**OPINION 6** 

TERRORISM RESURGES

AMID SHIFTS IN STRATEGY

WORLD 8

**DIPLOMACY INTENSIFIES TO** 

HALT ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

RANCHI, SATURDAY AUGUST 17, 2024; PAGES 12 3

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## 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

#### SAUMYA SHUKLA n NEW DELHI

Nationwide outrage has 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 strictier laws for safety of health staff, including doctors,

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** 

**T**n a major development, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College, Dr Sandip Ghosh, was on Friday detained by the Bureau of Investigation 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

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

punishment for perpetrators of the crime. punishment

However, the police stopped the protesting doctors from making their way to the India Safdarjung from 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 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 w r e n c h i n g " 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 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 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

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

welcomed 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



Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu during a press conference to announce the schedule for 'General Election to Legislative Assemblies 2024', in New Delhi, on

participate in the elections and vote in large numbers to form a Government that will development, and ensure a brighter future for the youth. welcome

announcement of Assembly elections in J&K made by the Election Commission India today. In the last 10 years, the Modi Govt through a series of relentless initiatives, has created a new era of peace, development strengthening democracy in J&K," he wrote on 'X'.

Almost all the parties, including 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 Scheduled Caste candidates, and seven for Scheduled Tribes.

Announcing the schedule for 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 stock of election preparation. 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. added that

Commission will ensure due security for all candidates in J&K as requested by political

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



Representative Image

¬iven barely two weeks to Ifinalise 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

RAJESH KUMAR n NEW DELHI

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

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

In the past three cycles, the EC had announced Haryana Assembly's term is expiring on November 26. Kumar also hinted that the Maharashtra

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

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 Assembly seats in

### Centre asks for accountability on medical fraternity attacks across the country



ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{n}}$  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-takenreport 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 onsible for filling an institutiona FIR within a maximum of 6 hours of

"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 despite 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

The DGHS advisory also stated that all Central Government hospitals should maintain a registry of such incidents and report them to the

### 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

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

PTI n NEW DELHI



Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday thanked several world leaders for their wishes on India's 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 Îndia and the UAE.

### ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

 $W_{
m activities}^{
m ith}$ the agricultural causing damage irreparable 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 privately necessitating Government acquisition of the land and Government 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

How many mounds? ASI seems helpless

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 mounds at the Harappan site in spans about six acre, both badly damaged... The damage

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

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 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 the excavation found near the remains. "The skeleton appears to be that of a middle-aged man. previous excavations revealed similar burial rituals involving utensils, suggesting

Manjul noted. The team also discovered a seal from Mound number 3. Rakhigarhi is recognised as one

continuity in these practices,"

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

**¬** he 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 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



Commissioner 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 dis-

commemorate India's inde-

address, During 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

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

Reflecting on the current government's efforts, Gupta emphasized the commitment of the state government under Chief Minister Hemant

Soren to accelerate develop-

ment works. He outlined the

various initiatives undertak-

en for the welfare of the peo-

ple, 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.

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

In recognition of excellence across various fields, the Minister presented citanel 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 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 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

## **52046 PEOPLE GETS BENEFIT SARVAJAN PENSION SCHEME:**

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 fer-



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.

under Earlier, Sarvajan Pension Scheme, male and female beneficiaries used to get a pension

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 Samriddhi 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

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

### **Vedanta ESL Steel Limited** celebrates Independence Day

Bokaro | 15th August, 2024 -Vedanta ESL Steel Limited, a prominent integrated greenfield 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 Siyaljori 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-

dees included Sharma (Chief Operating Officer, ESL Steel Limited) Anand Dubey (Chief Finance Officer, ESL Steel Limited) Vijay Sindhu (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

### **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-Bikesn Singn, a larmer 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, Ansari, 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 unaergo 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

Public Prosecutor said that "After the incident, a mob of anger villagers gathered and killed two fleeing 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 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 maring 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



### Patriotic fervor soars at **Cultural Evening in Bokaro Club**

 $\ensuremath{\mathbf{BOKAR0}}$  : 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 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 per-formances 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 Shrestha Bharat". The performances were met with enthusiastic applause, leaving the audience captivated and in a patriotic

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 certifi-





cates of appreciation. The awards were pre sented by DC Vijaya Jadhav and other digni-

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 cele-India's 78th Independence Day 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 ambiance.

Principal 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 Člub of Bokaro Steel City celebrated India's Independence Day with flag hoisting, tree planta-tion, and a blood donation camp. The events were held at Asha Ki Kiran in Ulgoa and the Rotary Club premises at Janwrit President Rotarian Mahesh Kumar Gupta and Secretary Rotarian Hardeep Singȟ led the flag hoisting cere-

monies 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.



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 healthcare 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 moni-

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



## Recruitment for 35,000 posts by October: CM Soren

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

tate 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 Morĥabadi Ground Ranchi Soren said his government's priority is to link youths of the state with

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 employ-ment in the private sector by



Chief Minister Hemant Soren Salutes after hoisting the national flag on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day, at Morahabadi 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

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 Commission, which will be completed by October 2024," he said.

Highlighting the work 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 Morahabadi 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 govern-

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 ment is providing threeMukhyamantri 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

## I- Day celebrated with great enthusiasm across Capital





The 78th Independence Day was cell ebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm across State. Jharkhand Mahto unfurl the tricolor 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



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** 



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'

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

**Xavier Institute of Social Service** 



lowed by the National Anthem to set the

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)



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 flaghoisting 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 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.

The 78th Independence Day at SAIL Ranchi Units was celebrated with Nationalistic Flavour and Traditional Gaiety 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). Åt SAIL funded Bal Shiksha Kendra school Tricolour was hoisted by Sumita Kar, President Ispat Mahila Samaj. At SAIL SC/ST Employees Welfare Association flag hoisting was done by Sanjay Suman with founder member Prema Tirkey. In SAIL CSR sponsored Mahatma Ğandhi School at Hatia flag hoisting was done by AK Mistry, CĞM(SAIL).

NTPČ 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.

### **Orange alert** issued for rain in Jharkhand

PNS: RANCHI

Monsoon seems to be active Jharkhand. in again Regarding this, 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, Kanpur, Rohtak, Delhi, Purulia to Digha. 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

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 Morchaled government to identify "illegal Bangladeshi immi grants" 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

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 been very beneficial," he said. The company is running several public welfare in the coming days. As a result, energy generated from coal will also play an important role. "In this sequence, CCL is continuousschemes for inclusive development and social upliftment of stakeholders including health, education, sports and ly moving towards making the country self-reliant in the employment. The company field of energy. Expressing organizes health camps from happiness over the performtime to time, which benefit ance of the CCL team, he said lakhs of people. Free residential education is being providthat the company has successfully achieved more than ed to the meritorious children the coal production target of of poor and rural areas through 'CCL Ke Lal' and last year and in the current financial year also the com-'CCL Ki Ladli' schemes. pany will definitely meet its target of 100 million tonnes,' he said. Singh, while highlighting environmental protection, said that the compa-

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.

## समस्त देशवासियों को रवतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं एक शभिचंतक सेक्टर-४, बोकारो स्टील सिटी

#### VBU, banks celebrate Independence Day I-DAY CELEBRATED AT VBU Ranchi's Doranda branch

Vinoba Bhave 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 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 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),

Remembrance Day' 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 Remembrance Day.

organized 'Partition Horrors

ny 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 Rajrappa area, which has

### RANCHI | SATURDAY | AUGUST 17, 2024

## Hindenburg allegations: Dhankhar takes jibe at Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n

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 suomoto cognisance to give wings to a "narrative aimed at destroying our economy".

Dhankhar's remarks came after the Congress on Sunday Modi Government Hindenburg Research's allegations` SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch, saying the Rahul integrity of the market regulator has been "gravely compromised" and demanded a JPC probe into the matter. Addressing the first batch of



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 Constitution? The Constitution provides original appellate It provides urisdiction. 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 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

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

### Naqvi bats for **Uniform** Civil Code

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n **NEW DELHI** 

Batting 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

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 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

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.

sporting talent. To further

## 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 "eyewash" 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.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh asked what has the 2016 demonetisation achieved if neither black money nor counterfeiting

"Eight years after the nonbiological PM grounded the economy to a nait through demonetisation, it appears that counterfeit notes have become rife once again.

"The number of counterfeit Rs 500 notes of the new series that have been detected has nearly quadrupled between 2018-19 and 2023-24. The number of fake Rs 2,000 notes has tripled since 2020-21," he claimed.

"While the Government can claim that the overall

number of counterfeit notes detected has fallen, this is an eyewash. Counterfeiting has just moved rapidly to highervalue 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 ear 2018-19/ 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



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

achievement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n

f excessive time spent on Ltechnology 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 noting that its positive effects on well-being were more significant than those of

The research found that participation in creative 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

activities

employment.

meaningful route to selfexpression, 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.

stronger sense that life is worthwhile, comparable to benefits of being employed. However, the study did not find a link between crafting reduced loneliness,

Participants reported higher

levels of happiness and life

satisfaction, as well as a

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 approach

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 'Sadaiv Atal' here. In his tribute, on social media Modi said, "He is remembered by countless people for his unparalleled contribution to nationbuilding. He devoted his entire life towards ensuring



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 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

## Army Chief felicitates Army sportspersons for Olympics feat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Upendra 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 Silver Medal, Subedar Bommandevara Dhiraj in Archery (Recurve) -Position.

prepares to bid for the hosting Olympics, the Indian Army has been playing a pivotal role fostering

excellence. In a significant move, the Indian Army established its Mission Ólympic Wing (MOW) in 2001, dedicated to identifying and nurturing

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 tne nignest ievei. Army Chief

profound pride in the incredible achievements of the Army's sportspersons. 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

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

"Baaghi Di Dhee" (Punjabi), "Daman" (Odia), "Vaalvi"

(Marathi) and "KGF: Chapter

The best Tiwa film award was

won by "Sikaisal". From the

non-feature category, the top honour went to "Ayena" by

director Siddhant Sarin.

awards

"Kartikeya 2"

2" (Kannada).

won

## Malayalam movie Aattam bags best feature film award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n

 $R^{\rm egional\; cinema\; dominated}_{\rm the\; National\; Film\; Awards}$ 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".

shared by Nithya Menen, for the Tamil film "Thiruchitrambalam", and Manasi Parekh for the

The best actress prize was

movie 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 The adventure film, centred on four aging friends readying to scale Mt Everest, also won supporting actress prize. "It is yet to sink in. I've got two National Awards in the past

Gupta a best and I'm getting another National award after many many years, it's a big thing for Gupta, who bagged awards for the non-feature "Bazar Sitaram" in 1993 and for "Woh Chokri" in 1994, told

A big winner in the awards for 2022 was the Haryanvi film





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 connection between humanity and nature through its folklore-based storytelling, was also named in the category for best popular film wholesome providing 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





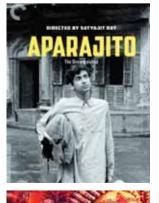
which was also named the best Tamil film. Pritam got the

### 70th National Film Awards

Arpita Mukherjee. Bajpayee also got a special mention along with music director Sanjoy 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 "Ponnyin Selvan-Part 1",

(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.

