**OPINION 6** 

NATION 4

KNIFE ATTACK IN PARIS

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

SNEH: INDIA WOMEN'S

TEAM WILL WIN ICC

TROPHY SOON

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DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

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RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH



## INDIA AMONG MAJOR NATIONS HIT BY MICROSOFT OUTAGE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $M_{
m including}^{
m icrosoft}$  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 software didn't affect ticketing or the torch relay. Amid the massive global

outage that hit operations of a state of limbo. airlines, banks and businesses Friday said it is aware of the issue affecting Windows devices due to an update from third-party software Microsoft platform. Α anticipate a resolution is

'We're aware of an issue affecting Windows devices due to an update from a third-party

platform," spokesperson said. The outage put operations of businesses and systems across the globe in

On outage tracking website across the globe, Microsoft on Downdetector, users reported problems across Microsoft line-up including Azure, and Teams. Microsoft said it is investigating the issue "impacting users ability to spokesperson said, "We 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

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

advisory said.

## Flights, banks, media outlets disrupted globally | Indian aviation sector affected

Multiple airports and airline operations on faced major disruptions across the country due to outages of Microsoft Window 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 cooperate with airport staff during this period of disruption, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said "committed"



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

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

Airlines are facing issues in making fresh bookings; urging passengers not to make multiple bookings for a journey and urging them

switch to manual mode.

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 (AÂI) are actively managing the situation arising out of a global Microsoft outage, which severely impacted airport and operations in the country. The Civil Aviation Ministry in collaboration with AAl has implemented manual backup systems to maintain continuity, operational

Naidu said in a statement.



forthcoming."

## **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 Uttarakhand Government too followed the suit and issued similar directives besides verification of the shops and its owners enroute the Kanwar pilgrimage which orginates from Haridwar.

The fresh order came after the controversial directives Muzzaffarnagar 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 as 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

"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

UP State Minister Kapil Dev Agarwal said most of the outlets with names of Hindu deities are run by Muslims and they sell nonvegetarian 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 nonvegetarian is sold there; all such establishments should prohibited, they should 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 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

The Centre has listed six new Bills for introduction, including the one which seeks to replace the 90year-old Aircraft Act, to provide enabling provisions for ease of doing business in the aviation sector, in the upcoming Pa 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 Vidheyak, 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



(BJP) Bhartruhari Mahtab 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 Sessioneve 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 Gogoi (Congress), Sanjay Jaiswal during the three-weeks-long (BJP), Dileshwar Kamait (JD-U), 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 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.



approach



## **SC** to review immunity to Guvs from prosecution

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine the contours of Article 361 of the Constitution which grants 'blanket immunity' Governors from any kind of criminal prosecution.

The top court's order of 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 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)



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 inexplainable 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 Public (UPSC) Commission launched criminal prosecution of a controversial probationary IAS officer Puja Manorama Diliprao Khedkar and also issued a showcause notice to her for cancellation of her candidature from Civil Services Examination-2022/debarment from future examinations/selections". In a statement issued on Friday,

has the UPSC said it had conducted

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 detailed investigations against 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 UPSC is unequivocally committed to ensure that such a high order of trust and credibility remains intact uncompromised," the statement added. It may 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 (LBSNAA), Administration Mussoorie.

## the pioneer

## **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 associa-

**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

eign delegates. Chief Indonesia in the Conclave 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, SRF, and Dawat Group will be participating in the Regional Industry Conclave. Prominent foreign representatives representing Taiwan, Malaysia, tions, and prominent for- Britain, Fiji, Japan, and

will also take part. Special guest MSME Minister Chaitanya Kashyap, PWD Minister Rakesh Singh and other public representa-

tives will be present.
Before the RIC to be held in
Jabalpur, Chief Minister
Dr. Yadav held a meeting with industrialists from Chhindwara and other areas including Jabalpur, and encouraged industrial investment. The objective of the Conclave is to

**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

areas. These include agriculture, food and dairy processing, defense, mining and minerals, textiles and apparel and tourism. There will also be round-table discussions with industry associations, start-ups and experts from defence, textiles and apparel.

The summit will also include over 300 buyerseller meetings and one-toone discussions. Jabalpur Expo and Defense Exhibition will also be organized to give the investors an experience of Mahakaushal. The event will conclude with a culwill conclude with a cultural program and networking dinner showcasing the culture and cuisine of



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and BJP State President VD Sharma welcome Mahendra Kannauj, leader of Madhy 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

eviewing 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 development, and urban development and housing department.

Culture, Tourism, Religious Trusts and Endowments Minister Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, Chief Secretary Veera Rana, Additional Chief Secretary Secretary Culture and Tourism Sheoshekhar 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

Rajesh Rajoura, Principal of the state to promote the rich cultural heritage of Madhya Pradesh, should be organized in other states. This will also encourage tourism.

With the aim of cultural, and religious renaissance and development of tourism, the Tourism Department is working for the development of 18 Loks. Of them, 14 are based on religion and 4 on culture, construction work of 10 religious and 4 cultural Loks is in progress. Conservation of religious and cultural sites, the development of surrounding infrastructure, and the development of high-level facilities required for devotees and tourists should be taken up. In order to enhance the sense of pride towards religious and cultural heritage among the youth, there will be a display of religious stories, folk arts, etc. through light and sound shows, exhibition galleries, and modern technology like projection,

### **STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

dhe Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has sufficient funds for research projects, but the number of high-quality projects among the pro-posals 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 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, INR 2 crore for research pro-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

jects 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

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

The only lack is in the research environment. We 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 is it 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.



No problem due to Microsoft server

#### After his wife's death 45-year-old man ends life by hanging the house the whole day on On the basis of interrogation Begumganj district Raisen. He

PNS MHOW

epressed 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 and sent for postmortem. After wife. Due to this, he committed the postmortem on Friday, the 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

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

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.

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

front of Goswami Farm on Raisen Road, on Thursday night during treatment in a private hospital. In the case, Bilkhiria 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 Bilkhiria police, Sanjay Lodhi was a resident of

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

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.

## at Bhopal airport: Airport Director

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

icrosoft'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

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.

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 air-

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 and 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: Ór. Mohan YadavChief 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 Hightech 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 Agricultural Division, Engineering, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Chancellor of RNTU Santosh Choubey, Registrar Vijay Singh and Vice

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.

Chancellor Sangeeta Johri were

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 worshiped and inspected by the guests. At the same time, the guests released agricultural literature related to the High-Tech Custom Hiring Čenter, 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 commissionel Harinarayan Chari Mishra to file a complaint of Ashoka Garden Town Inspector over Sunderkand recital issue, in Bhopal on

### MP will be at the top in industrial development: CM

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

hief 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.

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### 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, claiming the city government got nothing in return over the past year despite its income tax contribution of Rs 2 lakh crore. Delhi also provided Rs 25,000 crore as central GST to the pool of taxes, the minister said during a press conference here. Atishi batted for release of more money to Delhi, saying it could be spent on infrastructure development in road, transport and power sectors as well as to beautify the city.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leader and South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged "white

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. 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. This amount of Rs 10,000 crore is taxes and the Centre provides

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. Atishi said the Centre receives Rs 5 lakh crore as taxes from Mumbai and in return, Rs 54,000 crores are given to the Maharashtra government by the Centre. Bengaluru like Delhi also contributes Rs 2 lakh crore as

said. They have been sent to CBI

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. The CBI had already arrested

Kumar, who stole the paper, and Raju Singh who had helped

him in the process. The agency

on Thursday also arrested one

Surender Sharma, who also

Sharma was presented before a

special court along with four AIIMS students of the 'solver

The central probe agency, which

is investigating the alleged irreg-

ularities in the medical entrance

exam, has lodged six FIRs. The

FIR from Bihar pertains to paper

from Gujarat, Rajasthan and

Maharashtra are regarding

impersonation of candidates and

module', they said.

helped Kumar in Hazaribagh.

custody for four days.

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 beg-

ging but demanding their rights. They want their rightful money in this Union Budget so that pace of development in the city increases," she said.

The minister said the people of the city paid Rs 35,000 crores in the form of taxes last

Understand why

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 treat-ed 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 BIPled Central government is doing to Delhi.

Delhi BJP secretary Harish Khurana echoing similar sentiments hit back at the minister, accusing her of lying on the issue. He claimed the Centre gave Rs 4,258 crore in 2015 to the Delhi government that rose to become Rs 11,945 crore in 2022.



Vehicles ply on the road amid rain in Bhopal on Friday

Water logging in several areas of city, exposes the arrangements

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. Pioneer photo

### CBI arrests MBBS student from RIMS

PNS NEW DELHI

he 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.

Surabhi Kumari was taken into custody after two days of detailed questioning by the CBI, the officials said.

It is alleged that Kumari was the fifth member of the 'solver module' which was present in Hazaribagh in the morning of May 5, the NEET-UG examination day, to solve the paper stolen by Pankaj Kumar, they

Pankaj Kumar alias Aditya, a the National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), who allegedly stole the NEET-UG paper from the

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.

The CBI team contacted the hospital management on Wednesday saying they wanted to question her in connection with the NEET paper leak. The management extended full cooperation to the team. On Thursday too, they grilled her and said she will be questioned further," RIMS PRO Rajiv Ranjan told PTI earlier in the day.

The official said the parents of the student had contacted the management and were briefed about the situation.

ed four MBBS students of AIIMS Patna, all members of the solver module, in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case, they

## investments are essential

fixed income

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. During a bull market, investors tend to focus on returns rather than risk. Chaudhary advises against this cognitive bias, emphasizing the importance of maintaining an asset allocation plan aligned with an individual's risk profile to achieve optimal risk-adjusted returns.Retail investors should consider fixed income instruments, even during bull markets, because they provide diversification, stability, and

predictable returns. Sticking to an asset allocation plan can help mitigate the recency bias, which is the tendency to focus on recent performance rather than longterm trends. The inclusion of Indian bonds in the JP Morgan Government Bonds Index (EM) is expected to significantly impact both mediumand long-term scenarios.

In the medium term, it could attract up to \$40 billion in foreign investments, increasing Foreign Portfolio Investment holdings from 2.5% to over 4% and lowering government bond

Long-term effects include a deeper bond market, diversified government borrowing sources, and reduced borrowing costs. However, potential changes could introduce volatility in the rates market, particularly with actively managed FPI allocations.

#### STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL deep water was filled on Safia College Road. Shop goods like iron cupboards, bed boxes were

ven 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. The entire capital got drenched

in one hour of heavy rain. There was so much water on the roads that one could not even walk. There were traffic jams for hours.

Before the rain, Mayor Malti Rai, Commissioner Harendra Narayan and other responsible officials had claimed that this time there will be no waterlogging anywhere in Bhopal. All the drains will be cleaned beforehand, but the first heavy rain of the season exposed these claims.

Water filled around the railway underbridge in the Aishbagh area. This caused problems for people to pass through.

Near Jyoti Talkies the road coming from Board Office Square towards Jyoti Talkies Square remains flooded every rainy season. To solve this, the Smart City Company also channelized the drain along with other works under Smart Street. About Rs 7 crore was spent on this entire work. Still, the result is that one has to pass through knee-deep water here.
At Bhopal talkies waterlogging

has now become a tradition here too in every rain. The drain passing through here is narrow, so it overflows when rainwater arrives. Here the culvert belongs to PWD and the drain belongs to Municipal Corporation. The lack of coordination between the two agencies has become a 2019, the corporation increased the height of the drain by spending 4 crores, but it was of no use. On Thursday, kneewashed away in the water. In Alpana Talkies trisection

every year rainwater fills up at this intersection located on Hamidia Road and thousands of people face difficulties. A week ago also, there was a jam for 2 hours due to waterlogging. The next day, Mayor Rai inspected and said that a permanent solution to the problem will be found. The problem was not solved, but on Thursday, waterlogging occurred again and vehicles crawled for 2 hours.

The road from Roshanpura to Polytechnic Square looked like a pond. After the rain stopped, the water receded in 3 hours. Only then could the traffic become organized.

To solve the problem of water accumulation at Noronha Administrative Academy, the outlet of Shahpura pond has to be lowered by about two feet. A year ago, the Municipal Corporation also built a drainage system here by spending lakhs of rupees, but it was not successful. The situation is such that if it rains heavily, the water fills up to the knees and the road gets completely closed. Waterlogging situation arose in Harshvardhan Nagar, Bhopal. Due to this, even houses were filled with water.

Waterlogging in many houses in Tulsinagar. This situation arose due to overflowing of drains. In Sant Hirdaram Nagar, the 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. Waterlogging situation arose in front of Shani Mandir located in New Market. Due to this, pedestrians also faced problems in passing.

People were also facing problems due to waterlogging in the Bairagarh area. Projects worth Rs 600 crore in two decades If we include Bhoj Wetland, INNURM, Project Uday and Project Amrit, then about Rs 600 crore has been spent on sewerage and drainage in the city in two decades. On the other hand, Rs 1.5 to 2 crore is spent every year in the name of maintenance. This time also the same amount is expected to be spent, but it seems as if this amount has gone down the drain. Due to lack of a better plan for water drainage, water-

logging is taking place.

