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'INCITING' CONFRONTATION BHOPAL, TUESDAY JULY 30, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

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WHITEWASH AGAINST LANKA

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DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

The tragedy in infamous by-lane of Old Rajinder Nagar in the L national Capital, which claimed the lives of three IAS aspirants last week, rocked Parliament on Monday. Leaders cutting across party lines demanded a high-level probe and called for a mechanism to curb mushrooming of coaching centres nationwide, particularly in Delhi. Lok Sabha members demanded an

enquiry into the tragic incident, while Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said the culture of coaching centres has spawned "gas chambers" and stressed on the need to examine the huge expenditure on advertisements by them. newspaper

Given the sensitivity and urgency of the matter the Upper House agreed for a short duration discussion on the deaths of three UPSC aspirants by drowning in a coaching centre in Delhi due to waterlogging. While BJP's New Delhi Lok Sabha

MP Bansuri Swaraj blamed the AAP-led Delhi Government for "utter apathy", AAP leader Sanjay Singh urged the Rajya Sabha Chairperson to hold discussions in the House also on NEET, Manipur violence and "infiltration" by China.

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva sought to know had this incident happened in a NEET centre, what would have the Treasury Benches done. He said the Delhi Lieutenant Governor has all the powers in the national Capital and only he should be held responsible (for this incident).

"The Chief Minister of Delhi is just for namesake," he said.



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan informed Parliament that there are clear guidelines for running coaching centres and it is the duty of the State Governments to supervise their functioning. "We must fix functioning. responsibility so that such incidents do not recur. There should be no politics... Negligence has happened and someone has to take responsibility so that a solution can be found," Pradhan said.

Government has sent advisories related to coaching BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi who

initiated the discussion in Rajya Sabha, pointed towards the "laxities" of the Delhi Government's various departments. "There were many complaints (against the institute). A student complained on June 26 and then a reminder on July 22 while the fire department gave NOC (no-objection certificate) for the use of the basement as storage," Trivedi said.

In his remarks Dhakhar said, "I advisories related to coaching In his remarks Dhakhar said, "I students, every new building is flooding ca centres to the States and Union find that youth demographic coming from the students," he said. authorities.

Territories in 2017, 2019, 2020 and dividend of the country has to be 2024, he informed. dividend of the country has to be nurtured, I further find that coaching has become virtually commerce." He also pointed out the high sums earned by the coaching centres leading commercialisation of education.

> "Coachings have become flourishing industry with high returns.... Every time we read a newspaper front one or two pages are by way of advertisements.... Every penny spent advertisement is coming from the

Comparing the coaching culture to no less than "gas chambers", the Chairman stated, "In a country where opportunities are growing this silo is turning out to be a problem... They are becoming no less than a gas chamber." He urged the members to tell the youths about the various other employment and skill opportunities available in the country. Congress MP Randeep Singh

Suriewala demanded a law to regulate fee structure and ensure safety of students, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav wrote to Speaker Om Birla urging him to direct the Government to pay ₹one crore compensation to the next of kin of the students who died. In the Lok Sabha the issue of

suicides in the coaching hub of Kota in Rajasthan was also raised and Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said several initiatives have been taken by the Centre to curb incidents of suicide among students. "According to NCRB (National

Crime Records Bureau) and Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India, only 1.2 per cent of total suicide cases are related to failure in examinations," Majumdar told the House. On the other hand a civil services

aspirant wrote to Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud seeking action against officials responsible for the deaths of three fellow students. In his letter, Avinash Dubey said students residing in these areas are "living a life of hell" due to annual flooding caused by "apathy" of the



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

After a day-long protest by the mediapersons over the security norms to curb the movement of journalists in the Parliament premises on Monday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met a group of journalists and assured them that all their grievances would be redressed and better facilities would be provided to them to discharge their duties.