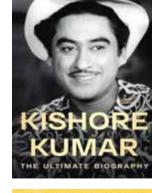




Jayashri won the award for best female playback singer for the track "Chaayum Veyil" for 'Saudi Vellaka CC 225/2009'', which also won the best Malayalam film award.Besides the best actress honour for Menen, "Thiruchitrambalam", a comedy also starring Dhanush, earned the honour for best choreography for Jani Master and Sathish Krishnan.

best costume designer for "Kutch Express". Seasoned cinematographer Ravi Varman bagged the best

Niki Joshi won the trophy for





"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 action direction (stunt choreography) went to Anbumani and Arivumani, jointly known as Anbariv. The best child artist award

went to Sreepath for

Malayalam. From Bengali

"Malikapurram"

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.

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

The only one that truly

to Deepak Dua. Anirudha Bhattacharjee and Parthiv Dhar won the best book on cinema for "Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography".

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

 $B^{\mathrm{JP}}_{\mathrm{Lahar}}$  Sabha member 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

He sought to know why the two nationalised banks were targeted when all the banks are governed by the Reserved Bank of India guidelines.

Quoting media reports, Siroya said all the departments have been directed to close accounts and withdraw deposits from these two banks.

The reports also said no deposits investments will be allowed in these banks. The decision had apparently been taken over misappropriation of funds, he

government ordered all its departments, boards, corporations, public nationalised bank," he said.



sector units and universities The BJP MP from Karnataka to withdraw all their deposits was referring to the scam in and investments in the State which a former Karnataka Bank of India and the Punjab Minister B Nagendra was National Bank and stop any arrested by the Enforcement with Directorate and is presently in institutions on August 12. The order was reported on The scam came to light after the Accounts Superintendent of KMVSTDC, August 14.

This move by the Karnataka government looks arbitrary suspicious to me, especially after the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled

Development Corporation (KMVSTDC) scam came out, in which around Rs 187 crore was illegally transferred through a

rules and regulations of the "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

nature misappropriation that the state government is talking about? Have they probed it? What really is happening within the Government of Karnataka?" the BJP asked.

state government could take

such a unilateral decision

against two nationalised banks and whether or not all

the banks are governed by the

expressed 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 Seetharaman, who is also a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, to take note of this

## ISRO targets first Gaganyaan mission launch by December, says chairman

PTI n SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH)

TSRO has targeted to launch the first Imission of the ambitious Gaganyaan project by December, a top official said

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

"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 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 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,

"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

## **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

"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

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

Asaram Bapu was convicted of raping a 16-year-old girl in 2013 in his Jodhpur

ashram. In 2018, he was sentenced to life

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

Following this, the victim's father, citing a

threat to his family, said that the police

force deployed at his place is insufficient

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,

and the security should be increased.

PTI n SHAHJAHANPUR (UP)

Parole of Asaram Bapu: Rape

victim's family seeks more security

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.

transferred.

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

Corporation

Further Rs 88 crore was

illegally transferred to various

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

"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

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

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

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

He also said a team from the former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Raoled regional party would, next month, visit Tamil Nadu to meet some political parties in the southern state, followed by

'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

Rao's remarks came after the, once regarded as a formidable party, plummeted to third position in 14 out of

dead in Muzaffarnagar."

came out on parole."

and distributed blankets and a threat

The victim's father added that "he and his

family are very scared since Asaram

Shahjahanpur Superintendent of Police

(SP) Ashok Kumar Meena told PTI on

Friday that the police force is already

SP said, "The victim's father has to go out

for court work etc., so on his demand, a

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.

gunner has also been provided to him."

letter was also sent to my house."

deployed at the victim's house.



concluded Lok Sabha polls.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (then Telangana Rashtra Samith) 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

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

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.



## Rajasthan, Bundi's Hindoli records **220** mm rain

PTI n JAIPUR

Heavy rain lashed parts of Rajasthan, including Hindoli in the Bundi district 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,

parts of Jodhpur, Ajmer and Bikaner divisions during the

next 24 hours," an official

Over 50 persons who were stuck at Padajhar waterfall in Chittorgarh's Rawatbhata on

waterfall was submerged in A vehicle of the SDRF team also got stuck in mud but 53

However, she said the idea of having a new assembly building where all facilities are available is welcome.

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

 $B_{\text{Commissioner}}^{\text{engaluru}}$ The victim's father said that "Four years Dayananda on Friday said the ago, Asaram's followers had put up a banner of Asaram in Shahjahanpur jail

final report in connection 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 custody 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 of the further investigation, 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, reports are still

the judicial custody of Darshan and all other 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

A court here on Wednesday

had extended till August 28

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

#### 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

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

Another round of heavy rains is expected in the last week of Augūst.

in a forest area on Thursday but they were stuck in the forest because the way to the

people were rescued safely on

#### Sad it happened in State where a woman is CM: U'khand Speaker allegedly raped and murdered while About reports of atrocities against taken into account," she said.

PTI n DEHRADUN

imprisonment.

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

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 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.



"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.

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 were talks of "universal coverage".

have been kept above caste and religion, and for the first time there "If someone has to get a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana today, his religion or caste is not

'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

Underlining the need for population

control, which she claimed would

solve many things, Khanduri said,

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 the government's responsibility to take action on the proposal.

Thursday were rescued by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team. Police said that several people had gone to the water stream

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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

he 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 guite another. The attitude of society towards women must change. Most cases go unreported as the victims are oftenblamed 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.



# Terrorism resurges amid shifts in strategy

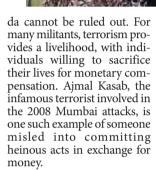


With militants shifting their focus to Jammu and adopting more aggressive strategies, concerns over national security are once again at the forefront

he 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 sev-

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-



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. Antiterrorism policies must be flexible and responsive to changing threats, utilizing the latest recommendations and technologies to ensure securi-

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-intensit 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** 

shadows. They openly attack, targeting financial hubs and other vital locations, as seen in recent global terror incidents. Terrorists exploit advancements 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 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 govern-

ment 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.

> Bharat Gaurav award, is a professor and expert on strategic affairs; views are

(The author, a recipient of the

## 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

he 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.

Like it happened once in 2018, when the whole ofKerala stood up and held hands to rescue and rebuild those caught in the floods, people came together in the aftermath of the recent landslides too. Helping hands were extended from far and wide and relief materials dispatched at short notice. And fromhordes of donors came loads of unwanted things too:fromused clothes



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 andit 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

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 oftenmake 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

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

centres.

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 land 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 anoth-

er 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 kindliest thoughts and action can go to waste if they

are not done with discretion. (The author is a Dubaibased columnistand writing coach; views are personal)

### **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 cmtft 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 VERDIC**

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**



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** 

he 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

tories. 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

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-toback 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

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

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

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 patri-

otism 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 oneday 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 | Muzaffarpur

> 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

ur 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 dis-

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



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

xperts 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

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-suit-ed for a unitary political system. Federalish 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-

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

## 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

n 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? The recent murder of the Kolkata doctor has sparked outrage across the nation. Protests by junior doctors have



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 The 1973 case of Aruna

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.

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. followed Aruna's case, and the

Despite the public outcry that 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 intention 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 halfhearted 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)

## Parliament elects Thaksin's Diplomacy intensifies to halt Israel-Hamas war daughter as Thailand PM

Thailand's Parliament elected Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the youngest daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, as the country's new prime minister Friday. Paetongtarn becomes Thailand's

third leader from the Shinawatra family, after her father, who was ousted by coup before returning from exile last year, and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, who lives in exile. Paetongtarn also became Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt and the country's youngest leader at 37. She is the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai party but was not an elected lawmaker, which was not required for her to be a candidate for prime minister. Paetongtarn was the sole nominee and got a majority of the votes in Parliament with the voting ongoing. The last prime minister had been removed by the Constitutional Court two days ago over an ethics violation.



Thaksin is one of Thailand's most popular but divisive political figures and was ousted by a military coup in 2006. He is widely seen as a de facto leader of Pheu Thai, the latest in a string of parties linked to him. His residual popularity and influence is a factor behind the political support for

Her public entry into politics came in 2021 when the Pheu Thai party announced she would lead an inclusion advisory committee. She was appointed as leader of Pheu Thai last year, after she was named one of its three prime ministerial can-

didates ahead of the polls. When

Paetongtarn was on the cam-

paign trail for Pheu Thai, she

acknowledged her family ties but insisted she was not just her father's proxy. "It's not the shadow of my dad.

I am my dad's daughter, always

and forever, but I have my own decisions," she told a reporter. However, her father's shadow is too big to be dismissed and her work will not be easy with him continuing to call political shots for Pheu Thai, said Petra Alderman, a political research fellow at England's University of Birmingham. "Thaksin was a political force to reckon with, but he was also a liability," she said, "He has a tendency to overplay his political hand, so serving in his shadow has never been easy." Paetongtarn's nomination followed the removal of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on Wednesday after less than a year in office. The Constitutional Court found him guilty of a serious ethical breach regarding his appointment of a Cabinet member who was jailed in connection with an alleged bribery

International diplomacy to prevent the Awar in Gaza from spreading into a wider regional conflict intensified Friday, with the British and French foreign ministers making a joint trip to Israel while internationally mediated cease-fire talks in Qatar were expected to enter their second day. The new push for an end to the Israel-Hamas war came as the Palestinian death toll in Gaza climbed past 40,000, according to Gaza health authorities, and fears remained high that Iran and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon would attack Israel in retaliation for the killings of top militant leaders.

"This is a dangerous moment for the Middle East," British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said. "The risk of the situation spiraling out of control is rising. Any Iranian attack would have devastating consequences for the region."

Lammy and French Foreign Minister Stéphane Séjourné were expected hold a joint meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer.

