

# J&K on high alert ahead of PM visit

#### MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU/NEW DELHI

 $T^{\rm he \ security \ forces \ have}_{\rm high \ alert \ ahead \ of \ the \ visit}$ of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas on Friday in Drass. This will be the PM's first visit to the region after recent spate of terror attacks and also a few high-level review meetings in this regard held in the national Capital with two of them chaired by Modi himself.

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi who landed in Srinagar early Thursday morning visited forward areas along the Line of Control in Kashmir valley to review the preparedness of the forces in involved counterinfiltration and counterterror operations.

The Army Chief later flew to Kargil to supervise the arrangements. Vital security installations were also kept on high-alert along the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway following the sighting of seven suspected terrorists in a village of the Pathankot district of the neighbouring State, Punjab. Several schools at Army

installations in the Jammu

#### **Modi meets** Maha NDA partners to smoothen ties RAJESH KUMAR MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

With a lot or complications due to the breakaway factions of two important constituents – NCP and Shiv Sena — in Maharashtra, the Central leadership of BJP, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has personally started taking stock of the situation. The State is to go to Assembly elections soon.

A day after Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar demanded nearly 90 seats for Pawar the NCP faction led by him during his meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah, the PM on Thursday met MPs of NDA allies in Maharashtra and discussed the political situation ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls in the state. Among those whom the Prime Minister met included Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, and others.

The BJP won just nine of the 28 seats it contested in the Lok Sabha polls, down from 23 it won in 2019. Besides the loss of Lok Sabha seats, BJP's vote percentage decline in the State this elections has caused a huge worry. In 2024, BJP got 27.84 per cent votes which has been reduced to 26.1 per cent this time.

#### TN RAGHUNATHA 🗖 MUMBAI/PUNE

At least three people were electrocuted in Pune and three others feared trapped under the debris of three collapsed villas in a hill slide at Lavasa, even as the heavy rains wreaked havoc in Pune, Mumbai and various parts of Maharashtra, prompting the Maharashtra Government to seek the assistance of the Army and Navy to deal with the monsoon-related incidents.

Many parts of Pune lay thick sheets of water as the heavy rains ravaged the city since Wednesday night, while intense rains battered Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and other surrounding areas resulting in heavy flooding in low-lying areas and disruption in train and flight operations. As precautionary measure, the authorities declared holidays for schools and colleges in Pune, Mumbai and Thane. Three mobile snacks stall owners were electrocuted

when they tried to move their handcarts to safety through the flood waters near Z bridge at around 3.30 am in Pune, while three others were feared trapped nearby Lavasa city after a hill-slide buried three villas. A Nepali boy Shiv Jidbahadur Pariyar (18) was among three

persons killed in Pune, while two others killed in an electrocution incident were identified Akash Mane (21) and Abhishek Ghanekar (25). The State's cultural, academic



clobbered by torrential rain since last night leaving a trail of destruction, paralysing normal life as the district administration ordered all educational institutions to remain shut for the day. Several parts of Pune, neighbouring twin towns of Pimpri and Chinchwad and dams around Pune have recorded very high rainfall. Since the midnight Wednesday-Thursday, heavy rainfall was recorded in Lavasa (454 mm), Lonavala (323 mm), Nimgiri (233 mm), Malin (181 mm), Chinchwad (175 mm), Talegaon and Khadakwasla (168 mm) and Lavale (167 mm). Pune received an average rainfall of 115 mm. After taking stock of the

and IT capital has been

situation arising out of heavy rains in Pune, Mumbai Raigad, Thane and other parts of the State. Maharashtra chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "The units of NDRF, SDRF, Army, Navy, Police, Fire Brigade, Health System have been directed to coordinate with each other and lend help."

"These agencies need to work as a team and shift the flood affected people safely, provide them with food packets, arrange medicines and water. Instructions have been given to take the help of NDRF, Army, and Navy," Shinde said. "Around 40,000 cusecs was discharged from the Khadakwasla Dam," Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol who is an MP from Pune, said.

Dhaka takes umbrage at Didi

remark, complains to India

"There is also heavy rain in Mumbai city and suburbs. The administration is fully alert to deal with any calamity in Mumbai and I am in touch with Pune, Raigad, Mumbai Collectors and Municipal Commissioners," Shinde said. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar also coordinated with authorities in rushing help to the people affected by rains in Pune and various parts of the

State. On a day when scores of trees were uprooted and twowheelers and four-wheelers remained stranded in flood waters, personnel from various agencies deployed to ferry the people in the marooned areas of Pune. More than 500 people were evacuated from the low-lying areas during the day.

#### SC ruling a shot in arm for States rich in minerals PTI NEW DELHI

The legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with the States and the royalty paid on minerals is not a tax, the upreme Court ruled or Thursday in a landmark judgement which will give a huge revenue boost to mineral-rich States. A nine-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, in a majority 8:1 verdict, said Parliament does not have the legislative competence to tax mineral rights under Entry 54 of List I of the Constitution which pertains to regulation of mines and mineral development by the Centre.



Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi during his visit at the forward locations of

region and along the highway border areas of Kathua

Chinar Corps. Dwivedi also reviewed the security situation along the Line of

measure.

and

Modi for the third consecutive term. If anybody tries to insult the verdict of the people, they will be punished in the elections," Rijiju said at a Press conference. His remarks came a day after

(Jammu) and Pathankot to

During his brief stay, the

Prime Minister will also carry

out the first blast of the

Shinkun La Tunnel Project,

track down the suspects.

PTI Photo

the Opposition claimed the Budget 'discriminatory" against non-NDA-ruled States and accused the Prime Minister of running a vulnerable" "shaky and coalition Government.

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

With a series of controversies related to the UPSC and the exams conducted by it including the topmost Civil Services Examinations, the commission now preparing to enhance its aminat measures by incorporating advanced technological solutions such as Aadhaarbased fingerprint authentication, facial recognition systems, and AIdriven closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance, several media outlets reported. This overhaul, intended to maintain the integrity of follows UPSC exams, widespread allegations of cheating in certain national level exams like the recent NEET. The commission has proposed a real-time attendance monitoring system that includes GPS coordinates to confirm that enrolment occurs within the designated shift. The UPSC specifies that the QR code on the Admit Card, which includes the candidate's roll number, should be scanned to automatically retrieve the candidate's information from

# **UPSC** to curb cheating with tech

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday confirmed receiving a note from Dhaka that conveyed its objection to West Bengal Chief Minister Banerie Mamata offering shelter to people affected by violent-clashes in that country. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud has earlier objected post-examination to Mamata's recent remark of offering "shelter" to people Bangladesh amid from ongoing protests in the country External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, appearing to disapprove of Mamata's comments, said matters that bring "the Union into relation with any foreign country, are the sole prerogative" of the Central Government. In an address at a public event in Kolkata, Mamata, referring to violence-hit Bangladesh said she would keep the doors of West Bengal open for people in distress from the neighbouring country and offer them shelter.



The pronouncement, which came as a setback to the Centre, however, said



Parliament can still legislate to impose "any limitations" on States' power to levy tax on mineral rights.

It referred to the term "any limitations" under Entry 50 of List II and said its scope is wide enough to include imposition of "restrictions, conditions, principles, as well as a prohibition Entry 50 of List II pertains to

taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitations imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development

Justice B V Nagarathna, in her dissenting verdict, said royalty is in the nature of a tax or an exaction and the Centre does have the power to levy it. After the bench pronounced its verdict, the counsel appearing for various States urged it to decide on recovery of taxes worth thousands of crores of rupees levied by the Centre on mines and minerals till now.



Control during his visit

precautionary

were directed to remain

closed till July 29 as a

Massive search operations

were also launched by the

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday hit The Centre on Indication leaders, out at Opposition leaders, contending that they had resorted to abusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the debate on the Union Budget in Parliament instead of speaking on the finer aspects of the document. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the manner in which some Opposition leaders made hold constructive discussion their speeches amounted to insulting the House and lowering the dignity of the Budget Session. "Let us respect the mandate of the people. They have given the mandate to Prime Minister

During the general discussion on the budget for 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday,

various Opposition members accused the government of doling out sops to key allies JD(U) and TDP, which rule Bihar and Andhra Pradesh respectively, to ensure that the government faces no hurdles from its coalition partners. Rijiju said elections were over and now the focus should be to work towards a developed India (Viksit Bharat) and on the Union Budget. "The Prime Minister has said that elections were over and now was the time to rise above political lines and work together for the nation," Rijiju said



यपीएससी

the Application Database. If and the QR code cannot be mate scanned, the candidate's roll number must be entered manually from the Admit Card.

The UPSC also plans to contro implement CCTV/video time surveillance with recording and live broadcast capabilities to monitor the activities of candidates and exam personnel across various centres and venues revamp its examination nationwide.

The service provider will be required to install an adequate number of CCTV colour cameras in every classroom, ensuring at least one camera for every 24 candidates. Cameras will also be placed at the entry The UPSC has filed a and exit gates and in control criminal case rooms where sensitive pre Khedkar.

materials are handled. Additionally, the service provider must arrange for remote live viewing of the CCTV footage at the UPSC's control room, ensuring real monitoring and enhancing overall security during the examinations. The UPSC has sought bids from public sector undertakings (PSUs) to process. This move also a controversy follows involving trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar, who is alleged to have forged documents to appear for the CSE 12 times, exceeding the allowed number of attempts.

against

There were reports in the Bangladeshi media that said Dhaka has communicated to

Protesters in Bangladesh File PTI phto

Delhi New through diplomatic channels its displeasure over the West Bengal Chief Minister's comments.

"I can confirm that we have received such communication from the Bangladesh side. It is essentially on the lines described in the reports," Jaiswal said during his weekly media briefing while replying

to a question. "I would underline that under the Seventh schedule — List one — Union List — item 10 of our Constitution, the conduct of foreign affairs and all matters which bring the Union into relation with any foreign country, are the sole prerogative of the Union Government," he said

**Rashtrapati Bhawan sheds trace of colonial past** 

# Reel makers face DMRC heat

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

 $D_{to \ as \ the \ city's \ lifeline, \ has}^{elhi \ Metro, \ often \ referred}$ become a hotspot for "reelers" and "Instagrammers" using the trains as backdrops for their social media content. This trend has not only caused discomfort among fellow passengers but has also led to a significant increase in prosecutions for creating nuisances.

Between April and June, over 1.600 commuters were booked for making reels and other disruptive activities on metro premises, marking a three per cent rise from the same period last year.

Be it two girls indulging in obscene activities in the metro of making videos while putting colours on eah other or a girl dancing to a Bollywood song and shooting

uncomfortable around, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has taken a strict approach to curb such nuisance from happening in the metros.

According to the data, 1,647 penalties were issued for creating nuisance in three it with people visibly months under Section 59 of

#### Metro the Railways and (Operations Maintenance) Act. The corresponding number for the same period last year was 1,600.

A senior DMRC official on Thursday said creating nuisance may also include offences such as sitting on the floor of the train and eating inside the train, among others.

The DMRC issued 610, 518 and 519 penalties in April, May and June, respectively while the corresponding numbers for the previous year were 528, 485 and 587, the data showed.

DMRC Managing Director Vikas Kumar said they penalised people for creating nuisance in the metro area. "We use our machinery so that such kind of incidents should not happen on the metro premises.

#### ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

Ayear after renaming the famous Mughal Gardens as "Amrit Udyan" on the premises of Rashtrapati Bhawan, efforts continue to align the iconic building with India's status as a Republic and underscore democratic principles deeply ingrained in Indian society since ancient times. On Thursday, 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall', two historic halls of this historic residence and workplace of the President, have been

rechristened as 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap' respectively. "Rashtrapati Bhavan, the

office and the residence of the President of India, is a symbol of the nation, and an invaluable heritage of the people. Continuous efforts are accessible to people. There important



In this combo picture Rashtrapati Bhavan's iconic 'Durbar Hall' (left) and 'Ashok Hall' (right) have been renamed as 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap' respectively, in New Delhi

and

Rashtrapati

— as

Hall'

Mandap'

'Ashok

Bhavan

has been a consistent endeavour to make the ambience of the Rashtrapati Bhavan reflective of the Indian cultural values and ethos," a statement issued by the President's Secretariat said.

Accordingly, President Droupadi Murmu is pleased being made to make it more to rename two of the halls of

the key values associated with 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok the word 'Ashok'," it added. 'Durbar Hall', located under 'Ganatantra the central dome of 'Ashok Mandap', respectively, it said Rashtrapati Bhavan, is the on a day Murmu completed venue of important ceremonies and celebrations two years of her presidency. "Renaming 'Ashok Hall' as 'Ashok Mandap' brings such as the presentation of national awards. "The term uniformity in language and 'Durbar' refers to courts and removes the traces of assemblies of Indian rulers anglicisation while upholding and the British.



# State's Industry office to be established in Coimbatore

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav said to establish a Madhya Pradesh industry office in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, to facilitate investment and strengthen trade and business ties between the two states. Addressing the Invest MP interactive session in Coimbatore, Dr. Yadav emphasized the goal of the Investors Summit: fostering closer inter-state cooperation through trade and business, and collectively working towards making India the leading global economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Yadav praised the industrial

prowess of Coimbatore and Tripur, noting that industrialists here have independently transformed these regions into industrial hubs. He extended an The session witnessed the

industrialists to explore new business opportunities in Madhya Pradesh, thereby enhancing the bond between the two states. The Chief Minister inaugurated the 'Invest MP-Interactive Session' in Coimbatore, a major industrial center in South India, by lighting the ceremonial lamp and offering water to Tulsi, symbolizing the beginning of a prosperous partnership. Coimbatore is renowned for its thriving textile&garment, engineering, and information tech-nology sectors. A roadshow and an interactive session with investors and industrialists is being organized with the aim to invite Tamil Nadu's industrial leaders to the upcoming Global

invitation to Tamil Nadu's enthusiastic participation of over 1,200 representatives, resulting in investment proposals exceeding Rs 3,500 crore for Madhya Pradesh, highlighting the state's promising potential for industrial development. Yadav highlighted the rapid development of the textile and garment, automobile, and engineering industries in Madhya Pradesh, emphasizing the immense potential in these sectors. He urged industrialists to

seize this opportune moment to invest in the state and elevate their businesses to new heights. Every aspect of investment has been meticulously considered, ensuring Madhya Pradesh is future-ready with robust support from the government and the people.To transform the Investors Summit in Bhopal, "Azadi ka Amrit Kaal" into a fostering investment and indusprosperous period for Madhya Pradesh, the government is working towards integrating the trial growth in Madhya Pradesh.

state's industries into the global supply chain. Continuous efforts are being made to establish and develop industries, with a new initiative for investment promotion launched across the state through the Regional Industry Conclave.

Tamil Nadu Industrialists Encouraged to Embrace Madhya Pradesh's Investment Revolution

Yadav said that the Global Investors Summit will be organized in Bhopal on 7-8 February 2025. I have come to invite you to be a part of the investment revolution going on in the state. I am confident that by taking advantage of the immense opportunities available in Madhya Pradesh, you will play an important role in realizing the vision of a Vikasit Bharat as well as a Vikasit Madhya Pradesh.

The state's eco-system is

extremely favorable for the textile industry

The Chief Minister highlighted the state's highly favorable ecosystem for the textile industry, noting that Madhya Pradesh offers a special readymade garment policy providing up to 200 percent financial assistance on fixed capital investments to attract large-scale garment industries. To address the evolving needs of the textile sector, a state-of-the-art Skill Development Center is being established in Jabalpur, and an MoU has been signed with the Tiruppur Exporters' Association to support skill and cluster development. Madhya Pradesh presents the most attractive financial benefits package for the textile and garment industry in the country, bolstered by abundant cotton, affordable land, and compelling financial incentives.



capital 02

Madhya Pradesh State Government officials and Industrial groups after signing a MoU in presence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during an interactive session on Investment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh, in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on Thursday. Pioneer photo

#### Use of new media is also necessary: Prof Umarao Panchayats with over 5000 population to have two community halls Wife's killer gets lifer

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

nder the Museum popular Lecture Series organized by Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Bhopal Professor Sunil Umarao, Department of Journalism Allahabad University Prayagraj delivered a lecture on Museology New Media and Museum Communication: New Emerging Challenges in Developing Countries.

At the beginning of the program, Museum Director Professor Amitabh Pandey honored Prof. Sunil by presenting him a bouquet of flowers, a shawl and also presented him with the logo of the museum. Dr. Suryakumar Pandey introduced the speaker. Thereafter Professor Sunil Umarao said in his address that With proliferation of Internet and new communication technologies, there is significant change in the way the society

engages in education, enter- has to be tuned to the new tainment and communication. With the proliferation of new media, there is a significant shift in the way the Traditional Museum is beginning to change the way they document, present artifacts and engage the audiences.

The New Media today is sweeping the society because there is more democratic two-way communication. The digital technologies allow greater flexibility in data collection, storage and manipulation by software. The growth of multi-media today stands to be eclipsed by virtual

and augmented reality. Today museums all over the world are beginning to use new media not only to go online but also in display of cultural artifacts by use of projectors, streaming live videos etc. As the youth are getting immersed in digital and social media, the challenge of the tra-

ditional mode of exhibitions

emerging technologies so that the new visitors can be engaged and feel satisfaction in their visit to the museum. As museums all over the world are gearing up to technological upgradation. As it involves cost and new manpower, how the developing nations will be able to

meet challenge for museums to be relevant for cultural preservation and promotion. Presiding over the programme. Director Prof. Amitabh Pandey said that freedom of speech and expression is an important aspect of democracy. The opportunities that social media has provided to citizens to exercise this right could not have been imagined even a decade ago. In fact, a wave of change can be brought about in society through this platform. Social media is an important means of connecting with people across the world and has given a new dimension to

communication in the world.

**STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Prahlad Patel has urged the elected representatives of Panchayats at all levels to select at least one village of their choice and development it as Model Village using available resources and convergence of various schemes. He urged them to start developing a village of their vision. Patel was addressing the

concluding session of the workshop organized by Panchayat and Rural Development Department and German organization GIZ on Self-reliant Panchayat Prosperous Madhya

Pradesh here today. Patel said that the Panchayats, which are adjacent to the cities have their own issues. They acquire semi-urban status. There are 1200 such



panchayats at present. Discussions will also be held soon with their presidents, vice-presidents, members and officials. Similarly, the situation of the Panchayats, which are PESA panchayats and those near forest protected areas are different from the normal Panchayats. Their issues will also be discussed.

Patel said that two community halls will be built in panchayats having population of over 5000. He urged the Panchayat Take this very seriously.

STAFF REPORTER **B**HOPAL

peaking at a social

S media meet organised at UNICEF office, State

Minister of Health &

Family Welfare Narendra Shivaji Patel said the moth-

ers milk is like a human

vaccine and it is important

that we spread awareness

Around 65 social media influencers were part of

the meet. Dr Himani Yadav,

Deputy Director, Child

feeding, and efforts of the

State to promote breast-

feeding and encouraged

social media influencers to

help by promoting the

Communication Specialist,

UNICEF, Madhya Pradesh

Gulati,

on the issue.

representatives to start the process of selecting a suitable construction site. He said that representatives of Zila Panchayats can play advisory role in the meetings of subordinate Panchayats but should not interfere in their

decision making process. The Panchayat Minister said that all Panchayat representatives should update themselves about rules of the meetings. This will help avoid conflicts. He said that the development activities being carried out in the Panchayats should be continuously monitored so that corrections

can be made timely. Patel said that Panchayat representatives are socially responsible persons and they should fulfill their responsibilities diligently. He said that the meetings of the general bodies of Panchayats are like cabinet meetings.

Where meetings have not been held, ensure that they are held at regular intervals. This is a collective responsibility. Patel said that the funds available in Panchayats will be spent only with the consent of the elected Panchayat representatives. He called upon the Panchayat officials to ensure that the utilization certificates of the development works done in their respective Panchayats are submitted properly. Always work with an intention of improving systems.

He said that the suggestions given in the workshop will be considered and appropriate decisions will be taken. He said that it is imperative to adhere to financial disciplinary norms. Madhya Pradesh earned fame at the national level in the implementation of many central schemes due to the promptness of Panchayats, he added.

daughters were sitting and crying. Spread awareness on the importance of breastfeeding: Patel it is important to say no to infant formula's. She added that we need to engage men in this movement. Dr Prashant Kumar, Health Specialist welcomed the

Bhopal: The man who killed

his wife in Ashoka Garden on

September 23, 2021 was sen-

tenced to life imprisonment by Pallavi Dwivedi, 10th Additional Sessions Judge and

Special Judge on Wednesday.

A fine of Rs 1000 has also been

ordered against the accused.

Special Public Prosecutor

Vandana Parte had pleaded

on behalf of the government in

On September 23, 2021,

Sangeeta informed the Ashoka

Garden police station that she is

a resident of Geeta Nagar Kolua. The accused Chandan Singh

lives in her neighborhood with

his wife and daughters. After hearing the screams from

Chandan's house, she reached his

house. Where he saw his wife

Priyanka Singh lying uncon-

The woman was bleeding pro-

fusely and there were marks of

injuries on her body. Her four

scious on the bed.

this case.

Minister of State for Health at UNICEF office and answered queries from the participants. Neha Bagga, was also pre-sent at the meet and she said that together with power of social media we can reach out to larger sec-

tion of the society to make Health at National Health said that this meet is impor- Specialist UNICEF Madhya a difference for children. Mission, spoke on the tant particularly to create Pradesh made a presenta-Social media influencers tion on tance and infant and young child feeding practices and how it helps in development of the child. Dr Sheela Bhambhal, Pediatrician, Senior answered queries from social media influencers on various challenges they see, do's and dont's and why



Guest teachers stage a protest demanding regularisation of jobs including several other demands, in Bhopal on Thursday

PIMR students unveil case study on Momo company's success

#### PNS INDORE

tudents of the Prestige Sinstitute of Management and Research (PIMR), Indore, have presented a groundbreaking case study on Wow! Momo, showcasing its rapid growth in the Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) sec-

Conducted by Srajan Sodhiya, Sahil Bakshi, and Prince Rawal under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Nitin Girdharwal, this study offers a fresh perspective on branding and strategic innovation in the competitive QSR market.

The research highlights the crucial role of effective branding in the success of startups in the QSR sector.

Momo serves as a prime example of how a strong brand identity can foster customer loyalty and drive market growth. The study delves into the innovative strategies and solutions adopted by Wow! Momo, providing a blueprint for other QSR businesses to emulate.

Professor Girdharwal highlighted that the study has helped PIMR students enhance their analytical skills and gain a deeper under-

This study offers a fresh perspective on branding and strategic innovation in the competitive **QSR** marke

industry.

This experience will provide students with practical insights and methodologies relevant to real-world business challenges. Dr. Davish Jain, Chairman of the Prestige Education Foundation, commended the students for their thorough analysis, stating that the study offers valuable lessons for aspiring entrepreneurs in the QSR industry. Dr. S.S. Bhakar, Group Director, and Col. (Dr.) Subramanian Raman Iyer, Director of PIMR, also praised the students and Professor Girdharwal for their dedication and innovative approach.

standing of market dynamics, consumer behavior, and competitive strategies in the QSR



1st Director of

**BMHRC Brig PS** 

**STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

rigadier PS Vaish (Rtd), he first director of Bhopal D Memorial Hospital & Research Centre (BMHRC), passed away on July 23 at a private hospital in Delhi.

He was 84 years old and had been admitted to the hospital a week ago due to breathing difficulties.A condolence meeting was held at BMHRC on Wednesday to honor the departed soul. BMHRC Director Dr Manisha Shrivastava, along with all staff members, observed a two-minute silence to pay tribute to the late Brigadier Vaish. Brigadier Dr PS Vaish served as the director of BMHRC from 1999 to 2003. It was under his leadership that BMHRC was established, and he played a crucial role in elevating

the institution to new heights. BMHRC family will always remembered his contributions.

Naveen Krishna Rai nominated as a member of DCWPC Indore

issue.