Print and TV journalists routinely record comments from MPs near the entry and exit points of the Parliament building but on Monday they were restricted to a porta-cabin enclosure made for them. Reporters were removed from Parliament's Makar Dwar where they usually interact with MPs. Makar Dwar is one

Rahul Gandhi raised the issue in the Lok Sabha and requested the Speaker to remove the restrictions imposed on the media within Parliament premises. Sir, I would request you to

allow the media, who have

been restricted to a cage, to move out," Rahul said in the Lok Sabha. Birla reminded Rahul about the rules of procedures of Parliament and said such issues should be discussed with him in person and not be raised on the floor of the House. Rahul and other Opposition leaders such as Trinamool

Congress leader Derek O'Brien, Congress MP Karti Chidambaram, and Shiv Sena-UBT MP Priyanka Chaturvedi met mediapersons in the media enclosure.

"This is censorship. This is of the entrances to the new Parliament building.

Leader of the Opposition Completely unacceptable. We are with you in this fight," O'Brien said.

lammu terrorised Hunted to extinction

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

A late-night fire incident, in which at least four houses belonging to Kashmiri Pandits were gutted under mysterious circumstances in the Mattan area of Anantnag district on Sunday, has once again sparked a debate and raised serious security concerns among the Kashmir Pandit

The houses stood tall and witnessed over three-decade-long struggle before they were gutted under mysterious circumstances late last night.

"We received this news early in the morning. The fire incident took place around 2.30 am. We demand a high-level probe into the fire," a close relative of the family living in Jammu told reporters.

The multi-floor building was considered heritage site in the area. Most visitors reaching Mattan to fulfil their religious obligations used to pay a visit to the area and soak themselves in the glorious history of their forefathers who had constructed these architecturally

rich structures. A prominent Kashmiri Pandit activist Ravinder Padita, associated with the Save Sharda in a post on X commented, "Is it sabotage or natural causes? One needs to know".



At least four houses belonging to Kashmiri Pandits were gutted under mysterious circumstances in the Mattan area of Anantnag

Another Kashmiri Pandit sharing his angst posted a message on X, "A Kashmiri Pandit house gutted in Mattan, Anantnag, Kashmir last night. The genocide continues for 34 years"

associated with the BJP said, ". strongly resent the fire incident at Mattan, Anantnag, where more than 4 houses of Kashmiri Pandits were gutted. This incident raises serious concerns. Urgently request L-G Manoj Sinha to form a highlevel enquiry to uncover why these houses were targeted. The main concern is clear: Why are Kashmiri Pandit homes and Hindu shrines repeatedly targeted? Time has come to take decisive action against the miscreants."

Meanwhile, Chief Spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Tanvir Sadiq in a post on X commented, "Very sorry to hear that. These are such aesthetic constructions, and architecture which are disappearing slowly. It's a significant loss. I request the police to investigate the case and find out reasons behind this fire incident". Umesh Talashi, also associated with the National Conference said, Heartbroken as four KP houses, including mine, were gutted in a fire in Mattan. Urging Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and

Jammu Kashmir Police to take swift action and ensure justice. At the time of the fire incident, no one was staying in the house. Family members claimed in the absence of any power connection the question of fire caused by Chetan Wanchoo, a political worker a short circuit does not arise.

vear.

pressures

ARCHANA JYOTI INEW DELHI

On World Tiger Day, July 29, India faces troubling news about its iconic wildlife. If in the first seven months of this year alone, 81 tigers have died across the country due to habitat destruction, poaching, territorial disputes, disease, and humanwildlife conflicts, in the past five their lives to unnatural causes including electrocution, train accidents, poaching, and poison-

According to the data available from the National Tiger Authority Conservation Authority (NTCA), Madhya Pradeshhome to the country's largest tiger population-has reported the highest number of mortalities at 27 followed by Maharashtra (14) and Karnataka (11). Madhya Pradesh has seven tiger reserves. The other States which also reported tiger deaths are Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Assam. Of the

total deaths, 45 were adults and eight were cubs, with the sex of the remaining tigers still to be identified. Most fatalities occurred within tiger reserves,



overseen by the NTCA. Last calendar year 2023, the country reported a disturbing surge in tiger deaths, reaching a record 204, as reported by the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), a non-profit organization engaged in the conservation of these majestic creatures. In contrast, the NTCA data put the figures at

The number of tigers in India has increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022, an annual rise of 6 per cent,

according to the government data released International Tiger Day last

> Meanwhile, distressing figures on elephant deaths were tabled by the Government in the Lok Sabha on Monday underscoring the urgent need comprehensive for conservation strategies amidst growing human-wildlife conflicts and environmental