"It's never too late for peace," Séjourné said. "We must at all costs avoid a regional war, which would have terrible International mediators believe the best

hope for calming tensions would be a deal between Israel and Hamas to halt the fighting and secure the release of Israeli hostages. The United States, Qatar and

Egypt began a new round of talks Thursday, meeting with an Israeli delegation in Qatar. Hamas, which didn't participate directly in Thursday's talks, accuses Israel of adding new demands to a previous proposal that had U.S. and international support and to which Hamas had agreed in principle. Israel accuses Hamas of adding its own new

White House National Security spokesperson John Kirby called the talks

an important step. He said a lot of work remains given the complexity of the agreement and that negotiators were focusing on its implementation.A U.S. official briefed on Thursday's talks called the discussion "constructive." The official was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition anonymity.Qatar said the talks would continue Friday. The war began when Hamasled militants stormed across the heavily guarded border on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 250 to Gaza. More than 100 were released during a weeklong cease-fire in November, and around 110 are believed to still be inside Gaza, though

of them are dead. Israel's devastating retaliatory offensive has killed 40,005 Palestinians, Gaza's Health Ministry said Thursday, without saying how many were militants. Israel's military spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said Thursday that Israel had

Israeli authorities believe around a third

killed more than 17,000 Hamas militants in Gaza in the war, without providing evi-

Diplomats hoped a cease-fire deal would persuade Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah to hold off on retaliating for the killing of a top Hezbollah commander in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut and of Hamas' top political leader in an explosion in Teĥran that was widely blamed on Israel. Kirby said that Iran has made preparations and could attack soon with little to

no warning — and that its rhetoric should be taken seriously. The mediators have spent months trying to hammer out a three-phase plan in which Hamas would release the hostages in exchange for a lasting cease-fire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.Both sides have agreed in principle to the plan President Joe Biden announced on May 31. But Hamas has proposed amendments and Israel has suggested clarifications, leading each side to accuse the other of trying to tank a deal. Hamas has rejected Israel's demands, which include a lasting military presence along the border with Egypt and a line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians returning to their homes to root out militants. In a reminder of how the violence has spread from Gaza, masked Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank stormed the village of Jit, setting homes and cars on fire Thursday, Israeli and Palestinian media said.

## Hurricane Ernesto targets Bermuda after hitting Puerto Rico

**AP** n SAN JUAN

Hurricane Ernesto has barrelled towards Bermuda after leaving hundreds of thousands of people in Puerto Rico without power or water as sweltering heat enveloped the US territory, raising concerns about people's health.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Bermuda, with Ernesto expected to pass near or over the island on Saturday.

The Category 1 storm was located about 450 miles (730 kilometres) south-southwest of Bermuda on Thursday afternoon. It had maximum sustained winds of 90 mph (150 kph) and was moving north at 13 mph (20 kph) over open waters."I cannot stress enough how important it is for every resident to use this time to prepare. We have seen in the past the devastating effects of complacency," said National Security Minister Michael Weeks. Ernesto was forecast to near Category 3 hurricane status on

Friday and then decrease in strength as it approaches Bermuda, where it is expected to drop between 6-12 inches of rain, with up to 15 inches in isolated areas. "All of the guidance show this system as a large hurricane near Bermuda," said the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Ernesto is then expected to pass near or east of Atlantic Canada on Monday.

Meanwhile, the spinning storm on Thursday was generating southern winds in Puerto Rico, which have a heating effect as opposed to the typical cooling trade winds that blow from the

"We know a lot of people don't have power," said Ernesto Morales with the National Weather Service as he warned of extreme heat and urged people to stay hydrated.

More than 290,000 of 1.4 million customers remained in the dark Thursday evening, more than a day after Ernesto swiped past Puerto Rico late Tuesday as a tropical storm before strengthening into a hurricane. A maximum of 735,000 clients were without power on Wednesday. Hundreds of thousands also were without water as many questioned the widespread power outage given that Ernesto was only a tropical storm when it spun past the island.

"I haven't slept at all," said Ramón Mercedes Paredes, a 41-year-old construction worker who planned to sleep outdoors on Thursday night to beat the heat. "I haven't even been able to take a shower."

At a small park in the Santurce neighbourhood of the San Juan capital, Alexander Reyna, a 32year-old construction worker, sipped on a bright red sports drink that friends provided as roosters crowed nearby above the slap of dominoes.

He had no water or power and planned to spend all day at the park as he lamented the lack of breeze, a slight film of sweat already forming on his forehead: "I have to come here because I

### Kamala Harris will make one hell of a president: Biden

Washington (PTI): US President Joe Biden has said that Kamala Harris will make "one hell of a president" as they appeared together in their first public event since she replaced him as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

Biden and Harris appeared on Thursday at Prince George's County Ćommunity College in Maryland, just outside Washington DC.

The Democratic Party event celebrated the Biden administration's newly announced deal to cut the cost of 10 common prescription drugs for millions of Americans. The meeting also offered a glimpse of their dynamic, weeks into a realignment of the party ticket."I have an incredible partner in the progress we made," President Biden said. "She's going to make one hell of a president," an untethered Biden said, praising his deputy who will be challenging the former president candidate Donald Trump in the November 5 election.

Harris, 59, became the firstever woman of colour to be on the top of a presidential ticket of a major American political party when Biden withdrew from the race for the White House last month and backed her. She is also the first ever Indian American to be nominated as presidential candidate of either the Republican or the Democratic Party. Harris's mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was Indian and her father, Donald Jasper Harris, a Jamaican; both immigrants to the US.During the event, Biden, 81, brought the crowd to their feet multiple times.

"There's a lot of love in this room for our president," Harris said. "Few leaders in our nation have done more, on so many issues, including to expand access to affordable health-

Pakistan reports 3 Mpox cases

## Trump refuses to tone down personal attacks on Harris

PTI n WASHINGTON

 $R^{\text{epublican presidential can-}}_{\text{didate Donald Trump has}}$ said he is "entitled" to personally attack his Democratic rival Kamala Harris because he doesn't "have a lot of respect for her", as he dismissed calls from allies to refocus his campaign on policy issues in his bid to reclaim the White House. Trump, 78, said he is "angry" at Vice President Harris, 59, over the Biden administration's handling of issues ranging from inflation to immigration. "I don't have a lot of respect for

her. I don't have a lot of respect for her intelligence. I think she'll be a terrible president. I think it's very important that we win. And whether the personal attacks are good or bad she certainly attacks me personally," the former president told reporters at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey on Thursday. Trump was responding to questions from his party



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks at a new conference at Trump National Golf Club, Thursday in Bedminster, N.J.

make personal attacks on Harris, who is the first woman of colour running for the presidency. "As far as the personal attacks (against Harris), I'm very angry at her because of what she's done to the country. I'm very angry at her that she

am) very angry at her. I think I'm entitled to personal attacks, he said. "She (Harris) actually called me weird. He's weird, it was just a sound bite, and she called J D (Vance, his running mate) and I weird. He's not

Many suspects

in Pakistan

against me and other people. (I

### China alarmed by US missile system deployed to its North

Manila (AP): China expressed its "very dramatic" alarm over a mid-range missile system that the US military recently deployed to the Philippines, and warned it could destabilise the region. But Manila's top diplomat said Friday he reassured his Chinese counterpart that the weaponry was only in Philippine Foreign Secretary

Enrique Manalo said his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, expressed China's concern over the US mid-range missile deployment to the Philippines during their talks last month in Laos on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meetings with Asian and Western countries. "We discussed it and, well, they made it very dramatic," Manalo said in response to questions during a news conference in Manila.

## S African leaders to meet in Zimbabwe amid Mpox, political tensions

frican leaders will meet in A frican leaders will like an Azimbabwe on Saturday for a scheduled summit of the 16nation Southern African Development Community that may discuss the rising issue of mpox outbreaks across the continent but is less likely to tackle international concerns about the human rights record of its host. This week, the World Health Organisation declared the mpox outbreaks in Africa a global health emergency. The SADC region includes Congo, which has more than 90 per cent of mpox cases. Mpox has been present in central and West Africa for years, but it has been detected in more than a dozen African countries this year, including some where it was never previously reported. Scientists have also identified a new form of mpox in Congo that might be more infectious. WHO raised concerns it might start to spill over international borders, and Sweden has reported its

Alliance party, which is part of the coalition government, has urged South African delegates at the SADC summit to raise the issue of mpox. South Africa and other southern African nations have reported only a few cases, but the Democratic Alliance said Congo's large outbreak "shows just how fast the situation can change".

As heads of state or their representatives began arriving for the summit in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, there was criticism from United Nations human rights figures and other groups over an alleged political crackdown by the government of Zimbabwe, where more than 160 activists and opposition members have been arrested in recent months.

On Thursday, the UN's human rights office released a statement on behalf of a range of experts calling for the release of dozens of activists and opposition members who have been jailed. The statement said three

patients with mpox virus have been found so far in Pakistan, it emerged on Friday as the government decided to strengthen the screening system at the air-

The mpox detection in Pakistan is the first in Asia and it might be more easily transmitted. The World Health Organisation has declared the spread of mpox a global health emer-

All three patients belong to the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in the northwest, the militancywhacked region bordering Afghanistan. Salim Khan, the director general of health services for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that two patients were

activists who were removed from a plane and arrested by Zimbabwean security forces late last month "were reportedly subjected to enforced disap-

the United Arab Emirates, while a third patient's samples had been sent to the National Health Institute in Islamabad for confirmation. According to the spokesperson of the Federal Ministry of Health, the last patient in whom this virus was found belongs to the Mardan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is not yet clear which strain of mpox the said patient contracted and whether it is the same variant that was first confirmed outside of Africa in Sweden."Contact tracing of the affected person has been started and samples of more people are being obtained," the spokesman said. Officials said that all three patients were

pearance, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including waterboarding". According to Amnesty

contact tracing was going on. Pakistan's Ministry of Health also issued an advisory on the disease on Thursday, which states that "the screening system at airports and entry points is being further strengthened." Prime Minister's Coordinator for Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath says that federal hospitals have been instructed to take precautionary measures and the Ministry of Health and Border Health Services are "alert to deal with any kind The WHO declared the out-

break of mpox in parts of Africa as a cause of international concern and a threat to pub-

International and Human Rights Watch, over 160 activists have been arrested recently. Many, including a mother and her 1-year-old baby, have been

veeks. Zimbabwe's president Emmerson Mnangagwa, is set to take over the rotational leadership of SADC, but there has been little diplomatic pressure on the 81-year-old's administration from neighbours in SADC, even though rights groups have alleged he has overseen a crackdown before and since last year's presidential election, where he was reelected for a second

Ahead of Saturday's summit, Zimbabwe has paved over damaged and potholed roads, planted palm trees along highways and even promised uninterrupted electricity and water supplies for delegates, while Zimbabweans are often hit by blackouts and water cuts. Analysts doubt that regional leaders will step up and use this summit to caution Zimbabwe over its rights record.

"They avoid the difficult issues," said Antony Reeler, a Zimbabwean researcher and political analyst.

detailed how the company

planned to address concerns

about the app while still main-

taining ties with ByteDance.