### Change of Name

I, Sashikant Verma S/o Lekhraj Verma residing at 1972 Bhoi Mohalla, Mhow District Indore (M.P.) Pin- 453441, have changed name from Munna Verma to Sashikant Verma (new name) & Date of birth 20/01/1973 to 01/01/1963 (New DOB) for all purpose vide AFFI-DAVIT/NOTATY SERIAL NO 6516/2024, Dated 10/07/2024

#### NAME CHANGED

I LACHI VERMA D/o KUN-**DAN VERMA** resident of Gawli Mohalla Gayakwad Mhow, Post Mhow, District Indore, State- MP have change my name from LAXMIPRIYA to LACHI VERMA and also Change my date of birth 28.04.2007 to 28.04.2006 according to my birth certificate and class 10th Marksheet, for all purpose vide Affidavit/Notary public at Mhow affidavit serial No 6512/2024, Dated 08.07.2024

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President o India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work **Description of work**: Bina-Jhansi Section: TSR(P) of 25.00 kms by Contractor's own PQRS portal with supply of P. Way materials under ADEN Lalitpur Sub

E-Tender No. : JHS-ENGG-C-2024-144 , Approx Cost ₹ : ₹ 262336575.43 Earnest Money ₹: ₹ 1461700.00, Date of Closing Tender: 12.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 07 Month. Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 12.08.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

### E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sagar,1st Floor, BSNL Building, City Center Gwalior M.P. 474001, Mob. No. 7880153116

"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

#### SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower /s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below.

Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors/ Mortgagor

Borrower- M/s Manglam Traders Prop. Mr. Ramgopal Sharma) Add, Ward No.39, Matadeen ka Pura. Bhatta wali Gali, Bhind, M.P- 477001 Proprietor: Mr. Ramgopal Sharma S/o Late Shri Ramsharan Sharma Add: Ward No.39, Matadeen ka pura, Bhatta wali Gali, Bhind, M.P- 477001 Guarantor: Mr. Shivkumar S/o Late Shri Ramsharan Add: Ward No.17, Gram Khera, Post Aaroli, Tehsil & Distt Bhind,

M.P- 477660

Place: Gwalion

Description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any Property Owner - Mr. Ram Gopal

Sharma S/o Shri Ram Sharan Sharma - All that part and parcel of 2,97,000/the property bearing Khasra No.218/2 and 220, situated at Ward No.39, Matadeen ka Pura, Tehsil & amp; District Bhind, admeasuring area 1000 Sq.Ft., Boundaries - East: 25 Ft. wide Road, West: House of Bhagwati Prasad North: Guddi Devi House South: 25 Ft. wide Road

of E-Auction 07.08.2024 16.03.2022 19.05.2022 29.70.000/ Time: 2:00 PM 25.18.427.50/-10.000.00 6:00 PM + Interest & charge

Date & Time

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm or https://ibapi.in.prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile- 7880153116

Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda



### E- AUCTION SALE Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sagar,1st Floor, BSNL Building, City Center Gwalior M.P. 474001, Mob. No. 7880153116

Email id: sarsag@bankofbaroda.co.in | Web: www.bankofbaroda.com

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Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors/ Mortgagor

Borrower- M/s Rifiuto Waste Management Pvt. Ltd. Address: - 893/A, Ashoka Garden, Bhopal, M.P-462023 Guarantor: 1. Mr. Jay Narayan

ripathi S/o Gopilal Tripathi Address:- 893/A, Ashoka Garden, Bhopal, M.P-462023 Guarantor: 2. Mr. Vipin Tipathi S/o Jaynarayan Tripathi Address: - 893/A, Ashoka Garden, Bhopal, M.P-462023

Property Owner - M/s Rifiuto Waste Management Pvt. Ltd. - All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Factory Land and Proposed Building situated at Plot No.1, C-Sector, Jambar Bagri

Description of the immovable property

Industrial Area, Vidisha-464226, admeasuring Area 0.28 Hectare (2800 Sq. Mtr.) Boundaries:-East:-18 Mtr wide Road, West:- Land of ETP, North:- 24 Meter wide Road, South:-Plot No.2

of E-Auction Rs. 07.08.2024 13.03.2023 25.05.2023 24.59.100.00 Time: 2.46.000.00 Rs. 2:00 PM 1,1170,325.88 10,000.00 6:00 PM + Interest & charges

Date & Time

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm or https://ibapi.in.prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile-7880153116

KHARGONE M.P. 451221. I have changed my name to GAJALA KHAISHAGI W/O TABREJ

> **GAJALA KHAISHAGI** W/O TABREJ KHAISHAGI ADD. 03, CHHAPPAN DEV MARG, MANDLESHWAR, KHARGONE M.P. 451221

informed about steps of building annual cadre wise training plans. Vinit Kapoor informed that 71 thousand police officils of different ranks have been given training in new criminal laws. IT expert Nishith Gupta informed about use of iGOT portal. **CHANGE IN NAME** 

Coordinator Pramod Chaturvedi

now me by my new name

S/O AJAJ HUSSAIN KHAISHAG ADD. 03, CHHAPPAN DEV MARG MANDLESHWAR, Distt. KHARGONE M.P. 451221

## 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. The total business rose by 15.16% year-over-year (ÝOY) and 4.00% for the quarter, reaching Rs 170,059 crore. Deposits increased by 14.41% YOY to Rs 92,349 crore, while the loan book grew by 16.06% YOY to Rs 77,710 crore. The bank's current account and savings account (CASA) deposits saw a 5.62% YOY increase, with a CASA ratio of 30.37%. KVB's net profit for the quarter surged by 27.86% YOY to Rs 459 crore. The pre-provision operating profit (PPOP) grew by 15.12% YOY, reaching Rs 746 crore. The net interest margin (NIM) stood at 4.13%, and

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. The bank maintained a strong asset quality with gross non-performing assets (GNPA) at 1.32% and net non-performing assets (NNPA) at 0.38%.

other income rose by 16.52%

KVB's Managing Director & CEO, Ramesh Babu B, expressed confidence in the bank's continued growth trajectory, highlighting the inclusive growth in RAM verticals. The bank's capital adequacy ratio (CRAR) as per Basel III guidelines was 16.47%, with a CET 1 ratio of 15.58%. The bank's balance sheet size increased by 15.08% YOY to Rs 108,874 crore.





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 ingful and fruitful. He informed departments' performance in jects at the iGOT portal

**STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

adhya 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. The departments will appoint

Capacity Building Managers. They will be assisted by Capacity Building Units. Annual capacity building plans will be chalked out by the capacity building managers. A dashboard showing the competence of working manpower in different departments is being designed by which Chief Minister could know availability of skilled staff. A committee chaired by the Chief Secretary will monitor

respect of training of the staff every six month while Capacity Building Council headed by the Chief Minister will monitor it annually. This was informed at the work-

shop about the status of Mission Karmyogi in different departments at the RCVP Naronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal today.

The Mission Karmayogi intends to enhance skills and improve competency of government employees. Required training will be imparted to the employees. It would be compulsory for promotion according to the Madhya Pradesh Capacity Building Policy 2023. According to the provisions, one percent of the salary budget in each department will be spent compulsorily on training of employees. If needed more, it

could be extended to 2.5 percent

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. Annual capacity building plans are a must with constant assessment of new skills. He informed that Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies for the working staff is mandatory now. The self learning portal iGOT has 14 lakh users and five lakh have done

Director of RCVP Naronha Academy of Administration MR Khan informed that the new capacity building plan seeks to make employees' role more mean-

mandatory courses.

that Madhya Pradesh has taken a lead in designing and implementing its own capacity building policy which incorporates the inputs from capacity building commission. The Academy is uploading its well designed training programmes

and modules on important sub-CHANGE IN NAME

I GAJALA KHAISHGI W/O TABREJ KHAISHAGI, born on 05/11/1981 resident at 03, CHHAPPAN DEV MARG, MANDLESHWAR, Distt. KHAISHAGI, so now everyone know me by my new name

TABREJ KHAISHGI S/O AJAJ HUSSAIN KHAISHAGI, born or 16/03/1977, resident at 03 CHHAPPAN DEV MARG MANDLESHWAR, Distt KHARGONE M. P. 451221. I have changed my name to TABREJ KHAISHAGI S/O AJAJ HUSSAIN KHAISHAGI, so now everyone TABREJ KHAISHAGI

#### BHOPAL | SATURDAY | JULY 20, 2024

## BRS tops income chart among regional parties, says ADR

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi I has topped the income chart among regional parties for the financial year 2022-23 with Rs 737.67 crore, 42.38 per cent of the total, according to poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms(ADR).

The top five parties with the highest expenditure are All India Trinamool Congress which spent Rs 181.18 crore or 37.66 per cent, followed by YSR-Congress which spent Rs 79.32 crore or 16.49 per cent, BRS, which spent Rs 57.47 crore or 11.94 per cent, DMK, which spent Rs 52.62 crore or 10.94 per cent, and the Samajwadi Party, which spent Rs 31.41 crore or 6.53 per cent of the total expenditure, ADR said.

In a revealing analysis of the financial health of India's regional political parties, the ADR has disclosed detailed income and expenditure reports for 39 out of 57 regional parties for the fiscal year 2022-23.

After BRS, the TMS had the highest income of Rs 333.45 crore or 19.16 per cent, while the Dravida Munnetra



Kazhagam (DMK) reported an income of Rs 214.35 crore or 12.32 per cent of the total income of the 39 regional parties analysed in the ADR report.Collectively, the top five parties accounted for Rs 1,541.32 crore, or 88.56 per cent of the total income of the parties analysed while the total declared income of the 39 regional parties stood at Rs 1,740.48 crore, according to the analysis.

The ECÍ had set October 31, 2023, as the deadline for submission of annual audited accounts of political parties, however, only 16 of them

unimaginable few years back, is

a reality, he said, adding, impact

on the defence forces, on the

warfighting, has made it clear

that 'we need to be agile and

flexible in our thoughts as well

as actions. The ongoing conflicts

that has been alluded about, the

Russia-Ukraine conflict, the

multi-domain battlespace. It is

going on today and what we are

likely to face in our future con-

flicts', the Vice Chief of the Air

'This conflict has also demon

strated the integration of mul-

tiple forces in domains of air,

land, sea, cyber, information,

space and how they are united

am sure everyone present

here, including my friends from

other services will agree that the

air domain has clearly emerged

as a singular trans-domain link

and strong force across

domains, a strong method for

cross-domain application of

force. It is not just an enabler,

it has become a force multipli-

The VCAS also referred to the

Israel-Hamas war to underline

the importance of air domain.

Even in the urban warfare con-

struct that is seen in Israel-

Hamas war, the air domain has

been used extensively, whether

it is utilising those fighter air-

craft with precision weapons or

the formidable Iron Dome (air

defence) system or utilising

those low-cost rockets and loi-

ter munitions by Hamas in

challenging that very formida-

ble and very costly system itself,

Staff (VCAS) said.

to achieve the goal.

er,' he asserted.

adhered to the time limit. Twenty-three parties submitted their reports late, with delays ranging from three to

The audit reports for 18 regional parties, including prominent ones like Shiv Sena SHS), Bodoland People's Front (BPF), Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, Nationalist Congress Party, and Shiv Sena (UBT), were not available on the ECI website at the time of the report's preparation, the ADR said.A total of 19 regional parties declared unspent income for the fiscal

year.BRS had the highest unspent income of Rs 680.20 crore, followed by Biju Janata Dal with Rs 171.06 crore and DMK with Rs 161.72 crore. Conversely, 20 parties reported expenditures exceeding their income, with Janta Dal (Secular) spending 490.43 per cent more than its income. Voluntary contributions including donations and electoral bonds, were the primary sources of income for the parties, amounting to Rs 1,522.46 crore or 87.47 per cent of the total income.Of this, Rs 1,285.83 crore came from electoral bonds. Only eight regional parties declared receiving donations through electoral bonds.

ADR's report recommended that the ECI enforce stricter deadlines and penalise parties for late or non-submission of audit reports. A full disclosure of donor details under the Right to Information Act is also urged to ensure transparency in political funding. The report calls for rigorous enforcement of laws like Section 13A of the Income Tax Act and Section 29 (C) of the Representation of People Act, which mandate financial disclosure by political parties.

## Jaishankar holds phone talks with his Ukrainian counterpart

PNS NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday held a phone conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba less than two weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Moscow.

Jaishankar said the focus of the conversation was to fur-ther develop the bilateral relationship. A good conversawith @DmytroKuleba of Ukraine this afternoon. Spoke about further developing our bilateral relationship,' he said in a social media post.

The phone conversation between the two Foreign Ministers came against the backdrop of Ukrainian



Zelenskyy's criticism of Modi's visit to Moscow .On July 9, the Ukrainian president described Modi's visit to Moscow as a

'huge' disappointment and a 'devastating blow' to peace

efforts.

