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TWO-WEEK HIGH

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12 SPORTS



Whither Gender Justice? Asks a Nation in Rage



Doctors medical professionals and students stage a protest march demanding justice for a woman doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, on Friday
Ranjan Dimri

SAUMYA SHUKLA n NEW DELHI

Nationwide outrage erupted in support of the trainee doctor who was raped and murdered in a State-run hospital in Kolkata last week. On Friday, healthcare workers took out a massive protest march at India Gate and other parts of the city, seeking justice for the victim and demanding stricter laws for safety of health staff, including doctors, at workplace. The evening march towards India Gate brought back memories of the Nirbhaya case when hundreds of thousands of Delhiites had hit

CBI cracks the whip in Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA n KOLKATA

In a major development, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College, Dr Sandip Ghosh, was on Friday detained by the Central Bureau of Investigation for questioning. He was picked up by the CBI while returning from the Calcutta High Court where he had filed a petition seeking police protection on the plea that his life was under threat. Ghosh — currently in the eye of storm — has been identified by the agitating doctors of the RG Kar Medical College as the “fountainhead” of all evils that plague the once best medical college in eastern India.

the streets to seek harsh punishment for the perpetrators of the crime. However, the police stopped the protesting doctors from making their way to the India Gate from Safdarjung hospital. Anyhow some managed to arrive at the site carrying placards: “Mahila apna haq mangti, nahi kisi se bheek mangti” and “ek do teen char, band karo ye atyachar.” Healthcare workers, including doctors, resident doctors and lab technicians, were present on India Gate as they marched on the Kartavya Path demanding justice for the victim. They termed the crime as “gut wrenching” and pressed for the Central Protection Act for health workers to be enforced. Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association, the largest body of private medical practitioners across the country, has announced a 24-hour nationwide withdrawal of non-emergency services from 6 am on Saturday. “Out-patient departments (OPD) will not function and elective surgeries will not be conducted. The withdrawal is across all sectors wherever modern medicine doctors are providing services,” the IMA said.

Jammu and Kashmir Get final date for tryst with peace from EC

RAJESH KUMAR/MOHIT KANDHARI n NEW DELHI/JAMMU

For the first time since the scrapping of Article 370 in 2019, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday announced Assembly elections to Jammu and Kashmir in three phases with the first phase to be held on September 18, second on September 25 and third phase on October 1. Results will be announced on October 4. This will be the shortest elections in at least the last two decades in the region. The phase of the J&K election is significant, given that over the last two decades, due to the region's security concerns, polls have consistently been held in at least four phases or more. J&K has been without an elected House for five years now. The last election was held in undivided J&K in 2014. This marks a big step forward in efforts to meet a Supreme Court order — that democracy return to Jammu and the Kashmir Valley by September 30. Union Home Minister Amit Shah welcomed the announcement of Assembly elections there and said the polls will further strengthen the roots of democracy and open the doors to a new period of development for the region. Shah also appealed to the people of J&K to actively



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu during a press conference to announce the schedule for “General Election to Legislative Assemblies 2024”, in New Delhi, on Friday
PTI

participate in the elections and vote in large numbers to form a Government that will sustain peace and development, and ensure a brighter future for the youth. “I welcome the announcement of the Assembly elections in J&K made by the Election Commission of India today. In the last 10 years, the Modi Govt through a series of relentless initiatives, has created a new era of peace, development and strengthening democracy in J&K,” he wrote on ‘X’. Almost all the parties, including National Conference, Congress, BJP,

CPI(M) and DPAP, thanked the Election Commission and said the poll announcement maintained the supremacy of the Supreme Court which had set the September 30 deadline for the holding of the much awaited Assembly elections in J&K. There are 90 seats in the Assembly of J&K post delimitation, with 43 seats in the Jammu region and 47 in Kashmir. Of these, 74 are general seats, nine are for Scheduled Caste candidates, and seven for Scheduled Tribes. Announcing the schedule for the J&K Assembly polls, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar told a Press conference in New Delhi the three-phase elections to the 90-member J&K Assembly will be held on September 18, September 25 and October 1. The announcement comes a week after CEC along with Election Commissioners, visited the Union Territory. Kumar said elections will be held in J&K after a long time. “The people want change... they want to script a new future,” Kumar said, as he outlined the poll body's plans to hold a safe and successful election in J&K. “We recently visited J&K to take stock of election preparation. Great enthusiasm was seen... people want to participate in the process. People want elections as early as possible...” he said, recalling the “long queues” at polling booths in J&K and Ladakh during the Lok Sabha election. Asked about the decision to hold polls in just three phases, Kumar said the choice was deliberately made to keep the process short, considering the Commission's experience during the Lok Sabha polls, which were criticised for being inordinately long. “In true spirit of keeping that promise, we present the shorter election period in the best possible and conducive environment,” he said. He added that the Commission will ensure due security for all candidates in J&K as requested by political parties.

Haryana set to vote in a new Assembly on October 1, 2024



RAJESH KUMAR n NEW DELHI

Given barely two weeks to finalise their candidates, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday announced that the Haryana Assembly polls will be held in a single phase on October 1. The counting of votes will take place on October 4. The 90-seat Haryana Assembly's term is ending on November 3. This will be the first time in nearly 20 years that the two States will go to polls separately. It was in 2004 when Assembly elections were held in Maharashtra alone. Haryana went to polls a few months later in 2005. But since 2009, both States have been going to polls together. In 2019, elections in both Haryana and Maharashtra were held on October 21. While announcing the poll schedule, Chief Election

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said Assembly elections in Maharashtra, which were held along with Haryana in 2019, will be announced later due to security requirements for Jammu and Kashmir. He said four elections are due this year and by early next year and since Jammu and Kashmir was not in the picture last time (2019-20) the Commission decided to group two Assembly elections together. “There was heavy rainfall in Maharashtra, BLOs (booth level officers) have to complete their work. There are several festivals too that have to be factored in. “Ganesh Festival, Pitru Paksha, Navratri, Diwali, all that put together this is what we thought we could handle as two elections at a time,” the

CEC said. In the past three cycles, the EC had announced Haryana and Maharashtra elections together. Maharashtra Assembly's term is expiring on November 26. Kumar also hinted that the Maharashtra elections could be held after Diwali. Moreover, since Maharashtra is a large State, the poll panel will have to deploy heavy security over there too for the Assembly elections. Since Haryana's Assembly term will wrap up earlier on November 3, it was easier for EC to club it with J&K. Elections are due in both Maharashtra and Jharkhand by the end of this year. The State polls will see the BJP, the ruling party, go up against a resurgent Congress after a neck-and-neck fight in the Lok Sabha elections two months ago. The Assembly election in Haryana is a litmus test for ruling BJP, which has been ruling the state since 2014. For the BJP, the ground reality this time is quite different from five years ago. Both the parties won five seats each in the Lok Sabha polls and back in 2019, the saffron party won 40 out of 90 Assembly seats in Haryana.

Centre asks for accountability on medical fraternity attacks across the country



ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

In what is being seen as a damage control move amid nationwide protests by doctors following the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee medico at Kolkata's State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, the Centre on Friday instructed the heads of Government hospitals across the country to file an institutional First Information Report (FIR) within six hours of any incidence of violence. The Union Health Ministry has been facing criticism for its failure to provide a safe environment for the medical fraternity despite several cases of violence against healthcare workers reported in the past within hospital premises. In fact, Friday's directive by the chief of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Dr Atul Goel, to file FIR within six hours of an incident follows a recent circular from the National Medical Commission (NMC), the country's apex medical education regulator, which similarly stated that in the event of any violence, there should be

a prompt investigation by the college management, FIRs should be lodged with the police, and an action-taken-report should be sent to the NMC within 24 hours. In the memorandum issued on Friday, the DGHS stated that “in the event of any violence against any healthcare worker while on duty, the head of that institution shall be responsible for filing an institutional FIR within a maximum of 6 hours of the incident.” “Recently, it has been observed that violence against doctors and other healthcare staff in Government hospitals has become common. A number of health workers suffer physical violence while on duty. Many are threatened or subjected to verbal aggression. Most of this violence is perpetrated by either the patient or the patient's attendants,” the memorandum added. This has been a long-standing demand of resident doctors, as FIRs are not filed in connection with many incidents despite existing mechanisms. The doctors have also been seeking enactment of a Central Protection Act to deter violence against medical personnel on duty. A draft prepared in 2019, following similar outrage over the assault on a doctor in Kolkata, proposed imprisonment for up to 10 years and a fine of up to ` 10 lakh for violence against doctors on duty is still in a limbo. The DGHS advisory also stated that all Central Government hospitals should maintain a registry of such incidents and report them to the Health Ministry.

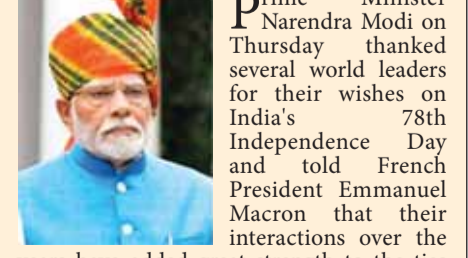
INDIA REACHES FOR THE SKIES



ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle-03 (SSLV-D3) carrying Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-08) leaves a trail of smoke after it lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on Friday
PTI

PM Modi thanks world leaders for their support on India's I Day

PTI n NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday thanked several world leaders for their wishes on India's 78th Independence Day and told French President Emmanuel Macron that their interactions over the years have added great strength to the ties between two countries. He told Macron that they will keep working together to further global good. Modi lauded his UAE counterpart Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his personal commitment to strong ties between India and the UAE.

How many mounds? ASI seems helpless

ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

With the agricultural activities causing irreparable damage to excavation sites at Rakhigarhi and Rakhishahpur village in Hissar district, Haryana, the Centre has moved to include these sites under its protection. The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) last week issued a notification seeking to declare the two mounds, identified as Mound VI and Mound VII at the villages, known for their significant evidence related to the Indus Valley Civilization. Archaeologists regard Rakhigarhi as one of the largest Indus Valley sites, with valuable artifacts and historical evidence excavated since the ASI began its work in the region in 1963.

The need for Central protection measures gained urgency by recent damage to a skeleton by the farmers in the region. It was excavated by ASI excavation team led by its director Dr Sanjay K Manjul. The skeleton, believed to be over 4,000 years old was found in a cemetery at Mound VII. Currently, Mounds VI and VII are privately owned, necessitating Government acquisition of the land and compensation to the farmers. An ASI official stated that including the sites in the protection list would help preserve historical evidence and ensure that future generations appreciate this ancient civilisation. According to the information available, there are seven mounds at the Harappan site in



Rakhigarhi village. Mounds 1, 2, 3, and parts of 4 and 5 are already under ASI control, but Mounds 6 and 7 remain privately owned. Mound 6 covers 33 acre, while Mound 7 spans about six acre, both currently owned by farmers are used for agriculture. The lack of preservation at these sites has already impacted the historical evidence. “The skull of the skeleton is badly damaged... The damage

might have been the result of the agricultural activities in the area,” said Manjul, as per a media report. He also pointed out that sand mining by the farmers poses a serious threat to the site. He said while the rest of the skeleton is in good condition, the skull has sustained damage. “Agricultural activities by farmers over the years seem to have damaged part of the skull. This damage may make it challenging to extract a DNA sample for further analysis,” he said. In addition to the skeleton, the excavation unearthed 21 earthen utensils found near the remains. “The skeleton appears to be that of a middle-aged man. Our previous excavations have revealed similar burial rituals involving utensils, suggesting

continuity in these practices,” Manjul noted. The team also discovered a seal from Mound number 3. Rakhigarhi is recognised as one of the largest sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Current excavations underscore its significance as a major metropolis of ancient times, featuring a well-planned urban layout with distinct residential, industrial, and institutional areas, as well as a cemetery. Signed by Yadubir Singh Rawat, Director General of the ASI, the organisation on August 3, 2024 issued a draft notification seeking public objections and comments that aims to prevent encroachment and mitigate the impact of agricultural activities by declaring the sites of national importance.

Independence Day Celebrations: District heroes honored for excellence

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with great fervor and patriotism at the district-level main function organized at Gopal Maidan, Bistupur. The occasion was graced by the Minister of Health, Medical Education, Family Welfare, and Food Supply, Public Distribution, and Consumer Affairs Department, Jharkhand Government, Banna Gupta, who attended as the chief guest.

In the presence of a large and enthusiastic crowd, Minister Banna Gupta hoisted the national flag, the tricolor waving proudly against the morning sky. He inspected the parade platoon and saluted the national flag, marking the commencement of the ceremony. The event was attended by key district officials, including District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal, Senior Superintendent



of Police Kishore Kaushal, Deputy Development Commissioner Manish Kumar, Project Director ITDA Dipankar Chaudhary, and Rural Superintendent of Police Rishabh Garg, among others. The celebration saw the participation of numerous residents from across the district, all coming together to

commemorate India's independence.

During his address, Minister Banna Gupta extended heartfelt congratulations and wishes to the residents of Jharkhand and the district. He paid tribute to the countless freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation's independence.