Anil

#### PNS INDORE

IM Indore manager and management expert Naveen Krishna Rai has been nominated as a member of the District Child Welfare and Protection Committee (DCWPC) of Indore district, Madhya Pradesh. It is noteworthy that as per the

guidelines of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, this committee works under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate for the smooth and easy

implementation of the Missan Vatsalya Scheme. To strengthen this committee, management subject expert Naveen Krishna Rai has been

nominated as its special invitee member. Naveen is already a member of the Child Welfare and Protection Committees of the Harda district of Madhya Pradesh and Basti district of Uttar Pradesh state.It is worth mentioning that Naveen is also involved as an advisor in various government committees of many states.

In those committees, he provides his advice on issues related to child welfare, social

justice, urban development,

industrial development, police training, e-governance and start-ups. Not only this but various

judicial, administrative and police training academies in the country invite Naveen to take management training sessions.

He provides training on subjects like Life Management, Self-Management, People Management, Decision Making, Leadership, Conflict Management, Negotiation etc. He trains officers of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), Provincial Police Service, Administrative Service, Judicial Service, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

and urged socia media influencers to help spread the message and use opportunity of World Breastfeeding Week from see efforts at ground and August 1-7 to make more social media content in simple language so that people aware of its importance.

Pushpa Awasthy, Nutrition

Pallavi Abhivyakti Dixit. Šiddarth Jain, Anandi, Pinky Tiwari, Representative Impact4Nutrition and Dean Jagran Lake City University Prof Diwakar Shukla, Jyoti Dubey, Drishti Gupta, Sufiya Chouhan, Kushi Thakur, and others were present at the meet.



Students of Institute for Excellence in Higher Education perform in an inter-college/university band competition during a cultural event 'Ye Shaam Mastani' organised in the memory of playback singer, musician and actor late Kishore Kumar, at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Thursday

### DNLU Jabalpur inks MoU with ICPS, New Delhi

Jabalpur: DNLU takes pride in forging an MoU with ICPS, a prestigious institute. The primary goal of this MoU is to strengthen institutional collaboration and explore potential cooperation in areas such as parliamentary procedures, constitu-tional law, legislative drafting, and joint research initiatives. It aims to deepen

the partnership between DNLU and ICPS through various

academic endeavours, including research projects, training courses, seminars, conferences, and knowledge dissemination. Moreover, the MoU seeks to facilitate exchanges of students and faculty between the two institutions

The MoU was formalized in the presence of Mr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Joint Director of ICPS, and Prof. (Dr.) Shailesh N. Hadli, Registrar of DNLU. This partnership represents a sig-nificant step forward in advancing legal education and parliamentary studies in India through collaborative efforts and shared expertise.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is being sold on the condition and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Bhopal only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

Printed and published by Syed Naved Alam on behalf of CMYK Printech Limited and Printed at "SHRI BALAJI PRINTERS" Plot No.137,138,139 Sector I Special Industrial Area Govindpura Bhopal - 462023, (M.P.) and published at 152 Saif Complex - 2nd Floor, M.P. Nagar, Zone 1, Bhopal-462011 (M.P), Telephone: 0755-2550977, Mob.: 09893130364. Editor-in-Chief Shobor (anguli, RNI Regn. No. MPENG/2004/13703, Regd. No. L-2/BPLON/41/2006-2008, AIR SURCHARGE of Re. 1.00 East: Calcutta, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Khajuraho, Delhi Office: 100k Milap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-40110455, Corporate Office: 201-205, 208-210, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500, Mumbai & Milap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500, Mumbai & State Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennal. Central : Calcutta, Ranchi Bhubaneswar, North Leh West: Mumbai & Milap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500, Mumbai 0ffice: Devendra Adhikari Mobile No.: 09867575933, 09892829259, Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow 226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444



## **Heavy rains lash the State capital with brief intervals**

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

ver 18 districts would receive heavy rainfall in the next 24 hours, warned the Met on Thursday; heavy rains lashed the state capital since morning and continued with brief intervals till evening. Rain has been continuing in

Panna since night, the NDRF and Home Guard offices here are flooded. Water filled on the railway track in Katni. It rained heavily in Ratlam for an hour flooding roads and water up to one to one and a half feet was seen at several roads. Heavy rain occurred in Harda, Satna,

Mandsaur. The Meteorological Department has issued an alert of heavy rain in 18 districts of the state on Thursday.

Earlier on Wednesday, 5 out effort.

of 11 sluice gates of Pagara Dam in Sagar were opened and water was released. People had to be rescued from the roofs of houses in Bildhav of Bina. Due to the rise in the water level of Dhasan river in Tikamgarh, all 12 gates of BanSujara Dam were opened at around 10 pm on Wednesday night and 480 cumecs of water was released. Late at night, water started flowing up to 2 feet above the bridge in Badagaon

Dhasan. The water level of Jamni river suddenly rose on Wednesday evening in Niwari district due to which 4 youths got marooned. Divers who went to rescue them also got trapped due to high water flow. Police and SDRF team rescued everyone safely after about 6 hours of

A youth was swept away in the Sindh river in Sankua Dham of Datia. His body was found after 22 hours on

Thursday. According to the Met the monsoon trough has moved up. The low pressure area is active in the form of cyclonic circulation. Another cyclonic circulation is in North Gujarat. It has merged with the monsoon trough. Due to these reasons, it is raining in the state

Meteorologist said that there may be a strong system again from 28 July. Heavy rain is expected in the northern part on 29 and 30 July. Heavy rain started in Bhopal on Thursday afternoon. Due to which water started flowing on the roads. Roads submerged up to one to one and a half feet in

Mandsaur. The flow of water in the streets was very fast. After the rain in Satna, the collectorate was flooded. Many low-lying places were submerged in water.

The railway track on Jabalpur route in Katni was flooded. Trains had trouble passing. In Panna NDRF and Home Guard office is flooded. On Wednesday, 24 districts of the state received rain. Tikamgarh received the highest rainfall of 3.5 inches. Rewa received 2.4 inches of rain and Umaria received 1.5 inches of rain.

On the other hand, half an inch of rainfall witnessed in Guna, Damoh, Jabalpur, Khajuraho, Malajkhand. Rainfall also occurred in Bhopal, Betul, Dhar, Gwalior, Narmadapuram, Satna, Seoni, Indore, Khandwa, Khargone, Pachmarhi, night as well.

Ratlam, Ujjain, Mandla, Narsinghpur, Rewa.

For the first time in the season, the rainfall figures in the state have come equal to the average rainfall. The state has received 14.6 inches of rain. This much rainfall should have occurred till now. The western part of the state-Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Narmadapuram, Gwalior-Chambal division has received 4% more rain than the average, while the eastern part- Rewa, Sagar, Jabalpur and Shahdol division has received 5% less rain.

It rained in the city in the morning. After 11 am, light and heavy rain started intermittently. It started raining heavily in the evening. According to the Meteorological Department, the rain will continue at

secretary Abhinav Bhatnagar.

He has lodged a complaint at

Gyanendra Bhatnagar said that

G2.

Date: 23.07.2024

Shahpura police station.



Commuters move on the road amid rain in Bhopal on Thursday.

Pioneer photo

capital 03

### Miscreants vendalise Orion International School

Bhatnagar said that eight to ten

youths entered the school. They

misbehaved with his brother.

E-Tender Notice No. JHS-N-W-45-24

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL secretary. Abhinav's brother Aditya

¬ chool management staff Swas attacked while school was vandalised by miscreants at a private school in Shahpura; reason behind the attack remained unknown, police have started investigation.

Police said that miscreants entered in Orion International School and vandalised it. The school chairman was taken hostage. The secretary was beaten up and was attacked with a piece of glass and injured. The hooligans entered school in Shahpura, on Thursday afternoon at around 12.30 pm. The school chairman and secretary allege that the attackers were activists of ABVP Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. The police have started an investigation on the complaint.

Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through or Line (E-Tendering) for the following works. Description of work : Provision of sectional signaling maintenance contract in section of ADSTE/GWL of Jhansi division.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Jhansi, DRM's office

Approx Cost: Rs.1907912.79, Earnest Money: Rs.38200/, Cost of Tender Form: Nil., Opening of tender: 16.08.2024 Time 15.00, Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 12 Months, 

• Tender on line can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs on 16.08.2024. 
• For full details and submission of bid place accepted ledice Relations whether unsure large cause in (NORTH bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. (NORTH CENTRAL RLY/ JHANSI DIVISION-S AND T) 1288/24 (AS) f North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 🕅 @ CPRONCR

**Gautam Nagar Branch** 

Bhopal - 462023 (MP.)

#### Bank of Maharashtra (A Govt. of India Enterprise) www.bankofmaharashtra.in

#### POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)]

WHEREAS. The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated mentioned below calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay outstanding Amount (mentioned below) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The notice was sent by Regd AD Post and hand delivery.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on dates mentioned below. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cationed not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Maharashtra, Gautam Nagar Branch** for an amount herein above mentioned. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to

redeem the secured assets.			
Name & Address of Borrowers & Guarantor (s)	Details of Property	Outstanding Amount ₹	
Borrower: (1) M/s Mangilal Verma S/o Girdhari Lal Verma Address: (i) House No. 13 Sai Laxmi Homes, Near Krishna Temple Khajuri Kalan, Bhopal MP 462022 (ii) H. No. 2484 Durga Mandir, Behind Krishi Upaj Mandi Board Office, Arara Lilla Dharad MD	All those pieces and parcels of land situate being and lying at Village Khajuri Kalan Plot No. 13 Near Sai Mandir, SOS	+ interest w.e.f. 11.03.2024 & other charges	
Arera Hills Bhopal MP (iii) Maxcool Refrigerators 68, Deep Mobini, Khajuri Kalan, Rhopal MP	Village Road Bhopalin the	Demand Notice Date	

Bhopal: District court sentenced three accused to 14 years of imprisonment and fined Rs 1 lakh each in the 7year-old poppy husk smuggling case. The accused used to grind dondachuri with peanut shells and trade it.

A case was registered against the accused under the NDPS Act at Itkhedi police station. After which they were produced in court.

Eintkhedi police station incharge Chainsingh Raghuvanshi said that he had received information on October 18, 2017 that accused Babu Khan, his son Rais Khan and driver Shantilal were keeping Poppy husk in Jain godown in Parewakheda. Based on the information, the police team reached the spot. When the team searched the godown, piles of plastic sacks were found at four places. Out of which Poppy husk was found in three piles and peanut shells

in one pile. All the three accused were arrested on the spot and samples of 5 kg each were taken from all the heaps, which were sent to RFSL, Bhopal for testing. Poppy husk was confirmed in the test.

This police operation continued for three days, in which the total weight of 593 sacks was found to be 175 quintals and the weight of 187 sacks of peanut shells was found to be 112 quintals

// कार्यालय पुलिस उपायुक्त, नगरीय पुलिस जिला भोपाल // क्रमांक/पु.उपा./न.पु./भो/रनि/निविदा/838/24 दिनांक :- 22.07.2024 सूचना पत्र

°मध्यप्रदेश भण्डार क्रय नियम तथा सेवा उपार्जन नियम 2015 (यथा संसोधित 2022)" के बिन्द क्रमांक 37 (1) एवं 37 (11) में निहित प्रावधान अनसार नगरीय पुलिस भोपाल में विभागीय परिसंपत्तियों का संधारण अंतर्गत प्रशासकीय भवनों एवं आवासों में मरम्मत कार्य कराये जाने हेतु फर्मो/संस्था/विभाग की सूची तैयार की जाना है। इच्छक फर्म/संस्था/विभाग निम्नानुसार दस्तावेज/शर्तो के अधीन इस इकाई में सूचीबद्ध हो सकते है :-

- फर्म को राज्य शासन द्वारा अधिकृत पात्र और सक्षम फर्म के रूप में पंजीकृत होना चाहिए इस संबंध में पंजीयन की छायाप्रति।
- 2. फर्म के जी.एस.टी. पंजीयन की छायाप्रति।
- प्रोपराइटर को पेन कार्ड एवं आधार कार्ड की छायाप्रति।
- फर्म/प्रोपराइटर का अद्यतन ई-मेल, बैक खाता विवरण एवं मोबाईल न. (फर्म के लेटर हेड पर)
- विगत 02 वर्षों का टर्न ओवर/टैक्स रिटर्न का विवरण प्रस्तुत करना होगा।
- 7. शासकीय विभागों में किये गये कार्यों के अनुभव संबंधी दस्तावेज/कार्यादेश
- संस्था/फर्म का वार्षिक टर्नओवर 50 लाख से कम नहीं होना चाहिए।
- चाहिए, इस संबंध में फर्म द्वारा अपने लेटर हेड पर प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करें।
- पुराना नगर नियंत्रण कक्ष से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।
- 11. इच्छुक फर्मो की प्री मीटिंग का आयोजन दिनांक 01.08.2024 के 12:00 बजे रक्षित निरीक्षक कार्यालय पुराना नगर नियंत्रण कक्ष भोपाल में होगा, जिसमें उपस्थित होना अनिवार्य है।
- 12. इच्छुक फर्म/संस्था/विभाग इस इकाई में दिनांक 13.08.2024 के 17.00 बजे तक दस्तावेज पुराना नगर नियंत्रण कक्ष में जमा कर सकत है।
- 13. दिनांक 14.08.2024 को 12.00 बजे कार्यालय रक्षित निरीक्षक, पुराना नगर नियंत्रण कक्ष भोपाल में फर्म द्वारा प्रस्तुत दस्तावेजो का परीक्षण किया जावेगा। दस्तावेजो में सफल फर्मों को इस इकाई में उपरोक्त कार्यो हेतु सूचीबद्ध की कार्यवाही की जावेगा।

पुलिस उपायुक्त, (मुख्यालय)

#### **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**

G-13804/24

Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division) 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.) Case No.: RC/717/2019 in O.A. No. 1518/2018

"I hope the amount earned (after the auction) will reduce my financial hardships and take care of my education, Gaud said. The labourer said he exulted after finding the precious stone in a leased mine at Krishna Kalyanpur and promptly deposited it with land," he said. the government authorities. The gem-quality diamond will be put for sale in the next auction, said Anupam Singh, an official from the Panna diamond office. alty and taxes.

Raju Gaud said when he set

out in the morning to dig

mud and sift through it, a

daily routine in monsoon

months for the past ten

years, he hadn't imagined he

would strike a fortune.

on Thursday



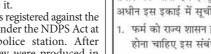
said. Gaud said he drove a tractor earlier and his family earned a livelihood from labour work. He has been taking small

mines on lease during the rains for the past ten years in the hope of getting lucky someday. Gaud said he took the mine,

where he found the diaon lease about

When he protested, they assaultaround 12 noon, some antisocial elements came to the ed him. school in the name of Vidyarthi The police have registered an FIR on the complaint of the Parishad. They asked for donaschool management. A case has tions for registration in the been registered under sections Vidyarthi Parishad from all the children and principal Kamlesh of assault, intimidation and abuse. Rathore.





- फर्म के जी.एस.टी. पंजीयन की छायाप्रति।
- फर्म को किसी भी शासकीय संस्थान द्वारा ब्लेक लिस्ट घोषित नही किया जाना
- 10. रूपये 100/- के स्टॉम्प पर शपथ पत्र प्रारूप "अ" के अनुसार होगा। जिसे

नगरीय पुलिस, भोपाल

#### BANK OF BARODA VS Bhaiyaji Patel E-AUCTION NO. 197/2024

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website https://www.bankeauctions.com for recovery of a sum of Rs. 14,71,414.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh

Mayor Malti Rai, BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma, BMC Council Speaker Kishan Suryavanshi and others perform a bhoomi pujan for the preparation of Durga Puja

The chairman of the school is Gyanendra Bhatnagar while his

Pandal of Bittan Market Haat Vyapari Sangh ahead of the Navratri festival in Bhopal Pioneer photo

son Abhinav Bhatnagar is the

#### Tiger movement witnessed in Bhopal

**Bhopal:** Tiger movement has been reported at two places in Bhopal. A tiger hunted a cow near Motherbull Farm on Kerwa Road, while it attacked a cow in Bairagarh Chichli. People are terrified due to the tiger's movement while forest department teams are also

searching. Motherbull Farm is near the forest area. Tigers keep moving in the surrounding areas. In such a situation, they also come to the farm, 7 months ago, a tigress had reached there while hunting a pig. Apart from this, a tiger jumped over an 8 feet high boundary wall to hunt a street dog. Last month in June, the tiger

had reached near the farm's Modern Dairy and now a cow has been hunted around the farm.

DFO Alok Pathak said, a cow has been hunted at night. Search is being done.

The second case of tiger hunting was reported in the Bairagarh Chichli area. A tiger attacked Vikas Meena's cow here. Vikas said the cow had gone to graze in the forest on Wednesday. Then the tiger attacked it, but the cow escaped and came to the verandah of the house. When we saw it on Thursday morning, the cow was in a bloody state. It had deep wounds on its back and legs. It was treated by a veterinary doctor. The forest department team also conducted a search.

months ago. "I have deposit-Residential Add .: Shiva Apartment Flat No. 21 E-7 Arera Color Reg Add.: E-7/74 SBI Colony, Arera Colony Bhopal 462016 ed it at the Government Factory Add .: Plot No. 21, Sector E, New Industrial Area Bagro Diamond Office. I'll spend Guarantor: (2) Mr. Devilal S/o Kunwar Lal the money on my children's (i) House No. 68, Deep Mohini, Ward No. 61, Khajuri Kalan, Bl education and buy farm-(ii) 4th Grade Employee of RBI Arera Hills Bhopa (3) Mrs. Leela Verma W/o Mr. Mangi Lal Verma Address: (i) House No. 13 Sai Laxmi Homes, Near Krishna Ten Khajuri Kalan, Bhopal MP 462022 Officials said the raw diamond would be auctioned (ii) H. No. 2484 Durga Mandir, Behind Krishi Upaj Mandi Board and the proceeds would be Arera Hills Bhopal MP given to the labourer after (iii) 13, Pitambara Homes, Takshila Farmhouse, Bhopal 462022 deducting government roy-Date & Place : Bhopal, 23/07/2024

y Bhopal	Sub- Distt. Huzur.	11/03/2024 Possession Notice
da Bhopal	Admeasuring 630 Square feet and bearing CTS/Survey Nos.	23/07/2024
hopal MP	Part of Khasra No. 373/3,374/3,375/2/1 Bounded by: North: Temple.	
nple	East: Others Land, South: Road, West: Plot No. 14	
l Office, 2	This property is owned by Mangi Lal Verma	

**Chief Manager & Authorised Officer** 

# har

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069 Vidisha Branch : 1st Floor, Gaurav Business Square, Opposite Adani Wilmar Plant, Sanchi Road, Vidisha - 464001 (M.P.)

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

#### **E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of 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, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1	(Loan Code No. 07600000565 / Vidisha Branch) Chandra Sekhar Mishra (Borrower), Meena Mishra (Co-Borrower), Vijay Kumar Sahu (Guarantor)	12-10-2022 & ₹ 8,78,347/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No. 291 1 2 Ward No 21 Ashutosh Nagar Village Rajonda Near Idgah Masjid, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh - 464221 <b>Boundaries</b> : East- House of Rakesh, West- House of Maharaj, North- Land of Mani, South- 20' Gali	₹ 7,00,000/-	₹ 70,000/-	Physical
2	(Loan Code No. 07600000016 / Vidisha Branch) Shila Chauhan (Borrower), Roshan Singh Chouhan (Co-Borrower)	08-09-2022 & ₹ 9,33,007/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No 287 PH No 24 Ward No 06 Bijasan Mata Mandir Near SBI Bank Ward No 5, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh - 464221 <b>Boundaries</b> : East- 10' Gali, West- 4' Naali, North- House of Santosh Sahu, South- House of Suneel Jain	₹ 11,50,464/-	₹ 1,15,046/-	Physical

1. Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is 09-08-2024 within 5:00 PM at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on https://bankeauctions.com. Tenders documents received bevond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.

Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 10-08-2024 on https://bankeauctions.com at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.

The Demand Draft Should be made in favorof 'Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only.

Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://bankeauctions.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.

- 6. The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link https://bankeauctions.com/registration/ signup, and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website https://bankeauctions.com
- For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, Lokendra Rathore. (Contact: 9977783890) OR the service provider M/s C INDIA PVT LTD, Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: tn@c1india.com & support@bankeauctions.com. Phone No. +917291981124/25/26 As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets
- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. www.aadharhousing.com

The Bid incremental amount for auction is Rs.1000/-.

Place : Madhva Pradesh Date : 26-07-2024

(Authorised Officer) For Aadhar Housing Finance Limite

Place: Jabalpur

Date: 19-07-2024

Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Fourteen only) payable by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A.No.1518/2018 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at 10.50% p.a. with simple Interest from 04-12-2018 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

#### Date and Time of E-auction: 29-08-2024 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours. SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE

Prop.No.1 Agricultural Land bearing Khasra No.17, PC No. 36, area admeasuring 3.050 Hectare, Village- Karari Manakwara, RNM- Katangi, Tehsil- Patan, District- Jabalpur (M.P.) Property belonging to Bhaiyaii Patel S/o Shankar Lal Patel.

#### Upset Price : Rs. 27,10,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Ten Thousand Only)

Conditions of Sale: (1) Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt.Ltd. website: https://www.bankeauctions.com; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@c1india.com or E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com (2) Intending bidders are advised to go through website https://www.bankeauctions.com for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids. (3) Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder should satisfy them self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this. (4) 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price Rs.2,71,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy One Thousand only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account no. 31067074055 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT Jabalpur with STATE BANK OF INDIA, RIDGE ROAD BRANCH. JABALPUR (IFSC Code:SBIN0007208) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form. (5) Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 27-08-2024 online. (6) A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-11, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest. (7) Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be Rs. 30.000.00 (Rupees Thirty Thousand only). In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system. (8) The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained, After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited. (9) In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his / her favour through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account No. 31067074055 mentioned in SL. No. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited. (10) The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with poundage of 1% of sale amount plus Rs. 10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account No. 31067074055 mentioned at SL. No. 04 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. (11) Property will be sold "As is Where is and No Complaint basis". (12) The properties can be inspected on 21-08-2024 between 12.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs. (13) Properties will not be sold below the upset price. (14) Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone / cancel the sale without assigning any reason. (15) Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the Shri Amit Maurya, Chief Manager, Mob. No. 7880153116 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc. (16) Details regarding e-auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: https://www.bankeauctions.com; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail idmpcg@c1india.com or E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com (17) Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Shri Amit Maurya, Chief Manager, Mob. No. 7880153116. (18) The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT / Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

#### Vaatsalva Kumar Recovery Officer I, DRT Jabalpur (M.P.)



# LS adjourned twice

#### PNS NEW DELHI

 $T_{adjourned twice in the}^{he Lok Sabha was}$ post-lunch period on Thursday as a war of words broke out between the treasury and Opposition benches, triggered by Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi's spat with BJP's Ravneet Singh Bittu.

Participating in a debate on the Union Budget, Channi referred to the assassination of Bittu's grandfather, former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh. This led to a war of words between Channi and Bittu, who recently quit the Congress to join the BJP.

Bittu, the Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries, countered by mak ing certain personal remarks against Channi and former Congress President Sonia Gandhi, triggering an uproar. Amid the angry exchange of words, Congress member Amrinder Singh Raja Warring tried to enter the Well of the House, but was stopped by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.From the treasury benches, Bittu also tried to enter the Well.

BJP member Sandhya Ray, who was in the chair, then adjourned the proceedings for 30 minutes till 2 pm. When the House reconvened, Defence Minister and Deputy

Leader of the Lok Sabha Rajnath Singh urged Speaker

Om Birla to remove any unparliamentary references and continue with the debate. Birla also directed the treasury and the opposition members to

maintain the dignity of the House, adding that ministers especially should not break minister.

Channi also accused the government of not keeping its promises to the farmers. Commerce Minister Piyush Goval intervened and accused

authenticate the allegations he



party members of obstructing his speech and alleged that the government was overlooking farmers. He stressed that the farmers had several demands,

including one for a loan waivthe rules. Channi then proceeded to conclude his speech. As he alleged that National Security Act provisions were He mentioned the meeting of Rahul Gandhi with some invoked against protesting farmer leaders on Wednesday, farmers, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said adding that they had also sought time to meet the prime Channi should authenticate the allegations and accused

him of misleading the House. Rijiju also urged the chair to move a privilege motion against Channi. The war of words between the ruling and the Congress MP of misleading the opposition benches went on even after Channi concluded the House, saying he should his speech

As Nationalist Congress Party MP Tatkare Sunil Dattatrey started his speech, Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee objected to a Minister taking the seat next to the member. Speaker Birla clarified that seats have not been allotted yet, and the Minister was sitting on a seat meant for NDA members.Banerjee then said he would also sit on a different seat, and sat on the treasury benches' side. He later returned to his seat. As the ruckus continued, Jagadambika Pal, who was then in chair, adjourned the House till 3 pm. The House resumed normal functioning after it met at 3 pm. Speaking outside Parliament

later, Bittu accused former Punjab Chief Minister Channi of indulging in "anti-national" behaviour.