In a social media post, Zelenskyy specifically referred to Russia's missile attacks on Ukraine, including on a chil-

'A Russian missile struck the largest children's hospital in Ukraine, targeting young cancer patients. Many were buried under the rubble, Zelenskyy had said.

'It is a huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day, he said. Modi visited Moscow on July 8 and 9 in his first trip to Russia since its invasion of Ukraine.

In his summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Modi delivering an unambiguous message said a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs,

## India calls protests in Bangladesh as its internal matter

PNS NEW DELHI

Tndia on Friday described the violent Aprotests in Bangladesh as an 'internal' matter of that country. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said around 15,000 Indians including 8,000 students are currently residing in Bangladesh and they

As you are aware, there are ongoing protests in Bangladesh. We see this as an internal matter of the country,' he said. We have issued an advisory for Indian nationals, including our students, resident in Bangladesh for their safety and assistance if required.

Helpline numbers are activated operating on 24x7 basis for people to reach

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is himself following the matter closely, Jaiswal said. 'Our High Commission will

be providing regular updates.

I will also be posting regular updates. I would urge family members to follow us for latest developments,' he said. 'We remain committed to providing all

possible assistance to our nationals in Bangladesh,' Jaiswal said.



## Make sure weapons developed, made in India: AP Singh

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has demonstrated the integration of multiple forces in domains of air, land, sea, cyber, information and space, and how they are 'united' to achieve the goal, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air al AP Singh, on Friday

In his address at a CAPS seminar here, he also said 'Atmanirbharata' is 'not just a buzzword, it is something that all stakeholders need to put their heart and soul into, and make sure technologies and weapons are developed and manufactured in India, 'so that we are not relying on an outside agency who could change its alliance or stop flow of weapons to our country' when the time comes. During the seminar exhibition on air and missile defence hosted by the thinktank at Subroto Park here. many speakers also spoke about various lessons from ongoing conflicts in the world.

One thing is certain, if we need to do something, we need to stay... In the game, we need to modernise, we need to continue to grow, continue to innovate and we need to continue being ahead of the curve. Otherwise, we lag behind and we are just chasing, Air Marshal Singh said. Technological advancements, the rapid pace that is being seen in people's normal life, has also 'infused themselves into our weaponry, defence

Today, what was unthinkable or

### Viksit Bharat to be theme of 78th I-Day celebrations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The theme for 78th Independence Day celebrations is 'Viksit Bharat', in sync with the Government's vision to transform the country into a developed nation by 2047. Ministry of Defence

spokesperson A. Bharat

Bhushan Babu made the announcement in a social media post in which he also shared a poster depicting the Red Fort and the 'Viksit Bharat' slogan. In 2047, India will mark 100th year of its freedom from colonial rule. theme #IndependenceDay 2024 is 'Viksit Bharat', in sync with Govt's vision to transform

country into a Developed 100th year of Independence. @giridhararamane,' the

 $T^{
m he}$  Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea of two of the 11 convicts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

in the Bilkis Bano case challenging the January 8 verdict cancelling their remission. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar termed the plea as 'absolutely misconceived' and said how can it sit in appeal over an order passed by another bench of the apex court.

'What is this plea? How is this plea maintainable? This is absolutely misconceived. How can an Article 32 petition be filed? We can't sit in appeal over an order passed by another bench, the bench said. Advocate Rishi Malhotra appearing for convicts Radheyshaym Bhagwandas Shah and Rajubhai Babulal Soni sought permission to withdraw the plea.

The bench allowed the counsel to withdraw the plea. Shah has also applied for interim victs moved the top court contending that its January 8 verdict cancelling remission

of their sentence was 'in teeth of' a 2002 constitution bench order and sought the issue to be referred to a larger bench for 'final' adjudication.

Shah and Soni, both lodged in Godhra sub-jail after the apex court verdict, said an 'anomalous' situation has arisen wherein two different coordinate benches (benches of the same strength) have taken diametrically opposite views on the same issue of premature release as well as on which policy of the state government would apply to the

petitioners for remission. The plea, filed through Malhotra, said while one bench on May 13, 2022, categorically ordered the Gujarat government to consider Shah's application for premature release in terms of the state government's remission policy of July 9, 1992, the bench that pronounced the verdict on January 8, 2024, concluded that it was Maharashtra and not the Gujarat government

'That with greatest respect the



SC refuses to entertain remission plea of 2 convicts in Bilkis case

teeth of the constitution bench decision in Rupa Ashok Hurra's case of 2002 and the same needs to be set aside, as if the same is permitted then it would lead to not only judicial impropriety but to uncertainty and chaos as to which precedence (sic) of law has to be applied in future.

In other words, if any party being not satisfied with the Supreme Court judgment on an issue, he would be entitled to file a writ petition challenging the said judgment by down in Bilkis Bano case,' the

Īt said a fundamental issue



The plea sought a direction to the Centre to consider the case of the petitioners for premature release and clarify which judgment of its coordinate benches of May 13, 2022, or January 8, 2024, would apply to them. It said since two benches of the apex court of the same

strength have passed con-flicting orders, the matter should be referred to a larger bench for final adjudica-

contradictory

On January 8, in a massive setback to the Gujarat govquashed the remission it had granted to 11 convicts in the high-profile gang-rape case of members killed.

her seven family members while slamming the state for being 'complicit' with the accused and abusing its dis-It ordered all the convicts,

Bilkis Bano and the killing of

who were released prematurely on Independence Day in 2022, back to jail within two weeks. Critcising the Gujarat government, the apex court said it 'usurped' the power of the Maharashtra government to grant remission to the convicts. It held as nullity the May 13, 2022, judgment of another bench of the apex court, which had directed the Gujarat government to consider the remission applications of the 11 convicts in the case, saying it was obtained by 'playing

fraud on the court'. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five months pregnant when she was raped while fleeing the horror of the communal riots that broke out after the Godhra train burn-Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family

## 76 Saudi Naval personnel complete training in India

PNS NEW DELHI

Seventy six trainees from King Fahd Naval Academy of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) completed their Afloat Training Course at First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy on Thursday, navy said here on Friday.

Giving details here, officials said the three weeks training at Kochi comprised harbour as well as a sea phase.

The harbour phase focussed largely on simulator-based training on navigational, firefighting and damage control

During the sea phase, the trainees were introduced to nuances of life at sea providing first-hand experience on ship handling, communication procedures and seamanship evo-

Besides this, the trainees were



Watermanship Training Centre and onboard INS Tarangini. Participation of RSNF trainees alongside Indian Naval trainees of 107 Integrated Officers Training Course (IOTC) has immensely contributed towards enhanced bon homie and friendship amongst the trainees of both maritime

The training program also facilitated cultural exchange and engagements through organised visits to historical and local places of interest and friendly sports fixtures with

Indian trainees. In an event marking culmination of the training, Rear Admiral Upal Kundu, Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command, interacted with the trainees and Directing Staff of RSNF.During interaction, the trainees shared their sea experiences and the directing staff expressed their appreciation on the high quality training imparted. During the valedictory function onboard INS Tir course completion certificates and alumni badges were presented to the trainees.

A course memoir highlighting the journey of the trainees was also unveiled during the occa-

3The conduct of two successive training courses (2023 and this year) with enhanced participation bears testimony to growing maritime partnership



## Vinay Kwatra named India's **Ambassador** to US

PNS NEW DELHI

 ${F}^{
m ormer}$  Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra was on Friday appointed as India's ambassador to the United States. 'He is expected to take up the assignment shortly,' the

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. The post of India's envoy to the US has been lying vacant since Taranjit Sandhu retired in January.Kwatra served as the foreign secretary from May 1, 2022, to July 14, 2024.

He joined the Indian Foreign Service(IFS)in 1988 and served in India's Permanent Mission in Geneva in the initial years of his service.

Between 1993 and 2003, he served as a desk officer at the external affairs ministry's headquarters in Delhi dealing with the United Nations, and subsequently in the diplomatic missions in South Africa and Uzbekistan.

From 2003 to 2006, he served as the counsellor and later as the deputy chief of mission at the Indian embassy in Beijing.

# SC agrees to hear CBI plea against Koli's acquittal

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear separate pleas filed by the CBI and the Uttar Pradesh Government challenging the Allahabad High Court's verdict acquitting Surendra Koli in the sensational 2006 Nithari serial killings case. A bench of Justices B R Gavai, K V Viswanathan, and N Kotiswar Singh issued a notice and sought a response from Koli on the petitions and tagged them with similar pleas which are already pending before the apex court.

Notice. Tag, the bench said. The top court on July 8 sought a response from Koli on separate pleas filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the high court's October 16 last year verdict. The apex court in May agreed to hear a plea filed by the father of one of the victims challenging the high court's order acquitting Koli in the case. In this case, Moninder Singh Pandher was acquitted by the sessions court while Koli was awarded the death penalty on September 28, 2010.

The high court had acquitted domestic help Koli and his employer Pandher in the Nithari serial killings case in which they were facing a death sentence, holding that the prosecution failed to prove the guilt 'beyond reasonable doubt' and that the investigation was 'botched up'. Reversing the death sentence given to Koli in 12 cases and Pandher in two cases, the high



court had noted that the prosecution had failed to prove the guilt of both the accused beyond reasonable doubt, on the settled parameters of a case based on circumstantial evidence' and the probe was 'nothing short of a betrayal of public trust by responsible agencies'. Pandher and Koli were charged with rape and murder and sentenced to death in the killings that horrified the nation with their details of sexual assault, brutal murder and hints of possible cannibalism. The high court had allowed

multiple appeals filed by Koli and Pandher, who had challenged the death sentence awarded by a Central Bureau of Investigation court in Ghaziabad. Further digging and searches of drains in the area around the house led to more skeletal remains. Most of these remains were those of poor children and young women who had gone missing from the area. Within 10 days, the CBI had taken over the case and its search resulted in the recovery of more remains

### Budget unlikely to address people's concerns: Congress get fair prices for their crops? have been increasing in sectors

PNS NEW DELHI

Days ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget, the Congress on Friday alleged that it would be aimed at making a few crony capitalists richer rather than addressing concerns such as unemployment, rising inequalities and 'drying up' of FDI. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget on July 23.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate also alleged that this government has nothing to do with common people, farmers, youth, women and middle class,

and claimed that the upcoming budget, like in the past years of the Modi government, is being prepared to build more monopolies in various sectors. In the wake of the recent train

accidents, she also asked what is being done to make the railwavs safer and will Finance Minister Sitharaman allocate more funds which would in turn be used to protect people. On July 23, 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her seventh budget. Before preparing this budget, she met some industrialists, bankers and farmer organisations and discussed issues with

them but has she met the families who are unable to eat three meals a day? Has she met the women who are struggling with inflation? Has she met the farmers who are struggling to

Has she met the youth who are suffering due to paper leaks? Has she met the real India?' Shrinate asked. 'It is clear that she has not met

them. This budget is being prepared to make a few crony capitalists richer, she said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here. Displaying slides with eco-

nomic data at the presser, Shrinate said the foreign direct investment (FDI) is drying up and India has traded deficit with nine of the top 10 trading

She claimed that monopolies

such as cement, telecom, aviation and tyres, and said this budget will see more monopolies being built. Citing a farmer's suicide,

Shrinate said Finance Minister Sitharaman or Prime Minister Narendra Modi do not know anything about them, hence the budget has not been made for

Shrinate said the crumbling railings in Gujarat with jobseekers at a hotel and the lakhs of people flocking to Mumbai for aviation jobs exposes the false arguments of this government on unemployment.

## DMK moves court against three new criminal laws introduced by Centre

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. A division bench comprising Justices S S Sundar and N Senthil Kumar before whom the petition filed by DMK Organising Secretary R S Bharathi came up for hearing, ordered notice to the Centre,



According to the petitioner, the three Bills and got them passed by the Parliament interpretation without any meaningful discussion.

the absence of any substantive changes, mere the judges, advocates, the law

the government introduced lot of inconvenience and confusion regarding the provisions, he added.

He said shuffling of sections will make it very difficult for shuffling of sections was enforcing authorities and the

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 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. He said the naming of the Acts in Hindi/Sanskrit was

violative of Article 348 of the Constitution, mandates, inter alia, that the authoritative texts of all Bills to be introduced in either house of Parliament shall be

## 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.

The bill on recruitment tests is aimed at providing effective measures to prevent and curb offences of question paper leaks and use of unfair means in examinations for the purpose of recruitment to any



under the state government, officials said. A provision dealing with designation of a special court for speedy trial of such offences has also been provided in the bill, they said. According to the bill, any person resorting to such unfair means would be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than three years, which may be extended to five years, and with a fine up to Rs 1 crore.