"We salute the brave sons who gave everything for Mother India," said Gupta. He highlighted the significant contributions of Jharkhand's heroes, including Bhagwan Birsa Munda and Shaheed Tilka Manjhi, whose courageous actions played a pivotal role in India's struggle for freedom.



Reflecting on the current government's efforts, Gupta emphasized the commitment of the state government under Chief Minister Hemant Soren to accelerate development works. He outlined the various initiatives undertaken for the welfare of the people, such as the Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi

Yojana, which promotes girl child education, and the Chief Minister Swarojgar Yojana, aimed at connecting the youth with employment opportunities. He also mentioned the Sarvajan Pension Scheme and the Jharkhand Chief Minister Maiyan Samman Yojana, which benefit a large section of society.

The Minister further acknowledged the government's decisive actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the state's efforts to strengthen health-care services and support the public in challenging times.

In recognition of excellence across various fields, the Minister presented cita-

tions to officers and personnel who had demonstrated outstanding work in education, health, sports, election management, and policing. The commanders and participants of the parade platoon were also honored for their disciplined display during the event.

The celebrations were mirrored across the district with flag hoisting ceremonies conducted at various significant locations. At the Sectoral Office and Residential Office of the Deputy Commissioner, the flag was hoisted by District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishore Kaushal, led the flag hoisting at the SSP Office and Police Line. Similar ceremonies were conducted at the District Public Relations Office, Sub-Divisional Office, Block Headquarters, and educational institutions across the district.

52046 PEOPLE GETS BENEFIT OF SARVAJAN PENSION SCHEME : ORAON

PNS : LOHARDAGA

The main function of Independence Day was held at BS College Stadium on Thursday. On this occasion, the chief guest, local MLA cum Finance Minister Dr. Rameshwar Oraon hoisted the flag. On the occasion, he said that this independence has been achieved due to the difficult, long and continuous struggle and sacrifices of our ancestors. He said that Lohardaga district was established on 17 May 1983. At that time, the main challenge was to improve the infrastructure, irrigation facilities and agricultural system in the district. After formation of Jharkhand state, reform work has taken place at a fast pace. To improve the agriculture-based economy, aspects like irrigation, improved fertilizers and seeds, agricultur-



al credit, development of modern technology have been given special priority and momentum in the present government. Special attention was given to the work of women empowerment in the district.

Earlier, under the Sarvajan Pension Scheme, male and female beneficiaries used to get a pension amount of one thousand

rupees on completion of 60 years, the government took a step forward and started the work of giving pension to women of every religion and sect from the age of 50. Is. The government has made a new scheme, in which this pension will also be payable to mothers and sisters aged 21 to 50 years. This amount of one thousand rupees per month will be paid directly

into their account. All eligible beneficiaries will start receiving pension amount from the day of Raksha Bandhan. Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana is already run by the state government under women empowerment, in which a total of 35,167 applications have been approved so far. Under which a total of fourteen crore seventy ninety lakh rupees have been spent. Apart from this, Kanyadaan Yojana is also running schemes like Sakhi One Stop Center. Under the NRLM project, 4855 Sakhi Mandals have been linked to various types of self-employment by providing loans worth Rs. 6 crore ninety lakh under credit linkage through banks.

The total number of beneficiaries till now in Sarvajan Pension Scheme is 52046. Those who complete 60 years

are given a monthly pension of one thousand rupees. To ensure that tribal and Dalit weaker section people especially get this benefit, the age limit for receiving pension was reduced from 60 years to 50 years. The government has decided that a different type of card will be made for such poor and needy people. He said that the government gave detailed information about schemes like women empowerment, national food security, Jharkhand agricultural loan waiver scheme, Jal Jeevan Mission, village road scheme, education health etc. and gave information about other schemes of the central and state government. He also said that let us all come together and participate in building a clean, beautiful, educated, healthy and prosperous Lohardaga and the state.

Vedanta ESL Steel Limited celebrates Independence Day

PNS : BOKARO

Bokaro | 15th August, 2024 - Vedanta ESL Steel Limited, a prominent integrated green-field steel producer in India and a part of the Vedanta Group, celebrated the nation's 78th Independence Day with great patriotic zeal and joy at its Sijalori plant in Bokaro. The event, which began at 9 AM, highlighted ESL's commitment not only to the nation's economic growth but also to the social development of the communities where it operates.

The celebrations commenced with an impressive Guard of Honour presented by the Security Department personnel, followed by the hoisting of the Indian tricolor. The event was graced by a motivational address from Ashish Kumar Gupta, Whole Time Director & CEO of ESL



Steel Limited, who emphasized the integral relationship between community growth and business success. He proudly stated that ESL Steel Limited is not just a steel producer but also a key player in empowering local communities for a brighter future for both the state and the nation. The event saw the participation of around 100 people, including local com-

munity members and employees. Notable attendees included Ravish Sharma (Chief Operating Officer, ESL Steel Limited), Anand Dubey (Chief Finance Officer, ESL Steel Limited), Vijay Singh (Chief Security Officer, ESL Steel Limited), Meenakshi Sabharwal (Chief Quality Officer, ESL Steel Limited), and Divya Tripathi (Head - Policy & Business Promotion).

In his address, CEO Gupta also highlighted that ESL Steel Limited is poised for significant growth, with a focus on resolving legacy issues and accelerating its expansion within the year. He reaffirmed the company's ethical commitments and its dedication to community development, a commitment recognized through numerous national and international awards.

I'DAY CELEBRATION AT GARHWA CIVIL COURT

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

The court of Principal District and Session Judge Rajesh Sharan Singh on Friday sentenced 6 accused to rigorous imprisonment for life in connection with the murder of 35-year-old Bikesh Singh, a farmer from Sukhbana village under Garhwa Police Station area of the district.

Around 8 am on June 06, 2022, a gang of assailants armed with fire arms and shot to the Bikesh to death. The incident had taken place in Nahar Chok, of Sukhbana village. Based on the Brother of deceased Vimal Singh's complaint, an FIR was registered at Garhwa police station under sections of 302 and 120(b) IPC against Shyam Raj Sharma, Anil Ram, Uday Seikh @Sheikh Muslim, Shakir Ansari, Madan Chandravanshi and Ashif @Pintu Ansari. Chandra Shekhar Dubey, Krishna Paswan and Santosh Chandravanshi.

On Friday, the Principal District and Sessions Judge Court convicted 6 accused under sections of 302 and

120@ of the Indian Penal Code. The court sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for life. The court also slapped a fine of Rs.20,000 each under section in under 302 and Rs. 20,000 each in 120(b) and if they default on these fines, they will have to undergo six months of simple imprisonment.

Those sentenced to life have been identified as Shyam Raj Sharma, Anil Ram, Uday Seikh @Sheikh Muslim, Shakir Ansari, Madan Chandravanshi and Ashif @Pintu Ansari all resident of Sukhbana village under Garhwa Police Station of the district.

Public Prosecutor said that "After the incident, a mob of anger villagers gathered and killed two fleeing accused Krishna Paswan and Santosh Chandravanshi by crushing them with stones.

"The court's decision came after testimony of 14 witnesses and presentation of strong evidence by the prosecution. It rejected the convicts' plea for leniency, sentencing them to life imprisonment." PP added.

Kids International School celebrates Independence Day with patriotic zeal

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Kids International School celebrated the 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and a display of national pride. The celebration began with the flag hoisting ceremony led by the school's Principal, Rukhsar Ayesha, who was escorted by the Head Boy, Taskeen Jamal, and Head Girl, Saleha Tabassum. In a show of respect and patriotism, Commander Atib, along with School Captain Yasir and other cabinet members, saluted the tricolor as it was raised.

Following the flag hoisting, the students showcased a vibrant and diverse cultural program that captured the essence of India's unity in diversity. The program featured a variety of performances including a group song, group dance, pyramid formation, mime act, march past, and speeches that resonated with the theme of national pride and mutual brotherhood. The performances were met with applause from the audience, which included students, parents, and faculty members.

Sweets and flags were distributed among all attendees, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. School Director Rashid Zafar addressed the gathering, emphasizing the significance of Independence Day and the sacrifices made by the nation's martyrs. He expressed his joy at witnessing the children's enthusiasm for the country and lauded their efforts in making the event a success. Zafar also reminded everyone of the importance of understanding and upholding the values that Independence Day represents.



Patriotic fervor soars at Cultural Evening in Bokaro Club

PNS : BOKARO

BOKARO : The 78th Independence Day was marked by a vibrant cultural evening organized by the district administration at Bokaro Club on Thursday. The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav, SP Pujya Prakash along with other senior officials including Vandana Shejwalkar, Prabhas Dutta, and others.

The cultural program featured spirited performances by young artists who filled the audience with a sense of patriotism through their dances on patriotic songs. Students from various schools across Bokaro, including St. Xavier's School, Chinmaya School, MGM Higher Secondary School, PAS Bokaro and others, showcased their talent through performances like "Jai Hind Ki Dharti," "Jal Jungle Zameen," "Vande Mataram," and "Namaste India," while students from DAV Sector 4 delivered a stirring rendition of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat". The performances were met with enthusiastic applause, leaving the audience captivated and in a patriotic spirit.

In addition to the cultural festivities, senior officials and staff who played a crucial role in the successful conduct of the 2024 Lok Sabha General Elections were honored with certi-



ificates of appreciation. The awards were presented by DC Vijaya Jadhav and other dignitaries.

The event saw the presence of several top officials, including Dr. S. Raj Michael, Inspector General of Police, Coal Sector and many others. Principals, teachers, students from various schools, and members of the public also attended the event.

DPS Bokaro Celebrates 78th Independence Day with Patriotism and Enthusiasm



PNS : BOKARO

BOKARO : Delhi Public School (DPS) Bokaro celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with vibrant festivities and patriotic fervor. The entire school community, including teachers, non-teaching staff, and students, participated enthusiastically. The campus was decorated with tricolor balloons, flags, and artwork,

creating a festive and patriotic ambience.

Principal Dr. A.S. Gangwar hoisted the national flag, with attendees saluting in unison. The event featured performances by younger students, who sang patriotic songs such as "Vande Mataram" and "Saare Jahan Se Achha," filling the air with national pride. Students also

presented handmade greeting cards and artworks to the Principal, enhancing the celebratory atmosphere. In his address, Dr. Gangwar emphasized the importance of Independence Day as a time to honor the sacrifices of past leaders and martyrs. He urged everyone to commit to building a developed, inclusive, and innovative India through collective effort.

Rotary Club of Bokaro marks I' Day with tree plantation, blood donation camp

PNS : BOKARO

Bokaro | 15th August 2024 - The Rotary Club of Bokaro Steel City celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with flag hoisting, tree plantation, and a blood donation camp. The events were held at Asha Ki Kiran in Ulgoa and the Rotary Club premises at Janwrit 4.

Club President Rotarian Mahesh Kumar Gupta and Secretary Rotarian Hardeep Singh led the flag hoisting ceremonies at both locations. Following the flag hoisting, children from Asha Ki Kiran and the Rotary Play Group School were treated to snacks and refreshments. The blood donation camp, organized under Rotarian Dr. Rajdeep's leadership, saw participation from nine Rotarian members and was supported by the Blood Bank at Bokaro General Hospital. President Gupta highlighted the life-saving impact of blood donation. The celebration also featured cultural programs and a tree plantation drive, where 21 fruit-bearing saplings were planted to promote environmental conservation. Gupta urged attendees to plant at least five trees in their surroundings. The successful event was supported by numerous Rotarian members, including past district governors and other distinguished guests.



Inauguration of upgraded casualty ward at Bokaro General Hospital

R SHARMA : PNS BOKARO

BOKARO : B.K. Tiwari, Director Incharge of Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL), inaugurated the newly upgraded Casualty Ward at Bokaro General Hospital (BGH) today. This significant enhancement is aimed at providing superior health-care services to the patients.

The upgraded ward is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including multiparameter monitors, ventilators, and other essential medical equipment. It is centrally air-conditioned and has been designed to ensure that patients remain in the direct line of sight of attending doctors, facilitating continuous and improved monitoring.

This development marks a crucial step forward in BGH's commitment to enhancing patient care and delivering better medical



services. The new facilities are expected to significantly improve the hospital's ability

to respond to emergencies and provide comprehensive care.

Recruitment for 35,000 posts by October: CM Soren

CM Hemant Soren highlights about his govt achievement on Independence Day celebration

PNS : RANCHI

State Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday said that recruitment on 35,000 posts will be completed by October this year. While addressing people of the state on the occasion of Independence Day at Morhabadi Ground in Ranchi Soren said his government's priority is to link youths of the state with employment.

Chief Minister Soren said in a bid to boost employment opportunities in the state, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been inked with five industrial units, which would draw investment of about Rs 4,000 crore and provide direct and indirect job opportunities to 6,000 people. Soren said more than two lakh young men and women have got employment in the private sector by



Chief Minister Hemant Soren Salutes after hoisting the national flag on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day, at Morhabadi ground in Ranchi on Thursday. Chief Secretary Sukhdeo Singh, DGP Anurag Gupta and SSP Ranchi Chandan Sinha are also seen in the picture. Pix by Ratan Lal

taking advantage of the training programmes run by the state government.