As per the data on the jumbo deaths, electrocution has been the leading cause, with Odisha topping the list at 71 followed by Assam (55), Karnataka (52), Tamil Nadu (49), Chhattisgan (32), Jharkhand (30), and Kerala (29) which have been the most affected. Train

Poaching was reported primarily in Odisha (17), Meghalaya (14), and Tamil Nadu (10), while poisoning cases occurred in Assam (10), Chhattisgarh (2), and West Bengal (1) The question on jumbo deaths was raised by BJP MPs Jayanta

in Assam (22) and Odisha (16

Kumar Roy and Sangeeta response, Union Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh told the Lok Sabha that 392 elephants died from electrocution and 73 were killed in train accidents during this period. According to the last elephant

census conducted in 2017, India has 29,964 elephants, which is around 60 per cent of their global population. Data presented in Parliament last week revealed that humanelephant conflict resulted in 2,853 human deaths in India over the last five years, with the number of fatalities reaching a five-year high of 628 in 2023. The data revealed that Odisha recorded 624 such deaths during this period, Jharkhand 474, West Bengal 436, Assam 383, Chhattisgarh 303, Tamil Nadu 256, Karnataka 160, and Kerala 124

Kejriwal booked

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday filed a chargesheet against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with its corruption probe into the now scrapped 2021-22 Delhi excise policy, calling him one of the conspirators of

the criminal conspiracy.

In a related development, the
Delhi High Court on Monday
reserved its order on the bail
plea by Kejriwal in the corruption case. The verdict was reserved by Justice Neena Bansal Krishna

after hearing the counsel appearing for the AAP leader as well as the CBI. In the trial court, the CBI

filed a chargesheet against Kejriwal alleging the AAP received kickbacks worth ₹100 crore.

The CBI, which first questioned Kejriwal in April



chargesheets in the case extended the judicial custody against 18 accused including Kejriwal's former deputy, Manish Sisodia, and Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader K of Sisodia and Kavitha in connection with a money-Kavitha. The CBI said the one

charge sheet in the case.

laundering case linked to the liquor policy case. The CBI has named filed today, will be its final AAPKejriwal, MLA Durgesh Pathak, non-The development came days executive director after Delhi's Rouse Avenue
Court extended Kejriwal's
judicial custody in the case

Executive director of
Aurobindo Pharma P. Sarath
Chandra Reddy, director of
Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd Amit

alleged operator Vinod Chauhan, and businessman Ashish Mathur as accused.

According to the agency, it has been revealed that Vijay Nair [former media in charge of AAP), a close associate of Kejriwal, was contacting various liquor manufacturers and traders and demanding undue gratification since March 2021, for incorporation of provisions favourable to them in the upcoming Delhi excise policy 2021-22."

The CBI also alleged that kickbacks of ground \$200,100

kickbacks of around ₹90-100 crore were paid in advance to some politicians of the ruling AAP in Delhi and other public servants by some persons in the liquor business from South India through co-accused Vijay Nair, Abhishek Boinpally and Dinesh Arora to tweak the Excise Policy for 2021-22.



Shimla: Clouds hover over the hill town of Shimla on Monday

MP is lucky to house the highest number of tigers: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav, while congratulating tiger lovers on International Tiger Day, has said that we are fortunate to have the maximum number of tigers in the country in Madhya Pradesh. Bhopal is the only capital in the country whose tigers roam freely around its municipal limits.

It is a matter of pride that the Cheetah project is also active in the state, whereas Cheetah is not found anywhere in the whole of Asia. Keeping in view the balance of the ecosystem, the state government will continue to encourage the co-existence of different wild animals in different areas of the state. New tiger reserves will be developed in the areas of the state where there are

national animal, hence for the survival of the tiger in all the states, Madhya Pradesh will provide tigers to other states

