PTI n MUMBAI

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

Addressing a news conference, Thackeray said the August 24 'Maharashtra Bandh' called by the opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is not political but against "perversion" and urged people cutting across caste and religion to participate in it. He claimed the bandh would be observed on behalf of the people of the state. Slamming the Eknath Shinde

government's action over the Badlapur protest, Thackeray said, "Arrests are still taking place in Badlapur. The cases against the protesters must be withdrawn or else we have to hit the streets."

A massive protest rocked Badlapur town in Thane dis-



trict on Tuesday after thousands of people hit the streets and spilled onto railway tracks to protest the alleged sexual assault of two four-year-old girls by a male attendant at a local school. At least 25 police personnel were injured in the incidents of stone-pelting at the railway station and other parts of Badlapur during the protest. Police have arrested 72 persons in connection with the violence during the stir.

The accused was arrested on August 17. He has been sent to police custody till August 26. Thackeray said the bandh should be "strictly" followed till 2 pm, ensuring that emergency services remain operational.

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

PTI n SHIMLA

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

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

according to a statement issued

here.



Further, Chauhan highlighted that the auction of these mineral mines would not only boost the state's revenue but also create employment opportunities for the local population. On Friday, the minister also presided over the 231st meeting of the Board of Directors of HP General Industries Corporation Ltd here.

During the meeting, the board approved a 7 per cent dividend payment to the Himachal Pradesh government for FY23, amounting to Rs 50.06 lakh. This dividend represents a 2 per cent increase over the state government's standard directive of 5 per cent, the statement said.

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

PTI n PATNA

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

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

British officials who were blamed for a police firing during the 1942 Quit India movement. Chouhan, a former chief min-

ister of Madhya Pradesh, noted that Mandal was a "dhanuk", a backward class "known for its contribution in nation building, in my home state as well as Bihar". "Our opponents only pay lip service to backward classes who have got their due only under the current BJP regime, with an 'ati pichhda' (extremely backward class)

at the age of 19 for killing three Narendra Modi at the helm", said Chouhan.

He added, "It is Modi who gave 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs in entrance tests like NEET. It is this government which granted constitutional status to the National OBC Commission. Compare this with the Congress which slept over recommendations of the Kalelkar Commission".

Chouhan's averment comes in the backdrop of the opposition, led by Rahul Gandhi, making a strong pitch for "caste census", which implies enumeration of



social groups other than SCs, STs and religious minorities, which was last undertaken about a century ago.

The BJP leader said, "Mere talks will not do. We need to make a difference to the lives of the common people. The Modi government is committed to build 13 lakh houses in the next four years for the benefit of the homeless. Entrepreneurship is being encouraged among women through schemes like Lakhpati Didi.

"We are also trying to ensure an increase in agricultural output, state-of-the-art 'Krishi Bhavan'. "In Bihar, we do not have large

alongside a reduction in cost of farming, so that agriculture is not seen as an economically unviable activity. Activities like horticulture and floriculture are also being encouraged and farmers are being provided support when they face losses because natural calamities", the agriculture minister said. Earlier, Chouhan held a dis-

cussion with farmers and said

he was "amazed" to see stalls of

local items like makhana, rice,

honey and maize put up at the

tracts of land. More than 90 per cent of cultivators are marginal farmers. But they are working wonders", remarked Chouhan. The Minister also said that "makhana" (fox nuts), which is cultivated mostly in Bihar, is in huge demand abroad and its export would bring immense benefits to farmers. "Diversification of agriculture is

on the government's roadmap... Along with traditional crops, we will encourage cultivation of items which could bring in more money", the minister added.

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

PTI n SHIMLA

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

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



ports in Rakkar and Palampur in Kangra district, Reckong Peo in Kinnaur district and another in Chamba district," it said. "The hilly terrain of Himachal Pradesh makes the construction of heliports beneficial," the chief minister.

These heliports would attract more tourists by saving travel time and they would also provide assistance to local residents in emergencies, if any," he

Prime suspect in schoolgirl's sexual assault at fake NCC camp case commits suicide Main accused consumes rat poison, dies in hospital

PTI n KRISHNAGIRI (TAMIL NADU)

The prime suspect in the sexual assault of a school girl at a fake NCC camp at Bargur in the district died allegedly by suicide on Friday, said police. Sivaraman reportedly consumed rat control paste ahead of his arrest on



ents, who then lodged a comthat the police are trying to plaint with the police. shield the real culprits," Opposition parties AIADMK and BJP have raised suspicion

Palaniswami said in a statement here. over the death of Sivaraman by He demanded that a SIT suicide following his father's undertake a thorough probe demise allegedly due to a road and expose those involved in accident and wondered if any the sexual assault and abuse at attempt was being made to shield the real culprit involved in the sexual assault and abuse

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



said. "Himachal Pradesh is blessed with breathtaking landscapes and has immense potential for tourism. Systematic development of tourism infrastructure would not only increase tourist footfalls but also bolster the local economy," CM Sukhu said

Four flight routes, linking a few popular tourist destinations in the state with other parts of the country, are currently opera-tional. Fights on the Delhi-



operate daily, while the Amritsar-Shimla-Amritsar and Amritsar-Kullu-Amritsar routes are operational thrice a week. In addition to expanding flight routes, the Himachal Pradesh

government is also developing new heliports to further improve air connectivity for tourists, the statement said. "Rs 13 crore has been allocated for the construction of heliadded.

The more tourists we attract the more benefits would accrue to the people of the state, Sukhu said, adding that the state government was adopting a focused approach to establish these heliports, ensuring that each district headquarters was connected to this facility.

Furthermore, the state government has declared Kangra district as the tourism capital of Himachal Pradesh and is upgrading the necessary tourism infrastructure in the district, the statement said.

He was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Krishnagiri, where he was undergoing treatment for fracturing his leg when he attempted to escape from being caught by the police. Later, he was referred to the Government Medical College Hospital, Salem as his condition worsened, and he died

August 19, they said.

today. Incidentally, Sivaraman's father Ashok Kumar died in a road accident when he was riding a two-wheeler in an inebriated

condition on Thursday. senior police official said. Sivaraman was among 11 people, including the school authorities, who were arrested by the Bargur All-Woman police. He had organised the fake NCC camp where the girl student studying in class 8 and several other girls were sexually assaulted.

About 41 students, including 17 girls, participated in the fake NCC camp recently and the incident of sexual assault came to light after the girl narrated her trauma to her par-

of the girls at the fake NCC camp.

Citing media reports, AIADMK General Secretary media reports, Edappadi K Palaniswami said the timing of Sivaraman's death before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) commenced the probe into the case, and also that of Ashok Kumar on Thursday night raises doubts.

"The public wonders whether Sivaraman has been killed fearing he might reveal the names of real culprits involved in the criminal activity and

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



PTI n NEW DELHI

rarnataka Chief Minister K Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar arrived in the national capital on Friday for crucial meetings with top Congress leaders.

Sources indicate that the primary focus of these discussions will be to formulate a strategy ahead of next week's high court hearing on the controversial Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) 'scam' case. The MUDA 'scam' has been a thorn in Siddaramaiah's side, with allegations of illegal land dealings involving the chief minister and his wife Parvathi flying thick and fast. At the heart of the controversy are claims that Parvathi received 14 plots in exchange for 3.16 acres of land, which was allegedly acquired illegally by MUDA. Adding to political pressure, Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot has recently sanctioned investigations under the Prevention of Corruption Act, intensifying scrutiny of the chief minister.

Sources privy to the matter suggest that the Delhi meetings will also address pending corruption cases against the state BJP leaders. The Congress leadership is expected to devise a counter strategy to exert pressure on the governor.

Accompanying Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are several key state ministers, including Home Minister Parameshwar, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa and Minority and Housing Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, MLC K Govindaraju and Power Minister K J George.

Teen gangraped in Assam, massive protests erupt

PTI n GUWAHATI

14-year-old girl was A allegedly gang-raped by three persons in Assam's Nagaon district, triggering massive protests by people on the streets.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma promised that stern action would be taken against the perpetrators. The girl was allegedly assault-

ed and raped by three persons while she was returning home from her tuition on her bicycle in Dhing area around 8 pm on Thursday, police said. Three persons came in a motorcycle and surrounded the girl, who was then allegedly raped by them and left in an injured and unconscious state on the roadside near a pond.

The class 10 student was later rescued by locals, who informed the police.

She was initially taken to a health centre in Dhing and later shifted to a hospital in Nagaon for treatment and medical examination.

The criminals who dared to commit such a heinous crime against a minor Hindu girl of Dhing will not be spared by the law. I have directed the DGP and



Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika to rush to Dhing and take the toughest action," Sarma told reporters in Hailakandi.

Sarma alleged that after Lok Sabha elections, "a section of members of a particular community have become very active and have been encouraged to commit such crimes. We will, however, come down heavily on the perpetrators and nobody will be spared." In the last two months, 22 such crimes against women have taken place and this is

the 23rd such incident in the state, he added.

"In Lower and central Assam and Barak Valley districts, where indigenous people have become a numeric minority, they are living in constant fear.

People outside these regions cannot gauge this harsh reality," he said.

The chief minister urged all to be sensitive about these issues of the indigenous people. "We should identify the real

perpetrators behind these heinous crimes and not be stuck in blaming communities within the Hindu society," Sarma said.

The police said that one person had been already arrested and another detained while a search was on to nab the others.

DGP G P Singh reached Dhing and visited the crime scene along with district police officials.

Meanwhile, people from all sections of the society hit the streets on Friday morning demanding the arrest of the culprits.Shopkeepers downed the shutters of their business establishments and social and political organisations demanded stringent action against the culprits and security for women and girls.

Tension prevailed in the area and police patrolling and vigil have been intensified.

Earlier, Sarma had said that "the horrific incident at Dhing, involving a minor, is a crime against humanity and has struck our collective conscience".

We will NOT SPARE anyone & BRING the perpetrators to JUSTICE. I've directed @DGPAssamPolice to visit the site and ensure swift action against such monsters," Sarma posted on X.

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

PTI n MHOW (MP)

Five persons -- four labour-ers and their contractor -were killed after the roof of an under-construction cottage at a resort collapsed in Indore district amid heavy rains, a police official said on Friday. The incident occurred at Choral village in Mhow tehsil, about 40km from the district headquarters, on Thursday night when four labourers and their contractor were sleeping under the freshly laid concrete slab, which suddenly came crashing down, trapping them, he said. Two of the deceased were brothers.

Police were informed about the roof collapse at around 6.30 am and they immediately rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation, Indore (Rural) Superintendent of Police Hitika Wasal told PTI over the phone from the construction site which is surrounded by forests and hillocks. The operation ended with the recovery of five bodies, which were sent to a hospital, she said, adding "We have launched an investigation

into the incident." The accident came to light in the morning when other labourers turned up for work at the site, said inspector Amit Kumar of the Simrol police station. The deceased were identified as labourers Hariom Malviya (22), Ajay Malviya (20), Gopal Prajapati (45), Raja (22) and their contractor Pawan Panchal (35), Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Umakant Chaudhary said. Hariom and Ajay Malviya were brothers, he added. "The roof slab which collapsed was constructed just one or two days ago," Chaudhary added. The police officer said six cottages were being readied at the

resort and their structures appeared weak at the first glance. The department concerned will check the quality of construction work, Chaudhary added. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the tragedy and announced financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to the family of the deceased. Indore District Magistrate Ashish Singh said.

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Surging ahead

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

s the United States gears up for another contentious election, the spotlight is once again on Vice President Kamala Harris. Her steadfast commitment to sec-Aularism has struck a chord with a diverse electorate that values the separation of church and state. In contrast, former President Donald Trump's attacks on Harris, aimed at undermining her credibility, may be backfiring, potentially diminishing his chances in the upcoming elections. As the political climate in the United States continues to evolve, Vice President Kamala Harris has emerged as a prominent advocate for policies rooted in democratic socialism. Her focus on social justice, economic equality, and government intervention to address systemic issues resonates with a growing segment of the American electorate. Meanwhile, former President Donald Trump's attacks on Harris appear to be weakening his appeal, potentially diminishing his chances in the upcoming elections. Kamala Harris's brand of socialism



centres on creating a fairer society through progressive taxation expanded healthcare access, and stronger social safety nets. Her policies aim to address the widening wealth gap, ensure affordable education, and promote racial and gender equality. These ideas have gained traction, particularly among younger voters, minorities, and working-class Americans who feel left behind by the current economic system. Harris's commitment to these principles is seen as a response to the pressing needs of a diverse and economically stratified nation. By advocating for policies that prioritize the needs of the many over the interests of the few, Harris is tap-

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



Violence against women: Unheeded cries

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

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

years until her death. Her ordeal led to a landmark judgment on passive euthanasia in India, yet her suffering stands as a testament to the enduring failures of a society that continues to fail its women. The recent

brutal rape and murder of a 31-

year-old postgraduate trainee

doctor in Kolkata serves as a grim

reminder that little has changed.