Law, Legislative and Justice Minister Kento Jini introduced the Arunachal

Amending Pradesh 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 Suiraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adiniyam 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

three-hour long operation by the fire department with the support

of the police, forest officials and

locals of the area, it said. Besides that, till Friday morning,

more than 2,300 people have been

relocated to the 42 camps set up in

the hill district in view of the

incessant rains, which have led to a

dangerous rise in water levels of

## 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

Addressing a press conference here, he said Muslims have now become 40 per cent of Assam's population as per "statistical sampling".
"By 2041, Assam will become

a Muslim-majority state. It's a reality and nobody can stop it." he asserted.

The chief minister said the population of the Hindu community is rising by around 16 per cent every 10

Sarma said his government has taken steps to reduce population growth among the

Muslim community. "Congress has the most important role in arresting the population growth of Muslims... If Rahul Gandhi becomes ambassador of population control, it will be contained as the community only listens to

## Kerala can expect heavy rain in next few days: IMD

PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

returnable by four weeks.

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

The IMD said that a low pressure trough located from north Kerala coast to south Gujarat coast, another well marked low pressure

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.

The IMD also issued an orange alert in the four northern Kerala districts of Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod for the day and a yellow alert in five other

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 Malabar northern region, caused flooding, uprooting of trees, minor landslides and traffic snarls. In Wayanad, due to



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

The people were rescued to safety following an

rivers, partially damaged around 29 homes and destroyed crops on 125 hectares of land.

## Odisha observes Rasagola Dibasa coinciding with end of Rath Yatra

**PTI** BHUBANESWAR

Coinciding with Lord Jagannath's 'Niladri Bije' (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.

The day is observed as 'Rasagola Dibasa' because, according to tradition, Lord Jagannath offers 'Rasagola' to His consort Maa Laxmi on this day to appease her anger. According to mythology, with the Lord for not taking her in the Rath Yatra, said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in Shree Jagannath Culture. Since July 30, 2015, people of celebrated Odisha have ritual as 'Rasagola Dibasa'. On this occasion, the Trinity is offered 'Rasagola' as 'bhog'



before being taken into the sanctum sanctorum in the procession.

Researcher Asit Mohanty explained that 'Rasagola' originated from Jagannath Temple in Puri as 'Khira Mohana, which later 'Pahala evolved into It has been Rasagola'. traditionally offered as 'bhog' to goddess Lakshmi at the

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 Balaram Das, also known as Ramayana Jagamohana Ramayana. Over the years, 'Rasagola Dibasa' has evolved into a

widely celebrated event, from villages to cities, with people mark the occasion. Sweet shops also participate by preparing 'Rasagola' different flavours, sometimes hosting competitions to showcase their culinary skills. In 2019, Odisha received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its version of 'Rasagola'.

### Student unions take out rally in Kolkata in solidarity with Bangla protests following which several

 $S^{\rm everal\ Left-aligned\ student}_{\rm unions\ and\ human\ rights}$ 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.
The activists were seen holding placards against alleged action by security forces on student protestors during demonstrations in Bangladesh in the last few days, and raising slogans in solidarity with the agitators across the border.

undreds including women, assembled near the Academy of Fine Arts and tried to move towards the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission before being stopped by the police near the Exide crossing, where the police had put up barricades. A scuffle broke out between the police and the protestors, agitators were arrested and taken to Kolkata Police Headquarters of Lalbazar. 'The demonstrators included

not only students but also members of human rights organisations. protestors were arrested and taken to Lalbazar police headquarters," a police officer

Police and security officials in Bangladesh fired bullets and tear gas shells at protesters and banned all gatherings in capital Dhaka on Friday, as internet and mobile services were cut off after days of deadly clashes government jobs.

The protests, which began weeks ago but escalated sharply on Monday, present the biggest challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since she won a fourth consecutive term in a January election that was boycotted by the main opposition parties.

## Ruckus in Karnataka Assembly over Valmiki Corporation scam punished. There is no

PTI BENGALURU

 $K_{Assembly}^{arnataka}$ Legislative 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.

opposition's Amid the continued sloganeering from the well of the House, Siddaramaiah sought to defend himself and his government, while accepting that the scam had indeed strict action would be taken against the culprits involved. He tried to turn the tables on the opposition listing out the alleged scams during their tenure, especially the BJP, calling the opposition party "Pitamaha of corruption". He asserted that his government will get them probed and

ensure that they "pay for it", by sending "those who by sending 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. "Allegations are being made to bring a bad name to the Chief Minister and the government. It is not possible. They are alleging that ST community funds have been looted -- it is not Rs 187.33 crore (scam), that much Union Bank of India, in that Rs 89.63 crore has gone to Andhra (Pradesh) and Telangana, efforts are on to

He said: "Whoever is the culprit, whoever the thieves are, whoever the looters are, we will ensure that they are

recover them," Siddaramaiah

of protecting There is no question anyone. compromise with corruption. Our fight against corruption will continue." "To hide their mistakes, the theft, loot and corruption that happened during their tenure,

allegations government," he said.
Opposition BJP and JD(S) members shouted slogans accusing the Chief Minister and his government of "theft", "loot", "injustice to SC/ST"

the opposition is making

demanding Siddaramaiah's resignation. Claiming that the opposition reveal the facts behind the allegations and seven crore people of the state will know the truth, the Chief Minister said: "So they are making noise coming into the well of the House. People have decided you are thieves and have made you sit there (in

the opposition).

## 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 Karnataká on Friday in connection disproportionate assets cases, a Lokayukta official said.

Anand is a senior grade Karnataka Administrative Services (KAS) officer who was posted as Mangaluru City Corporation Commissioner in June, 2023.

government transferred him on July 4 after which he appealed to the state government against it.

On July 9, his transfer was cancelled.

Apart from Anand, premises of Hebbagodi City Municipal Council Commissioner in Bengaluru Rural district and KAŠ officer K Narasimha Murthy were raided by Lokayukta sleuths.

The Additional Director in the Industries and Commerce Department C T Muddu Kumar, who is on deputation as the Chief Operating Officer in the Invest Karnataka Forum, too was the target of Lokavukta sleuths.

Yadgir Zilla Panchayat Project Director Balwant Rathod, Senior Veterinary Officer in





Bengaluru Rural district R Siddappa, Commercial Taxes Joint Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, Legal Metrology Deputy Controller Athhar Antargange Gram Panchayat president Nagesh B Gowda in Bhadravati Taluk of Shivamogga Horticulture district, Department Deputy Prakash Director

Chetan Kumar were among those raided on Friday. According to the official, the raids were carried out in Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Yadgiri and Shimoga,

Mandya Labour Officer

Kalaburgi. "Officials commenced the raid early this morning at 54 locations involving over 100 sleuths," the official said.

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

T N RAGHUNATHA

Taking serious cognisance I 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 directed Maharashtra government to put a complete halt to the demolitions till the end of the monsoon.

Less than a week after violence erupted at Vishalgad fort area where the local administration undertaken demolitions, a

HC division bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla pulled up the local police for their complacence in maintaining law and order and also demanded to know from the local authorities as to why they had chosen to demolish the structures during the rainy season.

The HC bench made it clear to the state government that it would not "hesitate to send the officials behind the bars, if they undertook further demolitions till the end if monsoon. It also directed senior inspector in-charge of the Shahuwadi Police Station to remain present in the court



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.

'We record your statement that you will not demolish till September (rainy season), and if the same is breached we will not hesitate to send the officer behind bars. We make it clear that if we find any structure demolished from today, commercial or household, we will come down heavily on your officers/ authorities," the bench told Government Pleader Priyabhushan P Kakade present in the court. The government lawyer told

the court he had received

instructions assuring the HC

bench no residential premises

of any person in the Vishalgad

Fort area shall be demolished,

whether they are petitioners or otherwise, during rainy season. Reprimanding the police for failure to check violence, the judges asked: "Who is

in charge of the law and order situation 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? The HC bench was hearing a petition filed by some residents of Shahuwadi

taluka, urging the court to form a special investigation team (SIT) headed by a former high court judge to probe into the alleged by right-wing violence workers. It may be recalled that on July

14, some 60-70 structures belonging to Muslim community were pulled down in the Vishalgad Fort vicinity and also in the nearby Gajapur Village. Following the violence which saw mobs demolish hurl stones at police personnel and damage

properties during an antiencroachment drive at the Vishalgad fort on July 14 the police have arrested 21 persons and registered against

500-odd people. In a related incident, the Mumbai Congress has termed the Vishalgad violence as 'politically motivated' incidenr and it has triggered trouble ahead of the State Assembly elections.

Talking to media persons, Congress' Mumbai Working President Sufiyan M. Haider said that the police must keep in mind the right-wing political angles in the incident. The Congress accused the right wing parties of seeking to polarise the voters in the run-up to the state elections due in October. 'Those who indulged in the violence cannot be followers of the great Chhatapati Shivaji Maharaj. The police and government must find out who exactly were these people and book the real culprits responsible for the riots," Haider said.

In his letter to State Director General of Police Rashmi Shukla, Haider said that it was unfortunate how the violence was allowed to continue right in the presence of the Kolhapur Superintendent of Police Mahendra Pandit and sought his suspension for the purported lapses.

## 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 suspension comes after a video of the officer harassing the woman, who runs a beauty parlour near Bhaskar Circle here, surfaced on social media

The victim told PTI that no action was taken despite her complaint right after the incident, which took place on Monday night when Nikita Jain was driving home after work on a two-wheeler. Jain said in her complaint that ASI Amit Meena stopped her near Bhaskar Circle for driving without a helmet. The officer allegedly demanded Rs 5,000 penalty.

When she refused and tried to leave, he held her by her hand and began threatening her. Meanwhile, some people

gathered there and Jain escaped the spot. However, moments later she found herself being followed

the complaint said.

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

immediately informed her family members who rushed to the spot and informed the police. However, a police team reached the spot and took

the officer away with them without taking any action. The victim told PTI that she filed a written complaint against Meena at the local police station but no FIR was lodged.

She kept visiting the police station for two days but no action was taken in the matter. It was only when senior

officials learnt about the matter, the police took action against the ASI, the complainant said.

DCP (Headquarters) Sharad Choudhary issued an order on Wednesday, sending ASI Meena to police lines with immediate effect, according to police. The officer was later suspended on Thursday and

a departmental inquiry has been initiated against him, they added. SHO (Ratanada) Pradeep

Danga said a case was registered against ASI Meena by Meena on his motorcycle, under various sections on

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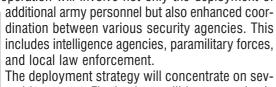
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Taking on terrorism**

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

n 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 Prime Minister's recent directive comes amid increasing reports of terrorist activities and attempts to disrupt the region's stability. Recently four army personnel were killed in Doda calling for immediate measures to bring such incidents to a halt. The full deployment will see an increase in the number of troops and resources allocated to the Jammu region. The operation will involve not only the deployment of



eral 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 infor-

mation and build trust, which is essential for effective counter-terrorism operations. No wonder, Prime Minister Modi's decision has got support from various quarters, including political leaders, security experts, and the general public. The government has emphasised that this move is part of a broader strategy to address the challenges posed by terrorism and ensure the safety of the citizens in Jammu. In a statement, PM Modi highlighted the importance of maintaining vigilance and resilience in the face of such threats. He reassured the public that the government's primary objective is to safeguard lives and maintain peace in the region. The full deployment in Jammu represents a significant step in India's ongoing efforts to combat terrorism. It is expected that the increased presence of security forces and improved coordination will help in curbing terrorist activities and restoring normalcy in the region. As the situation evolves, the Government's commitment to a robust security framework will be closely watched. The deployment's effectiveness will depend on the successful execution of the strategies outlined and the ability to adapt to emerging challenges. But it would be a clear signal to the terrorists that India will not tolerate any mischief in its territory.



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

## Modi 3.0: Banking sector optimistic about reforms

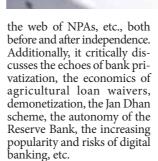


Over the years, Indian banks have grappled with scams, loan defaults, and rising NPAs. Recent Govt initiatives have led to significant recovery and a notable reduction in NPAs

he 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 recov-

ering 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.Indian banks are witnesses to the fact that they have been sinking or suffering huge losses both before and after inde-

This turbulent state compels us to ponder that until the reform process continues for a long time, a permanent solution to the problem is not possible. A recent publication by senior writer Shri Pal Jain, "Bharatiya Bankon Ka Badalta Chehra" (The Changing Face of Indian Banks), analyzes these various aspects in detail. It provides a detailed account of scams, mega-fraudsters, fraudu-Bank, etc., became popular due lent tricks, cybercrime in banking, the rise and fall of Yes Bank, ogy (credit operations, debit



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 after, snortiy to their use of modern technol-



THE MODI **GOVERNMENT HAS** TURNED PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

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 megafraudsters 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 scneme, nousing scnemes, 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 fooloor security half-fulfilled.

