

UP CM Yogi prepares for critical bypolls



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath with BJP leader JP Nadda

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chiet Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday entrusted Ministers with the responsibility of supervising the bypolls to 10 Assembly seats and to stay for two nights in a week in the respective constituencies

The Chief Minister also asked the Ministers and leaders of party organisations to be active on social media to counter the negative campaign of the Opposition and the false narrative spread by INDIA Bloc parties. The Chief Minister has

constituted a team of 30 Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State to

PNS LUCKNOW

A mid the buzz over possible changes in the Yogi Adityanath Government, the Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and main Opposition Samajwadi Party's leader Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday engaged in a verbal duel after which the latter said the people of UP are fed up with infighting within the BJP Government. In a sharp response, Maurya stressed that the BJP has strong Governments and organisation at the Centre

Deputy CM fends off Akhilesh Yadav

and in UP and the Samajwadi Party has no chance of a

comeback. "There is infighting in the Government. BJP leaders are fighting among themselves. The people know about the corruption and are fed up with the game of thrones," Yadav said at a party event. Responding to the SP chief. Maurya tweeted this that the BIP's Governments and organisation in the country and the State are strong. "The return of SP's reign of goons in UP is impossible. BJP will repeat 2017 in the 2027 state polls," he posted on X.

supervise the bypolls to 10 UP Assembly seats. The Ministers are from the Bharatiya Janata Party and allies Rashtriya Lok Dal and NISHAD Party.

The Chief Minister presided over a meeting of the Ministers and leaders of the party organisation. Three Ministers each have been given the responsibility of supervising the elections in the 10 Assembly seats going to bypolls.

Yogi has specifically directed the Ministers to focus the attention on the preparations at the polling booth level and be in constant touch with the cadre and grassroot party workers. He said the party worker was the top priority and asked the Ministers incharge of the poll bound 10 Assembly seats to meet the party workers, ascertain their problems and facilitate them in discharging their responsibility during the elections

The CM said the party workers should feel assured that both the government and the party organisation was solidly behind them.

The meeting also discussed the measures to be taken for busting the false narrative of inflation, unemployment, abrogation of Constitution and caste-based reservation for the SC, ST and OBCs. He said the false narrative of amendment to the Constitution for abrogating the reservations need to be particularly busted.



Fire breaks out at Gulati Restaurant in Pandara Market in New Delhi on Wednesday Ranjan Dimri/Pion

Iconic Gulati eatery gutted, Delhiites left heartbroken

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

fire in the iconic Gulati restaurant, A fire in the control Guard Control A favourite haunt of foodies, in the wee hours of Wednesday in the heart of the national Capital left its patrons broken-hearted. Serving the gourmet since 1959, this famous eatery has had among its clients a number of dignitaries regularly visiting the eating joint to savour the delicacies on offer. As the disheartening news of the fire that gutted a good portion of the restaurant spread by word of mouth, Delhiites got nostalgic many reminiscing about their times at the eatery which is etched in their memories forever.

The restaurant that had a humble beginning as a small "dhaba" with simple wooden benches and tables, transformed into a fine dine restaurant in 2013, giving a perfect dining experience to the visitors. The restaurant was also known for its great ambience. The fire broke out at 2.48 am in the sitting area of Veg Gulati restaurant adjacent the main restaurant, and is a vegetarian alternative to the same. The leaping flames soon spread to the first floor and caused extensive damage.

Sharing their sense of loss, many fans of the restaurant told The Pioneer that the place was part of many family gatherings. Twenty-six-year-old Aditya Ahuja, who works as a content writer at Prasar Bharti, reminisced how he visited the place with his father as a toddler.

According to an official of Delhi Fire Services (DFS), it took one hour for four fire tenders to bring the blaze under control. The cause of fire is suspected to be a short circuit. Police has said a probe is underway in the matter. Over the years, the restaurant has emerged as one of the best serving North Indian cuisine in the city. Long queues outside the place are a usual sight. However, this doesn't deter foodies from visiting the restaurant to savour their favourites dishes which include dal makhni, naan and dahi kebab.

NCP's Ajit Pawar suffers setback



T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Still to recover from the Opposition MahaYuti's poor performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the Ajit Pawar-led ruling NCP suffered another jolt on Word nearly as its Dismai unit blief Ajit Wednesday, as its Pimpri unit chief Ajit Gavahane and three other leaders quit the party, ahead of their joining the rival NCP (Sharad Pawar) on July 20.

Apart from Gavahane, three other leaders who quit the ruling NCP (AP) and announced their decision to join the rival Sharad Pawar-led NCP are NCP's Pimpri-Chinchwad Students' Wing chief Yash Sane, former corporators Rahul Bhosale and Pankaj Bhalekar.

Gavahane, Rahul and Pankaj submitted their resignations to NCP state President Sunil Tatkare. Sane had sent in his papers to the NCP Student Wing President Prashant Kadam earlier this week.

The resignations by four NCP (AP) leaders come a year after Ajit Pawar rebelled against Sharad Pawar, brought about a dramatic split in the parent party and joined the BJP-led MahaYuti Government in the State.

Karnataka Government pushes pause button on job quota Bill

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **BENGALURU/NEW DELHI**

The Congress-led Karnataka Government Congress-led on Wednesday landed in soup after the Cabinet first approved a controversial Bill mandating first 100 per cent in priv then revising it to two slabs for Kannadigas and finally "put on hold" facing backlash for 48 hours. The reservation in private firms for Group C and Group D posts was made public by Chief Minister Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with leaders Siddaramaiah and later he deleted it, sharing another intervene given rectified post clarifying that "sensitivity" of the matter in the Bill as the State including the Cabinet approved the Bill to fix 50 per cent reservation the silicon city Bengaluru for administrative posts and has a population from north India and else part of the 75 per cent for nonadministrative posts for country "The Cabinet meeting held yesterday approved a Bill to Kannadigas in private industries and other organisations in the State. make recruitment of 100 per The decision was taken in cent Kannadigas mandatory the Cabinet meeting held on for 'C and D' grade posts in all private industries in the Monday. The move, however, did not state. We are a pro-Kannada gone down well with industry leaders and late Government. Our priority is to look after the welfare of the Kannadigas," the CM said in a social media post Government evening sources said the Bill which was to be tabled in the and then deleted it and Karnataka Assembly on replaced with another Thursday has been put on message. "It is our Government's wish hold now. Sources said the that Kannadigas should be Congress high command from New Delhi had to given an opportunity to lead



Cowardly terrorists from Pakistan on the run in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

forces Cecurity have Imobilised a large number of troops to pin down the foreign terrorists on the prowl in the Dessa forest area of Doda. Four Army personnel, including one Captain, were in martvr gunfight in the same zone late Monday night following which these searches were launched across the hilly areas. It is learnt the terrorists had fled the area after targeting the Army personnel. According to local reports, while the joint teams were combing the area a brief exchange of fire took place on two occasions within a span of three to four hours late



Stampeding job seekers in Mumbai



File Photo: PTI the a comfortable life in the motherland. We are a pro-Kannada Government. Our

priority is to look after the welfare of Kannadigas," he said. Karnataka's move is similar

to a Bill introduced by the Harvana Government, mandating 75 per cent reservation in private sector jobs to the residents of the State. It was, however, struck down the Punjab and Haryana High Court on November 17, 2023.

According to sources, the 'Karnataka State of Employment Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024' will be tabled on Thursday in

the Assembly.

Tuesday night. The alert Village Defence Guards (VDGs) reportedly opened fire on observing suspicious movement outside their village, while two explosive shells were recovered from the Gandoh area.

The exchange of fire was first reported at Kalaan Bhata at 10.45 pm on Tuesday and then near Panchan Bhata at 2 am during the ongoing antiterrorist operation in the Desa forest area.

Despite the challenging and terrain weather conditions, efforts are underway to track down and



Security personnel amid heavy security near the site of a recent encounter with terrorists at Desa village, in Doda district, on Wednesday PTI

neutralise the terrorists who have links with the banned Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). Meanwhile, two explosive shells were recovered during a separate search operation in the Sinoo forest area of

Gandoh in Doda district. Sinoo Forest witnessed a daylong encounter on June 26, resulting in the killing of three foreign terrorists and the recovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including a US-made M4 carbine. In a statement on Tuesday, the Army said it had been

conducting a series of joint and coordinated operations with the Jammu and Kashmir Police to eliminate foreign terrorists.

Law Ministry advocates sunset clause in key Bills

A stampede-like situation prevailed near the Mumbai airport where thousands of job aspirants gathered to apply for a limited number of vacancies for the post of loader though the police on Wednesday claimed they had made adequate arrangements to avoid any untoward incident

Haryana Govt announces quota for Agniveers

forest guard, jail warden and

special police officer made by

the State Government, there

will be a 10 per cent horizontal reservation for

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Government on Wednesday announced a ten per cent reservation for Agniveers in the recruitment of constables, forest guards and jail wardens along with quotas in other posts. This decision came ahead of the Assembly polls in the State.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh also Saini said the Government will provide interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh if any Agniveer wishes to

set up their own business. "In direct recruitment to posts Agniveers," he said at a press conference in Chandigarh. He said in Group \check{C} and D of constable, mining guard,

posts, an age relaxation of three years will also be given. "However, for the first batch of Agniveers, this age relaxation will be five years," Saini added.

In direct recruitment for Group C civil posts, there will be a five per cent horizontal reservation for Agniveers, the Chief Minister said.

He also announced sops for industrial units employing Agniveers. "If any industrial unit employs an Agniveer at a salary of more than ₹30,000 per month, then our government will give that unit an annual subsidy of ₹60,000, Saini said.

HC reserves order on **Kejriwal arrest pleas**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday reserved its order on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's pleas challenging his arrest by the CBI in the excise policy case and seeking interim bail. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Kejriwal, referred the case of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during a hearing at the Delhi High Court. Singhvi pointed out that while

Khan was released, he was rearrested in another case, arguing, "It can't happen in our country."

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna,

who conducted the proceedings on a holiday on account of Muharram, heard the arguments advanced by the lawyers of Kejriwal and the CBI and reserved its order on the petitions. The HC has listed his regular bail plea for further arguments on July 29. During the hearing, Singhvi criticised the trial court's decision to allow the CBI's application for production warrants despite Kejriwal being interrogated for nearly three hours on June 25.

Kejriwal's senior counsel not only assailed his arrest by the CBI but also sought his release on bail in the case.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Law and Justice has pitched for the incorporation of a "sunset" clause or automatic repeal provision in certain type of bills to de-clutter statute books and has put it in its 100day agenda.

The sunset clause applies primarily to laws of temporary nature or those dealing with dynamic situations. Once their utility ends, they stand removed from the statute books. Sunset clauses have been widely used in the US, the UK and Germany for more than 20 years now. The legislative department in

the Ministry has made "sunset clause" in new legislative



proposal a part of its 100-day agenda, saying steps will be taken in this regard in consultation with concerned ministries. Ahead of the Lok elections, Prime Sabha Minister Narendra Modi had

directed all Union Ministries

and departments to draw up a 100-day agenda for the next Government.

Former Union Law Secretary P K Malhotra explained that whenever the legislature -Parliament or State legislature — want to restrict the life of a

legislation being passed by it, it may as a matter of policy provide a sunset clause providing that after a lapse of a certain period — five or 10 years depending on the requirement — the law will come to an end. The legislature can pass a fresh law giving the statute, which has become inoperative due to the sunset clause, a fresh lease of life, Malhotra said

According to the legislative department, it seeks to incorporate sunset clause or automatic repealing clause in new legislative proposal in consultation with administrative Ministries and departments concerned. As and when the proposals in this behalf are received by it, element that establishes an necessary action will be taken expiration date or conditions

up, it noted. "This is a long-pending demand. This practice is long-pending prevalent in some other countries also. I think there are many legislations where this kind of clause can be put so that Parliament or State legislature is also vigilant that with the passage of time, if a legislation needs to continue, then they will give it a fresh look. "And if they do not want to continue, then on the day provided in the law, it will automatically come to an end," Malhotra explained. In the recent past, some commissions set up to look into legal reforms have also pressed or such a clause. A sunset clause is a legal

for ending a law or agreement. It outlines that the law or agreement will stop being valid after a certain time, unless renewed. In contracts, a sunset clause permits termination if a particular event doesn't occur by a set date.

This clause automatically removes legislative sections once a specific date is reached. It requires certain provisions or laws to stop functioning unless renewed.

Sunset clauses have been frequently used in India in fiscal and tax laws, such as tax holidays and exchange control regulations. The Constitution itself provides for a 10 year sunset for reservations to Parliament and Legislative Assembly seats (Article 334).



capital 02

Need for harmony in environment and economic development

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

eputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla has said that along with accelerating the pace of development, harmony with the environment is very important.

It is the responsibility of the present generation to ensure that the coming generation gets various natural resources like water, air, soil etc in good condition. Working continuously towards environmental conservation along with development is important and essential in the era of climate change problem.

He said that the government is continuously working in this direction. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla that if natural resources are released the book "Birds of damaged due to avoidable Bhopal" based on authentic reasons for development ronmental protectors work

information of various species of birds found in Bhopal by The Nature Volunteer organization at Hotel Jahanuma

Palace Bhopal. It is noteworthy that this book is dedicated to late PM Lad, a retired officer of the Indian Forest Service. Late Lad has done remarkable work in the field of bird conservation. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla presented a copy of the book to late Lad's

wife Kamla Lad. In the book, 312 species of birds have been documented, including local birds and migratory birds found in Bhopal. Environmental protectors work as a guide on the path of developmentThe

Deputy Chief Minister said

dedicated to late **PM Lad, a retired** officer of the **Indian Forest** Service. Late Lad

This book is

has done remarkable work in the field of bird conservation

works or for infrastructure development, then the government has made provisions to compensate for it. The government is sensitive in this direction. The Deputy Chief Minister praised all

such nature volunteers and institutions including TNV who are working in the direction of environmental protection and said that envi-

as a guide like a shield on the path of development.

Participation of every citizen is necessary for environmental protection. Continuous efforts are important for public awareness. Water Resources Minister Tulsi Silavat, Additional Chief Secretary Forest Ashok Barnwal, Principal Secretary Tourism Shivshekhar Shukla, Forest Force Chief Shri Aseem Srivastava, Padma awardee and President of TNV Bhalu Mondhe and senior journalist and Vice President of TNV Abhilash Khandekar along with TNV officials, intellectuals and volunteers working in the direction of environmental protection were present.

Bhopal has the potential for "International Birds Festival"Tourism Principal

Secretary Shukla underlined the potential and possibilities of organizing national and international level bird festivals in Bhopal and called upon voluntary organizations to make efforts to create public awareness in this direction. Forest Force Chief Srivastava said that books on wildlife and biodiversity prepared by experts provide authentic information, which is extremely useful in the efforts being made towards environmental conservation. Senior journalist and TNV

Vice President Abhilash Khandekar mentioned the ornithologists and efforts that contributed to the creation of the book "Birds of Bhopal". He mentioned various topics of cooperation from the government towards environmental conservation.

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL



Senior BJP leader Umashankar Gupta along with Congress party workers pays tributes to former Congress MP late KN Pradhan on his death anniversary in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Aisect Learn awarded Outstanding EdTech for NEP Implementation Piplani police arrest two absconders in religion conversion case

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

ISECT Learn has been honored at the 29th Elets World Education Summit held in Delhi. This honor has been given to AISECT Learn for Outstanding EdTech for NEP Implementation.

On this occasion, this award was given by Founder and CEO Elets Technomedia and Principal Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Department, which was received by AISECT Learn's Assistant General Manager Prabhakar Sinha and Program Manager Bhumika Jain on

behalf of AISECT. It is known that AISECT Learn has taken a special initiative of NEP LEAP (Learning and Employability Acceleration Partnership) to implement the new education policy. AISECT Learn NEP-LEAP bridges the

AISECT Learn has taken a special initiative of NEP **LEAP** (Learning and **Employability Acceleration Partnership) to** implement the new education policy

government and private educational institutions across India. These partnerships aim to enhance skill development of students, facilitate internships and support the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.Expressing gap between the education

happiness over this achieve-ment, Dr. Siddharth Chaturvedi, Executive Vice world and the professional world through skill development by partnering with edu-President, AISECT Group said that NEP Leap is an important cational institutions and industry experts. It provides students initiative of AISECT Learn which provides support to with the opportunity to do workshops, internships and real world projects, giving implement the new education policy at the institutional level them invaluable practical expeby providing training and rience that enhances their development modules, placeemployability. ments, internships and pro-This transformational partjects, prep tests, content devel-

nership between AISECT opment and LMS integration. Learn and NCSDE is an It is a matter of great pleasure

important milestone in the to receive this award in this journey towards a future-ready, regard. Also, this award certiskill-based education landfies the work being done by scape. NCSDE NEP Leap is AISECT towards the impleworking with more than 160 mentation of the new education policy and shows commitment.It is worth noting that AISECT Learn is the country's largest phygital elearning platform that offers a full range of skill development and industry-oriented courses.

As an emerging leader in the field of ed-tech, AISECT Learn specializes in providing upskilling courses in Digital Marketing, Data Science, Web Development, Mobile App Development, Cloud Computing, Cyber ??Security, Foreign Languages, Communication Skills & Personality Development, Entrepreneurship Skills, Yoga, and other placement assistance courses, empowering youth with relevant job-ready skills today.

piplani police have arrest-ed two absconding accused who were propanions managed to escape from the spot. On Wednesday, the police arrested both the absconding accused. Both are originally from Kerala. The police are busy interrogating them.

At the same time, the police investigation revealed that two of the three women arrested have themselves converted to Christianity. One woman converted only two months ago. The woman told the businessman that she would give him Rs 20 lakh if he embrace their reli-When asked, the women said

that they are telling the good-

ike every year, this year too on 10th Muharram,

people of all religions

together donated blood in

the memory of Imam

Today, on the occasion of

Ghulam-e-Mohammad

organised a blood donation

camp in the memory of Imam Hussain in Bhopal. Just as

Imam Hussain kept humani-

ty alive by sacrificing his life,

today in the same way people

of all religions and all sections

participated enthusiastically in

donated. This blood donation

was organised by Mohsin

Naqvi and Syed Abid Hussain.

Moĥsin Naqvi said that

Hazrat Imam Ĥussain was the

cause and

Aniuman

Hussain.

Muharram,

donating blood.

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

ness of their religion. Kokta resident Dhanveer Singh Thakur runs a parts shop in Shiv Nagar. He said that he was standing outside his shop on Sunday evening. Then he saw three women and two men explaining something to the people of the colony with pamphlets in

their hands. The complainant reached the women and started talking to them. When I asked them what they were doing here, the women told me that they were Christians and were telling people about the goodness of their religion. I asked them what is the benefit of adopting their religion.

Then one woman replied that they will be given Rs 20 lakh. One woman said that she herself converted two months ago ... she has been given a good house to live in and cash money. Her children are being educated in a good school.

Blood donation in memory of Imam Hussain

They also told me that if I adopt their religion, my children will be given free education in a good missionary school.

After this, I kept listening to their conversation along with other business associates. Meanwhile, the police was called from the nearby Anand Nagar police post. After this, the three women were handed over to the police. While the two youths fled after seeing the police coming.

The police have registered a case on the complaint of Kokta resident Dhanveer Singh Thakur.

Pamphlets, religious books and SI Santosh Raghuvanshi said literature like diaries have been that the police started the invesseized from the possession of tigation as soon as the comthe women. The absconding plaint was received. On verifiaccused are being searched. A cation on the spot, the allegacase has been registered against tions of the complainant were all the five accused under the confirmed. Propaganda related Religious Freedom Act. The pamphlets were found with three arrested women have the women. The names of the been released on bail after givarrested women are Mary ing them notice.

> deceit. Due to this refusal, Hazrat

> Imam Hussain,

along with his

family and select

companions, was

martyred in the

Muharram while

fighting against

injustice, hungry

and thirsty, in the

field of Karbala

(sandy area of

month

Arabia).

Recused cubs medically examined

Vastwal, Mary Masiha and

Suman Masiha. Two other

accused Chandrabhan and

Badaprasad managed to escape

from there. Both were arrested

The police have registered a

case against all five people under the sections of the

Religious Freedom Act. All the

three accused women are nuns.

Two of them are from Bhopal

and one from Narmadapuram.

Mary and Suman themselves

had also informed about being

converted during interroga-

on Wednesday.

tion

Bhopal: Medical examination of 2 female cubs rescued from Budhni and brought to Van Vihar, Bhopal was done on Wednesday.

The team of Dr. Atul Gupta, Dr. Togadia, Dr. Raiat Kulkarni, Dr. Hamza and Dr. Vaibhav Shukla conducted the examination.

On X-ray of both the cubs. it was found that they have multiple fractures on their spinal cord and pelvic girdle. Due to which their back part is completely paralyzed. The condi-

Abid Sved Hussain saidThat sacrifice of Imam Hussain is a ource of insp

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tion of the cubs is critical. Both the cubs injured after y a train in Budhn of Sehore district were rescued by the forest department team on Tuesday afternoon. For the first time, they were rescued from the train and brought to Rani Kamlapati railway station in Bhopal. From there they were sent to Van Vihar. Since then, both of them are under the supervision of doctors.



moting religious conversion, three women were arrested earlier by the police on Sunday. During this, two of their com-

Shiite Muslims mourn during a procession on the occasion of Muharram festival in Bhopal on Wednesday.

AIIMS Bhopal soars to 16th position among govt medical colleges

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

IIMS Bhopal has made a tremendous leap in The national ranking of government medical colleges, securing the 16th position across the country.

This remarkable achievement was highlighted in an article published in the July issue of Reader's Digest, which noted that AIIMS Bhopal was unranked two years ago but has since made significant progress.

In 2023, AIIMS Bhopal was ranked 20th, and in 2024, it climbed four places to reach the 16th position. This dramatic improvement is attributed to the leadership of Professor (Dr) Ajai Singh, who took charge as the Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal in August 2022. Under his guidance, several decisive measures were

implemented to strengthen the institution's credibility and performance. A few Milestones Achieved

Under Professor Singh's Leadership are: The number of OPD patients increased by 56%. Admissions in IPD rose from 32,000 to 50,000. There was a 170% increase in emer-

AIIMS Bhopal has also made remarkable progress in the field of medical research, contributing to the institution's overall growth

gency cases. Bed occupancy rates improved from 62% to 77%. The number of beneficiaries under this scheme grew by 53%, reaching 13.337 These achievements reflect

the significant improvements made under Professor Singh's tenure, positioning AIIMS Bhopal as a rapidly advancing institution in the healthcare sector.