Female healthcare workers or

women workers per se, still fear for their safety even in supposed sanctuaries such as hospitals. This ongoing crisis underscores the dire need for real change - a change that goes beyond laws and addresses the deep-seated cultural and institutional failures that allow such atrocities to persist. This incident of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital has shaken the conscience of West Bengal, and the ripple effects are being felt across the political landscape – and the entire nation. The public's reaction to this crime has been fierce and unforgiving. Protests have erupted across the state, with citizens demanding justice not only for the victim but also calling for broader reforms to ensure such incidents are not repeated.

The political and social response to the incident has been equally chaotic. The decision for a swift call for a CBI investigation and capital punishment, alongside the rally for 'Khela Hobe Divas," has been met with criticism for its timing and focus.

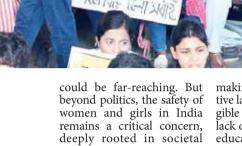
Additionally, state actions, such as the transfer of doctors allegedly involved in protests and the use of social media to counter celebrity critiques

(read singers), have further

fueled debates about the han-

dling of the case. The political

implications of this incident



norms, legal frameworks, and

institutional practices. Despite advancements in legislation and public awareness, instances of violence and harassment against women are prevalent. High-profile cases of assault, trafficking, and domestic violence highlight the persistent vulnerabilities faced by women and girls. The **HIGH-PROFILE** legal system, while equipped with laws like the 'Protection ASSAULT, of Human Rights Act' and the 'Criminal Law Amendment TRAFFICKING, Act, or for that matter, the AND DOMESTIC Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO VIOLENCE of 2012), often struggles with implementation and enforce-HIGHLIGHT ment.

THE PERSISTENT There are systemic delays in justice delivery and shortcom-**VULNERABILITIES** ings in police response, which exacerbate the sense of insecu-FACED BY rity. Protective measures, WOMEN including the establishment of fast-track courts and specialized police units, aim to address these issues and provide some ray of light in this dark world for women. Further, societal attitudes towards women play a signifmaking it difficult for protective laws to translate into tangible safety for women. The lack of comprehensive sexual education and community engagement further perpetuates harmful stereotypes and behaviours. Right education for the boys at home is another crucial area for intervention by the government and NGOs. The role of NGOs and grassroots movements has been pivotal in advocating for women's rights and safety. Effective safety measures must involve not only legal reforms but also significant shifts in overall attitudes and community involvement.

RAJDEEP PATHAK

The challenge before the authorities is not just one of governance but of moral leadership – a test that will define their legacy to guarantee safety to women and girl children. Aami tomari maatiro konya, janoni bosundhara /Tobe aamar manobojanmo keno bonchito kora... (I am no other, but the daughter of yours, O' motherland/Why deprive me of the legacy of my human life...). Written in the year 1933 by Rabindranath Tagore, these lines echo far and wide and call for collective action. It is time to stand up to see where we stand and where

mahout bathes an elephant at Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawala

Empowering Women: Mandatory self-defence training in schools



child is taught the tech-

niques to ward off an offend-

er by dint of their physical

Îf our women can win

medals in the boxing and

wrestling rings, if they can

build enough brawns along

with brains in school, if

every man who casts a sala-

cious glance on a woman

remembers that his prospec-

tive victim is not a push-

over, then there will be

change. Let us empower our

the marauders at bay.

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

he cauldron of public rage is boiling over in the aftermath of the rape and murder of a young resident doctor in Kolkata. It isn't the first time that the nation is witnessing such gruesomeness, and it won't be the last either unless something drastic happens at all levels — societal, legal and psychological.

It isn't that there were no horrific instances of sexual assault on women before Nirbhaya. There were, but Nirbhaya's case brought the issue of women's safety (or the lack of it) front and centre, and it resulted in instituting legislation that offered women more protection and legal support. Stringent measures have been implemented, yet incidents keep happening across the country. It nearly feels like no external force can stem this rot, and it is time for women to take their protection into their own hands, literally.In light of the above, I am wondering if it wouldn't be more prudent and practical to arm our girls with selfdefence tactics right from the beginning. Crimes against women have become so reg-



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

responsibility of safety on women, then there must be an action plan to arm women with the necessary armament.

In simple words, why not

make martial arts and other but these are steps taken self-defence lessons compost-incident. What is sugpulsory in the school curgested in this piece is a plan riculum? If there can be a to provide a pre-emptive sports or PT period, there measure, a way to forestall violent attacks against can be a martial arts period too. The very idea of equip-ping our girls with the skills women by their defences. It can deter a good majority of to fend off troublemakers men on the loose with makes me jubilant and offers vagrant ideas. Parents who are better hope that no legislation can informed enrol their daugh-

prowess.

offer. Widespread condemters in self-defence pronation and demand for punigrammes, but they are few tive action cannot pre-empt future instances and far between. The real What can curb it is the gendifference will be seen only when every school-going

eral knowledge among errant men that the woman they have cornered is capable of packing a punch, a chop or a kick that will neutralise them. Martial arts has been an optional activity for girls in an urban setting, but only when it is introduced as a part of the curriculum from primary grades in every school and they must be genuinely emancipated from the dangers that lurk at every corner

of their daily lives. It is encouraging to learn that the government is intent on its aim to ensure the safety of women in the country and hand out the severest punishment to perpetrators,

icymakers to ensure a level playing field for local businesses and industries. More troubling is the destination and intent behind the FDI in these companies. Ecommerce companies consistently declare

This tax advantage, along with the con-venience and wide range of products offered by online trade, gives e-commerce companies a significant edge. Goyal suggests that cash burn by e-commerce companies should not be allowed as a deduction, and the period for carrying forward losses should be limited to a maximum of two years. The impact of e-commerce on local traders is already evident, with potential job losses on the horizon. Another concern is the shift of youth from traditional businesses and agriculture to delivery jobs, leading to their migration from rural areas to metro cities. Vinod Johri | New Delhi

MODERN SLAVERY

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

icant role in undermining these measures. Deep-seated patriarchal views and cultural practices continue to normalize gender-based violence,

we fail. (The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CASES OF

VALID CONCERNS ON E-COMMERCE

Madam — Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has raised valid concerns about the questionable practices of e-commerce companies, particularly regarding predatory pricing, cash burning, successive years of losses, and the use of FDI to cover these losses. His concerns emphasize the need for polsignificant losses in their income tax returns, carrying them forward year after year to offset against future profits. This cycle continues with mergers, where the losses of merged companies are also carried forward. In contrast, local traders and entrepreneurs pay regular taxes on their incomes, while e-commerce companies avoid taxes through their accounting strategies.

Lateral entries rolled back



lished on 22nd August, it is my response" Efficient bureaucracy leads to good governance and with this good intention the gov-

labour and forced marriages are direct examples of today's slavery whereas domestic work, construction activities, and sexual exploitation fall into the "domain" of forced labour. Nothing can exemplify modern slavery better than the child labour. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has identified about twenty five million men and women as victims of modern slavery.

Nobody can turn somebody into a slave unless the latter allows them is now something like a misnomer. ILO has specially targeted migrant workers who are easily lured because of their poor understanding of local language and tradition. To take stock of the progress done by ancillary agencies and the respective gov-ernments, "International Day for the Abolition of Slave trade" is observed on August 23. It is hoped that the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states " no one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms" gains a fresh momentum.

Ganapathi Bhat |Akola

ernment wanted to rope in 45 lateral entries

into our civil services, which was not the first time, it has been happening since Nehru's days. But such is the compulsion of coalition politics that the government had to give in to the demands of its own allies.

Prime Minister Modi had also rolled back critical three farm laws which were in the larger interest of the farmers. So now after this deci-

sion, it is going to boost opposition' morale to put Gol on the mat again in future, and it has given Modi's government a negative and weak government's image. Hopefully it will learn its lessons and take opposition and allies on board before rolling out any sensitive changes or policies in future. It is the most democratic thing to do anyway because what is democracy if it is not inclusive and does not reflects people's will

Bal Govind Noida

NO LIMITS FOR PARA PLAYERS

Madam — The season of Paralympics is all set to began with Indian athletic contingent start reaching over there in the Game village of Paris. So far, the closing of Paris Olympics done, with India taking on six medals only, however some sports spectators and aficionados are set-ting the medal count limit with 12 medals at the Paralympics.

India has successfully lifted 19 medals in Paralympics Tokyo edition of 2021, for all those are setting the bar before the real talent actually comes up, it is crucial to appreciate the talent and zeal of our para players. Let's don't set any specific boundary of medals that they have to win for the nation. Why just 12, our players have the capability of winning much more. May their competitive spirit and sportsmanship, let them conquer the sports laurels in a celebrated manner without any pressure.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

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FIRSTCOLUMN

THE ESSENCE OF BEING: **BEYOND BODY AND MIND**

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

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

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

There, the mind is unmanifest, and its abilities of volition, action, desire, understanding, ascertainment, etc., are not at play but at rest-not emerged but latent and merged. While in the soul-world, the soul is pinned, so to say, only on one thought, one consciousness, one feeling, one understanding, viz-'I am a Soul, I am a Soul, I am a Soul'. That is allnothing more. The turbulence, the vagrancy, the sportiveness of the mind is at rest, or you may say that, in a sense, it is in deep sleep. Therefore, when it is said that "If we want to experience the peace and tranquility



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

We will have to make our intellect and mind one-pointed and disposed to understand the Self alone. We will have to lay all our memories, thoughts, feelings, etc., to rest. This is what would be 'going beyond' the mind. For this, there are so many methods that have been advocated, demonstrated, advised, and laid down by various spiritual and religious teachers. However, the all-knowing Almighty has offered His supreme advice that we should control the mind using the intellect. This means that we have to know the Self, the Supreme, etc., and using that, know the Self to calm ourselves. He has sermonized that it can be best done by pinning the mind on the name, form, attributes, and relation of the Supreme with the soul. His sermon is, "Manmana Bhav," i.e., concentrate your mind on me, your love, your faith in me. And I assure you that I will bless you with supreme sanctity, peace, and bliss, and you will attain me. I will purge you of all sins, rest assured. If we act as HE says, all our inner conflict will end, and we will work only as His divine instrument.By aligning ourselves with the Supreme, our mind will cease its endless wandering, and we will find ourselves centred and at peace. We will then be able to adjust ourselves easily and quickly in any situation. Having been freed from other psychological memories, except that of the Supreme and our duty, our energy potential will find no resistance and will be free for full performance. We will thus be able to attain excellence and experience peace and tranquillity without putting in much effort. This state of effortless being is what every soul seeks, whether knowingly or unknowingly. The Supreme guides us to this state of fulfilment, away from the darkness of ignorance. Now, it's up to us whether to listen to the Almighty or keep wandering in the darkness of ignorance.

Reject calls for extraditing Sheikh Hasina



07

analysis

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

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

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

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

It is no secret that the Jama'at-e-Islami Bangladesh, recently re-incarnated as Bangladesh Jama'at-e-Islami (BJeI), its students' organization, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (BICS)--which was Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS) in 1971--and allied organisations like al-Badr, al-Shams, Razakars, and Shanti Committee, had sided with Pakistan and committed despicable war crimes during the liberation war of 1971. A number of them have been punished, including some who have been executed, by the International Crimes Tribunal set by the Bangladesh Government in 2009 by an amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, to investigate and prosecute personnel of the Pakistan Army and BJeI, Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams, and Shanti Committee, accused of committing genocide during the 1971 liberation war. The BJeI and the BICS, which have close links with Islamist terrorist organisations like Ansar al-Islam, linked to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-continent (AQIS) and AUGUST 21, 2004, Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), clearly joined the ADSM to further their own agenda, which is transforming a secular and democratic Bangladesh into an Islamic emirate. To do this, they must eliminate from the political scene not only the Awami League and its leaders, particularly Sheikh Hasina, but all secular, democratic and humanist civil society organisations and leaders.



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

Included in the list of 50 or more were the Professor Abul Barakat (a well-known economist who had exposed the sources of the BJeI's phenomenal wealth), Rana Dasgupta (general secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council,) AAMS Arefin Siddique, GIVEN THAT THE (former vice-chancellor, Dhaka HAS BEEN University), and Professor Sadeka Halim (vice-chancellor, Jagannath

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

In fact, the Awami League has been reduced to such straits that, unlike in the earlier years, it could not stage an event to observe the anniversary of the grenade attack on an Awami League rally in Dhaka on August 21, 2004, to protest against increasing terrorist attacks on its cadres and leaders.