Yadav was addressing a statelevel program at Kushabhau Thackeray Auditorium on International Tiger Day. He inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. Yadav inaugurated an exhibition

on the International Tiger Day and also inspected it. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav released three books of the Forest Department on Voluntary Village Relocation: "The Satpura Model", "Pench Tiger Behavior Activities Kit-3" and "Kanha Ki Kahaniyan" respectively. Short films focusing on Tiger Warriors, Pench Land of Tiger, and Bison restoration were also screened on the occasion. Yadav also honoured forest workers no tigers. The tiger is our and officers for their excellent Prime Minister Narendra Modi

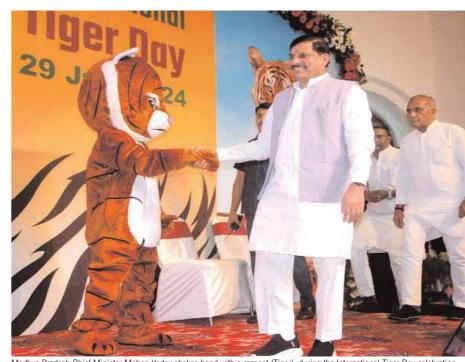
work for the conservation of forests and wild animals. On this occasion, Forest Minister Ramniwas Rawat, Minister of State for Forests Dilip Ahirwar, Minister of State for Backward Classes and Minority Welfare (Independent Charge) Krishna Gaur was especially present. Yadav said that while the

Cheetah Project is in progress in the state, activities are also going on to settle the cheetahs in the Gandhi Sagar area. He said that due to the conservation of wild animals and better management of the Tiger Reserve, the number of tourists is also increasing continuously. There are 7 tiger reserves present in the state. Forests generate revenue of about Rs 60 crore and more than 25 lakh tourists visit the state. The ongoing efforts for forest and wildlife conservation under the leadership and guidance of will help in strengthening the ecosystem and local economy. He said that it is necessary to start efforts for the restoration of wild animals that have become extinct with time and also for the conservation of various species of snakes.

Yadav honoured officers and forest employees for their excellent work for the conservation of forests and wild animals. Among those who were honoured are Deputy Forest Conservator of Indore Smt. Anubha Trivedi in forest crime Investigation category, Forest ranger of Panna Tiger Reserve Hridayesh Hari Bhargava, Forest Guard of Satpura Tiger Reserve Nandkishore Ahirwar, Assistant Mahavat of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in active wildlife management sector Neelam Singh, Health Officer of Panna Tiger Reserve Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Forest Conservator of

Reserve Tarachand Gaur, Forest Guard of Pench Tiger Reserve Mohpat Singh Choudhary Assistant Forest Conservator Rajesh Mandawalia in wild life conservation catogry Deputy Forest Range Officer of Kanha Tiger Reserve Kunwar Singh Tekam and Forest Guard Rajesh Mehra of Tiger Strike Force Jabalpur.

Under the wildlife rescue category, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav honoured Deputy Forest Officer of Forest Division Raisen, Sudhir Patle, and his team members Pravesh Patidar, Prabhat Yadav, Pritam Singh Jatav, Bhajan Sharma, Lal Singh Purvi, Sarjan Singh Meena, Parasram Malviya, Nitesh. Yadav and Shoaib Khan were honoured. Forest Guard of Van Vihar National Park, Jasman Singh Raghuvanshi was also honoured in this category.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav shakes hand with a mascot (Tiger) during the International Tiger Day celebration programme at Kushabhau Thackeray convention center in Bhopal on Monday

Hepatitis care center and liver gallery Inaugurated

Bhopal: In a significant step towards combating hepatitis, a program was organized at AIIMS Bhopal on Monday in connection with World Hepatitis Day. On this occasion a liver gallery was inaugurated within the hospital premises by Executive Director Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh. Various posters and informational materials were displayed in liver gallery to raise awareness about hepatitis among the attendees. In his inaugural address, Prof. Singh emphasized the critical need for increased awareness about hepatitis and stressed the importance of prioritizing prevention over treatment. He highlighted the significance of earlystage testing for timely interven-

tion and treatment. Prof. Singh

also announced that all employ-ees of AIIMS Bhopal would

receive free vaccinations to pre-

vent hepatitis, underscoring the

institution's commitment to the

health and well-being of its staff.