AIIMS Bhopal has also made remarkable progress in the field of medical research, contributing to the institution's overall growth and recognition. With continued efforts and strategic initiatives, AIIMS Bhopal is poised to achieve new heights of excellence in healthcare and medical education in the coming years.

Chief Minister welcomed at Amarwada

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday, arrived in Amarwara, located in the Chhindwara district, and expressed his gratitude to the local residents. Upon his arrival in Sakarwada village of Amarwara, he was warmly welcomed with flowers and garlands by the citizens. Yadav participated in a rally, greeting the people of Amarwara with heartfelt appreciation. Overwhelmed

by their affection, he showered flowers on the crowd and greeted them warmly. Various organizations including the Banjara Samaj, Gramin Mandal, Lodhi Samaj, Automobile Union, Vishwakarma Samaj, Thiliya Sangh, Vanshkar Samaj, Driver Union, Thakur Samaj, Yadav Samaj, Suryavanshi Samaj, Chaurasia Samaj, Soni Samaj, Jain Samaj, Malviya Samaj, Punjabi Samaj, Vyapari Mandal, Nema Samaj, Chironji Traders, Garmeta Samiti, Sachiv Sangh, Rozgar Sahayak Sangh, Sarpanch Sangh, Municipal Employees, Municipal

President, Corporators and Mehra Samaj besides several other organisations wel-comed the Chief Minister at various places.

grandson of Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad Saheb, Revenue cases must be resolved promptly in set time frame: CM

Bhopal: Chief Minister In the Revenue Mahabhiyan Mohan Yadav said that Revenue MahaAbhiyan - 2.0 will be conducted from July 18 to August 31 to ensure the convenience of farmers and the timely resolution of pending revenue cases.

During this campaign, Patwari and field staff will remain at their respective headquarters and discharge their responsibilities. A digital crop survey will also be carried out as part of this initiative. Dr. Yadav emphasized that revenue matters should be handled with seriousness and within the set timeframe.

Revenue Minister Verma said that undisputed nomination transfer cases will be resolved in 30 days, disputed transfer cases will be resolved in 150 days.

The time limit for resolving property distribution cases is 90 days and instructions have been given to resolve demarcation cases in 45 days. Simultaneously, the work of updating the map will continue. Revenue Minister Shri Karan Singh Verma has said that the officers and employees who have done excellent work in the Revenue Mahaabhiyan will be honored.

2.0, the target has been set to resolve the pending cases of nomination transfer, property distribution, record correction, and demarcation by June 30, 2024. These include 75 thousand 964 cases of nomination transfers, 9 thousand 897 cases of property distribution, 9 thousand 889 cases of record correction, and 25 thousand 423 cases of demarcation. Along with this, as of June 30, 2024, pending cases of correc-tion on one crore 95 lakh 45

recorded.

thousand maps will also be

Digital crop survey Under the Revenue Mahabhiyan, a digital crop survey will be conducted from August 1 to September 15, 2024. Youth will be selected and trained by July 25 to visit farmers' fields, photograph crops, and update the information. The campaign will also ensure the registration of cases on the RCMS and the implementation of previous orders in Khasras and maps. Additionally, free Samagra eKYC and Samagra to Khasra linking services will be provided. A timeframe has also been established to complete the survey of populated land under Swamity Yojana.

tribute to Imam Hussain by who fearlessly and bravely In total, 45 units of blood were

raised the voice of man and humanity against injustice and terrorism.

Hazrat Imam Hussain refused to accept the authority of the terrorist of that time, Yazid, who had become the Caliph by usurping power through

tion not only for Muslims all over the world, but for the entire humanity. Hussain belongs to all of us. That is why we should also offer our tribute of faith to Imam Hussain and his family members who were martyred in Karbala by donating blood in our own way.



Veterinarians treat injured one out of two tiger cubs that were critically injured after being hit by a train near Budhni forest on Sunday, at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

CM appreciates efforts to save lives of injured tiger cubs

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan taken by the Sehore District Administration and Bhopal Railway Division to save the lives of the injured tiger cubs.

that on Monday morning, three tiger cubs had become Hospital in Bhopal for treatment. victims of a railway track accident at Midghat near Budhni in Sehore district. One of the three cubs died while the remaining two injured cubs were rescued

Appreciating this, Chief Minister Yadav said that this is an excellent example of sensitivity set by the Sehore District Administration and

Railway Board towards the and a special train of one lives of humans as well as animals and birds and fulcompartment was arranged to bring them to the Wildlife filling one's responsibility.

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Yadav has appreciated the prompt action

Chief Minister Yadav said



Delhi govt showed lack of sensitivity to environment: SC

PNS NEW DELHI

⊣he Delhi government has shown lack of sensitivity there was no statutory power L over protecting the envivesting in the Delhi governronment, the Supreme Court ment to grant such permission," the bench said in an order dated

said while rapping it for granting permission to the Delhi Development Authority to chop 422 trees in the Southern Ridge's reserve forest area for the construction of a road A bench of justices Abhay S Oka

permission under the Delhi and Ujjal Bhuyan said it is an Preservation of Trees Act, 1994," admitted position as reflected in the statement made by the tree officer that for felling 422 trees, the officer did not grant any permission.

The apex court was hearing suo motu (on its own) contempt proceedings against the vice chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) over alleged cutting of 1,100 trees in the ridge forest for a road widening project.

it said. The top court said, like the DDA, the Delhi government has shown a lack of sensitivity over protecting the environment. The bench said the Delhi government has not even provided

July 12.

"Thus, apart from the trees in the

ridge area, the government facil-

itated cutting and felling the trees

outside the ridge area without

the tree officer and the Tree Authority an office or basic infrastructure. The Delhi government must come before the court and tell "how it will compensate for the

"The Delhi government must damage caused to the environtake the blame for granting perment due to its illegal acts", the mission to fell 422 trees, though bench said

"The affidavit of the Delhi government also shows that this is not the only instance where the forest department of the Delhi government purported to grant permission for the felling of trees. They had done it earlier also," it said.

The Delhi government's stand is that "the DDA has accepted that they misread the notifications issued by the Delhi government", the bench said. "That will not absolve the Delhi

government of its responsibility of passing orders permitting the felling of trees, though no statutory power is vested in the Delhi government," it said.

The top court said the Delhi government must also come out with an action taken report, if any, against the erring officers who are alleged to have granted permis-

sions for the felling of trees. "Apart from a statement on oath which we expect the Delhi government to make about compensating the loss caused to the environment, we hope and trust that the Delhi government will immediately stop exercising the non-existent power of granting permissions for the felling of trees," it said.

The bench said, "While we do so, we direct the Delhi government to ascertain how many such permissions have been granted by the Delhi government in the last five years and place all those permissions on record."

During the hearing, the apex court expressed anguish over continuous "cover up" by authorities over the role of Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena in tree felling in the ridge area and directed the DDA to inform it whether the order to cut trees was passed on basis of the LG's

oral permission or the DDA independently took the deci-

sion Senior advocate Aditya Sondhi, appearing for the Delhi government, assured the court that office infrastructure, staff and necessary hardware and software will be made available to the Tree Authority and the tree officer within six weeks.

The bench said, "The Delhi government shall also ensure that the Tree Authority is properly constituted before the next date. Regarding the forest department of the state government, the entire infrastructure must be put in place within two months from today.

"The Delhi government must file an affidavit indicating what measures the forest department is taking to prevent environmental damage, including keeping vigil to stop the illegal felling of trees," it said.



Chief Minister Mohan Yaday, during his visit to Delhi, called on to Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the latter's residence Pioneer photo

Youth nabbed in GTB murder CII launches VET Swiss professional disploma PNS NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Wednesday apprehended a 19 year old accused in the Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Hospital firing case where a 32 year old dentist was shot dead by a teenager inside the ward of the hospital in a case of mistaken identity.

The accused, who is the third arrest in the case, has been identified as Moin is a resident of Ghaziabad's Loni. "He is among the main conspirators and was involved in the recce before the firing incident. He has conducted recce for continuous 4 days of the hospital along with his associates Ayan, Aman and Shavez," DCP Shahdara Surendra Choudhary said

Earlier, the police on Monday

old Faiz from Loni in Uttar Pradesh and Farhan from Delhi's Chauhan Banger area, but said they did not fire the shots on Sunday evening. However, they provided logistality industry for Indian tic support to the main accused. youth, the Confederation of Moin is the brother of Faiz and Indian Industry (CII), in collaboration with EHL and Hyatt was present with him at the apartment of Faheem, associ-Hotels, has launched the ated with the Hasim baba gang, Vocational Education and

who was the mastermind of the incident. While Faiz provided that vehicle used in the commission of offence, Moin was involved in hiding the motorcycle. "He is part of the backup plan in case of failure of the original plan. Further investigation is in

Training (VET) Swiss Professional Diploma program. To announce this diploma program, a press conference was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Gurugram on Friday. Provided by the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL), this diploma program is glob-

ally recognised. Students

Tith the aim of pro-

moting career oppor-

tunities in the hospi-

on-the-job training at Hyatt Hotels in Delhi-NCR and Lucknow. As a matter of fact, EHL is the world's top-ranking university in hospitality and leisure management and approximately 500 students are being trained under this program every year. The objective of launching

this diploma program is to strengthen India's role as a global provider of hospitality expert professionals.

On this occasion, Saugata Roy Choudhury, Executive Director of the Confederation of Indian Industry, said, "Onthe-job training is very important for today's youth so that they can be independent without wasting time. Besides the enrolling in this diploma will hospitality industry we are planning to launch similar receive eighteen months of

programs in eight other sectors." After the successful completion of this diploma students will receive a job guarantee from CII. On this occasion Sunjay Sharma, Managing Director, India, and Southwest Asia, Hyatt Hotels, expressed his views and said , "Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) is recognized by major hospitality chains around the globe. Our prime objective is to pre-pare skilled professionals who can work in world-class hotels and restaurants of the world." On this occasion Aman Sachdeva, Director and Regional Head (South Asia, Middle East, and Myanmar), EHL, and Arif Khan, Regional VP-HR, India, and Southwest Asia, Hyatt Hotels were also present to grace this event.

capital 03

A contestant participates in a mud challenge cycle race organised at Government Hamidia Boys HS school ground in Bhopal on Wednesday

nabbed two accused, 20 year ZS EV achieves highest-ever monthly retail sales

New Delhi: The Jamia Milla Islamia (JMI) has suspended a professor and ordered inquiry into complaints of sexual harassment against him by four PhD scholars, one of whom had to cancel her admission.

The officiating Vice Chancellor of the university, Mohammad Shakeel, ordered the suspension of the professor using his emergency powers and placed the inquiry before the Internal Complaints Committee of the university, an order said. The suspended professor has

been barred from taking classes pending inquiry and is asked to mark his attendance at the chief proctor office until further order.

The students have alleged the professor used "uncouth and uncivilised language" against them during a lecture and also

JMI suspends professor

New Delhi: JSW MG Motor India has achieved a significant milestone in its NEV (New Energy Vehicle) journey through its ZS EV, India's first Pure-

Electric Internet SUV, recording its highest monthly sales. Sales of the ZS EV increased by 95% in Q2 '2024 compared to Q1 '2024, demonstrating its growing appeal among EV buyers in India. Notably, electric vehicles accounted for 40% of the company's total sales in June, highlighting the rising demand for MG EVs and greater customer acceptance and satisfaction and a shift towards ZS EV

JSW MG Motor India's June NEV sales increased by 21% NEVs to our overall sales reinyear-on-year, further solidifying forces our commitment to susits strategy for this category. The tainable mobility. We remain manufacturer's overall NEV segdedicated to supporting the

Q2 2024 compared to Q1 2024, pointing to an accelerating adoption of its electric vehicles.

The company remains committed to investing in advanced technology and NEV infrastructure to support a greener future. Their focus continues to be on providing customers with cutting-edge NEVs that prioritize efficiency, performance, and sustainability."Our focus on expanding our electric vehicle portfolio is yielding positive results, as evidenced by the strong sales performance of MG EVs," said, Satinder Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India

"The significant contribution of

India and providing our customers with innovative and environmentally friendly transportation solutions," he added.Beyond the strong sales figures, JSW MG Motor India has taken concrete steps to solidify its position as a leader in India's NEV space and contribute to strengthening and boosting the country's EV infra-

structure. With 6-way charging and its ecosystem partners, JSW MG India has installed more than 15,000 charging touchpoints nationwide, including public and home chargers. The carmaker has been focused on bringing a world-class technology-enabled futuristic suite of automobile products including the new generation of intelligent connected ICE and NEVs

Heavy rains coupled with thunder, lightning witnessed in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

more details.

Teavy rainfall with thunder and lightning was **I** witnessed on Wednesday evening in the state capital.

progress," a senior police offi-

cer said, adding that he is

being questioned to ascertain

shine since morning and increased humidity made weather conditions hot. Clouds covered the sky in the evening

line Upper Lake reached 1659.60 feet by Wednesday afternoon. The water has increased by about half a foot in two days. The water level of the pond is increasing due to heavy rains in the catchment area.

Due to rain, there is good water in the Kolans river. Due to this, the water level of Bada Talab is

the water level of Bada Talab is

The average rainfall in Bhopal in the month of July is 367.7 mm i.e. 14.4 inches. More than 4 inches of water has fallen in Bhopal from 1 to 16 July. Now 10.4 inches of water is needed to complete the quota

Meteorological Department, According to data from the last more rain than normal. Jater L

fall in 10 years. The maximum rainfall of 33.6 inches was recorded in the years 2015 and 2022, while 6.1 inches of rain was recorded in 2020.

Meteorologists said that there is a trend of heavy rain in the second fortnight of July. Similar weather is expected this time too. Now there may be continuous heavy rain. This will increase the figure.

It rains heavily in Bhopal in the month of July. There is a record of 1031.4 mm i.e. 41 inches of rain in this month. This happened in the year 1986. On the other hand, on 22 July 1973, 11 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. This is also a record so far. This time the monsoon arrived on 23 June. The figures are better so far. There has been 26%

the dam

Half of the city also gets water supply from Kolar Dam. The total water level of the dam is 1516.40 feet. By Wednesday afternoon, the level became

A lot of water is still needed to fill the dam fully. Due to heavy

This year, 106% of normal rainfall is expected in Bhopal. Last time, there was 18% less rainfall, i.e., 82% (30.9 inches), whereas the normal rainfall in Bhopal is 37.6 inches. Meteorologists say that this time, even though the monsoon arrived 3 days late, it will

Earlier, the city witnessed sun-

and it started raining. The water level in Bhopal's life-

According to | 355 mm i.e., 14 inches of water

has fallen in Bhopal so far. This is 35 percent of the quota. There is a possibility of good rain in the coming days. In such a situation, this figure will

increase even more.

also increasing. Due to rain, there is good water in the Kolans river. Due to this, also increasing. 4 inches of rain fell in July

the of July.

1482.90 feet.

rains in the catchment area, the level will keep increasing. There is currently 1647.63 feet of water in Kaliyasot Dam and 1650.98 feet of water in Kerwa Dam.

All talks between BMC officials and BCLL officials to restore bus services fail

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

fficers of Bhopal M u n i c i p a l Corporation and BCLL (Bhopal City Link Limited) have failed to resolve the issue of city buses. A total of 139 city buses have not run for the last 14 days.

Mayor Malti Rai has held a meeting in this matter, but the ticket collection dispute could not be resolved. In such a situation, now a new agency is being decided. The last date for its tender is tomorrow i.e. Thursday. Earlier due to the ticket collection dispute, the wheels of these buses have been 'braked' since July 4. On July 9, Mayor Rai had a meeting with the officers and the responsible persons of the 'Chalo App' company that collects tickets. After this meeting, 10 buses were taken out from the depot located in Baghsewania on July 10. The remaining 139 buses were not operated. The reason behind this is that there is no consensus between ticket collection and BCLL. Meanwhile, a new agency is being decided.

As of Wednesday, the new agency could not be decided. However, the tender process is being done for this. Thursday is the last date for filling the tender.

The officers said, even if the tender process is com-pleted on Thursday, the work will be done only after the next four to five

Mayor Malti Rai has held a meeting in this matter, but the ticket collection dispute could not be resolved

days. In such a situation. the corporation can start operating the buses in its own hands only through drivers and conductors. On these routes where 149 buses run, an average of 40000 passengers travel there in a day. Passengers are upset due to non-operation of buses. The reason behind the buses not running is the demand to reduce the amount given per km by the ticket collection

agency 'Chalo App'. For five days, the officials of BCLL and the corporation could not find a solution to this problem. In such a situation, Mayor Rai had to hold a meeting on the sixth day. Still, the operation of all the buses could not be started. In this case, Aziz Khan,

president of Bhopal City Vehicle Drivers and Conductors Trade Union INTUC, said that drivers and conductors have become unemployed due to the stoppage of bus operations. They are also facing difficulties in maintaining their families. The corporation should reach a conclusion soon.

Wednesday claimed that submissions by the CBI counsel in state High Court proves that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the mastermind of the alleged excise policy linked money laundering scam and asserted that there is a strong bond between him and Pakistan's

political setup. 'After Wednesday's Court Hearing, it's clear that on one hand Arvind Kejriwal is the main mastermind of liquor scam and on the other hand, there is a strong bond between Kejriwal & Pakistan's political setup," Sachdeva alleged.

Delhi BJP chief claimed that the CBI counsel on Wednesday convincingly presented in court that Kejriwal is the mastermind of Delhi Government's

New Delhi: Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Liquor Scam and it was on his direction that wholesale liquor dealers commission was raised from 2 per cent to 12 per cent which resulted in reported massive kickbacks to the ruling AAP.

CBI counsel's submission suggests Kejriwal was mastermind: BJP

"Secondly the trail of 45 crores kickbacks going to AAP for Goa elections too stands out very clear. Thirdly it stands clear that liquor scam's prime accused Vijay Nayyar was allowed to live in a government bungalow in close proximity to CM House on the instructions of Kejriwal himself," he said.

Sachdeva said that the way Kejriwal's counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi cited the case of a former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan going on some court in Pakistan while pleading for Kejriwal's Bail clearly establishes that there is

a close bond between Kejriwal's politics and Pakistan's political setup.

"It's pertinent to mention here that during the recent Lok Sabha elections a former Pakistan Minister lauded Kejriwal and gave statement appealing to Delhi voters for Kejriwal," he alleged and stated that Kejriwal's counsel cited the example of Pakistan's former PM İmran Khan's case in a Pakistan's court and equated Kejriwal's case to Imran Khan's case calling them cases of political harassment.

"A counsel cannot give a statement in court without his client's concurrence and statement of Singhvi relating Keiriwal and Imran's cases shows that there is a strong bond between Kejriwal and Pakistan's political setup," he said.



Commuters travel on the road amid rain in Bhopal on Wednesday

Pioneer photo

Banks of Kshipra River to be enhanced with facilities for devotees

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

n the initiative of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, a detailed action plan has been prepared to maintain the continuous water flow in the Kshipra River in Simhastha-2028. The plan includes construction of barrages and preventing pollution through diversion of the Kanh River. Basic Facilities will be ensured on the banks of Kshipra River to provide bathing facilities to the devotees. Experts will select the stones and other materials for construction of these Ghats.Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has instructed senior officers and engineers of the concerned departments to prepare an action plan and implement it after extensive study and research. Devotees will not face any inconvenience in bathing etc Chief Minister Yadav has To ensure the Kshipra River

is pollution-free, a comprehensive plan has been proposed involving the diversion of the Kanh River, the construction of 11 barrages on the Kanh River, and 18 barrages on the Kshipra River across the Indore, Ujjain, and Dewas districts. This initiative aims to maintain a continuous water flow in the Kshipra River, especially for the Simhastha festival, enhancing the facilities for bathing. The action plan includes lifting 51 mm of water from the Sewarkhedi Barrage during the mon-soon season. Additionally, the existing Silakheri reser-voir will be expanded to ensure a steady flow of water in the Kshipra River throughout the year. This will provide devotees and tourists with convenient bathing conditions regardless of the season.

instructed the construction agencies to ensure that all the work of the work plan should be done with quality within the time limit. It should be kept in mind that the proposed structures on the Kshipra river, the construction of proposed barrages, and the construction of necessary ghats do not cause any inconvenience to the residents. Devotees will get adequate

facilities at these ghats

According to the proposed action plan, 1500 metres from VIP to the Shani Temple in Ujjain, 7175 meters from V.I.P. Ghat to Jeevankhedi Bridge, 3810 meters from Jeevankhedi Bridge to Wakankar Bridge, 2938 meters from Wakankar Bridge to Gaughat Stopdam, 1590 meters from Chakratirtha to Rinmukteshwar Bridge, 11442 meters from Bhartrihari Caves and Siddhavat to Nagda

Barrage will be constructed. In this way, the construction work of ghats of the total length of about 29 thousand 215 meters will be completed.JP President Virendra Sachdeva on Wednesday claimed that submissions by the CBI counsel in state High Court proves that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is the mastermind of the alleged excise policy linked money laundering scam and asserted that there is a strong bond between him and Pakistan's

Bypass and 760 meters from

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here that during the recent Lok Sabha elections a former Pakistan Minister lauded Kejriwal and gave statement appealing to Delhi voters for Kejriwal," he alleged and stated that Kejriwal's counsel cited the example of Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan's case in a Pakistan's court and equated Kejriwal's case to Imran Khan's case calling them cases of political harassment.

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RPF rescues 84,119 kids at risk of falling into wrong hands

PNS NEW DELHI

The RPF has during last seven years rescued 84,119 children, who were at risk in stations and trains, preventing them from falling into wrong hands, a press statement from the Railway Ministry said.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has over the past seven years been at the forefront of an operation named "Nanhe Faristey" – a mission dedicat-ed to rescuing children in need of care and protection across various Indian Railway Zones, according to the Ministry. "During last seven years (2018-May 2024), the RPF has rescued 84,119 children who were at risk in stations and trains, preventing them from falling into harm's way," the Ministry said

"Nanhe Farishtey is more than just an operation; it is a lifeline for thousands of children who find themselves in precarious situations.

