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KNIFE ATTACK IN PARIS

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SNEH: INDIA WOMEN'S
TEAM WILL WIN ICC
TROPHY SOON
11 SPORTS

INDIA AMONG MAJOR NATIONS HIT BY MICROSOFT OUTAGE

Flights, banks, media outlets disrupted globally

Indian aviation sector affected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Microsoft users globally, including several in India, reported massive outages in services, with the outage tracking website Downdetector showing users flagging disruptions across various services. A new update from CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity software firm, is being cited as the cause of the outage, which has impacted Windows-based desktops and laptops. Globally, long queues formed at airports in the US, Europe, and Asia, including India, as airlines lost access to check-in and booking services at a time when many travellers are heading away on summer vacations. News outlets in Australia — where telecommunications were severely affected — were pushed off air for hours. Hospitals and doctor's offices had problems with their appointment systems, while banks in South Africa and New Zealand reported outages to their payment system or websites and apps. Some athletes and spectators descending on Paris ahead of the Olympics were delayed as was the arrival of their uniforms and accreditations, but games organisers said



MEITY is in touch with Microsoft and its associates regarding the global outage

disruptions were limited and didn't affect ticketing or the torch relay. Amid the massive global outage that hit operations of airlines, banks and businesses across the globe, Microsoft on Friday said it is aware of the issue affecting Windows devices due to an update from a third-party software platform," the spokesperson said. The outage put operations of businesses and systems across the globe in a state of limbo. On outage tracking website Downdetector, users reported problems across Microsoft line-up including Azure, and Teams. Microsoft said it is investigating the issue "impacting users ability to access various Microsoft 365 apps and services". "Our services are still seeing continuous improvements while we continue to take mitigation actions," according

to Microsoft 365 Status post on social media. The glitch caused users to see the Blue Screen of Death error messages, and there are widespread reports of disruptions in international airlines, banks and media outlets. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said MEITY is in touch with Microsoft and its associates regarding the global outage and assured that State run NIC network was not affected. The IT Minister said the reason for this outage has been identified and updates have been released to resolve the issue. CERT too issued a technical advisory. "It has been reported that Windows hosts related to CrowdStrike agent 'Falcon Sensor' are facing outages and getting crashed due to recent update received in the product. The concerned windows hosts are experiencing a 'Blue Screen of Death (BSOD)' related to Falcon Sensor," CERT-In advisory said. A widespread Microsoft outage disrupted flights, banks, media outlets and companies around the world including India. Escalating disruptions continued hours after the technology company said it was gradually fixing an issue affecting access to Microsoft

Multiple airports and airlines faced major disruptions across the country due to outages of Microsoft Windows cloud service. Several airports suspended operations as services like bookings, check-in and boarding process including issuance of boarding passes were carried out manually, thereby taking longer than expected time and leading to long queues at airports. It caused chaos for several low-cost airlines, posing security concerns. The outage hit booking and check-in services of several airlines, including Air India, IndiGo, Akasa Airlines and SpiceJet. Flyers have been advised to get to the airport well in advance, as manual check-ins take more time. They have also been urged to carry dry food items and water in case the wait stretches. Airlines are posting updates on their social media handles to warn passengers about delays. Advising passengers to cooperate with airport staff during this period of disruption, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said it is "committed" to

minimising inconvenience and ensuring well-being of all travellers. The airports and airline operations, whose systems were based on Microsoft, faced significant disruptions since about 10.40 am on Friday. IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India and Akasa saw disruptions in their online check-in and boarding processes across their networks, forcing them to



Stranded passengers at the Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru amid Microsoft outage, in Bengaluru, on Friday. IndiGo, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa at the Bengaluru airport began checking in passengers manually on Friday, issuing handwritten boarding passes, after a global Microsoft outage led to the Navitaire Departure Control System stalling

switch to manual mode. Airlines are facing issues in making fresh bookings; urging passengers not to make multiple bookings for a journey and urging them not to contact call centres — which are facing tremendous call volumes due to flight delays — unless their flight is scheduled to depart in 24 hours. Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu

said his Ministry and Airports Authority of India (AAI) are actively managing the situation arising out of a global Microsoft outage, which severely impacted airport and airline operations in the country. The Civil Aviation Ministry in collaboration with AAI has implemented manual backup systems to maintain operational continuity, Naidu said in a statement.



Unease in NDA over Yogi's fresh order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

A fresh order by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directing the businesses in the Kanwar pilgrims route to display nameplates, has caused unease within a section of party as well as the BJP's partners in NDA like JD(U) and LJP. The Uttar Pradesh Government too followed the suit and issued similar directives besides verification of the shops and its owners enroute the Kanwar pilgrimage which originates from Haridwar. The fresh order came after the controversial directives of Muzaffarnagar police which mandated the eateries enroute to display names of owners later to be withdrawn saying it was just optional advisory. Not only the Opposition but senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister Chirag Paswan, JD(U) spokesman KC Tyagi amongst several others expressed concern over the communal directives. Congress said it is an "attack on the Constitution" and demanded the order be withdrawn. The BJP, which is in power at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh, has defended the measure, claiming that it allows fasting Hindus who may want to eat at a pure vegetarian restaurant, where the likelihood of them being served 'satvik' food is higher. "Nameplate will have to be put on the food shops on the Kanwar routes across Uttar Pradesh. The decision was taken to maintain the purity of the faith of Kanwar pilgrims. Action will also be taken against those selling products with Halal certification," the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's office said.

UP State Minister Kapil Dev Agarwal said most of the outlets with names of Hindu deities are run by Muslims and they sell non-vegetarian food. He said those outlets must be identified and prohibited. "This is not a matter about every food cart. Those who carry 'jal' from Haridwar and travel for 250-300 km cross this route to reach their destination. We had urged the district administration that all such people who run their dhaba/hotel after the names of Hindu deities are mostly from the Muslim community. Kanwariyas visit their shops where non-vegetarian food is sold. So, the name of the shop is after a Hindu deity, but non-vegetarian is sold there; all such establishments should be prohibited, they should be identified," the Minister said. Agarwal said they are not against the sale of non-vegetarian food but Kanwariyas would not eat from such outlets. "We have no objection to the sale of non-vegetarian food, Kanwariyas would not purchase it. We have only urged that non-vegetarian food should not be sold by opening shops after the names of Hindu deities; so the administration has acted accordingly. Politicians are giving it a Hindu-Muslim angle. But it is not a Hindu-Muslim matter, it is a matter of social harmony. People can sit and eat wherever they want, but they should have the knowledge of where they are sitting," Agarwal added. Naqvi slammed the decision and said the hasty orders may give rise to the disease of untouchability. "Faith must be respected, but untouchability must not be patronised," the former Union Minister in Narendra Modi's second term, said.

Centre to introduce six new Bills in Parliament

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has listed six new Bills for introduction, including the one which seeks to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act, to provide enabling provisions for ease of doing business in the aviation sector, in the upcoming Parliament Session beginning Monday. Besides the Finance Bill, the Government has also listed 'The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill' for introduction, consideration and passing. The proposed legislation aims to bring more clarity and convergence in the roles of different organisations working in the field of disaster management, a Lok Sabha bulletin issued Thursday said. The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidhaya, 2024 seeks to replace the Aircraft Act of 1934 to provide enabling provisions for ease of doing business in the Civil Aviation sector. The Session beginning July 22 will conclude on August 12. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget on Tuesday, July 23. Other Bills listed for introduction and passage during the Session are the Boilers Bill to replace the pre-Independence era law, the Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill and the Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has also constituted the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), which decides the parliamentary agenda. The committee chaired by the Speaker has Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC), PP Chaudhary (BJP), Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (TDP), Nishikant Dubey (BJP), Gaurav Gogoi (Congress), Sanjay Jaiswal (BJP), Dileshwar Kamait (JD-U),



Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP), Dayanidhi Maran (DMK), Baijayant Panda (BJP), Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-UBT), Kodikunnil Suresh (Congress), Anurag Thakur (BJP) and Lalji Verma (SP) as members. The Centre has also convened an all-party meeting on Sunday ahead of the Monsoon Session. The meeting has been called by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, the Ministry said in a statement. This will be Leader of Opposition and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's first time at the customary Session-eve meeting of the floor leaders from all parties if he attends it. Another large party in the Opposition ranks, Trinamool Congress, has regretted it won't attend the meet. The Opposition parties under the INDIA Bloc too have convened a meeting of their Parliamentarians the same evening and another on July 22 morning ahead of the resumption of Parliament to discuss the strategy to raise the issues during the three-weeks-long Monsoon cum Budget session.



Shah for synergy among agencies to dismantle terror networks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting with the various heads of security and law enforcement agencies to review the functioning of Multi Agency Centre (MAC) of IB, responsible for tackling security challenges in the country. Addressing the meeting Home Minister instructed heads of security agencies to adopt a whole-of-the-Government approach towards national security. He stressed upon greater synergy between all the agencies to dismantle the terror networks and their supporting eco-system, to address the evolving security threat scenario of the country. While reviewing the overall internal security situation in the country and the fight against terrorism, Shah impressed upon all the participants to increase engagement in the Multi Agency Centre and make it into a cohesive platform.

SC to review immunity to Guvs from prosecution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine the contours of Article 361 of the Constitution which grants 'blanket immunity' to Governors from any kind of criminal prosecution. The top court's order came on a plea of contractual woman employee of West Bengal 'Raj Bhavan' who has alleged molestation by Governor C V Ananda Bose and her wrongful confinement by the officials there. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also issued a notice to the West Bengal Government on the plea of the woman and granted her liberty to make also the Central Government a party. It also sought the assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani in dealing with the constitutional issue. At the outset, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the woman whose name has been redacted from the judicial records, said, "It cannot be that there is no investigation. Evidence has to be gathered right now. It cannot be deferred indefinitely till the Governor demits office." The plea said the immunity granted to the Governors under clause 2 of Article 361 cannot bar the investigation and moreover, the time is the essence in such probes. "The petition raises the issue pertaining to the ambit of the protection which is afforded to the Governor under clause (2)



Photo: Ranjan Dimri

of Article 361 of the Constitution," the bench said in its order of issuing notice to the State Government and others. The Article deals with the protection of President and the Governors and its clause 2 reads, "No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office." The woman petitioner has also sought directions to frame specific guidelines under which Governors enjoy immunity from criminal prosecution. "This court has to decide whether a victim like the petitioner can be rendered remediless, with the only option being to wait for the accused to demit his office, which delay will then be inexplicable during the trial, and render the entire procedure a mere lip service, without any justice to the victim herein," the plea said.