He announced that not only doctors but nursing staff ward attendants, cleaning staff and students will also be vaccinated against Hepatitis B in this vaccination drive. Dr Singh has announced that we will upgrade this centre to Hepatitis care centre so that we can focus on preventive aspects also along with treatment aspects.

During the event, Prof. Singh personally interacted with patients, distributed fruits and inquired about their well-being, demonstrating AIIMS Bhopal's holistic approach to patient care. Nodal officer Dr Abhishek Singhai presented progress report of hepatitis treatment centre in this event. He informed that 336 Hepatitis B and 101 hepatitis C patients are registered in this centre and they are getting free medicines and following up them regularly. He informed that we have advance machines like viral load testing machine and

Fibroscan which are required in hepatitis management.

The program also featured a comprehensive presentation by Dr. Rajnish Joshi, Head of the General Medicine Department and Dean (Academics). Dr. Joshi outlined the new initiatives and urged the judicious use of available resources. He announced that AIIMS Bhopal would provide complete solutions including diagnostics and therapeutics to viral hepatitis patients furthering the institution's commitment to accessible health-

In addition to these significant announcements, a poster competition on hepatitis awareness was conducted and healthcare workers working in national viral hepatitis control program were felicitated. The event witnessed active participation from a large number of faculty members, residents, nursing staff, and other

MANIT students protest demanding entry of bikes in campus

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

ngry over 'no entry of bikes in Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) students took to streets at 9 am on Monday to protest and demand to allow bikes inside the premises.

The students remained in the campus even after 3 pm. Their demand is that permission should be given to take bikes inside MANIT. So that, they do not face any problem.

Meanwhile, MANIT management has also discussed with the students. MANIT management said that the exercise to make the campus a green campus started about 3 months ago. Therefore, taking bikes inside the campus was banned. Many students are The students remained in the campus even after 3 pm. Their demand is that permission should be given to take bikes inside MANIT. So that, they do not face any problem

coming by bicycle. At the same time, electric buses have also been started in the campus from this Sunday. On Monday morning at 9 am, many students came out of the campus and started protesting. They said that most of the students are from outside cities. They campus green campus, but live here on rent which is located in distant places. Many times connecting buses are not available. In such a situation, there are problems in coming to MANIT. Therefore, they should be allowed to bring

protesting students. During the protest, ABVP submitted also memorandum to the MANIT management. In which the demands related to the students were told. It was said that it is right to campus green campus, but it is wrong to ban vehicles immediately. Due to this, the students are facing problems. They are commuting by four buses and some bicycles.

Among the other demands, the student body said that bikes. At 3 pm, the voice of the students is management met the suppressed due to the

absence of elections of the Students Council in MANIT. Therefore, elections should be held soon.

The quality of food in the mess should be taken care of and there should be transparency in the operation of the mess. The operation of the mess in number-7 and 12 hostels should be given back to the girl students.

There is a need for quality in libraries, gym, sports, medical. Also, time should be increased so that students can take full advantage.

Insects are found in water coolers in the hostel, water tanks are not cleaned, plaster is falling off from the walls, washrooms are not cleaned and the condition of toilets is pathetic. Therefore, the hostel should be rebuilt.

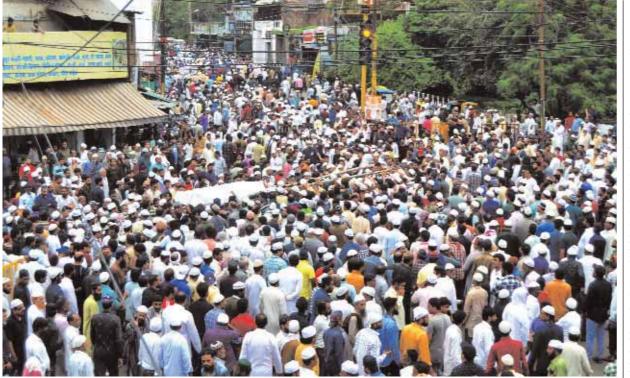
3 nabbed in truck robbery case

Bhopal: Sukhi Sewania police have arrested the three accused in the truck robbery case. A reward of Rs was announced for their arrest.

On July 24, the miscreants stopped the truck in a filmy style by placing a bike in front of it. After this, they beat up the driver and took him down from the truck.