The data from 2018 to 2024 illustrates a story of unwavering dedication, adaptability, and resilience.



This year 2018 set a strong street children. The consistent foundation for the operation, numbers showcased the perhighlighting the urgent need sistent issue of children running away and needing prosuch an initiative," the Ministry said. "During 2019, tection," it added. the RPF's efforts continued to According to the Ministry, the bear fruit, with a total of 15,932 year 2020 was challenging due children, including both boys to the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted normal life and significantly impacted the Out of 15,932 children rescued, 12,708 as runaway children, operations.

1454 as missing, 1036 children as left behind, 350 as destitute, Despite these challenges, the RPF managed to rescue 5,011 56 as kidnapped, 123 as men-tally challenged and 171 as children, it added. "During 2021, the RPF saw

resurgence in their rescue oper-ations, saving 11,907 children. This year saw a notable increase in the number of children found and protected, with 9601 children identified as runaways, 961 as missing, 648 as left behind, 370 as destitute, 78 as kidnapped, 82 as mentally challenged and 123 as street children," the Ministry said. Lauding the RPF, the Ministry stated that during 2022, the

RPF's unwavering commitment was evident as they res-

cued 17,756 children, the highest in the recorded period. It said, "This year saw a significant number of runaways and missing children being found and given the necessary care and protection.

14,603 children were identified as runaways, 1156 as missing, 1035 as left behind, 384 as destitute, 161 as kidnapped, 86 as mentally challenged and 212 as street children. The efforts were bolstered by increased awareness and more coordi-nated operations across the railway zones."

"During the year 2023, RPF managed to rescue 11,794 children

With 8916 children rescued as runaways, 986 as missing, 1055 as left behind, 236 as destitute, 156 as kidnapped, 112 as mentally challenged and 237 children as street children, the RPF continued to play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable children," it added.

Highlighting the persistent issues of child runaways and the dedicated efforts of the RPF to address them, the Ministry maintained that in the first five

months of 2024, the RPF has already rescued 4,607 children. "With 3430 children rescued as runaways, the early trends suggest a continued commitment to the operation "Nanhe Farishtey'" the Ministry said. It added, "Through their efforts, the RPF has not only rescued children but also raised awareness about the plight of runaway and missing children, prompting further action and support from various stakeholders.

The operation continues to evolve, adapting to new challenges and striving to create a safer environment for children across India's vast railway network.

Informing the initiatives of the Indian Railways, the Ministry said, "Track Child Portal con tains comprehensive details aggrieved about children.Indian Railway has established child helpdesks at over 135 railway stations. When a child is rescued by the Railway Protection Force (RPF), they are handed over to the District Child Welfare Committee which hands over the child to parents."



nation 04

Indian CAPF, special commando dogs to secure Paris Olympics

breeding and training school located on Taralu near Bengaluru, Karnataka, the sec-

'The Belgian Malinois breed is

considered to be the most pre-

ferred combat dog by security forces across the globe," he

said. The Malinois, a litter of an

Israeli male Malinois crossed

with an American bitch, shot to

fame when it was reported that

the dogs assisted US Special

Forces in sniffing out Osama Bin Laden's hideout in

Abbottabad in Pakistan in 2011.

The dog, which has a heavy

snout and a big head, can detect suspicious human pres-ence and IEDs with precision and it is intelligent enough to

vided to the security agencies

media reports, France is deploy-

ing around 30,000 police offi-

cers each day for the Olympics,

which will be held between July

26 and August 11, with a peak

of 45,000 for the opening cer-

About 18,000 members of the

military are also helping ensure

security, including thousands

housed in a huge, special camp

erected on the edge of Paris, the

emony on the Seine river.

ond officer said.

PTI NEW DELHI

Ten specially-trained Indian L CAPF and special commando force dogs are in France to provide a counter-terrorist and anti-sabotage security cover to various venues of the Paris Olympics slated to open next week, official sources said on Wednesday. The ten Indian K9 (canine)

teams will undertake sniffing and patrolling duties at various venues that will hold events for the Paris Olympics.

They have been given special 10-week training for this first-ever kind of collaboration of canine squads between the Indian and the French government, a security officer told PTI.

The teams along with their handlers are drawn from the central armed police forces (CAPFs) like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force apart from the federal contingency commando force National Security Guard (NSG) and the Assam Rifles. The dogs are from the ferocious-looking Belgian Malinois breed which undertake infantry patrol and anti-sabotage sniffer tasks to detect bombs, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and trouble makers in various internal security theatres of

three-year-old Denby.

They have been chosen for this task after stringent tests conducted at the CRPF dog

Compensation for IAF soldier infected Childhood obesity may lead to weakened heart, says UCL research PTI NEW DELHI

dren.

for

and girls were rescued.

ARCHANA JYOTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

In the midst of a rapid increase in childhood obesity both in India and globally, researchers from University College London have issued a stark warning: individuals who gain excessive weight from their 20s onwards may face weakened hearts by the time they reach their 60s.

The study, published in the European Heart Journal, underscores that early weight gain has lasting implications on heart health, separate from the effects of later-life obesity. Alun Hughes, Professor of Cardiovascular Physiology and Pharmacology at UCL, emphasised that while the adverse effects of being overweight on heart health are known, the ECGs. long-term impact of weight gain across adulthood remains

less understood. He said that while it is known that "being overweight is associated with poorer heart health, we know little about the longterm relationship between being overweight over the adult life course and subsequent



aimed "to look at whether being overweight at earlier stages of adult life showed lasting associations with poorer heart health irrespective of people's weight in later life". The study included 1,690 peo-

Researchers found that elevated BMI from age 20 onwards led to higher left ventricular mass in individuals in their 60s, indicating poor heart health and increased mortality risk. A five-unit higher BMI at age 43 correlated with a 15 per cent or 27-gram increase in left ventricular mass.



venienced.

two weeks.

in two weeks.

It asked the amicus to discuss

the issue with the ASG so that

it can be sorted out and post-

ed the matter for hearing after

On March 5, the apex court had

directed that an amount of Rs

18 lakh towards attendant

expenses be paid to the man

and the remainder be deposit-

ed in the court's registry with-

The bench had also directed

that his disability be considered

as 100 per cent for paying him

tempt of the directions issued (AIIMS), Delhi, for it. by the top court in its 2023 ver-The bench said since the man dict came up for hearing before resides in Ajmer, a good medthe bench on Tuesday. ical facility can be found in Additional Solicitor General Jaipur to ensure he is not incon-

(ASG) Vikramjit Banerjee said they have filed a compliance affidavit in the matter.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Karol and K V Viswanathan, observed that the on Indian Parliament on amount deposited in the court registry be released to the veteran. An advocate, who is assisting the top court as an amicus curiae in the matter, spoke about the soldier's regular medical check-up and said the bench can consider referring him to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences

the disability pension. In its 2023 verdict, the apex court had said, "It is held that the appellant is entitled to compensation, calculated at Rs 1,54,73,000 towards compensation on account of medical negligence of the respondents, who are held liable for the injury suffered by the appellant."

It had said since individual liability cannot be assigned, the respondent organisations (IAF and Indian Army) are held vicariously liable, jointly and severally.

'The amount shall be paid to the appellant within six weeks by the IAF, his employer; it is open to the IAF to seek reimbursement, to the extent of half the sum, from the Indian Army. All arrears related to disability pension too shall be disbursed to the appellant within the said six weeks period," the apex court had said. The top court had passed the verdict on an appeal by the IAF veteran who challenged an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) rejecting his claim for compensation.

and it is intelligent chough to communicate these signals through a nod of its head and not by barking which could lead to alerting of the target. The Indian dog teams will be deployed as per the requirements of the French Police and security agencies and this deployment is part of the security cooperation between the two countries, the first officer said. The handlers are donning their regular combat uniform with a special patch of the Indian flag on their chest and another on the shoulder prodeployed for the mega games event, he said. According to international

the country like anti-Naxal operations and counter-terrorist operations, he said. A second officer said the handlers of these ten canine teams have undertaken refresher physical training apart from a special capsule of basics of the French language for the Olympics task.The squad includes five-year-old CRPF canine Vast and

reports said. India will be represented by 117 athletes at the Olympics apart from 140 support staff and officials.

taminated blood at a military hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba in 2002, has received Rs 18 lakh and the residual amount from over Rs 1.41 crore awarded to him as compensation has been deposited with the apex court registry, the IAF has informed the Supreme Court. The apex court, in a judgement delivered on September 26 last year on a plea by the veteran, had directed the IAF to pay him

ple born in England, Scotland, and Wales in 1946. The participants were examined based on their body mass index (BMI), waist-to-hip ratio, and

he had to be administered one

They added that the study mostly European people, so it may not apply to the global population, although Professor Hughes said there is a close link. With alarm bells ringing, par-ticularly for the young, these findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address the obesity epidemic in India, aiming to safeguard future generations from

The study holds importance for countries across the globe including in India, given that obesity is one of the major symptoms of diseases like type 2 diabetes, kidney problems, hypertension (high blood pressure), gut issues and even liver diseases. A person is considered obese when their body mass index (BMI, a measure of body fat based on an individual's weight and height) is more than 30. Statistics reveal a concerning trend, with over 1.25 crore children aged 5 to 19 in India now classified as overweight, a significant rise from 40 lakh in 1990.

Hughes noted that the research

risks. World over too, the picture is not very encouraging. A recent World Health Organisation (WHO) study reported that over one billion people have been struggling with obesity across the globe.

serious cardiovascular health

Country needs new liberalised approach to political economy: Ramesh

PNS NEW DELH

around Rs 1.5 crore as com-

pensation. The former soldier

had taken ill during "Operation Parakram", launched in the

aftermath of the terrorist attack

December 13, 2001, and was

admitted to the hospital where

The top court had in April this

year dismissed a plea seeking review of its September 2023

judgement in the matter. The

veteran's petition alleging con-

unit of blood

The Congress on Wednesday L claimed that India has been locked into a cycle of low investment since 2014 due to a combination of "erratic policy, rampant cronyism, and the ED/IT/CBI raid raj", and asserted that the country needs a new liberalised approach to political economy.

Ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget next week, Congress General Secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said the single

most important statistic that explains India's inability to grow faster since 2014 is the sluggish investment rate".

"India has been locked into a cycle of low investment since 2014, due to a combination of erratic policy, rampant cronyism, and the ED/IT/CBI raid raj," Ramesh said in a statement. Low investment drags down the medium and long-term GDP growth rates, which in turn drags down wages and consumption growth, he said. "The biggest component of investment - private domestic



investment - has been in the doldrums since 2014. It was solidly in the 25-30% of GDP range during Dr Manmohan Singh's tenure. Under the self-declared divinity, it has been

squarely in the 20-25% of GDP range," Ramesh said. He said gross FDI as a percentage of GDP has also more or less stayed constant since 2014. "This is, however, only part of

the story. Since at least 2016, multinational companies across the world have been looking to divest from China and invest in other developing countries.

"India, with a large and growing labour pool, was at the right place at the right time - but this generational opportunity to garner FDI and become a manufacturing and export-oriented economy has been squandered," Ramesh said. Countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam have walked away with the benefits, he said. "Sops like corporate tax cuts and PLIs can't compensate for a freer society, polity, and economy one that is free from demonetization-like masterstrokes, cronyism, and Raid Raj," Ramesh said, hitting out at the Modi government.'What India needs is not marginal policy tinkering, but a new, liberalised approach to political economy," the Congress leader said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Budget for 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha on July 23.

JP Nadda for global regulatory standards

PNS NEW DELHI

A mid recent scrutiny of sev-eral drug companies over product issues such as cough syrup, Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Wednesday stressed the critical need for the Central Drugs Standard Control Örganisation (CDSCO) to draw a roadmap with timelines of adopting global standards in its regulatory functions.

His directives came while reviewing the regulation of drugs, cosmetics and medical devices here where he underscored India's aspiration to reaffirm its status as the 'pharmacy of the world' by aligning its drug regulatory framework with international norms.

Nadda emphasised the necessity for a robust regulatory structure that matches India's extensive pharmaceutical industry and meets global expectations effectively.

He stated that the upscaling needs to be systems-based, focusing on the highest standards of uniformity, technical upgrade and futuristic approach.

For export of drugs and phar-



maceuticals, the system should work on highest principles of be designed for proper intertransparency to ensure that vention to maintain the qualithe products manufactured ty of drugs being exported, he and sold by India meet the highest indices of global qualemphasised amid the backity standards," he said. The Health Minister stated drop of a few Indian-made drugs in regions as far afield as North America, Africa and Central Asia were found to be that it is important for CDSCO to be in continuous dialogue toxic and causing deaths. with the drugs' and medical Nadda also underscored the devices' industry to underimportance of transparency in the working of CDSCO. "In order to achieve global stanstand their issues and support them to fulfill the quality expectations and standards of dards, our focus needs to be on CDSCO. "Our focus should be transparency of procedures at CDSCO and within the drugs on developing mechanisms that ensure easy of doing busiand medical devices industry," ness for the drugs industry within the regulatory requirehe said "Both the drugs regulatory ments. For this, CDSCO needs body and the industry should to be a user-friendly organiza-

tion with state-of-the-art facilities matching global standards," he said.

On the topic of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in drugs manufacturing and the issues faced by the small scale industries to meet quality standards, Nadda said, "Let us understand the issues faced by MSME sector and support them to strengthen their capacity and quality of products on the one hand, and encourage them to meet the regulatory requirements on the other.

Nadda was briefed about the mandated activities of CDSCO, its achievements, future plans and various issues and challenges faced by CDSCO according to a statement issued here. He was also updated on the progress of the scheme for strengthening the state drug regulatory system with a bud-get of Rs 850 crore which was launched in 2016 during his earlier tenure.

Nadda was also apprised of the roles and responsibilities of the central and state drugs regulatory bodies, and some of the challenges faced in align ment between them

Indian Embassy, **OMSC** working to rescue cargo vessel crew

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Comoros-flagged cargo Avessel that capsized off the Oman coast has 13 Indians seafarers and the Indian embassy in the Gulf nation is in contact with the concerned authorities, official sources said on Wednesday. The vessel, MT Falcon Prestige, transmitted a distress call around 2200 hours on July 14 off the coast of Oman, they said. The merchant vessel has a crew of 16, of which 13 are Indian seafarers, the sources said, adding the vessel

seems to have capsized. "Our embassy in Oman is in constant touch with the Omani authorities. A search and rescue operation for the seafarers, coordinated by the Oman Maritime Security Center (OMSC), is on," one of the sources said. "The Indian Navy has also joined the search and rescue operations," the source said.

90 per cent drop in water-borne diseases in Andaman Nicobar

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that after installation of Kavaratti plant in Andaman Nicobar has cut down the incidence of water borne diseases by 90 per cent highlighting the health benefits and impact of provision of potable water.

Administrator of Lakshadweep, Daman Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli Praful Patel who had called on Dr Singh to express gratification for initiatives such as installing world's first of its kind

"Desalination Plant" for drinking water by National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, said that it has brought huge relief by providing clean drinking water to people of drinking water to people of the Union Territory.3

'Total nine desalination plants are approved of which seven are operational and one more will be operationalized in the coming 400 m depth.

The capacity of each of these LTTD units is around 1 Lakh litre of potable water per day which will be increased to 1.5 lakh litres per day in the coming time," he said. The LTTD technology uses the naturally available temperature difference in oceans, evaporating the surface water at low pressure and condensing the resultant vapour with deep sea cold water at

12oC, obtained from about

weeks.

The technology is indigenous, environmentally friendly and easy to operate. Dr. Singh also informed Patel that two re-mineralization plants are being made operational which will add the essential salts evaporated during the desalination process.

Other desalination units/plants will also be provided with similar re-mineralization facilities in course of time, he added.

nation 05



Bihar: Four detained in connection with murder of VIP chief's father

PTI DARBHANGA/PATNA

Bihar Police have detained persons for persons questioning in connection with its probe into the murder of Jitan Sahni, father of Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahni.

A statement issued by Darbhanga Police said, "Analysis of the CCTV footage has revealed that these four persons entered the house of Jitan Sahni around 10.30 pm on July 15 and staved there for half an hour? Former state minister Mukesh Sahni's 70-year-old father was found stabbed to death at his home in Darbhanga district on July 16. "Investigators are analysing

call detail records of all the four detained persons, their history and also the purpose of visiting the victim's house on Monday night. Other information about the detained persons is also being collected from the villagers," the statement added.

Preliminary investigation and examination of the detained persons have revealed that two of them had previously

PTI KOHIMA

state.



borrowed money at interest from the deceased, it said. "It has also been found that these two persons had been involved in a heated argument with the deceased two days before the latter's murder. It has also been found that these two people had threatened the victim to teach him a lesson following the heated argument," the statement

added. 'One of the detained persons is believed to have pledged his motorcycle as collateral for a loan from the victim," it said. The case is being investigated

Nagaland BJP appeals

for early solution to

Naga political issue

from all angles, it added. All crucial evidence collected from the spot is being forensically examined, a senior police officer said, adding investigators are also trying to recover 'weapon of offence'.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the district police has been formed to investigate the murder case. also

'Investigators are financial examining transactions between the detained persons and the deceased," the officer said. Jitan Sahni's last rites were performed on Tuesday.

After the incident, many After the incident, many leaders, including Union minister and chief of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) Chirag Paswan, former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and state BJP chief Samrat Choudhary, and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav among others, condemned the murder of Sahni's father. Sahni's father.

Talking to reporters in Patna on Wednesday, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, said, "The matter is being investigated by Bihar Police in a highly professional manner. Killers are probably in the police net. This is the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar where killers cannot room frody.² roam freely?

Rai hit back at the RJD-led opposition which alleged that the law and order situation has collapsed in the state.

When the RJD was in power, the CM's residence had turned into the headquarters of all criminal gangs. Now, it's not possible under the Nitish Kumar-led government," he added.

Fresh arrest in Rajasthan's Jal Jeevan Mission case

PTI JAIPUR

Enforcement $T^{\rm he}_{\rm Directorate} \stackrel{\rm Enforcement}{{}_{\rm has made}} a$ fresh arrest in connection with its money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme being implemented in Rajasthan, officials said on Wednesday. Sanjay Badaya, an alleged middleman, was taken into custody on Tuesday after questioning at the agency office here, they said. The central government's Jal

Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through household tap connections and is being implemented in Rajasthan by the state's Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department. This is the fourth arrest in the

case. The central agency had earlier arrested three people --Mahesh Mittal, proprietor of Shree Ganpati Tubewell Company, Padamchand Jain, proprietor of Shree Shyam Tubewell Company, and Piyush Jain. The agency's investigation

found that Padamchand Jain, Mittal and others were case stems from an FIR



involved in giving bribes to registered by Rajasthan's Antipublic servants to obtain illegal protection, tenders, getting bills sanctioned and covering up irregularities in works executed by them in respect of various tenders they received from the PHED. The suspects were also involved in the purchase of stolen goods from Haryana for using them in their tenders and had also submitted "fake" work submitted completion letters from IRCON to get PHED contracts, the agency claimed. The ED's money laundering

TN Governor calls on Shah, discusses security 'situations' in State

PTI CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi on Wednesday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and said he had a "very productive meeting" with the central minister on security and related situations in the state.

"Had a very productive meeting with the Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji on the prevailing cocurity and related security and related situations in Tamil Nadu and their implications for the peace, progress and safety of the people of the state," Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan said on social media platform X, quoting Ravi. Shah "has amazing insight into the issues affecting our

Corruption Bureau (ACB) in which Padamchand Jain, Mahesh Mittal, Piyush Jain and others were charged. Premises in Jaipur and people and immense concern for their wellincluding Dausa, the residential and official premises of senior PHE being," the governor further said. Ravi is camping in the Department officials, former Rajasthan minister Mahesh national capital and had earlier met Prime Minister Joshi and former additional chief secretary Subodh Agarwal, have been searched Narendra Modi and Union ministers Kiren Rijiju, who by the ED in connection holds the Parliamentary with the probe. Assets worth Affairs portfolio, and Dharmendra Pradhan, who Rs 11.03 crore have been heads the Ministry of attached in the case so far.

Education. Body of former Sikkim Minister found in West Bengal canal

PTI GANGTOK

The body of former Sikkim Minister RC Poudyal was found in a canal near Siliguri in West Bengal nine days after he went missing, police said on Wednesday.

The body of Poudval, 80, was found floating in the Teesta Canal at Fulbari on Tuesday, they said.

"Prima facie, it is suspected that the body might have been brought down by the Teesta river from upstream. The identification was made through the watch and the clothes he was wearing," a police officer said.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to search for the veteran politician after e went missing on July 7 from his hometown of Chota Singtam in Pakyong district, police said. "The investigation into the death will continue," the officer said. Poudyal was the deputy speaker in the first Sikkim assembly and later became the state's forest minister.

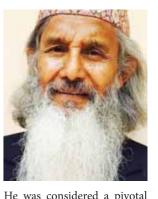


figure in the Himalayan state's political landscape during the late '70s and '80s, founding the Rising Sun Party. He was also known for his profound understanding of Sikkim's cultural and social dynamics. "I am deeply saddened by the mise of sudden Shri RC Poudval Ivu. statesman and distinguished senior political leader who had served the Sikkim Government in various capacities, including as a minister, and was the leader of the Jhulke Gham Party," Chief Minister PS Tamang

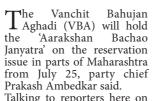
said



signed the Agreed Position with the Working Committee of Naga National Political the party's extended state executive meeting held in Dimapur in the presence of Union Shipping Minister Groups in 2017. Supporting an early, inclusive and honourable solution to the decades-old Naga political issue, the state BJP appealed to the Centre and the



However, with NSCN-IM remaining adamant on its demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas, the final solution could not be arrived at. The BIP state executiv resolved to support the demand for appointment of deputy chairpersons in urban local bodies in the state. To strengthen the party at the grassroots level, it resolved to complete the formation of booth-level committees in the state before the next executive meeting in Tuensang district



PTI CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

Talking to reporters here on Tuesday, Ambedkar demanded that the Kunbi caste certificates issued without the people applying for it be cancelled and political parties clear their stand on the reservation issue. He also claimed the demand for the implementation of the "sage soyare" (blood relatives) notification amounted to "adulteration" of the quota and courts have given

decisions against it earlier. Activist Manoj Jarange has emanding implementation of government's draft notification that recognises Kunbis as "sage soyare" of community Maratha members. He has been demanding that Kunbi certificates be issued to all Marathas, thus making them eligible for quota benefits.