Perpetrated by the terrorist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (HUJIB), it left at least 24 persons dead and over 300 injured. Among the wounded was Sheikh Hasina, whose hearing has been permanently impaired. Ivy Rahman, secretary of the Awami League's women's affairs wing and wife of its general-secretary, Zillur Rahman, who subsequently became Bangladesh's president, was also seriously hurt. She later died later in hospital. Given that the Awami League has been reduced to such straits that it could not even observe the anniversary of the grenade attacks on August 21, 2004, it could hardly be in a position to conspire to defeat the students' upsurge. It may well be argued that Sheikh Hasina needs to be present in courts to stand trial and face cross-examination to establish crous. Most Awami League lead-ers are in Bangladesh, busy defending themselves in courts

ny and evaluation, leading to

concerns about transparency

in decision-making. Their lack

of deep institutional knowl-

edge could also affect the quality of their decisions, espe-

cially in complex policy areas. Impact on Administrative

Cohesion: The introduction of

lateral entrants at senior levels

could fragment authority with-

in the bureaucracy, leading to

inefficiencies and delays.

Positive Takeaways:

eral benefits:

policy-making.

tions

Diverse Perspectives:

Introduces new viewpoints,

fostering innovative solu-

For that, the interim government or its successor must establish that a prima facie case exists against her and then request India to allow an emissary to question her in any facility that New Delhi may provide.

Meanwhile, there can be no question of extraditing her. The BNP-BJeI coalition government, in office from 2001 to 2006 with Begum Khaleda Zia as prime minister, made no bones about its hostility to India. Indeed, except those headed by Sheikh Hasina, all governments of Bangladesh since the murder of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, have been hostile to India and pro-Pakistan. To cite one example, under them, Bangladesh provided sanctuary, assistance and training to northeast India's secessionist rebel groups. On the other hand, Sheikh Hasina not only closed down their sanctuaries but handed over to India some of the leaders of these secessionist terrorist groups. In fact, India-Bangladesh relations were perhaps more cordial under her than even when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman headed

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

REDUCED TO SUCH STRAITS THAT IT COULD NOT EVEN **OBSERVE THE** ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRENADE ATTACKS ON IT COULD HARDLY **BE IN A POSITION** TO CONSPIRE TO DEFEAT THE STUDENTS' UPSURGE

AWAMI LEAGUE

University) and a number of journalists and film personalities. In these circumstances, Sheikh Hasina's life will be in danger if she is extradited to Bangladesh: nor can she be assured of a fair trial, particularly given the fact that judges will either be under tremendous pressure or will be pre-disposed to convict her as they have been appointed by the Interim Government and are hostile to her. The second ground that, accord-

ing to the reports, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has cited for Sheikh Hasina's extradition, is that the Awami League and she were conspiring in New Delhi to falsify (sic) the victory that students and other citizens of Bangladesh have achieved. Nothing could be more ludi-

the government in Dhaka. Extraditing Sheikh Hasina would send the message round that even the most loyal friends of India cannot depend on it for support in times of distress. That is not something that New Delhi should want.

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

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

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

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

ciency, addressing the opaque

practices of previous adminis-



KS TOMAR

trations. However, the lack of provisions for reservations in eral entry system in 2018, the this system has led to widegovernment has received 6,077 spread criticism. Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition, accused the NDA government of undermining the Constitution by excluding reservations from these

applications, resulting in the appointment of 63 individuals to senior positions across various ministries, with approximately 35 from the private sector. While these appointments appointments. He argued that aim to bring in expertise and this move was a direct attack fresh perspectives, the excluon social justice, sidelining the sion of reservations has overunderprivileged and diluting shadowed the intended benetheir representation in the fits. The backlog of vacancies

higher echelons of bureaucracy. In response, Arjun Meghwal pointed out the Congress's past practices, high-lighting the appointments of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as Finance Secretary in 1971 and Montek Ahluwalia as Planning Commission Chairman with-

in proportion to these 63 officials can only be addressed if the government creates new posts specifically for candidates from SC, ST, ÓBC, and EWS categories. The delay in amending recruitment rules has already caused significant harm, as many eligible candidates may have crossed the age out transparent procedures. limit. Since the inception of the lat-

The introduction of lateral appointments has been met with mixed reactions within the bureaucracy. While it brings in specialized knowledge and fresh perspectives, it also poses several risks to the traditional bureaucratic structure:

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



knowledge and fresh perspectives, it also poses several risks to the traditional bureaucratic structure.

Demoralization of Bureaucracy: Traditional bureaucrats, who have risen through the ranks, may feel demoralized seeing lateral entrants appointed to senior positions without undergoing the rigorous training and years of service they have endured. This could lead to a perception that meritocracy is being

undermined and create uncertainty regarding career progression.

Integration Challenges: Lateral entrants may struggle to integrate into the established bureaucratic culture, leading to friction with traditional bureaucrats.

3rd. Potential Conflicts of Interest: Lateral entrants from the private sector may face conflicts of interest, where their decisions could be influenced by their previous affiliations.

This raises concerns about policy bias and the potential prioritization of private sector interests over the public good. Accountability and Transparency Issues: Unlike career bureaucrats, lateral entrants might not undergo the same level of public scruti**Increased Efficiency:** Private sector professionals bring a focus on perfomance

and efficiency. Skill Gap Bridging: Addresses deficiencies in areas like tech-nology and finance. Meritocracy Promotion: Emphasizes skills over seniority, potentially improving leadership quality.

Governance Flexibility: Allows for quick adaptation to new challenges with experi-

Lateral entry into senior govenced professionals. Public-Private Collaboration: ernment positions offers sev-Strengthens ties between gov-Expertise Infusion: Brings ernment and private sectors. specialized knowledge from (Writer has been ex chairpervarious sectors, enhancing son of Standing Committee of All State Public service Commissions in India and former chairman of HP Public Service Commission; views are personal)

Macron's decision to delay the prime minister nomination

while he spent time at the

Olympics and at the presiden-

tial holiday retreat in

Bregancon on the French

"We need a response Tuesday," said the national secretary of

the Greens party, Marine

Tondelier. "There are urgent

issues, and leaving weeks roll by

without facing them is grave,

includes the hard-left France

Unbowed, the Socialists and

the Greens, has insisted that the

prime minister should come

out of their ranks as the largest

Macron last month appeared to

dismiss Castets, saying in a tele-

vised interview "the issue is not

a name provided by a political

group" and stressing instead the

need for a parliamentary

majority behind the candidate.

Politicians from the centre, the

right and the far right have sug-

gested they would try to bring

down any government that

includes members from France

Macron appears more keen to

seek a coalition that could

include politicians from the

centre-left to the traditional

Other names that have

emerged in French media as

potential prime minister can-

didates include centre-left

politician Bernard Cazeneuve,

who served as France's top cop

during a series of bloody terror

attacks in 2015, and Xavier

Bertrand, a former minister

considered relatively moderate

within the French right.

Conservative politician Michel

Barnier, EU's chief negotiator

for post-Brexit talks, is also

considered a potential candi-

As president, Macron has sole

power to name the prime min-

ister according to the French

The French president said last

month he would keep the out-

going centrist government on

a purely caretaker role to "han-

dle current affairs,' notably

during the Olympics that ended on August 11.

and even irresponsible. The New Popular Front, which

Kamala Harris acceptsDemocratic nominationWarns of Trump's return risksIRFK Jr withdraws from Arizona ball

the pioneer

RAIPUR | SATURDAY | AUGUST 24, 2024



Delegates cheer during the Democratic National Convention Thursday in Chicago.

PTI n CHICAGO

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

Vice President Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, on Thursday night accepted her party's nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, becoming the second woman to do so for the Democratic Party after former first lady Hillary Clinton.

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

Taking the stage at the United Center in Chicago to accept her nomination, Harris, who was a tough prosecutor in California before becoming US Vice President, said she is no stranger to unlikely journeys. "On behalf of the people, on behalf of every American, regardless of party, race, gender or the language your grand-

Last body

superyacht

recovered

from sunken

Rome (AP): Italian rescuers

brought ashore the body of the

mother speaks, on behalf of my mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey on behalf of Americans, like the people I grew up with, people who work hard, chase their dreams and look out for one another, on behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on earth, I accept your nomination the United States," she said. She fondly remembered her

mother Shyamala Gopalan and said that she misses her every day, especially when she is on the verge of breaking the highest glass ceiling of the United States.

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

"Our nation with this election has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past. A chance to chart a new way forward. Not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans," she said in her 40-minute speech. Vice President Harris outlined her plans for a "new way forward" if she's elected to be the 47th president of the United States. "I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations. A president who leads — and listens. Who is

realistic, Practical and has common sense. And always fights for the American people. From the courthouse to the White House, that has been my life's work," Harris said.

She laid out the consequences of electing former president Trump, 78, to a second term. "In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man, but the consequences of putting Donald Trump back in the White House are extremely serious," she warned.

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

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

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

RFK Jr withdraws from Arizona ballot amid Trump alliance speculation

Phoenix (AP): Robert F. Kennedy Jr. withdrew from the ballot in Arizona late Thursday, a day before he and Donald Trump were set to appear miles apart in the Phoenix area as speculation grows that Kennedy could drop his independent presidential bid and endorse the Republican nominee. Kennedy is scheduled to speak at 2 .m. Eastern time in Phoenix "about the present nistorical moment and his path forward", according to his campaign. Hours later, Trump will hold a rally in neighbouring Glendale. Trump, campaigning Thursday in southern Arizona at the US-Mexico border, said that "no plans have been made" for Kennedy to appear with him on Friday. But he noted they would be in the same city at the same time.

On Thursday evening, Trump's campaign made an unusual announcement, teasing that he would be joined by "a special guest" at his Glendale event.

Hours later when he called into Fox News Channel after the Democratic National Convention wrapped, Trump said of Kennedy, "I have no idea if he's going to endorse me." But he noted that they were going to be in the same state and said, "It's possible we will be meeting tomorrow and we'll be discussing it. Representatives for Trump's campaign did not respond to messages about whether Kennedy would be the guest and the Kennedy campaign did not immediately return a message seeking comment if he would be joining Trump. Kennedy's Arizona withdrawal, confirmed by a spokesperson for the secretary of state, came less than a week after Kennedy submitted well more than the required number of signatures to appear on the ballot. His critics raised questions about the validity of some of the signatures after a pro-Kennedy super PAC was heavily involved in his effort to collect them, potentially running afoul of rules against coordination between candidates and independent political groups. But on Thursday, Kennedy, his running mate, Nicole Shanahan and all of their electors submitted notarized letters dated that day, withdrawing from the race in the state.

A year ago, some would have thought it inconceivable that Kennedy — a member of the most storied family in Democratic politics - would work with Trump to keep a Democrat out of the White House. Even in recent months, Kennedy has accused Trump of betraying his followers, while Trump has criticised Kennedy as "the most radical left candidate in the race"

But the two campaigns have ramped up their compliments to each other and engaged in behind-the-scenes discussions in recent weeks, according to those familiar with the efforts. Both campaigns have spent months accusing Democrats of weaponising the legal system for their own benefit. And both have hinted publicly that they could be open to joining forces, with the shared goal of limiting the election



chances of Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris. Last month, during the Republican National Convention, Kennedy's son posted and then quickly deleted a video showing a phone call between Kennedy and Trump, in which the former president appeared to try to talk Kennedy into siding with him.

Talks between the two camps have continued, with close Trump allies quietly lobbying Kennedy to drop out of the race and support the Republican nominee, according to a person familiar with the efforts who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. Trump told CNN on Tuesday that he would "love" an endorsement from Kennedy, whom he called a "brilliant guy." He also said he would "certainly" be open to Kennedy playing a role in his administration if Kennedy drops out and endorses him.

Shanahan, also openly suggested on a podcast this week that his campaign might "walk away right now and join forces with Donald Trump. While she clarified that she is not personally in talks with Trump, she entertained the idea that Kennedy could join Trump's administration as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

"I think that Bobby in a role like that would be excellent," Shanahan said. "I fully support it. I have high hopes."Kennedy, a son of former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and a nephew of former President John F. Kennedy, hasn't disclosed the reason for his Friday remarks, but they come as his campaign's momentum has slipped.

Kennedy Jr. first entered the 2024 presidential race as a Democrat but left the party last fall to run as an independent. He built an unusually strong base for a third-party bid, fueled in part by anti-establishment voters and vaccine sceptics who have followed his anti-vaccine work since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Macron talks with key players to form new French govt

Riviera.

group.

Unbowed.

right.

date.

Constitution.

AP n PARIS

A fter the excitement of the Paris Olympics and a Mediterranean vacation, now French President Emmanuel Macron has to figure out how to make his country governable again. Faced with a hung parliament, social tensions and ballooning debt, Macron kicked off talks Friday with key political players in a bid to choose a new prime minister who would form a government and end the deadlock created by snap legislative elections last month.