IAS officer Khedkar's career on the line as UPSC files FIR

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In twin disciplinary measures, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has launched criminal prosecution of a controversial probationary IAS officer Puja Manorama Diliprao Khedkar and also issued a show-cause notice to her for cancellation of her candidature from Civil Services Examination-2022/debarment from future examinations/selections. In a statement issued on Friday, the UPSC said it had conducted detailed investigations against

Puja Khedkar for her alleged "misdemeanour". "From the investigation, it has been revealed that she fraudulently availed attempts beyond the permission limit under examination rules by way of changing her name and the names of her father and mother, her photograph, her email id, mobile number and address," the UPSC said. The UPSC said it had initiated a series of actions against her, including a criminal prosecution by filing a First Information Report (FIR) with the police, and served her a show cause notice.



The UPSC said "in fulfilling its Constitutional obligations, it stringently adheres to its Constitutional mandate, and conducts all its processes, including all examinations, with the highest possible order of due diligence without any compromise". "Te UPSC has ensured the sanctity and integrity of all its examination processes with the utmost fairness and strict observance of rules," the statement said. "The UPSC has deservedly earned the trust and credibility of a very high order from the public,

especially the candidates. The UPSC is unequivocally committed to ensure that such a high order of trust and credibility remains intact and uncompromised," the statement added. It may be recalled that on July 16, their daughter and probationary IAS officer Dr Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar — who is under scanner for alleged misuse of power and privileges — was ordered to return to her alma mater Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie.

Chief Minister to launch Regional Industry Conclave in Jabalpur

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In its journey of balanced and equitable development in Madhya Pradesh, the state government is now organizing its second Regional Industry Conclave (RIC) at Sanskardhani-Jabalpur on Saturday, July 20 from 9 am. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will also inaugurate the Regional Industry Conclave to be held here by inaugurating the "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cultural and Information Centre" constructed for Rs 80 crore. The Conclave will be attended by more than 3500 industry leaders including leading industrialists, representatives of various industry associations, and prominent for-

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will also inaugurate the Regional Industry Conclave to be held here by inaugurating the "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cultural and Information Centre" constructed for Rs 80 crore

oreign delegates. Chief Minister Yadav will virtually inaugurate more than 60 units and will also hold one-to-one discussions with industrialists. Major industrial groups like Baidyanath Group, ITC, Volvo Eicher, Best Corp, SRP, and Dawat Group will be participating in the Regional Industry Conclave. Prominent foreign representatives representing Taiwan, Malaysia, Britain, Fiji, Japan, and

MORE THAN 3500 INVESTORS WILL PARTICIPATE

remove regional disparities in industrial development by harnessing regional potential. The aim is to promote regional development by acquainting the investors to the industrial capabilities and opportunities of the Jabalpur region. The objective of this innovative conclave is to promote cooperation by bringing investors from major markets on one platform and having meaningful discussions. **Detailed discussion on investment in specific areas will be held in regional sessions** Five regional sessions will be organized focusing on the investment potential of Jabalpur and surrounding



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and BJP State President VD Sharma welcome Mahendra Kannauj, leader of Madhya Pradesh Tribal Organisation Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakti (JAYS) as he joins BJP at the party's headquarters in Bhopal on Friday.

Fairs based on cultural heritage to be held in States

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Reviewing the progress of construction work of various religious and cultural corridors, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav directed for light and sound shows at these places. While ensuring the sources of income for the various religious and cultural corridors, their construction and management process should be decided. To ensure better management of the corridors, a management committee should be formed at the local level of the concerned departments like culture, tourism, endowments, revenue, panchayat and rural development, and urban development and housing department.

Rajesh Rajoura, Principal Secretary Culture and Tourism Sheeshkar Shukla were present in the meeting. Yadav asked to ensure that the construction work of all the developing religious and cultural corridors is planned in such a way that beautification stays on for years. He gave instructions to develop a research institute and educational institution in Sant Ravidas Lok, Sagar. Dr. Yadav said that devotees come to Bhadwa Mata Lok Neemuch not only for darshan but also for health benefits. An Ayurvedic hospital and physiotherapy center should also be connected to Bhadwa Mata Lok. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the architectural style in which the temples are built should ensure that the characteristics are followed in the construction of the structures. Chief Minister Yadav said that fairs focusing on the art, culture, architecture, and major cuisines

Sufficient funds for research projects, focus on quality: Dr Grover

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has sufficient funds for research projects, but the number of high-quality projects among the proposals received by the council is very low. Therefore, researchers should focus on the quality of their projects," said Dr Ashu Grover, Head of the Delivery Research Division and Scientist-G at ICMR, on Thursday. She was addressing a symposium on the "Importance of Clinical Research" organized at Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC). This symposium was organized by the research cell of BMHRC. Dr. Rehan Ul Haq, Dean of Research at AIIMS, Bhopal, also addressed the symposium on "Why research by clinicians."



Dr Manisha Shrivastava, Director In-charge, BMHRC, also addressed the doctors, nurses, and other staff present at the workshop. Dr. Ashu Grover stated that ICMR wants more people in the country to engage in research so that research conducted in India can stand at par with research in developed countries. To achieve this goal, funding is no longer an issue. The council provides up to

INR 2 crore for research projects under small grants. ICMR is making significant efforts to obtain more funding for research. She emphasized that researchers also need to work on improving their research projects, creating good proposals, and reading quality research journals. She noted that there is no shortage of data and patient numbers for good research. There is no deficiency at the educational level either. The only lack is in the research environment. He need to create a good environment for research in our institutions. **Do Research on Your Area of Interest: Dr Rehan Ul Haq** Dr Rehan Ul Haq, Dean (Research) at AIIMS, Bhopal, emphasized that to conduct research, one should choose a good topic. This topic should be new, significant, and of your interest, along with having a good understanding of it. After deciding on the topic, determine the research question. Before deciding on the research question, think carefully about it. He emphasized that not only it is important to do research, but it is also essential to get your research project published in good medical journals. When your project gets published in a reputed journal, it will give you recognition, benefit your career, and improve your clinical practice. It is also essential to identify which journal to publish your paper in. Reduce the word count of your research paper. Focus on the results in the research report, not just on how the research was conducted. **BMHRC is also focusing on Research: Dr Manisha Shrivastava** Dr Manisha Shrivastava, Acting Director of BMHRC, said that BMHRC is focusing on research along with providing good treatment to patients. We have several topics and resources available for conducting research. Addressing all the doctors of the hospital, she urged them to focus on research along with patient care. Before deciding on a research topic, think about how it will benefit the patients.



Minister for Housing and Urban Development Kailash Vijaywargiya reviews a meeting of the Mayors and Commissioners of the Municipal Corporations, at State Mantralaya in Bhopal on Friday

After his wife's death 45-year-old man ends life by hanging

PNS ■ MHOW

Depressed over his wife's death 45-year-old man committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at Kamla Nagar. The police recovered the body from his flat on Thursday night. His wife was murdered by his own son on the night of 14 February (Valentine's Day). The son wanted to marry his girlfriend and bring her home on this day. The mother had opposed this proposal of the son. Meanwhile, the husband was depressed since the death of his wife. Due to this, he committed suicide in his flat by making a noose of a towel. Kamla Nagar police has registered a case and started investigation. Sunil More lived in flat number G-6 of Shabri Nagar Multi. He used to work as a labourer. His nephew Shubham told that after the death of his wife, his uncle lived alone in the house and was in depression. He did not leave

the house the whole day on Thursday. His daughter made several calls but the phone was not answered. Then the daughter sent a relative to check the flat. When the relatives reached the house, the gate was locked from inside. Even after calling out a lot, there was no response from inside. After this, the police were informed. After the information, the police reached the spot. They broke the gate and entered inside. Where Sunil's body was found hanging from a fan on a noose made of towel. The body was taken into custody and sent for postmortem. After the postmortem on Friday, the body was handed over to the family. On the morning of February 15, information was received about the death of woman Nanda More in Shabri Nagar. There were injury marks on the woman's face and neck. Her lip was cut. The short postmortem report revealed that the death was due to strangulation. On the basis of interrogation with neighbors and relatives, the woman's son Raunak More (19) was suspected. He was misled in the initial interrogation and later confessed to the crime. Raunak told the police that after 12 on the night of Valentine's Day, I asked my mother to bring a girl home. Mother immediately refused and started scolding me. This made me angry and I pushed her. She hit the edge of the bed. Her lip got cut. After this, my mother got up and slapped me. I did not like this and strangled my mother with a dupatta lying nearby. Meanwhile a youth died after his bike was hit by a Bolero car in front of Goswami Farm on Raisen Road, on Thursday night during treatment in a private hospital. In the case, Bilkhira police station has registered a case and started an investigation. Police said that efforts are being made to arrest the accused car driver. According to Bilkhira police, Sanjay Lodhi was a resident of Begumganj district Raisen. He was a contractor for house construction. He came to Bhopal on Tuesday for a visit. He stayed at a friend's flat here for two days. On Thursday, he left Bhopal to go to the village. At around 1 pm, near Goswami Farm, a Bolero car hit his bike from behind while overtaking it. After this, the accused car driver fled. People took the injured to a nearby hospital with the help of an ambulance. Where he died during treatment. On the information of the hospital, the police have started an investigation by registering a case. The deceased Sanjay was the only son of his parents. He was married ten years ago. He has three daughters, his only son was born twenty days ago. He had promised his friends to come to Bhopal and give them a party. He came to Bhopal as per the promise. He spent two days here with his friends and roamed around various places.