"An ex-CM was behaving like an anti-national, and is misleading the world through the House. What did he do? He said NSA was imposed on farmers, while NSA has been imposed on those who were trying to divide the country and Punjab," Bittu said.

"An ex-CM made remarks that were aimed at dividing the country and Punjab, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was sitting there. When I said on the floor that he should provide evidence, he went on back-foot.

The Congress party and INDI alliance have been embarrassed because of him," Bittu said.

# Naidu promises enquiry into MPs charges of abrupt airfare hike

#### PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Thursday promised to conduct an enquiry into allegations of abrupt fare hike when MPs try to book tickets on Air Vistara airline, following complaints by MPs and a nudge by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. He assured the House that his primary focus remains on enhancing the 'Ease of Flying' for all citi-

zens Raising the issue during Question Hour in Lok Sabha through a supplementary question, DMK member Dayanidhi Maran alleged that whenever he tries to book ticket on Air Vistara for the Chennai-Delhi route, initially it shows a price in the range of around Rs 25,000. However, by the time he concludes the whole booking process, the fare goes up by two to three times more, he alleged.

The DMK leader wondered whether some technology applied by TCS, a software giant belonging to the same Tata group, drives up the air fare.

Intervening in the discussion, Birla said he had received similar complaints from a few other MPs too and the matter should be thoroughly investigated as the "money of the tickets goes from Parliament". At this, the Minister replied: "We will get the matter



inquired".Parliament sources in multiple levels (buckets or said the MPs are entitled to RBDs) which are in line with travel by business class. the practice being followed globally and due to dynamic Replying to another question, Naidu said ever since he has fare pricing, the tickets bought taken over the charge of the in advance are much cheaper civil aviation ministry, he has than those purchased near the been trying make air travel travel date. He said under the provisions of Rule 135(1) of the Aircraft affordable for the common people.However, he said, the air Rules, 1937, the airlines are free fare is market driven and lots of factors come into play while to fix tariffs, having regard to deciding the fare of any sector. all relevant factors, including 'Customer is king and that is cost of operation, characteristhe priority of the ministry. We tics of services, generally prevailing tariff etc. "DGCA's Tariff Monitoring will do whatever we can to

he said The Minister also said that he will look into the allegations of high air fare during holiday season on international routes. "As far as regulation of airfare is concerned, the government does not regulate the fares set by airlines- Indian or foreign. The fares on any route are dependent on seasonality, holidays and festivals, cost of aviation turbine fuel, competition and other similar factors," he said.

make the air travel affordable,"

Naidu said airline pricing runs port from his peers.

### Govt committed to free, fair recruitment tests, Minister assures RS

nation 04

#### PNS NEW DELHI

There has been no incident of paper leak reported in the recruitment examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), during the last two years, the Rajya Sabha was

informed on Thursday. "Recently, National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted NEET(UG) examination on May 5, 2024 in OMR (Pen and paper) mode. Certain cases of alleged irregularities/cheating/impersonation/malpractices were reported," Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written

reply. After review, the matter was entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for comprehensive investigation on June 22, 2024, he said.

"No incidence/event of paper leakage has been reported in the recruitment examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), during the last two years," Singh said.In order to provide for prevention of unfair means in public examinations, the Government has enacted the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair means) Act, 2024, which has been brought into force vide and subsequently rules under this law have also been notified, he added. The Minister also informed the Upper House that the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) is conducting a detailed study of the prevalent recruitment systems in central and State Governments to conduct a free and fair examination.

The NRA, mandated to conduct online examinations to screen Government job aspirants, was given an approval in

2020 by the Union cabinet. 'NRA is conducting a detailed study of the prevalent recruitment systems in central and State Governments and the procedure followed by various Public Examination Authorities (PEAs) for conduct of examination and also examining the issues which are likely to arise in the new examination system and address them ab initio so conduct examination," Singh said in a written reply. The Minister was responding to a query whether the NRA has conducted any recruitment tests since its inception. Singh said the NRA is also in the process of developing protocols and policy frameworks to address various issues associated with conduct of the new examination system as well as evolving effective means for ensuring compliance of normative standards and guidelines by all concerned.He said four Governing Body meetings have been held since the inception of the NRA, which functions from its headquarters at New Delhi.

### Chhattisgarh tribals hit by Left extremism unwilling to return

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Tribal families displaced I from Chhattisgarh due to Leftwing extremism are unwilling to return to the state despite the availability of rehabilitation schemes and security arrangements through security camps, the Government told Parliament.

Replying to a question by Congress MP Phulo Devi Netam, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey told the Rajya Sabha that the State Government had formed teams to conduct surveys in the adjoining districts of neighbouring Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to identify



# Army contingent leaves for multinational military exercise in Mongolia

PNS NEW DELHI

Madras Regiment along with An Indian Army contingent on Thursday departed for the Multinational Military personnel from other arms and Services. One Woman Officer and two Women Soldiers will Exercise KHAAN QUEST. The also form part of the contingent. exercise is scheduled to be con-Aim of Exercise KHAAN ducted from July 27-August 9 at QUEST is to prepare Indian Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, defence Armed Forces for peacekeeping

RS discusses makhana MSP, Ekalavya schools, Dattatreya Temple

#### PNS NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday saw debate on issues like minimum support price (MSP) to makhana (fox nut) farmers in Bihar, staff recruitment in Ekalavya schools and an appeal to the Government to allocate ₹ 83.52 crore for the development of the Ganagapura Dattatreya Temple in Karnataka's Kalaburagi.

Raising the makhana issue, RJD MP A D Singh urged the troops from a battalion of the Government to establish a makhana farmers' cooperative in Bihar, and extend minimum support price (MSP) for the crop.Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Singh highlighted that Bihar accounts for about 90 per (fox nut) production, with cultivation primarily concentrated in nine districts of the Mithila region. The crop is largely grown by the Malar community. "Despite its significance, farmers are not receiving fair prices for their produce," Singh said, pointing out the stark disparity between international wholesale rates and farmers' earnings. "While makhana fetches up to Rs 8,000 per kg in the international market, farmers struggle to get even Rs 400 per kg due to lack of Government support," he said. Emphasising the labour-inten-



sive nature of fox nut cultivation, Singh advocated for the formation of a cooperative to improve the livelihood of the Malar community. He urged the Government to implement an MSP regime for

the crop. Fox nut is recognised for its high nutritional value. Bihar's

recent shift in recruitment from State Governments to the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS). This centralised approach, aimed at addressing teacher shortages across 400 EMRS by filling 38,000 positions nationally, has led to unintended

The MP highlighted the inef-

ficiencies arising from the

years," he added.

Siva urged the Government to revert the recruitment responsibility to respective State Governments. "Education is on the concurrent list. I urge the Government to bring it back to the state list," he emphasised, calling for serious consideration of the issue. BJP MP Jaggesh urged the Government to allocate Rs 83.52 crore for the development of the Ganagapura Dattatreya Temple in

Unit (TMU) ensures that the

fares being charged by the air-

lines are as per the tariff estab-

At present, there is no propos-

al in the ministry to intervene

with the existing regulatory framework on airfare," he said.

Naidu, in his debut session,

demonstrated exceptional

capability by proactively addressing the MPs' questions

and providing comprehensive answers. His performance was

met with admiration and sup-

lished by the airlines.

Dattatreya Karnataka's Kalaburagi. Speaking in Kannada during Zero Hour, Jaggesh highlighted the temple's significance as a major pilgrimage site located on the banks of the River Bhima. He noted that devotees from across the country visit the holy place."The temple rounded by houses and shops. It's becoming difficult to manage the increasing number of pilgrims and provide adequate facilities," Jaggesh said. The MP emphasised the need for widening roads connecting to the temple. He mentioned that the Dattatreya Samithi has prepared a master plan for the development. In a separate appeal, BJP MP Sikandar Kumar called for improving rail connectivity to the Tara Devi and Hanuman temples in Himachal Pradesh. The demands come as part of ongoing efforts to enhance infrastructure at religious sites across the country.

Chhattisgarh due to leftwing extremism.

He said a total of 10,489 tribal people from 2,389 families were displaced from the Sukma, Bijapur and Dantewada districts due to leftwing extremism. A total of 9,702 tribal people were displaced from Sukma, 579 from Bijapur and 208 from Dantewada.

"The families so affected were unwilling to return to their original villages/place despite providing them the information of rehabilitation schemes of the State Government and the security arrangement available through security camps," the Minister said.

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes had, in July 2019, asked Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra to conduct a survey to ascertain the number of tribal people displaced due to leftwing extremism before December 13, 2005, so that a process could be initiated to rehabilitate them.

The states were given three months to complete the survey. In October 2019, the home ministry also wrote to these State Governments to determine how many tribal people had been displaced from Chhattisgarh.According to tribal rights activists who have repeatedly raised the issue with the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and the tribal affairs ministry, an estimated 50,000 tribal people were displaced from Chhattisgarh due to leftwing extremism. They now live in 248 settlements in the forests of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.

These people are living in deplorable conditions without access to drinking water and electricity. They receive lower wages and most of them do not have ration cards or voter IDs, making it impossible to prove their citizenship, one tribal rights activist told PTI.

Giving details, officials said the exercise will bring together military forces from around the world to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities. Last edition of Exercise KHAAN QUEST was

conducted in Mongolia from June 19-July 2 last year. The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003. Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise with current year being the 21st iteration. The Indian Army contingent comprising 40 personnel is being represented mainly by

erating in a multinational environment, thereby increasing interoperability and military readiness in peace support operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter. The exercise will focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning and joint tactical drills.

Tactical drills to be practiced during the exercise will include establishment of Static and Mobile Check Points, Cordon and Search Operations, Patrolling, Evacuation of Civilians from Hostile Area, Counter Improvised Explosive Device drills, Combat First Aid and Casualty Evacuation, among others

check it.

many days to talk to you as

today's kids are very talented.

There is so much to learn

from them," she said, address-

ing the class of 53 students.

At the beginning of her inter-

tonnes constitutes 90 per cent of the national output. Notably, India caters to 80 per cent of the global fox nut demand. Singh also noted that fox nut thrives in water-abundant areas, making it a suitable crop for certain regions of Bihar.

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva urged the Government to hand back the responsibility of staff recruitment for the Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) to State Governments. Speaking during Zero Hour, Siva cited concerns over decreased student engagement due to hiring of individuals from North India for schools in the South.

consequences, according to Siva." The first batch of 303 principals, 707 junior secretarial assistants, and other staff now primarily consists of individuals from North Indian states appointed across South India," Siva said. He argued that this mismatch is detrimental to education, where understanding local tribal culture and context is crucial.

The DMK leader pointed out that the mandatory Hindi requirement in hiring criteria has resulted in communication gaps, affecting teaching effectiveness. "New staff members are burdened with learning the local language within two



### Shekhar new IFFI director PNS NEW DELHI

Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, known for films such as 'Mr India,' Bandit Queen' and 'Elizabet', has been appointed festival director for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Kapur will head the festival, held annually in Goa, for the 55th and 56th editions, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said in a notification.

"With the approval of the Competent Authority, it has been decided to appoint Shri Shekhar Kapur as the Festival Director for the 55th and 56th editions of the International Film Festival of India, Goa," the notification read. among others.

PNS NEW DELHI "Around the world, scientists, people, administrators and President Droupadi Murmu, rulers conduct symposiums, who completed two years in summits and seminars on a office on Thursday, took up the very big problem. role of a teacher and interact-Do you know what it is?" ed with students on the issue of President Murmu asked and global warming and ways to

immediately got answers as climate change", "global warm-During an interactive session ing" and "environmental polwith Class 9 students of Dr lution".

Rajendra Prasad Kendriya The president said she was Vidyalaya in the President's taught in school about six sea-Estate here, she emphasised the sons but "we feel only four". need for water conservation "Out of these four, we feel and encouraged them to plant summer for the maximum time because of global warmmore trees in a bid to reduce the impact of climate change. "I was thinking for the past

Day by day, the temperature is rising and not only humans but animals, birds and trees all feel its impact," President Murmu said.

Because of global warming, parts of the country face drought. Thus, there is a need action, the President asked the students about their ambitions to conserve water, she said. and subjects they liked and "Children also know that the expressed her happiness after environment is getting pollutlearning that they aspired to ed and we should plant more become scientists and doctors,



President educates students on

global warming, climate change



We should also take steps to reduce water wastage and conserve it. We should make rainwater harvesting pits to con-serve water," President Murmu said.

Asserting that more trees than needed were being cut, the President said there was a need to have more trees, conserve forests and reduce air pollution, then "we will be able to check (global warming) in future". She also talked about the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and asked the students to plant a tree on their birthdays.

"I really felt very good inter-acting with you all. I got the opportunity to learn a lot from you. You are studying in Class 9 and you are so talented. You are very aware about the impact of global warming.

I am sure, when you grow up, global warming will definitely be reduced (with all people's effort)," she said while concluding her interaction on the day she completed two years of her presidency. Born on June 20, 1958, at

Uparbeda village in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, she was sworn in as the country's 15th president on July 25, 2022. Before taking over the top constitutional office, she was the governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021.

An avid reader with a keen interest in spirituality, President Murmu has devoted her life to empowering the downtrodden and the marginalised sections, besides deepening the democratic values

#### PNS NEW DELHI

hief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has conveyed his felicitations and wishes to all ranks of the armed forces on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War.

In his message, he underscored that the supreme sacrifices made by the brave hearts in Kargil War, will not go in vain. "It will continue to inspire and motivate future generations of not only soldiers but also the youth of the nation," he said. Highlighting the uniqueness of the Kargil War, the CDS said, there were lessons in the war

for not only the military but for all those who deal with national security. He stressed that the lessons learnt by shedding blood must not be forgotten, the mistakes must not be repeated and the right lessons must be reinforced.

Regarding the ongoing reforms in the Armed Forces, General Chauhan underlined that the Tri-services are on the threshold of a major reform, that



CDS greets armed forces

on Kargil anniversary

range from organisational, structural, conceptual to cultural.

"The underlying aim of these reforms is to improve fighting efficiency and keep the Armed Forces battle ready at all times. We must be prepared to shed the obsolete practices and adopt new ones. The shape and contour of reforms must reflect the uniqueness of the Indian environment and challenges," he said. On the occasion, CDS assured the citizens that the Armed Forces remain enthused with new energy as the nation steps into the Amritkaal and are determined to march in step with the rest of the country to make India a 'Viksit Bharať.



# **Pandemonium in K'taka House over MUDA scam**

#### PTI BENGALURU

crimonious scenes Amarked proceedings in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday with opposition BJP and JD(S) protesting from the well of the demanding House, discussion on the alleged fraudulent allotment of sites to land losers by Mysuru Development (MUDA), Urban Authority including to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi. Citing rules, Speaker U T Khader on Wednesday rejected the Opposition's notice for an adjournment motion on the MUDA case, causing a setback to their plans to corner Siddaramaiah and the Congress

government. The opposition thereafter had announced that they would stage "day-and-night" dharna in both Legislative Assembly and Council demanding discussion on the issue. The legislators of the two parties stayed back after the Assembly and Council were adjourned for the day on Wednesday and spent the night in the two Houses, continuing their protest.

As the House met for the day on Thursday, BJP and JD(S) members trooped into the well of the House, holding shouting placards and slogans.

Senior BJP MLA Sunil Kumar said: "Sites were taken in MUDA scam by violating all rules, but you (the Speaker) cite rules (while rejecting our demand for discussion). You don't take up the issue for



discussion. Were sites taken Gehlot on Wednesday, and asked: "Has the Governor in accordance with rules?' the He alleged that asked for an explanation on

government was trying to "cover up and shut" the case. the MUDA scam?' The Speaker then adjourned There seems to be a fear that the House for some time. if discussion happens the When the House met again, BJP and JD(S) MLAs continued their protest from truth will come out. Chair (Speaker's post) is being used for it. Please reconsider your decision and allow discussion. the well. Ashoka, Sunil Kumar and other opposition leaders once Where should we discuss if again urged Speaker Khader to allow discussion on the not in the House?" As Sunil Kumar and Leader of MUDA scam

Opposition R Ashoka accused the government of running away from debate and trying to misuse the Chair for it, away by obtaining the signature of one of their Congress MLAs including Ministers H K Patil and Cheluvarayaswamy took strong exception to this, resulting in some argument. Alleging that it was a case of Rs 3000-4000 crore scam,

Ashoka sought to know about the Chief Minister meeting the Governor Thaawarchand

not remain in power even for a second," he said.

"Fourteen sites were given to CM and registered to his family in a single day," Ashoka claimed.

protest Amid and sloganeering, the Speaker transacted the business of the House that saw several Ministers and heads of several House committees laying papers and reports on the table of the Assembly, and six bills being passed without any discussion.

Also, resolutions against the delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies based on the coming census, "One Nation, One Election" proposal and National National Entrance cum Eligibility Test (NEET) were adopted amid protest by opposition parties, without any discussion.

alleged that is compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by the MUDA.

Several supporters of Siddaramaiah too have allegedly "benefitted this way," BJP leaders alleged. The MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16

family members and without acres of her land, where MUDA developed a the consent of others, and alleged that the Chief residential layout. The controversial scheme Minister himself was involved

envisages allotting 50 per cent The CM who should protect of developed land to the land things, is himself involved in loser in lieu of undeveloped the scam. This scam needs to land acquired for forming be probed by CBI, CM should lavouts.

# **Bengal Assembly Speaker asks MLAs** to behave responsibly



and inappropriate".

treasury

benches.

stakeholders of the Assembly,"

in a provocative manner."

Chatterjee was around.

allegations

PTI 📕 KOLKATA

Aday after senior BJP Leader Suvendu Adhikari was involved in a verbal spat with Trinamool Congress MLA Tapan Chatterjee on the assembly premises, Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay on Thursday asked legislators to behave responsibly.

Adhikari had alleged that the TMC legislator abused him verbally and tried to assault him on the premises of the assembly. In a letter to the Speaker, the

BJP leader said he was feeling "insecure" in the assembly and demanded action against Chatteriee The TMC MLA, however, had

claimed he did not threaten or assault Adhikari but merely confronted him over some comments by the BJP leader against him and his daughter during an election meeting at his constituency.On the contrary, Chatterjee alleged, Adhikari had threatened him with dire consequences when he wanted his explanation at the assembly lobby for the comments.

incident since he disallowed entry of personal bodyguards

Taking a serious view of the of MLAs inside the assembly.

# Women in Goa village tap Govt scheme to weave secure future

#### PTI SURLA (GOA)

When a mining ban was imposed in Goa in 2012, the women in Surla village in Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's Sanquelim assembly constituency were the first to face its economic impact.

Surrounded by iron ore mines, the village with a population of about 4,000 saw its men become jobless after the ban. Their families faced incident, the Speaker said, hardships for years until the state government's Swayampurna Goa scheme What happened in the assembly premises yesterday triggered an agricultural and is unfortunate, unexpected micro-business revolution. The scheme, launched in 'We need to behave with

restraint. We need to conduct 2020, aims at making villages self-reliant. ourselves appropriately as Former sarpanch Vishranti Surlakar, who took up the initiative of creating he said addressing both

and opposition awareness among the women Referring to Adhikari's claim in the village, brought them that he and other opposition together under one roof to MLAs were feeling insecure in the House, Bandyopadhyay said, "Adequate security start a handloom centre, where traditional 'Kunbi sarees' are weaved.

arrangements are in place in the House but people's representatives should not act Kanekar. the Subraj Swayampurna Mitra for Surla, ensured that the Department of Handicraft, Textile and Adhikari was not present in Coir took over an abandoned the House when the Speaker school building for the project made the observation, but in 2020. Kanekar told PTI that the women from Surla The Speaker had said on Wednesday he has initiated requested him to procure machines to weave Kunbi sarees. The department also an investigation into the trained the women to operate of Adhikari.Adhikari, the BJP the machines. Since then, MLA of Nandigram, in his letter also held the Speaker they have been weaving sarees, shawls and other Kunbi products. "There is a somehow responsible for the market for these huge products," he said. When he met the residents,



Kanekar said he realised there was a need to revive five square kilometres of paddy fields that had been left abandoned by the men from the village who had become mining workers.

There was a need to revive the water table to facilitate farming. During the first monsoon, we dug trenches on a hill which charged the water table," he said.

Vishnu Natekar's Farmer cashew plantation on a hillock has become a for laboratory water harvesting under the Swayampurna Mitra scheme. "In the first year, we dug trenches which revived the water table. We dug around 1,200 trenches on the hill," said a beaming Natekar.

Swayampurna Mitra Kanekar said the villagers did not face any water scarcity this year. 'There was enough water even in the summer month of May. The experiment has worked," he said.

Under the scheme, Santosh Maulingkar has taken to pearl farming. Maulingkar said he underwent training in Pune before taking up this project.

# Telangana Govt presents Budget of ₹2.91 lakh cr

#### PTI HYDERABAD

The Telangana government n Thursday presented a Rs 2.91 lakh crore state budget for 2024-25, with the total revenue expenditure expected to be Rs 2.21 lakh crore and capital expenditure Rs 33,487 crore. In the past 10 years, the state has racked up an overall debt of Rs 6.71 lakh



#### and Rural Development department. The budget has also allocated Rs 10,000 crore for the development of the capital city of Hyderabad and Rs11,468 crore for the health department. After the Congress government took over, Rs 35,118 crore debt has been raised and loans of Rs 42.892 crore — including

# High drama inside Bihar Assembly

#### PTI PATNA

There was high drama inside the Bihar assembly on Thursday as opposition members conducted parallel "proceedings" in the well, expressing their lack of confidence in the ruling dispensation led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Several legislators wore black scarves in protest against the CM's disrespectful behaviour towards women MLAs the previous day, as well as the lathi-charge on Congress workers mai hing toward the

alleged failures of the NDA government.

Despite the commotion, Speaker Nand Kishor Yadav proceeded with the Question Hour, cautioning unruly members against disrupting the assembly's decorum. These are staff members of

the Vidhan Sabha. If anyone gets hurt due to your actions, I will have to take strict action, warned the Speaker to the opposition members seated in

Liberation legislature party leader

"Speaker" in the parallel assembly. After the Question Hour concluded, opposition protest in the well. MLAs staged a walkout, Mahboob Alam, the CPI(ML) alleging their voices were MLAs staged a walkout,

being ignored. peaker motions, moved by members of various opposition parties, and quipped "it is strange that those who moved these motions did not even bother to remain present". The Zero Hour was

conducted with the opposition in abstentia until the House was adjourned for lunch.