Members of the left-wing New Popular Front coalition that won the most seats pressured Macron for a quick decision. Their nominee for prime minister, little-known civil servant Lucie Castets, said after Friday's meetings in the Elysee Palace that she was ready to govern, and ready for compromise to get things done.

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

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

Centrists and conservatives are also meeting with Macron on Friday, while National Rally leaders Marine Le Pen and Jordan Bardella are expected at the Elysee on Monday. Macron's office said he will name a prime minister based on these consultations, which are aimed at "moving towards the broadest and most stable majority possible.'

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

Security stepped up at Germany NATO air base

Berlin (AP): Security at a NATO air base in western Germany has been raised because of intelligence information pointing

tial threat," and all staff not

essential to missions have

been sent home as a precau-

tion, NATO said. The

Geilenkirchen air base, near

the

border with the

Norway proposes House fire in Serbia kills easing abortion law six people Copenhagen (AP): Norway's The government agency said government said Friday it wants that eight out of 10 abortions are to relax restrictions on abortion performed before the 9th week,

and that nine out of 10 abortions

Belgrade (AP) A house fire in a northern Serbian city early Friday killed six people, includ-

S'pore starts screening incoming passengers for mpox symptoms ature and visual screening at reports of local spread in

PTI n SINGAPORE

Temperature and visual screening will be carried out at Changi and Seletar air outbreak of the wirel discussion (WHO) on August 14 declared mpox a utbreak of the viral disease

Changi and Seletar airports these two countries.

final missing person who was on a supervacht that sunk off the coast of Sicily. The woman's body was detected on Friday, the Coast Guard said. She has not been officially identified, but Hannah Lynch, the 18year-old daughter of British tech magnate Mike Lynch, is reportedly unaccounted for. The Lynch family was aboard The Bayesian, a 56-metre (184foot) British-flagged yacht, when went down in a storm early Monday.Civil protection officials said they believe the ship was struck by a tornado over the water, known as a waterspout, and sank quickly.Mike Lynch's body was recovered Thursday. He had been celebrating his recent acquittal on fraud charges with his family and the people who had defended him at trial in the United States.

vomen to terminate pregnancies up to the 18th week of gestation. Norway's laws currently allow legal abortions up to 12 weeks, but many pregnant women ask for an abortion after the 12th week and are granted it in hospitals and clinics.

for the first time in nearly half a

The proposed changes are "in line with practice today. Almost no one is refused applications for abortion after the 12th week," Norwegian Health Minister Jan Christian Vestre said. He said that "women's right to self-determined abortion is a fundamental value in Norway."The Norwegian Institute of Public Health said abortion rate has remained "historically low for several years" at about 12,000 each year, but began to rise in 2022. Last year some 12,814 pregnancy terminations were performed in Norway, a 6.7% increase from 2022, figures show.

century to make it legal for are performed with medication. Free abortion was introduced in Norway in 1978 and women can opt for a surgical or medical abortion. "Society has changed significantly since the 1970s," Vestre told a press conference. The law proposal needs a majority — 85 votes — in the 169-member Stortinget, or parliament. So far some 80 lawmakers have said they will vote in favour of the new law. It was not yet clear when a vote would be held in parliament. The Centre Party, which holds 28 seats in Stortinget and is one of the parties in the governing coalition, wants to keep the current abortion limit of 12 weeks. Family Minister Kjersti Toppe said she hopes that "as many people as possible vote in line with the party line," but added that the issue was "a matter of conscience" and allowed party members to vote against the party's stance.

four children, police said. The fire erupted around 3 am in Novi Sad, some 90 kilometres (54 miles) north of Belgrade, the capital, said the Interior Minister Ivica Dacic. An emergency doctor told state television channel RTS that all the victims were already dead when the medical team reached the scene. Dacic said in a statement that initial findings suggest the cause could have been a charging electric scooter. The children were between 2 and 7 years old, said Dacic. Police are working to establish the victims' identity but they assume they are all members of a family registered at the address, he added. Serbian media published photos from the scene showing charred items in a small brick house, including a baby stroller and a washing machine.

out at Chang i and Seletar air ports from Friday onwards as a precautionary measure against mpox, after one confirmed case of a potentially more serious variant each was reported in Sweden and Thailand. The Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Transport and Immigration and Checkpoints Authority said they will enhance Singapore's surveillance capabilities against the infectious disease at the borders. Similar screening measures will also be implemented at sea checkpoints for crew and passengers arriving on ships from mpox-affected areas, reported The Straits Times. The MOH said that while there are no direct flights

between Singapore and any country with an mpox out-

Health advisories have also been put in place at air checkpoints, so that travellers will take the necessary personal precautions to avoid being infected. Travellers are strongly advised to follow the advisory, especially if they are travelling to and from affected countries. Those found to have fever, rash and/or symptoms compatible with Mpox will be referred for medical assessment. The MOH said there are no mpox clade I cases detected in Singapore to date. But it is monitoring the global situation very closely and the outbreak remains generally confined to Africa, with two cases of the more severe mpox clade I reported in Sweden and Thailand. There are currently no

global ublic health emer gency for the second time in two years.

> As there were no reported cases of the more severe clade I exported out of the African continent, MOH said then that the immediate public health risk to Singapore was low.

Infectious disease experts also said then that there was no need for visitors from countries where mpox is circulating, or Singaporeans who are returning home, to quarantine themselves if they do not have any symptoms. According to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been more than 27,000 cases and more than 1,300 deaths since January 2023 in the current outbreak in the Democratic Republic of

Congo (DRC).

Kolkata rape-murder: British US expands Mexico asylum appointment area Indians hold justice march PTI n CIUDAD HALDIGO from the US border, but the ing to improve her chances of lack of work opportunities finding work.

London (PTI): Indian students, charities and diaspora organisations in Britain have organised a series of events to continue to highlight their demand for justice following the rape-murder of an onduty female doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

While women's organisations came together to organise peace vigils at the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Parliament Square in London and across several other UK cities on Thursday, the Students' Federation of India - United Kingdom (SFI-UK) organised a march in the city of Liverpool on Wednesday. The hundreds who gathered at London's Parliament Square lit candles to spell out "Justice" and held placards with messages calling for respect and empowerment of women.

"We have received overwhelming support from the entire



have involved global units in

the US, Canada and Australia,

who are also holding peace vig-

ils with us," said the UK-based

National Health Service (NHS)

doctor, who trained as a medic

in Kolkata. Earlier, SFI-UK

continued its series of student-

led peaceful protests and

demonstrations with a march

centre of Liverpool

world, proving that the time has come to wake up, take notice, rise up above our individual interests and join hands in our endeavour of showing support and solidarity to the cause," said Dr Dipti Jain of the Medicos Women Charity. "These peace protests are being held by units we set up in several cities in England, Scotland and Wales at the same time with Belfast and Dublin arrang-

s soon as she stepped onto As soon as she stepped one Mexican soil this week, Venezuelan migrant Yuri Carolina Meléndez downloaded the US government's app to apply for asylum appointments. The CBP One app has been around, but as of Friday migrants in Mexico's southernmost states bordering Guatemala will be able to apply for appointments. Previously, they had to be in central or northern Mexico.

'I have to wait to see if it really works," the woman said while resting under a tree with her 16- and 18-year-old daughters along a border highway leading to the city of Tapachula this week.

Mexico has been asking the US to expand the app's access to the south in an attempt to relieve the pressure migrants feel to continue north to at least Mexico City. In recent years, the Mexican governfrom London Road to the city ment has tried to contain migrants in the south farther and housing in southern cities like Tapachula have pushed migrants north.

break, there will be temper-

Mexico hopes that if migrants can wait for their appointments in the south they might not risk getting snagged by authorities without papers or by organised crime groups that prey on migrants travelling north. With an appointment, they could, in theory, move without interference. Germin Alemán, a 31-year-old

from Honduras travelling with his wife and three children, planned to register as soon as they reached Tapachula. "We're going to apply here, we're going to wait for the appointment," he said as they walked from the border toward Tapachula.

Others, however, still felt the pressure to get farther north. Many migrants often carry big debts and need to start paying them off as soon as possible. Meléndez, for instance, said she planned to keep mov-

CBP One has been one of the measures of greatest impact in US efforts to bring order to the growing demand for US asylum along its southwestern border.

In the 2023 fiscal year, US Customs and Border Protection reported more than 2.4 million encounters with migrants along the US Southwest border.

Since the app was launched in January 2023, more than 765,000 people have scheduled appointments to request asylum. Immigration has become a central issue in the US presidential election.

When the Biden administration temporarily suspended the asylum process for those who crossed illegally in June, the app became one of the only ways to request asylum. The US handles 1,500 appointments daily.

The number of migrants crossing the US border illegally has fallen significantly since peak-

ing in December 2023. Washington attributes much of that decline to Mexico's enforcement efforts, which include nabbing migrants in the north and sending them south again.

Still, Mexico welcomes CBP One's expansion.

"That is going to help us a lot," Foreign Affairs Secretary Alicia Bárcena said earlier this month when she announced the expansion was coming. Immigration is a key issue in the two countries' relationship. But for dozens of nongovernmental groups that advocate for migrants and human rights, there is little to celebrate. In an open letter to the Mexican government Thursday, they called CBP One "a violation of international law" because it allows the US to limit access to its territory for people in need of protection. The groups argued that many migrants wind up stuck in Mexico for months waiting in full shelters or camping in unsanitary conditions.

Netherlands, is where the alliance's Airborne Warning and Control System, or AWACS, aircraft are based. A post on the NATO AWACS fleet's account on social media network X late Thursday night announcing that "we raised the security level" did not elaborate on the nature of the potential threat. It said that "operations continue as planned The Geilenkirchen base said Friday that it had nothing to add to the statement and "the situation at the moment is unchanged." German news agency dpa said a reporter saw police cars on the grounds of the air base. Police confirmed a deployment Thursday night but gave no details, and offered no information on Friday morning. Last week, a major German air force based near Cologne was locked down for several hours amid fears that its water supply might have been tampered with. An investigation found no evidence of such sabotage. There were also reports of suspicious observations at Geilenkirchen and a person was briefly detained for questioning near the base, dpa reported at the time, but there turned out to be nothing untoward. The incidents come at a time of jitters about the possible vulnerability of infrastructure to attempted Russian sabotage. On Thursday, prosecutors in Flensburg, in Germany's far north, said they were investigating suspicions of espionage for the purpose of sabotage, without elaborating on who might be behind it. German media reported that drones had been spotted over a chemical park in Brunsbuettel, on the North Sea coast.



18 Indians killed as bus 'Bangladeshis not angry but hurt' clear. It is amazing how the country is settling back after such a big upheaval. People are



PTI n KATHMANDU

A t least 18 Indian pilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra for a 10-day tour were killed after a tourist bus veered off the highway and fell 150 metres into the fast-flowing Marsyangdi River in central Nepal approximately 120 kilometres from the capital on Friday, according to media reports

The bus from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh was heading towards Nepal's capital Kathmandu from the resort town of Pokhara when it drove off the highway in Aaina Pahara in the Tanahun district. There were 43 people, including the driver and the co-driver, on the bus with an Indian registration number.

The passengers onboard the bus were part of a group of 104 Indian pilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra in three buses two days ago for a 10-day tour of the Himalayan nation, MyRepublica news portal reported.

They came from Bhusal village in Jalgaon district. After visiting Pokhara for two days, all three buses left for the capital Kathmandu on Friday morning. Madhav Prasad Paudel, chief of the Armed Police Force (APF), Kurintar, said that most of the passengers travelling in the three buses were families and relatives.

A list of names of the 43 pas-

sengers who were in the illfated bus has been released. "An Indian tourist bus travelling from Pokhara to Kathmandu with around 43 Indians fell 150 metres into Marshyandi River today," the Embassy of India said in a post on X. The mission is coordinating with local authorities undertaking relief and rescue. According to Deputy Superintendent of Police of the APF Shailendra Thapa, 14 bodies were retrieved from the crash site and 16 injured were rushed to a local hospital. The bus that fell on the river bank has been badly damaged. An MI 17 helicopter of the Nepal Army has left for the accident site at Anbu Khaireni in Tanahun district with a medical team for the rescue operation, MyRepublica reported. The Gandaki Province Police Office, Pokhara, said 15 of those rescued can speak.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh government has sent a Sub Divisional Magistrate to the incident site. An ADM has also been appointed to coordinate the relief work. Uttar Pradesh Relief

Commissioner GS Naveen Kumar in a press statement said, "As per media reports and further confirmed from the MEA Nepal Division, today at about 11:30 am, a bus with registration number - UP 53 FD 7623 carrying approx 43 pas-

sengers from Maharashtra, including the driver and one assistant, fell around 150 metres into river Marshyandi in

Ambukhereni region in the Tanahu District of Nepal." The statement added, "The UP government has sent SDM Maharajganj to the incident site. The MEA is coordinating the search and rescue operations with local authorities." Nepal's rivers are generally fast-flowing due to the mountainous terrain. Heavy monsoon downpours in the past few days have swollen the waterways and turned them murky brown, making it even more difficult to see the wreckage. Monsoon season brings heavy rains to Nepal from June to September, often triggering landslides in the mountainous Himalayan country.