However, the Justice Department

## anti-Christian rampage still at large **Multan (Pakistan)(AP):** Most

of the suspects in a rampage last year against minority Christians in eastern Pakistan over alleged blasphemy are not in custody and authorities have failed to deliver justice to the victims, a human rights group said on Friday."More than 90 per cent of the suspects of the attack in Jaranwala, in Punjab's Faisalabad district, are still at large," Amnesty International said in a statement on the anniversary of one of Pakistan's worst attacks on Christians, in which churches and homes of Christians were destroyed. The violence erupted after Muslims alleged that they saw a local Christian and his friend desecrating pages from a Quran. The attack drew nation-

wide condemnation. No one

died, as terrified Christians quickly fled to safer places. Amnesty International said it obtained its information from police after filing a Right to Information Request. It said of the 5,213 accused, 380 were arrested and 4,833 were still at large. It said of those who were arrested, 228 were released on bail and 77 others had the charges against them dropped. It said trials of the suspects have not started and about 40 per cent of victims who lost property are still awaiting government compensation.Äbid Khan, the regional police chief, said investigators have referred the cases of suspects linked to the violence to an anti-terrorism court, and their trial was expected to start soon."Despite the authorities' assurances of accountability, the grossly inadequate action has allowed a climate of impunity for the perpetrators of

the Jaranwala violence," Babu

International's deputy region-

al director for South Asia, said

Pant, Amnesty

### India's I-Day celebrated with fervour across New York City

The hues of the Indian tri-colour, India's rich cultural heritage and strong bilateral relations with the US resonated across the city as the country's 78th Independence Day was celebrated here with patriotic fervour.A slew of events commemorating India's Independence Day were held across the city on Thursday highlighting the strong peopleto-people ties between India

heritage. Flag hoisting ceremonies were held at the Consulate General of India in New York, Permanent Mission of India to the UN, Times Square and lower Manhattan in the presence of members of the Indian diaspora and city officials. Minister of

and the US as well as India's rich



State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita, who was in the city before travelling on to Latin America, addressed members of the diaspora at the flag hoisting ceremony in the Consulate and Times Square.\Leading diaspora organisation Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE (FIA) held a special

the iconic New York City destination Times Square, which was seeped in the hues of the reverberated through the air and the country's rich cultural heritage was on full display.Consul General of India in New York Binaya Pradhan hoisted the tricolour at the Consulate as well as at Times Square. Margherita told members of the diaspora that "as I address you for the first time on American soil, I am struck by the profound connection between our two great nations". Echoing the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Margherita said that India and the US, two of the world's largest democracies and economies, share a bond that goes beyond mere diplomatic ties.

## TikTok compares itself to American news outlets as it fights forced sale or ban

**AP n** WASHIGNGTON

**T**ikTok on Thursday pushed 1 back against US government arguments that the popular social media platform is not shielded by the First Amendment, comparing its platform to prominent American media organizations owned by foreign entities. Last month, the Justice Department argued in a legal brief filed in a Washington federal appeals court that neither TikTok's China-based parent company, ByteDance, nor the platform's global and U.S. arms - TikTok Ltd. and TikTok Inc. were entitled to First

eral law requiring ByteDance to sell TikTok to an approved buyer

On Thursday, they argued in a court document that TikTok's U.S. arm doesn't forfeit its constitutional rights because it is owned by a foreign entity. They drew a parallel between TikTok and well-known news outlets such as Politico and Business Insider, both of which are owned by German publisher Axel Springer SE. They also cited Fortune, a business magazine owned by Thai businessman Chatchaval Jiaravanon.

Surely the American companies Amendment protections because that publish Politico, Fortune, they are "foreign organizations and Business Insider do not operating abroad" or owned by lose First Amendment protecone. TikTok attorneys have made tion because they have foreign the First Amendment a key part ownership," the TikTok attorneys

of their legal challenge to the fedwrote, arguing that "no precedent" supports what they called "the government's dramatic rewriting of what counts as pro-

tected speech." In a redacted court filing made last month, the Justice Department argued ByteDance and TikTok haven't raised valid free speech claims in their challenge against the law, saying the measure addresses national security concerns about TikTok's ownership without targeting protected speech. The Biden administration and

TikTok had held talks in recent years aimed at resolving the government's concerns. But the two sides failed to reach a deal. TikTok said the government essentially walked away from the negotiating table after it proposed a 90-page agreement that

has said TikTok's proposal "failed to create sufficient separation between the company's U.S. operations and China" and did not adequately address some of the government's concerns. The government has pointed to some data transfers between TikTok employees and ByteDance engineers in China as why it believed the proposal, called Project Texas, was not sufficient to guard against national security concerns. Federal officials have also argued that the size and scope of TikTok would have made it impossible to meaningfully enforce compliance with the

## B'desh caretaker govt promises action

Bangladesh's newly-appoint-ded Home Affairs Ministry adviser has vowed to take swift legal action against those who attack or abuse minorities, stressing that there is no place for violence, conflict, or hatred in the country.

Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain's assurance came during a meeting with a delegation from International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Bangladesh at his office in the Secretariat on Thursday, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Bangladesh saw a spike in violence against members of Hindu communities following the fall of the government led by Sheikh Hasina, who resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests against her government over a controversial quota system in

Hussain emphasised that Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony, where people of all religions have grown up together without any divisions.

He said that no one would be spared if they attacked or abused minorities, and swift

## Yunus inducts four more advisers

by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus was expanded on Friday with four more advisers joining his team of civil society figures, academics, NGOs and rights group leaders. The new advisers are Wahiduddin Mahmud, an economist, Ali Imam Majumdar, former cabinet secretary, Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, former power secretary, and Lt Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

With these four, the strength of the members – all equivalent to ministers – in the interim government's advisory council rose to 21.

Nobel Laureate Yunus and 13 other advisers were sworn in

legal action would be taken. He said that there is no place for violence, conflict, or hatred and that the country believes in

the meeting, Satyaranjan Baroi, president of ISKCON Bangladesh, requested the adviser to take priority measures for the safety of minorities and presented eight

government in Bangladesh led fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government last week amid an uprising over government job quota reforms. Two advisers were sworn in on August 11

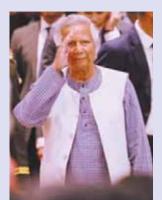
and one a day after.

President Mohammed
Shahabuddin administered the oaths to the four new advisers at Bangabhaban, the seat of the government, a presidential palace spokesman told PTI. They were sworn in a simple

ceremony joined by the council of advisers and officials concerned, he said and added, Yunus is expected to allot their portfolios later.

Wahiduddin Mahmud, former professor of premier Dhaka University, was an adviser to the 1996 caretaker govern-

proposals for ensuring their safety, including enacting laws, establishing monitoring cells, forming a Minority Commission and providing continuous state security for temples. The adviser assured his full support for these matters. The Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance said that the minority community faced



ment; Majumdar was appointed as special assistant to this interim government's chief adviser on August 12; while Chowdhury is former director general of Border Guard,

attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 and termed it as an "assault on the

Hindu religion."
Bangladesh's Chief Adviser
Muhammad Yunus who is heading the interim government on Tuesday reached out to the distressed Hindu commuHasina had resigned and secretly left for India on August 5 in the face of the massive mass upsurge originating from a students' movement over the quota system for government jobs, marking the end of her Awami League regime since

December 2008. Most of the advisers are civil society figures, academics, NGOs and rights group leaders. Globally recognised as 'The Father of Microfinance,' Yunus, 84, was declared as the head of the interim government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin after dissolving Parliament, a decision prompted by a demand by the Anti-Discrimination Student

nity and urged them to "exercise patience" and assured them that his government would punish those who attacked the minority members.

On Monday, Hossain's ministry set up a hotline asking people provide information about attacks on temples, churches or any other religious



Participants prepare a kite during Denpasar international kite festival in Sanur, Bali, Indonesia on Friday

## Palau's president says China is | Ukrainian officials urge weaponising lucrative tourism

**AP** n WELLINGTON

 $B_{\text{to the Pacific archipelago of Palau over its allegiance to}}^{\text{eijing weaponised tourism}}$ Taiwan and its accusations that China was behind a major cyberattack there, President Surangel Whipps Jr said. Palau, along with Tuvalu and the

Marshall Islands, is one three Pacific nations to recognise Taiwan as an independent democracy — viewed as a snub by Beijing, which asserts it is part of China. Taipei's allies in the Pacific have dwindled from six countries in 2019; Nauru abandoned its ties in January. Whipps told the AP in an interview late Thursday that, in 2020 while he was running for his current post, the Chinese ambassador to a neighboring country pledged to flood his tourism-dependent nation of 20,000 people with a million visitors if he capitulated on the country's stance. "That continues to be the overture," he said by phone Thursday. "They say, why are you torturing yourselves? Just join us and the sky's

ps refused. "We don't need a million tourists," he added. "It's not always about how much money we get." His stance is vanishingly rare amid Pacific island nations — some struggling to sustain themselves and feeling overlooked by Western powers while their backyards are increasingly the settings for some of the world's most potent contests for influence. Amid

intensifying conflict over ocean territory, resources and political sway, Beijing's pressure on the three hold-out countries was increasing, analysts said.

"As the number of Taiwan's diplomatic allies in the Pacific dwindles, the obstacles to China's regional diplomacy diminish," said Mihai Sora, Director of the Pacific Islands Program at the Lowy Institute. China's penalties for Palau's intransigence are not new, but they have escalated in the months leading up to November's election in which Whipps will seek another term as leader, he said. In May, he blamed China for a major cyberattack on Palau in which 20,000 government documents were stolen. The claim was unproven, Whipps said, but no other motive or actor had

Earlier that month, Palau tourism industry representatives were denied visas to enter Macau for a lucrative international industry conference. Then reports appeared in China's state media and on an official WeChat channel in June, warning tourists of an increase in safety issues for Chinese visitors to Palau. The remarks, seen by the AP, urged citizens to be cautious when traveling there. Whipps rejected the reports of security problems but said the claims had stuck — visitor numbers from China halved in 2024, now down to 30% of its tourists. Once, 70% of Palau's visitors came from China, but

the country tried to diversify its market after Beijing unofficially blocked its citizens from visiting in 2017.