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

## 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

n 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 overenthusiasm 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. The writer and columnist in me is forever

edge in the hope of widening my horizons, but I am now beginning to burst at the seams with an overload. There is a lot out there to absorb into the intellect, and the attic is smarting, unable to withstand the pressure. All that finds a parking space on the internet is meant to grab attention and impact the reader, and how easily we have fallen prey to the enticements of the information age! We are now in an endless cycle of grazing and

see on our screens. Our decision-making is based on external influences rather than on our convictions. Midway through research, we deviate and branch out to some-

chewing anything that we

we are all over the place, ferreting about, lost and unsure of what we had wanted in the first place. And oh, how does one deal with the digital amnesia that follows all the bingereading of fluffy, oversimplified material created with the only intention of grabbing eyeballs and garnering

We don't read anymore; we skim through shorts. American journalist and writer Nicholas Carr, in his best-seller, The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains highlights how the internet is changing us superficially.

He writes that browsing through huge quantities of information often results in shallow processing, pregreedy to add fresh knowl- thing unrelated, and then venting us from deeply

understanding 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

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.

(The author is a columnist and author based in Dubai: views are personal)

### YET ANOTHER TRAIN ACCIDENT

Madam — It is shocking and heartbreaking 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 rev-

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 | JSecundrabad

### **HIGHER EDUCATION REVAMP**

Madam — The government has planned to double higher education intake by 2030. This initiative, however, might do more harm than good given that the Indian organized sector currently lacks the capacity to absorb such a large influx of job seekers. While a less educated person can adapt more easily to employ- chances of survival after cardiac arrest.

### **Controversial**



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

ment in the unorganized sector, a graduate often develops a distaste for it, potentially becoming a highly frustrated and alienated individual. A possible solution would be to limit college enrollment and instead open thousands of new polytechnics, where humanities courses are mandatory in every semester.

Without such measures, the frustrations of unemployed youths may lead to severe consequences for both individuals and the nation. To avoid widespread frustration and potential social issues, the government should limit college enrollment and establish more polytechnics with mandatory humani-

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

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 nonmanagement categories. "It's baffling that Karnataka, India's tech hub

Karnataka State Employment of Local

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

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* 

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com **FIRST COLUMN** 

## 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

**TRANSCENDING** 

**DAILY TRIFLES** 

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

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

avindra 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 micromanag-

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

orld 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 WITH THE BASKET 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.

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-



CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICES

FREE OF COST, SOCIAL MARKETING OF CONTRACEPTIVE, AND HOME DELIVERY OF CONTRACEPTIVES

BY ASHAS IN RURAL AREAS, These abortions could have been avoided ACCESSIBILITY TO THESE METHODS HAS IMPROVED

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 mater-nal 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 plan-AVAILABLE ning has to emerge from whispers in private quarters to a basic human AT ALL right and an important aspect of GOVERNMENT family health and social weifare.Contraceptives are prima-HOSPITALS ry 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 com-

plications 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

The availability of better clientfriendly methods, from daily pills to once-a-week pills, lactational pills, self-administered threemonthly injections, devices working for 10 years, along good followup 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 cou-

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, highrisk pregnancies, and abortionrelated 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 wellbeing

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

## 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

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

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 Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, called for lifestyle-related changes for

environmental conservation. state canteens. The two main

Mission LiFE puts an individual and collective duty on everyone to live a life that is in tune with Earth and does not

As part of this mission, a global call for ideas and papers GCIP) 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

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 towards water conservation

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

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 lowflow faucets and repairing leaks promptly are small adjustments that yield signif-

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, restau-

rants can be encouraged to

take more water-saving inter-

ventions that are feasible and

economically beneficial for

them. Together, this sector

can elevate water conservation,

For restaurants, adopting

water-saving practices not only

which also makes business.

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)

## the pioneer

## **UK airports, trains, London Stock Exchange impacted**

The UK's airports and trains experienced delays, with the London Stock Exchange and the National Health Service among the other organisations in the country dealing with the fallout of a global IT outage on Friday that has grounded planes and caused chaos around the world. The outage, related to an issue at US-headquartered prolific cybersecurity firm Crowdstrike and Microsoft, affected Windows PCs globally and also forced 'Sky News' off the air. Crowdstrike, a cybersecurity service designed to stop internet breaches or hacks for the world's biggest companies, has since apologised for the problems caused by a software bug even as it ruled out the possibility of this being a cyberattack. Microsoft has also identified an update to the CrowdStrike Falcon Sensor software as the factor behind the global tech issues. "We're deeply sorry. The update had a software bug in it and caused an issue with the Microsoft operating system," George Kurtz, CEO of Crowdstrike, GLOBAL IT OUTAGE

told news channels. "We identified this very quickly and remediated the issue," he said. He had earlier taken to X to state that "this is not a security incident or cyberattack".

'The issue has been identified isolated and a fix has been deployed. We refer customers to the support portal for the latest updates and will continue to provide complete and continuous updates on our website,"

UK Cabinet Minister Pat McFadden said ministerial teams were coordinating their response to the major outage through COBRA, the government's emergency response committee. "Ministers are working with their sectors and respective industries on the issue," he said. London's biggest airport, Heathrow, said in a statement that its "flights are operational though we are experiencing delays". While the airport said it is implementing contingency plans to minimise impact, Gatwick Airport

said passengers "may experience some delays" when checking in and passing through security. Luton and Edinburgh Airport, meanwhile, switched to manual systems to support operations.

The London Stock Exchange

Group said trading continues to operate as normal while it is working on resolving an issue with its RNS Service, which provides the Regulatory News Service announcements. The IT outage, which is not believed to be linked with a malicious attack or hack, also hit several National Health Service (NHS) general practitioner (GP) surgeries around the UK as they were unable to access patient records or book online appointments.

NHS England said the IT outage is "causing disruption in the majority of GP practices" in England but there is currently no known impact on its 999 or emergency services. Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust declared a "critical incident" citits delivery of radiotherapy treatment. "We are unable to access driver diagrams at certain locations, leading to potential short-notice cancellations particularly on the Thameslink and Great Northern networks," said Govia Thameslink Railway, one of the train companies impacted.

Additionally, other key systems, including our real-time customer information platforms, are also affected," it added. National Rail, in charge of the

country's railway network, said its IT teams are "actively investigating to determine the root cause of the problem". All major UK supermarkets including Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Lidľ, Morrisons and Waitrose also reported issues with online services. The first reports of the outage emanated from the United States late on Thursday after a breakdown of Microsoft services such as Azure and 365 In a post on X, Microsoft 365 Status stated that "multiple services are continuing to see improvements in availability as our mitigation actions

## Bangladesh security forces fire bullets as protests escalate

PTI DHAKA

Police and security officials in Bangladesh fired bullets and tear gas at protesters and banned all gatherings in the capital on Friday, as internet and mobile services were cut off after days of deadly clashes over the allocation of government jobs. The protests, which began weeks ago but escalated sharply on Monday, represent the biggest challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since she won a fourth consecutive term in office after elections in January. Main opposition groups boycotted those polls. Somoy TR, a local television channel, reported that four more people died in the latest clash-

This comes a day after the bloodiest day of demonstrations to date when 22 people were killed, according to local media, as protesting students attempted to impose a "complete shutdown" on the country. Authorities could not be reached imme-

diately to confirm figures for the deaths. The chaos has highlighted cracks in Bangladesh's governance and economy and the frustration of young graduates who face a lack of good jobs.

The government has deployed police and paramilitary forces across the capital to lock down campuses and break up protests. On Wednesday, universities including the country's largest suspended classes and closed dormitories, and on Friday Dhaka police said they were banning all gatherings and demonstrations in attacked on Thursday by demonstrators,

An Associated Press reporter saw border guard officials fire at a crowd of more than 1,000 protesters who had gathered outside the head office of state-run Bangladesh Television, which was attacked and set on fire by protesters the previous day.

The border guards shot at the right crowd with rifles and sound grenades, while police officers fired tear gas and rubber bullets. Bullets littered the streets, which were also marked by smears of

A news producer and reporter at Bangladesh Television on Thursday told the AP that protesters had broken through the main gate and set fire to vehicles and the reception area. They spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. "I escaped by leaping over the wall but some of my colleagues got stuck inside. The attackers entered the building and set furniture on fire," the producer said by phone. Internet services and mobile data were widely disrupted on Thursday night and remained down on Friday in the capital, Dhaka. Social media platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp were also not loading. It coincided with a widespread internet outage on Friday that disrupted flights, banks, media outlets and companies around the world, but the disruptions in Bangladesh were substantially greater than seen elsewhere. A statement from the country's Telecommunication Regulatory Commission said they were unable to ensure service after their data centre was

who set fire to some equipment. The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify this.

Student protesters said they will extend their calls to impose a shutdown on Friday as well, and urged mosques across the country to hold funeral prayers for those who have been killed. Major universities

have said they will close their doors until

tensions ease. The protesters are demanding an end to a quota system that reserves up to 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971 against Pakistan. They argue the system is discriminatory and benefits supporters of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, whose Awami League party led the independence movement, and they want it replaced with a meritbased system. But Hasina has defended the quota system, saying that veterans deserve the highest respect for their contributions to the war regardless of their political affiliation. The Bangladeshi leader is credited for bringing stable growth to Bangladesh, but rising inflation — thanks in part to the global upheaval sparked by the war in Ukraine - has triggered labour unrest and dissatisfaction with the government. Even though job opportunities have grown in some parts of the private sector, many people prefer government jobs because they are seen as more stable and lucrative. But there aren't enough to go around — each year, some 400,000 graduates compete for around 3,000 jobs in the civil service exam

## Houthi rebels claim drone strike that leaves 1 dead, at least 10 injured in Tel Aviv

7emen's Houthi rebels on Y emens fround from Friday claimed responsibility for an early morning drone strike that hit a part of central Tel Aviv near the United States Embassy, leaving at least 10 injured and one dead. The aerial strike rumbled through the streets causing shards of shrapnel to rain down and spreading shards of glass over a large radius. The Houthis have repeatedly launched drones and missiles toward Israel throughout the ninemonth-long war, in solidarity with the Palestinian people and against Israel. But until Friday, all were intercepted by either Israel or Western allies with forces stationed in the

Yahya Sare'e, the Houthis' spokesperson, said in a statemedia platform X that the strike was made in retaliation to the war underway in Gaza between Israel and Hamas and had hit one of many of the group's targets. The Houthis claimed that their newest drones can bypass Israel's aerial defence systems. However, a spokesperson for Israel's military said on Friday that the explosive-laden drone had been identified on Thursday and attributed the hit to "human error." The military's assessment of aerial threats has not changed because, the military said, Israel's adversaries have attempted such

strikes for months. "It was a terror attack that was targeted to kill civilians in Israel," the Israeli spokesperson said. The Houthi strike hit hours after Israel's military confirmed one of its airstrikes

mander and other militants in southern Lebanon. Israel has so far not made attacks on the Houthis, allowing its allies instead to take the lead as it focuses its efforts on the war in Gaza and ongoing fighting with Lebanon's Hezbollah mil-

It comes as international mediators continue to hold out hope for a cease-fire agreement, pushing Israel and Hamas toward a phased deal that would halt fighting and free about 120 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza.

itant group.

The prospects a deal could improve as Israeli leaders signal their operation underway in Rafah is close to finished. However, fears of potential escalation resurfaced on Thursday after Israel's far-right national security minister, Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site on Thursday to pray for the return of Israeli hostages, he said, "without a reckless deal, without surrendering." Local police in Tel Aviv said that the Friday blast sounded at around 3:10 am, reverberating to nearby cities and physically injuring at least 10 people. Tel Aviv District Commander Peretz Amar said officers could not locate the point of contact, suggesting the explosion occurred in the air.

'The force of the explosion caused damage that is not great but is spread over a large area. At the moment we don't know what the object was," Amar said. Israel possesses a multilay-ered aerial defense system, capable of intercepting threats ranging from long-range ballistic missiles to drones and shortrange missiles

## Russia convicts US reporter of espionage

**PTI** YEKATERINBURG

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was convicted Friday of espionage and sentenced to 16 years in a maximum-security prison on charges that his employer and the US government have rejected as fabricated.

The conclusion of his swift and secretive trial in the country's highly politicized legal system could potentially clear the way for a prisoner swap between Moscow and Washington.

Gershkovich, his head shaved, looked calm as he stood in a glass defendants' cage in the Šverdlovsk Regional Čourt and listened impassively to the verdict. When the judge asked him if he understood it, the journalist replied ves

After the judge finished reading the verdict, someone in the courtroom shouted, "Evan, we love you!" Closing arguments

took place behind closed doors at the trial, where Gershkovich did not admit any guilt, according to the court's press service. Prosecutors requested an 18year sentence, but the judge opted for a shorter term. "This disgraceful, sham conviction comes after Evan has spent 478 days in prison, wrongfully detained, away from his family and friends, prevented from reporting, all for doing his job as a journalist," Dow Jones CEO and Wall Street Journal Publisher Almar Latour and Editor in Chief Emma Tucker

said in a statement. 'We will continue to do everything possible to press for Evan's release and to support his family. Journalism is not a crime, and we will not rest until he's released. This must end now, the statement added.