Last month, two buses carrying 65 passengers were washed away by a landslide into the swollen Trishuli River in Nepal. The bodies from the two buses were washed away down the Trishuli River as far as 100 kilometres. Extensive search operations, including the deployment of a 12-member team from India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), have not yet located the two missing buses and many passengers swept away by the landslide. The bodies of five Indian nationals have been recovered so far while two are still miss-

PTI n DHAKA

Abangladeshis are "not angry but hurt" over deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's stay in India, even as he urged politicians and security strategists in New Delhi to "rethink" their policy given the ground reality here.

In an exclusive interview with PTI at his residence in Dhaka, Abdul Moyeen Khan, a former Cabinet minister of Bangladesh, also said his country shares a border with India on three sides and it is a big neighbour, so there is "no reason why India should not be our best friend". After unprecedented anti-government protests which reached crescendo on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled the country, even as protesters had termed the fall of the government and her departure a "day of victory". She landed in India on August 5 and is currently staying there, even as her over two-week-long pres-

ence in India has given rise to speculation here. Khan said the current situation is of "consolidation" and coming back to normalcy. The interim government led by Chief Advisor Muhammad

Yunus is trying to stabilise the country and electoral reforms are their "top priority". Asked if elections are held in

Bangladesh what are the prospects for the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by former prime minister Khalida Zia, he said: "If there is a free and fair elections, our prospects will be decided by the people, and if they want us to be the majority or not, we will respect that, the will of the people is supreme in a democratic system." The 77-year-old veteran leader is also a member of the National Standing Committee of the BNP, a party that was established in 1978. He served as a Cabinet minister under the tenure of the then-prime minister Zia

"The current situation is quite

holding diplomatic or official

passports are eligible for visa-

free entry and a stay of up to

45 days, The Daily Star news-paper said. As of Thursday,

Hasina has already spent 18

days in India. Hasina does

not hold any passport other than the diplomatic passport

issued in her name, the paper

said quoting government

The cancellation of her diplo-

matic passport and its associ-

ated visa privileges may put her

at risk of extradition. The extradition of Hasina,

sources

Hasina's diplomatic passport revoked

Dhaka (PTI): Bangladesh's ment, it said. The release said interim government has ordinary passports may be revoked ousted prime minister issued in their favour based on Sheikh Hasina's diplomatic the reports of at least two passport along with all meminvestigating agencies, it added. bers of the former Cabinet, Hasina fled to India after being over two weeks after she resigned and fled to India folforced to resign in the face of a student-led mass uprising on lowing a student-led uprising August 5. against her government. According to the Indian visa policy, Bangladeshi citizens

A statement by the Security Services Division of the Home Affairs Ministry on Thursday said diplomatic passports received by the former prime minister, ex-PM's advisors, excabinet members and all members of the recently dissolved Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) and their spouses would be revoked immediately, the official BSS news agency reported. President Mohammed Shahabuddin in August dis-solved the 12th Parliament after Hasina, 76, fled the country. Currently, an interim government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus is running the country.

who is facing 51 cases, includ-ing 42 for murder, falls within Diplomatic passports of the officials would also be revoked the legal framework of the extradition treaty signed between Bangladesh and India, immediately upon termination of their tenure or appointthe BSS report said.

iour towards Awami League and Hasina has "transformed is up to policy planners, politiinto anti-Indian feeling in a real cians and security strategists in India to decide how long can sense of the term". "There is no reason for us to be they house her, and on what unfriendly with India unless ground they can house her, and India behaves in a way that on what policies they can house Bangladesh.

forces the people of Bangladesh to doubt their intentions," he added.

There are reports in newspapers that the US and UK govern-ments had "refused" to take Hasina in and under these circumstances, she has found "refuge" in India and this is "public information", the BNP leader claimed.

The Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi had earlier said the approval for former Prime Minister Hasina to come to India was "granted at short notice".

The situation is still evolving. At this stage, we have nothing new to share about her plans," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters on August 16 when asked exactly under what condition she was in India. Khan in Dhaka said: "It her. It is not us to decide. What we have said is what the foreign advisor has said on it."

world 09

New Delhi has to make up its mind whether it wants to be a 'friend of the Bangladeshi people" or they want to be a "friend of a section of people, or one party or one leader"

The senior BNP leader alleged that policy planners, politicians and security strategists in New Delhi "somehow put their stake in one person and one party, Sheikh Hasina and Awami League" and claimed that it was the "biggest tragedy

on the part of India". "I can't believe such a great nation failed to understand the basic instinct, psychology of the people of Bangladeshi... I sincerely hope India comes out of this mindset," he said. It is "high time" the policy plan-

ners, politicians, and security strategists in New Delhi "rethink their policy and reformulate it in the light of the reality on the ground in

We are monitoring the flood situation and relief activities from our control room in

Communications with the central Feni district, which is located almost midway between the capital Dhaka and the port city of Chattogram, was virtu-ally cut off while flood waters largely submerged the district headquarters and the collapsed electricity supply system disrupted the telecommunication lines."The cross border Khowai in (northeastern) Habiganj now flows 199 centimetres or nearly 2 metres above the danger marks at places, the Gumti (in eastern Bangladesh) flow at 118 centimetres above danger mark and Halda in (southeastern) Chattagram 1 metre at places," a spokesman of the

of information from counterparts in the upstream Indian region According to local media reports, the situation became bizarre as local government representatives were unavailable or on the run because of their political affiliation after the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime.Yunus, 84, assumed charge on August 8 soon after Hasina, 76, stepped down on August 5 and fled to India

attributed the situation to a lack

'Biden to dispatch adviser to China as he looks to sharpen policy focus in final months'

Ukraine recaptures land in the Kharkiv region

Bangladesh floods kills 15, maroon over 4.5 million

PTI n DHAKA

trying to get back to their nor-

mal day-to-day life, the (inter-

im) government is trying to

normalise everything, and they

are up to their main mandate

which is the transition from

autocracy to democracy," Khan

Asked how he saw the trajecto-

ry of the Dhaka-New Delhi ties

because of the presence of Hasina in India, he said it

depends entirely on how India

On Hasina's stay in India after fleeing Bangladesh, he said

"Bangladeshi are not angry, but hurt, wounded..as they

The former Cabinet minister

claimed that New Delhi's behav-

never expected this".

told PTI on Thursday.

decides".

Monsoon rainfall-triggered floods in deltaic Bangladesh and upstream Indian regions killed at least 15 people and affected over four million others in this country, posing a huge administrative challenge to the newly installed interim government amid a political transition. Several rivers are flowing above the danger mark, particularly in north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern Bangladesh inundating many cities and towns apart from several hundred villages killing people, damag-ing the infrastructures and disrupting communication lines. "At least 15 people have been killed and 4.8 million people in as many as 11 districts have been affected by floods triggered by heavy rains in Bangladesh," state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) said quoting Md Kamrul Hasan, secretary of the Disaster Management Ministry.Rescue operations in the flood-affected areas are being carried out by the army, navy, coast guard, Border Guards, Bangladesh (BGB), fire services, police as well as stu-dents, Hasan told media persons. More than a dozen places across these areas received over 60 mm of rainfall, ranging from 151 mm at Cox's Bazar to

Centre (FFWC) said about the situation on Friday afternoon. The FFWC office came under Dhaka. criticism for failure to predict the situation even as the officials

amidst a mass uprising that followed attacks, vandalism and killings of many people loyal to Flood Warning and Forecasting her since last month

🚳 Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot Admission Notice Post Basic Nursing Courses, session 2024

AP n BUELLTON

President Joe Biden plans to dispatch his national security adviser Jake Sullivan to China as the White House aims to sharpen its focus on foreign policy in the Democrat's final months in office.

Sullivan's visit to meet with his counterpart, Wang Yi, is expected to take place next week, according to a person familiar with planning for the trip who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The White House is expected to announced plans for the trip later on Friday.

Sullivan has met with Chinese officials several times over the course of the administration to discuss the two economic rivals complicated relationship, but this will be his first visit to China. The expected announcement comes as Biden is vacationing in California's

Santa Ynez Valley.

The high-level visit by Sullivan to China could potentially set the ground for another face-toface meeting for Biden with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The two leaders last November spent four hours together at a bucolic Northern California estate - in meetings, a working lunch and a garden stroll -

as they looked to steady a relationship that has been fraught for much of Biden's time in office. Their meeting led to modest agreements to combat illegal fentanyl and reestablish military communications. But there were still deep differences on economic competition and global security threats.

Still, Biden and Xi are looking to bring a greater measure of stability to a relationship that is being defined by differences over export controls, tensions over Taiwan, the wars in the Middle East and Europe, and more.

Ukrainian forces say they have recaptured territory in the eastern region of Kharkiv, where Russia launched a large offensive in the spring that brought initial gains but the operation soon stalled. Ukraine's

3rd Separate Assault Brigade said in a statement late Thursday that its forces advanced nearly two square kilometers (about three-quarters of a square mile) in that area

It was unclear when the attack was launched, its scale, and the area of the offensive, and it's hard to predict if it will have further impact on the battlefield. Ukraine's reported counteroffensive in the Kharkiv region comes as its forces have gained new momentum and altered the battlefield this month. Kyiv launched a shock offensive into Russia's western Kursk region on August 6, while simultaneously intensifying a drone war against military and fuel targets that sparked blazes deep in Russia

tunities in Pakistan".

Separately, The Express

Tribune newspaper reported that Pakistan begins seeking

commercial loans from Middle

Eastern banks to bridge the

external financing gap, as the

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

A Ukrainian drone attack targeting a distant Russian air base in its Volgograd region caused significant damage to an airfield that reportedly housed glide bombs used by Moscow in the war, satellite photos analyzed Friday by The Associated Press showed

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

Ukraine's gains have reshaped the battlefield and buoyed the morale of Ukrainians 10 years after Russia first invaded their country, and 2 1/2 years after Moscow launched a full-scale invasion that has led to mass

ated Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. Ukraine and its Western allies hope that the regained momentum could strengthen Kyiv's hand on the diplomatic front. A visit to Kyiv by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is meeting Friday with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is being closely watched. Modi, who has maintained cordial ties and eco-

death and destruction and cre

nomic relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, could play a role in forging a mediated peace.

But the incursion into Russia itself is risky. It has highlighted Russian vulnerabilities but also further stretched Ukrainian forces, who were already fighting on a frontline running for hundreds of kilometers. And it has possibly compromised its ability to hold back Russian forces who have slowly but steadily gained ground in the Donetsk region, diverting Ukrainian forces who otherwise could bolster defense there.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department and forecast heavy rainfall in various regions of the country over the next three days due to active monsoon conditions over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

Gopalganj,

the

Bangladesh is crisscrossed by more than 200 rivers, 54 of them being transboundary rivers with upper riparian India, in four major basins. A depression (a system that brings in copious rainfall) in the Bay of Bengal has led to the current deluge with rivers in two basins the north-eastern Meghna Basin and south-western Chattrogram Hills Basin - flowing above the danger mark. Apart from the torrential rains, the overflowing rivers, El Nino and climate change phenomenon were the factors responsible for widespread flooding in the country, weather experts said on Friday.