"Palau has found itself in a position where it relies on Chinese tourists for income," Sora said. 'This is a tap China can quite easily turn on and off — and it

Support comes from other quarters, however. Unlike most Pacific nations, Palau, a republic that has been independent since 1994, holds close ties to the United States in a free association agreement. Washington provides aid and defense support to Palau and its citizens can live and work in the US. But many analysts say Washington was too slow to recognize China's campaign of influence in the Pacific and took for granted relationships with the leaders of tiny island nations who struggled to address growing economic and climate woes. Meanwhile, Whipps said, Beijing offered incentives and wooed with red carpets and fanfare some leaders who had never met an American president before a Pacific summit at the White House first held in 2022. Western nations had at times seen Pacific island countries as "dots on a map," Whipps added. Things were changing, he said — this week, Palau hosted New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters, who is also the Foreign Minister, in the highest-profile visit Whipps had received from that

## civilians to evacuate eastern town of Pokrovsk

Military authorities in the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk on Friday urged civilians to speed up their evacuation because the Russian army is quickly closing in on what has for months been one of Moscow's key targets in the

The call for people to get out as soon as possible came as Kyiv's forces are trying to divert the Kremlin's military focus to Russian soil by launching a bold incursion across the border into the Kursk region. The urgency also underscored the high-stakes gamble Ukraine is making by taking the war into Russia with its ongoing assault that started August 6.

The attack was a daring attempt to change the dynamics of the 2½-year conflict, but

Wickremesinghe backed

it could leave Ukraine's shorthanded defense at the mercy of Russia's push.

The Kremlin's forces have had battlefield momentum and superior forces in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region since the spring. Evacuations in the Donetsk

region around Pokrovsk have become increasingly urgent in recent weeks.

Pokrovsk officials said in a Telegram post Friday that Russian troops are "advancing at a fast pace. With every passing day there is less and less time to collect personal belongings and leave for safer regions".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had warned on Thursday that Pokrovsk and other nearby towns in the Donetsk region were "facing the most intense

## Pak govt admits tinkering with internet: Report

 $F^{\text{or}}_{\text{Pakistan}}$  government has confirmed that it was upgrading its "web management system" to cope with cyber security threats amid speculation about the installation of a socalled 'firewall' that could be leading to internet disruptions in the country, according to a media report on Friday.

Millions of people across Pakistan have been facing trouble accessing internet services for some time now due to limited connectivity, particularly while using mobile data in some regions.

So far, official stakeholders in Pakistan have either been feigning ignorance in response to public outcry and media queries, or claiming that the problems were because of telecom and internet service providers, or even Meta. While talking to reporters after the

Senate Standing Committee on tion - she said the issue had Information Technology and been "blown out of proportion". Tele-communi-cation meeting on Thursday, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said the government had sought a report

Telecommunication Authority and other institutions over the internet disruption. The internet should never be slow. We have even been talk-

ing about bringing 5G technology to Pakistan. There is no doubt about that, and conversations about higher internet speed are underway," the Dawn newspaper quoted Khawaja as saying. When the minister was asked about the 'firewall' - a blanket term used by the public to describe the causes of internet disruption in the absence of any official explana-

"The government has been operating a web-management system. The system is now being upgraded."

She also called the process "a routine exercise" across the globe to enhance internet security, without giving any detail to substantiate her claims about which other countries have deployed this system.

"It is the right of the government to take measures to protect its interests given the cyber security attacks that Pakistan is facing." This was the first time an acknowledged the government's actions, which have been blamed for everything from slow browsing speeds, the arbitrary blocking of social media platforms and WhatsApp connectivity issues on mobile data,

### **PPGCL**

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Phone: +91-120-6102000/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

eligible vendors for Hiring of Ambulance (ALS & BLS Type) of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar

Details of pre-gualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc may be downloaded using the URL- https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 18th August 2024.

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

E-Tender Eng. No. 554/P-1/EMPW-12775 dated 14-08-24 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024 POWER 125574 1 to conduct Energy Audit of GGGSSTP Units III to VI having capacities of 4x210MW. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from

14.08.2024/ 5.00 PM onwards. Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

76155/12/3308/2023/36725 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED CIN NO.: L60231CT2008PLC016434 Registered Office: A-11(7), Udya Society, Sector-3,

Tatibandh, Raipur-492099, Dharsiwa, Chhattisgarh, India Website: www.jindalinfralogistics.com, E-mail: contactus@jindalinfralogistics.com

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY For transfer of unclaimed amount of Fraction Shares to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Account (As per Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013). In terms of requirements of Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), as amended, the Company is required to transfer the unclaimed

amount of fraction shares which remains unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seve consecutive years, to the IEPF Account established by the Central Government. A separate communication has been sent to all the Shareholders, who have not claime the unclaimed amount of fraction shares at their registered email or communication

address with the Company. A list of such shareholders who have not claimed the amount of fraction shares during the period of seven consecutive years and the amount of which are therefore liable for transfer

to the IEPF Account is available on the website of the Company a www.jindalinfralogistics.com. Shareholders are requested to forward the requisite documents, as per the abovementioned communication to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA), to

claim the unclaimed amount. Notice is hereby given that in the absence of receipt of a valid claim by the Shareholders, the Company would be transferring the said amount to IEPF Account without further notice in accordance with the requirement of the said Rules. Please note that no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unclaimed amount

transferred to IEPF pursuant to the said Rules. Please note that after such transfer, Shareholders/Claimants can claim the transferred amount from the IEPF Authority, for which details are available at www.iepf.gov.in. For any information/clarifications on this matter, the concerned Shareholders/Claimants may write to the Company at Contactus@iindalinfralogistics.com or to the RTA of the

Company M/s RCMC SHARE REGISTRY PRIVATE LIMITED, B-25/1, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase -2, New Delhi – 110020 Phone: 011-26387320, 26387321, E-mail ID: investor.services@rcmcdelhi.com.

Date: 16.08.2024

For JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED ALOK KUMAR **COMPANY SECRETARY** 

M.NO.: A 19819

### Flights, trains cancelled in Tokyo area as a strong typhoon swerves nearby

**Tokyo (AP):** Flights and trains in the Tokyo area were cancelled Friday, and people were warned of strong winds, heavy rains and potential flooding and mudslides as a typhoon swerved near Japan on its way further north in the Pacific Ocean. Typhoon Ampil was forecast to reach the waters near Tokyo in the evening then continue north, bringing stormy conditions to the northern Kanto and Tohoku regions early Saturday. It had sustained winds of 162 kph (101 mph) with higher gusts Friday morning and was moving north at 20 kph (12 mph), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Ampil was not expected to make landfall and would weaken to a tropical storm by Sunday.

The Shinkansen bullet trains running between Tokyo and Nagoya were halted for the entire day, according to Central Japan Railway, a common response to typhoons here. Bullet trains serving northeastern Japan and some local Tokyo trains were suspended temporarily or switched to a slower schedule. Dozens of departing and arriving flights were cancelled at Tokyo's two airports, Haneda and Narita, as well as at Kansai, Osaka and Chubu airports. The flight cancellations affect some 90,000 people, according to Japanese media reports. Several highways may

also partly close to traffic.

had been packed Thursday with people moving up their plans to avoid disruptions from the typhoon. Friday od, not just the weather. Stores morning was drizzly and remained open.

Airports and train stations windy in Tokyo, and traffic

and crowds out on the streets were sparse, mostly because of the Bon summer holiday peri-

by grand alliance in SL presidential poll Colombo (PTI): Sri Lankan

Wickremesinghe, the front runner in the presidential poll scheduled for next month, was on Friday endorsed by a grand coalition of over 30 political parties and groups. This comes after Wickremesinghe, 75, announced himself as the independent candidate on Thursday by handing over nominations to contest the September 21 presidential election. Wickremesinghe, the leader of the now decimated grand old party, the United National Party (UNP), is backed by the Rajapaksa family breakaways from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna

#### THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66 e tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-Period/Tentative Qtv For Cattle Feed Plant, Khanna & Ghaina –Ke- Bangar Khanna MFP Molecule 23 MT Formaldehyde Solution (with drum)37-40% Ferrous Sulphate/ Iron Sulphate 30% min zn33% min Manganese Sulphate 32% min. Calcium Chloride 15 MT a) Assay 90-95% b) pH200g/I =7 Sodium Thiosulphate, Copper Sulphate cu: 24% min, Magnesium Chloride 3 MT 1.6 MT 5 MT 4 MT a) Assay :not less than 98% b) pH 5% solution: 4.5-7.0) Sodium Butyrate (Assay: 98.0%(min),Lead: 20 ppm (max), 1 MT Arsenic: 2 ppm (max) 11. Chocolate Feed Flavour with Sweetner, Cattle Feed Grade 5 MT 9 MT Free Flowing Powder 12. HMTBa based chelates 17 MT 18 MT 14.00 MT 0.105 MT Live Yeast (saccharohyces Potassium Iodide 20 MT 15. Potassium Carbonate 15.00 MT .600 MT 17. By pass fat (rate contract for three months)

2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only

Dy. General Manager (Purchase) NA/12/24805/2023/36736 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.

pplications forms for allotment of hostel Shops/Vehicle Stands from session 2024-25 (Extendable upto 30-06-2029) of University Campus, Amritsar, Regional Campus, Gurdaspur, Regional Campus, Jalandhar & University College. Jalandhar are invited till 28.08.2024. The details, terms & conditions and forms can he the university website from downloaded https://online.gndu.ac.in/tenders-notice.aspx