Later, the accused threatened to kill him. They snatched the mobile phone of the com-plainant driver and fled with the

On receiving the complaint of the incident, the police started searching for the accused. On the information of the informer, all the three accused have been arrested from Jhagaria Ghanti. During interrogation, the accused admitted that they had planned to raise money by selling the parts of the truck for



d the funeral of veteran Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh minister Arif Aqueel, who passed away after prolonged illness in Bhopal on

Chief Minister for 24 hour functioning of flood control room

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav has asked the con-✓ cerning authorities to ensure that no loss of life occurs during the rainy season. He asked all collectors to put their subordinate administrative staff on alert. The flood control room should function round-the-clock. The people should also be warned before any incident or accident. He stressed on maintaining coordination to deal with the challenge of excessive rainfall or floods. If assistance of Army is inform well in time.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has described as painful the untimely death of three youths due to water logging in the basement area in Old Rajendra Nagar in Delhi yesterday. In light of this incident, instructions have been given to survey the coaching centers oper-

ating in the basements. Dr. Yadav reviewed the situation and the possibility of flood in some districts. Besides, the Collectors-Commissioners have been asked to ensure requisite arrangements in case of excessive rainfall. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

directed that the Public Works Department should compile information about bridges and culverts, where accidents have occurred in the past, and the administration should ensure security arrangements on culverts and bridges. People must not be allowed to cross over the water. If water is released from dams, the affected districts must be alerted. Team of rescue swimmers should also be ready. There should be coordination at the local level and mutual information must be shared between districts and tehsils. The challenges caused by excessive rainfall and floods.

Dr. Yadav stressed on continuous monitoring. Officers and employees at control rooms duty should remain alert 24x7. As per need, the services of scout-guide and service organizations in case of excessive rainfall must be sought.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that one should take care of cleanliness in drinking water supply during rainy days. The people should continue to get essential items without hindrance. Essential services should be ensured. Cattle also die due to problems arising during the rainy season. tle heads should be timely

Chief Minister said that citizens should not be allowed to travel through bridges or culverts where water flow is strong. The swimming team necessary for their survival should also be available at such a place. Rural areas

should remain in contact with the district and tehsil. The possibility of an accident or excessive water logging should be avoided.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that recently, due to excessive rainfall in Jabalpur, Mandla, and Katni districts saw untimely deaths. It should be ensured that such accidents are not repeated. Necessary arrangements for rescue teams should be made on rivers and ponds where people go for picnics. He also mourned the loss four lives.

Yadav approved Rs 16 lakh Swechhanudan. Minister Dr. Yadav said that such accidents must not be repeated. Open borewells should also be closed as it could lead to serious accidents. Citizens themselves should be alert and administrative staff should also remain active

Arif Aqeel laid to rest at Bada Bagh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

enior Congress leader and former minister Arif Aqeel passed away during treatment in a private hospital in Bhopal on Monday.

His MLA son Atif Aqeel said that he was admitted to Apollo Sage Hospital on Sunday evening after complaining chest

evening after complaining chest pain. Doctors had kept his father on ventilator support. At 3.30 pm, the funeral procession of former minister Arif

Aqeel started from his residence

at Laxmi Talkies Sarai. Namaze-Janaza was offered on Bal Vihar Road. He was laid to rest in the cemetery located at Bada Bagh. The markets in the old city of Bhopal

remained closed on the death of the former minister. Arif Aqeel became MLA for the first time in 1990. After this, he was elected MLA from Bhopal

North seat in 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. For the first time in 1998, he was made Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes and Minority

Welfare, Bhopal Gas Tragedy

Relief and Rehabilitation, Food

Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department. For the second time in 2018, he was made the Minister of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and

Rehabilitation Department and Backward Classes and Minority Welfare, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) departments.

Arif Aqeel always wore slippers. When he was going to welcome Rahul Gandhi on the stage of a program, Rahul was looking at his slippers. During that time Jyotiraditya Scindia used to be in Congress.