Prakash Ambedkar to launch yatra

over quota issue from July 25

part of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. However, some OBC activists launched recently an demanding agitation, scrapping of the draft notification and an assurance that their quota would not be diluted.

"There are two groups in the state in the form of OBCs versus Marathas. The OBC leaders have a fear over the

the need to create awareness about the issue among people in villages.

The VBA chief said the 'Aarakshan Bachao Janyatra', which will traverse through different villages, will begin on July 25 after his visit to his grandfather Dr B R Ambedkar's 'Chaityabhoomi' in Mumbai

memorial and social reformer Jyotiba

doubling the SC/ST students scholarship, giving the same scholarship to OBC students, promotion in jobs for SC/ST and OBCs. We will also put pressure on the parties which have not taken any stand on the reservation issue through the janyatra," Prakash Ambedkar said.

On the protest by activist Jarange, he said though people had been attending his Jarange, rallies, it was not clear in which direction the agitation would be headed.

"Jarange has to take a stand on whether he is with the rich Maratha community or the poor Marathas," he said.

Prakash Ambedkar claimed the demand for the implementation of the "sage soyare" notification amounted to "adulteration" of the quota and courts have given decisions against it

expedite the process of finalisation so that there can be lasting peace in Nagaland which will positively facilitate the process of all-round development and economic upliftment of the state in the near future".

Sarbananda Sonowal.

negotiating

The Centre inked the Framework Agreement with NSCN-IM in 2015 and also in November.

outcome of this issue. A way the out is not possible till parties rich of the Maratha community like the Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, NCP (Sharad Pawar) and also BJP (UBT), do not clear their stand," Ambedkar said. He said the OBC leaders have

endorsed the VBA's stand on Kunbi, an agrarian group, is the quota matter and stressed

ence in 'This yatra will head to Kolhapur (on July 26), Sangli, Solapur, Dharashiv, Beed, Latur, Nanded, Yavatmal, Amravati, Akola, Buldhana, Washim, Jalna district. It will culminate in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on August 7 or 8," he said.

We will create awareness about the demand for

"The reservation of Kunbis is intact. The demand of reservation to others through a different way is the disputed issue now. The Kunbi certificates are now given without applications and should be cancelled," he said, adding those who need them

should apply for it and obtain it.

Gujarat's 'Cooperation among Cooperatives' initiative to be rolled out in all 33 districts

PTI 📕 AHMEDABAD

 $A_{\rm launching}^{\rm fter}$ successfully the "Cooperation" among Cooperatives" initiative in two districts on a pilot basis, the Gujarat government has decided to implement it across all 33 districts of the state, officials said on Wednesday.

The initiative aims to enhance the cooperation among Gujarat's thousands cooperative societies by centralising their bank accounts and deposits in various district and state cooperative banks. The initiative was envisioned by Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and launched on a pilot basis in Banaskantha and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat, the state government said in a statement.

Gujarat Cooperation Minister Jagdish Vishwakarma said the success of the pilot project has led the government to decide on implementing the initiative across all 33 districts of Gujarat. As part of the pilot project in these two districts, over 4 lakh new accounts were opened by cooperative societies and their active members in the district cooperative banks, resulting in a jump of over Rs 966 crore in the bank deposits, it said.

AL JANA LIS मुख्यमंत्री, गुजरात राज्य

शनल हॉल, महात्मा मन्दिर, गांधी नगर, गुजरा

more than 1,700 micro ATMs were installed at cooperative societies in these two districts, it said.

"The district cooperative banks will be able to extend their services on the village level and ensure that the capital and funds of Gujarat cooperatives' stay within the community and come to the aid of other cooperative societies," Vishwakarma said. "The initiative consolidates the existing bank accounts of cooperatives and their members operating in various commercial banks and brings them under a centralised district/state cooperative banks," the government said.

one

collective capital of these To further strengthen this, cooperative societies under centralised bank,

resulting in enhanced deposit pool for loans and increased financial liquidity among cooperatives.

This helps address the credit needs of the cooperative societies and ensure that the collective capital of cooperatives comes to the dedicated use of other cooperatives,

Vishwakarma said. "In this way, the capital and deposit of one successful cooperative society comes to the use of other societies, benefiting the entire cooperative sector of Gujarat," he said. The pilot project was This helps consolidate the launched between June 2023

to January 2024 in two districts, the government said in its statement.

During the pilot project period, the existing bank accounts held by 1,048 milk societies were consolidated into the district co-operative banks along with the complete transfer of surplus funds into their new bank accounts.

The two districts saw the opening of over 4.7 lakh new savings accounts in cooperative banks, enhancing the existing deposits of these banks by a whopping Rs 966 crore, it said. A total of 3.32 lakh RuPay debit cards were also issued to the societies and their active members, i said.

In order to enhance banking facilities and financial liquidity at village level, a total of 1,736 societies in these districts, including prominent milk societies affiliated with dairy unions, were also equipped with micro-ATMs and affiliated as "Bank Mitra".

To help members access financial services, over 1,631 employees associated with the cooperative societies were given a comprehensive training on digital including transactions, micro-ATM operations, cash withdrawals, and deposits, it said

Fight services will be shut at the Tezpur airport in Assam in October for one-and-half years for and-half years for maintenance works, a senior

PTI TEZPUR

official said on Wednesday. Tezpur Airport Director G Shiva Kumar said passenger flights will be suspended from October 1, 2024, to March 31,

2026."This is due to the resurfacing works of the runway along with other projects to



improve the facilities at the terminal," he said.

The Tezpur Airport is adjacent to the Tezpur Base of the Indian Air Force, and the

runway is used for both commercial and fighter aircraft.

The Tezpur Air Force Base had earlier informed the Tezpur Salonibari Passenger Airport Authority about the maintenance work, for which passenger aircraft services will be temporarily halted. Kumar said that during this time, the authority is considering providing considering helicopter services from Tezpur to Guwahati, but it is

yet to be finalised.

present SpiceJet flight fly directly from Tezpur to Kolkata daily. In addition, two airlines operate daily flights to Guwahati, Kolkata via Pasighat and Tezpur.

The airport is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra river and is 12 km from Tezpur town, the capital of Sonitpur district. Established at Salonibari in 1942, the airport terminal can accommodate a total of 400 passengers at a time.

ED questions ex-K'taka Min Nagendra's wife in Valmiki Corporation scam case

Tezpur Airport in Assam to be shut for maintenance work

¬he Wednesday former minister B Nagendra's alleged



revealed the unauthorised Tribes Development Corporation transfer of Rs 187 crore Ltd came to light after its belonging to the Corporation accounts superintendent, Chandrashekhar P, died by from its bank account, and said that out of the sum, Rs suicide on May 26, leaving 88.62 crore was illegally behind a note. The note moved to various accounts

allegedly belonging to 'well-known' IT companies and a H y d e r a b a d - b a s e d cooperative bank among others. Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister B Nagendra tendered his resignation on June 6 after allegations were made against him in connection with the scam. The ED, which joined the probe after the Union Bank of India lodged a complaint with the Central Bureau of Investigation, had previously raided Nagendra and Valmiki Corporation Basanagouda Chairman Daddal, who is Raichur Rural Congress MLA.

PTI 📕 BENGALURU Enforcement The Directorate (ED) on questioned

wife in connection with the Rs 187 crore scam in a stateowned corporation here. The ED sleuths summoned Manjula for interrogation in the alleged financial irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki

Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. Nagendra, a Congress MLA, is already in the ED custody. The alleged illegal money transfer scam involving the Karnataka Maharshi Vaľmiki

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

A new lease of life

The Govt reconstitutes NITI Aayog, inducts union ministers and NDA allies to enhance strategic planning

n a significant move to bolster its policy-making prowess, the Indian Government has reconstituted the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. This reconstitution includes 15 Union Ministers and notable allies from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), marking a strategic shift in the country's planning and development framework. This underscores the Government's commitment to integrating diverse ministerial insights into the policy-making process. These ministers come from various portfolios, ensuring that a broad spectrum of expertise and perspectives is brought to the table. This comprehensive approach aims to address multifaceted national challenges more effectively. The reconstitution also sees the induction of key NDA allies, signalling a collaborative effort to drive the nation's development agenda. By involving NDA allies, the Government aims to foster a more inclusive and cooperative environment within the Aayog. Among the notable ministers included are Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Home



Minister Amit Shah, and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh. Their presence is anticipated to significantly influence the economic, internal security, and defence policies of the country. The inclusion of ministers from portfolios such as Health, Education, and Rural Development indicates a holistic approach to addressing India's development needs.

This reconstitution is seen as a strategic shift from the traditional Planning Commission model to a more dynamic and inclusive NITI Aayog framework. It reflects the government's intention to leverage the collective wisdom of its senior ministers and allies to drive forward its vision of a 'New India'. The Aayog's recon-

stitution aims to facilitate better coordination between the central and state governments, ensuring that policies are effectively implemented at the grassroots level. One of the primary goals of this reconstitution is to enhance the implementation of policies. The government hopes to streamline the execution of key initiatives and programs. This is expected to result in more efficient policy delivery and improved outcomes on the ground. NITI Aayog was established on January 1, 2015, as a replacement for the Planning Commission. Its primary purpose is to promote cooperative federalism by involving state governments in the policymaking process. However gradually it lost its importance. The Indian government has increasingly favoured a centralised approach, leading to reduced involvement of states in planning and decision-making processes, undermining NITI Aayog's role. It lacks financial powers and direct allocation of funds, limiting its influence on actual policy implementation. Besides, there has been a tendency to prioritize immediate economic and political goals over long-term strategic planning, diminishing NITI Aayog's relevance in sustainable development. As the NITI Aayog embarks on this new phase, there is a sense of optimism about its potential to drive substantial progress. It is anticipated that the Government's latest move will lead to more robust policy frameworks.



Parliament: Duty over disruption



The opposition can leverage parliament debates to engage with their constituencies but they often waste this opportunity by walkouts and protests

t is difficult to understand, especially since parliamentarians, appeared to overlook an essential of their vocation. That is, that the legislature usually does not take much time. The rest of the session is the opportunity for the opposition to demonstrate their talent and commitment through television. The ruling party or parties do not need the legislature except to have bills passed and enacted into law. If there are no laws that need to be passed urgently, the government and ruling party can do without the legislature virtually for an entire year. Of course, there remains the presenting and passing of the Budget, which can be legitimized only by the legislature, particularly the Lok Sabha.

What has been stated hitherto has been well demonstrated by the state assemblies in India. They pass the odd bill once in a while, and the annual budget is the other essential item of business during the year. Most state legislative assemblies meet for three or four days at a time. Otherwise, for the few times they have to statutorily meet, each session is seldom for more than three or four days. However, the members of the legislative assemblies (MLAs) draw their pay and perks for the entire term of the legislative body.

This applies to Parliament too, although it has the budget, monsoon and winter sessions, which are long enough. In short, to restate, most of the time the legislatures can work for the benefit of the opposition members, who can display their skills, knowledge, familiarity and touch with their constituencies. With the advent of full-time coverage by television channels-Sansad TV being a prominent one-a great advanage has fallen into the hands of the Opposition. This is a boon for them; it is a free and constant medium to, as it were, communicate with their con-



THE OPPOSITION

MINDLESSLY

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THE HOUSE FOR

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TIME BY

use of the television channels by speaking for as long as possible. During the question hour between 11 am and 12 pm, only five or six questions and their answers could be completed, instead of all twenty. The reason was that those who had asked the questions spent as long a time as possible over asking their supplementary question, which was a privilege to the Member(s).

The ruling party/parties have a better opportunity of exposure than opposition parties generally get. Yet, the opposition mindlessly throws away a lot of the session time by walking out, protesting otherwise, compelling the Speaker to adjourn the House for several hours or even the rest of the day. July 2 was another example when the Prime Minister rose to thank the President for her inaugural speech. For well over two hours, groups of opposition members took turns shouting slogans in an attempt to drown the Prime Minister's address to Parliament, or perhaps even to prevent him from speak-

The only people who could hear the PM's speech being disturbed by slogans were the Members of the Lok Sabha. All that the sloganshouting Members gained was a reputation of being wasters, as members who cost the taxpayer a lot, merely to put in negative effort to try and prevent the Prime Minister from being heard.Each session and day of Parliament cost several crores of rupees. Each Member of Parliament costs several lakh rupees a year to serve the country and its people, and not to prevent Parliament from functioning. There are many better ways of protesting, such as, such as wearing black bends on one's sleeves, sometimes wearing black caps, or sometimes, dressed fully in black. Members can also refuse to take their seats for the entire day, instead, occupying the adjacent aisles for the duration of the session, as a mark SEVERAL of protest, but let the work go on. This would assure all the people, including their con-OR EVEN stituents that they are spend-

British departed from India long ago, and such negative activities have no place in our country anymore. Let it be borne in mind that being elected to Parliament (or the state legislative assemblies) is a national duty more than the privilege it has come to be mistakenly understood. What we have witnessed over the two days of July 2 and 3 portends ill for the institution of democracy, which everyone, from the opposition parties to the media and academia, not to forget their cheerleaders overseas, keeps shouting is "under threat in India". But where is the real threat to democracy coming from? This needs to be clearly understood.No democracy can be threatened because its electorate gives a clear mandate for stable governance for a developed economy and a better future. It is the cavalier fashion in which certain parties-and political families living in a sense of entitlement-treat Parliament and its protocols and rules that are emerging as the real threat to democracy.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

stituencies.

This institution was introduced around the time I was in Parliament. Back then, most Members who spoke made full sloganeering.

ing. Little do they realize that most television channels were telecasting his speech live, duly cutting out the

THE REST ing of Parliament with its thousands of employees con-structively and in the inter-OF THE DAY ests of the nation.

Shia mourners participate in the 9th Muharram procession, on boats, at Dal Lake, in Srinaga

Defying the Western pressure, India prioritises national interests



Prime Minister Modi's visit to Moscow highlights significant gains for India on strategic, economic, and diplomatic fronts, despite Western reservations

espite a concerted campaign by the US and Western countries to isolate Russia following its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, several nations, including India, have prioritized their national interests. This has allowed President Putin to bolster Russia's economy, with India's \$65 billion worth of crude oil imports playing a crucial role in mitigating the impact of US-imposed sanctions. India maintains close strate-

gic ties with the United States, yet it has become the second-largest importer of Russian crude oil after China. This alignment with Russia serves as a counterbalance to US influence. In recognition of this support, President Putin awarded Prime Minister Modi the Order of St. Andrew. The US, as expected, react-

ed by urging India to ensure that any resolution to the Ukraine conflict respects the UN charter and Ukraine's territorial integrity. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller emphasised the importance of these principles in international engagements with China.



In this context, experts view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow through multiple lenses, highlighting significant gains for India on strategic, economic, and diplomatic fronts India's geopolitical strategy

significantly revolves around balancing China's rising influence. Strengthening ties with Russia serves as a counterbalance to China's aggressive posturing in the region. The visit underscored mutual interests in ensuring a multipolar world order, acting as a strategic buffer against unilateral actions by any major power, including

Strategic Gains: A key highlight of Modi's visit was the reinforcement of India-Russia defense ties. Historically, Russia has been one of India's most reliable defense partners. Discussions around the S-400 missile defense system and potential future collaborations in defense technology were central to the visit, enhancing India's military capabilities and contributing to regional stability.

Western sanctions against Russia have led it to seek stronger ties with non-Western countries, including India. Both India and Russia advocate for a multipolar world order, balancing US influence. Modi's visit reflects India's independent foreign policy, maintaining strong ties with both the US and Russia.

Energy security is a cornerstone of India's economic policy, and Russia plays a critical role with its vast oil and natural gas reserves. Modi's visit focused on longterm supply agreements, investments in energy infra-structure, and collaboration in nuclear energy projects, ensuring a stable and diver-

sified energy supply for India. Boosting bilateral trade and investment was another focal point. Despite historical ties, trade volumes between India and Russia have not reached their full potential. The visit aimed to address this by exploring new trade avenues in sectors like pharmaceuticals, information technology, and agriculture, promising long-term benefits for both economies. Modi's visit signifies a reaf-firmation of traditional alliances. Reinforcing ties with Russia offers India a more balanced foreign policy amidst the US's increasingly transactional approach. The visit likely included discussions on expanding cooperation in space exploration and nuclear technology, fostering innovations that ben-efit both nations.

Cybersecurity is crucial in the digital age. Modi's visit likely explored collaboration in these fields, ensuring both nations can safeguard their digital infrastructures and harness economic benefits

(Writer is a political analyst; views expressed are personal)

THE EDITOR LETTERS

RBI'S NEW GUIDELINES FOR BANKS

Madam - According to a report, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that banks cannot label borrowers as frauds without giving them a hearing. Banks must now issue a 21-day show-cause notice before classifying an account as fraudulent. This decision follows a Supreme Court order. The RBI has instructed banks to develop a fraud risk management policy, approved by at least three board members, including one full-time director and two independent or non-executive directors, to ensure compliance with the principles of natural justice. Additionally, banks are required to update their Early Warning Signal (EWS) systems within six months, integrating data analytics to detect unusual patterns. The RBI has set a threshold of Rs. 1 crore for reporting frauds to the state police, with private banks also reporting to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, while public sector banks report frauds above Rs. 6 crore to the CBÍ, as usual.

In consortium lending, if separate offenses are committed, each member may file separate complaints; otherwise, one member can file a complaint with support from the others.In summary, the new RBI rule mandating a 21-day notice before classifying borrowers as frauds enhances borrowers' rights by allowing them to present their cases and defend against allegations, ensuring fair treatment. This rule will improve transparency, foster trust between bor-rowers and financial institutions, strengthen governance through boardapproved risk management policies, and regulate and streamline the processes of borrowing and lending. Bhagwan Thadani| Mumbai

THE PLIGHT OF GIG WORKERS

Madam - This letter addresses the plight of gig workers in our country. Gig workers are a pitiable lot. Regardless of

Defeating global warming

ing money on the function-

They should realize that the



well-defined quadrilateral encompassing solar, wind, green hydrogen, and nuclear Clean energies as its four vertices is essential to effectively combat global warming and related weather catastrophes, which lead to loss of lives, assets, and properties."Well-defined" means urgently establishing both global and national annual

tomers' demands.

I used to wonder how much they earn by zipping and zapping on their bikes, risking their lives in India's urban jungle. My curiosity was answered when I saw a delivery boy working on a rainy day. The bags on his bike were covered with a plastic sheet, but he was drenched to the bone. Since then, I have made it a point to order via the "Cash on Delivery" mode, so that I can tip gig workers generously. Surprisingly, most of the time my tip is politely declined ("Arre sir, yeh to humara kaam hai") or accepted with reluctant embarrassment.

Avinash Godboley |Dewas

STRENGTHENING INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

Madam — In the neighboring country of Nepal, which borders India to the east, west, and south, KP Sharma Oli's appointment as Prime Minister was met with congratulations from PM Modi. India and Nepal have shared a deep bilateral relationship since early days, the weather, they must fulfill their cus- but the abolition of the monarchy in

targets for each of the four clean energy sources. What percentage should be allocated to solar energy? What percentage should be allocated to nuclear energy? And similarly, for wind and green hydrogen?

Currently, the world lacks direction, resulting in slow progress towards achieving 100% clean energy and 0% carbon emissions. The "greater capacity" and "economic power" of nuclear energy, compared to the other three clean energies, cannot be ignored. Increasing the capacity of existing nuclear reactors is more economical than constructing new ones. It would be much better and safer if all nations signed a pact to use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes, such as generating clean energy and electricity, rather than for making bombs, weapons, and war paraphernalia

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secunderabad

2008 introduced challenges.

Enhancing trade, investment, and infrastructure development can provide mutual economic benefits. Joint ventures in hydropower projects and tourism can foster economic interdependence. Promoting cultural and educational exchanges can strengthen people-to-people connections, building a stronger foundation for bilateral ties. Short-sighted and selfish politicians sought to please China, which exploited the situation.

The Modi government must provide aid to Nepal and invigorate the relationship more than ever before, ensuring that Nepal does not feel the need to turn towards China, which would harm India's interests. India must infuse new energy into its relationship with Nepal, ensuring that both nations work together for mutual growth and regional stability,

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

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FIRSTCOLUMN TAKE THINGS AS THEY COME

Accepting events as they happen brings a great sense of calmness



RAVI VALLURI

Aeons ago in ancient China lived an old farmer who worked on his land for several years. One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, a group of neighbours came to commiserate with him. "Such misfortune," the agitated group of villagers reacted. "Maybe," the farmer replied nonchalantly. A few days later the horse returned, accompanied by three wild horses. Another group of villagers approached the house of the agriculturist to sympathise. "Maybe," replied the aged farmer.

The following day, the farmer's son tried to mount one of the untamed horses and was thrown off. The strapping youngster broke his leg. The overwrought neighbours once again queued up to offer their sympathies at this misadventure. "Maybe," was the desultory answer yet again.A few days later some military personnel swooped on the village to draft young men. Looking at the incapacitated stripling, he was disqualified from being recruited. The exuberant neighbours congratulated the old grazier on the turn of events. "Maybe," was the laconic reply yet again. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has succinctly elucidated the significance of the aphorism, 'to accept people and situations as they are' in his teachings. The 4 Ds of Abnormal Behaviour

Abnormal behaviour can be construed as behaviour that is disturbing (socially unacceptable), distressing, maladaptive (or self-defeating) and often the result of distorted thoughts (cognitions) as per Wikipedia. There are four strains in this abnormal behaviour. These are deviance, dysfunction, distress, and danger. Deviant behaviour is usually different, extreme, and unusual and could even include bizarre behavioural patterns. The second in the series is distressing behaviour.

People who are related to such individuals feel unpleasant and unsettled in their presence. Dysfunctional behaviour discommodes the patient to such an extent that it acts as a deterrent in his day-to-day functioning and behaviour and interferes with his range of activities. Five specific patterns of anxiety disorders fall into this category. The first is termed General Anxiety Disorder. This is a prolonged, vague, quite inexplicable fear having no objective basis, accompanied by hypervigilance, and attached motor tension of the brain. Next is what in quotidian parlance



is called panic disorder. These are none other than perpetual and frequent anxiety attacks which are accompanied by psychological symptoms such as breathlessness, palpitations, a trembling feeling, dizziness and even a sense of total loss of control over the self.