No problem due to Microsoft server at Bhopal airport: Airport Director

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Microsoft's server suffered a technical glitch on Friday. Due to this, the work of airlines, TV telecast, banking and many corporate companies has been affected worldwide. There is a problem in check-in and ticket booking at airports around the world, including India, due to which flights are either delayed or canceled. In India, 5 airlines - Indigo, SpiceJet, Akasa Air, Vistara and Air India Express said that their booking, check-in and flight update service has been affected by this technical problem. People are getting upset due to non-availability of services at the airport. Many passengers have canceled their journey at Bhopal airport. This problem started at 11 am on Friday. Airport Director Ramji Awasthi says that no flight has been canceled from Bhopal. Airport Director Ramji Awasthi said that due to a problem in the software, passengers are facing problems in web check-in and ticket booking from the Indigo app. Passengers are doing this work manually by coming directly to the airport. Due to

Due to this, no flight related to Bhopal has been cancelled. The flight to Mumbai which has been cancelled has been due to some other technical reason

this, no flight related to Bhopal has been cancelled. The flight to Mumbai which has been cancelled has been due to some other technical reason. People are continuously coming here and checking in manually. Yes, we have also received information about some passengers cancelling their journey. I would like to tell the passengers not to cancel their journey. Travel after checking in manually at the airport. On an average 36 to 38 rounds of flights are made daily at Bhopal airport, out of which six rounds are from Air India and the rest are from Indigo. All these flights come and go from different cities of the country. The daily foot fall of Bhopal airport ranges from 3500 to 4500.

Mahendra Kannauj joins BJP before CM

Bhopal: In the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and BJP State President and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma, JAYS founder Mahendra Kannauj took membership of BJP on Friday along with his supporters. In a program organized at the State BJP office, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and State President Shri Vishnudutt Sharma inducted Shri Mahendra Kannauj into the party while congratulating him said that BJP will benefit from his experiences and we will all work together for the development of the country and the state. We will work together for the betterment of every section including the tribals: Dr. Mohan Yadav Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav while taking membership said that today is a special day for all of us. Jais founder Shri Mahendra Kannauj has joined the BJP family along with his colleagues. BJP's double engine government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working in the interest of every section and it is the result of this that we first formed the government in Madhya Pradesh and then won all the 29 Lok Sabha seats.

High-Tech Custom Hiring centre inaugurated by Agri department

Bhopal: A programme on High-tech Custom Hiring centre was organized by the Department of Agriculture of Rabindranath Tagore University. In which, as the chief guest, BS Kothari, Assistant Engineer Bhopal Division, Agricultural Engineering, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Chancellor of RNTU Santosh Choubey, Registrar Vijay Singh and Vice Chancellor Sangeeta Johri were mainly present. The guests inaugurated the center by cutting the ribbon. On this occasion, BS Kothari informed the farmers about the schemes of the department and gave detailed information about the work done by agricultural mechanics and how farmers can take advantage of the schemes through the district and state level online portal. At the same time, Santosh Chobe said that now we will have to move towards new methods by adopting advanced agricultural machinery and techniques, leaving behind the old methods of farming. Along with this, the value of agricultural products will have to be enhanced by promoting organic farming. He also said that farmer brothers should take advantage of custom hiring and other government schemes of agriculture and advised the agriculture students of his university to visit the farmers' fields in the village. After this, Vijay Singh addressed the farmers explaining the importance of custom hiring and wished the department. On this occasion, Dr. HD Verma, Dean of the Agriculture Department of the University, laid out the outline of the program. Ashok Kumar Verma, Coordinator of the High-Tech Custom Hiring Center, gave detailed information about the center. In the program, all the agricultural equipment was worshipped and inspected by the guests. At the same time, the guests released agricultural literature related to the High-Tech Custom Hiring Center, Agricultural Advisory Center and Desi Program, gave mini kits of seeds to the farmers and also honored them. About 65 farmers from the adopted villages of the university participated in the program. The program was conducted and the introduction of the program was done by Dr. Rishikesh Mandloi, Assistant Professor. Vote of thanks was given by Dr. Shubham Kulshreshtha, Assistant Professor.



Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh, Congress State President Jitu Patwari meet police commissioner Harinarayan Chari Mishra to file a complaint of Ashoka Garden Town Inspector over Sunderkand recital issue, in Bhopal on Friday.

MP will be at the top in industrial development: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that the state government is taking every possible initiative to encourage industry and business activities in the state. Proposals worth more than Rs 75 thousand crore were received in the Investors Summit held in Ujjain in

March. In this sequence, the Regional Industry Conclave is being organized in Jabalpur on July 20. There is a possibility of new investment proposals coming from investors and industrial houses from across the country and entrepreneurs from the state. Based on the resources of the state, we are continuously making efforts towards taking the state on the path of progress through agriculture, education, medicine, and cottage, small, medium, and heavy industries. The state government is committed to bringing the state to first place in the country in the field of industrial development. Yadav said this in connection with the second Regional Industry Conclave to be held in Jabalpur on July 20.

Atishi demands Rs 10k crore from Centre for infrastructure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Head of the presentation of the Centre's annual budget, Delhi Finance Minister Atishi on Friday demanded Rs 10,000 crore from the Centre for infrastructure development...

Asserting that people of Delhi are the highest income tax payers, the minister said, "Delhi should get Rs 10,000 crore from the Rs 2.07 lakh crores that people of the city pay as income tax"

lies" by Atishi. "On one hand the Delhi chief minister says his government has no lack of funds, on the other hand his Finance minister is demanding money from the Centre," he said, claiming the Centre spends around Rs 1.5 lakh annually on development works in the national capital.

just 0.25 per cent of the Central government's budget and only 5 per cent of the income tax of Delhiites." The Monsoon Session of Parliament will begin from July 22. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget on July 23.

Rs 33,000 crore from its pool of taxes.

On the other hand, the Centre had been paying only Rs 325 crore to the Delhi government since 2001 from the central pool of taxes. However, even this payment was stopped last year and now the city receives not a single rupee from the Centre, she said.

The Central government should stop treating Delhiites stepmotherly, the minister said and added the city should get its due amount in the Union Budget. "People of Delhi are not begging but demanding their rights. They want their rightful money in this Union Budget so that pace of development in the city increases," she said.

year to the Delhi government that spent it in on providing facilities like 24-hour free electricity, free treatment at hospitals, building and maintaining roads and flyovers. Alleging step-motherly treated with Delhi, she said out of the total Rs 2.32 lakh crore Delhi people gave to the Centre, it did not spend a single rupee on Delhi. The minister said that no other city of the world like New York, Tokyo or London would have faced such injustice as the BJP-led Central government is doing to Delhi.



Vehicles ply on the road amid rain in Bhopal on Friday.

Pioneer photo



Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a Regional Conference on 'Science of Natural Farming' in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on Friday.

Understand why fixed income investments are essential

New Delhi: Fixed income instruments offer diversification and stability to portfolios, a point emphasized by Siddharth Chaudhary, Senior Fund Manager at Bajaj Finserv AMC in a recent email interview.

Water logging in several areas of city, exposes the arrangements

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Even after spending massive amount of funds on the sewage system in Bhopal every year, it gets flooded with water as soon as there is heavy rain and same happened during the heavy rain on Thursday.

deep water was filled on Safia College Road. Shop goods like iron cupboards, bed boxes were washed away in the water. In Alpna Talkies trisection every year rainwater fills up at this intersection located on Hamidia Road and thousands of people face difficulties.

area behind Shikhar Hotel near Sehore Naka was flooded with one to two feet of water. Waterlogging in many houses of Ward No. 39 Aishbagh Housing Board Colony was flooded and roads were submerged.

logging is taking place.

Change of Name and NAME CHANGED notices from the Registrar of Companies, Bhopal.

CBI arrests MBBS student from RIMS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI Friday arrested a first-year MBBS student of Ranchi's Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) for allegedly being part of a 'solver module' working with an engineer who had stolen the NEET-UG question papers, officials said.

NTA trunk in Hazaribagh. The CBI has so far arrested 16 persons in connection with the NEET-UG cases taken over by it. The RIMS, an autonomous institute under the Jharkhand government, was approached by the CBI earlier this week for questioning.

They have been sent to CBI custody for four days. According to sources, these five members were tasked to solve the paper so that answer key could be provided to NEET aspirants who had taken services of the gang, they said.

Understand why fixed income investments are essential. Fixed income instruments offer diversification and stability to portfolios, a point emphasized by Siddharth Chaudhary, Senior Fund Manager at Bajaj Finserv AMC in a recent email interview.

Water logging in several areas of city, exposes the arrangements. deep water was filled on Safia College Road. Shop goods like iron cupboards, bed boxes were washed away in the water.

Waterlogging in many houses of Ward No. 39 Aishbagh Housing Board Colony was flooded and roads were submerged. Waterlogging situation arose in front of Shani Mandir located in New Market. Due to this, pedestrians also faced problems in passing.

E-Tender Notice for North Central Railway regarding a PQR portal supply contract.

E-Auction Sale Notice for Bank of Baroda regarding immovable properties.

KVB announces Q1 financial results

New Delhi: Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has announced its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2024, showcasing impressive growth and solid performance across various metrics.

other income rose by 16.52% YOY. The cost to income ratio for the quarter was 47.20%, while the return on assets (ROA) and return on equity (ROE) were 1.70% and 17.33%, respectively.



Bajrang Dal activists burn posters of senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh over his remarks on Sunderkand recital at police station, in Bhopal on Friday.

MP takes lead in implementing Capacity Building Policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh has taken a lead in implementing Capacity Building Policy based on inputs from Capacity Building Commission. All departments are setting up Capacity Building Units, which would design cadre wise capacity building plans after intensive training need analysis.

departments' performance in respect of training of the staff every six months while Capacity Building Council headed by the Chief Minister will monitor it annually. This was informed at the workshop about the status of Mission Karmayogi in different departments at the RCPV Naronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal today.

with the permission of Department of Finance. With this every employee would receive required training. Secretary Capacity Building Commission Shyama Prasad Roy, addressing the workshop informed that it is a shift from Karmachari to Karmayogi. Thus a journey from Rule based to Role based model of capacity building. It is a scientific process.

CHANGE IN NAME notices for Gajala Khaishagi and Tabrej Khaishagi.

CHANGE IN NAME notices for Tabrej Khaishagi and M/s Rifiuto Waste Management Pvt. Ltd.

E-Auction Sale Notice for Bank of Baroda regarding immovable properties.

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E-Auction Sale Notice for Bank of Baroda regarding immovable properties.

DMK moves court against three new criminal laws introduced by Centre

PTI ■ CHENNAI
The DMK on Friday approached the Madras High Court to declare as ultra vires and unconstitutional, the three new criminal laws brought in by the Union government.



The three laws-- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam have come into effect from July 1. They have replaced the Indian Penal Code, The Code of Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act.