Gershkovich, 32, was arrested March 29, 2023, while on a reporting trip to the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg. Authorities claimed, without offering any evidence, that he was gathering secret information for the US.

He has been behind bars since his arrest, which will be counted as part of his sentence. Much of that was spent in Moscow's notorious Lefortovo Prison — a czarist-era lockup used during Josef Stalin's purges, when executions were carried out in its basement. He was transferred to Yekaterinburg for the trial.

Gershkovich was the first US journalist taken into custody on espionage charges since Nicholas Daniloff in 1986, at the height of the Cold War. Foreign journalists in Russia were shocked by Gershkovich's arrest, even though the country has enacted increasingly repressive laws on freedom of speech after sending troops into Ukraine.

Unlike the trial's opening on June 26 in Yekaterinburg and

previous hearings in Moscow in which reporters were allowed to see Gershkovich briefly before sessions began, there was no access to the courtroom on Thursday when the trial resumed, but media was allowed in court on Friday for the verdict. Espionage and treason cases are typically shrouded in secrecy.Russian courts convict more than 99 per cent of defendants, and prosecutors can appeal sentences that they regard as too lenient. They even can

The US State Department has declared Gershkovich "wrongfully detained," committing the government to assertively seek his release. Asked Friday about a possible prisoner swap involving Gershkovich, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment.

appeal acquittals.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Wednesday at the United Nations that Moscow and Washington's "special services" are discussing an exchange involving Gershkovich. Russia has previously signaled the possibility of a swap, but said a verdict would have to come first. Even after a verdict, any such deal could take months or years. State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel on Thursday declined to discuss negotiations about a possible exchange, but said: "We have been clear from the get-go that Evan did nothing wrong and should not have been detained. To date, Russia has provided no evidence of a

Russian President Vladimir Putin hinted earlier this year that he would be open to swapping Gershkovich for Vadim Krasikov, a Russian serving a life sentence for the 2019 killing in Berlin of a Georgian citizen of Chechen descent.

crime and has failed to justify

Evan's continued detention."

### Japan, Taiwan coast guards hold joint search

Tokyo (AP): Japanese and Taiwanese coast guards conducted what is believed to be their first joint drill off Japan's eastern coast, officials said Friday, a move seen as an effort to expand maritime cooperation amid concern about China's increasingly assertive activity in regional seas. The drill was held amid escalating tension between China and Taiwan. Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory and has not ruled out using force to take it.

guard vessels into waters surrounding Japanese-controlled disputed islands in the East China Sea, confronting Japanese patrol ships. However, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi Friday denied the drill targeted any specific country, including China.

China routinely sends coast

## Republicans thrilled with ex-US President, predicting blowout victory after convention

**AP** MILWAUKEE

The last time Republicans gathered for a full convention, they were plagued by internal division and fear. Morale was near rock bottom. And the party's presidential nominee showed little desire, or capacity, to add new voters to his political coalition.

The Republican officials, strategists and activists who packed Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention this week expressed a collective confidence at levels not seen in decades. Boos and infighting marred Donald Trump's first convention in 2016, but this one was defined by overwhelming displays of unity as GOP leaders

— Trump skeptics among them - reveled in what most view as an all but certain victory come November. Trump's survival after

nearly being assassinated at a Pennsylvania rally over the weekend, they said, was the last piece to bring everyone together in spite of the former president's extraordinary personal and political baggage. "It feels like 1980," said a smiling New York GOP Chair Ed Cox on the convention's red-carpeted floor this week, referring to Ronald Reagan's landslide presidential victory. Cox pointed to a sense of inevitability building around Trump and the GOP. "We finally came completely together." For Democrats, it is the worst of times. Back in Washington, the party intensified a public and private lobbying effort to force President Joe Biden to drop out of the race after his disastrous debate against Trump last month. Donors, elected offi-

cials and leaders within Biden's

own campaign believe he cannot

win. And an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll indicated that the vast majority of Democratic voters have lost confidence in Biden's ability to govern and want him to step aside before it is too late to stop Trump.

Only about a third of Democrats believe Biden is more capable than Trump of winning in November, according to the poll, which also found that nearly two-thirds of Democrats say Biden should withdraw from the presidential race and let his party nominate a different can-

By contrast, about 7 in 10 Republicans say Trump is more capable of winning the election. Almost no Republicans think Biden is more capable of win-ning. The doubters include Black Democrats, who make up the backbone of Biden's political

coalition. Only about half of Black Democrats think Biden is better able to win, according to the poll. Many Democrats now privately expect — or perhaps hope — that someone other than Biden will be on stage to accept the party's nomination when the Democratic National Convention begins in Chicago in a month. Hours before Trump's triumphant convention speech on Thursday, a top Biden campaign official repeatedly pushed back against a flurry of new ques-

dent is going to step aside. "I do not want to be rude, but I don't know how many more times I can answer that," Quentin Fulks, principal deputy manager of Biden's reelection campaign, told a news conference in Milwaukee when asked whether the president's commitment to his reelection may be softening.

Palestinians seek all three areas

tions about whether the presi-

## **Trump calls for unity post** assassination attempt



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump kisses the helmet of Corey Comperatore during the Republican National Convention Thursday in

Milwaukee (PTI): In his first major public address since surviving an assassination attempt, Donald Trump gave a clarion call for unity as he accepted his Republican party's presidential nomination with a pledged to deliver a government that will begin four greatest years in American history if he is elected in November.

The 78-year-old former US president took to the stage at the Republican Convention Thursday night to

accept his party's nomination for a third consecutive presidential bid. Trump also gave details about the attempt on his life last week and thanked Americans for their "outpouring of love and support."

"So tonight, with faith and devotion, I proudly accept your nomination for president of the United States," Trump said to applause. In his speech, Trump urged Americans to help him win the race for the White

House on November 5. "Tonight, I ask for your partnership, for your support, and I am humbly asking for your vote. our the trust you have placed in me, and I will never let you down," Trump said. "To all of the forgotten men and women who have been neglected, abandoned, and left behind, you will be forgotten no longer. We will press forward, and together, we will win, win, win," he said. In his first speech after the assassination bid on him on Saturday in Pennsylvania, Trump said he stands before

Every day, I will strive to hon-

Americans with a message of confidence, strength, and hope. Four months from now, we will have an incredible victory, and we will begin the four greatest years in the history of our country," Trump said. "In an age when our politics too

often divide us, now is the time to remember that we are all fellow citizens. We are one nation under God.

indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," he said. The former president basked in

the adoring cheers of thousands as he called for unity behind his effort to return to the White House after the attack.



Israeli police investigate the scene of an explosive drone attack in Tel Aviv, Israel, Friday. Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for a drone believed to have exploded above Tel Aviv early Friday morning, leaving one dead and at least 10 injured.

## 'Israel's settlement policy in occupied territories violates international law'

The Hague (AP): The top United Nations court has ruled that Israel's settlement policy and use of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territories violate international law. The panel of 15 judges from around the world at the International Court of Justice said "the transfer by Israel of settlers to the West Bank and Jerusalem as well as Israel's maintenance of their presence, is contrary to article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention". It also said the use of natural resources was "inconsistent" with its obligations under international law as an occupying

The court's president, Nawaf Salam, was reading out the court's full opinion in a Friday session, which is expected to take about an hour.

The top United Nations court has opened a hearing to deliver a non-binding advisory

opinion on the legality of Israel's 57-year occupation of lands sought for a Palestinian state, a ruling that could have more effect on international opinion than it will on Israeli

International Court of Justice President Nawaf Salam is expected to take about an hour to read out the opinion of the panel that is made up of 15 judges from around the world. Friday's hearing comes against the backdrop of Israel's devastating 10-month military assault on Gaza, which was triggered by the Hamas-led attacks in southern Israel. In a separate case, the International Court of Justice is considering a South African claim that Israel's campaign in Gaza amounts to genocide, a claim that Israel vehemently denies. Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip

for an independent state. Israel considers the West Bank to be disputed territory, whose future should be decided in negotiations, while it has moved population there in settlements to solidify its hold. It has annexed east Jerusalem in a move that is not internationally recognised, while it withdrew from Gaza in 2005 but maintained a blockade of the territory after Hamas took power in 2007. The international community generally considers all three areas to be occupied territory. At hearings in February, then-Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki accused Israel of apartheid and urged the United Nations' top court to declare that Israel's occupation of lands sought by the Palestinians is illegal and must end immediately and unconditionally for any hope for a two-state future in the 1967 Mideast war. The to survive.

### **REACTION TO NORTH'S BALLOON LAUNCHES**

## S Korea restarts propaganda broadcasts across border

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, a resumption of Cold War-style tactics that are raising animosities between the rivals

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that it used frontline loudspeakers to blare anti-Pyongyang broadcasts over the border between Thursday evening and Friday morning.

The broadcasts were the first of their kind in about 40 days. The contents of the broadcasts were not immediately known, but its previous ones on June 9 reportedly included K-pop songs, weather forecasts and news on Samsung, the biggest South Korean company, as well as outside criticism of the North's missile program and its crackdown on foreign video.

The South Korean broadcasts could trigger an angry response from North Korea which is extremely sensitive to any out-

A police officer was wounded in a knife attack in Paris on Thursday in the high-end

Champs-Elysees neighbour-

hood and the assailant was shot

and died of his injuries, author-

ities said, just days before the

opening ceremony of the

Paris police chief Laurent

Nunez said the attack did not

appear linked to the Olympics

and no terrorist motive was

suspected. French Interior

Minister Gerald Darmanin

posted on X that the attack

happened in the 8th

arrondissement of Paris while

police were "responding to a

call from officers securing a

store". Security agents at the flagship Louis Vuitton store on

Summer Olympics.

side attempt to undermine its fire military drills at border political system. In 2015, when South Korea restarted loudspeaker broadcasts for the first time in 11 years, North Korea fired artillery rounds across the border, prompting the South to return fire, according to South Korean officials. No casualties were reported.

South Korea's military earlier said North Korea floated the balloons on Thursday afternoon in its seventh such balloon campaign in recent

Starting in late May, North Korea has floated more than 2,000 balloons carrying wastepaper, scraps of cloth, cigarette butts and even manure toward South Korea, saying they were in response to South Korean activists sending political leaflets to the North via their own balloons. No hazardous materials were found. North Korea last flew such balloons in late June. In response, South Korea sus-

pended a 2018 tension-reduction deal with North Korea, resuming propaganda broad-casts briefly and front-line live-

police after noticing "suspi-

cious behaviour" by a man out-

side the store, according to a

Speaking in front of the Louis

Vuitton store after the stabbing,

Paris police chief Laurent

Nunez said the assailant

"pulled out a knife and threat-

ened them (the officers), tried

to stab them multiple times

He defended the police

response as "totally propor-

tionate. They were facing an

assailant who was threatening

The suspect died of his injuries

after being shot, the Paris

prosecutor's office said. An

investigation was opened into

and succeeded in stabbing".

police official.

their lives"

Earlier this week, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hinted at flying rubbish-carrying balloons again or launching new countermeasures, saying South Korean balloons have been found again at border and other areas in North Korea. In her statement Tuesday, Kim Yo Jong warned that South Korean "scum" must be ready to pay "a gruesome and dear price." That raised concerns that North Korea could stone physical Korea could stage physical provocations, rather than balloon launches.

South Korea's military said Wednesday it has boosted its readiness to brace for any provocation by North Korea. It said North Korea may fire at incoming South Korean balloons across the border or floating mines downriver.

It wasn't immediately known whether groups in South Korea have recently scattered leaflets in North Korea. For years, activist groups led by North Korean defectors have

threatening condition.

The area was thronging with

tourists and Parisians when the

attack happened around the

corner from the Louis Vuitton

boutique. Some took photos as

police cordoned off the area,

while others continued their

dining in nearby sidewalk

Associated Press journalists

saw police reinforcements

rushing in after the stabbing.

At a luxury hotel nearby, guests

arriving in a taxi had to pass

under police tape to enter their hotel, as a porter wheeled

their baggage under the cor-

don. The Louis Vuitton store

often has long lines outside and

Police officer wounded in knife

the Champs-Elysees contacted said. The police officer was police after noticing "suspihospitalised but not in life-

attempted murder of a police officer, the prosecutor's office an avenue packed with luxury

attack in Paris; attacker killed

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.

North Korea views such activities as a serious security threat and challenge to its ban on foreign news for most of its 26 million people. In 2020, North Korea destroyed an unoccupied South Koreanbuilt liaison office on its territory in a furious response to South Korean civilian leafleting campaigns. In 2014, North Korea fired at balloons flying toward its territory and South Korea returned fire, though there were no casualties.

Tensions between the Koreas have heightened in recent years because of North Korea's missile tests and the expansion of US-South Korean military drills that North Korea calls invasion rehearsals. Experts say North Korea's expanding ties with Russia could embolden Kim Jong Un to stage bigger provocations, particularly ahead of the US presidential election in November.