"The recruitment process is underway on 35,000 posts including excise constable, constable, assistant professor and women supervisors through Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission, which will be completed by October 2024," he said.

Highlighting the work carried out by his Government Soren said that his government reached out to every village and house in the past four and a half years and tried to solve their issues. "We made policies and schemes keeping in mind the needs of every section of the society and implemented them," he said.

Hitting out at the opposition without taking any name, the CM said, "Some anti-development forces motivated by vested interests made nefarious attempts to create problems



Chief Minister Hemant Soren during celebration of the 78th Independence Day, at Morhabadi ground in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Ratan Lal

in the path of Jharkhand's development. But, due to faith and trust of the people, we faced every challenge and the opponents could not succeed in their designs."

The CM said his government is providing three-

room houses to the poor under the Abua Awas Yojana, universal pension benefits to 36 lakh people and ration to additional 20 lakh people.

Soren said that the government has also initiated

an ambitious Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana (JMMSY), under which women in the age group of 21 to 50 years will be provided financial assistance of ₹1,000 per month. The scheme will benefit 48 lakh women in the state, he said.

Later, he posted on X, "A record 36.70 lakh sisters have been registered successfully till 12 noon on Thursday under the scheme." The registration of 20.40 lakh beneficiaries has been verified and approved till now, he said.

"The state-wide camp which was scheduled to conclude today has now been extended till August 18," he wrote further.

Soren said his government is also working for the development of education. "Over 4,041 Panchayat level schools will be upgraded to model schools in the next two years," he said.

I- Day celebrated with great enthusiasm across Capital



The spirit of patriotism and unity was in full display as Surendranath Centenary School celebrated India's 78th Independence Day through a series of spectacular dance and music performances. The celebration commenced with the flag hoisting ceremony followed by the National Anthem and NCC March Past. Principal Samita Sinha spoke about the significance of the day and the responsibilities of young citizens. The programme also featured an instrumental performance, "Dhwani", a thought-provoking Hindi speech, accompanied by a ramp walk on national symbols, dance performance, "Har Ghar Tiranga", a soulful song, an English speech, and a skit, "Bharat Ki Shaan".

Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi

Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi, celebrated the 78th Independence Day amidst pride and joy. The event commenced with the hoisting



of the tricolour by Director, XISS followed by the National Anthem to set the spirit of the day.

Dr Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ, Director, XISS, in his address emphasised on the essence of true freedom and said, "Real freedom is when the mind is free, as Rabindranath Tagore has beautifully articulated. As a society, we must rise above our differences and work together to address the challenges of social inequality, economic disparity, and political fragmentation. Our commitment to empathy, its understanding, and action will be our true contribution to nation-building."

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi



IIM Ranchi joined the nation in celebrating the 78th Independence Day with a spirit of patriotism, hope and euphoria. The institute hosted a grand event that showcased the spirit of India through a series of engaging activities. The day began with a solemn flag-hoisting ceremony by Professor Deepak Kumar Srivastava, Director of IIM Ranchi, followed by an illuminating speech where he emphasised on the importance of freedom, responsibility, and the institute's role in nation-building. Srivastava also stressed the significance of incorporating yoga and meditation into daily life for happiness and well-being. The students also organised

an 'Azadi Mela' featuring various games and activities.

ICFAI University Ranchi

The 78th Independence Day was observed at The ICFAI University Jharkhand. The chief guest was Colonel Jeevan Kumar Singh, SP STF in Jharkhand Police. Mr. Manoj Kumar Chauhan, Government registered patent attorney also graced the occasion. The day started with hoisting of the "Tiranga" and paying respect and tribute to our motherland.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Dr) Raman Kr Jha inspired the gathering by his motivational address and paying salute to our motherland and the National Flag. The chief guest Colonel Jeevan Kr Singh shared his experiences of serving in the borders and the spine-chilling journey of his career. Registrar Professor (Dr) JB Patnaik and Dean Academics Professor Arvind Kumar also shared their views on this occasion. The students presented patriotic cultural performances during the event which concluded with the vote of thanks by the DSW Dr. S Choudhury. The students, employees and the children from nearby villages participated in the event.

SAIL Ranchi

The 78th Independence Day at SAIL Ranchi Units was celebrated with Nationalistic Flavour and Traditional Gaity as the Tricolour hoisted was by Ved Prakash, ED (SDTD) in the presence of Sandip Kumar Kar, ED(RDCIS). CGMs of SAIL Ranchi Units and other officers, employees and families were also present on the occasion. In his address Prakash spoke about the critical role of Digital Transformation in SAIL for Nation Building. Kar encouraged the researchers to become relentless in their pursuits for meaningful contributions for the nation. All speakers remembered with reverence the contributions of our freedom fighters. Suman Meher was the master of ceremonies. At MTI, the National Flag was hoisted by Atanu Mukherjee, GM I/C (ACAD). At SAIL funded Bal Shiksha Kendra school Tricolour was hoisted by Sunita Kar, President Ispat Mahila Samaj. At SAIL SCST Employees Welfare Association flag hoisting was done by Sanjay Suman with founder member Prema Tirkey. In SAIL sponsored Mahatma Gandhi School at Hatia flag hoisting was done by AK Mistry, CGM(SAIL).

NTPC Coal Mining Hq

NTPC Coal Mining Headquarters/NTPC Mining Limited (NML), Ranchi celebrated the 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. Chief Guest for the occasion Animesh Jain, CEO (NML) & Regional Executive Director (Coal Mining) hoisted the tri-color flag and paid homage to the freedom fighters who contributed to India's independence. Addressing the gathering, Jain said as we reflect on our nation's journey to independence, we must also consider our path towards energy independence and Energy Atmanirbharta. On the occasion Jain shared some of the recent achievements and future plans of NTPC.

PNS : RANCHI

The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm across State. Jharkhand Assembly Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto unfurl the tricolour at Assembly premises. Jharkhand High Court acting Chief Justice, Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad hoisted the flag at Jharkhand High Court premises. The 78th Independence Day was also celebrated with great pomp and show at educational institutions, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and at banks. **Brajkishore Netraheen Balika Vidyalaya**



The 78th Independence Day was great enthusiasm at the Brajkishore Netraheen Balika Vidyalaya, Bariatu. The programme started with the flag hoisting followed by the national anthem. The blind girls presented a cultural programme with patriotic songs, dance, drama and poetry. The chief guests for the occasion were Finance Officer Father Cleber Minj, Head of Human Resource Management Dr. Shyamal Gomes School Director Neelu Verma, teachers and students of XISS were also present on the occasion. **Surendranath Centenary School**



VBU, banks celebrate Independence Day

I-DAY CELEBRATED AT VBU

Vinoba Bhawe University (VBU), Hazaribagh celebrated 78th Independence day with fervor and joy.

On this occasion at VBU, for special achievements, Senior Under Officer Kushal Kumar, Saint Columba College was awarded with a special prize for participating in Army Camp 2023, Under Officer Vikram Singh, Saint Columba College, Under

Officer Sangeeta Kumari and Mukesh Kumar Markham College of Commerce Hazaribagh for participating in RDC Camp 2024 and Shobhit of University Law College for becoming Gold Medalist cum National Record holder in 13th Sub-Junior National Power Lifting Event-2024 and Komal Rani of National Service Scheme Unit for participating in RDC Camp 2024. **Canara Bank, Circle Office,**

Ranchi celebrates I-Day Under the able guidance of Shri Sujit Kumar Sahoo, General Manager, Canara Bank, Circle Office, Ranchi celebrated the 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm. The General Manager hoisted the flag in the premises of the Circle Office on 15th August 2024. **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day organized by UBI** Union Bank of India (UBI),

Ranchi's Doranda branch organized 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' in the branch premises. The event was organized to acknowledge and honor the deep suffering caused by the partition of India. Doranda Branch had invited family members of people affected by one of the world's largest and most painful partition, to commemorate the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

Orange alert issued for rain in Jharkhand

PNS : RANCHI

Monsoon seems to be active again in Jharkhand. Regarding this, the Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert in many districts of Jharkhand. Along with this, a special bulletin has also been issued for agriculture and farmers.

It is raining in the state due to the monsoon turf line formed from Ganga Nagar, Rohtak, Delhi, Kanpur, Purulia to Digda. Due to which a yellow alert for heavy rain has been issued for many districts of the state on August 16. At the same time, an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain has been issued in 8-9 districts of the state for August 17 and August 18.

On August 16, a yellow alert has been issued for Gumla, Ranchi, Simdega, Khunti, West Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan and East Singhbhum of the state. The information of which has been given by the Meteorological Department. It has also said that there is a strong possibility of rain in many districts.

On August 17, an orange alert has been issued for heavy to very heavy rains in Lohardaga, Gumla, Simdega, West Singhbhum, Khunti, Ranchi, Ramgarh, Bokaro and Dhanbad districts of the state and on August 18, the Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for Lohardaga, Gumla, Simdega, Ranchi, Khunti, West Singhbhum, Ramgarh and Bokaro districts.



Guv express concern over demography change in Santhal Pargana region

HC has directed State govt to identify "illegal Bangladeshi immigrants" living in the Santhal Pargana region

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand Governor Santosh Gangwar reached Jamtara while returning to Ranchi after hoisting the tricolor in Dumka for the Independence Day celebrations. Here he participated in various programs.

Talking to media persons on demographic change in Santhal of Jharkhand, he said that the change in the demography of Santhal Pargana is a matter of concern for the Government of India. The Governor has said that Jharkhand High Court has also taken cognizance of this. The Government of India is working on this matter, it will definitely be resolved in the coming time.

The Governor observation on changing demography of Bangladesh assume importance as recently the Jharkhand High Court directed the state's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led government to identify "illegal Bangladeshi immigrants" living in the Santhal Pargana region.

The region comprises six districts: Godda, Deoghar, Dumka, Jamtara, Sahibganj and Pakur.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad and Justice Arun Kumar Rai issued the directive on a public interest litigation filed by activist Daniel Danish. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for August 22.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has in recent weeks stoked a debate over alleged demographic changes in Jharkhand by persistently alleging



Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar Salutes after hoisting the national flag on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day, in Dumka on Thursday. PNS

"Bangladeshi infiltration" in the state.

Last month, Union home minister Amit Shah said at a rally in Ranchi that if the BJP came to power in Jharkhand it would release a white paper on the state's demographics. Elections to the Jharkhand Assembly are due to be held between November and December.

Governor Santosh Gangwar said that what are the problems in Jharkhand, what are the needs of the people. He is reaching out to the people to know those things. On the subject of constitutional posts like State Information Commission, Human Rights Commission, Lokayukta being vacant for a long time in Jharkhand, he said that what can he do from his level regarding this and will work. He said that

elections are going to be held in the coming time. People should put their problems before their public representatives and get these problems resolved by them.

Let us tell you that the Governor said many things while addressing the media after attending the program at Mohanpur Upgraded Middle School in Jamtara. During this, he directly interacted with the villagers. At the same time, assets were distributed among the beneficiaries on behalf of various departments. The Governor said that people should write letters regarding their problems and inform Raj Bhavan. The Prime Minister wants to know your opinion to improve the condition of the country and take the country forward.

I- Day celebrated with joy and enthusiasm in CCL

PNS : RANCHI

The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with great pomp and show on August 15 in all areas including CCL headquarters. CCL CMD Nilendu Kumar Singh hoisted the flag and saluted at Mahatma Gandhi Stadium located in CCL Gandhinagar Colony. On this occasion, CCL Director (Personnel) Harsh Nath Mishra, Director (Technical/Operation) Harish Duhan, CVO Pankaj Kumar, heads of various departments, representatives of trade unions and a large number of CCL employees were present. Singh also inspected the parades of security forces and students on the special occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the CMD extended his heartfelt wishes of Independence Day to all and paid tribute to the incomparable valor of the brave martyrs. During his address, he said that for the progress of the country, ener-

gy requirements will increase in the coming days. As a result, energy generated from coal will also play an important role. "In this sequence, CCL is continuously moving towards making the country self-reliant in the field of energy. Expressing happiness over the performance of the CCL team, he said that the company has successfully achieved more than the coal production target of last year and in the current financial year also the company will definitely meet its target of 100 million tonnes," he said. Singh, while highlighting environmental protection, said that the company is planting trees every year in its command area and its surrounding areas. "So far, more than 95 lakh saplings have been planted in an area of more than 5,300 hectares. As a new initiative, the company has done Miyawaki plantation in an area of more than 2 hectares in Rajrapa area, which has

been very beneficial," he said. The company is running several public welfare schemes for inclusive development and social upliftment of stakeholders including health, education, sports and employment. The company organizes health camps from time to time, which benefit lakhs of people. Free residential education is being provided to the meritorious children of poor and rural areas through 'CCL Ke Lal' and 'CCL Ki Ladli' schemes.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Surendra Bhagat, father-Late Mangala Oraon, Address- Village-Areya, Tangra Toli, Post-Areya, Thana-Bagdu (Kisko), District-Lohardaga, Jharkhand. That my Army No. is 4281134Y. In my service book, the date of birth of my wife Kanti Oraon is recorded as 25.02.1987 which is wrong. I am editing the affidavit to correct the mistake of my wife **KANTI ORAON** date of birth as **25.10.1988** by affidavit number 8611, dated 16 August 2024.