Meanwhile, the issue of the Chief Minister's conduct towards women MLAs was raised in the Upper House of the state legislature, which adjourned shortly after the Rahr session began Vidhan Sabha to highlight mockingly assumed the role of number of adjournment Emerging from the legislative former Chief Minister.

council, the leader of the opposition Rabri Devi lambasted the Chief Minister and his close aide Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan, the Union minister for fisheries, animal husbandry and

dairying. "Nitish Kumar alleges women MLAs in the opposition do not know or understand anything. Lalan accuses me of inability to understand the budget and claims I cannot sign a paper. Both should apologise for such misogynistic remarks", said

# nation 05

crore, according to Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Ministry In-charge Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka who tabled the budget in the assembly. The total revenue has been estimated at Rs 2,90,814 crore, including Open Market Loans of over Rs 57,000 crore. Of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 17,730 crore would go towards interest payments during the fiscal. The state's fiscal deficit has been pegged at Rs 49,255.41 crore in the 2024-25 budget, while it showed a revenue surplus of Rs 297.42 crore. The substantial rise in debt relative to income growth suggests heavy dependence on borrowings to fund expenditure, potentially endangering fiscal sustainability, Bhatti said. The persistent rise in debt far out-stripping income gains suggests that without stringent fiscal reforms, Telangana's economic health



could be at risk, necessitating measures to balance expenditure with revenue generation and dependence on borrowing, he added. "Telangana's debt has reached Rs 6.71 lakh crore mark. In the last 10 years, the state government debt has increased by 10 times without an attempt to streamline the development any proportionate to that," the minister said. The state government estimates that it will make Rs 1,38,181.26 crore revenue on its own and get Rs 35,208.44 in non-tax revenue and Rs 26,216.38 crore in tax revenue from Telangana's central share. allocations, Among Telangana has proposed to set apart Rs 72,659 crore for agriculture, Rs 21,292 crore for on education and Rs.22,301 crore for irrigation. Rs 29,816 crore has been set apart for the Panchayath Raj

and interest — have principa been repaid, Bhatti said. "It was a huge challenge for the

Ashoka said a Dalit family's

land has been illegally taken

in the scam.

newly-formed Congress government to manage the state which was in a financial shambles. However, we reduce started our administration by controlling frivolous expenditure and with a sense of financial discipline," the minister said. He said the state government has made system and to pay salaries and pensions in a timely manner to 3.69 lakh government employees and 2.87 lakh pensioners from March 2024. At current prices, Telangana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2023-24 stands at Rs14,63,963 crore, which is 11.9 per cent. Meanwhile, BRS chief and former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao attended the assembly today for the first time in the capacity of leader of Opposition, according to party sources.

#### 16 out of 102 Vande Bharat trains catering Indo-Bangla border to needs of Maharashtra: Railway Minister number of trains proposed to

PTI NEW DELHI

Out of 102 Vande Bharat operating in the country at present, 16 are catering to the needs of the people of Maharashtra, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

The minister was responding on Wednesday to the questions raised by Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Omprakash Bhupalsinh alias Pavan Rajenimbalkar, who wanted to know the details of the proposed number of 'Vande Bharat Express' trains and their routes for Maharashtra.

"As on 19th July, 2024, 102 Vande Bharat Express services



are operating on the Indian Railways network. Of these, 16 Vande Bharat Services are catering to the needs of the stations located in the State of Maharashtra," Vaishnaw said. factories. "Besides, introduction of new train services, including Vande

Bharat Express services, is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, resource availability, etc," the minister added. tourist

Rajenimbalkar also asked the

be launched by the government in the current financial year, particularly to connect the tourist destinations of Maharashtra with other states, and the details of the coach factories set up in the country along with the total production capacity of Vande Bharat Express trains from these coach

'Indian Railways (IR) have issued 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' policy in November 2021 with said. the objective to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places through Bharat Gaurav Trains. These are theme-based circuits trains,"

Vaishnaw said.

# centre in Assam's Salmara reopens after 4 years

#### PTI MANKACHAR (ASSAM)

 $T_{\rm immigration\ centre\ along}^{\rm he\ border\ trade\ and}$ India-Bangladesh the boundary, closed for the last four years since the outbreak of COVID-19, reopened formally on Thursday in Assam's South Salmara district, an official

Mankachar's AIUDF MLA Aminul Islam along with senior district officials were present on the occasion. Islam said the closure of the centre had led to great difficulties for students, traders and even

patients coming for medical treatment from the neighbouring country to the State. During the last four years, the people from the lower and central part of Assam had to go to Bangladesh either via Meghalaya's Dawki or through Kolkata, which caused immense inconvenience to them, he said. Assam has two immigration centres for Bangladesh - one at Sutarkandi in Karimganj district, which was also closed during the pandemic but later reopened, and the other at Mankachar.

# Maharashtra Govt asks Karnataka to release more water from Almatti dam to avoid flooding

Ghats

#### PTI 📕 MUMBAI

 $\mathbf{I}_{parts}^{n \text{ view of heavy rainfall in}} \operatorname{of}_{western}^{n \text{ view of heavy rainfall in}}$ Maharashtra, the state government has urged Karnataka to release more water from Almatti dam to avoid flooding in Sangli and Kolhapur districts, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said on Thursday. Almatti dam, officially known as Lal Bahadur Shastri dam, is a hydroelectric project on the Krishna river in north Karnataka. Speaking to reporters, he said, "The reporters, he said, Maharashtra government has asked Karnataka to increase the water discharge from Almatti dam to three lakh cusec from the current



outflow of 2.5 lakh cusec." The water storage of Koyna dam in Maharashtra's Satara district increased by six thousand million cubic feet (TMC) in a very short period, and it is already 75 per cent filled, he said. "It means, we need to discharge water from Koyna dam, which will increase the water levels of

is the biggest tributary of the Krishna river, which flows to the south and enters The Karnataka, crossing Sangli city and Kolhapur district. Mahabaleshwar, one of the highest points in the Western in Satara, has witnessed very heavy rainfall over the last few days. In the last 24 hours, the region has received more than 400 mm of rainfall, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) official said. The rainfall in Mahabaleshwar contributes to the storage of the Koyna dam. "If water discharge is not increased Krishna river," he said. Koyna dam is built on the Koyna river and its storage capacity is 105 TMC. The Koyna river flooding, which will affect the management department.

citizens and incur heavy agricultural losses," he said water resources department also needs to release around 11,000 cusec water from Warna dam in Kolhapur that will further reach the Krishna river, increasing the chances of flooding. Hence, we requested the Almatti dam Hence, prevent them. authorities to increase their discharge," Pawar said. In the last few years, flooding in Sangli and Kolhapur districts have led to the death of people. The agricultural losses incurred from flooding have run into thousands of crores in recent years, revealed data from the state disaster

# All acts of violence should be condemned: Manipur CM

#### PTI IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on **IVI**Biren Singh on Thursday said all acts of should violence be universally condemned and efforts must be made to

Singh made these comments at the launch of a book programme by the Department of Sericulture and Manipur Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. He said, "Peace has gradually

returned to the state and we must collectively strive to maintain it. All our demands, including the identification

implementation of the NRC, should strictly adhere to constitutional and legal We frameworks. must denounce acts of violence and work actively to prevent them."

Singh also responded to allegations by the Congress that no aid was mentioned for Manipur in the Union Budget. Without directly naming the grand old party, Singh said, "The central government has consistently supported relief efforts since the beginning, regardless of whether the state was mentioned in Parliament or not. Let us refrain from indulging in petty politics. of illegal immigrants and the The Centre has provided

assistance for constructing prefabricated homes and daily food provisions. A total of Rs 145 crore has been allocated for managing relief camps.

He added, "Rs 3 crore was spent on distributing television sets in relief camps, and Rs 23 crore was distributed in Rs 1,000 installments to each person residing in relief camps, on at least four occasions. Additionally, Rs 44 crore was utilised for children's personal and nutrition hygiene, while Rs 19 crore was allocated as compensatory packages for agricultural and related activities?

Singh added, "Rs 25,000 has been disbursed as the first installment to 6,000 families under the special assistance package for violence-affected families, with each family set to receive Rs 1 lakh."

He addressed criticisms, stating, "Those engaging in politics petty have misrepresented the government's efforts for relief camp residents?

Singh continued, "Even disastrous amidst the hailstorms and floods in recent months, Rs 80 crore was allocated for flood relief, and Rs 45 crore was spent on distributing GI sheets to 42,000 people whose homes were damaged by hailstorms."

🗧 BHOPAL | FRIDAY | JULY 26, 2024 the pioneer



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

#### -PAPER WITH PASSION-

# **Reaching out**

Netanyahu seeks support for Gaza war during US Congress speech, despite many senators skipping it

sraeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called for US solidarity in his address to Congress, despite declining popularity and increasing opposition in his own country. In an address to the United States Congress, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to rally American lawmakers behind Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza. The speech, delivered amidst a backdrop of escalating violence and rising civilian casualties, underscored Netanyahu's determination to secure unwavering support from Israel's most powerful ally. He emphasised the existential threats faced by Israel from militant groups operating in Gaza, particularly Hamas. The Prime Minister framed the military actions as a necessary response to ongoing rocket attacks and acts of terrorism that have plagued Israeli communities. However, Netanyahu's speech did not address the mounting international concerns regarding human rights violations in the Palestinian territories. Reports from various human rights organizations, including



Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have highlighted a range of human rights violations. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has been further exacerbated by a blockade that severely restricts the movement of people and goods, leading to shortages of essential supplies such as food, water, and medical care. The present Gaza offensive, which has gone over 250 days, has left a spree of death and destruction. According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, at least 34,000 people have been killed, and more than 77,000 have been wounded in Israeli attacks. About 72 per cent of those killed are women and children. United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk has gone on record say-

ing that a child in Gaza is killed or wounded 'every 10 minutes.' Israel's actions violate international law and constitute collective punishment, disproportionately affecting innocent civilians and deepening the humanitarian crisis. The United States, as Israel's primary ally, plays a pivotal role in shaping the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This support has also placed the US under scrutiny, with calls for it to leverage its influence to promote peace and uphold human rights. The very weaponry provided by the US is being used by Israel against the civilian population in Palestine which is undergoing a horrendous time. There is growing advocacy within the US, both among the public and some members of Congress, for a more balanced approach. The US is urged to take a firm stand against human rights violations and to support diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving a sustainable and just resolution to the conflict. A sustainable peace can only be achieved through a comprehensive and inclusive approach that addresses the legitimate concerns of both parties. The US has a moral and strategic responsibility to advocate for human rights and justice in the region. The US can play a pivotal role in paving the lasting peace in the region by telling Netanyahu to comply with the UN directives on Gaza and stop bombing the civilian targets to minimise civilian casualties.



# Pushpa Kamal Dahal falls from grace

The new coalition, dominated by the pro-India Nepali Congress, will now be led by the communist leader Oli who will have a daunting task of ensuring political stability

oliticians have been grabbing the power by ollowing Machiavavillan principle of showing complete disrespect to means, the morali-ty and values. This is true of Pushpa Kamal Dahal who fell from the grace after facing humiliating defeat while seeking trust vote in Nepal parliament. While seeking trust vote in Nepal parliament, Prachnda faced the worst type of humiliating defeat as he got 63 votes (Rashtria Swatantra Party-21,CPN(US)-10 and his party-32)as against 194 votes of new coalition combination of Nepali Congress(89 MPs) and Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)(78 MPs) which also got support from other smaller parties like Rastriya Prajatantra Party(RPP), Janata Samajwadi Party(Upendra faction) etc. in the house of 275 where majority mark was 138 only. Oli has staked claim after president Ram Chandra Poedel invited the political parties having strength to form the government.

In a positive move, Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, the Foreign Affairs Department chief and a Standing Committee member of the CPN-UML emphasized that CPN-UML believes that Nepal's progress or the welfare of its people can be achieved only by adopting a Pro -India stance. He made it clear that the party's chairman, KP Sharma Oli, is keen on taking Nepal-India relations to new heights thereby aligning with the requirement and urgency of the modern era.

Due to fragile nature of democracy in Nepal, unabated and persistent instability has been trademark of the government which is evident from 16 time change of guards in the span of 13 years thereby hitting the interests of the common people in the country besides pushing the country into financial crisis and debt liabilities especially huge loans advanced by China.

In a midnight swoop and a dramatic turn of events on July 9, a secret deal was clinched between wo former Prime ministers viz. Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepali and K.P.S. Oli of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) which sealed the fate of current PM,Pushpa

Kamal Dahal, Prachanda. In this manner, yet another coalition of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and Nepali Congress came into existence today following the humiliating defeat of Prachanda, a diehard loyalist of China' on the floor of house .New regime will be headed by Ex PM,Oli which had preceded withdrawal of the support to current PM, on July 3, 2024 thereby reducing it into minority. The Janata Samajwadi party led by Ashok Rai having 7 PMs also withdrew the support and recalled three ministers from Prachanda government.

The coalition government will be dominated by Pro India, Nepali Congress, though a die-hard communist leader, former PM, Oli will be heading it for a term of one half year which will be followed by a takeover by former PM, Deuba of Nepali congress as agreed by two coalition partners. Foreign policy experts say that

major factors responsible for the collapse of collation of Prachnda-Oli, duo, included Power Struggle, style of functioning of prime minister, Policy Differences, Coalition Dynamics and Coalition Dynamics which may lead to more stable dispensation com-

midnight power sharing agreement between two former Prime ministers, viz. Sher Bahadur Deuba, and Nepali Congress and K.P.S.Oli chairman of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) was signed on July 5, 2024 thereby leading to a sudden change of regime in Nepal. New coalition government of Oli and Deuba is bound to face multiple challenges which will be key to success otherwise its fallout could be midterm polls. The fragile nature of the new OLI AND DEUBA government consisting of the communists (Pro China) and Nepali Congress (Pro India) COMBINE WILL BE UNDER having opposing ideologies

could pose a major challenge to keep them in unison and COMPULSION amalgamated. Oli and Deuba combine will TO KEEP EQUI-DISTANCE be under compulsion to keep equi-distance with two region-WITH TWO al powers viz. India and China which have got geo-political **REGIONAL POWERS** and strategic interests in the VIZ INDIA AND affairs of Nepal. Oli's previous stint as PM was marked by his CHINA WHICH HAVE extreme Anti India action of redrawing the map which had GOT GEO-POLITICAL shown Indian territories Lipulekh, AND including Limpiyadhura and Kalapani as STRATEGIC part of Nepal. It had exasperated India which rejected this INTERESTS IN THE misadventure thereby terming out of Anti-India mentality and protect age-old relations between two nations.

KS TOMAR

The communists regimes led by Prachanda always gave clear indications about the commitment to China which will expect new government to go ahead with Belt and Road (BRI) initiative especially when outgoing PM has approved the proposal which had been signed between two countries on May 12, 2017.

It will be an uphill task for Oli to stick to his predecessors' resolve to toe China's line about BRI as Nepali congress is totally opposed to it hence chances of any progress seem to be remote. It will be a test of the new government to deal with India's Agnipath scheme which is one of the major irritants so far. Nepal's border issues with India, including disputes over territories require a multifaceted approach.

Strengthening the Nepal-India Joint Boundary Commission to expedite the resolution of boundary issues through technical and diplomatic means may yield positive results. The survival of the coalition will depend solely on mutual trust of partners and balanced diplomatic strategy and refrain it as baseless besides being an from offending two regional iants which had been lacking in the past. (Writer is a senior journalist and a political analyst; views are personal)



prising of Nepall Congress, Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and Janata Samajwadi party. Amidst the toppling game,

attempt to spoll ties. Now, as dominant partner in the coali-tion, the onus of checking this tendency will lie on Deuba to prevail upon Oli to come

#### THE EDITOR ERS ITO LETT

**AFFAIRS OF NEPAL** 

# Union budget 2024: A major thrust on agriculture



DHARMAPALAN

The budget's focus on sustainable agriculture and innovation highlights the Government's commitment to support the farmers and ensuring food security

drought-like situations in sev-

to climate changes has badly

affected the soil health, mak-

nion budget 2024- a thrust on agriculture for a visit bharatBiju DharmapalanIn the Union Budget 2024 presented by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, great emphasis has been placed on agriculture and space. Both are essential pillars for transforming our country into a developed nation.

The latter is futuristic, and the former is the lifeline of the present generation. No nation can survive without the farming community, and they are the 'Annadata'. In the changing global climate and environmental conditions, the traditional farming sector would not be sufficient to feed the population. The governhas allocated ment Rs.1,51,851 crores for the agricultural and allied sectors. Stress has been given to agricultural research to increase productivity and release 109 new high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops. Climate-resilient crops have become essential under the prevailing global climatic conditions. During the past few years, we have noticed



already water-stressed. various parts of the country. Drought conditions reduce We had severe summers even crop yields and affect soil health, making it more diffiin high altitudes of the Himalayas and a deficit in cult for future crops to grow. On the other hand, excessive rain during the monsoons. This has badly affected the rainfall and flooding, becomagricultural sector, where ing more common, can most of our crop cultivation destroy crops, erode soil, and is based on climatic patterns. wash away essential nutrients. Extreme weather patterns Farmers are forced to grow will not only affect crop protemperate plants like apples and grapes in plains. People ductivity and microbial bioare even trying to grow raindiversity, which keeps our fed crops like paddy in garden planet healthy.In addition, it pots. Change in agricultural patterns is inevitable. Climate will expedite the emergence of new pests and diseases that change affects agriculture in may affect crop growth and numerous ways. Heat stress productivity. The emergence triggers alterations in respiraof new diseases may even lead tion and photosynthesis, to a pandemic affecting sevresulting in a reduced life eral crop species across the cycle and decreased plant globe. This may jeopardise yield. Additionally, higher our food security. Developing resilient crops for the next century is a challenging task. temperatures can lead to increased evapotranspiration, It requires significant investnecessitating more water for changes in the climate in crops when water resources ment in research and devel-

are scarcer.Experiencing opment. Our laboratories in the agricultural universities eral parts of the country due need thorough transformation. They need to be equipped with state-of-the-art ing the farmland unhealthy facilities that can handle molecular breeding programmes for future farming. Moreover, the frequency and severity of and large crop phenomics droughts are expected to rise, facilities that can speed up the development of new crop particularly in regions that are varieties. Our scientific community should acknowledge the farmers and share the benefits of the genes taken from traditional varieties for developing resilient crops. By promoting healthy soils, biodiversity, and resilience, natural farming has the potential to support longterm food security and environmental health. Agriculture is not merely an

occupation; it is the bedrock of our food supply and a critical component in balancing the health of our planet. So, we need to promote and incentivise our farmers who take up new technologies so that farming remains a viable and respected profession for youngsters.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; views are personal)

#### **BUDGET REACTIONS**

Madam — Apropos the news headline "Less Tax, More Jobs" (July 24). Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman's 2024 Union budget should be the budget of the whole country, but the FM has presented it as if it is the NDA's budget. To make matters worse, taxpayers have to foot the bill for the NDA government's political survival. There is nothing wrong when the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi criticizes the NDA government's Union Budget, claiming it undermines India's federal structure. He highlights neglect towards other states and vows to advocate for equal justice. INDIA protests against the 'Kursi Bachao' Budget in Parliament.

Interestingly, FM Sitharaman, elected from Karnataka, provided nothing in the budget for her state, which is ruled by the Congress. In her Purvodaya scheme for the all-round development of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh, only Bihar and Andhra Pradesh benefit significantly. For instance, Rs 11,500 crore was allocated to Bihar for flood mitigation, while West Bengal, one of the worst flood-affected states, is crying for help. Salaried employees in the new tax regime will save up to Rs 17,500 in income tax. Corporate tax rates on foreign companies were reduced to 25%. Family pensions were enhanced from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000

However, nearly 60 lakh EPF pensioners have been receiving Rs 920 to Rs 1000 per month since 1995 without any increase. The government deserves praise for exempting three cancer medicines from custom duties and allocating Rs 2.2 lakh crore to make housing more affordable. It's also commendable that FM Sitharaman has introduced an internship program similar to Congress' Nyay Patra. Overall it is a mix bag but could have addressed the pressing

issues on priority. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad





t is deeply shocking that eighteen people have lost their lives in a deadly plane crash at Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu. The plane, a twenty-year-old Bombardier CRJ-200 regional jet owned by the

#### **CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS**

Madam — The Telangana-cadre IAS officer Smita Sabharwal is being criticized for questioning the need for a disability quota in civil services. She asked the "rights activists" to examine why the policy was yet to be implemented in police services, foreign services, and the defense sector. By raising such questions, she violated the code of conduct for civil servants and is punishable under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and other relevant laws. Prominent coach and mentor of civil services aspirants in Hyderabad, Bala Latha Mallavarapu, challenged Smita to sit for the UPSC examination again and beat her score. The Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of Pankaj Kumar Srivastava, a 100 percent visually impaired candidate who cleared the Civil Services Examination in 2009 but was denied an appointment. This ruling marks a significant milestone in the fight for disability rights in India. inappropriate remarks.

Yash Pal Ralhan Jalandhar

private airline company Saurya Airlines, skidded off the runway and crashed. It seems that the aviation industry in Nepal has fallen short of both standards and expectations, failing to keep pace with other countries in terms of modernization and sophistication. It is a pity that Nepal has not learned any lessons from past incidents, leading to a continuing series

of plane crashes. The aviation sector is crucial for Nepal's tourism and businesses. It is high time that the government of Nepal, along with private airline owners, collaborate to revamp the deteriorating aviation sector. They must pay due attention to improving passenger safety, modernizing logistics and infrastructure, and introducing new jets to avoid future accidents. Path-breaking reforms are essential.Janga Bahadur Sunuwar, Bagrakote

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar |Bagrakote

#### **BIDEN WITHDRAWS FROM THE RACE**

Madam - Joe Biden Withdraws from Presidential RaceMadam, Accepting the views of prominent Democratic leaders, including former President Barack Obama, President Joe Biden has announced his withdrawal from the presidential race. Age is not on his side, and Donald Trump, after surviving an assassination attempt, has gained momentum. Vice President Kamala Harris is likely to take on the aging Donald Trump. In India, Kamala Harris presumptive nomination elicited only lukewarm enthusiasm. During the 2019 election campaign, she criticised Prime Minister Modi's policies on Kashmir, saying, "We have to remind Kashmiris that they are not alone in the world." The possibility of tension in relations between the two countries, despite statements of warm friendship, cannot be ignored.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com BHOPAL | FRIDAY | JULY 26, 2024

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

# **FIRSTCOLUMIN BUDGET BALANCES FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND EMPLOYMENT**

Union budget takes definitive steps to create jobs for India's youth



#### KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

he eleventh full-term budget under Modi 3.0 walks the fiscal discipline path, despite being a coalition government, he is heading. The surprise results from June 4th, which threw in a coalition government for Prime Minister Modi, perhaps for the first time in his career, did not stop his budget proposals, political with sound economics in the background. In the run-up to the budget, many had expected, that the Finance Act would be populist keeping in mind the state elections of Harvana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand scheduled later this year. However what came out from Nirmala Sitharaman's tab, was a document that chose to focus on core areas of long-term growth and decent infrastructure spending, without giving in to populist demands. The key theme as highlighted by Government is Employment.

Questions have been raised in post-budget analysis regarding the feasibility of the schemes announced for creating lakhs of jobs for the youth of the country. The apprentice scheme promising a government stipend for lakhs of youth per year, in some of the largest companies of India, may only be a game changer if these young interns are attentively skilled to be formally absorbed into jobs, once their tenure is over. There are serious concerns regarding the abundant availability of a relatively unskilled workforce, hanging around in large offices, without learning any meaningful skills

Similar questions have been raised regarding the EPFO-linked new job incentivisation scheme, which has various blindsides, possibly pushing a well-thought-out policy push into a dark corner. It may be said that the policy push is primarily to bring more youth employed in the informal sector within a formal standard workforce and instil a financial literacy discipline in them early on. However, this financial literacy falls flat when one looks at the changes made in the tax structures for any investor punting in the speculative equities market. The increased rate of capital gains tax and a general push to the new income tax regime , seem to be at cross purposes of the financial literacy programme, the government wants youth to undertake to avail of full benefits of INR 15,000, nonth's salarv subsidv. The earlier tax regimes instilled a sense



of financial responsibility for any youth entering the formal job sector, with several choosing at least one product, as a means to save and claim tax rebates in the future. This set them off for a long financial discipline path during their tenure as working professionals, which now seems to be slowly being eased out. The counter-argument the government may have is, that they want the consumer economy to grow first, led by the youth, who may be more willing to spend on food items, entertainment etc, with the monthly salaries they would be drawing in their new jobs. However, it prevents them from getting a into habit of savings, which are useful during rainy days or Covid type crises. Yes, the government, did well to maintain the fiscal discipline glide path, buoyed by a better than expected GDP growth, and lumpy dividend payouts from the central bank. Overall inflations, except for food are also within tolerable levels, giving the government, a cushion for spending on welfare projects, it feels are essential. Union budget 24-25 is an attempt woo back disgruntled voters. The lesson BJP appears to have taken from the June 4 results is, that the youth are excited about huge temples, few smart glitzy trains, and cheap mobile data in their 'Made in India' phones, but they are increasingly getting anxious to earn money, have an engaging occupation, which feeds into their aspirational upwardly mobile lifestyle. Then there are pulls and pressures of coalition politics, with NDA's two partners TDP and JD(U) having their wish lists for catering to their core constituencies. A long-term dice has been rolled, perhaps NDA 3.0 with this budget has achieved the goldilocks balance.