According to the petitioner, the government introduced the three Bills and got them passed by the Parliament without any meaningful discussion. In the absence of any substantive changes, mere shuffling of sections was unnecessary and will cause a lot of inconvenience and confusion regarding the interpretation of the provisions, he added.

general public to correlate the new provisions with the old ones to search for precedents. It seems the exercise was being done only to "Sanskritise" the titles of the Acts without any devotion to revisit the laws, he contended. Bharathi further said the government cannot claim that it was an act of Parliament. The enactments were made by only one limb of the Parliament viz., the ruling party and its allies, keeping away the opposition parties, he claimed.

Three Bills introduced in Arunachal House on first day of Budget Session

PTI ■ ITANAGAR
Three bills were introduced on the first day of the Arunachal Pradesh assembly's budget session on Friday, including one that seeks to curb irregularities and use of unfair means in recruitment examinations.



Chief Minister Pema Khandu introduced the Arunachal Pradesh Public Examination (Measures to Prevent Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, while the Arunachal Pradesh Amending Bill and the Balipara/Tirap/Sadiya Frontier Tract Jhum Land Regulation (Amendment) Bill were tabled by two other state ministers.

Pradesh Amending Bill, which will substitute the words Indian Penal Code 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act 1872, by the words Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023, respectively, in several state acts. The Balipara/Tirap/Sadiya Frontier Tract Jhum Land Regulation Bill in its amended form was tabled by Land Management Minister Balo Raja. The bill deals with land compensation procedures.

Assam will become Muslim-majority State by 2041, claims Himanta



PTI ■ GUWAHATI
Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday claimed that the Muslim population in his state is growing around 30 per cent every 10 years, and they will become the majority by 2041.

Kerala can expect heavy rain in next few days: IMD

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The India Meteorological Department on Friday said Kerala will receive heavy to very heavy rains in the next few days due to weather conditions and wind patterns prevailing over peninsular India.

area over northwest Bay of Bengal and the strong westerly/northwesterly winds along the Kerala coast would result in moderate to heavy rains in the southern state for the next five days.

An orange alert means very heavy rain (6 cm to 20 cm). A yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6 to 11 cm. Heavy rains in the state, especially in the northern Malabar region, caused flooding, uprooting of trees, minor landslides and traffic snarls.



flooding of the Muthanga National Highway (NH 766), 25 vehicles with around 400 passengers were stranded there for several hours since midnight, the district administration said.

three-hour long operation by the fire department with the support of the police, forest officials and locals of the area, it said.

Odisha observes Rasagola Dibasa coinciding with end of Rath Yatra

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR
Coinciding with Lord Jagannath's 'Niladri Bij' (temple entry rituals) following the annual Rath Yatra, Odisha observed 'Rasagola Dibasa' on Friday to underscore the significance of the sweet dish for its people.



before being taken into the sanctum sanctorum in the ceremonial 'Pahandi' procession. Researcher Asit Mohanty explained that 'Rasagola' originated from Shri Jagannath Temple in Puri as 'Khira Mohana', which later evolved into 'Pahala Rasagola'. It has been traditionally offered as 'bhog' to goddess Lakshmi at the

temple. According to local legend, Goddess Laxmi locks Jai Vijay Dwar, one of the temple gates, and prevents the Lord's entry into the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Historically, references to 'Rasagola' can be traced to the late 15th century in Odia Ramayana written by Balaram Das, also known as Dandi Ramayana or Jagamohana Ramayana.

Student unions take out rally in Kolkata in solidarity with Bangla protests

PTI ■ KOLKATA
Several Left-aligned student unions and human rights organisations staged a protest march near the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata on Friday to express solidarity with the ongoing stir in the neighbouring country against quota system.

following which several agitators were arrested and taken to Kolkata Police Headquarters of Lalbazar. "The demonstrators included not only students but also members of human rights organisations. Several protesters were arrested and taken to Lalbazar police headquarters," a police officer said.

Ruckus in Karnataka Assembly over Valmiki Corporation scam

PTI ■ BENGALURU
Karnataka Legislative Assembly witnessed ruckus on Friday over the alleged financial irregularities in a state-run corporation, with opposition BJP and JD(S) staging a protest against the government, accusing it of "loot" and demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

ensure that they "pay for it", by sending "those who committed wrong to jail." Questioning the demand for his resignation, he asked if Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would take responsibility for irregularities that have happened in a nationalised bank, and quit as banks come under the Finance Ministry.

punished. There is no question of protecting anyone. There is no compromise with corruption. Our fight against corruption will continue.

Lokayukta raids 13 officials including Mangaluru City Municipal Commissioner

PTI ■ BENGALURU
Mangaluru City Municipal Commissioner C L Anand was among the 13 government officials raided by Lokayukta sleuths in Karnataka on Friday in connection with disproportionate assets cases, a Lokayukta official said.



Bengaluru Rural district R Siddappa, Commercial Taxes Joint Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, Legal Metrology Deputy Controller Athhar Ali, Antargange Gram Panchayat president Nagesh B Gowda in Bhadravati Taluk of Shivamogga district, Horticulture Department Deputy Director Prakash and Mandya Labour Officer Chetan Kumar were among those raided on Friday.

Ensure no structure around Vishalgad Fort is demolished during monsoon: HC

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
Taking serious cognisance of violence that broke out in vicinity of Kolhapur's Vishalgad fort on July 14 after the local authorities pulled down some "60 to 70" structures belonging to the minority community members amid the rains, the Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Maharashtra government to put a complete halt to the demolitions till the end of the monsoon.



at the next hearing of the case to be held on July 29 and inform it what action it had taken against the miscreants seen in the video of the July 14 violence.

whether they are petitioners or otherwise, during the rainy season. Reprimanding the police for its failure to check violence, the judges asked: "Who is in charge of the law and order situation in Vishalgad? Are they not not your (state police) officers, right? So who are these men? Aren't you not responsible for maintaining law and order in the state? We want to know if any FIR has been lodged in this case?"

properties during an anti-encroachment drive at the Vishalgad fort on July 14 the police have arrested 21 persons and registered against 500-odd people.

Drunk ASI harasses woman for driving without helmet

PTI ■ JODHPUR
An assistant sub-inspector of Rajasthan Police has been suspended for allegedly harassing a woman here in an intoxicated state and threatening her after he caught her driving without a helmet, police said on Friday.

The ASI hit the woman's two-wheeler a few times, making her lose balance and fall down, it added.



Taking on terrorism

PM Modi's decision for full deployment in Jammu is a welcome step aiming to ensure the safety of the citizens

In a decisive move to bolster security and address rising concerns over terrorism, Prime Minister Modi has ordered a comprehensive deployment of security forces in the Jammu region. This strategic decision underscores the government's commitment to ensuring peace and stability in one of India's most sensitive areas. Jammu has been a focal point in the nation's ongoing fight against terrorism. The region has experienced a series of violent incidents in recent years, prompting heightened vigilance and response from the security forces.



The deployment strategy will concentrate on several key areas. Firstly, there will be an emphasis on enhanced surveillance and intelligence gathering to preempt and disrupt terrorist activities before they occur. Secondly, security forces will establish increased patrolling in vulnerable areas to deter potential threats and provide reassurance to the local population. Lastly, efforts will be made to engage with local communities to gather vital information and build trust, which is essential for effective counter-terrorism operations.



Devotees perform rituals at Amman temple during the Tamil month of 'Aadi', in Chennai

Finding focus in an age of information overload

The relentless influx of information highlights the futility of hoarding content and the ill effect it has on our intellect and well-being

In my weekly routine of phone and computer upkeep, there is a ritual that I detest - clearing my inbox. My mailbox is inundated with dozens of notifications and newsletters from sites that I have subscribed to. I don't understand the logic of getting so many letters delivered to me when I don't find time to open more than half of them.



Yet I desist from unsubscribing to them because all the emails carry loads of matter and meaning, gallons of insight and information, and heaps of dispensable literature. In my over-enthusiasm to stay up to speed with the times, I invite an excess of knowledge which eventually gets junked because my mind and memory are not commensurate with the incoming barrage. With barrels of scattered information already laid to waste in the brain and fresh bulks languishing in the inbox, I have begun to see the futility of hoarding them.

Understanding the subject. It's time to know what I need and what I don't as a professional writer, compassionate human and rational thinker. I need to bring focus and mindfulness into my reading and information-gathering exercises so that I don't bombard my senses with junk. Why do I need all the facts, figures and findings that exist on the information highway? I must learn to curate and consume stories that strictly contribute to my growth. Trying to catch up with every incident, comment and development around the world in the fear and guilt of missing out is overkill. Not all that I find there is nourishment to my mind and soul; neither will they enhance my life experience on the whole. If only I can be discreet and prudent enough henceforth, I will perhaps be saved before I become a rubbish dump of useless narratives.



ASHA IYER KUMAR

The author is a columnist and author based in Dubai; views are personal

Modi 3.0: Banking sector optimistic about reforms



VIVEK SHUKLA

Over the years, Indian banks have grappled with scams, loan defaults, and rising NPAs. Recent Govt initiatives have led to significant recovery and a notable reduction in NPAs

The re-election of the Narendra Modi government at the centre has raised hopes for concrete steps to be taken towards making the banking sector more transparent and efficient. In recent years, Indian banks have faced more ups and downs than perhaps any other country's banks. Indian banks have been plagued by numerous scams, loan defaults, frauds, increasing non-performing assets (NPAs), and wrong policies of loan waivers, leading to their sinking or facing huge losses. While previous central governments took some steps to address these issues, their half-hearted implementation did not yield the desired results.



Fortunately, the Modi government took swift action to address the irregularities in the banking sector, leading to a gradual improvement in the banks' condition. Many banks are not only recovering from losses and moving towards profits but also bringing scams under control. Many fraudsters' assets have been seized to recover loans, banks have been recapitalized, and the burden of NPAs has been significantly reduced. Isn't it a positive situation that NPAs, which were 12.47% between 2013 and 2017, have gradually reduced to 3.2% in September 2023, even though the government's recapitalization of banks played a crucial role in this reduction? The question now is whether this current state of improvement in banks will continue in the future or will the adage 'The fool returns home' prove true.