Hindenburg allegations: Dhankhar takes jibe at Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n
NEW DELHI



In an apparent attack on Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday expressed concern that a person holding a constitutional position is asking the Supreme Court to take suo-moto cognisance to give wings to a "narrative aimed at destroying our economy". Dhankhar's remarks came after the Congress on Sunday slammed the Modi Government over the Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch, with Rahul saying the integrity of the market regulator has been "gravely compromised" and demanded a JPC probe into the matter. Addressing the first batch of

Joint Masters/LLM degree in IP Law and Management at National Law University, Delhi, the Vice President without naming anyone said, "Last week, I got extremely worried when a person holding a constitutional position beseeched the Supreme Court to suo-moto invoke jurisdiction to give wings to a narrative aimed at destroying our economy." Addressing the students, Dhankhar said, "Our youth must equally rebuff and neutralise forces that keep

partisan or self-interest above that of our nation. We cannot allow it. If it happens, it is at the cost of our rise. You are law students, I will leave two thoughts with you. One, scratch your brains and find out. Jurisdiction of institution is defined by the Indian Constitution, be it legislature, be it executive, be it judiciary. Jurisdiction of courts is decided." "Look around the globe, look at the Supreme Court in the US, the highest court in the UK, or other formats. Has there been suo-

moto cognisance even once? Has a remedy been created beyond what is provided in the Constitution? The Constitution provides original jurisdiction, appellate jurisdiction. It provides review also. But we have curative! If you do not focus on these nuances, I wonder who shall do it. Think about it," he said. Rahul Gandhi had also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue, saying it is now abundantly clear why he is so afraid" of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe. The Congress had said the Supreme Court should take suo moto cognisance of the "entire scam" and investigate it under its aegis because here the investigating agency SEBI itself is accused of being involved in it.

ISRO's successful launch of SSLV lauded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n
NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday lauded the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s successful launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and described it as a matter of immense joy. "A remarkable milestone! Congratulations to our scientists and industry for this feat. It is a matter of immense joy that India now has a new launch vehicle. The cost-effective SSLV will play an important role in space missions and will also encourage private industry. My best wishes to @isro, @INSPACeIND, @NSIL_India and the entire space industry," Modi said in a social media post. The ISRO successfully launched its third and final developmental flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle here on Friday whose payloads can be used in applications like satellite-based surveillance, disaster and environmental monitoring, fire detection, volcanic activity among others. The flight-LV-D3- would also pave the way for the industry to collaborate with ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd for taking up launches using the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle.

Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the ISRO saying this will enhance the sustainability of the earth by facilitating environmental monitoring and disaster management. "Congratulations to @isro on the launch of SSLV-D3. This will enhance the sustainability of the Earth by facilitating environmental monitoring and disaster management. It is a testament to Bharat's commitment to humanity under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi ji," Shah said in a social media post.

Naqvi bats for Uniform Civil Code

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n
NEW DELHI

Battling for a uniform civil code, former Minister for Minority Affairs and BJP Leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday said there is a need to remain "cautious" about the "conspiracy of communal confusion" on a 'secular civil code'. Naqvi said for the last 75 years, India has been waiting for the constitutional guidelines of uniform secular civil code to become a reality but every time this "inclusive reform has been a victim of communal castigation". Asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong pitch for a 'secular civil code', Naqvi said stalwart Leaders in the Constituent Assembly, including BR Ambedkar, were in favour of a uniform secular civil code but "communal confusion" by some people, with a "prejudiced mindset, hijacked the constitutional commitment" and the uniform civil code remained a part of the directive principles of state policy. Naqvi said the nation's mood is for making secular uniform civil code free from "communal confinement." The secular civil code is the need of the hour for betterment of 'mulk, mazhab and manavta' (country, religion and humanity)," he said. Asked about the row over Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's seat at the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, Naqvi said the Congress should come out of feudal arrogance and stop their "ruckus over row". "The Congress should avoid political commotion on national celebration," he said.

8 years after demonetisation, counterfeit notes have become rife again: Cong



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday claimed the counterfeit notes have become rife once again and termed as an "eye-wash" the Government's assertion that the overall number of counterfeit notes detected has fallen. The Opposition party also claimed that counterfeiting has just moved rapidly to higher-value notes.

number of counterfeit notes detected has fallen, this is an eyewash. Counterfeiting has just moved rapidly to higher-value notes, including those that were introduced specifically in the aftermath of demonetisation, Ramesh said in a social media post. "This admission of increased counterfeiting comes shortly after the non-biological PM himself made a stunning admission of the widespread prevalence of black money during the election campaign, accusing his favourites A1 and A2 of bearing tempos and sacks full of black money," he said. If neither black money nor counterfeiting has been curbed, what has demonetisation achieved, Ramesh asked. The Congress Leader posted a screenshot of a Rajya Sabha question reply by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary which stated that measures have resulted in a decrease in the number of pieces of denomination-wise counterfeit notes detected / reported in the banking system from 3,17,384 in the year 2018-19 to 2,22,639 in the year 2023-24. Ramesh also posted a media report, which cited data submitted to Parliament by the Government to point out that the new series of the Rs 500 note and the Rs 2,000 note -- both introduced after demonetisation in 2016 - together account for just over 50 per cent of the number of counterfeit currency notes that have been detected.



Tech, social media bad for kids; arts, crafts good for mental health: Research

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n
NEW DELHI

If excessive time spent on Technology and social media can hinder children from forming meaningful connections, engaging in arts and crafts may be crucial in combating mental health problems affecting millions globally. These findings, from two recent studies, underscore the importance of protecting tender minds from the negative health impacts of technology while highlighting the benefits of creative activities for mental well-being. Dr Helen Keyes of Anglia Ruskin University in the UK, the lead author of the study highlighted that crafting's positive effects on well-being were more significant than those of employment. The study delved into the meaningful impact of crafting, noting that its positive effects on well-being were more significant than those of employment. The research found that participation in creative activities significantly enhances life satisfaction, happiness, and the belief that life is worthwhile, suggesting that arts and crafts could play a key role in promoting public mental health. "Crafting provides a sense of

achievement and a meaningful route to self-expression, which is not always the case with employment," she explained. The study evaluated public engagement with various cultural, digital, and sporting activities, controlling for variables such as gender, age, health, employment status, and deprivation levels to assess the general impact of creative arts on well-being. Participants reported higher levels of happiness and life satisfaction, as well as a stronger sense that life is worthwhile, comparable to the benefits of being employed. However, the study did not find a link between crafting and reduced loneliness, potentially due to the solitary nature of some crafts. Dr Keyes emphasised the potential for governments and health services to fund and promote crafting as part of a broader approach to enhancing public well-being. Another study based on a survey of 1,146 parents, revealed concerns over children's technology use, with 50 per cent worried about excessive screen time, 30 per cent about bullying, and 22 per cent about the social impact of the pandemic.

President, PM pay tributes to Vajpayee on death anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n
NEW DELHI



President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former Prime Minister and BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary on Friday. They were joined by other dignitaries, including Union Ministers, and Leaders from different parties in paying homage to Vajpayee at his memorial 'Sadaiva Atal' here. In his tribute, on social media Modi said, "He is remembered by countless people for his unparalleled contribution to nation-building. He devoted his entire life towards ensuring

that our fellow citizens lead a better quality of life. We will keep working to fulfill his vision for India." A widely-respected politician acknowledged as among the finest orators, Vajpayee played a crucial role in drawing allies for his party in

the coalition era of the '90s and became the first Prime Minister from the BJP. His stewardship of the country between 1998-2004 is known for reforms and boost to infrastructure sectors. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 93 years.

Army Chief felicitates Army sportspersons for Olympics feat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n
NEW DELHI



Army Chief General Anupendra Dwivedi on Friday here felicitated Indian Army sportspersons for their remarkable accomplishments at the Paris Olympics 2024. The ceremony was held at South Block and was not just an occasion to celebrate the achievements but also to acknowledge the pivotal role the Indian Army has played in nurturing sporting talent in the nation. The Indian contingent clinched a total of six medals (one silver and five bronze) at the Paris Olympics, with Subedar Major Neeraj Chopra of the Indian Army winning the only silver medal in Javelin for India. This exemplary performance has

etched itself as one of the most remarkable displays of the Indian Army at the Olympic Games. Major highlights of the performance by Indian Army Personnel include Neeraj Chopra - Silver Medal, Subedar Bommandevara Dhiraj in Archery (Recurve)- 4th Position. As India

prepares to bid for the hosting of 2036 International Olympics, the Indian Army has been playing a pivotal role in fostering Olympic excellence. In a significant move, the Indian Army established its Mission Olympic Wing (MOW) in 2001, dedicated to identifying and nurturing

sporting talent. To further empower the youth and propel them towards global excellence, the Indian Army has set up two Girls Sports Companies and 18 Boys Sports Companies. These initiatives aim to provide a platform for young athletes to hone their skills, build their confidence, and compete at the highest level. Army Chief expressed profound pride in the incredible achievements of the Army's sportspersons. Their discipline, perseverance, and dedication symbolise the core values of the Indian Army. He expressed confidence that the Indian Army sportspersons would continue their quest for excellence and achieve greater heights in the coming days.

Malayalam movie Aattam bags best feature film award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n
NEW DELHI



Regional cinema dominated the National Film Awards announced on Friday with best feature film going to Malayalam movie "Aattam: The Play" and Rishabh Shetty bagging best actor for the Kannada hit "Kantara". The best actress prize was shared by Nithya Menen, for the Tamil film "Thiruchitrabalam", and Manasi Parekh for the Gujarati movie "Kutch Express". The lone Bollywood presence in the top categories for the 70th edition of the national awards was "Uunchai" with Sooraj R Barjatya named best director. The adventure film, centred on four aging friends readying to scale Mt Everest, also won Neena Gupta a best supporting actress prize. "It is yet to sink in. I've got two National Awards in the past and I'm getting another National award after many many years, it's a big thing for me," Gupta, who bagged awards for the non-feature "Bazar Sitaram" in 1993 and for "Woh Chokri" in 1994, told PTI. A big winner in the awards for 2022 was the Haryanvi film

"Fouja", which got Pavan Malhotra a best supporting actor and won two other awards -- best debut film of a director for Pramod Kumar and best lyrics to Naushad Sadar Khan. The awards were announced by Rahul Rawail, head of the jury for the feature film segment, and Nila Madhab Panda, who headed the non-feature film category. "Aattam: The Play", directed by Anand Ekarshi, revolves around a theatre troupe and the changing dynamics after its only woman member



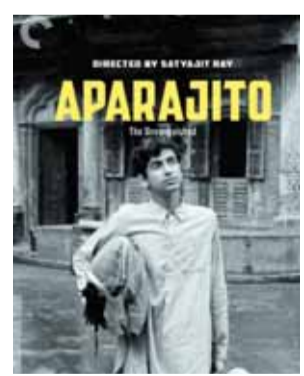
alleges she has been groped by one of the men. The Kannada blockbuster "Kantara", which explores the intricate connection between humanity and nature through its folklore-based storytelling, was also named in the category for best popular film providing wholesome entertainment. Best actor Shetty plays the dual roles of a father and son. Sharmila Tagore and Manoj Bajpayee starrer "Gulmohar", a family drama exploring the meaning of family and home, was judged best Hindi film



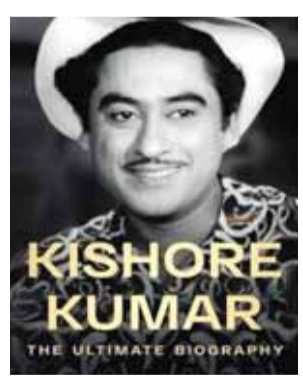
with its director Rahul V Chittela taking home the award for best dialogue writer with Arpita Mukherjee. Bajpayee also got a special mention along with music director Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury for Malayalam title "Kadhikan". AR Rahman won the National Film Award for best music director (background music) for his work in Mani Ratnam's "Ponniyin Selvan-Part 1",



which was also named the best Tamil film. Pritam got the award for best music director (songs) for "Brahmastra-Part 1". Arijit Singh was named the best male playback singer for the song "Kesariya" from Ayan Mukerji's "Brahmastra Part One: Shiva". The Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt starrer also bagged the award for best film in AVGC (animation, visual effects, gaming and comic) category.