# Budget 2024: A blueprint for long-term growth



analys \$ 07

The Union Budget 2024-25 reaffirms the Govt's dedication to long-term growth. India is well-positioned to harness its immense potential for rapid development



n a pivotal move aimed at strengthening India's economic prowess, the Union Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 has made significant strides in assuring continuity of progressive reforms. There is cheer in the MSME, E-commerce and start-up worlds, which have been extended additional support as the country progresses on the road towards a Viksit Bharat. The Finance Minister made various announcements to empower the Garib, Mahila, Yuva and Kissan. The announcements made under this budget are timely and set to propel the Indian economy to new heights during the Amrit Kaal, enhancing its resilience in an ever-evolving global landscape.

tering entrepreneurship. Such positive support for this crucial sector is bound to give it the confidence to shed its risk-averse nature and grow with ambition on the road to 2047.

#### Skilling and Job Creation

With this budget, the Government has responded positively to the need for job opportunities and skill development among youth in our country. The continued emphasis on skilling will allow training institutions and large corporations to participate in creating a pool of profes-sionally trained manpower that would be readily absorbed by them and the larger MSME ecosystem, which is often strained for funds for training ACROSS INDIA OVER THE purposes. Meticulous implementation will, however, be key to set-ABOLITION ting the ball rolling in the right direction of creating jobs.Rural OF THE Economy ANGEL TAX

ing, organic farming is all set to receive a big stimulus. The focus on addressing the impact of climate on our food basket showcases the government's longterm vision towards building resilience in the ecosystem.'

#### Start-ups and E-Commerce There is general cheer in the start-up ecosystem across India

over the abolition of the angle tax, proposed in the budget. Angel tax, introduced in 2012, was imposed on the capital raised by unlisted companies through the issue of shares to Indian investors if the share price

clusters, larger commercial thermal plants and a pumped storage policy, the budget aims to help India cope with the rising demand without missing a step. However, our green economy targets are very ambitious and much more needs to be done to ensure our transition to green fuels.

#### Digitization of Land Records

This one step is perhaps the most impactful step the budget has outlined for the growth of India's economy. Vast tracts of our land, especially in rural India, are often embroiled in disputes with exceeded the fair market value no proper documentation. This is a key nurdle in land acquisition for major projects. By digitising these records across India, the Government will end middlemen and reduce the number of land cases in the legal system. Overall, the Union Budget 2024-25 reinforces the Government's commitment to sustained long-term growth.



PROPOSED IN

THE BUDGET

(The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)

#### booster for MSMEs

The budget rightfully supports the bot-tom of the industrial pyramid by offer-ing much-needed ease of credit for the MSME segment. India has 633.9 lakh MSMEs, where over 99% of them qualify as micro-enterprises that make up 630.5 lakh enterprises. One of the critical reasons why micro enterprises (with investments up to INR 10 million) do not graduate to being small or medium enterprises is the lack of access to formal credit. By doubling the MUDRA loan amounts and setting up new SIDBI branches, credit will now be more accessible to these organizations. Other steps (mandatory Trade Receivables Discounting System) have improved liquidity, while Industrial parks will provide the much-needed digital support that MSMEs usually cannot afford for growth. Additionally, the new credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs offers term loans without collateral or third-party guarantees, significantly easing the financial burden on small business owners and fos-

#### The rural economy

continued to receive support from the government, as strengthening this segment will be crucial for the sustained economic growth of the country. Budget 2024 had some big announcements for them that would increase productivity and food security in grains and oilseeds. Such measures will go a long way in creating new economic clusters that will support sustained growth.

With 1 crore farmers to be trained in natural farming, mar-keting, certification, and brand-

(FMV) of the company.Traders and artisans using e-commerce sites got a lift up in this budget when TDS was not just reduced but TDS delays were decriminalized.

E-commerce exports, \$2 billion now, are expected to be \$350 bil-lion by 2030. With revised custom duties, the Government hopes to give the required fillip to these artisans/traders who sell their wares using websites, in line with its Make in India strategy.

omy and our energy needs are rising rapidly. By encouraging

private investment in setting up small nuclear energy reactors and encouraging R&D into newer forms of nuclear energy, the bud-

get aims to achieve India's goals

of energy security. With regular energy audits across

Energy security India is a fast-developing econ-

With strategic investments and forward-looking policies, India is poised to navigate global challenges while harnessing its immense potential for socioeconomic development. The road towards Viksit Bharat could have its set of challenges, especially given the global dynamics, but the sustained vision and progressive policy support will help realise the dream of a Viksit Bharat.

(The writer is secretary general of ASSOCHEM; views expressed are personal)

# Commemorating 25 years of Kargil victory: A tribute to India's bravehearts

As we remember the 527 soldiers who laid down their lives, we celebrate the enduring legacy of their heroism and dedication to the nation

isitors to Drass, a town situated at an altitude of 10,760 feet (3,279 metres) in India-administered Kashmir, are greeted with a signboard that says at -60 degrees Celsius on January 9, 1995, it was the second-coldest inhabited place on the planet. Drass, located in Kargil district, has an additional claim to fame. In the summer of 1999, it was on its western edge with rocky and barren Himalayan peaks that India and Pakistan fought their last war.

That year, Pakistan's military and Kashmiri rebels occupied strategic positions on the Indian side of the de facto border between them (known as the Line of Control or LoC), prompting a counter-offensive by India. While



RAHUL KAMBLE

them in their twenties, led Pakistan had named its move equally brave soldiers up naked rock faces and managed to to take over the control of evict the enemy within weeks. Names such as Tiger Hill, Indian posts along the LoC as 'Operation Badr,' India called Tololing, Point 5140, Point its offensive 'Operation Vijay'.It 4700, Three Pimples, Chorbat La, Point 5203, Point 4875, was a war fought in the era of satellite news channels. The battles were broadcast direct-Khalubar, and Jubar Top became household names ly to homes in both countries, making Drass and Kargil as a across the country. On 26 July whole, a symbol of India's 1999, the Kargil conflict offinationalism, inspiring a raft of jingoistic Bollywood movies. cially came to an end. The Indian Army announced the This July 26 is the 25th Kargil complete eviction of Pakistani Vijay Divas. On this day in intruders, but a price was paid

1999, the Indian forces threw for it in blood and tears. We lost 527 of our brave soldiers; out the Pakistanis from the incursion points in the gener-al area of Kargil, which they 1363 came back wounded. The Indian army has marked July 26 – the day the Kargil war ended – as "Vijay Diwas" had illegally occupied, bringing to a close a two-month war. It was a tough war, fought on (Victory Day). sheer grit and courage, as

Every year for the past 25 years, the whole nation celegutsy young officers, most of brates proudly on this day. Army also undertakes commemorative treks on the Icy features, where our Braves became invincibles. What seemed an impossible task to the world, was accomplished in a mere 50 days, with all the features lost, back under our control.

> The '50 Day War' as it is fondly called, was a record in itself.Whenever the story of Kargil is told, it shall be incomplete without paying homage to the steely resolve and cold



courage of these young men who went to fight for their nation knowing that they might never return. Barely out of the academy, they fought against all odds, with single-minded devotion, and set new benchmarks in heroism. Their spirit and daring will be difficult to replicate. The war will always be remembered for its strategic and tac-

tical surprise, the self-imposed national strategy of restraint in keeping the war limited to the Kargil–Siachen sector, military strategy and planning, and the dedication, determination and daring junior leadership at

the tactical level. In fiercely fought combat actions, on the most difficult terrain that gave immense advantage to the enemy, we were able to evict Pakistani troops from most of their surreptitiously occupied positions. The Pakistani leadership was forced to sue for a ceasefire and seek the withdrawal of its troops from the remaining areas. Operation Vijay - the Indian codename for the war was a blend of strong and determined political, military and diplomatic actions, which enabled us to transform an

adverse situation into a military and diplomatic victory. As two prime ministers of Pakistan later acknowledged, 'Kargil war was Pakistan's biggest blunder and disaster.' A reflection on the Kargil War can never be complete without a mention of the brilliant junior leadership that we witnessed during battles. Such acts by young officers and men can never be forgot-

ten. They make us proud. Commanding officers of many infantry battalions displayed steely resilience and singleminded devotion to duty. There were actions by young artillery forward observation officers and battery commanders who took over infantry companies when their compa-

ny commander colleagues were killed. A victory in war is

achieved when battles are won. Battles are won when soldiers put duty before themselves. Soldiers who put their lives at stake in wars and war-like situations and expect nothing in return. But what the nation owes to them is recognition and gratitude. For every single brave deed noticed and recognized, many went unnoticed in the fog of war. These legendary tales deserve mention not only in our military history books but also in school textbooks to serve as inspiration for young people. This success shall not be taken for granted. With heights averaging 15000 feet, bone-chilling temperatures and a dominating hostility, the Kargil war in itself is a global legend.

(The author is freelance writer; views are personal)



# **Biden says he quit re-election bid to save US democracy**

#### **PTI** WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has said his decision to quit the 2024 presidential race and endorse Kamala Harris as the Democratic presidential nominee was aimed at unifying the nation and passing the "torch to a new generation." In an emotional prime-time televised address to the nation on Wednesday, Biden told Americans that he decided to end his faltering 2024 re-election campaign in a bid to save US democracy. "So I've decided the best way forward is to pass the torch to a new generation. That's the best way to unite our nation. I know there is a time and a place for long years of experience in public life, but there's also a time and a place for new voices, fresh voices, yes, younger voices, and that time and place is now, Biden said in his rare address from the Oval Office.

Biden, 81, said he revered the President's Office but he loved his country more. "It's been the honour of my life to



serve as president but in the sonal ambition, so I've deciddefence of democracy, which is ed the best way forward is to at stake, I think it's more important than any title," he pass the torch to a new generation," Biden said in a speech said. "I believe my record as which lasted about 11 minutes. president, my leadership in the It also marked the beginning of world, my vision for America's the closing chapter of his presidency and half-century in future all merited a second term," Biden said, three days public service. On Vice President Harris, after he withdrew from the Biden said she is "experienced, she's tough, she's capable" and November 5 presidential elec-

tion. "But nothing, nothing can come in the way of saving our called her an "incredible partdemocracy. That includes perner" during their three-and-a-

Officials from Egypt, Israel, Qatar were expected to meet Thursday in Doha with the

aim of resuming talks for a

proposed three-phase cease-

fire to end the war between

Israel and Hamas and free the

remaining hostages. But an

Israeli official said Israel's nego-

tiating team was delayed and would likely be dispatched

next week. Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

addressed Congress in

Washington on Wednesday as

thousands of protesters gath-ered near the U.S. Capitol to

denounce the war. Hamas

slammed the speech Thursday

and accused Netanyahu of

obstructing efforts to end the

hostages.Netanyahu has sig-

naled that a cease-fire deal

and return the

war

AP JERUSALEM

known ... Now, the choice is up to you, the American people," he said. Biden continued to emphasise what he believes is at risk this election, which he's repeatedly cast as an "inflection point" to save the nation's founding principles.

While Biden did not mention Donald Trump by name, he tried to draw a clear contrast with the former president, whose ambition led him to claim victory in an election he did not win in 2020. "The great thing about America is, here, kings and dictators do not rule," Biden said. "The people do. History is in your hands, the idea of America lies in your hands." "I ran for president four years ago because I believed, and still do, that the soul of America was at stake, the very nature of who we are was at stake," he said. "And that's still the case." "I've made it clear that I believe America is at an inflection point, one of those rare moments in history when the decisions we make

our nation and the world for decades to come," he said.

Harris, 59, who is of Indian and African origin, has now emerged as the presumptive presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. He was surrounded by First Lady Jill Biden, his son Hunter Biden and several family members. Toward the end of remarks, Ashley Biden reached for the hand of her mother, Jill Biden, who was seated next to her.

After the president concluded his remarks, Jill Biden walked to the Resolute Desk and stood next to her husband. Harris watched Biden's Address to the Nation from Houston. Biden in his remarks said

that America is going to have to choose between moving forward or backward, between hope and hate, between unity and division. "We have to decide, do we still believe in honesty, decency, respect, freedom, justice and democracy. In this moment, we can see those we disagree with not as ene-

Cease-fire talks face delays after Netanyahu's fiery speech

half years together. "I've made now will determine the fate of mies, but as fellow Americans," my choice. I've made my views our nation and the world for he said. Biden also looked ahead to

what he still hopes to do in these final six months. He zeroed in on the need to address gun violence, and climate change, continuing to improve the economy and reforming the US Supreme Court

That means I'll continue to lower costs for hard-working families, grow our economy, and I'll keep defending our personal freedoms and our civil rights from the right to vote to the right to choose. I'll keep calling out hate and extremism, and make it clear there is no place, no place in America for political violence or any violence ever, period. I'm going to keep speaking out to protect our kids from gun violence, our planet from climate crisis, is the existential threat," he said

Biden said he was the first president in this century to report to the American people that the United States is not at war anywhere in the

world."We'll keep rallying a coalition of proud nations to stop Putin from taking over Ukraine and doing more dam-age. We'll keep NATO stronger, and I'll make it more powerful and more united than at any time in all of our history," he

said. "I'll keep doing the same for allies in the Pacific. When I came to office, the conventional wisdom was that China would inevitably surpass the United States. That's not the case anymore. I'm going to keep working to end the war in Gaza, bring home all the hostages and bring peace and security to the Middle East and end this war," said the president. Biden said in just a few months, the American people will choose the course of America's future.Biden, who initially resisted calls to step aside and insisted he was the best person to take on Donald Trump, said he now believes a new path is necessary. The president did not address ongoing Republican criticisms about his fitness to serve

after being detained in Washington dur In Tel Aviv -

A group representing the fam-ilies of Israeli hostages held in

Gaza said Thursday that six

hostage relatives have been

released after they were briefly

detained during Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's speech to the joint

session of Congress. The fam-ily members stood in the hall

silently during the address

Wednesday and wore yellow shirts that read "Seal the Deal

Now," referring to a cease-fire

deal to free the hostages, before

they were removed from the

House chamber by security

officers. They were released a

number of hours later, the

Hostages Family Forum said.

'Benjamin Netanyahu spoke

for 54 minutes and he did not

mention once the need to seal

the deal and to sign the deal now," said Gil Dickmann,

whose cousin, Carmel Gat, is

The six said they were invited by members of Congress to

attend the speech. Netanyahu

brought to the speech rescued

hostage Noa Argamani and a

number of family members of

the hostages as part of his offi-

being held in Gaza.

# Netanyahu will meet with Biden and Harris

world 08

Washington (AP): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to make a long-awaited White House visit Thursday to meet with President Joe Biden and likely Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris at an important moment for all three politicians

Netanyahu's White House visit, his first since before President Donald Trump left office in 2020, comes at a time of growing pressure on all three to find an endgame to the nine-month war that's left more than 39,000 dead in Gaza. What's more, dozens of Israeli hostages and the remains of others who have died are still languishing in Hamas captivity. Biden is pressing to get Israel and Hamas to seal his proposal to release remaining hostages in Gaza over three phases — something that would be a legacy-affirming achievement for the 81-year-old Democrat, who abandoned his reelection bid and endorsed Harris. It could also be a boon for Harris in her bid to succeed him. White House officials say that the negotiations are in the closing stages but there are issues that

need to be resolved. Following their midday talks, Biden and Netanyahu will meet the families of American hostages.

Harris, who will meet separately with Netanyahu later, is trying to demonstrate that she has the mettle to serve as commander in chief. She's also being scrutinized by those on the political left who say Biden hasn't done enough to force Netanyahu to end the war and by Republicans looking to brand her as insufficient in her support for Israel.

A senior administration official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, said there is "no daylight between the president and vice president" on Israel. Harris' last one-on-one engagement with Netanyahu was in March 2021, but she's taken part in more than 20 calls between Biden and Netanyahu.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, is trying to navigate his own delicate political moment. He faces pressure from the families of hostages demanding a cease-fire agreement to bring their loved ones home and from far-right members of his governing coalition who demand he resist any deal that could keep Israeli forces from eliminating Hamas.

### Protestors burn US flag near Congress

Washington (PTI): Pro Palestinian-protestors on Wednesday lowered an American flag and burned it down a few blocks away from the US Congress and hoisted a Palestine flag in its place. The incident happened in front of the Union Station, near the US Congress, where Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a Joint Session of the US Congress

The protestors in several hundreds were protesting against the US policy in the Middle East and the bombing of innocent civilians by Israelis in Gaza and parts of Palestine. Six people were arrest-ed by the local police. Videos posted online showed that the protestors were shouting pro-Hamas and anti-Israeli slogans. They lowered a huge American flag in front of the busy Union Station and burned it down then they raised the flag of Palestine which was much small

The protests were also held in several parts of the city as Netanyahu addressed the Congress.

PTI WASHINGTON



Relatives and supporters of the hostages held captive by Hamas in the Gaza Strip take part in a protest to demand their immediate release outside of the U.S. Embassy Branch Office in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday. AP/PTI

could be taking shape after nine months of war, but durthey are sleeping in the streets. ing his fiery speech to The Health Ministry in Gaza Congress, he vowed to press says more than 39,100 Palestinians have been killed in

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's fiery speech to the United States Congress, accus-

in Congress, and derided protests against the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, now in its ninth month.

Washington visit was an address to improve his image

British officer

after the International Criminal Court requested to issue arrest warrants against him for war crimes. The ICC also requested warrants for his Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Hamas officials Mohammed Deif, Yehya Sinwar, and Ismail Haniyeh. "He (Netanyahu) is the one who thwarted all efforts aimed at ending the war and concluding a deal to release the prisoners, despite the continuous efforts of mediators from the brothers in Egypt and Qatar despite the flexibility and pos-itivity shown by the movement," the militant group said in a written statement, adding that the Israeli prime minister talking about intensified efforts to free the hostages is a "comto mislead public plete lie" opinion.

They also rejected Netanyahu's vision for Gaza's future which would consist of a demilitarized civilian administration in the enclave — and accused Netanyahu of being dishonest about aid delivery into the Gaza Strip and downplaying the number of Palestinians killed in the ongoing war.

6 hostage relatives are released cial delegation.

forward with Israel's war until ing him Thursday of obstructhe achieves "total victory." Palestinians displaced by the ing efforts to end the war and the war. Hamas slams return the hostages. Netanyahu's speech to Israeli military's latest order to Congress In his high profile visit to leave parts of the southern The Palestinian Hamas group Washington, Netanyahu Gaza city of Khan Younis say slammed Israeli Prime pledged to achieve "total vic-In his high profile visit to Hamas said Netanyahu's

> NORAD tracks Chinese and suspended over Russian bombers near Alaska

Kamala Harris unfit to rule: Trump



gerous people. When you're four more years of dishonesty, dealing with them, you can't be incompetence, weakness and

tory" against the militant group in his nearly one-hour address

Inleashing a volley of Uattacks against his new campaign opponent Vice President Kamala Harris, former president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has said she is "unfit to rule" and described her as a "radical left lunatic" whom voters will reject in November. Trump, 78, launched a scathing attack on Harris as he took the stage for the first time to address an election rally on Wednesday after Harris became the presumptive nominee of the Democratic Party. Over the weekend, President Joe Biden, 81, announced that he was dropping out of the race and named Harris as his successor.

Harris, 59, will be officially announced as the party's presidential candidate at its Democratic National Convention in August.

"For three and a half years, Lyin Kamala Harris has been the ultra-liberal driving force behind every single Biden catastrophe. She is a radical left lunatic who will destroy our



country if she ever gets the chance to get into office. We're not going to let that happen," Trump said.

Trump, who has previously called Biden "Sleepy Joe," gave Harris the nickname "Lyin Kamala".

'I was supposed to be nice. They say something happened to me when I got shot. I became nice," Trump said, referring to his brief call for national unity after the July 13 assassination attempt on him. "And when you're dealing with these people, they're very dan-

if you don't mind, I'm not going to be nice. Is that okay?" he asked his supporters amidst huge applause from the audience.

Harris is the most liberal elected politician in American history, he said.

This November, the American people are going to tell her, no thanks, Kamala, Trump said. 'You've done a terrible job. You've been terrible at everything you've done. You're ultraiberal. We don't want you here. We don't want you any-

where. Kamala, you're fired. Get out of here. You're fired," Trump said.

Trump continued linking Harris to Biden and his poli-cies and argued that both worked to cover up the president's physical decline while in office.She was appointed by this horrible president, this horrible guy...what they've done to our country is unthinkable," he alleged. Trump told his cheering sup-

porters that Harris lies. A vote for Harris is a vote for

alleged everything Harris touches turns into a total dis-aster. He mentioned Harris as many as 45 times in his speech. When Kamala Harris was sent to Europe to deter Russia from attacking Ukraine, how did that work out? Russia answered by launching the invasion just five days after she left. Putin laughed at her like she was nothing. She is nothing. She's so bad for us. Everything Kamala touches turns into a total disaster. She's destroyed San Francisco with the policies," Trump said.Harris has worked as a Trump prosecutor, first as the district attorney in San Francisco and later as the attorney general of California

"She'll destroy our country if she's elected. So we won't let her be elected. We can't let that happen. Unbelievably, despite all of the damage she's caused, radical, liberal Kamala Harris now wants a promotion to deliver four more years of chaos. We've had the worst four years," he said.

ill-treating man London (AP): A British police officer was suspended from all duties Thursday after a video was posted on social media that appeared to show an officer kicking and stamping on the head of a man lying on the floor of a terminal at Manchester Airport. Greater Manchester Police said the incident occurred while police were trying to break up a fight at the airport's Terminal Two on Wednesday. Three officers were assaulted, with one suf fering a broken nose and another requiring hospital treatment, the force said. "We understand the deep concerns that have been widely raised with us, and will continue to meet and discuss

these feelings with Greater Manchester residents and elected representatives, whilst this independent investigation takes place," Police said in a statement. The incident comes amid rising distrust of police in Britain following allegations of excessive force used against ethnic minorities and scandals involving two serving police officers who were arrested for rape and murder.

#### AP BEIJING

Two Chinese and two Russian long-range bombers were tracked flying over international waters near Alaska and US and Canadian fighter jets were sent up in response, their joint aerospace command said. The Chinese and Russian military activity Wednesday was not seen as a threat, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, known as NORAD, said. China and Russia confirmed Thursday that they had conducted a joint air patrol over the Bering Sea, which divides Russia and Alaska. 'NORAD will continue to monitor competitor activity near North America and meet presence with presence," the command said in a news release. While Russia's military has long

been active in the north Pacific, China has emerged as a new actor in recent years as its growing navy and air force expands their presence farther from the country's shores. The Russian

Defense Ministry said the joint patrol also flew over the Chukchi Sea, which is on the north side of the Bering Strait. Russian fighter jets and strategic bombers were joined by Chinese strategic bombers in the exercises, which lasted more than five hours, the ministry said. The joint patrol tested and

improved coordination between

the two air forces, said Zhang

Xiaogang, a spokesperson for China's Defense Ministry. He

said it was the eighth joint

strategic air patrol since 2019. He

declined to comment when

asked if it was the first such

NORAD said it had detected the

two Chinese H-6 and two

Russian Tupolev Tu-95 bombers

in the North American US Air

Defense Identification Zone, an

area beyond US and Canadian

airspace in which those coun-

tries require aircraft to be iden-

tified for national security rea-

sons.A photo released by the

Russian Defense Ministry

showed a Russian Su-30 fighter

patrol over the Bering Sea.

jet escorting a Chinese bomber. Another photo posted online by the military channel of China's state broadcaster CCTV showed Russian and Chinese longwinged bombers flying in parallel formation against mostly blue skies.

The Japanese military has grown increasingly concerned about joint China-Russia drills and the potential threat they represent to the security of Japan and the region. A fleet of Russian and Chinese warplanes including Tu-95s and H-6s was seen flying together last December over the waters between Japan and Korea, Japan's Defense Ministry said. At the time, China's Defense Ministry called it the seventh joint strategic air patrol with Russia. Chinese naval ships have showed up in international waters near Alaska, most recently in mid-July when the Coast Guard spotted four ships in the US Exclusive Economic Zone, which extends 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the shore.