After independence, both private and public banks existed in the country, but numerous scams and failures occurred within them. Nonetheless, public banks remained a key driver of economic growth and business expansion. Private banks generally did not even open accounts for ordinary people. The nationalization of banks in July 1969 led to increased access to banks for the general public. During this period, many banks merged, which led to some positive outcomes. However, gradually, corruption, bribery, and political interference in public banks led to the issuance of huge loans to genuine and fake companies, many of which went unrecoverable or partially recoverable. This resulted in massive losses for both public and private banks. In the early 1990s, liberalization policies were adopted, and shortly after, private banks like HDFC, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, etc., became popular due to their use of modern technology (credit operations, debit



THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAS TURNED PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES, IN WHICH THE KEY CONTRIBUTION OF THE RESERVE BANK'S SUPERVISION CAN BE SEEN

operations, fast clearing of checks, insurance, mutual fund opening, etc.). The new products, schemes, and modern technology of private banks posed stiff competition to public banks. This forced public and other private banks to adopt new products, schemes, and modern technology. As a result, some improvement in the condition of public and private banks was recorded, but the wave of liberalization also saw a continuation of scams, bribery, corruption, and political interference. Events like the Harshad Mehta, and Ketan Parekh scams, and the sinking of banks like Global Trust occurred during this period. In the first term of the Modi government, a major crisis arose due to scams in PNB Bank, PMC Bank and other cooperative banks, Yes Bank, and the flight of mega-fraudsters to foreign countries. The burden of NPAs of banks reached record levels. In this context, the commendable initiative of merging smaller banks with large public banks to reduce their number was taken. Meanwhile, India's trade continued to grow rapidly, maintaining liquidity in banks. The Reserve Bank's supervision was made more robust. Demonetization, the Jan Dhan scheme, housing schemes, and significant boosts were given to Atmanirbhar Bharat, manufacturing, and other sectors. In the meantime, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, giving a severe blow to the economy. However, within a few months, the Modi government made concrete efforts to regain control over the economic front. During the pandemic, transactions via digital banking increased significantly, breaking all records worldwide. UPI is making its mark not only in India but also abroad. Despite this, the health of banks cannot be considered worry-free. Sporadic bank scams are still occurring, digital banking frauds are on the rise, and the network of cyber criminals in banking is constantly expanding. This is causing serious damage not only to banks but also to account holders. A foolproof control over this issue has not yet been established. Shri Pal Jain correctly stated in the conclusion of his book, 'Currently, most banks are moving towards profits. The Modi government has turned problems and challenges into opportunities, in which the key contribution of the Reserve Bank's supervision can be seen.' However, until corruption, lending based on fake documents, and infiltration of cybercriminals into banking are stopped, the dream of bank strengthening and fool-proof security will remain half-fulfilled.

(The writer is a senior journalist and author of two books; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YET ANOTHER TRAIN ACCIDENT

Madam — It is shocking and heart-breaking to learn about yet another 'heart-attack' train accident in India. This latest incident occurred in Uttar Pradesh on 18 July 2024. This time, the Dibrugarh Express, traveling from Chandigarh to Dibrugarh, derailed near Jhilaahi Railway Station in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. The derailment of 10 to 12 coaches underscores the severity of this tragic accident. The immediate assistance provided by villagers is a noble and commendable act. It is high time for the relevant Indian railway experts to convene and brainstorm foolproof solutions to prevent accidents such as train collisions, derailments, fires, rail-track crossings, signaling errors, and trains running late, which jeopardize the safety of passengers and other trains. These measures are crucial to saving lives, properties, and assets. We suggest implementing an additional charge of Re.1 on every train ticket as accident insurance. This small fee could significantly aid commuters from poor and middle-class families in the event of an accident, providing financial support if the family's breadwinner is lost. Additionally, it would contribute to government revenue. We hope the relevant administrators and the army will promptly provide the necessary assistance, including medical care, financial support, hospitality, and alternative arrangements for the stay and expenses of those accompanying the hospitalized victims. PV Srinivas Sreelekha | Secundrabad

Controversial bill withdrawn



The criticism from business and industry forced the Karnataka government to put the contentious reservation bill for

Kannadigas in private firms on hold. The Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories, and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, was cleared by the state cabinet. According to the bill, 'any industry, factory, or other establishment shall appoint 50 percent of local candidates in management categories and 70 percent in non-management categories. It's baffling that Karnataka, India's tech hub and one of the best-performing states in terms of ease of doing business, has introduced this regressive bill. NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) has cautioned the Congress government that the restrictions could force companies to relocate as local skilled talent becomes scarce. Karnataka would be well advised to quietly abandon the bill. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Devesh Vijay | Delhi

CPR IS A LIFE SAVER

Madam — CPR - or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest.

No one dies of cardiac arrest if attended in a timely manner. A video of the incident was shared on social media platform X and quickly went viral, garnering millions of views and countless praises from netizens. The doctor's actions were hailed as a testament to the importance of quick response and lifesaving skills in emergency situations. According to reports, the man collapsed on the floor, prompting the doctor to spring into action and begin administering CPR. With passersby watching in amazement, the doctor asked others to call for emergency services at the airport. Her efforts paid off, as the man began to show signs of revival. The timely medical assistance is a dear life. This was how Ewan Chatfield, who almost felt dead, was resuscitated after being hit by a cricket ball in New Zealand a long time ago. Everyone must be trained to give CPR. Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

FIRST COLUMN
TRANSCENDING DAILY TRIFLES

We can rise above minor disruptions in life by adopting spiritual path



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Ravindra Nath Tagore prays for strength to raise his mind high above daily trifles. Why does such an exalted personality do so? Because daily trifles do capture our minds. Aren't we, souls, small, ignorant, helpless and unsafe in absolute terms? The word trifle is defined as something of little value. Trifles are matters that are not very important and those that do not merit a lot of consideration. Still, we are defeated repeatedly by them. Why? Because, as stated earlier, we are small, very small in the overall context, whatever we may feel we are. Sure enough, daily trifles bring us down. We go in cyclic thinking. Our minds drag us to small matters.

What is the solution? The first step is to accept that this happens and is very common. What we consider important may appear insignificant to others, but they are very important to us. Then, as our role model did we must pray for help. It makes a lot of sense for us as small entities. And help is available. We are not helpless in absolute terms; God is there to help. But we have to take His shelter; God will not force Himself on us. Why? Because that will be a violation of our free will. Then, we must avoid cyclic thinking. Can thinking of the same thing repeatedly provide solutions? Solutions come from other sources, mostly from God, if we step outside ourselves. We must not lose to our minds, which unfortunately, are our worst enemies, as warned by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad-Geeta, "One should uplift self by self; shouldn't degrade self, because otherwise self will be enemy of self." (6.5) Control over the mind requires practice and detachment. (6.35) These are general instructions.

Let me take up some of the most common daily trifles. Someone is not well in the family. Surely, one would be disturbed. But one must go beyond it. There will be duties like getting medical help. What more can be done? Many of us do pray, but the prayer should be more for guidance than just cure. Why? Because major sicknesses are the results of our impious/sinful past acts. God will not act interfere in it, but God can guide us to deal with it effectively. God does also help if one is a devotee of God. Are we? There is nothing to despair, guidance is a great help. The next matter which keeps the mind occupied is financial trouble. Mostly,



it is a paucity of funds, which hurts. The 'Karamphala Principle' is very clear. We get parents, birthplace, minds, looks, intelligence, wealth and lifespan according to what we deserve based on our 'Karmas' in our past lives. Can anyone explain otherwise about someone getting richer by billions in a short period? If it was hard labour, this was impossible. So we have to accept this reality and try to manage with what we have. Yes, wastage in showing off, etc. can be surely avoided. The third trifle, if we can call it as such, is being in trouble.

We should swear to ourselves not to act foolishly from now onwards. Troubles will still come but they will be less. Here also God can help, but, as pointed out earlier, we must take shelter from God. Then, not only any trouble but God promises to get us out of all troubles. (18.58) But again there is a rider. We must not continue to act in wrong or bad ways. The fourth problem that gets almost all of us is getting attached to results. This is illogical because what can we control? Is God not the sole controller? We have been advised by Lord Krishna to strictly stick to our role, i.e. to act dutifully. (2.47) Because what we will end up with is not just based on what we have done recently, but earlier like last life. I have given just four examples, but the underlying philosophy is to act properly from now onwards and remain in shelter in God. Then, daily trifles will not bother me so much. We will be able to get over them soon. What do I do? I seek guidance and help from God for anything that bothers me. Surely, God has taken charge of my life. Yes, God is micromanaging it.

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

The critical role of family planning in women's health



SUDHA SHARMA

The awareness about contraception can significantly enhance women's health and contribute to better population management in India

World Population Awareness Fortnight, starting from July 11th, brings attention to the fact that India is the most populous country in the world, having surpassed China last year. According to UN projections, India's population is expected to peak at 1.7 billion in 2064, beyond which it will decline. Out of 4 births each second across the world, one birth occurs in India. It is important to understand what can be done to balance the resources with the requirements of the population in the country. With only 2.4% of the world's land, India supports 17.76% of the world's population.

Nowhere is a discussion on contraception and mother and child health services more relevant and meaningful than here. Demographers use a parameter called Total Fertility Rate (TFR), which is the number of children a woman has in her lifetime. The TFR, which should be 2.1 for the population to remain steady, has already dipped below 2 in 2022. But keeping it within that range will require constant efforts to increase the awareness of the youth and adolescents towards these matters. Moreover, family planning offers many more benefits beyond the prevention of pregnancies. Uttar Pradesh ranks first among the states in India with a population of 257 million and a TFR of 2.18 (2015-16). It is relevant to mention here that our country was the first to launch an official family planning program way back in 1952. In the decades that have followed, the options have increased and so have the availability and accessibility.

With the basket of contraceptive choices available at all government hospitals free of cost, social marketing of contraceptives, and home delivery of contraceptives by ASHAs in rural areas, accessibility to these methods has improved. This has translated to an increase in the Couple Protection Rate by 13%, which is 67% at present, and a decrease in unmet need for family planning of 3.5%, which now stands at 9.4%. The country has made substantial progress in the delivery of family planning services across the country. The reach of family planning services has extended from target couples to eligible couples to all women and adolescent girls and should extend to all men of reproductive age.

Their share in decision-making and supporting women in using these methods makes it imperative for them to have this information as well. They can make an important contribution. If the present discussion gives a message that each couple should be forced to use a contraceptive to limit family size to stabilize the population, that is not true. Family planning methods should help to fulfil the unmet needs of 9.5% of couples and help many others plan pregnancy at a proper time. According to the Guttmacher Institute, India Country Profile, 2022, between 2015-and 2019, there were a total of 485 lakh pregnancies annually in India, of which 44% were unintended. Of these, 2/3rd of these unplanned pregnancies ended in abortion. It is these couples who are in dire need of contraception.