Focus on employment, innovation and skill



analys \$ 07

The Union Budget 2024 must factor in rising unemployment and need for innovation for boosting the economy and sustaining economic growth



he upcoming Union Budget on July 23 will shed light on initiatives that may reshape economic priorities under the Modi3.0 government. Amid

various expectations and commitments, the government's focus on skills, employment, and innovation emerges as a key strategy in addressing current challenges and shaping future opportunities. The decision to rename the Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development to include livelihood emphasizes a shift to provide employable skills to the most vulnerable 67 per cent of the country's underprivileged population.

Placing skill development ahead of employment underscores a proactive approach to addressing the issue of a shortage of skilled workforce, especially in the health & wellness, manufacturing, and technology sectors. This not only recognizes the immediate need for a trained workforce but also positions skill development as a key driver for su

deficit. Issues such as the delayed implementation of PMKVY 3.0 and lack of placement support are exacerbating this problem. The latest data underlines the severity of India's unemployment crisis, making it crucial to prioritize employment generation to con-front the challenges facing the Indian economy, especially with a significant number of young people entering the working age each month. In July 2015, PM Modi stated that "Strill India aims to build solf con

SKILL INDIA "Skill India aims to build self-confidence among the underprivi-leged, rather than just providing WAS DESIGNED jobs". However, nearly a decade later, the youth's interest in the TO ATTRACT UNSKILLED program seems to be waning. The Ministry of Skill Development YOUNG PEOPLE and Entrepreneurship has implemented strict attendance monitor-AND EQUIP ing and centralized student infor-THEM FOR mation. Unfortunately, this has led to a decline in student retention, with many dropping out due to the rigid attendance requirements. Skill India was designed to attract unskilled young people and equip them for the job market, but unemployment rates remain high. Data from the International Labour Organization reveals that the proportion of educated unemploved individuals has risen sharply from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2023.Established in 2014, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship absorbed the NSDC and other programs to train 300 million people by 2024. Despite partnering with various organizations and raising awareness, the programs have not been as effective as envisioned. Experts argue that even traditional degrees do not guarantee employment, and the education system is outdated and not jobfocused. Only a small percentage

of candidates certified by the PMKVY program have found jobs, indicating a fundamental challenge with the current skilling initiatives.Boosting skilling programs and industry partnerships is an urgent necessity to create ongoing skilling avenues and improve employability for school dropouts, and unskilled, or semiskilled workers who need to

skilled workers who need to secure a livelihood. Although the announcement of setting up 75 skilling e-labs for simulated learning in the 2022-23 Union Budget is a positive move, we must recognize that our prob-lem is far-reaching. API-based trusted skill credentials and dis-covery layers to find relevant jobs covery layers to find relevant jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities won't suffice beyond a certain point, necessitating an urgent need to skill the masses and empower the country's youths.We must acknowledge that over 40% of Indians aged 15 to 24 are neither in education, employment, or training, which is significantly higher than the South Asian (30%) and global (24%) averages. Indian firms report substantial skill shortages compared to other countries, and they assess only about 46% of graduates as employable. The majority of students lack the necessary skills, and the skills they do possess are not aligned with the needs of their employers.Every year, more than 12 million young people in India become employable, yet we are unable to absorb them into the workforce. Many of these individuals hold higher education degrees, but they lack the necessary employable skills. The India Skills Report (ISR) 2024 highlights that only 50.3% of graduates from higher educational institutions are deemed employ-

able.A skill gap study conducted

coveted portfolio!The story

did not end there. The sorcerer was not paid the promised

money and he had to warn the

politician that he had the

know-how to get the minister

dismissed from the govern-

Last heard, the politician (nay,

minister) hushed up the issue

by paying half the amount he

had agreed to pay earlier. Politicians cheating the elec-

torate is quite common but

hoodwinking even wizards

and warlocks is new informa-

tion.Sorcery and black magic

are not confined to Kerala. They are a global phenomenon

with even our Dravidian politi-

ment.

by the NSDC during 2010-14 indicates that by 2025, India will need nearly 109.7 million addi-tional skilled workers across various sectors. While the government's interventions in promoting skill development are commendable, more needs to be done to bridge the skill gaps. Wish List: In the 2024-25 Union Budget, it is crucial to prioritize upskilling initiatives for gig workers, due to the eight-fold increase in young people's participation in the gig economy from 2019 to 2023, the majority of these youth come from Tier-I and Tier-II cities and rural areas.

While the government is working to make employable skills more accessible through public-private partnerships, there is a need to facilitate and incentivize the establishment of more skill development universities to steer the youth, especially undergraduates towards skills. This will help align the skill courses with global standards and significantly enhance the youth's skills, contributing to the nation's workforce development.I strongly urge a significant budget allocation to provide employable skills, particularly to school dropouts on a priority basis. This will not only empower them but also significantly contribute to the growth of the Indian economy, aiming to reach \$7 trillion by 2030 and position India as the world's third-largest

Next in the line of mental disorders are phobias. Humans have irrational phobias such as Acrophobia (fear of heights), Glossophobia (fear of addressing an audience), Claustrophobia (fear of enclosed spaces), and Aviophobia (fear of flying). In such situations, a human being is preoccupied with a wide range of thoughts, which are normally irrational. Last, but no less distressing - on this ill-fated checklist is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These individuals suffer repeated and recurrent nightmares, flashbacks, impaired concentration, and emotional numbing which invariably follows traumatic or stressful events. Our country is plagued by three major issues namely, addictions, women's issues, and psychological disorders. Generally, citizens approach tantriks, babas, and quacks hoping for a miraculous cure. It is paramount to meet a qualified medical practitioner. The first step to recovery is medication under the expert guidance of a doctor.Next, after a period of treatment, it would be prudent to contact self-help groups, which sustain the treatment. For instance, undergoing the Happiness Course of the Art of Living, where one learns the Sudarshan Kriva breathing technique which harmonises the body and thought. "No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again," said Gautama Buddha.

(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) tainable employment generation. As the Budget approaches, stakeholders across sectors eagerly await concrete measures that go beyond mere promises and lead to tangible outcomes. The effectiveness of these initiatives in translating into job creation, technological innovation, and sustainable economic growth will be carefully scrutinized. The government's steadfast commit-

ment to enhancing skills holds the promise of unleashing India's potential as a global economic powerhouse in the years ahead.

The rebranding and revitalization of the 15-year-old National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) as the Skill India Mission under PM Narendra Modi has sparked concerns about the effectiveness of the ambitious Skill India program. This program has received support from two governments over 15 years — first the UPA and then the NDA. India is in the midst of an urgent unemployment crisis due to an employment

THE JOB MARKET. BUT UNEMPLOYMENT RATES REMAIN HIGH

> economy. (The writer is Co-Founder and MD, of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India International Skill Centres,; Views expressed are *personal*)

Kerala: Beyond the well-crafted image of a tidy, literate State

Behind its progressive facades lies a struggle with industrial stagnation, healthcare shortcomings, and a surprising reliance on superstition

¬he assumption among the people outside Kerala is that it is the most literate, intelligent and hygienic State in the country. The ruling CPI(M) leaves no stone unturned to portray it as the land of people with a scientific temper and is the numero uno in all spheres of life. There are no countries in the world where you will not find expatriate Malayalees. S K Pottekkadu, the best travel writer the State has produced in the last 150 years has written articulately about the Keralites whom he met in South Africa and Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe) even in the days when there were no diplomatic ties between India and these countries. The modern-day reality of Kerala is entirely different and far from



Pradesh and Telangana.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN what is projected by the CPI(M). Malayalees are leaving en masse from Kerala to Europe, Australia, the USA, Canada, Latin America, Africa and of course the West Asian countries in search of livelihood and for higher studies. There are no major industries Kozhikode for the removal of worth their names in the State her sixth finger. other than some public sector However, the doctor who performed the surgery operated companies like FACT, Cochin on her tongue while leaving Refineries and Cochin Shipyard. Industrialists and the finger untouched. Though entrepreneurs have translo-

cated their enterprises to tal authorities, the initial reacneighbouring States like Tamil tion was denial of the faux pas Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra by the latter.

Remember, the Kozhikode The claim by Kerala Chief Medical College and Hospital is a most sought-after institu-Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his minister of health Veena tion by prospective medical students! This is not an isolat-George that the State is a role model in health care and welled incident as such things being for the rest of the counhappen quite regularly in the try and the world is a great State's government hospitals. joke. The chief minister boards The doctors have their justifithe first available flight to the cation for such mistakes. Most of them say they are over-USA whenever he is afflicted worked and underpaid. When with the common cold. Recently, a four-year-old girl they work under pressure, was admitted to Government such errors are bound to happen, claim the doctors! Medical College Hospital in

The aim of this column is not to embarrass the doctors or their minister of health who was a mere news reader in one of the many TV news channels that have mushroomed in the her parents alerted the hospi-State over the last two decades.

sorcerers digging out (or mining?) copper plates, miniature artefacts and bones of some birds like hens or ducks from the residence and office of K Sudhakaran MP who is president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee is an issue that shows the large scale obscurantism prevailing among the descendants of Jawaharlal Nehru, the wholesale dealer of scientific temper. According to sources close to Sudhakaran, the sorcery was the handiwork of people in the party itself who wanted to see the KPCC chief remain in bed for the rest of his life. There are black magicians

across Kerala who have the "expertise" to neutralize one's enemies or help you to become a minister or even chief min-

The recent controversy about ister! This is not an exaggerated statement as this writer himself has spoken to a sorcerer who was into this kind of

> When Oommen Chandi was the chief minister (2011-2016), there was this Congress leader who felt left out during the formation of the UDF Government. When his efforts to become a minister failed, he approached a sorcerer from Malabar who offered the former to make him a minister and that too with a plum portfolio by performing puja. The sorcerer said that witchcraft had to be done and it would cost the politician Rs 12 lakh and the latter accepted the proposal with glee.

The magician rang up this writer and said that the puja would begin the next morning and the politician would cians who swear by rationalism become the minister in three seeking guidance from astrologers, wizards and sormonths. Presto, in three months, the politician was cerers for survival. sworn in as a minister with a Some of the countries that

played in the World Cup football championship in the 1970s and 1980s used to have an official sorcerer for the team. His mission is to perform witchcraft near the rival team's goalposts to ensure that the ball enters the post without failure! If you feel that sorcery is restricted to politics, business and sports, you are mistaken, Sir. There are many instances of it being used by scientific researchers in the US and Russia. Wait for another occasion.

(The writer is special correspondent with the Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

business for decades.



Nikky Haley 'strongly endorses' Trump

PTI MILWAUKEE

ndian - American Republican leader Nikky Haley has endorsed her former boss Donald Trump as the party's candidate for the presidential election, delivering the message of unity after their bitter rivalry during the primaries.

Haley, 52, unsuccessfully challenged Trump for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination and spent months sparring with the former president. But last week, she instructed her 97 delegates to vote for Trump at the convention as she called for unity in the party.

"I'll start by making one thing perfectly clear: Donald Trump has my strong endorsement, period," Haley said Tuesday as she addressed the Republican National Convention here during which the party will nominate Trump as its presidential candidate Haley, who was the only

Republican leader to have seriously challenged Trump during the bruising campaign pri-maries, told thousands of delegates and party leaders that Trump is the best bet for the country and that the Republicans are united to defeat incumbent President Joe Biden.

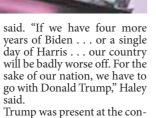
"Let us join together as a party. Let us come together as a people — as one country - strong and proud. Let us show our children and the world that



even on our worst day, we are blessed to live in America," said the former South Carolina governor and the US Ambassador to the United Nations As Trump, 78, watched on from the convention centre's VIP suite, Haley used her speech to defend the former president's foreign policy record and speak directly to voters who disagree with him on certain issues.

'There are some Americans who don't agree with Donald Trump 100% of the time," she said. "My message to them is simple: You don't have to agree with Trump 100% of the time to vote for him." "Our country is at a critical

moment. We have a choice to make. For more than a year, I said a vote for Joe Biden is a vote for President Kamala Harris. After seeing the debate, everyone knows it's true," Haley



vention centre when she spoke. Trump and his running mate Senator J D Vance gave a standing ovation to Haley when she started her speech and endorsed him.

'Our foreign enemies win when they see Americans hate each other. They see that today, whether it's on college campuses or in a field in Butler, Pennsylvania. But we can conquer those fears with strength and unity," she said.

'Our fellow Americans are fearful right now. Families are suffering from inflation and wages that don't keep up with prices. Young people are being

indoctrinated to think our country is racist and evil. The Jewish community is facing an obscene rise in antisemitism. Too many minorities are trapped in communities devastated by crime," she said. She said no president can fix all

problems alone. We have to do this together. America has an amazing ability to self-correct. At this moment, we have a chance to put aside our differences and focus on what unites us and strengthens our country," Haley said

We must not only be a unified party. We must also expand our party. We are so much better when we are bigger. We are stronger when we welcome people into our party who have different backgrounds and experiences. And right now, we need to be strong, to save America. This is a defining moment, not only for our party but for our country," said the popular Indian-American leader.

Haley said under Donald Trump, the US didn't have the border disaster being faced today.

"And we won't when he is president again," she said. Under Joe Biden, migrants are coming into our country by the thousands every day. We have no idea who they are, where they end up, or what they plan to do," she said. Biden, she alleged, lifted the sanctions on Iran.

Iran rejects accusations

AP 📕 TEHRAN

ran has rejected accusations regarding plots to assassinate former US President Donald Trump, while citing legal action for the 2020 assassination of a revered general by US drone, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Wednesday. IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani as saying Iran "strongly rejects any involvement in the recent armed attack on Trump or claims about Iran's intention for

such an action. Kanaani added, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to pursue legal action against Trump for his direct role in the crime of assassi nating Martyr Genera Soleimani. Qassem Soleimani was the commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force and was killed in U.S. drone attack in

Baghdad in January 2020. A threat on Trump's life from Iran prompted additional secu-rity in the days before Saturday's campaign rally, but it was unrelated to the assassination attempt on the Republican presidential nom-inee, two US officials said Tuesday.

Traces of cyanide in blood of 6 dead Bangkok hotel guests

expected later Wednesday.

Americans

ty of tourists.

Bangkok police chief Lt. Gen.

Thiti Sangsawang identified the dead as two Vietnamese

Vietnamese nationals, and said

they were three men and three

women. Their ages ranged from 37 to 56, according to

Noppasin Punsawat, Bangkok

deputy police chief. He said the

case appeared to be personal

and would not impact the safe-

A husband and wife among the

dead had invested money with

two of the others, suggesting

that money could be a motive.

said Noppasin, citing informa-

tion obtained from relatives of

the victims. The investment

was meant to build a hospital

in Japan and the group might

have been meeting to settle the matter. Bangkok police chief Lt. Gen. Thiti Sangsawang said

Tuesday that four bodies were

in the living room and two in

the bedroom. He said two of

them appeared to try to reach

for the door but collapsed

Noppasin said Wednesday that

a seventh person whose name

was part of the hotel booking

was a sibling of one of the six

before they could.

and

four

AP BANGKOK

Doctors who performed autopsies on the six Bangkok hotel guests who died mysteriously confirmed Wednesday that they had traces of cyanide in their blood.

Dr. Kornkiat Vongpaisarnsin, head of the forensic medicine department at Chulalongkorn University's medical school, said at a news conference that a CAT scan showed no signs of blunt force trauma on the dead, reinforcing the hypothesis that they had been poisoned.

Police found traces of cyanide in the cups of six Vietnamese and American guests at a central Bangkok luxury hotel and one of them is believed to have poisoned the others over a bad investment, Thai authorities said Wednesday.

The bodies were found Tuesdav in the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, a landmark at a central intersection in the capital busy with malls, government buildings and public transit. The six had last been seen alive when food was delivered to the room Monday afternoon. The staff saw one woman receive the food, and security footage showed the rest arriving one by one shortly after. There were no other visitors, no one was seen leaving and the door was locked. A maid found them Tuesday afternoon when they failed to check out of the room.

and left Thailand on July 10. Lt. Gen. Trairong Piwpan, chief Police believe the seventh perof the Thai police force's forenson had no involvement in the sic division, said there were traces of cyanide in the cups deaths. The Vietnamese and United and thermoses that police found in the room, but initial States embassies have been contacted over the deaths, and results of an autopsy were

said.

the American FBI was en route, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said. He said the case would likely not affect a conference with Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev at the hotel later Wednesday. "This wasn't an act of terrorism or a breach in security. Everything is fine," he

world 08

Trairong said a mass suicide was unlikely because some of the victims had arranged future parts of their trip, such as guides and drivers. He added that the bodies being in differ-ent parts of the hotel room suggested they did not knowingly consume poison and wait for

their deaths together. US State Dept. spokesman Matthew Miller in Washington offered condolences to the families of the victims. He said the US is closely monitoring the situation and would communicate with local authorities US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with his Thai counterpart on Tuesday, but Miller said he thought that call happened before the deaths were reported and he didn't know if it came up in their conversation

Won't stop telling the truth about Trump: Biden ap DUBAI ing why Trump's administra-ing why Trump's

President Joe Biden returned to the campaign trail Tuesday for the first time since the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump, continuing his call to calm the divisive rhetoric on both sides, but also arguing that doing so "doesn't mean we should stop telling the truth" as he tore into his Republican rival

Addressing the NAACP con-vention in Las Vegas, Biden said addressing political violence in the country should mean curbing all kinds of bloodshed — including better combating police brutality and banning weapons like the AR-style rifle used in the weekend attack on Trump.

"It's time for an important conversation in this country. Our politics have become too heated," Biden said. That didn't stop him from list-

tion was "hell" for Black Americans, including the former president's mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic, skyrocketing unemployment amid early lockdowns and attempts to, as Biden put it, erase Black history. "Just because we must lower the

temperature in our politics as it relates to violence doesn't mean we should stop telling the truth," Biden told the crowd that often broke into chants of "Four more years!"

The president is aiming to showcase his administration's support for Black voters who are a tentpole of the Democratic coalition and of his personal political support. As part of his swing in Nevada, he'll also participate in an interview with BET and address the Hispanic advocacy group UnidosUS, another crucial Democratic-leaning bloc. For the NAACP crowd, Biden



seized on Trump recently referencing "Black jobs," drawing big applause by joking, "I love the phrase."

"I know what a Black job is. It's the vice president of the United Biden said of Vice States? President Kamala Harris, who he added "could be president." He also referenced Barack Obama as the nation's first Black president, and his own appointment to the Supreme Court of its first Black and

Jackson.

Biden's trip comes as Democrats have been engaged in a weeks-long crisis of con-fidence over his candidacy after his devastating debate with Trump last month. The president's shaky performance inflamed voter concerns about his age, fitness for office and capacity to defeat Trump once again.

Republicans, for their part, are demonstrating that they are more coalesced than ever around Trump amid their national convention in Milwaukee

The 81-year-old Biden has rejected a flurry of calls from within his party to step aside, restating his belief that he is the best-positioned Democrat to beat Trump. He has relied heavily on his support among Black and Latino elected officials, and was set to appear with many of them in Nevada.

The president made indirect reference to unrest in his own party on Tuesday, recalling President Harry S Truman famously saying, "If you want a friend in Washington, get a

dog." "After the last couple of weeks, I know what he means," Biden said. He said later, "hopefully, with age, comes a little bit of wisdom

Biden also promised that in the first 100 days of a second term he would oversee congressional approval of a dramatic expansion of voting rights something he's been unable to do as president so far. He also renewed earlier promises to "end medical debt," saying he was working with states to settle outstanding bills for care for pennies on the dollar."

'I know the good Lord hasn't brought us this far to leave us now," Biden told the convention, offering overtly religious tones.

Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels strike ships in Red Sea

AP DUBAI

Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted ships in the Red Sea on Monday as a new US aircraft carrier approached the region to provide security for the key international trade route that has been under assault since the Israel-Hamas war erupted nine months ago.

Three small Houthi vessels, two of which were crewed and another uncrewed, attacked the Panama-flagged and Israeli-owned MT Bently I off the coast of Al Hudaydah, Yemen, according to British and American authorities.

The "reported unmanned small craft collided with the vessel twice and the 2 manned small craft fired at the vessel," the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade

Operations centre reported. The vessel conducted selfprotection measures, after 15 minutes the small craft aborted the attack.

The captain later reported three separate waves of missile attacks that exploded in close proximity to the vessel.

Later on Monday, in a separate incident off the same coast, the MT Chios Lion, a Liberianflagged and Marshall Islandsowned oil tanker, was attacked by an uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicle, which "impacted on the port side causing some damage and light smoke," the UKMTO said.

Both ships and all crew were reported safe, the UKMTO said in a warning to mariners. Late Monday, the Houthis claimed responsibility for the attacks on Bently I and Chios Lion.

Command confirmed the attacks and identified the This continued reckless behaviour by the Iranianbacked Houthis threatens regional stability and endangers the lives of mariners across the

third country nationals who have nothing to do with the conflict in Gaza."

over the Red Sea and two in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

Post violence.

Bangladesh asks

Authorities in Bangladesh urged all universities to

Not enough info on Covid-19 vaccine

Early Tuesday, the US Central names and flags of the ship.

Red Sea and Gulf of Aden," a Central Command statement said. "The Houthis claim to be acting on behalf of Palestinians in Gaza and yet they are targeting and threatening the lives of

Also on Monday, the Central Command said US forces destroyed five uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicles, three

Israel's military will begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men on Sunday

AP JERUSALEM

The Israeli military on Tuesday said it would begin sending draft notices to Jewish ultra-Orthodox men on Sunday — a step that could destabilise Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

The announcement followed a landmark Supreme Court order for young religious men to begin enlisting for military service. Under long-standing political arrangements, ultra-Orthodox men had been exempt from the draft, which is compulsory for most Jewish men.

The exemptions created resentment among the gener-al public in Israel, especially after more than nine months threatened if their followers of war against Hamas militants serve in the army.