# Nepal: Black box of crashed aircraft found, probe committee formed

#### PTI KATHMANDU

Nepalese authorities on Thursday recovered the black box of the aircraft that crashed here a day before and handed it over to a probe team formed to inquire into the tragic accident that killed 18 persons, including a child. A Pokhra-bound Bombardier CRJ-200 aircraft of Saurya Airlines, carrying 19 people, crashed and caught fire shortly after taking off from the Tribhuvan International Airport here on Wednesday, killing 18 people aboard, and seriously injuring the pilot. The deceased included two crew members, technical staff of the airline, and a family of three, including a four-year-old boy. Hansa Raj Pandey, deputy Aviation Authority, and



Pandey said.

director general of the Civil includes four other experts. Aviation Authority, said the The team has to submit its black box of the crashed aircraft probe report along with recommendations within 45 days. has been recovered and hand-The dead bodies are in the ed over to a probe team for necprocess of identification after essary action. The probe team is headed by conducting a post mortem and Ratish Chandra Lal, former they will be handed over to the family members by Friday, director general of the Civil

# Pilot miraculously survived deadly crash

**Kathmandu (PTI):** Captain Manish Raj Shakya, the lone survivor of a deadly plane crash in Nepal that killed 18 other people on board, was saved after the cockpit of the aircraft was sheared off by a fragible container seconds freight container seconds before the rest of the aircraft went up in flames, a media report said on Thursday. The Bombardier CRJ-200 aircraft of Saurya Airlines, carrying 19 people, including two crew members, technical staff of the airline and a child and his mother caught fire shortly after taking off from the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) here on Wednesday The aircraft was bound for the

Pokhara International Airport for regular maintenance service.

Of the deceased, 15 died on the spot while three died during treatment at a local hospital, authorities said.

Airport security personnel said when the plane hit the contain-er, the front part of the cock-rit pertected with the security of the securit pit got stuck in it, while the rest of the plane fell to the ground reaching another side of the ground

According to Deputy Inspector General and Chief of TIA Airport Security Office Ram Dutt Joshi, Captain Shakya, 37, was rescued from inside the container which was on the TIA premises.

"We rescued Captain Shakya from inside the container," The Rising Nepal newspaper quot-

ed DIG Joshi as saying. Doctors have initiated an investigation into the brain scars of Shakya.Shakya is currently receiving treatment at Kathmandu Medical College (KMC).According to the doctors involved in treatment, although the injuries in different parts of the body and the broken bones at two places of the backbone have not caused serious problems, the doctors are investigating to find out the cause of the scars on Shakya's brain.

Neurosurgeon Dr Amit Thapa said that he could provide further information only after the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan of Shakya's brain scars. Captain Shakya's health condition showed improvement on Thursday as compared to Wednesday. The doctors said he is "free from danger" and can speak. He can also consume liquid food.

According to KMC sources, Captain Shakya sustained several internal injuries despite not being burnt in the fire. The doctors are preparing for surgery to address his broken bones.

In solemn tribute to the 18 lives lost, the Nepal government has decreed that the national flag will be flown at half-mast

on Thursday.In response to the tragedy, a five-member probe commission has been formed to investigate the incident. The commission will be led by Ratish Chandra Lal Suman, former Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN). The commission is tasked with delivering its report and recommendations within 45 days to prevent similar accidents in the future.Authorities are conducting an autopsy on the 18 people who lost their lives in the accident. The postmortem of the deceased began on Wednesday evening at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH).



# **Court sets aside physical remand** of Pak ex-PM Imran in 12 cases

#### MAY 9 RIOTS PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistani court on AThursday set aside the physical remand of Imran Khan in connection with 12 cases linked to last year's May 9 riots, in a major relief to the jailed former prime minister who has been imprisoned for almost a year. On July 16, an anti-terrorism court granted Punjab police Khan's 10-day physical remand in a dozen cases linked to the May 9 riots. Supporters of Khan attacked several important government buildings and army installations following his arrest in an alleged corruption case in May last year.

The Punjab police last week arrested Khan in 12 terrorism cases, including an attack on a senior army officer in Lahore, soon after he and his wife Bushra Bibi were acquitted in the Iddat case, making sure the cricketer-turned-politician remains in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

On July 18, Khan approached the Lahore High Court challenging his physical remand in 12 criminal cases of last year's violent attacks on military facilities and other properties, including the Lahore corps commander's residence.

Khan, the 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, had argued that the anti-terrorism court order be declared illegal and set aside, and that his custody be transferred from the police to judicial custody.

"The Lahore High Court's twomember bench grilled the Punjab prosecutor general for seeking physical remand of Imran Khan for more days to conduct polygraph, voice matching and other tests. As the suspect was already in custody why the police need his physical remand for the purpose as they could have done it much earlier in jail even without a physical remand," a court offi-cial told PTI after the hearing.

The two-member bench comprising Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh and Justice Anwarul Haq Pannu further noted that



what kind of evidence the probing team want to get from the suspect (Khan)

The court asked the Punjab prosecutor general to read out the transcript of Khan under which police have registered multiple cases against for inciting the public to attack the state and military installations.

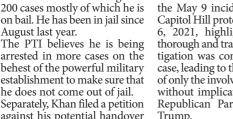
"Physical remand is a serious matter. It is not acceptable if you say a girl is not a girl but a boy, Justice Pannu remarked and further noted "judges are being given more threats these days. The court official further said the LHC observed that if Imran Khan was not leading the violent protest no case could be instituted against him. On this the prosecutor general argued

that Khan incited the public," the court official said. After hearing the arguments of the prosecutor general and Khan's counsel, the LHC set aside the anti-terrorism court's decision to grant his physical remand noting that he will remain in judicial custody in these cases. Khan is facing over 200 cases mostly of which he is on bail. He has been in jail since August last year.

arrested in more cases on the behest of the powerful military establishment to make sure that he does not come out of jail. Separately, Khan filed a petition against his potential handover

China past in terms of investments

to military custody in connection with the May 9 riot cases, arguing that detainees involved in the events should remain



They don't actually train local region, especially in Pakistan since 2012. They are making

The former premier urged the

### EC notifies 39 successful MPs as PTI lawmakers

liamentary party. The majori-

ty judgement explained that 39

out of the 80 MNAs, shown by

the ECP as PTI candidates

belonged to the party. The rest

of the 41 independents would

have to file duly signed and

notarised statements before

the commission within 15 days, explaining that they contested

the February 8 general elec-

tions as a candidate of a partic-

ular political party, the paper said. The ECP had finally

decided last week to implement

the apex court's decision. In a

notification, the ECP said the

following "returned candidates

against general seats of

National Assembly are declared

to have been returned as can-didates" of Khan's political

order preventing his handover to military authorities.

On Monday, the cricketer

turned-politician expressed

concerns that he and his wife,

Bushra Bibi, might be sent to a

military jail in connection with

'They plan to send me to a mil-

dents," he said while speaking to

the media during a hearing of

the Al-Qadir Trust case in the

He had lamented the biased

treatment meted out to Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers

detained in military jails, sug-

gesting a plan to also incarcer-

ate him under similar charges.

Khan was booked on the

charges of abetment in attacks

on Lahore Corps Commander

House known as Jinnah House

Askari Tower, and Shadman

police station on May 9, 2023.

He clarified that he had called

for peaceful protests outside the army's General Headquarters

(GHQ) if arrested but never

authorised any violent actions. Khan accused Inter-Services

Intelligence (ISI) of stealing CCTV footage related to the

**Putin meets** 

**Syrian Prez** 

May 9 events.

itary jail for the May 9 inci-

the May 9 riot cases.

Adiala Jail Rawalpindi.

party.

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's Despite an 8-5 split, all 13 Election Commission has noti-judges declared the PTI a parfied 39 successful MPs as lawmakers of Imran Khan's party after the Supreme Court ordered the top electoral body to do so in its verdict on the reserved seats case, a media report said on Thursday. The notification for the 39

MNAs (Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan) was issued on Wednesday, the Dawn newspaper reported. On July 12, the Supreme Court

declared jailed former prime minister Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible to receive reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in the national and provincial assemblies, giving the party a new lease on life in the legislature by declaring it to be a parliamentary party.

under the jurisdiction of civilian courts.

The petition was submitted by Khan's lawyer, Uzair Karamat, to the Lahore High Court. The federal government and the Inspector Generals (IGs) of all four provinces have been made respondents in the case, the Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Khan said that a false narrative had been constructed, accusing him of inciting protests at the General Headquarters (GHQ). He described the May 9 incident as a "false flag operation," asserting that those who stole the CCTV footage of the events were the true culprits.

He criticised the comparison of the May 9 incident to the US Capitol Hill protests on January 6, 2021, highlighting that a thorough and transparent investigation was conducted in the case, leading to the punishment of only the involved individuals, without implicating the entire Republican Party of Doland Trump

court to order that custody in the May 9 cases remain with civilian courts and to issue a stay

> in Kremlin Moscow (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin met President

Kremlin press service on

Thursday showed. "I am very

interested in your opinion on

how the situation in the region

as a whole is developing," Putin

said to Assad. "Unfortunately

there is a tendency towards

escalation, we can see that. This

The Kremlin said Putin and

Assad's meeting took place

Wednesday. Putin and Assad last

met in March 2023 in the

Kremlin on the anniversary of

Syria's 12-year uprising-turned-

civil war. At that meeting, Putin

emphasized the Russian mili-

tary's role in stabilizing the coun-

try. Russia has waged a military

campaign in Syria since September 2015, teaming up

with Iran to allow Assad's gov

ernment to fight armed opposi-

tion groups and reclaim control

over most of the country. While

Russia now concentrates the

bulk of its military resources in

Ukraine, it has maintained a mil-

itary foothold in Syria and keeps

troops at its bases there.

also applies directly to Syria."

### Publisher Jimmy Lai will testify in his defence at HK national security trial

Hong Kong (AP): A defence lawyer said on Thursday that prominent publisher Jimmy Lai will testify in his defence in the landmark national security trial brought under a Beijing-imposed law that has all but wiped out public dissent. Lai, the 76-year-old founder of the now-defunct Apple Daily newspaper, was arrested in 2020 during a crackdown on the mass prodemocracy protests that rocked Hong Kong in 2019. He was charged with colluding with foreign forces to endanger national security and conspiring with others to put out sedi

tious publications. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison. On Wednesday, Lai's lawyer Robert Pang argued his client had no case to answer because the prosecutors' evidence was insufficient. Pang said the prosecution had failed to prove Lai's intent after the introduction of the 2020 law and stressed the importance of freedom of speech

But judges Esther Toh, Susana D'Almada Remedios and Alex Lee ruled against him on Thursday. "Having considered all the submission, we ruled that the first defendant has a case to answer on all charges, Toh said, without elaborating. Pang later said in court that Lai would testify in his defense, but when he would do so was not immediately settled.

Observers said Lai's high-profile case, which has already stretched over 90 days, is a trial of press freedom and a test for judicial independence in the Asian financial hub.

When Britain handed back Hong Kong to China in 1997, the city was promised to have its Western-style civil liberties kept intact for 50 years. However, the freedoms that once set Hong Kong apart from mainland China, including freedoms of press and assembly, have drastically shrunk since the enactment of

the 2020 security law. Beijing and Hong Kong gov-ernments insist that the law brought back stability to the city following the social unrest.

## More than hundred flights cancelled in Germany **Environmental activists target airports across Europe**

#### AP FRANKFURT

rermany's busiest airport Gcanceled more than 100 flights Thursday as environmental activists launched a coordinated effort to disrupt air travel across Europe at the height of the summer holiday season to highlight the threat

posed by climate change. Frankfurt Airport said flights were halted for safety reasons after climate activists breached security fences, triggering a response from police, firefighters and airport security officers. All runways were back in oper-ation by 7:50 am local time, it said. About 140 flights have been cancelled so far, but further disruptions are expected throughout the day, the airport said.

Environmental groups said they planned to target airports around Europe this summer to remind people about the link between fossil fuels, such as those used by airliners, and climate change. The groups are calling for governments around the world to end the extraction and burning of fossil fuels by 2030.

"We sharply condemn these unauthorized demonstrations, and we reserve the right to take legal action against the participants," Frankfurt Airport said. Their activities pose severe danger to flight operations possibly putting human life at risk?

Climate data showed that Monday was the hottest day ever recorded as human-caused climate change continues to drive unprecedented heat and growing weather extremes. Global investments in planetwarming oil and gas are expected to increase by 7 per cent this year, according to the International Energy Agency, despite global promises to slash fossil fuel use

Flying is considered one of the most carbon-intensive activities, but the aviation industry is expected to grow steadily over the coming decades despite efforts to contain the climate crisis.

The Last Generation group, which organized the Frankfurt



world 09

Emergency vehicles from the police, fire department and airport security are parked on the apron of Frankfurt Airport, where a few activists have taped themse AP/PTI in Frankfurt, Germany, on Thursday

demonstration, said six protesters cut holes in the perimeter fence and headed toward the runways on foot, bicycles and skateboards.

It was the second time in as many days that a protest by Last Generation caused disruption at a German airport.

On Wednesday, five protesters glued themselves to a taxiway at Cologne-Bonn Airport, forcing a roughly three-hour halt to flights. That protest resulted in 31 flights being canceled. There were other protests or attempted protests in other European countries.

Climate activists staged similar actions in Finland, Norway, Switzerland and Spain on Wednesday

At Helsinki Airport, a handful of protesters blocked the main check-in area for about 30 minutes, but police said the demonstration caused no delays to flights or other disruption.

At Oslo's main Gardermoen airport, three activists managed to enter the runway area early Wednesday, waving banners and disrupting air traffic for about half an hour.

Police said there were no major flight delays. Police in London said Wednesday that they prevented a planned protest at

said in a video posted on social media. Last week, the German Cabinet approved legislation that would impose tougher penalties on people who break through airport perimeters. The bill, which still requires approval by lawmakers, foresees punishment ranging up to a two-year prison sentence for people who intentionally intrude on airside areas of air ports such as taxiways or run-

Heathrow Airport that could

have had a significant impact

on Europe's largest airport.

Seven members of the group

known as Just Stop Oil were

arrested at Heathrow and three

others were taken into custody

at other locations as part of an "intelligence-led" operation,

the Metropolitan Police Service

One of those arrested in

London was Sean Callaghan,

29, who described himself as an

'I'm taking action at airports this summer because it is

impossible for me to see a way

in which we can inspire and enthuse students about the

future of our planet," Callaghan

environmental educator.

said in a statement.

ways, endanger civil aviation, or enable someone else to. Currently such intrusions only draw a fine.

# Possibility of 'growing' Chinese presence in Bangladesh concerns United States

of China investing in

DPakistan is now a thing of the past, a senior administration official has told the lawmakers noting that the United States is the future.

"China is the past in terms of investments in Pakistan, we are the future," Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu told lawmakers during a Congressional hearing on Tuesday.

Lu was responding to questions from the Congressmen, who expressed concerns over the Chinese investment in Pakistan and other countries in South and Central Asia, including Sri Lanka and Maldives

"I would argue the Chinese plan is to have a military base in every country and every infrastructure project is made with high interest Chinese loans and low paid Chinese workers. We just see this model all throughout the region," he said. The Chinese bring in their own workers. erally take gold and copper from the ground and just ship back for processing in China

'They don't spend any money in local communities. This is going to have a boomerang effect for Chinese businesses and their interests. We talked about Pakistan and the investments there, USD26 billion. They put a huge amount of money in Pakistan. I actually don't see them putting a dime in there right now because they're really worried about

whether they're going to get their money back there," he said. "Their really terrible investment strategy is biting them in the ass and we have an opportunity to do a better job to

make sure countries know there are options and they don't have to be beholden to one," Lu said. Rich Congressman

McCormick said China has vastly outspent the United States throughout the entire

Pakistan Economic Corridor known as CPAK. This gives China a significant leverage over Pakistan, he

noted. I'm really worried about the future as we invest, how do we leverage our position with Pakistan, our historic relationship given also our relationship with India and that's developing very quickly. How do we balance that and keep that in our advantage?" he asked.

Lu said the US is facing ongoing challenges and opportunities in Pakistan.

The president's budget requests a straight lining of our USD101 million Pakistan budget. That money will be used to strengthen democracy and civil society, fight terrorism and extremism and to support economic reforms and debt management to help

to stabilize Pakistan's economy and prevent further overreliance on China," he said

Kremlin, video distributed by the

The United States is con-cerned about the possibility of growing Chinese presence in Bangladesh, a senior administration official has told the lawmakers.

"We are concerned about the possibility of a growing Chinese presence in Bangladesh. But I would say the Bangladeshis have been pretty careful about not overextending quickly," Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia told the lawmakers during Congressional hearing on Tuesday.

"In terms of Russia, Chinese influence in Bangladesh in that area, have you seen any uh things that are concerning in well?" that regard as Congressman Bill Keating asked

"I would say the most influential country in Bangladesh is actually not Russia or China, it's India. And we have a really active dialogue with India about our policies in Bangladesh and Lu said in response to the question.

Congresswoman Young Kim said the Chinese Communist Party is a top trading partner for Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan, which is around America's strategic partner India.

The PLA's presence is also intensifying both along the Indian border and in the Indian Ocean. Aid and cooperation play a pivotal role not only in advancing US interests in South Asia, but also in enhancing their prosperity and keeping the region free and open," she said. Responding to another question from Congressman Andy Kim, Lu said that the recently held elections in Bangladesh had less violence than the previous two

We believe that these elections were less violent than the last two in Bangladesh, in part due to both government and opposition taking a step back because of the threat of sanctions," he said.

United States has been following very closely this past week the violence in Bangladesh. "We've condemned that violence we've called on the govthat back," Lu said. ernment to respect freedom of assembly and freedom of

speech. We've called upon the government to restore internet to the country, which has been off now for several days," he said. 'You will be aware that there is a curfew that has been put in place by the government as a response to some of the violence that's happened. Some in police have said there's a shoot on sight

That's what I heard. So we have the condemned from spokesperson of the State Department uh the shoot on sight order and ask them to roll

"It's a very tense moment in Bangladesh between protesters and the government. We hope that calm is restored. I have been in touch with senior leaders in Bangladesh. We remain in touch with them now to try to encourage them to find a peaceful way to resolve this crisis," said the Assistant Secretary of State.



रार वार्थ पूर्वय किया आता होक प्रिय कि 2027 जो प्रांग राजी न व्यक्ति (Figlian) के 1978 (Street light and High Mast with 3 year AMC at Bhara Pachpera, Distt. - Pilibhit रेषु निविदा संख्या (2024 SIDC\_935130\_1) जो दिनांक 24.07.2024 तक अपलोड की जानी थी, एव 25.07.2024 को खोली जानी है, अपरिहार्य कारणों से अब उक्त आमंत्रित निविदाओं में निविदा प्रपन्न अपलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 01.08.2024 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। यह निविदायें अब दिनांक 02.08.2024 क वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (मु.) विद्युत उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्रा., कानपुर अपरान्ह 16:00 बजे खोली जायेंगी। शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

#### PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 (Phone No. 01881-275289) E-mail: se-hq-ggsstp-ropar@pspcl.in

E-Tender (Short Term) Enq. No. 542/P-2/EMPW-12733 Dated 17.07.2024

Dy.Chief Engine Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invite E-Tender ID No. 2024\_POWER\_124109\_1 for Annual Contract for Rewinding/ Re-caging/Re-staggering and other repairs of HT Motors of GGSSTP. Rupnaga

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 18.07.2024 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online a https://eproc.punjab.gov.in RTP-67/24

76155/12/3172/2023/36027 Dated CHD :- 7/25/2024

#### **GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY**, AMRITSAR

#### SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENTS

Short Term E-Tenders are invited for purchase Fluore CAD software for Fabric Design, Garment Design Software, Socks Knittin Machine, Single Color Roto Flat Printing Machine, Universal Testing Machine (UTM), Narrow Fabric Weaving, Lab Coating Machine, Package Dyeing Machines Printing Screen making and Exposure Unit, Pad Thermo Fixation Range ering Machines, Digital Tear Tester, Air Permeability Tester, UV Pentratio Tester, Automatic Hydrostatic Head Tester, Computer Color Matching System an Computer be submitted online latest by 9/08/2024 upto 4:00 p.m. Detailed information can be obtained from website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in Any orrigendum/Addendum related to these e-tender will be uploaded, if required, o unjab Govt. website: eproc.punjab.gov.in

Director of Research Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsa

#### NA/12/24361/2023/36011 Dated CHD :- 7/25/2024

### Japan's population falls for 15th year in row

Tokyo (AP): Japan's total population marked the 15th straight year of decline, according to govdata released ernment Wednesday, dropping by more than a half-million people as the population ages and births remain low. Births in Japan hit a record low of 730,000 last year. The 1.58 million deaths last year were also a record high. Japan's population was 124.9 million as of January 1.

The data released by the Internal Affairs Ministry also showed that the 11% increase in foreign residents helped their population surpass 3 million for the first time. They now make up nearly 3% of the total population and are mostly of working age from 15 to 64.

Surveys show that younger Japanese are increasingly reluc-

### Romania says more tant to marry or have children, discouraged by bleak job

prospects, the high cost of living which rises at a faster pace than salaries - and a genderbiased corporate culture that adds a burden only on women and working mothers. The government earmarked 5.3 trillion yen (\$34 billion) as part of the 2024 budget to fund incentives for young couples to have more children, such as increasing subsidies for childcare and education, and is expected to spend 3.6 trillion yen (\$23 billion) in tax money annually over the next three years. Experts say the measures are largely meant for married couples who plan to have or who already have children, and don't address the growing number of young people reluctant to get married.

Russian drone debris from Ukraine war has landed on its territory Bucharest (AP): Debris from what is believed to be a Russian drone landed in a rural area of Romania, the country's Defense Ministry said on Thursday, in the latest apparent incident of drone

wreckage from the war in neighboring Ukraine falling onto the NATO member's soil Since the war started in February 2022, Romania has confirmed drone fragments on its territory on several occasions. The debris of what the Defense Ministry called a "Russia origin" drone were found following Russian attacks on Ukraine's port infrastructure near the border. The fragments were discovered by a team of specialists in an uninhabited area near the village of Plauru in Tulcea county.

## Oil tanker sinks in Manila Bay

#### AP MANILA

A Philippine oil tanker sank in Manila Bay early on Thursday after encountering huge waves, and the coast guard was working to determine whether the vessel was leaking oil — in what could be a major spill — after it rescued 16 of 17 crew members in a nighttime operation, officials said

The tanker Terra Nova left Bataan province en route to the central province of Iloilo with about 1.4 million liters (370,000 gallons) of industrial fuel oil stored in watertight tanks when it got buffeted by huge waves and took on water. The crew struggled to steer the tanker back to port but it eventually sank shortly after midnight, coast guard spokesperson Rear Admiral

Armando Balilo said, citing statements from surviving crew members The sinking followed days of

monsoon rains, exacerbated by a passing offshore typhoon, that caused landslides and floodings across the archipelago, leaving at least 22 people dead and displacing more than half a million people.

An aerial survey spotted an oil spill about 3.7 kilometers (2.3 miles) long near the rough seawaters where the tanker sank but that may have come from the fuel intended to power the tanker's engine, not the much greater amount of fuel the Terra Nova was carrying as cargo, Balilo said.

A coast guard ship, the BRP Melchora Aquino, was in the waters where the tanker sank, more than 6 kilometers (about 4 miles) from Bataan province's

coast, to search for the last missing crewman and to carry out an initial assessment of the tanker's fuel oil cargo, Balilo told an online news conference. He added that the coast

guard was bracing to contain

possible major oil spill. There's a big danger that Manila would be affected, its shorelines, if the fuel leaks because this happened within Manila Bay. It's part of the contingency we're preparing for," Balilo said. "The effect on the marine environment would

> not be good? Balilo later said the oil tanker sank at a relatively shallow depth of 34 meters (111 feet), based on an initial assessment, and raised the possibility that its fuel oil cargo could be siphoned off by special ships in a delicate operation that could take about a week.

Financial Services

healthcare,

In the broader market, the

BSE midcap gauge declined

0.22 per cent, and smallcap index dipped 0.14 per cent. Among the indices, metal lost 1.19 per cent, bankex (1.10

per cent), realty (0.80 per

cent), telecommunication (0.65 per cent) and financial services (0.60 per cent).