These abortions could have been avoided had they received counselling and proper contraceptive measures at the right time. Contraception is not just a method of preventing unwanted pregnancies. It is a means to provide freedom to couples to exercise their reproductive rights. The freedom to choose when to plan a pregnan-



cy. It essentially allows responsible voluntary decision-making based on correct knowledge, the right attitude, and access to quality services, which together promote the welfare of the family unit and contribute to the social development of the country. Contraception prevents unwanted pregnancies and many more unwanted situations that follow. For married couples, it allows them to time their pregnancies and help determine the number of children in the family. It also helps in timing the births, particularly the first and last, about the age of the mother, which is particularly important because teenage pregnancies and pregnancies at a maternal age of 35 years or more carry their risks. Each of these aspects is very important for the welfare of all family members. So, family planning has to emerge from whispers in private quarters to a basic human right and an important aspect of family health and social welfare. Contraceptives are primarily prevention for pregnancy and primordial prevention for high-risk pregnancies.

These high-risk pregnancies, if not detected in time and managed properly, can lead to serious complications and even deaths. At the individual level, the morbidity and mortality of the mother and newborn associated with an unplanned pregnancy can be avoided. If all couples had access to family planning services, it would help reduce maternal deaths by 25% and infant deaths by 20%.

Apart from deaths, the diseases associated with HRPs (20-30%) are also prevented. High-risk pregnancies are those pregnancies where the mother/baby has an increased risk of adverse outcomes. This could be due to anaemia, high BP, or high sugar levels during pregnancy. Pregnant women with obesity, twin or breech pregnancy,

history of preterm labour, or cesarean section are also HRPs.

This is particularly true for teenage and elderly pregnancies because they have a higher share of morbidity. Moreover, pregnancies beyond the age of 35 have a high risk of congenital anomalies. So, preventing these births improves the quality of the population and reduces the burden on parents in particular and society in general. It also reduces early and late fetal deaths.

Women's health also benefitted from the improvement of nutritional status and the reduction of complications by addressing modifiable risk factors before the next conception, like weight reduction, management of medical illnesses, and allowing a reasonable gap of at least 3 years between two deliveries. Proper use of contraceptive methods would also reduce the need for abortions and thus decrease abortion-related complications like septic abortions and even death.

This issue is most sensitive for unmarried girls who are forced to seek abortion services at unrecognized centres and are unable to seek normal pregnancy care. This also calls for greater awareness about emergency contraceptive pills. Good health of the infant and siblings, proper care, nutrition, and reduced vulnerability to diseases are all seen in families with a limited number of children. Hence, contraceptives play an important role in the overall well-being of the family. Thus, the importance of contraception for the health of women and children is clear and government facilities, NGOs, and private providers are all working to offer and improve family planning services.

The availability of better client-friendly methods, from daily pills to once-a-week pills, laccational pills, self-administered three-monthly injections, devices work-

ing for 10 years, along good follow-up facilities, have made modern women's lives easier. What remains is to connect the dots so that maximum benefits can be reaped from the services. What also needs to be worked upon is the change in attitude of not only the clients but also the caregivers. The clients need to work upon the hesitation in accessing these services and the caregivers need to refrain from underscoring the importance of family planning services. Let us all reflect on our roles as stakeholders in this solvable problem which is so important for our health and progress. In conclusion, the discourse on contraception and maternal health underscores the critical need to prioritize reproductive rights and access to family planning services.

As we bridge the gap between rights and reality, it is imperative to foster an environment where informed choices and comprehensive education empower individuals and couples.

Collaborative efforts among government bodies, NGOs, healthcare providers, and the community are essential to ensure that family planning services are accessible, acceptable, and utilized effectively. By doing so, we not only enhance maternal and child health but also reduce the risk to women arising from unplanned pregnancies, high-risk pregnancies, and abortion-related complications which are entirely preventable. So, let us all contribute to the broader socio-economic development of our nation. The journey towards a healthier, more informed society begins with each of us advocating for and embracing the significance of contraception in our collective well-being.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine in MLB Medical College Jhansi UP. Views are personal)

WITH THE BASKET OF CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICES AVAILABLE AT ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS FREE OF COST, SOCIAL MARKETING OF CONTRACEPTIVE, AND HOME DELIVERY OF CONTRACEPTIVES BY ASHAs IN RURAL AREAS, ACCESSIBILITY TO THESE METHODS HAS IMPROVED

How restaurants can save water and promote sustainability

Initiatives like the 'Blue Star Rating' demonstrate how restaurants can conserve water, writes **SONIA GROVER** and **NATHANIEL BHAKUPAR DKHAR**

A restaurant, a place to tantalize one's taste buds and enjoy conversations with friends and family, is the picture that comes to mind, yet no one can imagine that these restaurants can also be a place to conserve a huge amount of water and inculcate water-conscious behaviour. Water often plays a supporting role, unnoticed yet indispensable. Water is needed for everything from kitchen operations to guest services. The world is increasingly becoming conscious of environmental sustainability, and the restaurant sector is one of the main ones where water conservation practices could result in huge water savings. We are witnesses to the recent water stress situation in Bangalore city, where residents had to face a severe water

crisis, and there is almost a perpetual shortage of around 500 million litres every day. Limited water sources, a depleting groundwater table, and erratic monsoon patterns have all conspired to bring Bangalore to this crisis. Demand-side water management strategies are needed to salvage the situation and balance the disproportion of water demand and supply gaps.

This common urban water stress scenario calls for every demand sector, including the hospitality sector, to shoulder the responsibility of water conservation. Mission Life, launched by the Honble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, called for lifestyle-related changes for environmental conservation.

Mission LIFE puts an individual and collective duty on everyone to live a life that is in tune with Earth and does not harm it. As part of this mission, a global call for ideas and papers (GCIIP) was launched, and the best 5 entries were awarded to pilot test their ideas. One of the award-winning ideas led by Dr. Sonia Grover focused on - Promoting water conservation in restaurants through the 'Blue Star Rating' system.

The team pilot tested this idea in a few restaurants in Delhi that were selected on a random basis in the North Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) areas of Delhi. Restaurants were in different categories, including fine dining, casual dining, and state canteens. The two main

tasks of this project included developing a star rating system to grade and score the restaurants based on the water-saving interventions adopted by the restaurants.

These included both technical and behaviour change-related interventions. This rating framework is called the 'Blue Star Rating'. This was developed because ratings serve as a powerful tool for quantifying and monitoring interventions toward water-saving practices. This includes behaviour change by providing feedback, promoting awareness, fostering healthy competition, incentivizing action, leveraging social influence, and informing policy decisions, all of which ultimately lead to huge water savings and a ripple effect. The second important



task was to visit the restaurants to identify water-saving potential through simple interventions such as low-flow aerators, which facilitate reducing the flow rate of water from faucets. They achieve this by mixing air into the water stream, which maintains the pressure while using less water. This results in decreased water consumption without compromising the functionality of the faucet. It's one of the

most cost-effective solutions to save water in both commercial and residential settings. For handwashing taps, it was observed that flow rates at some restaurants were as high as 15 litres per minute. By installing these aerators, the flow rates were reduced on average by a range of 30-60%, which is a significant saving. In addition, for some taps, the flow was regulated by adjusting the pressure valves to optimize the flow. Also, visible leakages were fixed to save the water. With just these few interventions, around 5000 litres per day of water were saved in just less than 50 restaurants. Delhi has around 1,00,000 eateries, both organized and unorganized. If all of these restaurants strive towards water conservation

with such simple solutions, the amount of water saved can help us tide over the water stress situation to a significant level. If a Blue Star Rating is placed in the system, restaurants can be encouraged to take more water-saving interventions that are feasible and economically beneficial for them. Together, this sector can elevate water conservation, which also makes business.

For restaurants, adopting water-saving practices not only helps to mitigate environmental impact but also reduces operational costs. Water savings easily translate into monetary benefits accrued due to reduced utility bills. Simple yet effective measures like low-flow faucets and repairing leaks promptly are small adjustments that yield signif-

icant savings over time. In addition, sensitizing staff ensures the sustainability of the interventions undertaken. By championing sustainability through various interventions, restaurants can inspire consumers to consider the environmental implications of their choices. Restaurants can also be a platform for learning by engaging diners through information, education, and communication (IEC) collateral to raise awareness about the restaurant's water-saving initiatives, which can foster a sense of community around sustainability.

(Dr Sonia Grover is Senior Consultant and Nathaniel Bhakupar Dkhar is senior research scientist at Mu Gamma Consultants, Gurugram; views are personal)

REACTION TO NORTH'S BALLOON LAUNCHES

South Korea restarts propaganda broadcasts across border

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea said Friday it has restarted blasting propaganda broadcasts into North Korea to retaliate against the North's latest round of trash-carrying balloon launches...

side attempt to undermine its political system. In 2015, when South Korea restarted loud-speaker broadcasts for the first time in 11 years, North Korea fired artillery rounds across the border...

fire military drills at border areas. Earlier this week, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hinted at flying rubbish-carrying balloons again or launching new countermeasures...

used helium-filled balloons to drop anti-North Korean leaflets, USB sticks containing K-pop music and South Korean dramas and US dollar bills in the North.

Another chief of China's strategic missile force under probe for corruption

Beijing (PTI): China's ruling Communist Party has announced an anti-corruption investigation against another head of its strategic missile force, which continues to be plagued by graft at its top echelons...



Chinese tourists visit the Forbidden City with cap and umbrella during a hot summer day in Beijing on Friday AP/PTI

2019 terror attack: SL sends senior police officer on compulsory leave

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A top Sri Lankan police officer, blamed for criminal negligence in the 2019 Easter suicide attacks that killed over 270 people, including 11 Indians, has been sent on compulsory leave...

ing to the local Islamist extremist group, the National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three Catholic churches and as many luxury hotels on April 21, 2019...

the deputy inspector general of police (administration), was chargsheeted on November 17, 2023 to which he had responded on March 12, 2024. On July 1 this year, the police commission had begun disciplinary proceedings against Jayawardena.