A Disaster Management Ministry spokesperson said: Online applications are invited for vacant seats for admission in all the Govt./Private colleges of Punjab through University website from candidates who have not appeared in PPBNET-2024 on the basis of GNN examinations from 25.08.2024 To 31.08.2024 2nd round of Online counseling schedule for all PPBNET-2024

appeared and Not appeared candidates is available on University web

Note:- Any Notification/Corrigendum/Amendment by Govt. of Punjab will be followed. For the detailed schedule/Prospectus & updates visit us at: www.bfuhs.ac.in. REGISTRAR

nil/12/217/2023/36949 Dated CHD :- 8/22/2024

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Tender Notice Reference No.GNDU/Gen/69/2024

The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following

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

Closing date & Time: 07-09-2024 at 5:00 PM

For details log onto: www.eproc.punjab.gov.in Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the abo website only

> Assistant Registrar (General Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsa

NA/12/24953/2023/36955 Dated CHD :- 8/23/2024

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspscl.in Contact No.96461-17604, 96461-17659

Tender Enquiry No. 1701/TGM/O&M/PC-2579 Dated: 22-08-2024 Chief Engineer/ Q&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Scaling and Antisieze Compund. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 22-08-2024 at 17:00 Hrs. onwards

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP-72/24

76155/12/3341/2023/36973 Dated CHD :- 8/23/2024



तद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत विकार एतन द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आधिकरण के गिनाम्ल जनपदा ने राख्य आधानक बजा न विद्युत विकास अनुरक्षण एवं रख्य-रखाव कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/ यिरिबरों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत एव अनुगवी फर्मों /देकेदारों से अत्यकालीन ई—निविदाये आमंत्रित के जाती है जो दिनांक 24.08.2024 को अपरान्ह 04.00 बजे से दिनांक 02.09.2024 को अपरान्ह 5.00 बजे तक अपतोड की जा सकती हैं। निविदाओं को दिनांक 03.09.2024 को अपरान्ह 04:00 बजे खोला जायेगा निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां दिनांक 06.09.2024 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जम की जा सकती हैं। ई—निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत्त् है:—

क्रमांक	क कार्य का नाम				
1	Supply and Installation of CCTV & Annual service charge with 05 years AMC at IA. Mathura site A & B, Kosi Kotwan I & II Kosi Kalan (Mathura), Firozabad, Bhogaon (Mainpuri), Foundary Nagar Agra, Sikandra Site A, B, C & EPIP Agra.	98.66			
गोटः– 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर साहेत दरें अंकित करें । जी०एस०टी० अलग से देय होगी। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थित ई–लिंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। उप महाप्रबन्धक (बि०) मु०, उपपटाऔणवि०प्राo, कानपुर					

SL prez poll Pak seeks \$4bn loan from Middle East banks candidate

PTI n ISLAMABAD passes away

Colombo (PTI): One of the 39 candidates in the fray in Sri Lanka's presidential election scheduled for September 21 has passed away. Idroos Mohamed Îlyas, 79, an independent candidate from the north-western Puttalam district died last night from a heart attack while he IMF's approval. was being taken to a hospital, his family said. He was a member of parliament in the 1990s representing the island's nine per cent Muslim minority from the northern district of Jaffna. His name with his electoral symbol, 'injection syringe', was placed fourth from the top of the lengthy ballot paper made so by the record 39 candidates, four more in comparison to the previous election held in November 2019.

For the current fiscal year, ash-strapped Pakistan is Pakistan has pitched about in talks with banks in the USD 20 billion in foreign bor-Middle East to borrow approxrowing in the budget, besides imately USD 4 billion to meet another USD 3 billion rollover from the UAE that was reportits external financial commited separately for the balance of ments for the current fiscal year, as part of the USD 7 bilpayments. With this much borlion Extended Fund Facility rowing, Pakistan's reserves are estimated to grow to about USD 19-20 billion by the end (EFF) currently pending for of the current fiscal year.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and his team had a Of the USD 20 billion estimate, virtual meeting with Dr Adnan about USD 4 billion is target-Chilwan, Group CEO of Dubai ed to be arranged through foreign commercial borrowing Islamic Bank, on Thursday, during the current fiscal year the Dawn newspaper reported and another USD 1 billion in on Friday. international bonds.

On Wednesday, a similar interaction was held with Mashreq Bank President and Group CEO Ahmed Abdelaal. Both meetings had been arranged to "discuss the economic outlook and explore investment opporIMF indefinitely postponed the approval of a USD 7 billion EFF this week after Islamabad failed to secure the additional USD 2 billion in financing and the rollover of USD 12 billion in cash deposits from Saudi Arabia, China, and the UAE. The finance minister now

hopes that the IMF may approve the new EFF next month. Pakistan has also intensified its engagement with foreign commercial banks, though high financing costs and a low credit rating from international agencies remain significant hurdles. Pakistan's current credit rating stands at CCC+, which is below investment grade, leading to higher interest rate demands from commercial banks.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the Ministry of Finance and the

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) briefed the Senate Standing Committee on Economic Affairs about Pakistan's engagements with the IMF since 1958. Qader Bakhsh, an executive from the SBP, informed the parliamentary forum that Pakistan's last Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF had an average interest rate of 5.1 per cent, making it a costly deal. He also noted that the new IMF loan is expected to carry similar rates unless global interest rates decline. The IMF interest rate is deter-

mined by the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket price, plus a 1% base rate and two additional surcharges linked to loan volume and duration, he explained.

The SBP official further detailed that if a country borrows more than 187.5 per cent

of its IMF quota, a 2 per cent surcharge applies. Additionally, a 1 per cent surcharge is levied if the borrowing period exceeds three years, he said.

Traditionally, lending by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the IMF was considered affordable. However, due to Pakistan's increasing borrowing needs and limited capacity to sustain such debt, the WB and ADB have also raised their interest rates. Data shared by the finance ministry revealed that Pakistan's interest costs on IMF loans have steadily risen since 2008. That year, Pakistan borrowed from the IMF at an interest rate of 1.6 per cent, which increased to 2.4 per cent in 2013. The 2019 IMF programme was secured at an average interest rate of 3.41 per

cent.



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

PTI n MUMBA

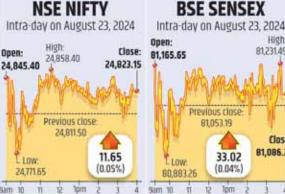
 $B^{\text{enchmark Sensex and Nifty}}_{\text{edged up in volatile trade}}$ on Friday following buying in blue-chip stocks such as ICICI Bank and Bharti Airtel amid mixed global trends ahead of the US Fed chair Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium.

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

In early trade, the benchmark declined 169.93 points or 0.20 per cent to a low of 80,883.26. Later, it bounced back 178.3 points or 0.21 per cent to hit a high of 81,231.49 but gave up gains towards the end. The NSE Nifty edged up 11.65

points or 0.05 per cent to close at 24,823.15 registering gains for the seventh session in a

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



market sentiments

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

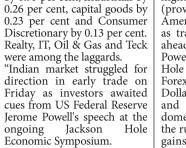
the laggards. 'Ahead of the FED chair Powell's speech, the Indian indices oscillated around the flat trajectory and mixed



KBK Infographics

ICICI Bank, Mahindra & global further catalysed this scenario," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. Investors are exercising caution and awaiting Powell's signals for more insights on the

interest rate path, Nair added. In the broader market, the BSE Services and HDFC Bank were smallcap gauge jumped 0.15 per cent, however the midcap index fell 0.66 per cent. Among the indices, Services



surged by 1.07 per cent, Auto

by 0.93 per cent, Industrials by

Markets are looking for new clues on the timing and pace of possible interest rate cuts by the Fed this year," Avdhut Technical Bagkar and Derivatives Analyst StoxBox.

Bajaj Auto stock jumped 5 per cent after the company became the first automotive original equipment manufacturer (ÔEM) to receive a domestic value addition certificate for all 15 electric models it submitted for clearance from the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).

Rupee rises 4 paise to close at 83.89 against US dollar

PTI n MUMBAI

The rupee traded in a I narrow range and settled higher by 4 paise at 83.89 (provisional) against the American currency on Friday, as traders remained cautious ahead of Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium.

Forex traders said weak US Dollar, foreign fund inflows and a positive tone in the domestic markets supported the rupee. However, overnight gains in crude oil prices capped sharp gains. the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 83.93 and touched an intraday high of 83.85 against the US dollar.

The domestic currency finally settled at 83.89 (provisional), 4 paise higher from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee traded in a narrow range and settled lower by 3 paise at 83.93 against the American currency. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias as

traders remain cautious ahead

Rupee vs Dollar



of Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium which could provide some cues on Fed's path to cut interest rates.

Weak US and Asian markets and a recovery in crude oil prices may pressure the rupee while positive domestic markets may support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary -- Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, over 2022-23.

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

PTI n MUMBAI

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six

currencies, was trading 0.10

Brent crude, the global oil

benchmark, advanced 1.05 per

cent to USD 78.03 per barrel.

On the domestic equity

market front, Sensex advanced

33.02 points, or 0.04 per cent,

to close at 81,086.21 points.

The Nifty rose 11.65 points, or

0.05 per cent, to 24,823.15

Foreign institutional investors

(FIIs) were net buyers in the

capital markets on Thursday

as they purchased shares

worth Rs 1,371.79 crore,

macroeconomic front, the

minutes of the last Monetary

Gold prices decline by

350, silver drops 200

according to exchange data.

the

points.

On

per cent lower at 101.40.

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 4.546 billion to USD 674.664 billion during the week ended August 16, the RBI said on Friday.

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

billion. In the week ended August 16, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 3.609 billion to USD 591.569 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Policy Committee (MPC) Expressed in dollar terms, the currency assets the effect of released by the Reserve Bank foreign of India (RBI) on Thursday include appreciation or depreciation noted that the calibrated of non-US units like the euro, increase in policy repo rate by 250 basis points since May pound and yen held in the 2022 and subsequent change foreign exchange reserves. of stance to the withdrawal of Gold reserves increased by USD 865 million to USD accommodation have

domestic

facilitated gradual disinflation 60.104 billion during the week, the RBI said.

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

companies.

diligently.

necessary at all if the CAs had

done their work more

It can be noted that in March

this year, Sebi chairperson

Madhabi Puri Buch had

flagged concerns around "price manipulation" in the

SME platform listings and

trading, and asked investors

PTI n MUMBAI

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

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



to be cautious.

He compared the CAs to Meanwhile, addressing CAs "doctors", and added that they on Friday, Bhatia recalled the conduct of SBI's past act as first-level regulators by ensuring orderly conduct of chairman R K Talwar and said that the strength of character Bhatia said many Sebi of the leader helps create investigations and orders, "great institutions". which take over a year to He also said that despite the complete, may not be

regulator coming out with regulations to enable delisting, the experience has been the "reverse" with little interest on that front. The whole-time member hinted that the low interest in delisting is due to high

valuations, and added that even foreign companies are looking at listing in India.

in Noida, Gr Noida up 29 per cent in Apr-Jun at 8,212 units: Report PTI n NEW DELHI

Registration of housing properties

Registration of residential properties in Noida and Greater Noida rose 29 per cent annually in the June quarter to 8,212 units, according to housing brokerage firm Square Yards. to housing As many as 6,354 units were registered in the year-ago period.

Residential real estate activity in Noida and Greater Noida saw a marked uptick in the June quarter of 2024, with 8,212 residential transactions registered with the Inspector General of Registration (IGR).

The combined sales value of these transactions reached Rs 6,013 crore, representing a 59 per cent year-on-year surge, outpacing the growth in transaction volume," the consultant said in a statement. In Noida, Square Yards said that 3,200 units were registered during the April-June period against 2,408



number the of Its project, Nirala Estate in

Tech Zone-4 (Greater Noida), led the pack with 620 units 565 crore in sales value, the

PTI n NEW DELHI

G350 to Rs 73,800 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to the Rs 87,000 per kg from Rs 87,200 per kg in the previous

losses on Friday, weighed down by rising ÚS Treasury yields and a recovery in the dollar index, market experts

Prices of precious metal were also influenced by the minutes of the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) released by RBI on Thursday. Reserve Bank Governor



Shaktikanta Das said that the current policy rate of 6.5 per cent is broadly balanced, and any justification for policy easing at this juncture can be misleading, according to the MPC minutes.

Governor Das and three other members voted for the status quo on the repo rate in the MPC, while two members advocated a rate cut.

Globally, gold at Comex gained USD 18.20 to trade at JSD 2,534.90 per ounce. Silver was trading 1.24 per cent higher at USD 29.84 per ounce in the international markets.

Minutes from the US Federal Reserve's July meeting

revealed a strong inclination toward a rate cut next month, a move supported by at least two Fed officials, Prathamesh Mallya, DVP- Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One Ltd, said. "Speculators overstated the

likelihood of an aggressive rate cut before the end of the year; now they trimmed their bets and are pricing three 25basis-point cuts across the remaining three Fed policy meetings this year, down from around four cuts priced two days ago," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst -**H**DFC Commodities at Securities.

units a year ago. day. Greater Noida saw a 27 per Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent increase in registration of cent purity also dropped by Rs 350 to Rs 73,450 per 10 residential properties at 5,012 units compared to 3,946 units grams against Rs 73,800 per in the corresponding period 10 grams on Thursday. of the previous year. The yellow metal extended

Among developers, realty firm Nirala World topped both transactions and sales value in April-June 2024. said.

registered, amounting to Rs consultant said.

old prices declined by Rs

All India Sarafa Association. In the previous session, gold of 99.9 per cent purity traded at Rs 74,150 per 10 grams. Silver declined by Rs 200 to

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

PTI n NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

98 countries, which account for 24.6 per cent of India's exports, with notable declines in Italy, Belgium, Nepal, and Hong Kong.