verka

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR

NOTICE

Dean Student's Welfare

NA/12/24801/2023/36732 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

	Notice Inviting Tender	www.verka.coop
Ten	ders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-	
Sr.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative
No.		Qty
1.	For Verka Head office, Chandigarh	
	a) Dry Fruits	06 Months/
	i. Badam	700 kg
	ii. Kaju 4 Pc	7950 kg
	iii. Kishmish	670 kg
	iv. Pista	525 kg
	v. Elaichi	1000 kg
	b) Augmentation & Re-strengthening of existing 4 No's foundations (60 kl to 100 kl	
_	milk silos) of liquid milk plant at Verka Mohali Dairy.	Two Months
2.	For Verka Chandigarh Dairy	
	Auction Notice for Vehicles:-	04.11
	<ol> <li>Innova Vehicle No. CH01-G1-2105, Model-2008, Diesel.</li> </ol>	01 No.
	<ol> <li>Innova Vehicle No. CH01-G1-2821, Model-2009, Diesel.</li> <li>Tata 407 Vehicle No. PB65-E-6730, Model-2007, Diesel.</li> </ol>	01 No. 01 No.
	iv. Hero Honda Motor Cycle No.CH04J-2719, Model-2009	01 No.
	v. Hero Honda Motor Cycle No.CHu4J-2719, Model-2009 v. Hero Honda Motor Cycle No.CH04J-1841, Model-2009.	01 No.
3.	V. Hero Honda Motor Cycle No.CH043-1641, Model-2009. For Verka Mohali Dairy	01140.
٥.	Annual rate contract for used Polyliner/Polyfilm scrap assorted used curd/ kheer	
	cups/misc bottles scrap, assorted used matka scrap, misc used Cannies (Capacity	
	1to 15 Ltr ) Scrap, Misc used Cannies (Cap.above 20 to 50 ltr) scrap and half	
	yearly rate contract for disposal of other unserviceable items lying at Verka Mohali	
	Dairy.	
4.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy	
7.	Hiring of Road Milk Tankers for transportation of Milk within/outside Puniab at	03 No's, each
	Verka Bathinda Dairy. (Capacity 10 Tons & Capacity 15 Tons and above).	
5.	For Verka Patiala Dairy	
	a) Shrink Sleeves	Annual
	b) Hirning of insulated S.S road milk tankers for milk transportation within Punjab &	Annual/05 Tankers
	other states.Cap:- 15,000 to 30,000 ltr.	
	c) Hiring of insulated vehicle for transportation of Fresh Milk and Fresh Milk	Annual
	products for:-	
	i. Route no.2 (Nabha).	4MT
	<ol> <li>Route no.4 (Bhadurgarh, Urban Esate &amp; Gurbaksh colony, Patiala).</li> </ol>	3 MT
	<ol> <li>Route no.5 (Thapar uni, Bhadson road, Patiala &amp; surrounding area).</li> </ol>	4 MT
	<ol> <li>Route no.7 (Sirhind, Fatehgarh Sahib, Bhadson Amloh).</li> </ol>	3 MT
_	v. Route no.9 (Ambala, Mulana and Saha).	3 MT
7.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy	
	Job Contract for operation and maintenance of pouch filling machines and tray	Annual
	washer including coding on pouches.	
	For Verka Amritsar Dairy	
	a) Hiring of insulated Single portion Road Milk Tankers for Transportation of Milk	Annual/ 12 No's
	from BMC/MCC (cap.10,000 Ltr.)	2000MT
8	b) Supply of Indonesian Steam Coal. For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy	2000M1
8.	a) Hiring of Vehicles for transportation of Milk from MPCS/Farms to MCC and Milk	17 Routes
	Plant, Tata 407,409, Mahindra Max, Mahindra Pick, Bolero Pick, Tata Ace.	ir routes
	b) Pest Control Services.	
9.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy	-
ð.	a) Supply of Aluminium foil for 450g/500g,1 kg, 5 kg & 15 kg Matka.	Annual
	b) Hiring of Refrigerated Vehicles for supply of frozen and Ambient Verka	Annual
	products in Verka Jalandhar Dairy Mikshed area.	7 11111111111
10.	For Verka Ferozepur Dairy	
	a) Hiring of car (Bolero/ swift/ Toyota Etios or its equivalent).	01 No.
	b) Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of ammonia based cold	01 Complete Job
	room with puff panel & its accessories, with civil structure complete.	- /
11.	For Verka CFP, Bhattian (Khanna)	
11.	Transportation of Molasses from The Budhewal and The morinda co-operative	Annual
	sugar Mills Ltd. to Verka Cattle feed plant, bhattian (Khanna).	
12.	For Verka CFP, Ghania Ke Banger	Annual
12.	Disposal of old bardana jute gunny bags above 50 kgs/ Katta upto 50 kgs and	/ Approx. 13-14 Lakh
	Plastic kattas.	bags
ют		3-
	For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e.	www.verka.coop & e
	l'endering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.	

NA/12/24804/2023/36735 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

## Sensex jumps to two-week high

Penchmark Sensex spurted by 1,330 points to close at a two-week high while Nifty jumped 397 points to settle above the 24,500 level on Friday as easing fears of a recession in the US triggered buying in IT shares amid a sharp global

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,330.96 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 80,436.84, marking its best single-day gains in more than two months. During the day, it zoomed 1,412.33 points or 1.78 per cent to

The NSE Nifty surged 397.40 points or 1.65 per cent to close at a two-week high of 24,541.15. As many as 47 Nifty shares closed in green while three closed in red.

From Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, UltraTech Cement, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers. Sun Pharma emerged as the only laggard.

"The stability of the Japanese Yen has been instrumental in driving a global market recovery. Besides that, the strong US retail sales and a decline in weekly jobless claims have helped alleviate fears of a US recession. "Further, the market sentiment has improved due to a decrease in US CPI inflation. On the backdrop of these, the Indian IT firms exhibited strong buying interest," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled significantly higher. European markets were trading mostly in the green. The US markets ended with sharp gains on Thursday. "The Indian frontline indices traded signif-



icantly higher today, mirroring the positive global market sentiment. The gains in the market were broad-based as the midcap and smallcap indices also moved higher. This upbeat market mood was primarily driven by reduced volatility, which stemmed from increased expectations of a US rate cut in September," Avdhut Bagkar, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, StoxBox, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.80 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.70 per cent.

All indices ended higher. IT index soared 2.72 per cent and realty jumped 2.45 per cent. Teck (2.23 per cent), auto (1.90 per cent), commodities (1.89 per cent), power (1.80 per cent), financial services (1.77 per cent) and consumer discretionary (1.74 per cent) also closed higher. A total of 2,462 stocks advanced while 1,467 declined and 107 remained unchanged on the BSE.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 730.93 points or 0.91 per cent, the Nifty climbed 173.65 points or 0.71 per cent. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,595.27 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were buyers as they bought equities worth Rs 2,236.21 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.22 per cent to USD 80.05 a barrel. Indian stock markets were closed on Thursday on account of Independence Day.

## FDI in food processing sector down 30% to `5,037 cr in 2023-24

PTI n NEW DELHI

 $F^{\rm oreign \ direct \ investment}_{\rm (FDI) \ in \ India's \ food}$ processing sector declined 30 per cent in the last fiscal to Rs 5,037.06 crore, according to official data. The FDI in the food

processing sector stood at Rs 7,194.13 crore in 2022-23. According to the data presented by the Food

Processing Industries Ministry in Lok Sabha, the FDI in food processing sector stood at Rs 5,290.27 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 2934.12 crore in 2020-21.

FDI was Rs 6,414.67 crore in 2019-20; Rs 4430.44 crore in 2018-19; Rs 5,835.62 crore in 2017-18; Rs 4,865.85 crore in 2016-17; and Rs 3,312 crore in the

In order to enhance foreign investment in the food processing sector, the ministry has taken various measures, including 100 per cent FDI permitted through automatic route for the food processing sector subject to sectoral regulations.

It has allowed 100 per cent FDI, under the governmentapproval route, for trading through

Yojana

commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India.

government exempted all processed food items from the purview of licensing under the Industries (Development Regulation) Act, 1951.

There is a lower GST for raw and processed products. More than 71.7 per cent of food products under various chapter heads/sub-heads are covered in lower tax slabs of 0 per cent and 5 per cent.

The export of processed foods declined 17 per cent to USD 10,881.81 million in 2023-24 the preceding fiscal.

For the development of this wastage, sector, the ministry is processing implementing the Pradhan enhancing Mantri Kisan SAMPADA

Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) and Prime

schemes. All these three schemes are demand-driven implemented country.

Minister Formalization of

(PMFME)

Micro Food

Enterprises

These schemes are aimed at creation infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, and to help in providing better returns to farmers, from USD 13,078.3 million in creation of employment opportunities, wastage, increasing the the export of

### **SBI** hikes lending rate by 10 bps across tenors, raising EMIs for borrowers

PTI n NEW DELHI

Ctate Bank of India, the Ocountry's biggest lender, has raised the Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points (0.1 percentage point), across tenors, making most of the consumer loans costlier. This is the third time in a row

that the bank has increased MCLR. The benchmark oneyear tenor MCLR, which is used to price most consumer loans such as auto and personal, is now pegged higher at 8.95 per cent against the earlier rate of 8.85 per cent, according to the information posted on its website.

The three-year MCLR is 9.10 per cent, while the two-year is now 9.05 per cent, up 10 basis points. Among others, the rates of one-month, three-month and six-month tenors are in the range of 8.45-8.85 per cent. The MCLR on overnight tenor will be 8.20 per cent against 8.10 per cent.

The new rates are effective from August 15, 2024, it said. The rate hike has come days after RBI kept its benchmark lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the ninth consecutive time earlier this

## Rupee settles flat at 83.94 against US dollar

PTI n MUMBAI

 $m{\Gamma}$ he rupee stayed in a I narrow range and settled flat at 83.94 (provisional) the American currency on Friday, as the support from a rally in domestic equities and weak greenback was negated by foreign fund outflows amid geopolitical tensions in the At the interbank foreign

exchange, the rupee opened at 83.93 and touched the intraday low of 83.96 against the greenback during the session. The local unit finally settled flat at 83.94 (provisional) dollar. On Wednesday, the rupee settled 3 paise higher at 83.94 against the US dollar. Forex markets were closed on Thursday on account of Independence Day. Anuj Choudhary, Research analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the positive tone by 0.14 per cent at 102.66.



supported the rupee at lower

We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on...Geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel

"Traders may take cues from US consumer confidence and housing data today. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.75 to Rs 84.25," he added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six in the domestic markets Analysts said the dollar

participants were awaiting the US consumer confidence index and housing data to be released later in the day. Brent crude, the global oil

benchmark, declined 1.20 per

cent to USD 80.07 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex surged 1,330.96 points, or 1.68 per cent, to settle at 80,436.84 points. The broader Nifty also soared 397.40 points, or 1.65 per cent, to 24,541.15 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the markets Wednesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,595.27 crore, according to exchange

macroeconomic wholesale inflation fell to a 3month low of 2.04 per cent in July on the decline in prices of items, especially vegetables, government data Wednesday on

## India's forex reserves drop USD 4.8 bn to USD 670.11 bn

PTI n MUMBAI

 $I^{
m ndia's}$  forex reserves dropped by USD 4.8 billion to USD 670.119 billion for the week ended August 9, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. In the previous reporting

week, the kitty jumped by USD 7.533 billion to an alltime high of USD 674.919 For the week ended August 9,

foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 4.079 billion to USD 587.96 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms,

the foreign currency assets the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in tne ioreign exchange reserves.



USD 860 million to USD 59.239 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 121 million to USD 18.282 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF increased by USD 18 million to USD 4.638 billion in the reporting week, the Gold reserves declined by central bank data showed.

## NITI Aayog calls for guidelines, E-KYC to check background of PMMY loan applicants

PTI n NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ government\ think}_{
m tank\ NITI\ Aayog\ has}$ pitched for a set of guidelines for assessing the creditworthiness and background verification for those availing loans under the Pradhan Mantri

Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

The Aayog in a report titled 'Impact Assessment suggested encouraging authentication for loan underwriting. This enhance the effectiveness of

assessment checks. "A set of guidelines assessing

creditworthiness background verification must be enlisted to provide a security net to the banks, considering the loans are collateral free and a proper risk check and assessment has a critical role to play in the sustainability of results and

in the report posted on its



under PMMY are small entrepreneurs who have very limited documents and this makes it difficult for the banks to run verification checks as it requires more staffing and employees. The Aayog also suggested that

a proper reward mechanism is needed for different banks based on their scale of operation and performance. It noted that a portal enabling real-time upload beneficiary data will help streamline the beneficiary data collection

PMMY, since its inception in 2015 has provided credit support of Rs 18.39 lakh crore to 34.93 crore accounts. According to the report, employment for about 11.10 compared to the pre- crore people.

disbursements MSMEs have doubled indicating support for the increasing credit demand by the industry, while the number of NPA accounts and the amount have been increasing

pandemic, the credit

year after year with a CAGR of 22.51 per cent and 36.61 per cent respectively from FY The Micro, Small and

Enterprises (MSMEs) sector plays a defining entrepreneurs and is a key driver of socio-economic development in India.