Netanyahu's government relies in Gaza. The army summons is the beginning of a monthson the support of ultralong enlistment process that could be difficult to enforce if Orthodox parties that oppose changes to the system. there is large-scale refusal to Religious leaders have not comply. The army did not say said what steps they will take. when it expects ultra-If they leave the ruling coali-Orthodox men to begin servtion, the government would likely topple and the country ing or how many it expects to would be plunged into early The court ruled that the syselections two years ahead of schedule. Past attempts to tem of exemptions, which allow religious men to study in enlist ultra-Orthodox men have triggered mass protests in Jewish seminaries while others are forced to serve in the

ultra-Orthodox communities. army, was discriminatory. Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox Ultra-Orthodox leaders say men blocked a main highway religious study is equally important for the country's in central Israel for several hours on Tuesday in the ultrafuture and that their genera-tions-old way of life will be Orthodox city of Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv. Police on horse-

back pushed the crowd back, and officers dragged protest ers away. Police said nine people were arrested.

The army is not an army for fighting. It's an army with indoctrination" against religion, said Yona Kay, a protest-er. "Therefore our children, our boys — and I have a son over here — will not go to the army, not for one minute."

On Monday night, dozens of ultra-Orthodox surrounded the cars of senior military commanders who were meeting with local rabbis in Bnei Brak to discuss an ultra-Orthodox unit in the army The crowd threatened the officers, calling them "murderers" and throwing bottles, according to Israeli media

deals shared with public: EU court

AP BRUSSELS

The European Commission did not allow the public enough access to information about COVID-19 vaccine purchase agreements it secured with pharmaceutical compa-

nies during the pandemic, the general court said EU Wednesday. The decision came a day ahead

of a vote at the European Parliament at which European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is seeking reelection

A group of EU lawmakers had taken legal action after the Commission refused to grant them complete access to COVID-19 vaccine contracts secured between the EU's executive arm and manufacturers. The pandemic shed light on the

ing the negotiations for vac-cines between the EU and big pharmaceutical groups. The EU Commission was mandated by member countries to organize the joint procure-



that "the Commission did not ment of vaccines during the pandemic and led negotiations take sufficient account of all the relevant circumstances in order with manufacturers.

According to the court, the to weigh up correctly the interprocurement of vaccines on ests at issue.

all universities to close down issue of transparency surround- behalf of all 27 member states allowed the bloc to quickly gather 2.7 billion euros (\$2.95 AP BRUSSELS billion) to place an order for more than a billion doses of vaccines.

> In 2021, some members of the close on Wednesday, after at least six people died in violent protests over the allocation of European Parliament asked for the full details of the agreements, but the Commission government jobs. Some universities quickly only agreed to provide partial access to certain contracts and moved to comply, but others, documents, which were placed including the major universionline in redacted versions. If ty at the center of the vioalso refused to say how much lence, were still deciding how it paid for the billions of doses to respond. it secured, arguing that contracts were protected for con-

fidentiality reasons.

The University Grants Commission asked all public and private universities to suspend classes and empty In a statement, the court said their dormitories until further notice, in order to protect students. The country's universities are run autonomously and the request did not have legal

force. Authorities said that at least six people were killed on Tuesday in violence across the country as student protesters clashed with pro-government student activists and with police, and violence was reported around the capital of Dhaka, the southeastern city

of Chattogram and the northern city of Rangpur.

On Wednesday, stray protests took place at Dhaka University and elsewhere in the country. Police were deployed on the campus, while paramilitary border forces patrolled the streets in Dhaka and other big cities. The protests began late last month, demanding an end to a quota that reserves 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans of Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence in 1971, but turned violent on Monday as protesters clashed with counter-protests and police at Dhaka University, leaving 100 people injured.

Court voids US Marine's adoption of Afghan orphan

AP WASHINGTON

Virginia appellate court Aruled Tuesday that a US Marine should never have been granted an adoption of an Afghan war orphan and voided the custody order he's relied on to raise the girl for nearly three years. The decision marked a major turning point in a bitter custody battle that has international ramifications far greater than the fate of one child

The appeals court decision dealt a significant blow in Marine Maj. Joshua Mast's yearslong legal quest to keep the child, who was orphaned on the battlefield in Afghanistan in 2019.

Mast and his wife, Stephanie, convinced the courts in his hometown, rural Fluvanna County, Virginia, to grant him an adoption of the child, even

extended family and reunited her with them.

enlist.

The family fled Afghanistan with thousands of other evacuees when the Taliban took over in the summer of 2021. Once she arrived in the United States, Mast used the Fluvanna County documents to convince federal government officials to take the child from her Afghan relatives and give her to

him. She turns five years old this month. The Masts have insisted they are her legal parents and "acted admirably" to save a child in a desperate and dangerous situation. The Afghan family, who challenged Mast's adoption, have not seen her for nearly three years. The child's fate is still in limbo: The decision by the appellate her iden court Tuesday does not clarify respond.

though she remained in Afghanistan as the govern-ment there tracked down her with the Mast family for now. No government agencies involved would clarify Tuesday

what the next steps might entail, or what their role might be in determining where the child should live as the remaining legal fight unfolds.

The Masts could appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court and ask that Tuesday's decision not be enforced through that rocess

All the parties involved have been forbidden by the court to speak to the press about this case. Attorneys for the Masts and the Afghan couple did not return phone calls. A lawyer appointed by the court to represent the interests of the child, who is referred to in court records as Baby Doe to protect her identity, also did not

Marine Maj. Joshua Mast

Several legal organisations supporting the Afghan couple said they were encouraged. National Centre for Youth Law senior attorney Becky Wolozin said that by "clearly stating that the Masts have no legal rights over Baby Doe, the Court refused to legitimise

their unlawful actions - actions which have led to profound and unnecessary suffering." Charlottesville Circuit Court Judge Claude Worrell last May vacated Mast's adoption order, which was granted by anoth-er judge in 2020, but left in place a custody order that allowed the child to stay with the Masts. A three-judge appellate panel heard arguments in the fall, and issued a 23-page order Tuesday that dissolved Mast's legal guardianship over the girl. Appellate Judge Daniel E Ortiz wrote in Tuesday's order that Mast's adoption "did not fit into any" of the criteria required by state law He said required by state law. He said the "procedural errors" that led to it were "so outside the scope of the adoption code that the circuit court lacked the power" to sign the adoption. He also acknowledged

court of key developments, including that the government of Afghanistan never that she had been given to Afghan relatives and that a federal court had already rebuffed his efforts to stop that reunification

How exactly the court justified granting the Marine the adoption in the first place remains shrouded in secrecy. The Associated Press filed in court to get the case unsealed. In January 2023, Worrell granted that request, ordering the case opened to the public. But more than 18 months later, the court continues to keep the entire file hidden despite numerous letters sent by lawyers representing The Associated Press

The appellate panel directed the circuit court to dismiss all

Afghan couple's adoption petition, which is currently pending before the court. The Masts may file their own petition as well, Ortiz wrote. Retired Circuit Court Judge Richard Moore, who issued the original adoption order, declined to comment on the case. The US government has insisted in court that Mast never had any claim to this child, and that she be returned immediately to her Afghan family. Justice Department lawyers have written that allowing the child to remain with the Marine could have broad consequences for American foreign policy: from

threatening international secu-

rity pacts to endangering troops stationed abroad by

feeding Islamic extremist pro-

paganda.

adoption proceedings and

conduct a hearing on the

that Mast failed to inform the gave up its claim to the girl,



Pak delivers strong demarche to Afghanistan over terror attack

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Wednesday lodged a strong protest with the Afghan interim government over the deadly terrorist attack this week at a key military cantonment, reiterating its call for "decisive action" against militants hiding in the neighbouring nation.

The terror attack on the Bannu Cantonment in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday killed eight soldiers and injured many others. Security forces also killed all 10 terrorists who launched the attack at the major military cantonment.

The terrorists' failed attempt to attack the facility forced them to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the cantonment, leading to the collapse of a portion of the wall and damaging the adjoining infrastructure

The Deputy Head of Mission of the Afghan embassy, Sardar Muhammad Shakib, was sum-

moned to the Ministry of and effective action against Foreign Affairs to "deliver the perpetrators of the Bannu Pakistan's strong demarche over the deadly terrorist attack", the Foreign Office said in a statement on Wednesday. "The Bannu Cantonment

attack is vet another reminder of the serious threat posed by terrorism to regional peace and security," it said. "Pakistan reiterates the call for

decisive action against terrorism and remains steadfast in its commitment to combat this menace and to uphold its security against all threats," it said. The Foreign Office said the terrorist attack was carried out by the Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group based in Afghanistan, which, along with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of civilians and law enforcement officials in multi-

ple terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. It urged the interim Afghan government to fully investigate and take immediate, robust

attack and prevent the recurrence of such attacks against Pakistan using the territory of Afghanistan. The Foreign Office said such

incidents also go against the spirit of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. It also reiterated serious con-

cerns over the presence of terror outfits inside Afghanistan that continue to threaten Pakistan's security.

Pakistan has consistently raised its concerns with the interim Afghan government, asking them to deny the persistent use of Afghan soil by the terrorists and take effective action against such elements. But so far, little has been done

as Kabul rejects the presence of terrorists on its soil.

Pakistan has witnessed an increase in terrorist activities over the past year, particularly in regions like Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan,

following the cessation of a ceasefire between the government and the banned TTP militant group in November 2022

Last week, Islamabad reiterated its stance against engaging in talks with the TTP and called for Kabul's action against terrorists operating from Afghan territory

According to the Centre for Research and Security Studies' annual security report, violence and casual ties in Pakistan saw a notable decline in the second quarter of 2024. The report said there was a 12 per cent reduction in overall violence, with 380 fatalities reported compared to 432 in the preceding quar-

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were identified as the epicentres of violence, accounting for over 90 per cent of fatalities and 84 per cent of all attacks involving both terrorist incidents and security force responses.

Indian killed in Nepal PM Oli to seek vote attack on of confidence on Sunday Oman mosque

PTI DUBAI/MUSCAT

n Indian national was Aamong six people killed in a rare shooting attack by Islamic State militant group near a Shia Muslim mosque in Oman's capital.

The shooting on Monday night near the Imam Ali Mosque also claimed the lives of one policeman and four Pakistan nation als, while injuring 28 others. "Following the shooting inci dent reported in Muscat city on July 15, Foreign Ministry of Sultanate of Oman has informed that one Indian national has lost his life & another is injured," Embassy of India in Muscat posted on X Tuesday. "Embassy offers its sincere condolences & stands ready to offer all assistance to

the families," it said. The three attackers were also killed by security forces during the incident in the al-Wadi al-Kabir area on Monday night, according to a statement. Pakistan said four Pakistanis

were among those killed.

PTI KATHMANDU

epal's newly appointed Nepais newly arr Sharma Oli will take a vote of confidence in Parliament on July 21, as required by the Constitution, a media report quoted the chief whip of his party as saying on Wednesday. The 72-year-old veteran leader was sworn in on Monday as the Himalayan nation's prime minister for the fourth time.

(HoR) is just 138. Prime Minister Oli decided to The leader of Nepal's largest take a vote of confidence on Sunday, MyRepublica news communist party was appointportal reported, quoting ed as prime minister on Sunday Communist Party of Nepalby President Ram Chandra Unified Marxist Leninist Paudel to lead the coalition (CPN-UML) Chief Whip government with the Nepali Congress (NC), the largest Mahesh Bertaula. party in Parliament, apart from

Nepal's According to Constitution, Oli needs to secure a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of appointment, which he is likely to secure easily, as the minimum number to form a government in the 275-strong House of Representatives



other smaller parties.

Oli succeeds Pushpa Kamal

Dahal 'Prachanda,' who lost the

vote of confidence in the HoR

last week, leading to the forma-

tion of the new government. The CPN-UML Chairman now

leads the new coalition govern-

ment that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation.

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Nepal has faced frequent polit-ical turmoil as the country has seen 14 governments in the past 16 years after the introduction of the Republican system. Within hours of Oli's swearing in, three advocates — Deepak Adhikari, Khagendra Prasad Chapagain and Shailendra Kumar Gupta – filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of Nepal challenging his appointment arguing that it was unconstitutional and

sought its annulment. The advocates argued that the president should call for forming a new government under Article 76 (3) if a government formed as per Article 76 (2) fails the floor test in the House of Representatives.

The apex court has set July 21 as the date for a preliminary hearing in the case — the same day Oli will take the floor test in the Parliament

UK's new govt announces legislation for 'national renewal'

AP LONDON

 $B^{\rm ritain's\ new\ Labour\ Party\ gov ernment\ promised\ to\ calm\ the}$ country's febrile politics and ease its cost-of-living crisis as it set out its plans for "national renewal" at the grand State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday

Stabilising the UK's public finances and spurring economic growth were at the center of Prime Minister Keir Starmer 's legislative agenda, announced in a speech delivered by King Charles III.

"My government will seek a new partnership with both business and working people and help the country move on from the recent cost of living challenges by prioritising wealth creation for all communities," the king said in a speech to hundreds of lawmakers and scarletrobed members of the House of Lords.

Starmer campaigned on a promise to bring bold change to Britain at modest cost to taxpayers. He aims to be both pro-worker and pro-business, in favour of vast new construction projects and protective of the had just 21 - ranging from house-

environment. The risk is he may end

up pleasing no one. In a written introduction to the speech, Starmer urged patience, saying change would require "determined, patient work and serious solutions" rather than easy answers and "the snake oil charm of populism.

The King's Speech is the centrepiece of the State Opening, an occasion where royal pomp meets hard-nosed politics, as the king donned a diamond-studded crown, sat on a gilded throne and announced the laws his government intends to

pass in the coming year. Labour won a landslide election victory on July 4 as voters turned on the Conservatives after years of high inflation, ethics scandals and a revolving door of prime ministers. Starmer has promised to patch up the country's aging infrastructure and frayed public services, but says

he won't raise personal taxes and insists change must be bound by "unbreakable fiscal rules. Wednesday's speech included 40

bills - the Conservatives' last speech

building to nationalising Britain's railways and decarbonizing the nation's power supply with a publicly-owned green energy firm, Great British Energy.

The government said it would "get Britain building," setting up a National Wealth Fund and rewriting planning rules that stop new homes and infrastructure being built.

Economic measures included tighter rules governing corporations and a law to ensure all government budgets get advance independent scrutiny. That aims to avoid a repetition of the chaos sparked in 2022 by then-Prime Minister Liz Truss, whose package of uncosted tax cuts rocked the British economy and ended her brief term in office.

The government promised stronger protections for workers, with a ban on some"zero-hours" contracts and a higher minimum wage for many employees. Also announced were protections for renters against shoddy housing, sudden eviction and landlords who won't let them have

a pet. The government promised more



Britain's King Charles wears the Imperial State Crown on the day of the State Opening of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster in London, on Wednesday. AP/PTI

power for local governments and better bus and railway services keys to the "levelling up" of Britain's London-centric economy that forly failed to deliver.

Though Starmer eschewed largescale nationalization of industries, the government plans to take the delay-plagued train operators into

public ownership. The speech said the government "recognises the urgency of the global climate challenge" — a change in tone from the Conservative government's emphasis on oil and gas exploration. As well as increasing renewable energy, it pledged tougher penalties for water companies that dump sewage into rivers, lakes and seas.

The speech included new measures to strengthen border security, creating a beefed-up Border Security Command with counter-terrorism powers to tackle people-smuggling

It follows Starmer's decision to scrap the Conservatives' contentious and unrealised plan to send people arriving in the UK across the English Channel on a one-way trip to Rwanda.

The speech also tackled an issue that

mer Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised but large-terforming the House of Lords. The unelected upper chamber of Parliament is packed with almost 800 members – largely lifetime political appointees, with a smattering of judges, bishops and almost 100 hereditary aristocrats. The government said it would remove the hereditary nobles, though there was no mention of Starmer's past proposal of setting a Lords retirement age of 80. There was no mention of lowering

the voting age from 18 to 16, though that was one of Labour's election promises.

While much of Starmer's agenda marks a break with the defeated Conservative government of former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Starmer revived Sunak's plan to stop future generations from smoking by gradually raising the minimum age for buying tobacco.

The speech confirmed that the government wants to "reset the relationship with European partners" roiled by Britain's exit from the European Union in 2020. It said there would be no change to Britain's strong support for Ukraine and promised to ⁶play a leading role in providing Ukraine with a clear path to NATO membership?

Wednesday's address was the second such speech delivered by Charles since the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, in September

He travelled from Buckingham Palace to Parliament in a horsedrawn carriage – past a small group of anti-monarchy protesters with signs reading "Down with the Crown" - before donning ceremonial robes and the Imperial State Crown to deliver his speech. Police

For all its royal trappings, it is the King's Speech in name only. The words are written by government officials, and the monarch betraved

"The king has zero agency in this," said Jill Rutter, senior research fellow at the Institute for Government think tank.

Islamic State attacks on track | Floods could sweep N Korean landmines **Russia, Ukraine swap 95** prisoners of war each to double in Iraq and Syria: US | across border, warns South Korea AP KYIV

AP BAGHDAD

of the United Kingdom where over the US military presence. extreme interpretation of Islam, which included attacks on religious minority groups and harsh punishment of Muslims deemed to be apostates. Militants also killed thousands of members of the Yazidi religious minority and kidnapped thousands of women and children, many of whom were aimed at forcing U.S. forces to subjected to sexual abuse and withdraw from Iraq. Those attacks largely halted human trafficking. A coalition of more than 80 after three U.S. soldiers were countries, led by the United killed in a strike on a base in States, was formed to fight IS, Jordan, near the Syrian border which lost its hold on the terin late January, prompting US retaliatory strikes in Iraq. ritory it controlled in Iraq and On Tuesday, two Iraqi militia 2017 and in Syria in 2019, officials said they had launched although sleeper cells remain in both countries and abroad. a new drone attack targeting the Ain al-Asad air base in Iraq. Iraqi officials say that they can

AP SEOUL

were shared with The how many they have planted or Concerns about possible North Korean provocation have deepened after Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, threatened new countermeasures Tuesday against South Korean civilian activists' efforts to drop leaflets over the north by balloon. North Korea has conflict. earlier responded by flying trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea, which have not caused major damage. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that North Korea's military has suffered "many casualties" from about 10 mine explosions and heat exposure during the intense border works. An estimated 2 million mines are believed to be strewn in and around the Koreas' 248 kilometer (154 miles)- long and 4 kilometers (2.5 miles)-wide land border. Experts say both Koreas have poorly managed their mines and don't know exactly

T Tkraine and Russia U exchanged 95 prisoners of war each, officials in both countries said Wednesday, three weeks after their last swap and as part of what have been occasional agreements to send captured troops home. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Russian Defence Ministry reported the exchange.

with both Moscow and Kyiv. Zelenskyy posted photos of

2022.

said 10 members of an environmental activist group were arrested near Parliament over alleged plans to disrupt the ceremony.

no flicker of emotion as he read

them out.

The US Central Command I said Wednesday that the Islamic State group is trying "to reconstitute" as the number of attacks in Syria and Iraq is on track to double those of the previous vear

IS has claimed 153 attacks in both countries in the first six months of 2024, CENTCOM said in a statement. According to a US defence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he wasn't allowed to speak publicly on the matter, the group was behind 121 attacks in Syria and Iraq in 2023.

"The increase in attacks indicates ISIS is attempting to reconstitute following several years of decreased capability," CENTCOM said.

The announcement comes just after the 10-year mark since the militant group declared its caliphate in large parts of Iraq and Syria. At its peak, the group ruled an area half the size

The officials spoke on condi keep the IS threat under contion of anonymity because they trol with their own forces and were not authorised to com have entered into talks with the US aimed at winding down the ment publicly. It was unclear mission of the US-led military whether the attack had hit its coalition in Iraq. target. US officials did not

The talks come at a time of immediately respond to increased domestic tensions requests for comment.

North Korean landmines could be swept into South Korea by flooding, South umbrella group of Iran-backed militias calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Iraq launched Korea's military warned Wednesday, after the North has regular drone attacks on bases housing US troops in Iraq and Syria, which they said was in recently placed tens of thouretaliation for Washington's sands of additional deadly support of Israel in the ongoexplosives along the rivals ing war in Gaza and were heavily fortified border.

North Korea's minelaying is part of construction at the border that's been going on since April, which also includes adding anti-tank barriers and reinforcing roads. South Korea officials believe North Korea aims to boost its frontline security posture and prevent its soldiers and citizens from defecting to South Korea

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff told local reporters that flooding caused by summer rainfall could wash the mines over the border, adding that North Korea might also deliberately float mines downriver as a provocation.

The contents of the briefing

It's not unusual for wooden North Korean mine boxes to wash downriver in summer, causing deadly incidents in South Korea. A 2015 mine explosion blamed on North Korea maimed two South Korean soldiers and pushed the rivals to the brink of an armed

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it's it's also looking at other possible provocations by North Korea, such as firing across the border at incoming South Korean balloons. It said the South Korean military is strengthening its readiness to repel any potential aggression by North Korea.

North Korea is extremely sensitive to South Korean activists' efforts to scatter anti-Pyongyang leaflets, seeing them as a threat its political system and a challenge to its ban on access to foreign news for most of its 26 million people, experts say.

The POW swap was the 54th since Russia launched a fullscale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022.

Officials from the warring countries meet only when they swap their dead and POWs, after lengthy preparation and diplomacy. Neither Ukraine nor Russia discloses how many POWs there are in

total. Zelenskyy said in a post on the Telegram messaging service that the United Arab Emirates had again brokered the agreements. The UAE has said it maintains friendly relations

shaven heads and wrapped in Ukrainian flags standing in what appeared to be an open area of countryside.

"No matter how difficult it may be, we are looking for everyone who may be in captivity. We have to return everyone, Zelenskyy wrote in the post. Among the released Ukrainians were some who had spent more than two years in captivity. They were captured in Mariupol, during Russia's early offensive in the Kyiv region and battles in the eastern Luhansk region, the country's Coordination Headquarters for POWs said.

It said just over 3,400 people, both civilians and military, have returned from Russian captivity since the outbreak of the war.

The Russian Defence Ministry said the freed Russian soldiers will be flown to Moscow for medical treatment and rehabilitation.

Kin of those killed in MH17 tragedy mark 10th anniversary

AP MELBOURNE

 $R^{\text{elatives of passengers killed}}_{\text{when Malaysia Airlines}}$ Flight 17 was shot down over Ukraine gathered with officials at Australia's Parliament House on Wednesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the tragedy that claimed 298 lives.