Police officer wounded in knife attack in Paris; attacker killed

AP ■ PARIS

A police officer was wounded in a knife attack in Paris on Thursday in the high-end Champs-Élysées neighbourhood and the assailant was shot and died of his injuries...

the Champs-Élysées contacted police after noticing "suspicious behaviour" by a man outside the store, according to a police official. Speaking in front of the Louis Vuitton store after the stabbing, Paris police chief Laurent Nunez said the assailant "pulled out a knife and threatened them (the officers)..."

said. The police officer was hospitalised but not in life-threatening condition. The area was thronging with tourists and Parisians when the attack happened around the corner from the Louis Vuitton boutique...

boutiques. Louis Vuitton parent company LVMH did not comment on what happened. Thursday's knife attack comes just days after a man stabbed and wounded a French soldier patrolling Paris on Monday outside the Gare de l'Est train station in eastern Paris.

Zelensky urges Britain to help it strike deeper inside Russia

AP ■ LONDON

President Volodymyr Zelensky urged Britain's new government to help Ukrainian forces attack deeper inside Russia to stop deadly missile strikes on his country, as he gave a rare address by a foreign leader to a UK Cabinet meeting.

weapons to strike Russian territory because of concerns that the West could be drawn into direct conflict with Russia. The British government has said it's up to Ukraine how to use missiles supplied by the UK, as long as international law is upheld.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky leaves Downing Street after meeting with Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer in London on Friday AP/PTI

tions" that are the subject of intense negotiations. "We're providing weapons to Ukraine for their defense of their sovereign country, and that does not preclude them using longer-range missiles provided by the US to strike targets inside Russia if it is acting in self-defence.

humanitarian law," Healey told the BBC. The United States, Ukraine's biggest military backer, recently shifted its position, with the Pentagon saying last month that Ukraine could use longer-range missiles provided by the US to strike targets inside Russia if it is acting in self-defence.

2022 invasion, the US had maintained a policy of not allowing Ukraine to use the weapons it provided to hit targets inside Russia for fear of further escalation. Zelensky received a standing ovation from Starmer's government as he entered the Cabinet room at 10 Downing St. The last foreign leader invited to address a Cabinet meeting in person was US President Bill Clinton in 1997.

that aims to help both countries ramp up military production. The UK is also giving Ukraine access to 3.5 billion pounds (USD 4.5 billion) of export financing to purchase weapons. "Ukraine is, and always will be, at the heart of this government's agenda, and so it is only fitting that President Zelensky will make a historic address to my Cabinet," Starmer said in a statement.

Quake hits north Chile

Santiago (Chile): A magnitude 7.4 earthquake hit northern Chile near its border with Argentina late Thursday, according to the US Geological Survey. There were no immediate reports of injuries or major damages. The quake's epicenter was 45 kilometers (28 miles) east-southeast of San Pedro de Atacama, Chile, and it had a depth of 117 kilometers, according to the USGS.

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Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot Ph: 01639-256232, 256236 VACANCIES Online applications are invited w.e.f 22-07-2024 to 12-08-2024 from eligible candidates through University website to the recruitment of Professor (Nursing)-01, Associate Professor (Nursing)-02, Tutor/Demonstrator - Nursing-23 (Medical Surgical Nursing-07, Community Health Nursing-04, Mental Health Nursing-03, Child Health Nursing-05, OBG-04) and Demonstrator (Physiotherapy)-02 on regular basis at constituent colleges/institutions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot i.e State Institute of Nursing & Para Medical Sciences, Badal, University College of Nursing, Faridkot, Institute of Nursing, University Regional Centre, Sri Goidwal Sahib, University Institute of Nursing, Jalalabad.

Hindus largest minority community in Pak with 3.8 million population

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The population of Hindus in Pakistan increased from 3.5 million in 2017 to 3.8 million in 2023 to make it the largest minority community in the Islamic nation, according to the official data of last year's census. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released results of the 7th Population and Housing Census 2023 on Thursday, the Dawn newspaper reported. The country's total population in 2023 stood at 240,458,089. It showed that the share of Muslims in the total population decreased slightly from 96.47 per cent in 2017 to 96.35 per cent in 2023, while the population of all major religious minorities increased in the past six years. However, their share

in the percentage of the total population gives a mixed picture. The population of Hindus increased from 3.5 million in 2017 to 3.8 million in 2023, but their share in the total population went down from 1.73 to 1.61 per cent, which showed other minority communities increased at a faster rate. The population of Christians, also increased from 2.6 million to 3.3 million, with their share in the total population also going up from 1.27 to 1.37 per cent. Ahmadis witnessed a decline in their real population as well as their share in the total population. The size of their community was reduced by 29,053, from 191,737 (0.09 per cent) in 2017 to 162,684 (0.07 per cent). The population of the

Sikh community stood at 15,998 and Parsi at 2,348. The data showed that the country's population increased from 207.68 million in 2017 to 241.49 million in 2023 at a growth rate of 2.55 per cent. At this rate, the data showed that Pakistan's population is expected to double by 2050. According to the population breakdown, the total number of males stood at 124.32 million, compared to 117.15 million females, with a gender ratio of 1.06. The population of transgender has been reported at 20,331. Data showed that 67 per cent of the total population in 2023 was below the age of 30 and 80 per cent below 40. Those of 67 years or above constituted only 3.55 per cent of the total population.

Ramaphosa vows renewed efforts under new govt

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Conceding that the African National Congress government had failed the people of South Africa in his first term as President, Cyril Ramaphosa has vowed to address all the challenges faced by the country as he leads an unprecedented 10-party coalition government in his second term. Ramaphosa was speaking on Thursday evening at the opening of the seventh Parliament in Cape Town almost two months after the general elections that saw his African National Congress (ANC) lose its majority for the first time since Nelson Mandela led the party to victory in the first democratic elections in 1994 after decades of white minority apartheid rule.

The May 29 election threw a split verdict thanks to a massive anti-incumbency of three decades and the ANC garnered only 40 per cent of the vote. Weeks later, Ramaphosa entered into negotiations with other parties, including the long-term opposition Democratic Alliance, and formed the Government of National Unity (GNU) of 10 parties, and was sworn in on June 19 to lead the seventh government since 1994. Analysts said this (the multi-party coalition) poses several challenges because of differing party policies on a range of issues, including foreign policy, employment equity laws, and land distribution but Ramaphosa said the parties have agreed on a Minimum Programme as the foundation

for the GNU's work and issued a Statement of Intent. "Through their votes, (citizens have) determined that the leaders of our country should set aside their political differences and come together as one to overcome the severe challenges that confront our nation," Ramaphosa, 71, said as he justified the decision to establish the GNU. "They sent a clear message that without unity, cooperation and partnership, our efforts to end poverty, unemployment and inequality will not succeed," he added. "In an act that is unprecedented in our democratic history, 10 political parties represented here in our Parliament have agreed to craft a common programme to build a better, more equal and more just South Africa," he said.



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

THE ART OF CONTRASTS

Experience the resonance of nature in Seema Pandey's exhibition, "Between these lines in this space I root and grow" captured through the lens of black and white contrasts, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

At the Prestigious Shridharani Art Gallery, Artist Seema Pandey's solo exhibition, "Between These Lines in This Space I Root and Grow," invites viewers into a meditative exploration of black and white contrasts. This collection, a culmination of two years of dedicated artistry, threads personal and environmental landscapes into a visual journey of tranquility and contemplation. Through these lines, Seema Pandey weaves moments, memories and dreams, creating an ever-evolving narrative of being and becoming. The exhibition features over 100 miniature and larger artworks that reflect Pandey's keen observations and creative explorations. Each piece is a tribute to her holistic and free-spirited approach to art, drawing inspiration from diverse surroundings, memories and imaginations. The intriguing title, "Between These Lines in This Space I Root and Grow," encapsulates the essence of her journey, merging the personal with the universal, the immediate with the timeless. The concept behind this exhibition is deeply rooted in Seema's acute observation and



awareness of her environment. Over two years, she meticulously curated this project, with a two-month execution phase that saw her transforming mental images into artistic expressions. From coffee shops to her home surroundings, each locale provided a unique influence that was retrofitted into her studio work. This process resulted in a collection rich in techniques, autobiographical inputs and a celebration of the natural world. Seema Pandey's art is a harmonious blend of personal experiences and natural elements. She finds inspiration in everything around her, particularly nature. Trees, skies and weather changes are recurring motifs in her work, reflecting her deep connection to the

environment. Even indoor structures in her artworks are infused with elements of nature, highlighting her fascination with the organic world. This integration of autobiographical glimpses and natural themes creates a narrative that is both personal and universally relatable. One of the most striking aspects of this exhibition is Seema's use of black and white contrasts. This palette enhances the themes and emotions expressed in her artworks, creating a visual dialogue that is both bold and nuanced. The black and white tones bring out the subtleties of her subjects, allowing viewers to delve deeper into the layers of meaning within each piece. This choice of palette also underscores the exhibition's themes of resilience and the human spirit, offering a stark yet serene visual experience. Seema's creative process is as captivating as her final pieces. She began with small format drawings and eventually transitioned to larger surfaces, maintaining the same style and technique. One notable piece is a depiction of a tree with flowers, created using thread. This meditative work invites viewers to contemplate the interconnectedness of nature and the human experience. The exhibition also features artworks that move away from box-like combinations to embrace circular motifs. These pieces explore themes of womanhood, personal history, and the fluidity of time, offering a dynamic contrast to the linear compositions and enriching the visual experience with movement and continuity. In addition to trees and circular motifs, Seema's exhibition includes depictions of rock formations, which serve as timekeepers of an orchestrated rhythm. These rocks, both stark and evocative, represent links to the past, present, and future. Seema's minimalist approach is evident in her use of thread and needle, which she employs to decode a womanly story. These humble materials are transformed into evocative resources, guiding viewers to discover deeper sensibilities through the parallel lines of falling rain, the symmetry of bare trees, and the arrangement of flower forms. Seema Pandey's ability to correlate disparate content into a cohesive whole is a hallmark of her artistic prowess. Her exhibition fuses the vertical with the horizontal, the past with the future, creating a sanctum of art that is both contextual and unconventional. This approach allows viewers to engage with the artworks on multiple levels, uncovering new angles of contrasts and connections with each viewing. Seema Pandey's work is a power of art to reflect, discover and inspire. Through her intricate lines and thoughtful compositions, she invites us to see the world through her eyes, finding beauty and meaning in the spaces between. This exhibition is not just a display of artworks but a journey of discovery, where each piece offers a glimpse into the artist's soul and the endless possibilities of artistic expression.