On the other hand, energy

utilities, auto and oil & gas

Global stocks tumbled on

were among the gainers.

industrials.

# I-T Act review attempt to make it simpler for taxpayers: CBDT chief

#### PTI NEW DELHI

The Budget announcement about a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act, 1961, is an attempt to make the "bulky" law "simpler" to understand and comfortable to use for taxpayers along with aligning new technology processes with it, CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal has said.

BHOPAL | FRIDAY | JULY 26, 2024

The Act that started its journey in 1922 contains 298 sections, 23 chapters and other provisions in its

current form of 1961. Speaking to PTI during a post-budget interview on Wednesday, Agrawal said the Act has seen "redundancies" over a period of time making it "thick and bulky." "The taxpayers also feel that

the Act is not so simple, as it ought to be...It is cumbersome...So the attempt is if we can make this Act simpler, simpler to comprehend, simpler in terms of language, simpler in

terms of presentation, then that hitch of the taxpayer to actually not see the Act and take the help of a tax practitioner or someone (maybe eased)..."

INCOME TAX

'We are working towards how can we make it (Income Tax Act) simple so that the taxpayer feels comfortable seeing the provisions himself or herself and that it is more user friendly," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) head said.

the pioneer

It is also important to review the law as technology has become an integral part of tax administration and "we have to see where the gaps are and how we actually can align technology with the provisions of the Act," Agrawal said. We are looking to undertake further improvements (in the law), he added.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while



for 2024-25 on Tuesday, announced "comprehensive" review of the Income Tax Act of 1961. The purpose is to make the Act concise, lucid, easy to read and understand. This

will reduce disputes and litigation, thereby providing tax certainty to the taxpayers. It will also bring down the embroiled in demand litigation. It is proposed to be completed in six months," she said. Sitharaman added that a

beginning was being made in the Finance Bill by the simplifying the tax regime charities, TDS rate for structure, provisions for reassessment.

provisions and capital gains taxation.

Asked about the budget of proposal granting immunity from penalty and prosecution to a 'benamidar' (in whose name a benami asset is standing) under the Benami Transactions Prohibition Act, the CBDT chief said this was aimed to

make the act "effective". The minister said the move was intended to "improve conviction" under this law, which was enacted in 1988 but implemented in November 2016 by the Modi government.

A convict under this law can be sentenced to a rigorous imprisonment of up to seven years and a fine of up to 25 per cent of the fair market value of the property.

Benami properties are those in which the real beneficiary is not the one in whose name the property has been purchased

Agrawal also said that the Income Tax Department has completed about 6.5 lakh assessment cases and about 2 lakh appeals under the faceless assessment regime that was launched by the government in 2019-20. search

# Markets extend losses for 5th session

Equity market benchmark Eindices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the fifth straight session on Thursday as investors offloaded metal, banking and finance stocks amid a lacklustre trend in global markets.

Heavy foreign fund outflows after a hike in securities transaction tax and shortterm capital gains tax also impacted markets' sentiment

negatively, traders said. However, strong buying in oil & stocks, energy and auto shares helped the indices benchmark has tumbled offset some losses, they added. After a sharp fall in intra-day trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex managed to recover some of the lost ground to in domestic markets in early trade due to heavy profit-taking in banking, IT, metals settle 109.08 points or 0.14 per cent lower at 80,039.80, as a sharp rally in Tata Motors and and realty stocks. Larsen & Toubro restricted its fall. During the day, it tanked most of its losses towards the 671 points or 0.83 per cent to end, with Sensex managing to

79,477.83 Shares of Larsen & Toubro mark amid buying in oil & gas ended nearly 3 per cent higher and automobile stocks, indicating that investors are after the company posted a 12 willing to bet on good fundamental sectoral stocks per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) in the June quarter.

Tata Motors jumped nearly 6 per cent. The NSE Nifty dipped 7.40 points or 0.03 per cent to



per cent to 24,210.80.

In five days, the BSE

"However, markets recouped

close above the crucial 80k-

Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

after the company's June quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

Nestle, Titan, ICICI Bank. 1,303.66 points or 1.60 per cent, while the Nifty declined Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, ITC, JSW Steel and State Bank 394.75 points or 1.59 per cent. "Overnight slump in US of India were the other equities caused a major slump laggards.

Sun Pharma, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance and Power Grid also ended in the positive territory.

After a volatile session, the Indian market concluded on a flat note, influenced by lowerthan-expected earnings growth from major banks. Global indices also reacted pessimistically due to the disappointing results from top US tech companies.

"However, the government's despite rising concerns of the commitment to improving stretched valuations of the consumption and bridging the Indian markets," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), gap for energy transition in points or 0.03 per cent to Mehta Equities Ltd, said. the budget buoyed sectoral 24,406.10. Intra-day, it From the Sensex pack, Axis tumbled 202.7 points or 0.83 Bank declined over 5 per cent Head of Research, Geojit

Thursday after a tech-fuelled sell-off on Wall Street last night. A slew of disappointing results caused traders to panic that the artificial-intelligence frenzy that has powered the bull market this year may have

been overdone," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said. In Asian markets, Seoul,

Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory in the mid-session

deals. US markets ended significantly lower on Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,130.90 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude declined 1.73 per cent to USD 80.31 a barrel.

#### Map war intensifies, Google announces new features to woo users in India Rationalisation of duties on leather sector to help create more jobs, push exports: CLE PTI NEW DELHI

#### PTI NEW DELHI

Rationalisation of customs duties in the Budget on leather sector will help create more jobs and push exports, CLE said on Thursday.

The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) said that the Budget announcement of support for setting up working women hostels, establishing creches and skilling women-specific programmes will further enhance the women workforce in the sector.

The employment linked incentive scheme is a major support measure for the leather and footwear sector, as this is a labour-intensive CLE sector, Chairman Rajendra Kumar Jalan said. 'Two major measures have been announced for the leather and footwear sector in the Union Budget. One is the rationalisation of export on leathers and other is the inclusion of more inputs including wet blue chrome tanned leather, wet white leather, crust leather and finished leather under the Duty Free Scheme for leather garments, leather



products and footwear exporters," he said. USD 1 billion in the next 2-Jalan added on the export 3 years," Jalan said. He added that allowing duty duty front, the levy on wet free imports of critical raw blue and crust leather has been brought down from 40 materials and per cent to 20 per cent. including wet blue, crust and finished leathers, will This will facilitate the export of value-added processed help facilitate the export of leathers from the country as there is a huge demand for the country. these leathers in the global market he sai that "We hope the government will further reduce this export duty for crust leathers from 20 per cent to nil in future, so as to achieve our objective of enhancing the export of



A mid rising competition homegrown Afrom homegrown challenger Ola Maps, Google on Thursday announced a slew of new features on Google Maps to woo users in India, including EV charging station information, flyover callouts and AI-driven routing capability to reduce narrow road usage for fourwheeler drivers.

It is "an exciting time in mapping", Google Maps said announcing its lineup of new features, which comes in the backdrop of a pitched battle with Ola.

Google recently decided to cut the pricing of Google Maps platform for developers by up to 70 per cent from August 1, just weeks after Ola Founder and CEO Bhavish inputs, Aggarwal openly nudged Indian developers to shun Google Maps and offered them sweeteners like one-year value-added products from free access to Ola Maps.

"This will be a major step in Replying to a question on the • Mar cuts - coming right after an offensive from Ola - Google Maps senior executives said that while "it's tempting to think that way, but we enabling more efficient and actually do not focus on competitors"



"We're very focused on Google Maps in India, making sure we're serving our powered by AI and local making sure we're serving our user base and our partner community, which is our developer partners. And to be honest, we timed it with our IO Connect event in Bengaluru," Miriam Daniel, VP and GM at Google Maps,

said at a briefing. "....This is Daniel added: something our partners have time to make sure our Google Maps, India, read. infrastructure our pr rinσ

partners.

These new features reaffirm our commitment to making digital mapping even more helpful for users, businesses, developers and society at large.

We're excited to continue our journey of innovation and build the future of Google been requesting of us for a Maps right here in India," a while, and we've been blogpost by Daniel and working on it for quite some Lalitha Ramani, GM at

narrow roads when driving four-wheelers.

'To address this, we've developed an AI model specifically for Indian roads that incorporates multiple signals satellite imagery, Street View and other information like road types, distance between buildings, Ťο paved sections, etc. estimate road widths at scale. Using these road width estimates, we've fine-tuned our existing AI routing algorithms to help fourwheelers avoid narrow roads whenever possible, without significantly impacting travel time or distance," the blogpost said.

This means four-wheeler drivers can enjoy a less stressful driving experience, and it also benefits bikers, pedestrians and other commuters who can now use these narrow roads more safely and confidently, it added.

Google Maps is starting to roll collaborating with leading out this feature on Android devices this week cities Hyderabad, unfamiliar areas can be a Bengaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore, Indore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati, and has promised to bring the feature to iOS and more cities soon.

Another new feature or Google Maps is call-out flyovers along the recommended route. This feature helps users anticipate upcoming flyovers and prepare ahead of time to get onto the flyover. "Starting this week, you'll see these flyover callouts in 40

cities across India for both four-wheeler and twowheeler active navigation on Android apps and Android Auto. IOS and CarPlay support will be coming soon, it said.

Both Narrow Roads and Flyover features have been pioneered in India, tailored to the unique navigation needs of users, it said.

To ensure EV drivers have the tools they need to confidently hit the road, the company has announced also the availability of information about EV charging stations on both Google Maps and Google Search in India.

achieving the exporter target of USD 13.7 billion by 2029-30 by the leather and footwear sector, from the export value of USD 4.69 billion during 2023-24," he said

ealising our

systems are localised and narrow or congested roads in adapted to the needs of our partners in India? On Thursday, the company announced six ways it is

challenge for four-wheeler drivers, Google Maps announced it is introducing a new feature for users in India sustainable journeys on designed to reduce the use of

chargin prov India ElectricPe, Ather, Kazam, and Statiq to add authoritative information for over 8,000 charging stations, representing a significant portion of available charging stations in India," it said.

"To achieve this, we're

# Sugar industry body proposes bio-refinery transition plan to Govt



PTI 📕 NEW DELH

 $\mathbf{S}^{\mathrm{ugar}\ \mathrm{industry\ body\ ISMA}}_{\mathrm{on\ Thursday\ said\ it\ has}}$ presented a plan to the government to transform sugar mills into biorefineries, aiming to boost production of sustainable aviation fuel and other green energy sources. The representatives of the

Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) met with Food Minister Pralhad Joshi to discuss a policy framework for the transition, which would expand beyond expand current ethanol, bioelectricity, and biogas production, a statement said. ISMA Director General Deepak Ballani said the initiative would help India meet international aviation blending targets set to take effect in 2027 under CORSIA mandates while supporting the country's net-zero and self-reliance goals.

We see a future where local resources drive national development," Ballani said in the statement adding that "This aligns with the government's vision for a selfreliant India?

The plan aims to create alternative markets for India's estimated 55 million sugarcane farmers, building on the success of the current ethanol blending programme in increasing farmer incomes. The government launched 400 E-100 fuel pumps last year. Joshi stressed the need promote E-100 use, to particularly given India's leadership of the Global Biofuels Alliance.

ISMA pledged to work closely with the government on the swift implementation of the bio-refinery plan, which is expected to set new benchmarks in the sector and strengthen India's energy security.

### growth amid rising global spend, says Accel PTI NEW DELHI rndia's cybersecurity market has posted a compounded

spending

"Indian cybersecurity startups

landscape as the market

proliferates significantly," he

said, adding that the country's

since 2019 and crossed USD 6

Indian cybersecurity startups received USD 157 million

funding in the past two years.

Multiple reports attest to the

spike in global spending for

cybersecurity, with an IDC

report projecting spends upwards of USD 36 billion in

This spike in spending, the

growing importance of security

awareness, a need to foster a

robust security system and

looking for solutions to the

rising spectre of cybersecurity

threats were the crux of

Swaroop's inaugural address at

Despite growing interest, data

the Asia Pacific alone.

the summit.

will impact

billion in 2023.

annual growth rate of 25 per cent since 2019, crossing the USD 6 billion mark in 2023, and is projected to expand further with global spending touching USD 200 billion this year, Prayank Swaroop, partner at global VC fund Accel, said on Thursday.

Cybersecurity startups in the country are poised to see a steady growth on the back of global higher spending in the cybersecurity is expected to cross USD 200 billion in 2024. domestic market, he said at the Accel Cybersecurity Summit 2024 in Bengaluru. Highlighting the potential of the country's cybersecurity market, Swaroop said Indian

cybersecurity startups are poised to make a global impact, and continue their growth momentum amid a sharp rise in spending for cybersecurity globally.

Accel Cybersecurity The Summit 2024, India's largest cybersecurity summit, saw participation from across the world. The gathering included prominent founders, global cybersecurity experts and CISOs (chief information security officer) of major enterprises.

"Our mission with this summit is to elevate the ecosystem of cybersecurity founders and operators by bringing together some of the best minds in the domain," said Swaroop Data available with IDC. Gartner, and other leading



in

the global

Indian cybersecurity startups poised for strong

research firms suggest that security and privacy remain significant concerns, alongside issues such as data breaches, IoT attacks, and social and regulatory pressures, Swaroop said

cybersecurity market witnessed a 25 per cent CAGR This, he said, makes safeguarding data, the most valuable asset, very important. Generative AI is the flavour of the season, and Swaroop dwelt on the impact of generative AI on cybersecurity in-depth and

This is not just introduction of spaces but also the usage of cutting-edge technology to automate security services spending, estimated to be worth up to USD 50 billion. On the generative AI impact, Swaroop said, "AI can significantly operational efficiency by streamlining tasks such as log monitoring alert

management, and reporting, thereby allowing cybersecurity practitioners to dedicate more time to strategic initiatives and strengthening defences against cyberthreats

The growing importance of AI in cyber defence, especially in areas such as early vulnerability detection, automated threat modelling, and real-time threat detection, was also emphasised. According to Swaroop, generative AI has emerged an Śwaroop, indispensable tool in the war

'In the future, AI will play an increasingly pivotal role in cyber defence. It is reshaping the industry by enhancing key areas such as early vulnerability detection, automated threat modelling, and real-time threat detection.

'Moreover, it improves vendor risk management, penetration testing, and addressing new attack surfaces created by AI technologies," he said.

The evolution of AI solidifies its status as an indispensable tool in the ongoing war against cyber threats. "We think it is important to secure the AI stack against threats like data poisoning and supply chain vulnerabilities while ensuring compliance and security, Swaroop said.

The Accel partner concluded his address by highlighting the importance of integrating AI technologies to create new opportunities and face more formidable challenges as the broader cybersecurity market expands.

### Budget proposals for marine sector to boost India's aquaculture, seafood exports: MPEDA

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $B_{\mathrm{for}\ \mathrm{the}\ \mathrm{marine}\ \mathrm{sector}}^{\mathrm{udget}\ \mathrm{announcements}}$ such as rationalisation of and customs duties financing facilities will help boost the country's India's aquaculture and seafood exports, MPEDA said on Thursday.

The Marine Products The Development Authority (MPEDA) also said the Budget includes a range of strategic measures aimed at bolstering the competitiveness of marine products, with a particular shrimp focus on production and export. Various inputs used in the manufacture of shrimp and fish feed will now enjoy customs duty exemptions, it said adding a number of feed inputs such as mineral and vitamin pre-mixes, krill meal, fish lipid oil, crude fish oil, algal prime, algal oil are fully exempted from

any import duty. Artemia and Artemia cysts which are key nutritional inputs in aqua hatchery were also fully exempted from any import duty. The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on essentia aquafarm/ hatchery inputs such as Vannamei and black tiger broodstock, polychaete worms, and

fish/shrimp feed has been



reduced to 5 per cent. Import duty for insect meal and single-cell protein has been cut down to 5 per cent.

"These announcements made in the Union Budget 2024-25 are set to significantly enhance aquaculture and seafood export sectors," the authority said.

that the It also said government has committed to providing substantial financial support to establish a network of Nucleus Breeding Centres (NBCs) for shrimp broodstocks.

"This initiative anticipated to drastically reduce India's reliance on imported broodstock, potentially saving the industry up to Rs 150 crore annually," it said adding hatchery operators are expected to benefit significantly, with projected savings of 50 per cent on broodstock costs.

He pointed out that cyber attacks have increased by 71 per cent on a year-on-year basis and are conducted using stolen or compromised credentials.

termed it a 'gamechanger'.

enhance summarisation, patch

against cyber threats.



# sports 11

raised for the Paris Games but the

protest against the Wrestling Federation of India brought the

There was no national camp, and

no competition for a long time.

The qualified wrestlers have

trained on their own at the centres

of their choice -- both in India and

Fitness status of many is not

known, but going into the Games, Anshu Malik, Antim Panghal and

Aman Sehrawat are considered

India's best bets. Reetika Hooda,

the U-23 world champion, will be

OTHERS: The archers and TT

players have qualified for the

Games on the basis of their rankings. While it is a huge

achievement for TT players, the same can't be said about the

They have promised a lot in the

past too but have not been able to

deliver. The recent episode of their

coach being denied the Games

accreditation means the campaign

Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, the

Tokyo Games silver-medallist, has

struggled with injury and form of

late and is perhaps not in the best frame of mind. There are question

marks if she will be able to repeat

Experienced boxer Nikhat Zareen

and Nishant Dev will be watched

keenly as their latest results have

been encouraging. So far, India

have won 35 medals at the Olympics with shooter Abhinav

Bindra (2008) and Neeraj Chopra

has started on a negative note.

sport to a standstill.

abroad.

a dark dorse.

archers.

her success.

# Indians eye double-digit medal haul as Paris Olympics set for grand start

#### PTI PARIS

nome would be carrying a huge Source of expectations, some others would look to spring a surprise and a few more would be eyeing the perfect closure to their glittering careers as the 117-strong Indian contingent aims for a better-than-before performance in the Olympic Games, starting here on Friday.

India returned from Tokyo with seven medals, and it is only natural that a double-digit performance is now desired in Paris.

Except for wrestlers, who have waded through a highly controversial build-up, athletes in all disciplines have have had no complaints about their preparations. Whether it was training abroad or

getting the best of facilities to sharpen their skills, there was planning in place. But will the hard work, the

strategies and the unbridled support translate into medals?

#### THE BIG PICTURE

It will be a Heculean task to match the Tokyo figures of seven medals, given that except for reigning Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, not many are top contenders in their respective disciplines.

More than half of the 117-member contingent is from three sports -athletics (29), shooting (21) and hockey (19). Of these 69 athletes, 40 are debutants.

In other sports too, there are debutants like tennis player N Sriram Balaji and wrestler Reetika Hooda. They are not exactly inexperienced, but largely, India's campaign will be driven by the notched up mixed results heading



athletes, who will be competing on a stage this grand for the first time. Then there are the seasoned ones who would be expected to raise their game suitably. Two-time medallist shuttler PV

Sindhu, tennis player Rohan Bopanna, legendary table tennis player Sharath Kamal and hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh are certainly playing their last Olympics

stands at 8:09.94 but there are The hockey team has endured seven international runners who patchy form in the build-up to the have achieved better timing than that in the run-up to the Games. Games, the boxers and wrestlers are lacking in real competition Given this, Even making the finals time. The shooters too have will be considered a huge achievement.

into the Olympics.

medal hopefuls.

The track and field athletes,

especially Avinash Sable, have

done well of late, but compared to

their global rivals, their performances don't seem enough

to put them in the bracket of

For instance, steeplechaser Sable

has been consistently bettering his

own national record. His best

#### BEST CHANCE

India's hopes for podium finishes largely hinge on Neeraj, despite concerns around his adductor niggle, and the in-form badminton duo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.

The coveted 90m mark has eluded Neeraj from Tokyo to Paris but the ace javelin thrower seems to be doing just enough, and most importantly, consistently, to land olobal titles.

On big competition days, Neeraj has fared better than his other fancied rivals and if he is fit, the javelin thrower from Panipat will have a chance to become only the

third athlete in India's sports history to win back-to-back Olympic medals.

Only Sindhu (2016 Rio and 2012 Tokyo) and wrestler Sushil Kumar (2008 Beijing, 2012 London) have managed to win two consecutive medals.

Rankireddy and Chirag have grown into one of India's most formidable men's doubles teams and they are being seen as certain medal winners.

Talking about Sindhu, she is not in the best of form and has also got a tough draw but if she can come through the initial rounds, the vast experience could help her make

the medal round.

HOCKEY: The men's hockey team has been inconsistent. It lost all five games in Australia recently after a mixed run in the Pro League. It was a far cry from the Asian Games in Hangzhou where the team emerged champion. Penalty Corner conversion and

maintaining the tempo throughout a match remain a concern. And if that's not enough, the

Indian team has been clubbed with heavyweights Australia, Belgium, Argentina, New Zealand and Ireland. There is no room for error if the team has to make the top-four from this pool four from this pool.

SHOOTING: It's been a quiet build-up for the 21-member shooting contingent, the biggest ever, compared to London and Tokyo where stars such as Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary had raised medal hopes with their exceptional performances in the run-up to the Games.

Even Divyansh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan were hailed as future superstars but all of them have flattered to deceive. There is hardly any spotlight on

shooters but still Sift Kaur Samra (50m three position), Sandeep Singh (10m air rifle) and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (men's 50 m rifle) have it in them to end the 12year wait for a medal.

Gagan Narang, who is now India's Chef de Mission, was the last Indian shooter to climb the podium when he won the 10m air rifle bronze in the 2012 London Games.

explained.

(2021) being the only two WRESTLING: The sport has individual gold medal winners. It's time to turn aspirations into delivered a medal for India in the achievements. Let the Games last four editions. The hopes of winning four to five medals were begin.

So, if the conditions demand

the maximum from an athlete, with such training

they feel ready to negotiate

## **Ankita best-placed Indian** at 11th in individual event

#### PTI PARIS

Debutant Ankita Bhakat campaigners like Deepika Kumar to emerge as the best-placed Indian archer at 11th in the Paris Olympics' women's individual recurve qualifications as the country secured a quarterfinal spot in the team event by finishing fourth here on Thursday.

The 26-year-old Ankita was the top-ranked Indian woman with 666 points, followed by Bhajan Kaur (22nd with 559 points) and Deepika Kumari (23rd with 658 points).

In the team event, India fourth the scoring 1983 points. South Korea topped the standings with 2046 points. China finished runners-up while Mexico grabbed the third spot. The top four in the team standings directly advance to the quarterfinals, while those ending between 5th to 12th play the Round of 16 fixtures. India will face the winner of the contest between France and Netherlands in the quarterfinals. If they clear the quarters, India could be headed for a



heavyweights Korea. package on the day from the Indian perspective, even as four-time Olympian The Korean women's team has been invincible in the Deepika faltered to return Olympics, winning a ninth straight medal in Tokyo her worst ever qualification three years ago result at the Games. In the individual section, Deepika will, for the first Lim Sihyeon time, miss out on the mixed Korea's smashed a world record team berth as Ankita topped score of 694 to top the among the Indians. Ankita will partner the top while standings, her compatriot Suhyeon Nam Indian finisher in the men's scored 688 points to finish qualification in the mixed second. China's Yang Xiaolei team finals. The men's qualifiers get was third with 673. Ankita, who hails from underway in the afternoon

#### PTI PARIS

From spending time in a hypoxic chamber to sparring with a variety of partners to adapt to different styles, Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu has left no stones unturned to be battle-ready for the Paris Games, where she will be chasing an third unprecedented consecutive Olympic medal. Sindhu's form has been patchy of late but she says the hat-trick of medals is very much possible because the last eight months spent with mentor Prakash Padukone has instilled confidence in

No Indian player has won three Olympic medals on the trot and a podium finish will make Sind 1 arguably India's

her.

There's a lot of improvement, you will see that on court: Sindhu Sindhu had won silver and bronze in the last two Olympics at Rio de Janeiro and

Tokyo respectively. Before coming to Sindhu trained Sportcampus Saar Saarbrucken, Germany where the altitude, the weather, and the conditions are similar to the French capital.