33 per cent (FY 2015 to FY 2019) of the country's total manufacturing gross value of

It accounts for more than 40 per cent of exports and contributes over 28 per cent of gross value added in India's

### Govt to impose stricter safety standards on electric construction equipment vehicles

PTI n NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed new stricter safety standards for powertrain construction equipment vehicles including dumpers and excavators from October

The ministry in a draft notification has proposed an amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 with an aim to push electric vehicles (EV) across various

"On and after (1st October

equipment vehicles fitted with electric power train shall meet requirements as specified in corresponding specifications are notified under the Bureau of Indian

Electric and hybrid powertrain are being used in construction equipment vehicles.

Standard Act, 2016," the draft

According to the notification, the objections or suggestions which may be received from any person in respect of the said draft rules before the expiry of the aforesaid period will be considered by the construction central government.

## Gold plunges `400; silver rallies `800

Gold prices plunged Rs 400 to Rs 72,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 73,150 per 10 grams in the previous session. The commodity markets were closed on Thursday on the occasion of Independence

Silver prices rallied Rs 800 to Rs 84,000 per kilogram from Rs 83,200 per kg in the previous close. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per

cent purity declined by Rs 400 to Rs 72,400 per 10 grams. In continued to provide support



the previous session, it ended at Rs 72,800 per 10 grams. On the global front, Comex gold is trading at USD 2,500.90 per ounce, up by USD 8.50 per ounce.

"Gold rose slightly on Friday as geopolitical uncertainty

for precious metals. "However, stronger US retail sales and jobless claim data released on Thursday suggest robust consumer spending, reducing concerns about recession risk in the US and dampening aggressive interest gains in precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

However, silver was quoting lower at USD 28.66 per ounce in the international markets. "Comex gold closed 0.5 per cent higher at USD 2,492.4 per ounce on Thursday, as mixed US data with easing Consumer Price Index inflation and stronger retail sales did not provide any fresh insights on the US Federal Reserve's monetary path," Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities,

### Finance Ministry permits 15 securities firms to undertake Aadhaar verification of clients

PTI n NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has 1 permitted 15 securities firms, including SBICAP Securities, IIFL Securities, and Angel One, to conduct Aadhaar authentication of their customers.

The Revenue Department under the finance ministry has issued a notification under the Prevention of Money-laundering allowing the 15 reporting entities to conduct Aadhaarbased KYC (know your



The 15 entities also include Financial Services, Arihant Capital Market, SMC Global Securities, Aditya Birla Money, R.K. Stock Holding, Monarch Networth Capital, RKSV Securities, Comfort Securities,

customer) process.

Securities Pvt Ltd.

## IFIN reports cumulative loss of `5,654 cr in FY14-18: Revised balance sheet

PTI n NEW DELHI

L&FS Financial Services **L**(IFIN), a group company of debt-ridden IL&FS Ltd, has incurred a cumulative loss of Rs 5,654 crore for the fiveconsecutive fiscals — from FY14 to FY18, according to the revised balance sheet of undergoing resolution process.

However, as per the original balance sheet, the company had earned a total profit of Rs 1,015 crore during the fiveyear period. Following the recast, the

company is exploring the option of seeking a refund of income tax paid from the Income Tax for these years. In June this year, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) asked the newlyappointed board of the IL&FS group to file a revised balance sheet, along with its two other

Moreover, its total income also went down to Rs 7,777 crore on an aggregate basis during those five years against Rs 10,297 crore reported earlier, revealed the updated financial results.

The company's new board has completed the reopening and recasting of financials and the revised accounts as per the direction of the NCLT.

In June this year, the Mumbai bench of NCLT gave a goahead to the newly-appointed board of the IL&FS group with the revised balance sheet, along with its two other subsidiaries — Transportation and IL&FS Financial Services.

The restated account reflected that the company had actually reported a loss of Rs 3,322 crore in the financial year ended March 2018. However, the previous management



100 crore in the said financial year. Similarly, it had booked a loss of Rs 1,315 crore during FY17 against a profit of Rs 209 crore recorded originally. On January 1, 2019, the passed an order permitting reopening and recasting of the financial

group companies — IL&FS Transportation, Financial Services and IL&FS Engineering. The order was passed over an

application moved by the

central government, which

had suspended the board of

debt-ridden Infrastructure

(IL&FS) and appointed a six-member IL&FS is settling its over Rs 90,000-crore debt through

asset resolution. So far, IL&FS has discharged a total debt of Rs 35,650 crore as on September 30, 2023, and maintains an overall debt resolution target of Rs 61,000

It is resolving debts through

monetisation termination/settlement of payments by its group entities concessioning authorities and counter-party to the relevant contract. On October 1, 2018, NCLAT

superseded the existing board of IL&FS on the recommendation of the Centre after the mega-crisis in IL&FS, which shook the finance industry. A new board for IL&FS,

which had a debt burden of 94,000 crore, was appointed to take charge of the affairs and NCLAT conceived a framework for resolution of the crisis-hit

It had also granted protection to the IL&FS companies against recovery of any further dues and provided immunity to the newlyappointed directors of IL&FS against any proceedings for the past actions of suspended directors or any of the officers

thereof. At the same time, the Centre vide order dated September 30, 2018, directed that the affairs of the company to be investigated by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office

commenced investigation of affairs of IL&FS and its subsidiaries under the Companies Act.

### **INBRIEF**

STUDENTS TAUGHT HOW TO BUILD PAYLOADS NEW DELHI: About 26 students underwent rigorous training by Space Kidz



India for over 9 months before this launch. Students were taught everything about space, gravity in space, role of space stations specially unmanned space stations, satellites, building payloads, role of satellites in the future, coding of atellites, space research etc. They were also given hands on experience in building a payload. Earlier to this SRM Public School signed a MoU earlier in

### **OLYMPIC QUIZ ORGANISED**



NEW DELHI: Contributing to the Olympic fervour, and testing the Olympic quotient of employees and their family members, NTPC organised a grand Noida on 13th August, 2024. Olympic Quiz at the Power Management Institute,

### TATA POWER TO DEVELOP HYDRO STORAGE PLANTS



NEW DELHI: On August 12, Tata Power, India's largest integrated power company signed an MoU Resources Department to develop 2,800 MW of Pumped Hydro Storage Plants. The ceremony was organised in presence of Devendra Fadnavis.

## RANCHI | SATURDAY | AUGUST 17, 2024 he pioneer



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'

argil 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 Narmdeshwar 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

## 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











n 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 and inspiration. The applause that followed 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,

colours and innovative silhouettes that captured the essence of the evening. Payal Pratap's collection, featuring monotones 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. Namrata Joshipura's collection, with its black and golden palettes, corsets and draped skirts, exuded charm and sophistication. The use of satin skirts and black gowns, combined with minimalistic makeup and sleek ponytails, created a look that was both modern and timeless. Payal Jain's

with intricate embroidery, vibrant

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

> but Tamana herself and the students of Tamana Foundation. Their inclusion walk, accompanied by designers and from educators various prominent schools, was a

evening, however, was not a designer or a celebrity moment of pure joy and pride. Each student, dressed humanity. 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 Chairman 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

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

n 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 I. 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. brings Each artist something unique to the table, encouraging visitors to explore different aspects of the human experience. instance, Asha powerful Thadani's photographs address challenging social issues, viewers to inviting 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.

Oza's

Maulik

From

beautifully

portraits, The Call of the Mirror showcases a wide This mix not only highlights the artist's versatility but also mirrors the evolving landscape of art itself.

Vinogradov's

What really stands out about





surreal

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 selfdiscovery as much as it is a visual feast. The Call of the Mirror is more than an exhibition, it's

this exhibition is how it

an invitation to slow down, reflect and connect with art in a meaningful way. It serves as a reminder of art's range of artistic expression. power to mirror our lives and inspire personal insight. For anyone seeking a deeper connection with art, this exhibition offers compelling and enriching experience.

## Horse riding, bharatnatyam and skating on Manu's mind during break from shooting

shooting hand bruised by repeated pistol recoils during unrelenting training, Manu Bhaker will take a well deserved three month break. But it will be no vacation.

The double Olympic medallist will continue her other routines including yoga and waking up at 6 am - which she hates. And oh yes. She also plans to catch up on her horse riding, skating, Bharatnatyam and violin practice to name a few. The 22-year-old, who won bronze medals in the 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team (partnering Sarabjot Singh), was at PTI headquarters on Friday along with her coach and shooting great Jaspal Rana for a

Proudly flaunting her medals, the vivacious youngster from Haryana's Jhajjar spoke about

freewheeling interaction with

Tokyo setback was nothing more than a distant memory now, and also her plans to indulge in everything that she put on hold for her Olympic

"Now, I have some time off and I can probably do that (martial arts) again," said Bhaker, a karate kid in her teens before a change of heart led her to

"I was not able to get that kind of time to invest myself into that (martial arts). Finally, I can take time off for my hobbies, and I have many, many hobbies. Horse riding... Personally, I love horse riding, skating, I can still manage on the roads, then fitness, I really enjoy working out.

Then, I have dance (as a hobby) also , I am learning Bharatnatyam. I love the dance forms. I was training in France, I wasn't able to get time, not able to cope up with the (Bharatnatyam) classes," said Bhaker, whose trainer is from

"She takes my classes personally and then I have violin also," she added. As she revealed her bucket list

for the "holiday", Rana had a faint smile on his face and he also made it a point to shake his head in disapproval at the very mention of horse riding. "...Then she has to come back in one piece," Rana said, drawing a laugh from Bhaker. "Skating and horse riding are something she should not be doing and she'll be responsible for whatever happens. Who rides a horse thinking that they will fall?" he wondered aloud. A bemused Bhaker was not going to back down easily, their banter also being a reflection of the easy equation between one of the most talked coach-player

have been learning horse riding for sometime now," she retorted immediately, asserting that she would be responsible

combinations in Indian sports



if anything goes haywire. "I was waiting that after the Olympic, I will do horse riding. And so many other things I want to do like skydiving, scuba diving. I've waited for so long," she said, inviting another shake of the head from Rana.