Padma Shri awardee Bombay Jayashri won the award for best female playback singer for the track "Chaayum Veyil" for "Saadi Vellaka CC 225/2009", which also won the best Malayalam film award. Besides the best actress honour for Menen, "Thiruchitrabalam", a comedy also starring Dhanush, earned the honour for best choreography for Jani Master and Sathish Krishnan. Niki Joshi won the trophy for best costume designer for "Kutch Express". Seasoned cinematographer Ravi Varman bagged the best



cinematography for Ratnam's "Ponniyin Selvan", which also took the honour for best sound design for Anand Krishnamoorthi. "Aattam" won two more awards -- best screenplay (original) for Anand Ekarshi and best editing for Mahesh Bhuvanend. The award for best animation direction (stunt choreography) went to Anbumani and Arivumani, jointly known as Anbariv. The best child artist award went to Sreepath for "Malikapurram" in Malayalam. From Bengali

cinema, "Aparajito" won the award for best make-up and best production design for Anand Adhya, while best Bengali film went to Kaushik Ganguly's "Kaberi Antardhan". The other regional films that won awards include "Kartikeya 2" (Telugu), "Baaghi Di Dhee" (Punjabi), "Daman" (Odia), "Vaalvi" (Marathi) and "KGF: Chapter 2" (Kannada). The best Tiwa film award was won by "Sikaisal". From the non-feature category, the top honour went to "Avena" by director Siddhant Sarin. Filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj won the best music director for his short film "Fursat". "Just heard about the national award for Fursat. I am deeply happy to get my 9th national award. It's the biggest award of our country. The only one that truly matters. And winning this is the greatest validation of my work! Thank you jury for this. Now I need to strive for a double digit," the director, who had earlier won the same honour for short film "1232 KMS", said in a statement. The best film critic award went to Deepak Dua. Anirudha Bhattacharjee and Parthiv Dhar won the best book on cinema for "Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography".

70th National Film Awards

'Arbitrary and suspicious': BJP MP on K'taka Govt's decision to snap dealings with SBI, PNB

PTI n BENGALURU

BJP Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh Siroya on Friday said the Karnataka government's decision to close its accounts with the State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank looked "arbitrary and suspicious" in view of a Rs 187 crore scam in a state-owned corporation through the Union Bank of India.



sector units and universities to withdraw all their deposits and investments in the State Bank of India and the Punjab National Bank and stop any business with these institutions on August 12. The order was reported on August 14. "This move by the Karnataka government looks arbitrary and suspicious to me, especially after the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (KMVSTDC) scam came out, in which around Rs 187 crore was illegally transferred through a nationalised bank," he said.

The BJP MP from Karnataka was referring to the scam in which a former Karnataka Minister B Nagendra was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate and is presently in jail. The scam came to light after the Accounts Superintendent of KMVSTDC, Chandrasekharan P, died by suicide. In his suicide note, he explained how a new account was created in the UBI where all the money belonging to the Corporation was transferred. Further Rs 88 crore was illegally transferred to various bank accounts in Hyderabad.

Siroya wondered whether a state government could take such a unilateral decision against two nationalised banks and whether or not all the banks are governed by the rules and regulations of the RBI. "If the state government has problems with the banks, should they not have reached out to the RBI? Can some nationalised banks be more acceptable and some less to the state government? What is the nature of misappropriation that the state government is talking about? Have they probed it? What really is happening within the Government of Karnataka?" the BJP asked. He expressed his apprehension about whether the Congress-led state government was trying to deliberately create suspicion about the banking system through this action. He appealed to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who is also a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, to take note of this order.

ISRO targets first Gaganyaan mission launch by December, says chairman

PTI n SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH)

ISRO has targeted to launch the first mission of the ambitious Gaganyaan project by December, a top official said here on Friday. Currently, some of the rocket hardware for the human space programme has reached the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here and the integration of the crew module was going on at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum, ISRO Chairman S Somanath said. "Today, we are working on the first mission of the Gaganyaan called G1. The first unmanned mission. The status today is the rocket, the S200 stage, the L1, C32 stage are all at Satish Dhawan Space Centre," he said. He said the Crew Module integration was going on at VSSC Trivandrum while Crew Escape hardware was also ready. "So, we have to complete with full wiring and testing should be done. Our target is by November the whole system will reach here, possibly by December launch will happen," he said, responding to a query. Somanath was talking to reporters after successfully launching the third and final developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle that placed the Earth Observation Satellite into orbit earlier in the day. The success of the third and final developmental flight would pave the way for launch of commercial missions using the smallest vehicle by ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL).



Today's successful mission of LV allows industry to forge a partnership with ISRO for placing satellites into Low Earth Orbit. Besides, it would also allow a company to gain knowledge on rockets, launch vehicles, and satellites in the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle missions. To a query about the requirement for industries to partner with the ISRO for taking up commercial launch of LV missions, Somanath said a day-long meeting was recently held with the industry. "I am hoping that the first technology transfer will happen in India between ISRO and industry. The Request for Interest (RFI) was released and as a single (entity) or as consortia, a company can show interest on the technology transfer (from ISRO) and what were the

expectations from ISRO and how to qualify for such missions," he said. From the interactions held with the industry it emerged there was a huge amount of interest for them to learn about space, he added. "We told them it will be a huge challenge for anyone to learn rocketry from scratch. It is not just transferring technology, we are transferring the knowledge on how things are done (at ISRO). It is not the drawings alone, it is the knowledge behind those drawings we transfer to industry," according to Somanath, also the Secretary, Department of Space. Through the industry partnerships, ISRO would teach them on how to build a rocket, he said and added that the industry should qualify as per the criteria put forth by ISRO. The company should possess manufacturing capabilities, manufacturing facilities and financial strengths of a company would be assessed, he said. "We will add weightage and marks based on the performance of the company and based on that the companies will be shortlisted and a contract would be given to them after the companies which have to pay a technology transfer fee," he said. Some of the unique features of LVs are -- it provides low-cost access to Space, offers low turn-around time and flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites, 'launch on demand' feasibility and LV missions demand minimal launch infrastructure.

Tension in Maha cities during protest over anti-Hindu violence in Bangladesh

PTI n MUMBAI

Tension erupted in Jalgaon and Nashik cities in north Maharashtra on Friday during a bandh called by a Hindu organisation to condemn the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh, officials said. In Jalgaon, stones were hurled at a vehicle showroom when Sakal Hindu Samaj, an umbrella body of several outfits, took out a protest march. "The incident occurred in Jalgaon city this morning during a protest march by the Sakal Hindu Samaj against the anti-Hindu violence in Bangladesh. Some unidentified persons hurled a few stones at a two-wheeler showroom," an official said. The glass facade of the showroom got damaged, he said. "Hundreds of supporters of the Sakal Hindu Samaj took part in the march, and the protesters later went to the collector's office and handed over a memorandum of their demands," the police official said. The incident triggered tension for some time, but the situation came under control following the intervention of the local police, he said. Police personnel were deployed in the city as a precautionary measure, he said. Jalgaon city is located more than 400 km from

Mumbai. The police resorted to a mild lathi charge after two groups clashed during a bike rally of the Hindu outfit in Nashik, an official said. Stones were pelted, and some vehicles were damaged in the clash that erupted after some shops were found open in the Bhadrakali area. The police resorted to a mild lathi charge to disperse the crowd. There is still tension in the Old Nashik area, but the situation is under control now. "When the rally was on, some shops were open. It led to a verbal dispute. I appeal to everyone to maintain peace. I have spoken to the commissioner of police and district collector, and the situation is under control," state Minister Girish Mahajan said. Bangladesh saw a spike in violence against members of the Hindu community following the fall of the government led by Sheikh Hasina. She resigned and fled to India on August 5 after massive protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs. The Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance, a non-political Hindu religious organisation, has claimed that the minority community has faced attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since August 5.

BRS on course-correction, wants to learn from other Opp parties in country

PTI n HYDERABAD

After a humiliating defeat in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, the BRS is now planning to reinvent itself and also plans to study from other opposition parties in the country to possibly emulate them, the party's working president K T Rama Rao said on Friday. He also said a team from the former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao-led regional party would, next month, visit Tamil Nadu to meet some political parties in the southern state, followed by other places. "The intent is very clear. We are a party of 25 years old. I think there comes a time for everybody, every organisation like where you will have to constantly reinvent. That is the intent. We want to study other parties which have successfully navigated tougher times and have come back stronger," Rao told PTI Video. Rao's remarks came after the, once regarded as a formidable party, plummeted to third position in 14 out of 17 constituencies in the recently



concluded Lok Sabha polls. Bharat Rashtira Samithi (then Telangana Rashtira Samithi) had won nine seats and secured a vote share of 41.71 per cent in the 2019 Parliamentary elections. The party's vote share declined to less than 17 per cent in the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls. The beleaguered party also witnessed desertions by several leaders including some legislators. "We also want to understand as the principal opposition what are the kind of issues they (other opposition parties) picked up, what are the kind of methods, methodologies they have adopted. So all

of this is important for us to learn from other political parties," he further said. To a query on the Congress Party's allegation that BRS has a "tacit" understanding with BJP, Rao dismissed them saying they are baseless. If BRS had any tacit understanding with BJP, his sister and MLC K Kavitha would not be in jail for 150 days, he said. "I don't think there could be a more straight answer to this (allegations)," he added. On the state government's farm loan waiver, he said it was a "cruel joke" as the dispensation reduced it from Rs 40,000 crore to just Rs 17,900 crore.



Downpour in Rajasthan, Bundi's Hindoli records 220 mm rain

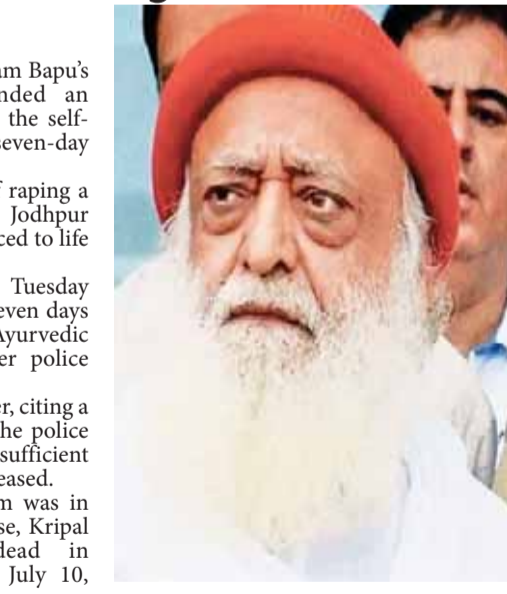
PTI n JAIPUR

Heavy rain lashed parts of Rajasthan, including Hindoli in the Bundi district where the rainfall levels exceeded the 200-mm mark. Some places in Jaipur, Dausa, Baran, Nagaur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Pali and Sawai Madhopur districts witnessed heavy rainfall. Meanwhile, extremely heavy rain was recorded at some places in Ajmer and Bundi districts during the last 24 hours. The highest rainfall in eastern Rajasthan has been recorded in Hindoli in Bundi district at 220 mm and in Bikaner's Kolayat in the western region saw 172 mm of rain from yesterday till 8.30 am today. During this period, several areas recorded light to moderate rainfall, according to the Met department. Light to moderate rainfall lashed some places in Alwar, Sikar, Karauli, Kota, Bhilwara, Tonk, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of the state. "The circulation system formed over north-eastern Rajasthan is now slowly moving towards the western region. Due to its effect, there is a strong possibility of heavy or very heavy rain in some parts of Jodhpur, Ajmer and Bikaner divisions during the next 24 hours," an official said. Heavy rainfall is likely in the state from 17 August and clear skies and sunshine will be in most parts during August 17 to 22, the official said. Another round of heavy rains is expected in the last week of August. Over 50 persons who were stuck at Padajhar waterfall in Chittorgarh's Rawatbhata on Thursday were rescued by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team. Police said that several people had gone to the water stream in a forest area on Thursday but they were stuck in the forest because the way to the waterfall was submerged in water. A vehicle of the SDRF team also got stuck in mud but 53 people were rescued safely on Friday morning.

Parole of Asaram Bapu: Rape victim's family seeks more security

PTI n SHAHJAHANPUR (UP)

The family members of Asaram Bapu's rape victim have demanded an increase in their security after the self-styled godman was granted a seven-day parole. Asaram Bapu was convicted of raping a 16-year-old girl in 2013 in his Jodhpur ashram. In 2018, he was sentenced to life imprisonment. The Jodhpur High Court on Tuesday granted parole to Asaram for seven days for a medical treatment at an Ayurvedic hospital in Maharashtra under police custody. Following this, the victim's father, citing a threat to his family, said that the police force deployed at his place is insufficient and the security should be increased. He argued that "When Asaram was in jail, the main witness in his case, Kripal Singh (35), was shot dead in Shahjahanpur Cantt area on July 10,



2015, and another witness was also shot dead in Muzaffarnagar." The victim's father said that "Four years ago, Asaram's followers had put up a banner of Asaram in Shahjahanpur jail and distributed blankets and a threat letter was also sent to my house." The victim's father added that "he and his family are very scared since Asaram came out on parole." Shahjahanpur Superintendent of Police (SP) Ashok Kumar Meena told PTI on Friday that the police force is already deployed at the victim's house. SP said, "The victim's father has to go out for court work etc., so on his demand, a gunner has also been provided to him." Meena said that we have also instructed our officers to review the security of the victim's family and increase the number of personnel if needed. Along with this, instructions have also been issued to the concerned police station to regularly monitor the security arrangements.