One of those relatives, Paul Guard, mostly blames the conflict raging in eastern Ukraine a decade ago for the missile attack that killed 38 Australian citizens and permanent residents including his parents, Toowoomba doctors Roger and Jill Guard

"I don't think anyone intended to bring down a passenger plane. Šo in that sense, I'm heartbroken that the conflict continues," Paul Guard told Australian Broadcasting Corp. "But I think that a lot of families would really have just liked an acknowledgement that what

happened was wrong and that Russia should not have been

waging war," the son added. The conflict has since escalated into a full-scale war with Russia's invasion of its smaller neighbour in February 2022. The pro-Russia rebel-held border region from where a Sovietera Buk surface-to-air missile was fatefully launched and the fields where much of the debris landed after the Boeing 777 disintegrated is now territory controlled by the Russian military. Moscow has repeatedly denied responsibility for MH17's destruction and refused to hand over two Russians and a Ukrainian convicted by a Dutch court in absentia in 2022 of murder. Russia continues to be pursued

under international law by the Netherlands through in the European Court of Human Rights and by Australia and the Netherlands jointly through the International Civil Aviation Organization Council, or ICAO, over its alleged role in bringing down MH17. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told Wednesday's

service she was "appalled" that Russia had withdrawn from the ICAO proceedings in June. The case will continue and we will not be deterred in our commitment to hold Russia to account," Wong told the gathering that included foreign

diplomats. Today, on behalf of the Australian government, I

recommit again to our collective pursuit of truth, justice and accountability for the outrages perpetrated on 17th July, 2014," he added.

A commemoration is also planned in the Netherlands later Wednesday at a monument near Schiphol Airport, from where MH17 left on its way to the Malaysian city of

Kuala Lumpur. Australian Attorney-General Mark Drevfus will represent Australia at that monument, were 298 trees were planted to commemorate each victim and sunflowers like those that grew at the crash site.

He expected the Netherlands-Australia case against Russia would be back before the ICAO in October despite Moscow's withdrawal. "We won't let this go until we've brought Russia to account," Drevfus said

The Netherlands was home to 196 victims. As well as Australia, victims also came from Malaysia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, the Philippines, Canada, New Zealand, Vietnam, Israel, Italy, Romania, the United States and South Africa. An international investigation

initiated in the UN Security

Council by the Netherlands,

cluded that the Buk missile system that destroyed MH17 belonged to the Russian 53rd Anti-Ăircraft Missile Brigade. The investigation concluded the missile was driven into Ukraine from a Russian military base near the city of Kursk and returned there after the plane was shot down. Tony Abbott was Australia's

prime minister when MH17 was shot down. Abbott recalled on Wednesday that Russian President Vladimir Putin became physically aggressive when the Australian raised MH17 and the Ukraine conflict on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit in Beijing in 2014.

Putin said through an interpreter that Ukrainians were all fascists, had brought down MH17 themselves and that Ukraine had no right to exist,

Malaysia and Australia con-Abbott said

Then as we were going back into the conference – and this was really quite an extraordinary thing — he suddenly turned, grabbed the elbows and tried to shake me and then pushed me away. And he said in English, where he's quite fluent: Look, you are not a native Australian but I am a native Russian,' and pushed me away," Abbott told ABC.

"I think what he was trying to say to me in his own rather blunt and brutal way was that how could I as a citizen of a settler society understand the blood and soil and mystical attachment that he had to every last inch of Mother Russia?" Abbott said.

So it was pretty obvious to me right back then what he was on about. I just think it's a pity that more wasn't done to arm up the Ukrainians in the meantime, Abbott added.

Setback for TikTok

London (AP) TikTok owner ByteDance can't avoid the bloc's crackdown on digital giants, a European Union court said Wednesday in a decision that found the video sharing platform falls under a new law that also covers Apple, Google and Microsoft.

The EU's General Court rejected ByteDance's legal challenge against being classed as an online "gatekeeper" that has to com-ply with extra obligations under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets Act.

The rulebook, also known as the DMA, took effect this year and seeks to counter the dominance of Big Tech companies and make online competition fairer by giving consumers more choice.



Tender Enquiry No. 1685/EMC/O&M/PC-2563 Dated: 16-07-2024 Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of Lighting Spares (Year 2024-2025) Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 16-07-2024 from 17:00 Hrs onwards

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

GHTP-57/24

76155/12/3123/2023/35762 Dated CHD :- 7/17/2024

money 10



ADB retains India's growth forecast at 7% for FY'25

PTI 📕 NEW DELH

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on (ADB) maintained Wednesday India's GDP growth forecast at 7 per cent for the current financial year, citing that a rebound in agriculture is expected given above-normal monsoon projections.

The ADB forecast comes a day after the International Monetary Fund revised upward its GDP growth projections for India to 7 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent projected in April.

Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised upward its growth forecast to 7.2 per cent, from 7 per cent estimated earlier. The Indian economy is on

track to grow by 7 per cent in FY2024 (ending 31 March 2025) and 7.2 per cent in FY2025 (next financial year), as projected in ADO April 2024, said the July edition of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO).

The Indian economy logged a growth rate of 8.2 per cent for the financial year ended March 2024, as against 7 per cent in the previous fiscal



vear. Services continued to expand robustly in Q4 of FY24, and the forward-looking services PMI is well above its longterm average, it said, adding, industry is also expected to grow robustly, driven by manufacturing and strong demand for construction led by housing, it said. "After muted growth in FY2023 (previous fiscal), a

rebound in agriculture is expected given the abovenormal monsoon projections. This is notwithstanding the slower advance of monsoon in June. A rebound in



public investments and bank credit is fueling robust housing demand improving private investment demand, it said. However, it said, export growth will continue to be led by services, with merchandise

exports showing relatively weaker growth. The stronger-than-expected fiscal position of the central government could provide a further boost to growth, it said.

However, the report said, this agriculture will be important must be weighed against to sustain growth momentum downside risks arising from weather events and geopolitical shocks.

With regard to inflation, ADO has also retained its forecast at 4.6 per cent for the current financial year and expects it to marginally decline to 4.5 per cent next fiscal.

With regard to developing Asia's growth forecast, ADO said, it is revised up to 5 per cent in 2024 and maintained at 4.9 per cent in 2025. Growth projections remain

unchanged with respect to ADO April 2024, it said, adding, resilient domestic demand along with improved exports and manufacturing will support growth this year.

The region's 2024 growth forecast has been marginally adjusted up by 0.1 percentage points due to upward revisions in the Caucasus and Central Asia along with East Asia, it said.

Meanwhile, the inflation forecast for the region has fallen to 2.9 per cent in 2024, largely due to downward revisions in China and the Caucasus and Central Asia, which offset a slight increase in South Asia, it said

Corporate funding in solar sector globally dips: Mercom

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Total corporate funding in the solar sector globally fell by 10 per cent to USD 16.6 billion in January-June 2024 due to uncertainties in major markets including the ÚS, according to Mercom Capital. In the first half of 2023, the global solar energy sector attracted USD 18.5 billion of investment, the US-based research firm said in a report. 'Total corporate funding, including venture capital/private equity (VC) funding, public market, and

debt financing, in 1H 2024 totaled USD 16.6 billion compared to USD 18.5 billion raised in 1H 2023. The number of deals increased 9 per cent to 87 deals in 1H 2024 compared to 80 during the same period last year," the 'Solar Funding and M&A Report' said.

"This has happened because of uncertainties in major markets. The financing activity in the solar sector remains restrained despite tailwinds from the Inflation Reduction Act and favourable global policies," said Raj Prabhu, CEO of Mercom Capital Group.



Transition secured funding of

up to USD 35 million from

responsAbility. While Ecozen

and SolarSquare raised USD

30 million and 4.2 million in

funding rounds to accelerate

expansion and meet working

The global debt financing

activity in the first half of 2024 reached USD 12.2 billion in 50 deals, a 53 per

cent increase compared to 1H 2023 when USD 8 billion was

In this space, Jakson Green in

India obtained a sustainable trade facility of USD 7.1

million from HSBC India and

Husk Power Systems secured

a USD 4 million investment

Alphacorp to invest ₹350 cr to develop

luxury housing project in Gurugram

capital needs

raised in 33 deals.

Besides, high interest rates, an uncertain rate trajectory and timeline, increasing trade chain barriers, supply challenges, concerns about the US presidential election's impact on the sector, and constantly evolving trade policies have created an unpredictable and uncertain climate. This has slowed down development, investments, and decision-

making, he added. In the first half of 2024, the global VC funding activity decreased 29 per cent with USD 2.7 billion raised in 29 deals compared to USD 3.8 billion from 33 deals in the first half of 2023.

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Gurugram.

said

company has launched luxury

high-rise project 'Alphacorp SKY1' comprising 100 units. The price is Rs 5 crore per

and CFO of Alphacorp.

parcels."

months.

In India, independent power producer AMPIN Energy in debt financing from Electrifi.

Cabinet to soon decide on IPEF's clean, fair economy agreements PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet will soon take a decision on the commerce ministry's proposal to seek approval for signing of 14-member IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) bloc's agreements on clean and fair economy, an official said.

Last month in Singapore, 13 IPEF bloc members signed these agreements, while India stated that it would ink the deals after getting domestic approval. The official said the commerce ministry has sent both pacts to the cabinet secretariat and soon the cabinet will take it up for approval.

Agreement on a clean economy intends to accelerate efforts of IPEF partners' towards energy security and transition resilience climate and GHG adaptation, (greenhouse gas) emissions mitigation; find/develop innovative ways of reducing dependence on fossil fue energy; promote technical cooperation, workforce development, capacity building, and collaborations. research

Exposure to India's infra sector helps LIC, SBI outshine peers

Shares of state-owned behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) have outperformed rivals like HDFC Life and ICICI Prudential Life as it placed bets on India's growth sectors, including infrastructure, while the private sector concentrated bet on tech, consumer and consumerrelated BFSI companies.

LIC's stock has gained nearly 79 per cent from Rs 620 on of 23 per cent. Capital market analysts said June 18, 2023, to Rs 1,109.15 at the closing on Tuesday, insurance companies make according to stock exchange money in two ways - charging premiums for policies and data.

In contrast, HDFC Life gave a negative return, if Tuesday's closing price of Rs 646.55 on the BSE is compared to Rs 666.55 a year back.

Prudential Life ICICI Insurance Co delivered a return of 12 per cent, considering its stock price rise from Rs 582 on June 18, 2023, to Rs 654.10 on June 16, 2024.

comp

investments.

Warren



Life Insurance shares have capitalise on the emergence of risen from Rs 1,314 to Rs the country's infrastructure 1,621.20, delivering a return sector, analysts said.

Indian insurance companies concentrated have investments in the BFSI, IT, and consumer sectors - all of which have been underperformers in the recent past. Only 8-10 per cent of their investments are in the infrastructure sector. This is far less when compared to global standards. Large global insurance companies -- such as Allianz, Nippon Life Insurance, and Metlife, and other insurers like Berkshire Hathaway --Most Indian insurance have much larger exposure all other sectors, according to ranging from ner

cent to the infrastructure sector, analysts noted. Over the past few years, global insurers have been increasingly considering infrastructure investments as 'core' investments as the stable and long-term cash flows of infrastructure assets naturally align with the liabilities of insurers.

Additionally, infrastructure assets have defensive characteristics of high barriers to entry, strong pricing power, structural growth, and predictive cash flows, and listed infrastructure can provide investors with inflationprotected income and solid capital growth.

For India, strong government focus on the sector with large spending, supporting initiatives and encouraging policies, and improving governance, the infrastructure industry has come off-age. This has helped the infra sector to outperform analysts

They said the high focus on retail loans, and the strategic reluctance to look infrastructure for growth opportunities is proving detrimental for the shareholders of such

Realty firm Alphacorp will develop a luxury housing project in Gurugram as part of its expansion plan amid companies. SBI, with its higher exposure to the infrastructure sector, has seen its stock gain 48 per strong consumer demand. Without divulging the name that owns two land parcels of nearly 2.4 acre each, located in Sector 15, Part 2, cent in the year (from Rs 592 to Rs 880.95 on Tuesday), while those of its private counterparts HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have gained only in the range of (-

3 per cent to 24 per cent. Kotak and HDFC Banks with negligible exposure to the infrastructure sector are the worst performing, with their shares giving a negative return, stock exchange data showed.

Kotak Mahindra Bank shares were at Rs 1,895 on June 18, 2023, and closed at Rs 1,805.20 on Tuesday. HDFC Bank closed at Rs 1,619.20 on BSE on Tuesday, down from 9 a vear



"We will develop a total of 200 investment is estimated at Rs apartments on these two land 350 crore excluding land cost. Santosh He said the investment will be Agarwal, Executive Director funded through internal accruals and bank loans, if On one parcel of 2.38 acre, the necessary.

"Gurugram, regarded as the Millennium City, exemplifies rapid infrastructure growth and dynamic urban development. This bustling unit. The project on the hub attracts a diverse range of second plot will also be launched in the next 2-3 residents, businesses, and investors," Agarwal said. When asked about the project The demand for luxury housing has bee

Since its inception, Alphacorp has developed integrated townships, luxurious condominiums, corporate hubs, retail centers, and industrial parks across the National Capital Region (NCR), Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat. Agarwal said the company has developed around 12 projects so far while six projects being are nstructe

in Gurugram in the past two years, he said.

Buffet-owned

Sebi's proposal on new asset class for high risk takers looks promising: Experts

then investing the premiums

into assets. It is the latter that

generates the bigger delta in

profits, thus impacting value

creation and managing risks.

Global majors, including

Berkshire Hathaway, have

been successful due to their

ability to make superior

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi's proposal for introducing a new asset class for high-risk profile investors can help them gain access to a newer set of strategies including long-short equity fund and inverse Exchangetraded Fund (ETF).

The new asset class is aimed at bridging the gap between mutual funds and Portfolio Management Services (PMS) in terms of flexibility in portfolio construction.

The Sebi's consultation paper floated on Tuesday on 'new asset class' and creating a structure for differentiated, higher risk strategies looks very promising, Radhika Gupta, MD and CEO of Edelweiss Mutual Fund said. "India is finally opening up to different investment styles products. and approaches. Passive, factor, inverse ETFs, alts and more. There is no single way to invest," she added.

In its consultation paper, the regulator said the new asset class will provide a regulated product with features like SIP (Systematic Investment Plan), higher risk-taking capability, and a higher ticket size, to meet the needs of the emerging category of investors. The regulator suggested a minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh for the new asset class, which could be permitted to invest in derivatives for purposes beyond just hedging and rebalancing. This higher threshold will

deter retail investors from investing in this product, while attracting investors, with investible funds between



the underlying index.

access

India creates.

Dezerv Co-Founder Sandeep

Jethwani said higher-risk

profile investors can now

opportunities without the

high minimum thresholds of

PMS and AIF or resorting to

unregulated structures that

bode really well for the protection of wealth that

This new asset class is poised

to leverage the exponential growth expected in managed assets (MFs, PMSs and AIFs)

in the next 5-7 years, he

added. Sebi believes that over

the years, a notable opportunity for a new asset

"The absence of such an investment product appears

propelled the investors of this

segment towards unregistered

and unauthorised investment

schemes. Such schemes often

inadvertently

portfolio construction.

have

to

regulated

Rs 10 lakh and Rs 50 lakh. who are being drawn to unauthorised and portfolio unregistered management service providers," the regulator said. Sebi's consultation paper for introducing new product with classes higher investment minimum than mutual funds and more freedom to invest can help investors gain access to a newer set of strategies like Long-short equities, inverse ETFs, etc which can help them express specific views on the market," Kaustubh Belapurkar, Director Manager Research of Manager Morningstar class has emerged between mutual funds and PMS in terms of flexibility in Investment Research India, said. Long-short equity fund seeks to deliver returns by taking long and short positions in equity and equity-related instruments. For example, the fund may be bullish on the

automobile sector and bearish on the IT sector and may invest in both these sectors by going long on the automobile sector and short on the IT sector. Inverse ETF aims to generate

investors' expectations for better yields, leading to potential financial risks," it returns that are negatively correlated to the returns of added.

Goa targeting new markets for tourism through global trade fairs, says Minister PTI PANAJI

 $G_{\text{tap}\ \text{new}\ \text{and}\ \text{emerging}}^{\text{oa}\ \text{is looking forward to}}$ markets through participation in global trade fairs after international tourism was affected due to the Russia-Ukraine war and other problems, minister Rohan Khaunte said on

Wednesday. During COVID-19, the international footfall in Goa was only 33,000, which has now increased to 4.5 lakh for this particular year (calendar year), Tourism Minister Khaunte said in the state assembly.

Responding to a question raised by Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai in the assembly, he said after the COVID-19 pandemic, the perception about tourism in the state is changing, taking it away from beaches.

Sardesai said Goa spent Rs 63 crore in the last four years (on various events), including Rs 29.84 crore to promote the state within the country. Former chief minister late Manohar Parrikar had emphasised on the pre-audit of roadshows and that accountability parameters should be framed, he said. Khaunte said after the COVID-19 pandemic, the

tourism department in 2022 decided to change the perception of Goa "beyond beaches" as earlier the impression about the coastal state was only about its beaches and party life.

promise unrealistically high "We needed to see that quality returns and exploit the people come in. Since 2021-22, Goa tourism board headed by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant discussed



The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has suggested the government to rationalise customs duties in various sectors including steel. solar battery, aluminum, and lithium cells in a bid to boost domestic

manufacturing. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget for financial year 2024-25 on July 23. ICC President Prabhu Ameya said protective measures are needed for the growth of domestic industry in sectors including steel, solar battery, aluminum, and lithium cells. "There is a need for rationalization of customs duty in these specific sectors in a holistic manner. Huge potential is there to boost domestic manufacturing and make India a global hub for manufacturing," Prabhu said.

He added that levies on raw materials impact domestic players particularly the downstream firms. He also asked for correction

in inverted duty structure by cutting down duty on mixed petroleum gas from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

boost domestic "To manufacturing, there is a need to increase duty on polyvinyl polyethylene polymers chloride, terephthalate, polypropylene and polyesters to 10 per cent. This will help in reducing import dependency and will drive India towards selfsufficiency in the

petrochemical manufacturing segment,"

Prabhu said. about the Talking importance of the aluminium foil sector, the President said the domestic industry has been facing severe losses as there is antidumping duty on raw materials whereas the

finished goods are not subject to any duties on imports from China. "This dual effect has resulted in extensive net losses to the companies that have made significant investments into this industry," Prabhu noted. On the taxation side, the chamber has suggested setting up a commission to review the Income Tax Act 1961 in its entirety and simplify the provisions. "This is an old Act. Every year in the Budget, amendments are made

which has made this Act complex to understand. These amendments have resulted in many anomalies which in turn have given rise to a large number of legal cases," the chamber has said. Prabhu further recommended the

government not to impose tax on dividends. He added that during his tenure so far the ICC has

spread its wings further nationally and internationally and become a truly world-class chamber. "We have opened 25 chapters globally in countries including New Zealand, the US, Europe, Australia, Korea and Middle East nations," he said

PwC for extension of beneficial tax regime for new manufacturing firms

PTI NEW DELHI

Tax consultancy firm PWC has urged Finance L has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman to extend the beneficial tax regime for new manufacturing companies and introduce a comprehensive tax amnesty scheme for cases related to Customs.

Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget for 2024-25 on July 23.

"I think the Make in India is the first thing which comes to mind, and you will recall that in 2019, the government introduced a 15 per cent rate for new manufacturing companies, which lapsed on March 31, 2024.

"I think that is one extension, which is being expected, and the expectation is also that instead of giving a year-onyear extension if we can look at the block period, say for the next five years because shifting a manufacturing is a big decision and the corporates may take time before making a decision and make it viable, feasible and that's the first bit," said Sandeep Puri, Partner, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP. Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act offers a concessional tax rate of 15 per cent for new domestic manufacturing companies.

Initially, this benefit was available for companies set up and registered after October 1, 2019, and commencing production by March 31, 2023, which was later extended to March 31, 2024, to account for delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



and tapping of new markets, he said.

> international impacted tourism to a big extent," the minister said, adding the Israel military campaign (in Gaza) also resulted in a dip in

'We had to ensure that we tap

The state tourism department participated in the WTM (World Travel Mart) London, ITB, Berlin, IITF and other events, Khaunte said.

"We are presenting ourselves to the world through these events where players from the emerging markets also come, he said.

now Ladakh and states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Karnataka are Pradesh, attending the international marts, he noted.

meetings. The minutes are placed before an empowered committee before we decide the next course of action," he added.

"Problems with the UK market and the Russia war

the number of tourists from that country.

the emerging markets like South East Asia, South Asia, the US, UAE and Germany," he said.

Earlier, only Goa used to participate in these events but

"During the events, we have serious B2B and B2C trade



sports 11

intervened and sought a solution but I think they were

being misled by someone," the

The IOA chief appreciated the

French Embassy for its

"Many athletes will vouch that

IOA has been proactive in

getting their coaches and

support personnel accreditations or visas from

the Embassy of France in

"The Embassy in Delhi and its

consulates elsewhere have

extended the greatest support

in processing visa requests not

only from such personnel but

also from journalists who do

not have accreditation," she

"We are confident that despite

such misleading reports, IOA

will be able to facilitate a

speedy processing of visa requests of those coaches and support staff cleared by the Ministry," Usha said.

official said

support.

India

said.

IOA chief PT Usha chides WFI ad-hoc panel for exclusion of Antim's coaches in long list

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

OA President P.T. Usha on Wednesday came down L heavily on the ad-hoc panel that managed the suspended WFI, saying the committee did not do due diligence and missed out on giving the names of wrestler Antim Panghal's coaches in the long list, sent to the Paris Olympic Games organisers. The Indian Olympic

Association's reaction came in the wake of delay in visa clearance for Panghal's preferred coaches for the Gamesa.

The 19-year-old Panghal, who trains in Hisar, was the first Indian wrestler to qualify for the Paris Games when she won a bronze at the World Championship in 2023.