On his part, Rana was clear that the break was to ensure that the youngster's shooting hand gets back to full fitness. 'This (pointing to her injured

hand) is the reason we are making her rest for three months. Because this (injury) has been for the last eight months and it has not healed till now," Rana said.

"So rest is mandatory for the hand, and we had decided much before the World Cup (Final was awarded to New Delhi)... Our decision to stop for three months was before that," he added.

'It will not be very easy but this break is required. It's not something we'll enjoy. It's only the shooting part which will (training) waking up in the morning for yoga, everything will be as per what we were doing. Because that's the lifestyle she has to follow."

Bhaker will not compete in the the season-ending prestigious ISSF World Cup Final for elite shooters from across the world in October in Delhi, and also likely skip the national championships and the camps that will follow to tend to her

injured hand. Bhaker had done a rendition of the national anthem on a violin, gifted to her by her brother, and a video of it went after performance.

Yes, I was able to manage something on the violin, but I'm only on the basics," said the champion shooter.

"Indian classical is preference, but I'm only like beginning to learn it, so I'm not at the advanced level. I'm just one month into it... Just the basics."



## Have to prepare mentally to transition from player to coach: Sreejesh

PTI n KOCHI

 $I_{ ext{stalwart P R Sreejesh, who}}^{ ext{ndian hockey's goalkeeping}}$ was given a grand welcome on his arrival at the international airport here, said he will be spending the next 2-3 months to mentally prepare himself to transition from a player to a

With regard to the enthusiastic welcome given to him, including a roadshow from the airport to Palarivattom here, he said it was like the "cherry

on top of the cake". "Working hard for country, sacrificing a lot and then winning a medal, it is not just for me, but for the country. So, to be a part of this happiness, the welcome organised by everyone, is like the cherry on top of the cake. The pleasure is doubled," he said, speaking to reporters

outside the airport. Regarding the next step of his career, Sreejesh said that he knows what he has to do as a

"But, as a coach, what all I should do or the transition from a player to a coach, I have to mentally prepare for that. So, I will spend the next 2-3 months on that," he said.

A big crowd, including several MLAs, welcomed Sreejesh at

People holding up placards with his photo cheered him on as he came out of the airport. Thereafter, the hockey player held a roadshow from the airport in an open-top jeep. Along the route of his roadshow, people waved and cheered him on, some handed him flowers and bouquets and others walked up to his vehicle to shake his hand and congratulate him, according to visuals shown on TV channels. Sreejesh bid adieu to the game following his starring role in the country's second consecutive Olympic bronze at the just-concluded Paris

He is now going to be the team coach of the junior Indian

## Australia's Minjee Lee leads rain-delayed Women's Scottish Open with opening 67

Two-time major champion Minjee Lee of Australia managed a strong wind and caught a break with rare sunshine in a wet Scottish summer with a 5-under 67 for a one-shot lead in the ISPS Handa Women's Scottish Open before play was stopped for the day.

Lydia Ko, coming off her Olympic golf medal that put her into the LPGA Hall of Fame, faced the worst of the weather at Dundonald Links and made five birdies in her round of 69. Former U.S. Women's Open champion A

Lim Kim and American Megan Khang

The opening round was suspended by bad weather and a water-logged course. Lily May Humphreys of England was at 4 under with six holes to play. Play was

GPraggnanandhaa could

not really change his fortunes

for the better and remained in

last spot going into the final

day of the Saint Louis Rapid

and Blitz chess tournament

Praggnanandhaa scored two

wins at the expense of prefavourites

Nepomniachtchi of Russia and

Hikaru Nakamura of Russia

besides a lone draw with

tournament leader Alireza

Firouzja of France but lost the

remaining six games in the first leg of blitz that kept him on the

ames in the blitz section.

Before that, he won a couple of blitz



halted at the start for about an hour because of rain, and there was another weather delay of 2 hours, 20 minutes.

Lee is coming off a disappointing Olympics outside Paris when she was never in the hunt and wound up finishing in a tie for 22nd. She played bogey-free on a tough course, picking up birdies on both

Grand chess tour: Nothing changes

for Praggnanandhaa, Firouzja leads

Always a happy girl after a bogey-free

"I feel like I played smart golf, I'd say. I gave myself a lot of opportunities for birdie. I feel like when I was in trouble, I kind of missed it in the right spots and could get up-and-down, so that was good."

Lee figures she caught a break not having to deal with the brunt of the rain, although there was no escaping the fierce wind.

Ko got the worst of both, describing the weather as so chaotic that she was too busy dealing with it to get overly stressed. "If it's just windy, it's fine. But it was windy and rain," Ko said.

"It's hard when you have to hold the umbrella sideways and not up. I'm pretty sure it was built for you to hold it like vertically. So it's just very difficult out

who has 10 points in all.

Praggnanandhaa remains a

distant last on 6.5 points,

looking for a change in

Wesley So was the surprising

star of the day winning six,

drawing two and losing just

one game against Firouzja in

nine rounds of blitz. The result

However, Firouzja still remains

set to win the crown given his

1.5 points lead and if that

happens he can even overtake

Caruana as the leader of the

tour with just one event remaining in form of Sinquefield cup set to begin

opelled the American to

fortunes on the final day.

oint second spot.

from August 18.



## Smith eyes IPL comeback after stellar show in MLC

**PTI** n SYDNEY

 $B_{\text{at the Major League}}^{\text{olstered by his strong show}}$ Cricket, veteran Australian batter Steve Smith is hopeful of making a return in the Indian Premier League next year. The 35-year-old, who was

ignored for the T20 World Cup and the upcoming tour of Scotland and England, guided the Washington Freedom to their maiden MLC title, finishing the T20 tournament as the franchise's equal leading run-scorer with 336 runs at a strike rate of 148.67.

Smith made a 52-ball 88 against a bowling attack that featured Australian captain Pat Cummins and Pakistan quick Haris Rauf in the final against and was adjudged the playerof-the-match. "I'd certainly love another opportunity at IPL. I'll be throwing my name in the hat, and we'll see how we go," Smith was quoted as saying by FOX Cricket. "I feel like in every opportunity

the San Francisco Unicorns

I've had in T20 cricket recently and franchise stuff, I've played quite nicely. So hopefully I just keep putting my name up there and enjoying it." Smith has not featured in the

IPL since 2021, having gone unsold in the previous two auctions. With the national selectors preferring youngsters, the veteran also opened up on his axing and said he would go about his business trying to get

## Increased participation should be our goal in new Olympic cycle: Chef de Mission Narang

¬hef de Mission Gagan →Narang hailed India's performance in the justconcluded Paris Olympics and said it's time to chalk out a strategic roadmap ahead of the new Ölympic cycle to increase the participation in the 2028 Games in Los Angeles. A total of 117 Indian athletes

participated across disciplines at the Paris Games and India ended their campaign with six medals one silver and five bronze.

"Firstly, I congratulate the medal winners. A total of 6 medals (1 Silver, 5 Bronze) is a commendable effort," said Narang ahead of his return from the French capital.

"Though, personally, I feel we could have finished with a few more medals, it is worth mentioning the near-misses. There were at least six 4th place finishes and quite a few of our athletes finished in the finals of their respective events.

"This is encouraging, and we should take heart from these results, introspect on the fine margins and how we can better these performances," he added.



Narang, who had won a bronze in shooting at the London Olympics, said the National Sports Federations (NSFs) should chart out a roadmap to increase participation in the

"We must find ways to build a strong sports culture and increase the number of participations from India. That should be our goal for this new Olympic cycle," he said. "Also, most importantly I feel whilst we are teaching our athletes how to win, we must also teach them how to accept defeat and

come back with a bang? There were six fourth place finishes in Paris and Narang said it is important to take lessons from the near misses and move ahead.



"There are many learnings and take aways from these performances in Paris. From what I saw at this Olympics, it's only the small margins that we need to close in now to elevate this performance," he said.

will be submitting my observations in an extensive report to the IOA and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. While India has come a long way in the past decade, and we had a fully equipped medical team at the village with Dinshaw Pardiwala as CMO. "We will grow from strength to

strength to compete with the USA and China in the future in sport science backup as well." 'NEED TO CREATE A **PATHWAY FOR** ATHLETES': Narang said

trajectory, which also includes long-term financial literacy and utilising the athlete's experience by absorbing them into the system. further the growth,

nine rounds remaining in the

Alireza Firouzja made most of

his opportunities count to

shoot into sole lead on 17.5

points and now enjoys 1.5

points lead over Wesley So of

United States, who happened

to score the most (7/9) in the

The other leader Maxime

Vachier-Lagrave of France

slipped to fourth spot on 15.5

point, a half point clear of wild

Nakamura, who started off as a

favourite in the blitz section, is

in sixth spot on 13.5 points,

ahead of tour leader and

American Levon Aronian.

Armenian-turned-

blitz section.

collective efforts are being made and should be strengthened further to chart our athlete's career. We need to plan life after sport for an athlete so that their approach is long term," he said.

"Financial literacy, absorbing them into the system and utilizing their knowledge and experience, creating opportunities in district, state national organizations

administrators and coaches should be a priority? Narang said such steps will help athletes to pursue their events with confidence.

"Only then will parents and the athletes feel secure to pursue sport professionally and invest their time and efforts in it. We must also focus on athlete's mental well-being, this is extremely critical for athletes to feel assured and that they are cared for," he noted.



### SA20 season three player auction to be held on October 1

The player auction ahead of I the third season of the SA20 will take place in Cape Town on October 1 with a total of 13 slots left to be filled, announced Graeme Smith, the league commissioner.

compatriot Fabiano Caruana

American Lenier Dominguez

on 12 points is eighth at this

point ahead of Nodirbek

who has 13 points.

The upcoming edition of the SA20 is scheduled to be held from January 9 to February 8 next year.

Following the conclusion of the pre-signing and retention window, the teams will have to pick up 13 more players from the auction.

Retired India wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik recently joined Paarl Royals, becoming the first player from the country to join the South African league.

In addition to this, each franchise will also need to select their 'Season 3 Rookie,

while three of the franchises still have a wildcard to announce before December 30. Apart from Karthik, international stars like Ben Stokes, Kane Williamson, Joe Root, Trent Boult, Johnny Bairstow, Devon Conway, Zak Crawley, Rashid Khan and Rahmanullah Gurbaz will also be seen in action in the league. To have the calibre of international players joining local heroes like Aiden (Markram), KG (Kagiso Rabada) and Heinrich

(Klaasen) sets up an explosive season," Smith stated in a We are also incredibly proud of all the domestic players who have been retained by the teams, including the majority of the rookies who have been incorporated as contracted players for Season

3," he added.

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NHSRCL, New Delhi



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NHSRCL, New Delhi

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