Renukaswamy murder case: Final report will be submitted to court soon, says top cop

PTI n BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda on Friday said the final report in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case in which Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and others are accused will be submitted to the court by the police at the earliest after getting remaining forensic reports. A total of seventeen people, including Darshan, along with his friend Pavithra Gowda, are currently under judicial custody in connection with the case. "In connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, the investigation is reaching its final stage. Several oral, circumstantial and technical evidence have been gathered.

The evidence gathered has been sent to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Bengaluru, and some electronic devices were sent to Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Hyderabad," Dayananda said. Speaking to reporters here, he said, "We have got some reports, we are told by the concerned FSL officials that more reports will be sent soon. On receiving them, as part of the further investigation, certain clarifications will be sought if necessary. After that, at the earliest, we will submit the final report to the court." "Almost about 70 per cent of the reports have come from the Bengaluru FSL, and the remaining regarding electronic devices which we had sent to CFSL Hyderabad, those reports are still

pending," he added. A court here on Wednesday had extended till August 28 the judicial custody of Darshan and all other accused. According to police sources, 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor, had sent obscene messages to Gowda, which enraged Darshan, allegedly leading to his murder. His body was found near a stormwater drain next to an apartment in Sumanahalli here on June 9. Raghavendra, one of the accused who is part of Darshan's fan club in Chitradurga, had brought Renukaswamy to a shed in R R Nagar here, on the pretext that the actor wanted to meet him. It was in this shed that he was allegedly tortured and murdered.

Sad it happened in State where a woman is CM: U'khand Speaker

PTI n DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri on Friday condemned the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in West Bengal and said it is "even sadder" that the incident happened in a state governed by a woman chief minister. The whole nation should raise its voice against the heinous crime, she said and asserted a societal change is needed to curb such incidents. In an interview with PTI, the first woman speaker of the Uttarakhand Assembly said women only want equal rights and nothing more. The biggest responsibility of bringing a social change lies with the mother and the teacher because children spend most of their time with them, Khanduri said. "Crime should be condemned, law should be strict but there should also be change in the society," the Speaker said. A postgraduate trainee doctor was

allegedly raped and murdered while on duty at a state-run medical college and hospital in Kolkata on August 9. While a civic volunteer was arrested in connection with the crime the next day, the Calcutta High Court ordered the immediate transfer of the probe into the crime to the CBI from the Kolkata Police. "If such a heinous crime happens with a woman professional, a trainee doctor in a woman-ruled state like West Bengal, it is even sadder. It is very shameful that such a thing happened in a state which is known for its celebration of Navratri and Durga Puja," Khanduri told PTI. However, she said the responsibility of raising voice against such a heinous crime rests not only with the people of West Bengal but also with the whole country. After the Nirbhaya case, everyone hoped people would wake up but apart from the law, social change is also needed for that, Khanduri said.

KOLKATA RAPE-MURDER



"We ask girls many questions, like where do you keep roaming around? Why do you speak so loudly? Why do you laugh so much? Boys are not asked such questions. "For this, the family and society will have to change their thinking. If a boy talks to his mother loudly or pushes his sister and abuses her, he will have to be stopped," she said.

About reports of atrocities against the Hindu minority in Bangladesh, the Uttarakhand Assembly speaker said it is not right to persecute people because they are in the minority or are weak. On Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's criticism of the alleged "silence of activists" over the atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, she said, "I agree.. If a candle march is taken out to protest against one wrong thing, then the same should be done against other things as well." Khanduri expressed concern over the rise in social disintegration based on castes but said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, development issues have been kept above caste and religion, and for the first time there were talks of "universal coverage". "If someone has to get a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana today, his religion or caste is not

taken into account," she said. Underlining the need for population control, which she claimed would solve many things, Khanduri said, "Population control will be not only for Muslims but for the whole country and it will benefit everyone." Praising Prime Minister Modi's leadership, she said that for the first time, the voice of women is being heard in the corridors of power and their small needs like toilets and gas stoves are being understood. "Now women are not being treated as just a vote bank confined to their kitchens. They are being given respect," the Uttarakhand Assembly speaker said. Asked about the proposal to build a new assembly building in Raipur area of Dehradun, Khanduri said it is the government's responsibility to take action on the proposal. However, she said the idea of having a new assembly building where all facilities are available is welcome.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

PM roots for women safety

PM calls for strictest punishment for crimes against women amidst protests over rape and murder of resident doctor

The streets of Kolkata have erupted in widespread protests following the heinous rape and murder of a young resident doctor, a crime that has left the entire nation in shock and sorrow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has expressed his firm stance on the issue, calling for the strictest possible punishment for those involved in crimes against women. The victim, a 28-year-old resident doctor at a prominent Kolkata hospital, was found murdered under gruesome circumstances after being raped. The brutal crime has triggered widespread anger, as doctors, students, and activists have taken to the streets to demand swift and severe action against the perpetrators. Placards reading "Justice for our sister" and "Stop violence against women" are being carried by hundreds of protesters across the city, while candlelight vigils continue to spread across the nation. The medical community, in particular, has expressed its fury, with many health professionals going on strike, calling for stronger protection and justice for female healthcare workers, who often face threats and harassment in the course of their duties.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in response to the national outrage, has unequivocally condemned the horrific crime. In his address to the nation on Independence Day, he emphasised the government's commitment to ensuring the safety of women in the country. Modi reiterated his stance that there must be zero tolerance for crimes against women, and perpetrators should face the most stringent punishment under the law. But it is not that we do not have strict laws for crime against women but the problem is their execution. The new amendments to criminal laws have additional features to expedite such cases. The new provisions include the death penalty for rape, video recording of crime scenes, and a witness protection program, etc. All of which could prove to help resolve such cases. However, only time will reveal how effectively these measures will be implemented on the ground and the guilty punished speedily. Women's safety has been a recurring concern in India, and incidents like this continue to raise questions about the effectiveness of existing laws and preventive measures. The Prime Minister's call for the strictest punishment has been widely welcomed, but it remains to be seen how these words will translate into concrete legal reforms. However, having laws is one thing and reforming the society is quite another. The attitude of society towards women must change. Most cases go unreported as the victims are often blamed by society; questions like 'why were you there?', 'what were you wearing?' and so on are posed to her to hold her responsible. The process becomes punishment and the victim has to live with the stigma for the rest of her life. The nation now awaits justice—not just for one young doctor, but for all the women who have suffered in silence.

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PICTALK



Artists perform at Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Independence Day in Jaipur

PTI

How to make disaster relief truly effective

While people across the nation have come together to help, challenge remains in ensuring that assistance truly reaches those in need

The jury is still out on whether the recent landslides in Wayanad is a result of human callousness or nature's own waywardness. Two weeks after the deluge, there is still no confirmed count of lives lost. Survivors and search teams are continuing to sift through the debris to find remains of those swept away. With everything lost, scores are staring at the challenge of finding some means to take life forward. Monsoon doesn't evoke tender sentiments of love and romance any longer. It now denotes death and destruction. It shows how hapless man is before fate and it also bears testimony to human resilience in the face of catastrophe.



to perishables that cannot be used optimally. A social media post showed volunteers grappling with heaps of material that reflected collective compassion and magnanimity, but also underlined the difficulty of harnessing people's largesse effectively.

An appeal was made to the public to avoid sending vegetables and bread, and chiefly clothes, and instead dispatch other essentials. It was misconstrued by a segment of people and sent wrong signals that the hundreds who had taken shelter in relief camps did not need help anymore as much of it was languishing in the collection centres. Nothing could be further from the

truth. Whether in the tragic instances of natural calamity or in war-ravaged parts of the world where people have had to flee and seek refuge in makeshift camps, there is a colossal need for human kindness and generosity. But we often make mistakes in the way we express and extend this willingness to help and save people from aftermaths of misfortunes. The first thing that comes to our common mind when we talk of aid is heaps of clothes that we dump in collection centres. Although the amount of second-hand wear that people dispose in the name of charity has decreased with awareness campaigns, there still is a huge dearth of information and knowledge regarding the kind of assistance people in relief camps need - be it after a natural calamity or in strife-ridden communities.

There is also scepticism with regard to monetary help: trust is lacking and not many believe that the funds are allocated rightly and to the needy because there are no means to trace the money trail. That a lot of cash gets siphoned off is the public perception. Given this, how do good-natured people who are willing to lend a helping hand to the afflicted make a contribution? What is a trusted channel? It is hard to say with certainty, but the only choice we have is to trust the people who take up such endeavours or be part of volunteer groups that initiates such action. It is indeed a shame that some devious minds take advantage of this opportunity to make a quick buck and instances of wrongdoing are not unheard of. But at the end of the day, it is one person's misery meeting another person's magnanimity. Creating safe and guaranteed channels of help and support will make more people come forward to restore the lives of those affected. The onus of winning public trust through transparency lies with community leaders, politicians and philanthropists. Even the kindest thoughts and action can go to waste if they are not done with discretion. (The author is a Dubai-based columnist and writing coach; views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR

Terrorism resurges amid shifts in strategy

With militants shifting their focus to Jammu and adopting more aggressive strategies, concerns over national security are once again at the forefront



SUDHIR HINDWAN

The recent terrorist attack on Army Captain Deepak Singh, tragically killed a day before India's 78th Independence Day, must be condemned unequivocally. This act of violence, along with the discovery that at least three terrorists were hiding in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), underscores the persistence of militant activities in the region. Unfortunately, this incident is not an isolated one but a continuation of the long-standing saga of terrorism in J&K. Recent attacks in Jammu indicate a significant shift in terrorist activities due to several factors.

Firstly, terrorists want to send a message that despite the abrogation of Article 370 and the central government's commendable efforts, the situation in J&K remains unstable. Secondly, Jammu's vast forest areas provide an ideal base for militants to launch guerrilla attacks and evade security forces. Thirdly, the improved law and order situation in Kashmir has led to a shift in insurgent focus toward Jammu. Lastly, while terrorism in the region had been suppressed for a time, it has not been eradicated, and militants are now re-emerging with increased vigor. J&K has long been a target of insurgents. Over the years, numerous terrorist attacks in areas like Sopore, Budgam, and Dooru Shahbad have raised serious concerns for security agencies. What is particularly alarming about the recent upsurge is the shift in strategy. Terrorists are no longer just targeting the military and police but are also attacking civilians, indicating their desperation to gain attention. Additionally, there has been no respite between these attacks, as militants seem relentless in their mission of destruction. Unlike in the past, Jammu has now become the epicenter of this terror onslaught due to its proximity to the border. Religion has once again resurfaced as a significant motivating factor for terrorists. The primary goal of these terrorists is to destabilize the region and create a vulnerable atmosphere. The involvement of a neighboring country with a hidden agen-



da cannot be ruled out. For many militants, terrorism provides a livelihood, with individuals willing to sacrifice their lives for monetary compensation. Ajmal Kasab, the infamous terrorist involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, is one such example of someone misled into committing heinous acts in exchange for money. Despite efforts by the central government to address the issue through dialogues with Pakistan and engaging with separatists, insurgent activities continue unabated. Policymakers must recognize that terrorism directly impacts the nation's well-being. Anti-terrorism policies must be flexible and responsive to changing threats, utilizing the latest recommendations and technologies to ensure security.

Today's terrorists are far more organized and professional than those from a decade ago. Although new security measures have been implemented, the threat remains unpredictable. The region's geography provides an ideal base for guerrilla activities, and the militants have become more sophisticated in their strategies, acquiring advanced weapons from across the border. Their use of automatic weapons, grenades, and low-intensity bombs demonstrates meticulous planning and execution. This modern breed of terrorists no longer hides in the



THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF TERRORISM IS PSYCHOLOGICAL. TERRORISTS SEEK TO ALTER BEHAVIOR AND BRING ABOUT SOCIETAL OR GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES THROUGH FEAR

shadows. They openly attack, targeting financial hubs and other vital locations, as seen in recent global terror incidents. Terrorists exploit advances in transportation and weaponry to expand their networks. Suicide squads, in particular, have shocked the security apparatus with their boldness and brutality. Terrorists meticulously plan their attacks, aiming to inspire fear and manipulate the public to achieve their objectives. In his famous work, "Why Men Rebel," Ted Robert Gurr argues that people driven by intense motivation toward a goal often resort to violence. This is evident in modern terrorism, where militants see their acts as justified sacrifices for a cause. William Hennery also noted that some politically motivated acts of terrorism are so deeply rooted in commitment that no sanctions can deter them. International experts like Professor Yonah Alexander have analyzed the evolution of terrorism. Modern terrorists differ from their predecessors in their use of technology and tactics. Small, sophisticated groups now employ increasingly violent methods to create a psychological impact, aiming to instill fear in the public and force governments to react. The ultimate goal of terrorism is psychological, not practical. Terrorists seek to alter behavior and bring about societal or

governmental changes through fear. There is an urgent need for preventive measures to address the grievances fueling terrorism, improved security strategies, and an understanding of the social and cultural factors driving people to insurgency. Effective counter-terrorism efforts require not just governmental action but also community involvement. Citizens can play a critical role in improving security by cooperating with law enforcement agencies. Beyond strict anti-terrorism laws, programs aimed at addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty and lack of education, are essential. Several nations have taken steps to combat state-sponsored terrorism, including economic sanctions, but consensus remains elusive at both the national and international levels. The nexus between drug smuggling and terrorism further complicates matters. To address this, judicial procedures must be streamlined to ensure speedy trials for those involved in drug trafficking and terrorism. India, in particular, can learn valuable lessons from the counter-terrorism efforts of other nations, such as the United States, which has effectively prevented major terrorist attacks since 9/11. (The author, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav award, is a professor and expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TUNGABHADRA DAM BREACHED