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. The

man was taken to a psychiatric

hospital, according to French

France is under its highest security alert before the start of

the Paris Games on July 26.

Paris police imposed strict

new security measures in the

centre of town starting

Thursday to prepare for the

exceptional opening ceremony, which will be held in the open

all along the Seine River

instead of in a closed

prosecutors.

### 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, a media report said on Friday. Former Defence Minister Gen Li Shangfu, who earlier headed the nine-yearold Rocket Force, which handles a host of missiles, including nuclear weapons, was sacked and investigated for corruption along with his successor Gen Li Yuchao, who assumed the role of its commander in 2022.

Li Shangfu, who headed the Rocket (Missile) Force before becoming Defence Minister, is being tried for alleged corruption. Li Yuchao, who was also part of the strategic force, was sacked along with him. On Thursday, the Communist Party plenary meeting, while endorsing the Politburo's earlier decision to expel Gen Li Shangfu and Gen Li Yuchao, also announced the anti-corruption investigation against Gen Sun Jinming, who recent-ly headed the Rocket Force. Sun is the Chief of Staff of the PLA Rocket Force, the Hong Kong-based South China Morping Rost reported on Morning Post reported on Friday. His downfall followed anti-corruption probes since last year into at least seven past or serving senior military officials from the Rocket Force, which oversees the country's nuclear arsenal, in the latest anti-corruption purge in the military since last year, the report said.

Sun, an alternate member of the party's 20th Central Committee, took on the role of chief of staff of the force in 2022 after serving a long stint in its predecessor, the Second Artillery Corps. The rocket force, established in 2015 as part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's military overhaul, has been at the centre of the latest anti-corruption campaign tar-

geting the military.
While most corruption cases involving the PLA appeared to be winding down, the investigations have cast a shadow over the military, the report said.



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

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

ing to the local Islamist extrem-

PTI COLOMBO

Atop Sri Lankan police offi-cer, blamed for criminal negligence in the 2019 Easter suicide attacks that killed over 270 people, including 11 Indians, has been sent on compulsory leave, it was announced

DIG Nilantha Senior Jayawardena, the number two in the police force, has been sent on compulsory leave with effect from Thursday, the independent police commission announced. This followed the decision to institute disciplinary action against him as recommended by the Supreme Court in connection with the fundamental rights petitions filed in the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bomb attack investigations. Jayawardena was one of the top defence officials blamed for criminal negligence in the Easter Sunday suicide bombings which killed over 270 including foreigners. Nine suicide bombers belong-

ist 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, being observed as Easter Sunday that year, killing nearly 270 people, including 11 Indians and other foreigners, and injuring over

The independent police commission said the Supreme Court on January 12, 2023, had recommended disciplinary action be taken against Jayawardena, who had headed the police's state intelligence service at the time of the Easter Sunday

The Supreme Court had questioned why the National Police Commission had not initiated action against the former Chief of the State Intelligence Service, as per its court order, said NewsWire.lk

The commission added that Jayawardena, who is currently the deputy inspector general of police (administration), was chargesheeted 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 Javawardena.

The commission said the order to send Jayawardena on compulsory leave has surfaced given his ability to influence witnesses in his role as the head of police administration.

ayawardena, along with former President Maithripala Sirisena, is accused of failing to prevent those terror attacks, despite receiving intelligence information, said NewsWire.lk reported. Sirisena and Jayawardena alongside several other top brass were ordered to pay heavy compensation to the kith of the victims. Jayawardena was ordered to pay Rs 75 million while Sirisena was ordered to pay Rs 100 million. Both have paid only part payments so far while pleading for more time.

## Zelenskyy urges Britain to help it strike deeper inside Russia

Volodymyr new government to help Ukrainian forces attack deep er 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.
Zelenskyy said "long-range capability" to destroy sites where Russian weapons are concentrated is key to Ukraine's defence.

"I ask you to show your leadership" in lifting restrictions on Ukraine's use of Western weapons, Zelenskyv told Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Russia has deployed devastat-

ing firepower as it pursues a summer offensive in eastern Ukraine, reducing villages to rubble and pushing back Ukrainian troops in places. It has also launched missile and drone attacks across Ukraine, killing dozens and hitting targets including a Kyiv children's hospital. Some of Kyiv's allies are reluc-

tant to let Ukraine use their

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

In an interview with the BBC, Zelenskyy said he was seeking clarification about Ukraine's ability to use Storm Shadow missiles supplied by Britain against targets in Russia. The Storm Shadow is an airlaunched cruise missile with a range of more than 250 kilometres.

'We need a decision about long-distance weapons, long range, to use it," Zelenskyy said. "We need it very much. They're targeting our hospitals, schools. We just want to answer exactly to the point where from they target us."

UK Defence Secretary John Healey said Ukraine already has permission to use the missiles against Russia, but the rules for exactly what can be targeted and under what circumstances are "complex ques-



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

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 hitting targets in Russia, but that must be done by the Ukrainians. It must be done within the parameters and the bounds of international

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.

Since the beginning of Russia's

gets inside Russia for fear of further escalation.

Zelenskyy 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

Zelenskyy briefed ministers on the situation in Ukraine and the need for European countries to ramp up defense production in the face of Russian aggression. Zelenskyy said Ukraine had repelled Russian attempts to advance on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second city, showing that "we can stop any Russian attempt to expand the war."

Starmer, whose centre-left Labour Party government was elected two weeks ago, is keen to stress that the UK's strong support for Ukraine will continue on his watch.

Starmer said the UK would "double down" on support for Ukraine, including with a treaty

2022 invasion, the US had that aims to help both countries maintained a policy of not allowing Ukraine to use the The UK is also giving Ukraine (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 Zelenskyy will make a historic address to my Cabinet," Starmer said in a statement. "Russia's incremental gains on the battlefield are nothing compared with the collective international sup port for Ukraine, or the strength of ties between our people.

During a visit to Britain that included a summit of the **European Political Community** on Thursday, Ukraine's president repeated his increasingly urgent calls for more ammunition and weapons and tougher sanctions on Russia.

European leaders at the summit agreed to tighten sanctions against a "shadow fleet" of hundreds of illegitimate and often decrepit ships the West says Russia is using to transport oil and evade sanctions

## 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) Atacama Chile and it had of 117 kilometers, according to the USGS.

President Gabriel Boric wrote on social platform X that according to preliminary information there were "no reports of injuries or serious damages." The quake did not activate a tsunami alarm. Boric later said that some rocks had comes loose and rolled onto the highway connecting the cities of Calama to Tocopilla, east of the epicenter, and there power outages in San Pedro de Atacama. He said authorities were still collecting information. Chile's National Disaster Prevention and Response Service said the earthquake was felt, with different intensities, in several regions of the country including Tarapacá, Antofagasta, Atacama, Coquimbo, Arica and Parinacota

### Tender Notice (ISR/GPS/2024/001)

INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH Knowledge Corridor, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India 382007 www.isr.gujarat.gov.in Phone: 079-66739009

Online global tenders are invited from reputed OEM/Indian suppliers for the supply of Geodetic GNSS Reference System (Reference Receiver and Choke Ring Antenna) with accessories The e-tender may be downloaded from <u>https,://tender.nprocure.com</u> or www.isr.qujarat.gov.in. The last date for submitting the tender form with offer is 12-08-2024. Tender will be opened on the same day at or

INF/518/2024-25

**Director General** 

Ph: 01639-256232, 256236

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot

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## 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 pic-

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 total population.

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

#### Ramaphosa vows renewed efforts under new govt for the GNU's work and issued **PTI** ■ JOHANNESBURG The May 29 election threw a

Conceding that the African National Congress govern-ment 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 10party 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.

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 distribution but Ramaphosa said the parties have agreed on a Minimum Programme as the foundation

Through their votes, (citizens have) determined that the lead-

a Statement of Intent.

ers 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.





## 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

t 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

contemplation. Through these lines, Seema Pandey weaves moments, memories and dreams, creating an everevolving 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 surroundings, memories and imaginations. The intriguing title, "Between These Lines in This Space I Root and Grow," encapsulates the essence of her journey,

The concept behind this exhibition is deeply rooted in

the timeless.

merging the personal with the

universal, the immediate with



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 inspiration in everything around her, particularly nature. Trees, skies and weather changes are recurring motifs in her work, reflecting Seema's acute observation and 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 finds 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 and needle, which she

resilience and the human employs to decode a womanly 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

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

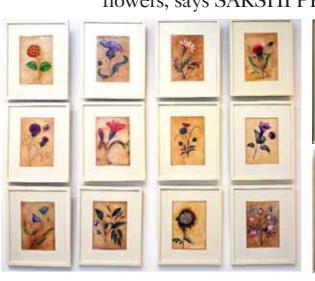
circular motifs, Seema's exhibition includes depictions rock formations, which serve as timekeepers of orchestrated rhythm. These rocks, both stark and evocative, represent links to the past, present, and future. Seema's minimalist approach is evident in her use of thread story. These humble materials are transformed 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. 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 between. spaces 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

## 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: Pankai Kumar





transported into a world where art and nature intertwine seamlessly in Laxmi Gupta's latest Always Sheds Its Fragrance." This alluring showcase of artworks is an attestation to deep-rooted Gupta's 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 her paintings convey a subtle flowers but also their yet powerful message about 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

Gupta's artistic journey is characterised harmonious blend of inviting contemplation on mediums and techniques. themes of growth, resilience

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, the importance environmental conservation the and 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

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 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.

## **Bad Newz: Fresh Trio Saves a Predictable Film**

### **BY SAKSHI PRIYA**

**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 of heteropaternal superfecundation - a medical marvel you'll have to look up! not just thrown in for the sake

This twist sets the stage for a series of comedic events. The uckle up for laughs with film's greatest strength lies in Bad Newz, a Bollywood its humor. The script is sharp and witty, relying on welltimed deliveries from the cast. Discussing the plot's details would spoil the fun, but let's just say it follows a familiar Bollywood arc of love, marriage, divorce (somewhat predictable) reconciliation. There's even a humorous nod to the famous American TV show FRIENDS , where an actor humorously quotes Rachel's (Jennifer Aniston) line, "No uterus, no opinion." Friends fans, keep an ear out for this familiar line delivered with comedic timing.

The movie is filled with references to old Bollywood songs and dialogues, which add nostalgic depth to the narrative. These elements are



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

Director Anand Tiwari balances

surprise.

comedy with

bonds. Despite its comedic exterior, the movie subtly values these connections. Ammy Virk's performance deserves special mention. His comedic timing and onscreen 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 Kaushal, in engaging. particular, looks incredibly charismatic and handles the

However, it's crucial to manage your expectations. Bad Newz might be lighthearted and entertaining, but it doesn't aim to be anything

comedic elements with

genuine groundbreaking. Unlike its emotion, exploring themes possible namesake, Good dreams, Newwz, this film isn't a gamerelationships and familial 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.

## 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

 $A^{{\it HBAAB}}$  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

experiences. Titles such as SHAAYARI AUR HUM, 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, SHAAYARI 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 GUFTGU connections. celebrates the beauty of conversation, underscoring the joy and liberation found in sincere dialogues.

The collection also goes into spiritual and philosophical realms. Sections 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 BAATE.N 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



Author: Aman Deep | Publisher: Ferntree ₹ 500.00

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



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 them with renewed clarity and emotion.

Ahbaab is a beautiful journey of shayari that reaches deep

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 original thoughts, presenting mind and heart, with each line reflecting a deeper connection. The translations into English and Hindi adding another layer of depth to the work. into the reader's heart. It 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

authentic poetic 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

# INDIA WONER'S TEAM WILL WIN ICC TROPHY SOON, SAYS SNEH Of sacrifices, a lot of struggle, a lot of things in between. But the white-ball side as the lot of things in between. But the lot of things in between. But the white-ball side as the lot of things in between. But the lot of things in between. But the white-ball side as the lot of things in between. But the white-ball side as the lot of things in between. But the lot of things in between the lot of thi

Rohit Sharma and Co's recent triumph in the T20 World Cup has given the Indian women's team much-needed belief and confidence to continue its pursuit of winning a maiden ICC trophy, says the side's spin-bowling all-rounder Sneh

While India are once again favourites to retain the title in the Women's Asia Cup, starting in Sri Lanka on Friday, the team's true test will be in the T20 World Cup in October and next year's ODI World Cup which they host.

Rana believes Índia, who have tripped over near the final hurdle a few times, have worked very hard to win a global competition and glory is not far away.

"The Indian women's cricket team, if you look at the past 2-3 years, they are doing their best," Rana told PTI in an exclusive interview on Friday. "For (winning) the ICC trophy, let's take the men's (team's example), it took almost 10 years to get the trophy. They have been preparing and working hard for it for a long

"To achieve something big, it will not happen overnight. It will take time. It will take a lot of sacrifices, a lot of struggle, a lot of things in between. But eventually, we will get there," Rana said

Fielding has been an area of concern which has been acknowledged by the players and coaches, but Rana says there is no lack in intent in

order to get better.
"When we play N number of matches, the chances of errors are more. But it doesn't mean that someone is bad at it. Obviously, as a player, when you are on the field, you want to always do your best for your country," she said.