She wants her coaches Bhagat Singh and Vikas to travel with her along with physiotherapist Heera. The IOA has cleared all

the names but the support staff members attached with Panghal are still awaiting visa

clearance. "Antim won India an Olympic quota as early as in September 2023 by claiming a bronze medal in the World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade. In its wisdom the Ad Hoc Committee, administering wrestling, chose not to include the names of Antim's coach or physiotherapist in the long list of names sent to the Olympic Games Organising Committee," Usha said in a statement.

The wrestlers are supposed to reach Paris on August 3 and the supports staff members have got appointment for bio-matrice for August 2 metrics for August 2. IOA had, in December 2023, named its EC member

Bhupendra Singh Bajwa as the head of the ad-hoc panel and made MM Somaya and Manjusha Kanwar as the other



Express yourself in Paris: Kapil's advise to Olympics-bound **Indian athletes**

PTI NEW DELHI

Former India skipper Kapil Dev, on Wednesday, advised Olympic-bound Indian athletes to express themselves fearlessly at the mega-event starting July 26 and hoped that the country would hit double digit mark on

the medals tally. India will be represented by a strong 117-member athlete contingent in Paris and the country hopes to better seven-medal count it logged in Tokyo.

"I can't really say for anybody but I can just wish them all the luck and hope we should win more medals this year and that's important," Kapil, who is also the president of Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) said here on the sidelines of the launch of second edition of the Trinity Golf Champions League

"My advise to all (Indian athletes) would be to go and express yourself. I cross my finger and why not if we believe it (double digit medal haul) will happen." Kapil, however, refrained from commenting on Indian cricket and newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir. "If Gautam Gambhir is taking that position (of head coach of Indian cricket team), I wish good luck to him and the team. I hope they do better than what we have done previously. I want to wish the Indian players all the best.

hoped that the sport will continue to grow in the country. "When I started playing crick-et, I never thought golf will reach

this height. I hope to see golf reaching the heights of cricket one day," he said. "We just need good sponsors to promote the game. Without sponsors nothing is possible. In

there," added Kapil, who is the ambassador of TGCL and also plays in the league. Buoyed by the resounding suc-

year, which featured four teams, TGCL this year will feature eight teams -- seven from India and one from Sri Lanka. The event will be held in Bengaluru from September 2 to 7. The league is a IPL kind of a venture and will be played in the

years time we should reach

cess of the inaugural season last

Ryder Cup format with 20 playteam which This ar professional, celebrity and amateur golfers playing together. The winning team will be rich-er by Rs 30 lakh, while second and third placed sides will get Rs 15 and Rs 10 lakh respectively. "It's a unique concept, never seen something like this. I hope immediately. the prize money for the winners former The of TGCL will one million dollars in the next five years," Kapil said. The eight teams participating in this year's TGCL are debutants Wave Riders, Mumbai Warriors, Chandigarh Titans, Chennai Hustlers, Dakshin Rangers, Lahari Lions, Golfism and Colombo Lions.



Chelsea begins disciplinary action after Fernandez's involvement in Argentina player chants

AP LONDON

Chelsea has begun disciplinary Caction after midfielder Enzo Fernandez was involved in a video where members of Argentina's where members of Argentina's Copa America-winning squad appeared to sing about French players with African heritage. FIFA also said it was also looking into the incident after the French soccer federation pledged to file a complaint with the sport's world governing body over "racist and discriminatory remarks." Fernandez said he was "truly sorry"

Fernandez said he was "truly sorry' and Chelsea said discriminatory unacceptable." "completely

'We are proud to be a diverse, inclusive club where people from all and cultures, communities identities feel welcome," the Premier League club said in a statement Wednesday. "We acknowledge and appreciate our player's public apology and will use this as an opportunity to educate.

The Club has instigated an internal disciplinary procedure.'

Argentina beat Colombia 1-0 on Sunday at Miami Gardens, Florida. Afterwards a video posted on

PTI NEW DELHI

India's first woman Paralympic medallist Deepa Malik has been named subregional representative for South Asia by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC). ntment wł confirmed during the 34th Executive Board meeting of the APC, signifies a significant step forward for gender diversity and athlete-centric leadership in para-sports. She will take up her post Paralympic Committee of India chief's appointment brings the number of female representatives on the APC Executive Board to five, making it the highest female representation on the board in the history of the organization, according to a media release. "Having more women during



Instagram appeared to show Fernandez and Argentina players chanting about France's team as they celebrated. The same chants - by some

Argentina fans - emerged before the team beat France in the World Cup

from several countries, and holding a French passport.

Fernandez apologized for "getting caught up in the euphoria of our

Copa America celebrations."

'I am truly sorry."

expensive player in British soccer

"That video, that moment, those words, do not reflect my beliefs or my character," he said on Instagram.

Fernandez became the most

embassy

is

very

federations must have a zero tolerance approach to racism and in May committed to relaunching a task force to monitor incidents. "FIFA is aware of a video circulating on social media and the incident is being looked into," the governing body said Wednesday. "FIFA strongly condemns any form of discrimination by anyone including

history after joining Chelsea from Benfica for 106.7 million pounds (\$131.4 million) in 2023.

Chelsea's response comes after one

of Fernandez's clubmates, France defender Wesley Fofana, posted the video on his social media accounts Tuesday and called it "uninhibited

racism." Fofana has family ties to Ivory Coast and is among several French players who are Black in the Chelsea first-

team squad. FIFA President Gianni Infantino has said soccer and its 211 national

players, fans and officials. It is unclear what jurisdiction FIFA has over the incident on a team bus

after a tournament, but the governing body likely could act if the Argentina federation's handling the case is considered of unsatisfactory.

Asian Paralympic Committee appoints Deepa Malik as representative for South Asia

our Executive Board meetings

opportunity for me to Indian Paralympics. It is the represent South Asia and be a right step in the overall

final in 2022. The derogatory chants single out France players of African heritage,

Kapil, who played a lot of amateur event back in the day,

especially when one voice is of someone with the experience, skills and wisdom of Dr. Deepa Malik," APC President Majid Rashed said.

"The APC acknowledges Dr. Deepa's extensive experience and is confident that our members from the South Asia Sub Region will be excellently represented by you on the APC Executive Board," he added.

Malik's role will involve representing South Asian nations and advocating for the development and promotion of para-sports across the region. "It is an honor and an



voice for our region. India for long is a flag bearer of "Vasudev Kutumbakam" and now is also a right time to take a step forward in taking the lead in contributing to this one big family," Malik said

"It's time for me to represent India at a bigger level and contribute in the collective growth of parasports and inclusion through sports' at large," she added.

Malik's appointment also aligns with the Paralympic Committee of India's broader mission to foster excellence and inclusivity in para-sports. "This is a defining moment for

strength. She also has the

experience of competing at

the Olympics. She was not

ready for the big stage in

Tokyo as a teenager but now

has a fair idea what is required

in such a highly competitive

Her fitness, though, is a

worrying aspect as she enters

the Olympics with a suspected

shoulder injury. She claims it's

just a neck spasm but she has

NISHA DAHIYA (Women's

68kg): Away from the limelight, Nisha Dahiya has

quietly made her way into

Paris Games. She had shown

field.

not been tested

development of sports in this region. I wholeheartedly welcome this announcement. We will collaborate with Dr. Deepa Malik and the APC to develop para-sports across the region. PCI is truly happy that APC has shown trust in our former president and our champion player," PCI champion player," president Devendra Jhajharia said.

This appointment marks a significant milestone in the history of the APC and the PCI, showcasing India's leadership and commitment to global the para-sports community.

Can Indian wrestlers deliver in Paris or medal-winning trend under risk

PTI NEW DELHI

Indian wrestlers have delivered a medal every single time at the Olympics since the 2008 Beijing edition. Success in four consecutive editions has enhanced the status of wrestling as a prime Olympic sport in the country. There was success at junior level too.

The sport also produced U23 world champions. It raised hopes of big success in Paris. It was Sushil Kumar who changed the way wrestling was perceived in the country by winning a bronze in 2008. He bettered his medal four years later in the London Games, where he fetched a silver. While Yogeshwar Dutt also won a bronze in the British capital. Sakshi Malik carried forward

the trend by bagging a bronze in Rio in 2016 and Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia made it a double delight in the delayed Tokyo Games (2021). However, the sport which was soaring high and was expected to reach even greater heights, was brought down to earth by the prolonged protests against then Wrestling Federation of India chief by the country's



elite wrestlers. freestyle 50kg): With his steady progress, Aman did National camps and domestic competitions came to a halt. what was replacing Olympic silver Confusion prevailed. No one medallist Ravi Dahiya, the knew how or when normalcy would return. There were formidable Indian most wrestler, in the men's 57kg allegations and counter-arguments. WFI elections weight division. Aman's biggest strength is his stamina and endurance. If the were held and the national body got suspended but finally when UWW lifted its bout lasts six minutes, it will suspension, things began be difficult to beat him. However, what is lacking in

moving. Only one male and five female his game is limited strategy wrestlers qualified for the upcoming edition. There is and technique. It was evident hope, but doubts too. PTI takes a look at the strength and weakness of all the six contenders. AMAN SEHRAWAT (Men's rival is key.

His biggest threats are Higuchi and Uzbekistan's Gulomjon unthinkable: Abdullaev.

VINESH PHOGAT (Women's 50kg): Without doubt, Vinesh Phogat is one the best woman wrestlers that India has produced. A solid and defence equally impressive attack are her strengths.

However, what could trouble her is lack of quality mat time against top wrestlers in the last year or so.

Lowering the weight class to when he was pitted against Rei Higuchi in the Ranking Series event in Hungary. He did not 50kg means more stress on her body. Cutting the weight cut seem to have a plan B. At this ahead of the bout is a painful process, it sucks the energy stage, planing against each out of the body and hers is an

aging body. She is almost 30. Her natural body weight is about 55-56kg. Much would depend on how Vinesh copes

with it. In the recent Grand Prix of Spain, the weight relaxation was 2kg but that won't be the

case in Paris. ANTIM PANGHAL 53kg): (Women's The firebrand wrestler from Hisar was first to lock a Paris Olympics quota. She also challenged Vinesh for a trial with her when the protest controversy was at its peak.

trap her. She has the spark and to go with an aggressive game style is Anshu's biggest

fire. However, she has not competed since the Asian Games. A back injury forced her to miss the Asian Championship this year. The lack of mat time and competitive action could prove to be her bane.

ANSHU MALIK (Women's 57kg): Anshu's career graph has not really taken off the way it was expected after her exploits on the junior circuit and the smooth transition to senior events. Injuries have Her biggest strength is flexibility that allows her to wriggle out of her rivals' grip pretty easily. It's difficult to

promise early but injuries has halted her ascent. Reported dead wrongly in 2021, Nisha has managed to surprise quality rivals with her

aggressive game style. She is seasoned and her fearless approach is her biggest strength. Not having the exposure of competing at big events consistently is her weakness apart from losing steam in the fifth-sixth minute of the bout.

She tends to pour out everything in the first four minutes of her bouts and if an up-and-down bout lasts the distance, she gives away points easily. Handling nerves on

debut will also be key HOODA REETIKA

(Women's 76kg): Reetika has the capability to surprise her rivals. She is not exactly unknown in the circuit but can prove to be a tough nut to crack even for experienced wrestlers due to her explosive

strength. She has power and technique but has the habit to concede points in the last 30 seconds of the bout. Even if she builds a lead, she can end up losing those points. Probably losing focus in the fag end of bouts is her weakness.

sports 12



Suryakumar holds 2nd spot, Jaiswal make gains in ICC T20I batting rankings

PTI DUBAI

The big-hitting Suryakumar Yadav is the highest placed Indian at second spot, while young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal opener occupies the sixth position in the ICC T20I batting rankings issued on Wednesday. Ruturaj Gaikwad has dropped

a place to the eighth position in the T20 batters' list, which was updated following India's recent 4-1 series triumph over Zimbabwe.

Jaiswal was the big winner following his 141 runs in the series as he rose four places, behind No.1 ranked batter Travis Head of Australia and Survakumar. Shubman Gill, who led India

against Zimbabwe in the absence of senior players and was the leading run-scorer of the series with 170 runs from five innings, moved up a

whopping 36 places to 37th. No Indian features in the top 10 of the T20I bowlers rankings. Axar Patel, who was rested for the Zimbabwe series, dropped four places to 13th

Fast bowler Mukesh Kumar



and spinner Washington Sundar also made upward movements.

up

73rd rank

ahead of South Africa's Anrich Mukesh, who scalped eight Wanindu Nortje and Hasaranga of Sri Lanka. wickets from three games, has In the T20I all-rounders' gained 36 places to rise to 46th rankings, India's Hardik spot. Washington, who picked eight wickets in five Pandya dropped four places to sixth while Axar slipped one matches, has risen 21 spots to rung to 13th.

England's Adil Rashid is Washington (41st) and Shivam leading T20I bowlers' chart Dube (43rd) have risen by eight and 35 places to 41st abd

43rd spots respectively. Hasaranga Sri Lanka's continues to top the all-rounders' list ahead os OS Australia's Marcus Stoinis and Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza



Roshni scores hat-trick as Hockey Jharkhand wins

PTI 📕 KOLKATA

Hockey Jharkhand thrashed Assam Hockey 13-0 in the women's category with the young Roshni Aind (24th, 32nd, 33rd) scoring a hat-trick in the 2nd Hockey India Junior Men & Women East Zone Championship here

on Wednesday. The other goal-scorers for the winners at the Netaji Subhas Eastern Centre were captain Rajni Kerketta (11, 27), Barwa Purnima (31, 46), Mundu Sukarmani (46, 56), Parwati Topno (21), Pinki Kumari (29), Hemrom Leoni (43) and Aupriva Soreng (59). Hockey Association of Odisha

too scored a lopsided 11-0

win against Hockey Bihar with Kachhap Rimjhim (20, 21, 31, 36) scoring four goals. Najiya Khatun (8, 34), Marandi Rajina (38), Khushi Kumari (44), Sugandha Sonam (49, 50), and Kumari Sharda (57) too were on

target. Hockey Bengal defeated Manipur Hockey 8-3 with Laltlanchhungi (4, 39, 49, 56), Shanti Horo (6, 33), and Lalpeksangi (23, 24) on target. For Manipur Hockey Tanu For Manipur Hockey, Tanu Shorensangbam (26), Devi Mutum Priya (41) and Devi Laishram Ritu (48) scored the consolation goals.

In the men's section, Hockey Association of Odisha Association of Odisha defeated Manipur Hockey 7-0

with Rohit Kullu (14, 60), Sunil Lakra (22), Deepak Pradhan (28, 50), Premdayal Giri (41) and Deonath Nanwar (47) on target.

Hockey Jharkhand crushed Hockey Bihar 9-0 with Abhishek Tigga (6), Jolen Topno (20, 59), Rohit Pradhan (21), Roshan Ekka (37), Ghuran Lohra (38), Adisen Mini (42) Adisan Minj (42), Faguwa Horo (44), and Dodray Sandeep (53) scoring the goals.

Greg Norman was 53 when he had

Courses for the U.S. Majors might be

getting too big for the 48-year-old Woods, whose body is held together

by hardware. But there is something

"The older you get, the less you can carry the golf ball," Woods said. "But

about links golf that is timeless.

3-wood, whatever

the 54-hole lead at Royal Birkdale.

Hockey Bengal registered a 5-1 win over Assam Hockey. Karan Shaw (2, 23, 39) led the goal-scoring efforts for the winners while Prince Gabriyal Dhan (28) and Bishnu Paswan (34) too scored a goal each.

She was runner-up for the Ballon d'Or award in 2019 and named FIFA Best Women's

Player of the Year in 2020. "Lucy will bring leadership to the group. She is a serial winner and a versatile defender. She has lots of experience and a winning mentality which we feel will fit well into the squad," Chelsea general manager Paul Green said.

Chelsea has dominated women's soccer in England and is the five-time defending WSL champion.

over here, you can run the golf ball It was managed by Emma Hayes before she left for the 100 yards if you get the right wind and the right trajectory. ... You can play on the ground. You can burn it on the ground with a 1-iron, 2-iron, Women's United States National Team at the end of the season.

Analysis: Tiger Woods playing all the majors, but for how much longer?

AP TROON (SCOTLAND)

 $T_{\rm majors}^{\rm iger}$ Woods is playing all four majors for the first time since 2019, which at the start of the year would have been cause for great optimism.

The results paint a different picture. He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut at Augusta National. And then he was gone by the weekend at the PGA Championship and the U.S. Open. He hasn't broken par since a 69 in the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship, and he needed that simply to make the cut.

His performance is starting to raise

questions of how much longer he will play - how much longer he should play - to avoid lasting memories of a great champion

slapping it around. Leave it to Colin Montgomerie to put those thoughts into words found in a Times of London interview ahead of the British Open, when he said at one point, "What the hell is he doing?

The entirety of what Montgomerie told the Times: "I hope people remember Tiger as Tiger was, the passion and the charismatic aura around him. There is none of that now. At Pinehurst he did not seem to enjoy a single shot and you think,

What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and he won't enjoy it there, either.

Woods already has enjoyed one aspect of his stay at Royal Troon. That came Tuesday when he was Montgomerie's asked about comments. Woods relishes a chance to push back on criticism, particularly when the source is someone known for never winning a major

"Well, as a past champion, I'm exempt until I'm 60," Woods said, speaking to his time at the British Öpen. "Colin's not. He's not a past champion, so he's not exempt. So he doesn't get the opportunity to make

that decision. I do."

It brought up memories of an Open tradition some 20 years ago. Stewart McDougal was the press officer at the time, and he would ask Open champions who came into the press center to sign the table. At the end of the week, McDougal auctioned off the table for charity. Montgomerie came in one day, saw all the signatures on the table and reached for pen. "I'm sorry, Colin," McDougal told him. "It's only for

Open champions." Poor Monty. The questions are fair enough, but there is something to be said about golfers being able to decide when their time is done. And given all that

was an 8-foot par putt away from winning the British Open at Turnberry in 2009. The year before, Woods has done in the game, it's probably not the best idea to show him the door no matter what numbers he is posting

His 82 in the third round of the Masters was his highest in a major. The 78 on the Old Course two years ago in what likely will be his final time at St. Andrews.

He still draws the biggest crowd and generates the loudest buzz. And two numbers worth remembering are four and 15. He had four surgeries on his lower back, the last one to fuse his spine, and two years later he won his 15th major at the Masters.

Another number worth noting is 59 the age of Tom Watson when he





England great Lucy Bronze joins Chelsea from Barcelona AP 📕 LONDON

England defender Lucy joined Chelsea from Barcelona on Wednesday on a two-year deal.

Five-time Champions League winner Bronze completed her move to the Women's Super League (WSL) champion after

two years with Barcelona. "To know I'm a Chelsea player still feels a little bit surreal. It's obviously a club I know so much about and have done for such a long time," she said.

"I'm really excited to be back in England. My family are so excited as well to get to more of my games."

Bronze is one of the most successful players in the history of the women's game after winning major titles with clubs and country.

The 32-year-old right-back won the European Championship with England in 2022 and was a losing finalist at last year's World Cup. She won three Champions League titles with Lyon and

two more with Barcelona. Bronze won eight league titles in England, France and Spain with Liverpool, Manchester City, Lyon and Barcelona.



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

अब त्वारत आर आसान संवाए

राजस्व महा-अभियान २.०

१८ जुलाई से ३१ अगस्त - २०२४

डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

30 लाख से अधिक प्रकरणों का निराकरण लक्षित

भु-अभिलेखों का शृद्धीकरण

लंबित राजस्व प्रकरणों का निराकरण

डिजिटल क्रॉप सर्वे

- राजस्व सम्बन्धी सभी प्रकरण जो अभी न्यायालय में ऑफलाइन प्रचलित हैं, अथवा किसी कारण से नम्बर से उतर गए हैं वे रेवेन्यू केस मैनेजनेंट सिस्टम (RCMS) पर दर्ज होंगे।
- नामांतरण, बंटवारे के पारित आदेशों को 31 जुलाई 2024 तक ऑनलाइन अभिलेखों में दर्ज किया जायेगा।
- 30 जून, 2024 की स्थिति में समय-सीमा पार कर चुके लम्बित प्रकरणों को चिह्नित कर नामांतरण, बंटवारा, अभिलेख दुरुस्ती के प्रकरणों का निराकरण।
- लंबित नामांतरण प्रकरणों (विवादित/अविवादित) का निराकरण एवं उत्तराधिकार नामांतरण के प्रकरणों को भी दर्ज कर निराकरण।
- लंबित बंटवारा प्रकरणों का निराकरण एवं 06 माह की अवधि के लंबित सभी प्रकार के अभिलेखों के शुद्धीकरण के प्रकरणों का निराकरण।
- खसरे में बटांकन होना परंतु नक्शे में बटांकन नहीं होने के प्रकरणों में सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता के आधार पर सुधार।
- खसरा नंबर का एक से अधिक बार होने के प्रकरणों का पटवारी एवं तहसीलदार द्वारा निराकरण।

- नक्शे में बटांकन होना एवं खसरे में नहीं होना ऐसे मामलों का भूलेख पोर्टल पर बहुल नक्शा बटांकन (Village Map Correction) मॉड्यूल के माध्यम से तहसीलदार द्वारा निराकरण।
- समग्र वेब पोर्टल, MPONLINE/CSC कियोस्क के माध्यम से समग्र में आधार की e-KYC कराने की सुविधा नागरिकों को निःशुल्क उपलब्ध रहेगी।
- पीएम किसान योजना से छूटे हुए पात्र किसानों को योजना में जोड़ा जायेगा एवं अपात्र हितग्राहियों की जानकारी पीएमकिसान पोर्टल पर अद्यतन की जायेगी।
- स्वामित्व योजना के तहत आबादी भूमि के सर्वेक्षण की कार्यवाही पूर्ण कर अधिकार अभिलेख का वितरण समारोहपूर्वक सुनिश्चित किया जायेगा।
- प्रत्येक किसान की फार्मर आईडी तैयार की जायेगी।
- खरीफ-24 में डिजिटल क्रॉप सर्वे किया जायेगा।
- पटवारी डायरी का मैनुअल के स्थान पर डिजिटल संधारण किया जायेगा, जिसमें वास्तविक लोकेशन पर उपस्थिति दर्ज होने से कार्य पारदर्शिता से होंगे।

#RajaswaMahaAbhiyan2_MP

मध्यप्रदेश जनसम्पर्क द्वारा जारी

राजस्व विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन

D-11034/24