Madam — Tungabhadra dam crest gate has swept away in the water after its chain link snapped. The ancient name of the river Tungabhadra was Pampa. In the epic Ramayana also, this river was called by name Pampa. Construction of the dam started in 1949 and completed in 1953 is said to be irrigating 12 lakh acres of land. It is more than 70 years since the dam was dedicated to the nation. The fall of 19th crest gate has led to the release of over 1 lakh cusecs of water into the river. By the time the new gate is fixed, much more water will be lost to the river. It is said that the water level has to be brought down to 60 cmft for installing new gate. This incident must open the eyes of all the riparian states to inspect the dams which have been built decades ago. It goes without saying that like any other national asset, the dams have also their own life. Dams always face water pressure and it would be too high during the rainy season when the rivers carry unprecedented quantity of water. Any laxity shown in the proper maintenance of dams reduces the life of dams. It is said that the crest gate swept away during midnight. Had it happened during day time, there would have been the possibility of people and animals falling victims to the sudden gushing of water. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has blamed the state government for ignoring the recommendations of the dam committee that came from centre. If it is true that the state government has not taken seriously the recommendations of the committee, the state government must accept the blame.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

DISAPPOINTING VERDICT

Madam — It is both sad and disappointing that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has dismissed Vinesh Phogat's appeal to be declared a joint silver medalist, despite her convincing vic-

Independence Day pledge



The editorial, 'Happy independence day' (15-8-24) presents a positive note and it is welcome. India has marched ahead from a scrap level to the level of this day. Right from the day the country got freedom a lot of committed efforts have been put in by successive governments. There is no scope for any individual or a particular party to claim credit. However, independence day is a day to identify the important tasks and

commit to achieve them with all sincerity and nationalist spirit. The crucial task before the country is not owning a space station but providing employment to the educated youth who are longing for a job, providing a viable livelihood for the 81.35 crore poor who are depending on free rations, provide easy access to the poor avail quality education and healthcare. If these tasks are attended to the rest of the developments will happen on their own.

The development we are trying to glorify now is creating billionaires on one hand and forcing the poor mass and the middle class sections to keep on tightening their belts. Continuing this trend carries the potential of landing the country in a social and economic crisis. On this day we should also take pledge to improve the country's ranking in global indexes like hunger index, malnutrition, freedom of expression etc.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

ories. After winning three bouts against top athletes from Ukraine, Japan, and Cuba, Phogat's weight increased slightly after taking refreshments to recover. Despite her efforts to reduce her weight through exercise and even trimming her hair, she missed the limit by just 100 grams.

According to Rule 11 of the United World Wrestling (UWW), athletes must weigh in daily, and failure to meet the weight results in disqualification and forfeiture of previous wins. This rule, however, contradicts the Olympic Charter, which encourages the support of women athletes (Bylaws 2.8 and 2.10) and promotes their health and well-being (Bylaw 2.18). The back-to-back scheduling of bouts, without adequate recovery time, led to Phogat's physical exhaustion, violating these principles.

If the UWW rule were consistent with the Olympic Charter, her disqualification would not have occurred. Phogat's plea to be recognized as a joint silver medalist is justified, given her previous

performance and the fact that her disqualification was a result of an unfair rule.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

RESPECT THE NATIONAL FLAG

Madam — On August 15, all Indians celebrate by singing patriotic songs, posting quotations on social media, and staging emotional plays to instill patriotism in young minds. However, the enthusiasm often wanes the next day. Selling flags made of paper and plastic, only to have them treated disrespectfully, is wrong. This disrespect must cease. Our focus should shift to the country's needs beyond just one-day celebrations and songs. Though an individual can't change the entire system, collective efforts can. After so many sacrifices by our great leaders, we must question if we're truly an independent nation or only in name.

Md Imadaullah | Muzaaffarpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD OF ARROGANCE

Arrogance can lead to both greatness and self-destruction. The key lies in mastering it



RAVI VALLURI

Our mythology (particularly The Ramayana and The Mahabharata) is brimming with several well-stocked illustrations in respect of characters plagued with hubris, hurtling them down to their nemesis. We are aware of the conceited Ravana and the unbridled ambitions of Duryodhana. An angry and arrogant mind gets blurred and smudges the vision of an individual. Consequently, he behaves in a groundless manner, which has calamitous and baleful consequences for the person and those in his companionship. Is it possible to associate with such individuals who are prone to filibustering and arrogance?

The answer is an emphatic NO since there is no dialogue, only a monologue or a harangue by the self-conceited person. This drains our energy levels, a situation we would like to circumvent to save ourselves and our minds. The human mind assumes unnatural patterns and behaves in a volatile manner. A volcano of anger and arrogance erupts unexpectedly. Such individuals are veritable prisoners of their image, which is conceited and egotist. Mike Tyson, who earned epithets like Iron Mike, the Baddest Man on the Planet and Kid Dynamite outside the Ring, was convicted of rape and consuming marijuana and suffered from bipolar disorder.

He has had several brushes with the law. Tyson strongly felt that he was stigmatised by American society and that US society has not been constructed on the principles of justice, but on rape, grime, slavery, and injustice. He married thrice, besides various dalliances and philandering. He underwent reformation. He was proselytised and sought refuge in 'Allah'.



He converted the raw energy of anger and arrogance in the boxing ring where he was extremely successful. The mythological figures mentioned earlier, who were victims of anger and arrogance, bore bruised egos resulting from bruised feelings and emotions, alongside a deep sense of hurt and resentment. Ravana lusted after Sita and felt slighted that his sister Surpanakha was cold-shouldered and disfigured by Lakshmana. All his life Karna bore the cross of being called a shudra, his many talents, and abilities notwithstanding. Duryodhana remained perpetually infantile, given to juvenile behaviour.

Besides, he was under the delusion that the powers that be of Hastinapur would have never agreed to his accession after his father Dhritarashtra abdicated the throne. The feelings of hurt, playing a victim, jealousy, and injury, get metamorphosed in such personalities into deep-seated vexation and anger, leading to false bravado and arrogance.

The anger and arrogance get vitiated into negative thoughts, leading to self-destruction under the strain of self-delusion. However strange it may appear, there is a flip side at the end of the spectrum, where individuals have deployed emotions of anger and arrogance to become achievers. "Anybody can become angry—that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way—that is not within everybody's power and is not easy," wrote Aristotle.

Who does not miss the swagger of Vivian Richards, and the ferocity of the pace of Dennis Lillee and Thomson? Several politicians, industrialists, writers, artists, kings and monarchs could channelise this energy of anger and arrogance to become highly victorious and triumphant. "To be a tennis champion, you must be inflexible, you must be stubborn, you must be arrogant, and you must be selfish and self-absorbed. Kind of tunnel vision almost," says Chris Evert. Therefore, arrogance is a double-edged sword. Often it subsumes the personalities to self-destruction as they lack the power of self-discrimination and self-examination, thus becoming victims of guilt and persecution complex.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Afghanistan's struggle after the US withdrawal



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

As Afghanistan observes the third anniversary of the contentious US withdrawal, the country continues to face upheaval, struggling with a severe humanitarian crisis under Taliban

Experts from the United Nations have issued a statement regarding the situation in Afghanistan, commemorating three years since the United States and its allies' shameless and disgraceful withdrawal, betraying the Afghan people. Based on historical patterns, this represents yet another instance of a nation being abandoned, leaving its people in a dire state while the US and its proxies maintain indirect control. The irony is striking: the very group once branded as terrorists by the West is now, paradoxically, expected to govern, despite having been considered freedom fighters not long ago. The UN experts express grave concern over ongoing human rights violations under the Taliban regime, highlighting systemic discrimination, segregation, and severe marginalisation of women and girls.

As we confront three years of this precarious status quo, it is evident that isolationism is inadequate. The international community must seek effective engagement strategies to address the complex realities in Afghanistan, moving beyond mere diplomatic or punitive measures. In this context, it is crucial to reassess Afghanistan's historical trajectory, where the land has been used as an instrument by powerful actors, often at the expense of one of the most vibrant and resilient human communities. In the aftermath of the September 2001 attacks, the world bore a heavy cost as the United States' 'war on terror' led to the deaths of over a million unarmed civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, ostensibly in pursuit of justice for the three thousand lost lives. This tragic toll exposes the brutal reality of US foreign policy, which relies on organised violence against perceived threats to its dominance, highlighting the need for a significant realignment. The disgraceful withdrawal from Afghanistan, marked by the abandonment of billions of dollars worth of weapons, exemplifies the catastrophic failure of this approach.

Meanwhile, a recent UNICEF report reveals the severe mental health crisis afflicting Afghan children, with over 24 per cent suffering from anxiety—ten times the global average—and 15 per cent battling depression, underscoring the profound psychological trauma inflicted by the ongoing conflict. Western civilisation often positions itself as the pinnacle of human development, a hubris that has led to immense destruction. The US's quest for global dominance sowed the seeds of terrorism; groups now labelled as terrorists, such as the Afghan Mujahideen, were initially supported by the US through covert operations like Operation Cyclone, with British intelligence aiding in what became one of the most costly US operations. During the Cold War, the US, in its zeal to counter Soviet influence, allied with any force against the USSR, turning a blind eye to human rights and legal norms. While seeking to replicate the Soviet Union's Vietnam misstep, the US supported the Mujahideen in Afghanistan via Pakistan. In 1987, President Reagan praised Mujahideen's progress and promised ongoing support for a free Afghanistan.

Yet, subsequent US actions revealed stark hypocrisy and a readiness to use ruthless tactics for political advantage. The Afghan crisis offers crucial insights into global power dynamics. Understanding the Soviet invasion requires recognising its complex



DURING THE COLD WAR, THE US, IN ITS ZEAL TO COUNTER SOVIET INFLUENCE, ALLIED WITH ANY FORCE AGAINST THE USSR, TURNING A BLIND EYE TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL NORMS

background and the rise and fall of Afghanistan's communist regime from 1978 to 1989. The communist ideology, as practised under Stalin, evolved into a form of tribal feudalism, which some in Afghanistan found more appealing than Western market economies.

This alignment facilitated political power for those who exploited socialism for their ends, illustrating how political ideologies can be distorted to serve specific interests, ultimately leading to their downfall. The introduction of communism into Afghanistan profoundly impacted its social structure. Afghanistan, a fragmented region with diverse tribal groups and a mountainous terrain, was ill-suited for a unitary political system. Federalism might have been more effective, but this reality was often overlooked, leading to ongoing violence that the Taliban would inherit. In the 20th century, reformist movements emerged, bringing communist ideologies to Afghanistan. Abdulrahman Mahmudi, an early communist figure, founded the newspaper Nida'-yi-Khalq (Voice of the People) and the Hezb-e Khalq (People's Party) in the late 1940s. Although imprisoned and later dying in 1963, Mahmudi's legacy continued through his family until the 1970s, eventually evolving into a Maoist movement. Prominent leftists like Mir Muhammad Siddique Farhan and Noor Muhammad Taraki also played significant roles, with Taraki becoming a key communist leader after returning from India.

The Afghan monarchy, led by Mohammad Zahir Shah, was overthrown in a coup by his cousin General Mohammad Dawood Khan on July 17, 1973. Dawood established the Republic of

Afghanistan but was ousted in 1978 by leftist leaders Noor Mohammad Taraki, Babrak Karmal, and Hafizullah Amin, following the assassination of Mir Akbar Khyber. Taraki's presidency and Amin's prime ministership attempted significant social reforms, but their rapid implementation in a culturally resistant society led to widespread protests.

The political struggle culminated in a coup by Amin, who ousted Taraki, later reported as dying of an "unknown illness" but suffocated by guards. Key figures in pre-Taliban Afghan politics included Mohammad Zahir Shah, Mohammad Dawood Khan, Mir Akbar Khyber, Noor Mohammad Taraki, and Hafizullah Amin. Mohammad Zahir Shah, king of Afghanistan from 1933 to 1973, oversaw significant social reforms and modernisation efforts. Educated in Kabul and France, Zahir Shah returned to Afghanistan at age 19 and took on various roles within the monarchy. By the early 1960s, he was a respected ruler who embraced democratic principles and established a new parliament, working to modernise Afghanistan and improve living standards. Many nostalgic images of pre-Taliban Afghanistan reflect the successes of his administration.