"No one is there to say that it's okay, it will happen (ho jayega). (But) it could also be a matter of a bad day for someone."

"As far as ICC trophies are concerned, for big events, the more matches we play, the more experience we will get," Rana said

Having made her debut in 2014, Rana had to wait for more than seven years for playing her first Test. Now, the right-arm off-spinner looks back proudly for having added three more to her kitty.

"I'm glad I got the opportunity. It had been a while, right? The scenario for Indian women's Test cricket is changing for good. The number of Tests we're getting to play now, it's Test in domestic cricket, BCCI to take this forward," Rana said. For a team which didn't play



that is also a big step from the

any 'home' Tests for nine long years since 2014, Rana credited players' fitness and endurance three Tests it has played since December 2023.

"It's a matter of mindset. as the team won each of the Obviously, you've been playing

long formats that we used to have, the multi-days, that we played was last in 2018," she

You have to be on the field for four days, you need endurance for that. Fitness is very important and as a senior player, it's (even) more important because you have to be there all the time," said Rana, who took a 10-for against South Africa earlier this month in the Chennai Test.

"You have to guide your youngsters as well. It's a bit challenging. But lastly, it's all about the mindset," she said. The Women's Premier League

has made the Indian players busier than before but its versatile nature will help in the longer run, Rana said. "Since WPL came, we have

become a bit more busy. I think the busier, the better. Cricket has got more exposure since WPL came. The match exposure is always good for a

player.
"The versatility that WPL brings on the table by sharing dressing rooms with the overseas players. (The) newfound talent of the country, (will bring) a refreshing change to women's cricket," she said. However, Rana faces the

back in the white-ball side as she was not included for the Asia Cup campaign.

"I won't lie. It was a little heartbreaking to be dropped from the team. You want to play for India, be it Test cricket or white-ball cricket," she said. But at the same time, it has developed a hunger in me to rejoin the T20 format with my rejoin the T20 format with my team or the 50-overs game. I'm eagerly waiting for the opportunity," she said.
"I know I have it in me and I

have penned down my manifestation (too)," said Rana, who has played 25 T20Is and 27 ODIs.

Rana also appreciated the fact that incumbent head coach Amol Muzumdar is getting a longer run than some of his predecessors.

Longevity and consistency in the side definitely helps, be it in the regards of coach or a player. With the amount of time one spends with the team, the knowledge about the player and the bonding within, that automatically increases," Rana

"He knows each and every player, their strengths... And how he can use that particular player in a match. At which moment, when and where he can use that player... He knows everything," Rana added.

## I had skills but Gautam changed my mindset: Harshit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ompetence was not a problem but Harshit Rana, by his own admission, struggled with the confidence part before Gautam Gambhir entered the picture and forced him to face his "fears". The 22-year-old rookie pacer is on

cloud nine right now after being picked for next month's ODI series against Sri Lanka.

To announce his joy to the world, he posted a picture on instagram in which he was seen lifting his equally jubilant father. But when it came to giving credit to those who shaped him, Rana was clear that "Gauti Bhaiyya" would always be "above everyone else".

"Delĥi mein dil toot sakta hai, par humne kabhi hausla nahi haaraa (Delhi can break your heart but I never lost hope)," Rana said after learning about his maiden India call-

up.
"I believed in working hard but whenever I used to get hurt after being overlooked in age-group teams, I would sit in my room and start sobbing. My father Pradeep never ever gave up hope," he told PTI in an interview.

The bowler from Delhi's South



had finally made it. And all it took for him to be in national reckoning was one stellar IPL season of 19 wickets in Kolkata Knight Riders' triumphant campaign this year.

"If I have to name three people whom I am indebted to in this beautiful journey of mine, then it is my father for his efforts, my personal coach Amit Bhandari sir (former India and at the junior level, often overlooked, Gauti bhaiyya (Gautam Gambhir)," Gauti bhaiyya's presence in the KKR match and things will fall in place. International level.

Gambhir was the mentor of KKR this season before taking over as India coach from Rahul Dravid, following the country's T20 World Cup triumph in the West Indies. Rana said his senior state-mate has been a pillar of support ever since he came in contact

"If my outlook towards the game has

dressing room and how he changed my mindset. At the elite level, you require skills but more than skills, you require the heart to handle the

"Gauti bhaiyya would always tell me 'Mere ko tere pe trust hai. Tu match jeetake aayega'. (I trust you, you can win the match)," Rana recalled one of his interactions with the firebrand former opener, who is known to speak his mind. Rana had started on a bright note in 2022, when he played seven Ranji Trophy games for Delhi and got 28 wickets but since then, injuries prevented him from playing a lot of red-ball games.

However, in white-ball cricket, he has been phenomenal for Delhi in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, with 22 wickets in 14 games and 28 in 25 T20 matches. Playing at the Eden Gardens in front of 60,000 people, he nailed those block-hole deliveries, wide yorkers and slow bouncers. So how has he managed to back his skills under pressure?

"If you ask about the pressure part, it is Gautam Gambhir's advice. He would say, 'what's the worst thing that will happen? You will get hit and we can lose the match. But if you don't face your fears, how will you overcome them?'

always be a

That's what you train for," said the lanky player, who trained under Bhandari and Narinder Singh Negi in Delhi's Players' Academy.

BHANDARI HONED SKILLS: "If

you talk about my skill-set, then Bhandari sir and Negi sir have been my personal coaches for past two vears," he said.

Bhandari, a Delhi stalwart, who played a few ODIs for India between 2000 to 2004, narrated an interesting story. "I didn't know who this boy was. In fact, when he came to me, he had not played for KKR but had played Ranji Trophy. He only called me up and said, 'sir, can you train me?'," Bhandari, who is an assistant coach with Gujarat Titans, recalled. "the first day he came, I didn't give him a new ball but an old ball and told him the areas (he needed to bowl) along with an instruction. Just bowl and don't look at me or come to me. If I feel, I will call you."

Bhandari was impressed by what he saw and decided to mentor the

"What I saw was a nice run-up but once he reached the crease, after loadup, everything needed a bit of work. The non-bowling hand, alignment and he was ready to work," he said. Bhandari feels that Rana has the

from India with a chance to demonstrate

The selected players will get to train at the

venue ahead of the continental games. The 6th AIMAG will commence on

November 21, two days before the esports

event kicks off, and run until November

The eFootball mobile category will hold

group stage matches on November 23 and

24, followed by the playoffs on November

26, and the final, gold medal round on

their skills in the eFootball mobile title.



## Back from the brink: India hockey player Sukhjeet Singh eyes dream Olympic debut

Six years ago, a back injury had left his right leg temporarily paralysed but Sukhjeet Singh overcame the "toughest" phase of his life to earn a spot in the Olympic-bound Indian men's hockey squad and is determined to prove his worth in the Games beginning July 26.

The 28-year-old forward will be competing in his maiden Olympics. Playing in the Olympics has

always been a dream for me and my family. It's the pinnacle of any athlete's career, and I am honoured to have this opportunity," Sukhjeet, who made his India debut in 2022, said in a Hockey India (HI) release.

"I believe my hard work and dedication have paid off. Now, I am determined to fulfil my role in the team with excellence and repay the trust of my coach and teammates by giving my all in Paris.'

The Jalandhar-born Sukhjeet began playing hockey at the age of six, inspired by his father Ajit Singh, a former hockey player for Punjab Police. Despite the early start, his path to the senior Indian team was not an easy one.

In 2018, Sukhjeet was included in core probables camp for the senior team, but a freak back

injury resulted in temporary paralysis of his right leg, putting his dream on hold.

That period was one of the toughest times of my life. Being bedridden for almost five months was physically and mentally draining. I couldn't walk, let alone play hockey, and even the simplest tasks like eating by myself became impossible.

"Each day felt like my dream of playing hockey was slipping further away, and it was incredibly disheartening," he recalled.

Sukhjeet said his family, especially father's, unwavering support and belief in his potential kept him going at a time when he "felt like giving

up."
"...His refusal to let me lose hope was crucial in helping me get back on my feet. His determination to see me back on the field was infectious, and it gave me the strength to push through the pain and challenges," he said.

After recovering from the injury, Sukhjeet finally donned the coveted blue jersey against Spain during the 2021-22 FIH Pro League season, marking his debut with a goal. Over the past two years, Sukhjeet has showcased his remarkable talent and consistency, scoring

20 goals in 70 matches that he played for the country.

## Nadal comes from 4-1 down in 2nd set to beat Norrie, reaches QF of Nordea Open in Sweden

**AP** ■ BASTAD (SWEDEN)

Rafael Nadal recovered from a tumble and a 4-1 deficit in the second set to beat fifthseeded Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-4 in the second round of the Nordea Open.

Nadal fell over in the first game of the second set after attempting to slide on the clay, and needed treatment on a couple of bleeding scrapes. He then went a break down before winning the last five games of the match to reach his first quarterfinal since January.

"Great feelings, it's been a while without playing on the tour since Roland Garros and I had a chance to compete against a great player like Cameron," Nadal said.

"It's part of the journey today. I haven't been competing very often so matches like today help and holding the pressure on the opponent for the whole game is something I need to improve on because I haven't played enough.

Nadal is playing at the tournament in Sweden for the first time since he won the title as a 19-year-old in 2005 as he prepares for the Olympic tournament on clay at Roland Garros in Paris.

He beat Leo Borg, the son of Swedish tennis legend Bjorn Borg, in the first round on Tuesday. That was his first singles match since he lost in the first round of the French Open to Alexander Zverev. He teamed up with Casper Ruud on Monday to win a first-

round doubles match. The 38-year-old Nadal skipped Wimbledon as he didn't want to switch surface to grass and then back to clay and risk injury. He has been dealing with hip and abdominal injuries over the past 1 1/2

## ESFI announces qualifiers to select Indian team for Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games YouTube channel) and will present players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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support.

Games by 2047.

been

to identify one lakh young

athletes within 100 days, for

potential. There has never

brainpower, manpower, or talent in India," said

Mandaviya after launching

the second phase of the

programme at the Jawaharlal

'Not just the cities, but even

in our far-flung areas like the

Himalayan and tribal areas

Nehru Stadium here.

North-East,

shortage of

said

Coastal,

The Esports Federation of India (ESFI) on Friday opened registrations for the National Esports Championship 2024 (NESC24), which will serve as the qualifiers for the esports event at the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Thailand's Chonburi. Organised by the Olympic Council of Asia

(OCA), the 6th AIMAG will witness 36 sports plus two demonstration sports. Having been upgraded into a full-fledged medal sport, the esports event at the

AIMAG will be held in its entirety at Chonburi's Central Sriracha from November 23 to 28 and will feature three mobile titles - Mobile Legend Bang Bang (Female Category, Team Event), Arena of Valor (Open Category, Team Event), and eFootball (Open Category, Individual

India will compete in the eFootball mobile category only as AOV and MLBB are banned in the country.

The NESC24 will be held in the first week of August as an online event (quarterfinals onwards will be streamed live on its

One lakh athletes to be identified within 100 days under KIRTI: Mandaviya Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday launched the second phase of the KIRTI project with an aim



have sportsperson there.

In the third Phase, the KIRTI program will include all 20 disciplines of the Khelo India scheme. The first phase of KIRTI was launched in Chandigarh on March 12 this

"We need to have a steady

sports skills, whether they live in a village or a city, and whether they come from a background otherwise. In Delhi, Sports Authority of stream of these high-performing assets and that's where KIRTI, a stepping stone

Athletics, Football, Volleyball, into play. "Everyone will be given Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho, for opportunities to develop their almost one month. school-going Addressing school-going children, who attended the

launch event, Mandaviya said, "Among you, there will certainly be an Olympic champion. I appreciate the India (SAI) shall conduct fact that your parents have assessment of over 25000 come and are backing you to MCD students in 12 zones play sports.

## RITES LIMITED

Engagement of manpower: VC No. Post No. of Vacancies 187/24 Resident Engineer -Civil on contract Resident Engineer -Mechanical on contract Resident Engineer -03 Electrical on contract AGM (ES&T) 02 190/24 on regular basis For details regarding Position, remuneration,

qualification, experience, age, date & venue, selection process etc., candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website www.rites.com under Career Section.

Written test for VC No. 187/24, 188/24 & 189/24 will be conducted at Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubneshwar and Gurugram on 18.08.2024.





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Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Cultural and Information Centre

## INAUGURATION

## Dr. Mohan Yadav

Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

**Guests of Honour** 

## **Rakesh Singh**

Minister, Public Works Department, Govt. of MP

## Chetanya Kasyap

Minister, MSME, Govt. of MP

9:00 am Onwards



Dr. Mohan Yadav Chief Minister

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> Cultural Programme

CONCLAVE **HIGHLIGHTS** 









"Strengthening MSME Fuelling Regional Growth"

### FOREIGN DELEGATES •















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