The US is India's top export partner. Exports to the US increased from USD 37.7 billion in January-June 2023 to USD 41.6 billion in January-June 2024, reflecting

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

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

PTI n NEW DELHI

government needs to take action in a time-bound manner, former steel secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha has said.

"If you take flat steel products, imports are certainly an issue. The slump in the Chinese market has really shaken the (domestic) market," Sinha, who superannuated on July 31, said at the 7th edition of BigMint's Indian Iron Ore and Pellet Summit on Friday. He also warned of the price realisations getting affected due to surging imports impacting the profitability of steel makers.

"To the extent the imports currently happening are

unfair and there is dumping including China. going on and the Indian Steelmakers have concern that India government should certainly respond to them in a becoming a net importer of timeframe," Sinha said. steel against the aim to become a global supplier of

statement assumes His significance as local steel the commodity. players have been raising the Sinha said "...Duty prayers for issue of imports for months imposition of the duty are select being considered at a longer from countries

and a half that is not going help industry at least give them a fair hearing." On August 16, the

timeframe for about a year

government initiated an antidumping probe into the import of hot-rolled steel following a complaint by a domestic industry. The commerce ministry's

investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is probing the alleged dumping of 'hot rolled flat products of alloy or nonalloy steel'. According to the DGTR notification, Indian Steel Association has filed an application on behalf of domestic producers - JSW Steel Ltd and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd seeking initiation of an antidumping investigation on imports from Vietnam.

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

PTI n NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{country will grow at a}}^{\text{ower demand in the}}$ higher rate of 15GW per annum for next six years compared to 11GW per annum in last one decade, a senior government official said on Friday.

By 2030, about 85 GW of additional demand will be added during the solar hours and during the non solar hours more than 90 GW will be added to the peak demand, said Additional Secretary Power Srikant Nagulapalli at an Industry Conclave an Industry C organised by IEEMA.

The CAGR may not reflect these numbers truly, but if you see the absolute numbers a target of 500 GW capacity it's a big jump and to meet from non-fossil fuel-based

growth, substantial this expansion of our coal capacity and along with solar, wind, storage and also transmission capacity is being undertaken,"

Nagulapalli added. Nagulapalli noted that "India's peak demand grew at an average of 11GW for the last 10 years and going forward for the next 6 years, we expect that the demand is going to grow at an average of 15 GW per year."

He further stated that approx 40 GW will be through storage. "By 2030, we intend to rely on storage capacity, be it long storage batteries to 200 supply our non solar hour peak," he said. The Ministry of Power has set

sources by 2030. On capacity addition, he said .. We have already crossed 00 GW (RE capacity this plan prioritises the RE zones of Rajasthan, Gujarat, addition) and additional 300 Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh GW has to be realised in the etc. As there are large chunks next 6 years, of this (300GW) of solar potential lands almost 225 GW will be from available. solar and wind," he said. He also talked about plan to

install offshore wind farms remote regions in Arunachal near Gujarat and Tamil Nadu coast and added that the country is also gearing up to add green hydrogen capacity in a big way especially coastal areas of Odisha, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and so on. We have large demand that is going to come from EVs and also data centres," he pointed

out. Together with the electrification of the economy all these will drive the demand that is going to come

up in the near future, he stated. The whole country, if you see, is connected into a single grid running on single frequency it is capable of and transferring 170 GW power from one end to another even

and Ladakh are connected. He noted that the government is promoting the storage through PSPs (pumped hydro storage projects) and batteries. "We aim for 40 GW of BESS (battery energy storage system) and 19 GW PSP capacity in next 6 years and in the budget also an announcement made that a new PSP Policy would come to push PSP projects," he stated. The government has also improved about 4GWh of

BESS through VGF (viability gas funding). Beyond this we are creating a policy framework for bringing battery energy storage systems in a short-term in a big way, he added.

Foxconn infuses `1,200 crore in Karnataka unit

raised

PTI n NEW DELHI

 $E_{\rm giant\ Fox conn\ has\ infused}^{\rm lectronics\ manufacturing}$ about Rs 1,200 crore --approximately USD 144 million -- into its Karnataka-based Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd, the company said in a recent regulatory filing.

iPhone The contract manufacturer's Singaporebased arm Foxconn Singapore Pte has bought over 120.35 crore stocks of Foxconn Hon Hai India Mega Technology Development Pvt Ltd at Rs 10 per share on August 21. The Karnataka government

in a statement last week said Foxconn is planning to invest Rs 25,000 crore to establish a massive manufacturing plant near Dodda Ballapur that will create 40,000 jobs.

'The unit in Karnataka will soon become the secondlargest Foxconn plant after China's unit. It will create 40,000 direct jobs, especially for middle-level educated individuals, and our investment will not stop here; in the future, we plan to explore other sectors also," Foxconn Chairman Young Liu was quoted as saying in the statement. With the fresh infusion, Foxconn Singapore has invested over Rs 13,800 crore in the Karnataka unit.

www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

UNCOVERING THE PAST THE LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASE

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

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

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



revolutionary activities while simultaneously attempting to undermine the moral authority of the independence movement.

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

portrayal helps to appreciate the collective nature of the HSRA's struggle and the ideological and personal dynamics within the

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



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

revolutionary ideologies. This perspective adds a new layer of complexity to the story, highlighting the colonial government's strategic use of public trials to shape public opinion and maintain control.

vivacity 11

Moreover, Vaidik's analysis of the revolutionaries actions during the trial challenges the conventional view that their courtroom tactics were purely propagandistic. She presents a nuanced argument that these actions were part of a broader political strategy designed to galvanise public support and expose the hypocrisies of the colonial regime. This interpretation enriches our understanding of revolutionary politics and underscores the significance of the trial in the broader context of India's nationalist movement. Vaidik's scholarly rigor is matched

by her engaging writing style, making Revolutionaries on Trial both accessible and informative. The book is meticulously researched, drawing on a wide range of sources, including archival documents, personal letters and contemporary press reports. This thoroughness not only enhances the credibility of Vaidik's arguments but also brings the historical events to life, making the book a compelling read.

Revolutionaries on Trial is a significant contribution to the study of Indian history. It offers fresh insights into a well-known event, challenging readers to reconsider their understanding of the Lahore Conspiracy Case and the broader struggle for independence. Vaidik's work is essential reading for anyone interested in the complexities of colonial justice, revolutionary movements and the enduring legacy of India's fight for freedom. Whether you are a historian, a student of political science or simply someone interested in the depth of India's past, this book is sure to leave a lasting impression.

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

Through the Eyes of a Top Indian Cop

ayaram Padikkal (1937-1997) was an IPS officer who served as the chief of Kerala Police during 1993 to 1994. He was the youngest DIG in the country as he excelled in investigation and intelligence gathering. Had it not been for a controversy associated with the custodial death of a young Maoist leader by name P Rajan of the Regional Engineering College (now NIT) at Kozhikode during the black days of the internal emergency, Padikkal would have retired as the top echelon of the Home Ministry either as the chief of IB or CBI. It is strange that the entire media in Kerala went gaga when Padikkal was suspended from service following the Rajan case. Though he was reinstated in service following the Court acquitted him of all charges, the Kerala media never left him alone and went after his blood with their own findings which were far from reality. All columns, books and even films of those days portrayed him as a villain. Even today, young journalists who do not have any idea about the Rajan case, lambasts Padikkal. The truth is that there was a period in the history of Kerala Police when people, cutting across political lines, demanded that cases of murder, corruption and misuse of power should be investigated by Jayaram Padikkal! Newspapers and periodicals in the State stand proof of this demand. What happened to Padikkal was his success in exposing the hypocrisy and double standard of the Communists. Interestingly it was during the tenure of EMS Namboodiripad as chief minister that a separate unit was set up in the State for tackling the Maoist menace. Padikkal was appointed as head of the special unit and he did not let his bosses down. The Maoists, they were known as Naxalites those days, ran for their lives and within a couple of years, Padikkal and his "boys" finished them off. But they struck back during the emergency days and

A revealing account of the challenges, controversies and victories faced by one of India's top police officers, as detailed in Prakash Singh's Unforgettable Chapters: Memoirs of a Top Cop, shedding light on

nephew of a former vicepresident of the country, was an accused in cases of murders, dacoity and rape. He was described as a shaheed by Asaduddin Owaisi much to the anguish of the law abiding citizens in India. Though Prakash Singh did not approve the Sangh Parivar demolishing the disputed structure at Ayodhya in 1992, this police officer makes it unambiguously clear that the Babri Mosque was nothing other than the temple where Lord Rama was born. What makes this book a must read for all who are interested in knowing the political and social chaos is the kind of information provided by the author. He has shared with the readers the reasons for the fall in standards of policing in the country. Postretirement, Singh drew the attention of the Supreme Court to factors like the executive misuse and abuse of the police in frequent postings and transfers, recruitment procedures vitiated by political recommendations, promotions getting influenced, tampering of investigations, and unlawful directions to the police as matters of concern. Singh is no ordinary police officer and is proved by his admission that he regrets his failure in mastering Sanskrit and not learning martial arts. His third regret that he could not divide his life in the four ashrams prescribed by our ancestors is uncalled for. We need officers like Prakash Singh to share their experiences with the new generation cops. It will make major changes in the spirit and soul of young officers. Prakash Singh had won a historical case against the Union of India when the Supreme Court ordered that IPS officers selected to head the police force should get a minimum two-year tenure as chief. Super cops like Padikkal and Prakash Singh belong to a different genre and they are the ones described by Chanakya as the real policemen.

Rediscovering the Sacred Female Principle

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

Dirthing the Goddess: The **D***Feminine and the Idea* of Birth is a captivating anthology that navigates the rich ground where birth, creation and the feminine divine intersect. Compiled by



the complex world of law enforcement in the country, says KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

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

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

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

them. A chief minister like

Pinarayi Vijayan, whom the

PRAKASH SINGH CPI(M)

in Kerla

portrays as the most popular politician in India, does not move out of his palatial house without a heavy posse of commandoes and a cavalcade of fifty SUVs and siren wielding ambulances.

Singh's memoirs take the readers through a period in India filled with terrorism, political turmoil and insurgency. He has hands-on experience in tackling terrorism in States like Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Nagaland and the mafia raj of Uttar Pradesh. Singh has diagnosed the root cause of insurgency in North East India in an exemplary manner. No other political historians , security experts or observers have gone into the basics of these issues like Prakash Singh. While serving as DGP in Uttar

Pradesh, Singh had alerted his colleagues and subordinates about the danger posed by Mukhtar Ansari, the dreaded don of Uttar Pradesh. Ansari,

diverse group of authors, Compiled by a diverse group of contributors, including Seema Kohli, Anamika Roy, Janet Chawla, Nilima Chitgopekar and Stella Dupuis. This volume extends the inquiry begun in Experiencing the Goddess, offering an even deeper exploration of the spiritual and cultural significance of the feminine principle.

The book opens by reframing birth as not just a biological event but as a transformative process imbued with profound spiritual and cultural meaning. Anamika Roy's essay, "Radha Was Created Not Born," sets the tone by exploring the origins of Radha, a central figure in Hinduism whose existence stems from artistic and poetic creation rather than traditional birth. This interpretation of Radha's origin as a divine construct rather than a born deity is both refreshing and thoughtprovoking, challenging readers to reconsider the boundaries of creation.

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

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

balance.

Seema Kohli's essay, "Journey of Surya, from Martanda to Hiranyagarbha - Immortal Cycle of Creation and Recreation," adds a fascinating dimension to the anthology. By weaving Vedic concepts of creation with personal reflections, Kohli brings ancient symbols like the Golden Womb (Hiranyagarbha) and the Sun (Martanda) into contemporary relevance, offering readers a unique blend of mythology and modern interpretation.

In "Birth of a Hero - The Pursuit of Immortality," Stella Dupuis explores the universal motif of heroism and immortality. She connects Amazonian women warriors, India's Sati memorial stones and Ladakh's Matsyendranth sculpture. Her analysis of the birth and quests of mythical heroes across different cultures enriches the anthology by showing the diverse ways divine favor and heroic journeys are Birthing the Goddess is a deeply engaging and intellectually stimulating collection that offers new perspectives on the feminine divine through the themes of birth and creation. Each essay challenges conventional narratives and invites readers to go through into the sacred dimensions of the feminine, making the book a valuable addition to studies in mythology, spirituality and cultural traditions.

conceptualised.