Arif's health deteriorated in the beginning of 2023. Blockages were found in his heart during the examination. He underwent surgery at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram. After the surgery, he refused to contest the elections and the party made his son Atif a candidate from Bhopal North, he went out to seek votes in a

jeep and wheelchair. Arif Aqeel is called 'Sher-e-Bhopal'. The reason for this is despite making every effort for two decades, BJP could not defeat in his impenetrable fort Bhopal North constituency. It is said that, 'Arif bhai did not

believed that whatever came to him was his.' Senior Congress leaders including PCC Chief Jitu patwari expressed profound grief over

discriminate in work. He

the demise of Aqeel. Speaker Tomar expressed condolence on the X account of Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

Orders to survey coaching classes in basements

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

n light of the deaths of three civil services aspirants at a water-logged coaching centre in Delhi, the Madhya Pradesh government on Monday directed civic bodies to survey coaching classes operating in basements of buildings and ensure safety measures are in place on such

premises. IAS aspirants Shreya Yadav from Ûttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni from Telangana and Navin Dalwin from Kerala died after the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle, being used as a library, got flooded due to rains in the capital on

Saturday evening. Seven people, including the owner and coordinator of the coaching institute, have been arrested in connection with the incident.

In a review meeting at the state secretariat on Monday, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav directed officials to inspect coaching institutes being run in base-ments of buildings and ensure safety measures are in place. Yadav said the untimely death of three youngsters preparing for civil services exams in Delhi's Old Rajendra Nagar was sad and painful.

Glaucoma of five month old baby operated in Sewa Sadan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

laucoma specialist Dr. Samta Patel performed a Samta Patel performed a successful surgery of Glaucoma on Right eye of five-month-old baby Mitansh at Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital the other day. Mitansh Is son of Radha and Rajkumar Parihar presently residing at Bhopal. Rajkumar works in event management and decorate flowers

on the stage. Their income is low. Five months ago their child was born. After a few days, Mother Radha felt that her baby was not able to see properly from his right eye and his eye was also watering continuously. Later, this discharge stop and baby's right eye pupil started turning white. To see anything, the child had to combine his pupil of both eyes. In other situation, signs of strains were also clearly visible

on his face and eyes. This was worrying for the couple. First of all, the couple got his baby examined with an ophthalmologists and then they came to know that the baby had a Glaucoma in his right eye. The doctor advised them to get the baby's eyes treated at AIIMS Delhi or any major ophthalmology hospital in Chennai. Meanwhile, Rajkumar's friends also advised him to go to Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital and get the baby diagnosed and treated. Radha and Rajkumar got the baby examined by glaucoma specialist Dr. Samta Patel. After detailed investigations, Dr. Samta performed a successful Glaucoma surgery on the infant

on July 19, 2024. Dr. Samta told that the size of the pupil of the child's right eye was larger than normal and the pupil was white. Normal pressure of the both eyes was also abnormal and the optic nerve was also effected.

Dr. Samta further told that the enlargement of the pupil, tears from the eyes, whitening and the parents experiencing low vision are the symptoms of congenital glaucoma. Which requires immediate Glaucoma surgery. After the successful surgery, the couple came with their baby today for follow up checkup. Within ten days the baby's right eye became normal. Now the baby does not have to strain to see any object. Seeing the peo-ple standing around, the child has started spreading a childlike smiles. The baby's parents are very happy with the positive

changes in his eyes.



PNS MHOW

⊣he Vidyanjali program was organised in Shiksha Shikhar to commemorate the initiative taken by Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 07, 2021 with an aim of strengthening school education through the community. On this occasion, Retired

Virendra Mishra, Rakesh Choudhary, Principal of Eklavya School, Dhar, Vikas Tyagi reporter of 'The Pioneer' Newspaper, Vikram Baghel Retired Senior Intelligence officer in DRI, New Delhi and Mrs. Kanta Sodani an active Social Worker have attended the program and gave motivational speeches to students.

Army Officer Colonel

All the distinguished guest inspired the students with their inspirational and motivational stories and real life experiences.

The guests also planted saplings in the School. Director of Siksha Sikhar Captain Ashok Maheshwari proposed vote of Thanks. Principal of the school Mrs Jyoti Maheshwari and all the teachers were also present.