A Celebration of Nature's Elegance

Laxmi Gupta's exhibition, "The Flower Always Sheds Its Fragrance," beautifully intertwines art and nature, highlighting the resilience and beauty of flowers, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

Stepping into the serene ambience of Triveni Kala Sangam, visitors are transported into a world where art and nature intertwine seamlessly in Laxmi Gupta's latest exhibition, "The Flower Always Sheds Its Fragrance." This alluring showcase of artworks is an attestation of Gupta's deep-rooted admiration for the natural world, particularly the ethereal beauty of flowers and their profound impact on our environment and well-being. The exhibition unfolds like a poetic journey through lush landscapes and vibrant gardens, each artwork a tribute to Gupta's skillful portrayal of nature's splendor. Known for her mastery of color and texture, Gupta's paintings exude a sense of tranquility and wonder, inviting viewers to explore the intricate details and layered compositions that define her work. At the heart of Gupta's artistic exploration lies a profound connection to nature. Her fascination with flowers, sparked during the isolation of the COVID-19 lockdowns, blossomed into a series of paintings that reflect both personal introspection and a broader environmental message. Through her art, Gupta seeks to capture not just the visual allure of flowers but also their symbolic significance as bearers of hope, resilience and natural beauty. The inspiration behind her thematic focus on flowers, Gupta shared, "During COVID-19, confined to our homes, I found solace in daydreams of leisurely walks and the simple joy of gathering wildflowers. It was a time when everyone seemed gloomy and subdued, and the vibrancy of flowers became a beacon of positivity for me. They symbolise resilience and the ability to thrive despite adversity, which resonated deeply with me." Gupta's artistic journey is characterised by a harmonious blend of mediums and techniques.



From the precise lines of pen and ink to the fluidity of watercolors and the depth of acrylics, each artwork reflects her meticulous attention to detail and her commitment to exploring the interplay of light, color and form. This diversity of approaches ensures that each piece in the exhibition offers a unique perspective on the natural world, inviting viewers to contemplate its beauty from various angles. Central to Gupta's artistic philosophy is her belief in the transformative power of art. Beyond aesthetic pleasure, her paintings convey a subtle yet powerful message about the importance of environmental conservation and the symbiotic relationship between humanity and nature. By highlighting the delicate beauty of flowers and their role in sustaining biodiversity, Gupta encourages viewers to pause and reflect on the fragility of our natural surroundings and the urgency of preserving them for future generations. The exhibition not only showcases Gupta's technical prowess but also invites viewers on an emotional journey through her creative process. Each artwork tells a story, capturing fleeting moments of beauty and inviting contemplation on themes of growth, resilience

and the interconnectedness of all living things. Through her use of vibrant colors and intricate compositions, Gupta creates a visual narrative that celebrates the beauty of nature, inspiring viewers to reconnect with the natural world and appreciate its wonders. As visitors explore "The Flower Always Sheds Its Fragrance," they are greeted by a rich tapestry of emotions and sensations. Gupta's ability to evoke a sense of wonder and reverence for nature through her art is a witness to her skill as a storyteller and her deep-seated passion for the environment. Each painting serves as a window into Gupta's artistic soul, inviting viewers to experience the world through her eyes and discover the profound beauty that surrounds us all. Laxmi Gupta's exhibition is not merely a display of artistic talent but a celebration of nature's timeless elegance. Through her evocative paintings, Gupta invites us to pause, reflect and reconnect with the natural world, reminding us of the importance of preserving its beauty and diversity. "The Flower Always Sheds Its Fragrance" is a tribute to the enduring power of art to inspire, uplift and enrich a deeper appreciation for the wonders of our planet.

FILM REVIEW

Bad Newz: Fresh Trio Saves a Predictable Film

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

Buckle up for laughs with *Bad Newz*, a Bollywood comedy that throws everything at the wall and sees what sticks, resulting in a wild ride of humor and chaos. Directed by Anand Tiwari, the movie stars the charming Vicky Kaushal as Akhil Chadha, National crush Tripti Dimri as Saloni Bagga and everyone's favourite Ammy Virk as Gurbir Pannu. The film is a rollercoaster of craziness and hilarity, with a surprising plot that keeps you engaged from start to finish. The story centers on Saloni, who unexpectedly becomes pregnant without knowing who the father is. The plot takes a wild turn when a paternity test reveals that it is a case of heteropaternal superfecundation - a medical marvel you'll have to look up!



of it, they add a layer of depth and connect with the audience on an emotional level. Director Anand Tiwari has skillfully integrated these elements into the narrative, making them feel integral to the story rather than mere add-ons. An unexpected appearance by Neha Sharma wows the audience and Pati Patni Aur Woh actress Ananya Pandey's special entry is an ironic and delightful surprise. Director Anand Tiwari balances comedy with

moments of genuine emotion, exploring themes such as dreams, relationships and familial bonds. Despite its comedic exterior, the movie subtly values these connections. Ammy Virk's performance deserves special mention. His comedic timing and on-screen presence add a lot to the film. The chemistry between Vicky Kaushal and Tripti Dimri is another highlight. They bring a natural ease to their roles that makes their on-screen relationship believable and engaging. Kaushal, in particular, looks incredibly charismatic and handles the comedic elements with finesse. However, it's crucial to manage your expectations. *Bad Newz* might be light-hearted and entertaining, but it doesn't aim to be anything

groundbreaking. Unlike its possible namesake, *Good Newz*, this film isn't a game-changer. It's only the fresh pairing of the trio that saves *Bad Newz* and shines in an otherwise completely predictable film. Despite all its positives, *Bad Newz* is best approached with tempered expectations. It's a fun ride but it won't leave a lasting impact. It is a delightful comedy that entertains with its sharp humor, nostalgic references and charming performances. The film delivers on its promise of comedy but doesn't aim to be anything more. It's a one-time watch, but don't expect too much or your *Bad Newz* movie date might end up being a bad date for you. So grab your popcorn, sit back and enjoy this fun-filled ride, just don't take it too seriously. **Rating:** 3/5

BOOK REVIEW

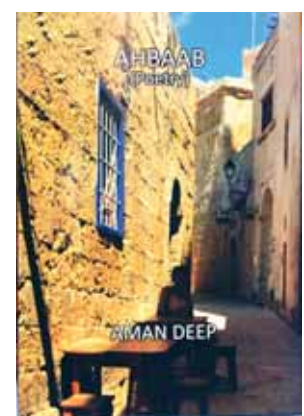
A Triglot Journey Through Poetry and Emotion

Experience the profound depth of human connections in AMAN DEEP'S triglot poetry collection, 'AHBAAB', says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

AHBAAB by the Poet Aman Deep Sidhu Chatha is an eloquent collection of poems that grub around into the rich concept of "Ahbaab" - a term encompassing friends, lovers and loved ones. Presented in a unique triglot format, this collection features couplets in Urdu, Hindi and English, following the precedent set by Deep's earlier work, *Ifsha*. The translations aim to capture the essence of the original verses, allowing for a nuanced and interpretative reading experience rather than a strict word-for-word approach. The publication of *Ahbaab* by Ferntree Publishing attests to the literary value of this collection. The book is thoughtfully divided into sections, each exploring various facets of

human emotions and experiences. Titles such as SHAAAYARI AUR HUM, ISHQ, SHOKHI AUR NAZAAKAT and GUFTGU guide readers through themes of love, beauty, conversation and spirituality. Each poem within these sections resonates with profound emotional undertones, blending traditional poetic forms with contemporary sensibilities. For instance, SHAAAYARI AUR HUM reflects on the nature of poetry itself, capturing the poet's humility and the intrinsic beauty of poetic expression. ISHQ highlights the universality of love while acknowledging the rarity of true passion and SHOKHI AUR NAZAAKAT explores the complexities of friendships and relationships, emphasising

the delicate balance between personal adornment and the nurturing of meaningful connections. GUFTGU celebrates the beauty of conversation, underscoring the joy and liberation found in sincere dialogues. The collection also goes into spiritual and philosophical realms. Sections like BANDAGI examine the profound relationship between the divine and the human, illustrating the poet's sense of being cherished by a higher power. Meanwhile, ROOH KI BAATEN offers reflections on the soul's journey, emphasising its timeless nature and the mysteries that lie beyond human comprehension. Deep's poetic style is characterised by its simplicity and depth, employing everyday language



AHBAAB (Poetry) Author: Aman Deep | Publisher: Ferntree ₹ 500.00

imbued with profound insights, making her poetry both accessible and thought-provoking. The triglot format



enriches the reader's experience, enabling an appreciation of the lyrical beauty of Urdu poetry alongside the Hindi and English translations. Deep's interpretative freedom is evident as she revisits her original thoughts, presenting them with renewed clarity and emotion. *Ahbaab* is a beautiful journey of shayari that reaches deep into the reader's heart. It

directly captures the essence of the reader's experience, making every section a magical reflection of human emotion. Each piece of poetry in the book brings to light the significance of those who are no longer part of one's life, showcasing the stages of emotions that words often fail to describe. Aman Deep's heart and mind are palpably present in her work, revealing the challenges and beauty of writing a collection so deeply rooted in human connection. The book, originally written in Urdu, carries a profound resonance with the human mind and heart, with each line reflecting a deeper connection. The translations into English and Hindi adding another layer of depth to the work. Each chapter establishes a

profound connection with every line of the poem, touching the reader's heart and evoking wonder at the magic embedded in the words. This intricate interplay of emotion and language makes *Ahbaab* a remarkable and unforgettable literary journey. In addition, it is a poignant and introspective compilation that beautifully captures the myriad shades of human emotions and experiences. The triglot presentation enhances its uniqueness, making it a significant contribution to contemporary poetry. With themes ranging from love and beauty to spirituality and philosophical musings, *Ahbaab* invites readers to embark on a reflective journey, enriching an appreciation for the simple yet profound

moments in life. Deep's authentic poetic voice resonates deeply, making *Ahbaab* a must-read for poetry enthusiasts and anyone interested in exploring the depths of human connections. Arguably, *Ahbaab* stands as a tribute to Aman Deep's literary prowess and her ability to weave complex human emotions into poetic forms. The collection's unique triglot format, combined with its profound thematic explorations, ensures that it will leave a lasting impression on readers, inviting them to reflect on their own connections and experiences. This is a collection not to be missed, offering a rich and resonant journey through the landscape of human emotions.
Photo: Pankaj Kumar



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Chief Minister

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Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

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Chetanya Kasyap

Minister, MSME, Govt. of MP

9:00 am Onwards

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Participants

500+
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