There she created a hypoxic chamber (low oxygen) in her room and slept for a couple of days. Hypoxic chambers help prepare an athlete's body to function at higher-altitude places.

altitude training center. I didn't have much time and

#### Change of Name My old name was FAHAD



have been playing. So I just thought, it would be good for me instead of going somewhere, getting it here and doing some changes and sleeping that way," she

the challenge. Sindhu said she has improved

couldn't go to the high

her strokes and is more consistent during the long rallies. obviously, there I couldn't

'Being much more confident in strokes," she replied when

asked what difference she finds after training with Padukone. "In women's singles now,

there are a lot of long rallies and long matches, being

consistent. I am confident in that now," she said. "With every opponent, it's a different style and, you need to play the right stroke at the right time. And that's what Prakash sir also keeps saying.

We've been working on that. And that's almost there. There's a lot of improvement. You will see that on court." The 29-year-old also shared

her training regime in Germany, where she sparred with all kinds of players and sometimes competed against two players at the same time.

#### MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL NIT No. 04/T.Sec./EE./W.W.D./2024-25 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Bhopal, Dated 24.07.2024

Probable Amount Earnest Money Cost of Tende

Deposit

(in lakh)

78,861.00

Document

(in lakh)

12.500.00

of contract

(in lakh)

1,57,72,149.00

Online Tender are invited on website https://mptenders.gov.in for following works. Document can be purchased on website from 24.07.2024 and online submission till 23.07.2024.

Corrigendum for above NIT shall not be published separately in newspapers. Corrigendum regarding correction

can be seen on the website. Detailed NIT and other information can be seen on website http://mptenders.gov.in.

Paris, at in

Bengal and represents Tata session.

greatest athlete.

I am aiming for a medal, definitely, yes. Whether it's one or two or three, it doesn't matter. I've won two medals and I don't want to take pressure by thinking that, oh, what is the third one," she said after a training session at Porte de la Chapelle Arena here.

"Every time I play Olympics, it's a new Olympics for me. So every time I go out there, I want to get a medal and hopefully, I will do that hat trick soon."

HASAN. Which is written on my previous Passport. Now my all present documents. My complete name written as SYED FAHAD HASAN S/O SYED MEHMOOD HASAN. Residence H. No. 03, Sajida Neem Manzil road Jehangirabad Bhopal (M.P.). will be known as SYED

FAHAD HASAN in future.

#### Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

2

T.N.212/024/025

$\wedge$	Aadhar
A A	Aaunar
TŤT	Housing Finance Lto

**Executive Enigeer** 

Water Works Departmen

Municipal Corporation, Bhopa

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069 Sagar Branch : 1st Floor, Sakhi Baba Matrix, Makronia Road Sagar - 470004 (M.P.) Hoshangabad Branch : Khasara No.72/10, Mouza Kishanpur Ward No.16, R.K. Shri Tower, 2nd Floor, Itarasi Road, Near Meenakshi Square,

Opp. Gala Mandi, Hoshangabad - 461001 (M.P.)

#### **E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE**

Name of Work

electric substation, Feeder line, Over head tanks and

Distribution network for Kerwa water supply Scheme

2024\_UAD Outsourcing of Manpower Required for Operation &

\_359312\_1 Maintenance of 29 MLD Kerwa WTP, Intake Well, 33kv

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of 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, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1.	(Loan Code No. 02300001489/ Sagar Branch) Krishnakant Bairagi (Borrower), Munnibai Bairagi (Co-Borrower)	08-09-2023 & ₹ 3,38,078/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, 354 3 Laxmi Nagar P O Kh No 354 3 Ph No 76 Mouja Gambhiriya Ward No 04 Gram Gambhiriya Ward, Sagar, M.P 470003. <b>Boundaries :</b> East- 14ft Wide Road, West- Land of Seller, North- Land of Kamla Thakur, South- Land of Indravati Thakur	₹ 9,60,000/-	₹ 96,000/-	Physical
2.	(Loan Code No. 05600000156/ Hoshangabad Branch) Sharifa Bano (Borrower), Hafiz Khan & Kadeer Khan (Co-Borrowers), Santosh Chourey (Guarantor)	08-11-2023 & ₹ 6,15,620/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No. 109 2 Ph No 13 Ward No 09 Avaam Nagar Ikbalganj Near Chourey Industies, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh- 461111. <b>Boundaries</b> : East- Seller's Land, West- Way, North- Seller's Land, South- Seller's Land	₹ 6,40,000/-	₹ 64,000/-	Physical

within 5:00 PM at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on https://bankeauctions.com. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.

Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 24-08-2024 on https://bankeauctions.com at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'

The Demand Draft Should be made in favorof 'Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only.

Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://bankeauctions.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceeding

6. The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link https://bankeauctions.com/registration/ signup, and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website https://bankeauctions.com

For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, Lokendra Rathore, (Contact: 9977783890) OR the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD, Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: tn@c1india.com & support@bankeauctions.com, Phone No. +917291981124/25/26 As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. www.aadharhousing.com

9. The Bid incremental amount for auction is Rs.1000/-

Place : Madhya Pradesh Date : 26-07-2024

(Authorised Officer) For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

I watch clips of my goals to boost confidence ahead of Olympic debut: Hockey forward Sukhjeet

#### PTI NEW DELHI

Indian hockey forward LSukhjeet Singh is unfazed by the pressure of playing at the highest level and is watching the clips of his international goals to boost his confidence ahead of his Olympic debut at the Paris Games.

"I made my debut in the Indian team in 2022 and scored a goal in my debut match against Spain in the FIH Pro League. The journey so far has been good and I try to do my best in every match, he told PTI Bhasha in an interview before departing for Paris.

Having scored 22 goals in 70 international matches so far, Sukhjeet is prepared physically and mentally to face the pressure of the Olympics.

He is one of the five debutants -- Sanjay, Abhishek, Rajkumar Pal, and Jarmanpreet Singh -who have joined the 11 members of Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist team for the Paris Games

"I am not feeling any pressure at all. We have played big tournaments, so we know how to handle pressure. We are confident of playing well



against big teams in the pool as our preparation has been really good," said the 27-yearold.

The team will begin its campaign on July 27 against New Zealand, followed by matches against Argentina (July 29), Ireland (July 30), Belgium (August 1) and Australia (August 2). India and Australia have clashed on the hockey field a total of 43 times since 2013, according to data from the FIH Data Hub.

Australia have emerged victorious 33 times, while India have won 8 games and 7 matches ended in a draw. Similarly, India has 8 wins, 16 losses and 6 draws in 30 matches against Tokyo in the last 10 years. Sukhjeet had scored six goals in his debut tournament --FIH Pro League -- in 2022. After this, he scored three goals in the 2023 World Cup held in India. He was also part India jersey. of the Indian team that won the gold medal in the Asian

Games in Hangzhou. "I watch my clips of the matches in which I scored goals before big matches. This increases my confidence and I try to do better in the next

match. My previous performance makes me mentally stronger," he said when asked about mental preparations for the Olympics.

Olympic champion Belgium

"Apart from this, talking to a sports psychologist before the semi-finals or finals in the Asian Games and also during the Asian Champions Trophy has benefited a lot. They tell us how to handle pressure. The tips I get from them are very useful. 'Senior players in our team,

Shree Bhai (PR Sreejesh), Manpreet, Harmanpreet have a lot of experience. They tell us about their experiences and motivate us to perform well. If we have any problem, we talk to them?

Sukhjeet was introduced to hockey by his father Ajit Singh when he was six years old. Former Punjab Police hockey player Ajit could not play for the national team but he wanted his son to don the "My father used to play for

Punjab Police and he always had a dream to see his son represent India. It is because of his support that I am at this stage. It will be a proud moment for him and my entire family when I step on the field in Paris," he said.

Asked which players he is eager to meet in the Olympic Games Village, Sukhjeet said that at present the focus is on his preparation.

"I am looking forward to meeting Australian hockey team forward Blake Grovers against whom I have played many matches. But the focus is on our preparation, not on the glamour of Games Village. "There is a good coordination between young and experienced players in the team and we are sure that the trend started in Tokyo will continue further in Paris." said Sukhjeet, who loves to listen to Punjabi songs to relax and unwind amid rigorous training



# **GAMBHIR'S FIRST HEADACHE: PANT OR SAMSON FOR T201 SERIES**

New India head coach Gautam Gambhir will have the onerous task of choosing between Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson during the three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka starting from Saturday.

While most of the key stars of the T20 World Cup winning side sans the retiring duo of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are in the Island nation, the between choice two flamboyant wicketkeeper batters Pant and Samson won't be an easy one. Worse, even with two slots

vacant, one can't fit in both the hard-hitting batters. Pant with 171 runs was the third highest run-getter for India in the T20 World Cup in the Americas but Samson, though was part of the team, didn't get into any game.

A bilateral series against Sri Lanka, of late, has become a low-stakes affair with the two countries often engaged in inconsequential series, some of which India plays to help other international cricket boards stay afloat.

One such series was supposed to be the upcoming one against Sri Lanka but it has assumed greater significance The choice of a keeper-batter



after Gambhir took over as the coach and Hardik Pandya, a sure-shot candidate for captaincy was surpassed by Survakumar Yadav.

In this backdrop, the presence of Gambhir, a fiercely opinionated former India opener and a successful franchise-level mentor, will certainly have a broader say in the team composition, something that will be built over two years in the run-up to the next T20 World Cup.

in T20Is hasn't exactly been a straight forward one for India, especially during the time Pant was out of action due to a horrific car accident in December, 2022. Ishan Kishan was around for

some time before he fell out of favour after leaving the tour of South Africa midway. Samson has featured in some games, so has Jitesh Sharma and Dhruv Jurel in the interim. Samson, one of Pant's contemporaries, has so far played 28 T20I games with a

couple of fifties and strike rate of 133 plus. But it will be fair to say that 27 of those matches have come in the period between 2020 to present, having made his debut back in 2015. So in three and half years, 27 matches sporadically isn't a lot of games to build on confidence.

While average is a slightly less important aspect in the shortest format, the Kerala star would himself admit that 21.14 doesn't do justice to his immense potential. On the

other hand. Pant from his 74 T20I games has three fifties and a strike-rate of a shade below 127. Samson's average is thus pretty similar to the Delhi Capitals skipper, who scored at 22.70 per game.

In terms of sheer numbers there is not much to choose between the two. Both are Pant's falling pull shots are fascinating while Samson on his day can hit the fastest of bowlers over extra cover for maximums.

It will also purely depend on what the new team management feels. When it came to Rohit Sharma, he has came to Rohit Sharma, he has blind faith in Pant's capabilities and Samson despite being in the squad wasn't even up for discussion during the T20 World Cup. However, in the next tour following the T20 World Cup when most first XI boys were rested, Samson played the last three games in Zimbabwe and was also appointed vice-captain to Shubman Gill. In terms of keeping, Pant is a

In terms of keeping, Pant is a far better keeper to spinners like Ravi Bishnoi but in T20Is, keeping skills aren't that important as there are very few balls that would pose trouble for the glovesmen. Gambhir was Pant's first first-

class captain and has seen him as an 18-year-old even before he played for the India U-19s. But he has also been a big advocate of Samson's T20 prowess and vocal about his inclusion during his days as a

TV pundit. It will be a very tough choice and even if Pant is picked for audacious stroke-makers, the series, he knows that he would have to not only score quick but also play a few big innings to stack up the numbers and keep Samson at



## F1 driver Esteban to join American Haas team from next season

#### **AP** KANNAPOLIS (US)

 $F_{will\ drive\ for\ Haas\ from}^{renchman\ Esteban\ Ocon}$ next season as a replacement for Kevin Magnussen, the American Formula 1 team said on Thursday

Details of the deal were not announced, with Haas only saying that the 27-year-old driver committed to a "multiyear contract starting with the 2025 FIA Formula 1 World Championship?

Ocon, the only driver to win a race for Alpine since it rebranded from Renault at the end of 2020, has picked up just three points this season and had already announced he was leaving the French-owned team. His Alpine contract is expiring at the end

of the season. Ocon made his F1 debut in 2016 with Manor and joined the then-Renault team for 2020. His sole career win

came at the Hungarian Grand Prix in 2021 for Alpine after a crash in wet conditions took out much of the field. "I am thrilled to embark on

this new chapter in my Formula 1 career," Ocon said.. 'I'll be joining a very ambitious racing team, whose spirit, work ethic, and undeniable upward trajectory has really impressed me." Haas announced last week

that Magnussen would leave Haas at the end of the season when his contract expires.

On the eve of the Belgian Grand Prix, team principal Ayao Komatsu said Ocon will bring crucial experience to the team after 19-year-old Oliver Bearman also joined. The British driver will take the seat vacated by German driver Nico Hulkenberg, who is joining Sauber at the end of the year ahead of its rebranding to Audi for 2026.

### Djokovic, Nadal could meet in 2nd round at Paris Olympics, Swiatek faces Begu first

#### AP PARIS

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic could meet his longtime rival Rafael Nadal in the second round of the Paris Olympic tennis tournament.

drawn was Djokovic Thursday against Australian Matthew Ebden and Nadal faces Hungary's Marton Fucsovics, with the winners of those matches meeting in Round 2.

The 38-year-old Nadal won a record 14 of his 22 major trophies at the French Open. He won gold in singles at Beijing in 2008, and in doubles with Marc López at Rio de Ianeiro in anvone 'Roland Garros as everybody knows is the most special place in tennis for me. I am enjoying the fact I am back for the Olympics," Nadal said on stage after the draw. "I am just trying to enjoy every single moment." French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz takes on on Lebanese player Hady Habib. Top-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland faces Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania in the opening round of the women's draw with secondseeded American Coco Gauff taking on Australian Ajla Tomljanovic.

She will be the first tennis athlete to carry the US flag. Djokovic and Swiatek have not won Olympic gold. Djokovic owns 24 Grand Slam trophies, more than tennis apart from Margaret Court, but his only Olympic medal was a bronze in Beijing in 2008. Swiatek has won the French Open four of the past five years on the same clay courts at Roland Garros. Four-time major winner Naomi Osaka of Japan takes three-time major champion Angelique Kerber of Germany. Men's and women's firstround play begins Saturday, and the top-ranked man won't be playing. Jannik Sinner pulled out on Wednesday because of tonsillitis. The 22-year-old from Italy posted on X that he took medical advice to sit out the Summer Games. Tokyo Games champion Alexander Zverev of Germany plays Australian

### WOMEN'S ASIA CUP SEMI-FINAL India start firm favourites against Bangladesh

#### PTI DAMBULLA

India a good start.

The

skipper However, Harmanpreet Kaur knows that **C**hafali Verma will be aiming in Asia Cup, it is only the Sto come out all guns blazing while Smriti Mandhana will be semi-final and final matter the most and they would not miss more than motivated to get a the fact that Bangladesh on big one as India start select days can be a dangerous overwhelming favourites against Bangladesh in the semiside.

The start will be very final of the women's Asia Cup important for India and here on Friday. Shafali, with 158 runs, has been Shafali will want her senior the second highest run-scorer in the tournament so far and against Nigar Sultana's team, which has a host of slow bowlers, she will have to give one in terms of volume.

With UAE and Nepal being Women In Blue two of the three opponents pummeled the opposition in all during the group league stage, three games -- winning by the Indian team would seven wickets against Pakistan, certainly face a sterner test 78 runs against UAE and by an against a bunch of decent slow wlers in the Bangladesh



ranks. Slow left-arm orthodox The medium pace department Nahida Akhter and young legspinner Rabeya Khan have both claimed five wickets apiece.

While However, with Harmanpreet, Nahida with a parsimonious economy rate of Richa Ghosh and Jemimah 3.25 would like to build the Rodrigues coming in the pressure on an experienced middle-order and all-rounders pressure on an experienced batting line-up while leg-break bowler Rabeya is likely to push them Indi for wickets

in their ranks. With pitches at the Dambulla

Stadium slowing down considerably during the second half, India would like to defend a total on the big day. The semifinal will, however, be an

afternoon game. Off-spinner Deepti has been very consistent with the ball taking eight wickets in three games so far. The economy rate of 4.66 has been equally comprises veteran Jahanara impressive compared to Radha Alam along with Ritu Moni, Yadav, who has been on the slightly expensive side. who also has chipped in with

The Indian new ball duo of Renuka Singh Thakur and Vastrakar have been on target during the games.

For Bangladesh, they haven't Deepti Sharma and Puja had too many impactful batters Vastrakar to complement and if India can post anything a lot of quality in the range o 140-plus

could well be enough for a place in the final. TEAMS

INDIA: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma (WK), Chetry Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar, Årundhati Reddy, Jemimah Rodrigues, Renuka Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yaday, Shreyanka Patil, Sajana

Saieevan. **BÁNGLADESH:** Nigar Sultana Joty (C), Shorna Akter, Akter, Murshida Nahida Khatun, Shorifa Khatun, Ritu Moni, Rubya Haider Jhelik, Sultana Khatun, Jahanara Alam, Dilara Akter, Ishma Tanjim, Rabeya Khan, Rumana Ahmed, Marufa Akter, Sabikun Nahar Iesmin



opening partner Mandhana to also fire in unison. The elegant left-hander was in great nick during her 45 against Pakistan, which could have been a bigger

Gauff is the reigning US Open champion and is making her Olympic debut. She is a flag bearer for the US team at Friday's opening ceremony along with basketball star LeBron James.

congratulated the Indian

82-run margin against Ne

### Former AICF chief Sanjay Kapoor elected FIDE India zone president

#### PTI NEW DELHI

Cormer All India Chess Federation (AICF) chief Sanjay Kapoor has been unanimously elected the president of FIDE India Zone, the sport's apex body in the country said on Thursday. The announcement was made during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of AICF in Ahmedabad. Kapoor has been elected as

the zone president for four years, and FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich

administrator.

Kapoor's new role marks a pivotal moment for chess governance in India, entrusting him with the responsibility of overseeing the game's growth and development across the globe. Speaking on his appointment, Kapoor said, "It is an immense honour to be elected as the FIDE India Zone President. I am committed to the growth of chess in every corner of our country and ensuring that we produce Grandmasters from each and every state. "My experience with the 44th

Chess Olympiad has shown me the incredible potential we have, and I am excited to work towards a bright future for chess in India and internationally," he added. Kapoor has been at the forefront of successfully staging the 44th edition of the Chess Olympiad in India. He was the AICF president when India hosted the event. Meanwhile, On International Chess Day (July 20) last week, FIDE also launched its Guinness World Record attempt for the most games

played online and over-theboard in 24 hours.

Indian athletes' confidence has reached new high: Gagan

#### PTI PARIS

three wickets.

Olympic medallist shooter Gagan Narang said Indian athletes' mindset has changed over the years and their confidence has touched unprecedented levels, encouraging them to set their sights on a gold medal. The London Games bronze medallist, who is serving as India's Chef-de-Mission at the Paris Olympics, felt the Indian athletes are now not intimidated by their counterparts from other countries.

have

"There is a huge change in the motivation and the level

of thinking our athletes have today. We used to feel scared, under-confident because other countries were better. But slowly that's changed, the mindset (has) changed,' Narang told reporters here. "People started watching sports, playing it, then we had great performances. The confidence is at a new high. Today's athletes don't go just to participate, they go to perform.

Someone in the top 8 or 5 wants to win a medal today and not just any medal but a gold. That's the difference in thinking of the athletes today.

"They don't think anyone is above them. They rate competitors at par and that's a very positive sign for Indian sport," Narang added.

The 41-year-old said there has been an "unprecedented coordination" between the Sports Ministry, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the national federations "The support we have got from the government (this time) we never got before. The support has increased in the past few years, TOPS' players have increased, they have got all the facilities they wanted.

# Paris aims to reset Olympics with audacious games and wow opening

#### AP PARIS

 $P_{dreamers:\ Just\ look}^{aris\ has\ long\ been\ a\ city\ of}$ Eiffel Tower, for decades the world's loftiest structure. Audacity also underpins the French capital's plans for its first Olympic Games in a century, which open Friday with an opening ceremony for the ages.

The most sprawling and elaborate Olympic opening ever — a gala spectacular Friday evening on the River Seine that even French President Emmanuel Macron says initially felt like "a crazy and not very serious idea" kicks off 16 days of competition that promise to be ground-breaking, with nearly every corner of the city hosting some aspect of competition.

toned-down, After two pandemic-hampered Olympics, expect a bold

France's world-renowned capital of fashion, gastronomy and culture could also help secure the Olympics' longerterm future. Olympic organizers were

Alex de Minaur.

struggling to find suitable host cities for their flagship Summer Games when they settled on Paris in 2017 enticed by its promise of innovations and the potential for the city of romance to rekindle love for the Olympics, especially with

younger audiences that have so many other entertainment options. But Paris' challenges are huge, too. Past and present sorrows

hang over the Games The city that has been repeatedly struck by deadly

extremist attacks has to safeguard 10,500 athletes and millions of visitors. The international context of wars in Ukraine and Gaza add layers of complication for the celebration. The heady gargantuan security effort. Olympics with marriage of sports and French elite special forces are #MeToo world.



part of the security detail for Israel's delegation. Still, if all goes well, Paris hopes to be remembered as a before-and-after Olympic

watershed. The first Games with nearly equal numbers of men and women, an advance that's been a long time coming since 22 women first got accepted as Olympians 124 years ago, also in Paris, will take another step toward aligning the Olympics with the post-

Paris also hopes to reassure climate-conscious Generations Z and beyond by staging Games that are less polluting, more sustainable and more socially virtuous than their predecessors. Many of the sports venues are temporary, because Paris didn't want to repeat the mistake of previous Olympic host cities that built new arenas and then had no use for them.

With iconic Paris monuments as backdrops — beach volleyball in the Eiffel Tower's shadow — and breakdancing added to a growing list of Olympic sports that target young audiences, expect plenty of viral moments on TikTok and Instagram, elsewhere. Crowds will be back for the

first time since the coronavirus pandemic forced Tokyo to push back its Games to 2021 and keep spectators away, and the Beijing Winter Games in 2022, when China was locked down.

director Thomas Jolly is turning central Paris into an open-air stage for the opening ceremony that will run through sunset and showcase France, its people and their history. The 330-meter-tall (1,083-foot-tall) Eiffel Tower will surely feature prominently.

Hundreds of thousands of people, including 320,000 paying and invited ticketpaying and invited ticket- State-group gunmen and holders, are expected to line suicide bombers who killed

the Seine's banks as athletes are paraded along the river on boats.

During the extravaganza, a no-fly zone extending for 150 kilometers (93 miles) around the capital will close Paris' skies, policed by fighter jets, airspace-monitoring AWACS surveillance flights, surveillance drones, helicopters that can carry sharpshooters and drone-

disabling equipment. Helping Parisians move past the attacks of 2015

Showcasing and celebrating Paris could be joyously cathartic for the city that was plunged into mourning by extremist attacks in 2015. Guesses about the identity of the person or people who might get the honor of Olympic the lighting cauldron include soccer icon Zinedine Zidane and other French sporting heroes, but also survivors of Islamic

130 people on Nov. 13, 2015. Paris is also taking gambles in hopes of leaving an indelible impression on the Olympics' global audience of billions. The decision not to stage the opening ceremony in the traditional setting of France's biggest stadium - the Stade de France that was among the 2015 attackers' targets and is now the venue for Olympic track and field and rugby sevens - and to host skateboarding, archery and other sports in temporary arenas in the heart of Paris have made safeguarding the Games more complex.

Rights campaigners and Games critics worry about the broad scope and scale of Olympic security, including the use of AI-equipped surveillance technology. Paris' reach stretches to the

Pacific The furthest venue is on the other side of the world in the French Pacific territory of Tahiti, where Olympic surfers

will compete on famously giant waves that first form in storm belts off Antarctica.

Up to 45,000 police and gendarmes, plus 10,000 soldiers, are safeguarding Paris and its suburbs that together are hosting most of the 32 sports that will crown Olympic champions in 329 medal events. The gold, silver and bronze medals they'll hand out are inlaid with a hexagonal, polished chunk of iron taken from the Eiffel Tower.

The Seine's banks and riverside roads and more than a dozen of its bridges were fenced off nine days ahead of the opening ceremony, creating a no-go zone for people who haven't applied in advance for passes and making it tough for Parisians and visitors to get around and see the sights in the city of 2 million. Owners of restaurants and other businesses inside the security fence are howling about fewer customers.

Prize-winning French theater