In 1973, while Zahir Shah was in Italy for eye surgery, his cousin Mohammad Dawood Khan overthrew the government and established a new regime. Zahir Shah spent decades in Italy, during which Afghanistan's progress towards democracy was undone. Dawood's regime, followed by the leadership of Noor Mohammad Taraki and Hafizullah Amin, marked a shift towards Cold War-era conflicts. The assassination of Mir Akbar Khyber, whose killer remains debat-

ed, facilitated Taraki and Amin's rise to power. Taraki's government, which came to power in April 1978, was seen as a new dawn but soon became mired in violence and discord. The administration's failure to address the needs of Afghan refugees and internal dissent led to widespread dissatisfaction. Taraki's efforts to implement rapid social reforms, aimed at expediting the revolution, only intensified internal strife and fuelled extremist opposition, further destabilising the country. In August 1978, Noor Mohammad Taraki, addressing the growing Islamic protest movement, remarked: "From the moment our party assumed power, capitalist and reactionary forces have sought to undermine us using religion as a weapon against our progressive agenda. This tactic is outdated and flawed. These forces, driven by imperialistic agendas, aim to overthrow our government, believing they can succeed swiftly. But we are resilient, and their conspiracies are merely remnants of failed efforts against progressive movements." Taraki's statement reflects the early resistance he faced, which he struggled to address effectively.

Internal strife within his party, particularly with Hafizullah Amin, compounded his challenges. Taraki, who once praised Amin's ambition, soon discovered Amin's dangerous intentions. Despite Taraki's belief that Soviet support would safeguard his power, his political naivety and disregard for social realities created a fertile ground for extremist groups nurtured by Pakistan. This eventually led to Amin's rise and the Soviet intervention. To be continued

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are personal)

Brutality against female doctors raises questions on safety in govt hospitals

The brutal assault on a resident doctor in Kolkata has sent shockwaves across the nation raising questions about systemic negligence

In 1973, Aruna Shanbaug, a 25-year-old nurse at Mumbai's KEM Hospital, was brutally assaulted—raped and strangled with a metal dog chain—which left her in a vegetative state for the next 43 years. Five decades later, history has repeated itself with the horrific rape and murder of a 31-year-old resident doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College. Both crimes occurred within hospital premises, underscoring the vulnerability of female medical staff in supposedly secure environments. The question is inevitable: has the state failed these women—and society—yet again?



RAHUL KAMBLE

disrupted medical services, as they demand justice and action. While a "civic volunteer" was arrested, there is growing suspicion that more individuals were involved in this gruesome crime. What's particularly alarming is that the assailant may have been a regular visitor to the hospital, raising the likelihood that he had prior interactions with the victim. The nature of her injuries, as revealed by the

post-mortem report, suggests that this was not only an act of sexual violence but also one of intense personal vengeance. Crimes of this brutality—especially those involving rape—are not isolated incidents in India. In 2022, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported an average of 90 rapes per day. However, authorities acknowledge that the actual number could be much higher, as many rapes go unreported due to societal taboos. Unofficial estimates suggest that over 100 rapes occur daily in India, with a staggering 80% of them classified as brutal. Despite the shocking frequency of such attacks, society and the state have failed to address the root causes effectively. The 1973 case of Aruna

Shanbaug was a grim precursor to today's epidemic of violence against women. After being raped and left for dead by a ward boy, she remained in a coma for 43 years, lovingly cared for by her colleagues. Her assailant, however, served only seven years in jail. Aruna's case remained in the media spotlight for decades, yet no sweeping reforms were made to improve the safety of female medical staff. Hospitals like RG Kar Medical College continue to lack basic security protocols, leaving women vulnerable to heinous acts of violence. Despite the public outcry that followed Aruna's case, and the more recent protests in Kolkata, most state-run hospitals have not implemented adequate safety measures. The issue of relying on "civic



volunteers" instead of trained security personnel has long been a problem in government-run hospitals. These volunteers are often paid meager wages and supplement their income through unofficial means. Many have political affiliations, which give them a degree of immunity from disciplinary action. Year after year, issues related to hospital safety—such as malfunctioning CCTV cameras, poorly lit areas, and inadequate

security staff—are flagged but seldom addressed. These failures have made doctors, especially women, increasingly vulnerable to attacks. The horrific gang rape of a young woman in Delhi in 2012 led to promises of reforms, yet most of these remain unfulfilled. The Nirbhaya Fund, created in the aftermath of that tragedy to improve women's safety, remains largely underutilized. Between 2013 and 2022, less than half of its allocation was spent. The gap between intentions and outcome remains wide, and women continue to pay the price for this failure. The implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act of 2013 has been half-hearted at best. Women in the

medical profession are especially vulnerable—not only to sexual assault but also to intimidation and violence from patients, hospital staff, colleagues, and even senior faculty. In many government hospitals, security is virtually nonexistent in certain sections, leaving female staff, including doctors and nurses, at the mercy of anyone who wishes them harm. There is a pressing need for the government to regulate security protocols in medical institutions across the country. Promises on paper are insufficient; action must follow. Hospitals must invest in safe lodging for female doctors, and legislation protecting doctors from violence must be passed without delay. The Supreme Court of India, in May 2023,

criticized authorities for failing to ensure a secure workplace for women. Such failures are not just administrative oversights—they are a direct threat to the lives of women in the medical profession. The case in Kolkata, where the city ironically ranked as the safest in India in 2024 according to NCRB data, exposes a troubling disconnect between official statistics and the grim reality on the ground. The tragic deaths of women like Aruna Shanbaug and the young doctor in Kolkata serve as stark reminders that much remains to be done to protect women in India. Their stories should not just be a cause for temporary outrage but a call to action for systemic change. (The author is a freelance writer, views are personal)



WINGS OF COURAGE

UNVEILING THE IAF'S UNTOLD KARGIL SAGA



Through rare footage and powerful testimonies, riveting documentary, 'Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force' pays tribute to the bravery and strategic brilliance of Indian air force in Operation 'Safed Sagar'

Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force' is more than just a recounting of military history; it is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of India and the brave men and women who defend our skies. As the nation marks the 25th anniversary of the Kargil victory, this documentary stands as a fitting homage to their legacy. This Independence Day, DocuBay streamed a new documentary, 'Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force'. Produced by Media Indica in association with Juggernaut Productions, this film sheds light on the critical and often overlooked role the Indian Air Force (IAF) played

during the Kargil War. The documentary delves into the heart of Operation 'Safed Sagar', revealing the untold stories of courage, innovation, and strategic brilliance that defined the IAF's contribution to the conflict. Through the eyes of veterans and officials, viewers will be taken behind the scenes of daring missions that were instrumental in securing India's victory. What sets this documentary apart is its access to rare footage and personal diaries that provide a unique perspective on the Kargil War. The documentary takes a 360 degree look at the IAF's cutting-edge aircraft, including the Mirage and MiG, in



action and gains a deeper understanding of the technological advancements that played a pivotal role in the conflict.

Featuring first-hand accounts from iconic figures such as Air Chief Marshal Tipnis, Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa, Air Marshal Padamjit Singh Ahluwalia, Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, and Group Captain Nachiketa, the documentary weaves together a powerful narrative of valor and sacrifice. Combined with stunning visuals, these stories offer an emotional and inspiring portrayal of the Kargil War. "We are honoured to collaborate with the Indian Air Force to bring Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force to our audiences," said Girish Dwibhashyam, COO of DocuBay. "The film will not only delight defence and aviation

enthusiasts but will also be a gripping tale that will enthrall audiences worldwide." Richa Pant, Creative Director and Producer at Media Indica, shared the challenges faced during production: "Shooting this documentary on Operation Safed Sagar has been incredibly demanding. Our research team spoke to over 40 veterans, and matching their stories to historical facts was a daunting task. We had an overwhelming amount of material, yet only 55 minutes to tell this important story." The film will stream from 15 August 2024. Indeed, it would be a compelling way to celebrate India's spirit and the bravery of its armed forces.

A Fashion Show that Celebrates Inclusion and the Human Spirit

In a heartwarming celebration of individuality, the Tamana Foundation and FDCI came together for a fashion show that was a heartfelt tribute to the beauty of diversity and inclusion. It honoured the strength of individuality and left an indelible mark, inspiring and uplifting all who attended, says SAKSHI PRIYA



In a spectacular fusion of fashion and philanthropy, the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) recently co-hosted an unforgettable fashion show with the Tamana Foundation. The event, titled "Walking Tall, Walking for Hope, Walking for Inclusion," was more than just a display of stunning designs; it was a powerful celebration of inclusivity, diversity and the human spirit. The highlight of the evening was the participation of Tamana herself and the students of the Tamana Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting individuals with developmental and multiple disabilities, who graced the runway with their confidence and grace. The Tamana Foundation, established in 1984 under the inspiring leadership of Shayama Chona, a Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee, has grown from a humble tent with just three students into a beacon of hope for hundreds with special needs. Named after the Hindi word for "aspiration," Tamana is dedicated to ensuring that every individual, regardless of ability, receives the care and support they deserve. The foundation has since expanded to three centres in New Delhi, offering comprehensive programmes that include education, therapy, and vocational training for those on the autism spectrum and with other developmental challenges. The event was honoured by the presence of Sunil Sethi, Chairperson of FDCI, Ram Mohan Naidu, Minister of Civil Aviation and other esteemed



dignitaries. The fashion show was not just about showcasing clothes, it was about creating a world where everyone is celebrated for who they are. The event opened with a soul-stirring performance by Diwakar Sharma, whose melodious voice set the tone for an evening filled with emotion and inspiration. The applause that followed his performance was a tribute to the impact of his music and the significance of the show. As the models took to the runway, it was clear that this was no ordinary fashion show. The designs, created by some of India's most talented designers, including Payal Pratap, Namrata Joshipura, Anju Modi and Payal Jain, were a tribute to the power of hope, diversity and human resilience. Each piece was carefully crafted to highlight the beauty of individuality,

with intricate embroidery, vibrant colours and innovative silhouettes that captured the essence of the evening. Namrata Joshipura's collection, with its monotonous with a pop of red and multicoloured embroidery, was a standout. Anju Modi's chic shift dresses and asymmetrical silhouettes, paired with silver oxide jewellery, added a touch of elegance to the runway. Payal Jain's maximalist bohemian prints and denim pieces added a burst of colour and energy to the runway, showcasing the designer's ability to blend traditional elements with contemporary styles. The showstopper of the evening, however, was not a designer or a celebrity but Tamana herself and the students of Tamana Foundation. Their inclusion walk, accompanied by designers and educators from various prominent schools, was a moment of pure joy and pride. Each student, dressed in their finest,

walked the runway with a smile that lit up the entire room. The audience was visibly moved, with many wiping away tears of happiness and admiration. The evening was beautifully rounded off with a touching speech from Tamana, which expressed the spirit of the foundation and left a lasting impact on all who attended. This fashion show was a celebration of life, diversity and the power of inclusion. It was a reminder that, while we may all be different in many ways, at our core, we share the same humanity. The credit for this beautiful and inspiring event goes to the talented designers, the dedicated Tamana Foundation team and the visionary leadership of FDCI Chairperson Sunil Sethi, who continues to use fashion to drive social change and a special acknowledgment to Shayama Chona, President and Founder of Tamana, whose unwavering commitment has profoundly transformed lives and established Tamana as a beacon of hope and inclusion. The Tamana Fashion Show 2024 was a heartfelt celebration of the human spirit, radiating beauty, hope and unity. It beautifully demonstrated how fashion can be more than just clothing; it can be a powerful force for bringing people together and inspiring change, creating a world where everyone, regardless of their abilities, feels valued and celebrated. The event was a moving reminder of the strength and joy that come from embracing our shared humanity.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



The Call of the Mirror: Reflecting on Reality

'The Call of the Mirror' invites viewers to engage deeply with art, enriching a space for introspection and connection. Each artwork challenges and enriches, offering a personal journey through diverse and compelling perspectives, SAKSHI PRIYA

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's refreshing to encounter moments that invite us to pause and reflect. "The Call of the Mirror," curated by Rohit J. Kapoor, offers such an opportunity. This group art show provides a rare chance for people to step away from their routines and engage profoundly with art that speaks directly to the heart. What makes this exhibition truly special is its range of voices and perspectives. Each artist brings something unique to the table, encouraging visitors to explore different aspects of the human experience. For instance, Asha Thadani's powerful photographs address challenging social issues, inviting viewers to confront and reflect on topics like caste and child labor. Suvajit Mondal's ceramics, meanwhile, offer a more meditative look at our relationship with nature, encouraging us to think about our impact on the world around us. The blend of traditional and modern art forms adds another layer of intrigue. From Maulik Oza's beautifully



ceramics to Sergey Vinogradov's surreal portraits, 'The Call of the Mirror' showcases a wide range of artistic expression. This mix not only highlights the artist's versatility but also mirrors the evolving landscape of art itself. What really stands out about

this exhibition is how it engages viewers on a personal level. It's not just about admiring art from a distance; it's about seeing oneself reflected in the works and exploring how they resonate with personal experiences and emotions. This interactive element transforms the experience, making it a journey of self-discovery as much as it is a visual feast. 'The Call of the Mirror' is more than an exhibition, it's an invitation to slow down, reflect and connect with art in a meaningful way. It serves as a reminder of art's power to mirror our lives and inspire personal insight. For anyone seeking a deeper connection with art, this exhibition offers a compelling and enriching experience.