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

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

26-30.

an off day.

affair

Rest days were a common feature in Test cricket in the last century, with several matches in the cricketing

world being played across six

days with Sunday usually being

More recently, Bangladesh

played a Test-series opener

against Sri Lanka in December

2008, which was a six-day

parliamentary election.

because of



GUKESH, PRAGGNANANDHAA DRAW AGAIN IN SINQUEFIELD CUP



PTI n SAINT LOUIS (USA)

World Championship Challenger D Gukesh enjoyed an advantageous position against tournament co-leader Alireza Firouzja of France but eventually settled for a draw in the fourth round of the Sinquefield Cup, here. Gukesh, who is set to play the World championship match against Ding Liren of China next November, proved that he is made of sterner mettle as he made Firouzja's life tough.

R Grandmaster

Praggnanandhaa also drew his game against Anish Giri of Holland and almost at the half way stage in this 10-player round-robin tournament, the Indians stand at a level fifty percent score. The day when Wesley So of

United stated States won the lone decisive game, the news doing the round through unconfirmed sources was that Firouzja has been offered to play for United States. For Pragg things were not difficult as he meticulously handled Anish Giri with black

pieces and even though the Dutchman believed he had some chances, they were thwarted in no time. After three decisive games in round three the fourth round yet again produced just a lone

decisive game with Wesley So overcoming Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia. With Wesley winning and Nepomniachtchi on the losing the former joined side, Firouzja in lead on 2.5 points after four rounds and they are now followed by Fabiano Caruana of United States,

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of Nepomniachtchi, France, Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh. Abdusattorov and Giri share the ninth spot with 1.5 points each. Results round 4: Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 2); D Gukesh (Ind, 2) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 2.5); Wesley So (Usa, 2,5) beat Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fide, 2); Ding Liren (Chn, 2) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 2); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5).

Sri Lanka-New Zealand opening Test at Galle to have a rest day PTI n DUBAI same venue from September

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

The Test, scheduled to commence on September 18, will have a rest day on September 21, "owing to the Presidential Election of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka", said an ICC release on Friday.

It will be the first time in more than two decades that Sri Lanka have been scheduled to

host a Test across six days, with their match against Zimbabwe in Colombo in 2001 also including a rest day due to Poya Day (full moon), said the

The two-match series is part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship cycle with the second Test scheduled at the

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

India A bowlers fight back but Australia A's lead surges to 192 on Day 2 of unofficial Test prey to rookie leg-spinner

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

India A skipper Minnu Mani completed her match haul of 10 wickets but Kate Peterson returned an impactful 12-5-16-5 to hand Australia a slender 28-run lead in the first innings, as the visitors were

the host's 212. Resuming at 100/2, India A looked on course to take a substantial lead but fell short as

PTI n GOLD COAST (AUSTRALIA) Peterson ran through the middle order. India's set batters Tejal Hasabnis (32) and Shweta Sehrawat (40) were the first to fall as the tourists lost five wickets for 27 runs before Sayali Satghare (21), Mani (17) and Mannat Kashyap (19) put up 56 runs to deny Australia a

> Mani then swung into action with the ball immediately as Australia A batters' once again struggled against Indian spinners. The off-spinner first

> > Finance

removed opener Georgia Voll hosts to 0/2 at one stage.

and her Australian counterpart Charli Knott for ducks in consecutive overs to reduce the Mani, who claimed a fivewicket haul in the first essay, also got rid of Nicole Faltum (16) before she cleaned up Tess Fintoo with an offbreak.

Drake added 54 for the sixth However, opener Emma de wicket with Maitlan Brown (26 Broughe continued to hold fort off 45) before the latter became Mani's tenth wicket in the from one end as she scored 58 runs off 117 balls before falling game.

Priva Mishra.

Wicketkeeper Maddy Drake

took matters into her own

hands by hitting an unbeaten

half century (54 not out of 100

deliveries) to lead Australia's

recovery further as the hosts

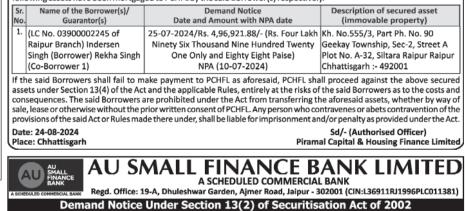
reached 164/7 at the end of

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CIN:L65910MH1984PLC032639, Web Side:- www.piramalfinance.com Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West)- 400602. DEMAND NOTICE

Jnder Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interes Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), rom the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.



Ilkay returns for unlikely second spell at Man City after just a year at Barcelona

AP n MANCHESTER

Ilkay Gundogan is back at Manchester City for a sequel few could have expected.

A year after leaving for Barcelona, the former midfielder Germany completed his unlikely return to City on Friday on a free transfer and a seasonlong deal.

The 33-year-old Gundogan, who has the option of a further season at City, was the captain when Pep Guardiola's team captured the Premier League- FA Cup -Champions League treble in the 2022-23 cam baign. That confirmed his place in been in the conversation most notably after scoring two late goals against Aston Villa on the final day of the 2021-22 Premier League



season to seal a 3-2 win that of Xavi Hernández's favorite clinched the title. He was at players during the coach's City for seven years after sole season with the Catalan 2016 club but Barcelona's delicate joining as Guardiola's first signing, and was often his manager's goeconomic situation appears the growing pantheon of was often his manager's go-City greats, having already to player with big to have forced the new coach, Hansi Flick of anď Germany, to part ways with performances Gundogan. significant goals. Bringing in Gundogan is a Typical late call by City in this central attacking Typically an midfielder, transfer window. He was one Gundogan also will be used

should the Spain star need a break. He is well-versed in Guardiola's style of play so has the benefit of not needing a transitional period, and will compete for a place in the midfield alongside the irreplaceable Rodri with Kevin De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva, Mateo Kovacic and Phil Foden. Gundogan's exit should

help Barcelona register new midfielder Dani Olmo, which the team has so far been unable to do because of the Spanish league's financial rules that make clubs balance expenditures on wages and transfers with available assets. In addition to Olmo, Barcelona also has depth in creative midfield the positions with Pedri González, Frenkie de Jong,

a replacement for Fermin López and, once he recovers from his serious leg holding midfielder Rodri injury, Gavi Páez. Gundogan was Germany's

captain at the recent European Championship but he retired from international duty this week. Gundogan's last game for City

saw him lift the Champions League trophy after the win over Inter Milan in Istanbul in June last year. His next could be against Ipswich at Etihad Stadium in the Premier

League on Saturday. PUBLIC NOTICE The General Public is hereby informed that m clients Sh. Abdul Salam S/o Abdul Sattar R/ ilai Chhattisgarh.490006 hav

Khasra no 762/46, Saraswati Kuni, East Risali As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of

huge lead. bowled out for 184 in reply to

their relations with their son Sh Arsh Nawazish due to his bad habits. My abo named client have also disowned and debarn his said son from all their movable an immovable properties & legal implication Anybody dealing with Sh Arshad Nawazish v do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibi ties and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Sh Arsha Praveen Rastogi (Advocate

Enrol No.: D/244/06

inancial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002" had issued 60 days demand notice to the Borrowers/Co borrowers/Mortgagers/Guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as given in the table. According to the notice if the prowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage roperties/secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Borrowers to note that after receipt of this notice, in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Borrowers attention are attracted towards Section 13(8) r/w Rule 3(5) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Act that the borrowers shall be entitled to redeem their secured asset upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as entioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.

Mortgagor / Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	d Description of Mortgaged Property
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060114702063 & L9001060825743887, Ramu Ram (Borrower), Bhoj Ram Sahu (Co-Borrower)	12-Jul-24 ₹2,02,824/- Rs. Two Lac Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty- Four Only & ₹5,08,255/- Rs. Five Lac Eight Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Five Only as on 11-Jul-24	Property Situated At- Kh.No. 476/2, Tehsil Office Govt Collage, Gurur R.C N Ward No 12, Vill- Gurur, Dist- Balod, Chattisgarh Admeasuring 4305 Sqft.
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060119816064, Deepak Kashyap (Borrower), Ramesh Kashyap (Co-Borrower)	12-Jul-24 ₹4,63,138/- Rs. Four Lac Sixty-Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Eight Only as on 11-Jul-24	Property Situated At -Khasra No-461/27, & Teh -Lormi, Bilaspur, Dist-Mungli, Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 425 Sqyds
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060822639151, Deepak Kashyap (Borrower), Ramesh Kashyap (Co-Borrower)	12-Jul-24 ₹3,16,384/- Rs. Three Lac Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Four Only as on 11-Jul-24	Property Situated At Freehold - Municip Limit Semi Urban And Rural Ph No 05, Kh Part Of 261, 27, Lormi,Dist- Bilaspur, Lorr Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 95.67 Sqyd
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060119357400, Waquar Ahmed (Borrower), Iftekhar Ahmed (Co-Borrower) Humaira Anjum (Co-Borrower) Nahid Anjum (Co- Borrower) Azra Tabassum (Co-Borrower)	15-Jul-24 ₹22,54,622/- Rs. Twenty-Two Lac Fifty- Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Two Only as on 11-Jul-24	Property Situated At- Municipal Corporati Ph No 22, Kh No 959 2 Torwa Bilaspur ,Di Bilaspur,Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 277 So
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060122049910, Shri Ram Industries (Borrower), Setram Sao (Co-Borrower), Mahendra Sao (Co- Borrower) Smt. Janki Sao (Co-Borrower)	12-Jul-24 ₹ 15,41,354/- Rs. Fifteen Lac Forty-One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Four Only as on 11-Jul-24	 (Property 1) Property Situated At- Munici Corporation Kh No 385 By 4 Ph No 26 Gra Boharpar Rnm And Teh-Basna Boharpa Mahasamund Basna CG. Admeasuring 43 Sqyds (Property 2) Property Situated At No 26 Gram Boharpar Kh No 400 By 5 Rn And Tah Basna Boharpar, Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 478.39 Sqyds
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060127660002, Ganesh Prasad Kurmi (Borrower), Chandrabhushan Chandravanshi (Co- Borrower)	15-Jul-24 ₹6,99,144/- Rs. Six Lac Ninety-Nine Thousand One Hundred Forty-Four Only as on 11-Jul-24	Property Situated At- Kh No 435-1-Ka Phn Vill- Kawardha, Gram Panchayat Ningapu Rnm Damapur, Kunda, Pandariya Kabeerdham, Dist- Kabirdham, Chattisga Admeasuring 200 Sqmtr.
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060127777862, Kamal Chasma Ghar (Borrower), Smt.Deepa Sahu (Co-Borrower) Vimal Kumar Sahu (Co-Borrower)	12-Jul-24 ₹ 10,12,772/- Rs. Ten Lac Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Two Only as on 11-Jul-24	Property Situated At- Khasra No 1240/4: Vill & Dist- Baloda Bazar, Chattisgarh Admeasuring 60.78 Sq . Mtr
(Loan A/C No.) L9001071033915411, Lav Kumar Dhirhi (Borrower), Mangla	15-Jul-24 ₹25,76,388/- Rs. Twenty-Five Lac Seventy-Six Thousand	Property Situated At Khasra No 343-1, Champa, Dist-Jahangir, Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 0.014 Hectare

Aditi and Diksha fight hard on tough opening day at AIG Women's Open



PTI n ST. ANDREWS (SCOTLAND)

Tndian golfers Diksha Dagar and Aditi Ashok Made crucial birdies on their final holes to keep alive their chances of making the cut after the first round of the AIG

Women's Open. Aditi carded a 4-over 76 to be T-79 while Diksha was 5-over 77, sitting at T-100 as play ended late on the opening day

which was marred by strong winds The cut looked likely at 3-over

or 4-over after the second round.

For a long time, Diksha's score on the board showed a birdie on Par-5 14th, which was later corrected and it was shown as 5-over.

Aditi opened with two pars and then had a bogey on 12th

and a double on 13th for 3over first nine. She dropped further shots on first and second to go 5-over before the birdie on ninth made it 4-over

for the day. Diksha, T-21 last year at Walton Heath, was 5-over for her first nine holes, the back nine of the Old Course with bogeys on 10, 11, 13, 16 and

On the second nine, she dropped a shot on third and picked a birdie on the ninth, her final hole Charley Hull fired a round of

5-under 67 to sit in the outright lead after the first round. The English star went out to tackle the Old Course in the afternoon wave alongside world number one Nelly Korda and defending champion Lilia Vu

Hull rolled in her first birdie of the day on the fifth but made a bogey on the par-3 eighth, however, she was soon under par again with a birdie on the ninth.

The three-time LET winner then had a great back nine as she made birdies on 10, 12, 15 and 18 to hold a solo lead on five-under-par in the final major of the year.

China's Ruoning Yin and American Korda sit one shot behind the leader after they produced rounds of 68 (-4) on the opening day at the Old Course.

Six players are in a share of fourth place with Korean duo Jenny Shin and Mi Hyang Lee, American pair Andrea Lee and Vu, Thailand's Patty Lilia Tavatanakit and Japan's Mao Saigo all on three-under.

Date: 24.08.2024

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