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A glimpse of 'MP in Modi's mind' seen in the budget: VD

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

C tate President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma participated in the discussion on the budget proposal in Lok Sabha on Monday.

He said that the new budget of the Modi government is a budget that fulfills the resolution of making the country a developed India by 2047. The opposition only does negative politics of lies, deceit and fraud. In fact, the budget of the Modi government is all-encompassing, inclusive and development-oriented. I congratulate and thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for this historic bud-

Sharma said that from the speeches of the opposition leaders who were speaking before me, it has become clear that the

opposition, which does politics had said that Modi is in the mind of lies, deceit and fraud in the country, is also playing a negative role in the House.

An opposition leader was saying that there is no opportunity for 17 crore Muslims of the country in the budget. I want to tell him that for the last ten years, the government of Prime Minister has been working on the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas. The Modi government has worked for every society, every section and the current budget is also a budget that fulfills the aspirations of 140 crore countrymen and proves the concepts of Amritkaal.

The budget presented under the leadership of the Prime Minister is an economic document for the creation of a self-reliant India.BJP State President and MP Shri Vishnudutt Sharma said that when we were contesting elections in Madhya Pradesh, we

of MP and Modi ji has MP in his mind. With this slogan, we ran the election campaign and made a record of victory in the Assembly. In the Lok Sabha elections, we won all 29 seats. During the Lok Sabha elections,

some people said that Chhindwara is this stronghold, that stronghold. We said that this is the stronghold of the beneficiaries of the schemes of the Modi government and we won in Chhindwara as well. Shri Sharma said that the budget presented by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji for the year 2024-25 also reflects that 'Modi is in the mind of MP'. In this budget, Madhya Pradesh has been given Rs 97907 crore, which is Rs 11205 crore more than the previous budget.

For this, on behalf of the people of Madhya Pradesh, I thank Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi and Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. I also thank the Railway Minister that Rs 14738 crore has been given for rail facilities in Madhya Pradesh, which was only Rs 632 crore during the Congress

Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, historic work has been done for the development of rail facilities in Madhya Pradesh. In the last 10 years, Madhya Pradesh has received many gifts ranging from 1062 flyovers.BJP State President Shri Vishnudutt Sharma said that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath in 2014, he had said that my government is a government dedicated to the

Today I want to mention in this House that Congress ruled this country for 55 years, but did nothing for poverty eradication. A former Congress Prime

Minister used to say that if we send one rupee for the poor, then 85 paise are eaten up by brokers and middlemen. Only 15 paise reaches the poor. But today I can say with pride

that the efforts made by the Modi government for good governance and the end of corruption result in the entire one rupee reaching the account of the poor. Due to the schemes launched for the welfare of the poor, today 25 crore people in India have come out of the poverty line. This has been possible under the leadership of Modi ji.

Sharma said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji had started the Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in 2020, under which even today 80 crore families are being given free ration. Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, 30 crore people have been given the right to free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh.



Madhya Pradesh Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Vishwas Kailash Sarang encourages the youth leaving for the International border under Maa Tujhe Pranam Yojana, in Bhopal on Monday.

Devotees offer prayers at a Shiv temple on the second Monday during the holy month of Shravan in Bhopal on Monday

Buyer-seller meet of food processing producers will be held today units will be displayed in the program, in which about 250 **STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL tural entrepreneurs in

buyer-seller meet of food processing producers of the state will be held on Tuesday in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at Kushabhau Thackeray Convention Center, Bhopal. Horticulture and Food Processing Minister Narayan Singh Kushwaha will attend the meeting.

Director Horticulture S.B. Singh said that the objective of the meeting is to give national and international recognition to the processed products and special horticulture products manufactured in the micro food processing enterprises of the state under the PMFME scheme run in the Horticulture Department, to provide a common platform to buyers and sellers, to train and guide agriculturists and young agricul-

advanced techniques of horticultural crop production and processing, possibilities in the field of processing, market, financial assistance under government schemes and exchange information. Singh said that this is an effort to fulfill the goal of Atmnirbhar Madhya Pradesh under the 'Vocal for Local' mission under the Atmnirbhar Bharat Abhiyan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Madhya Pradesh ranks among the leading states of the country in area and production of horticultural crops. The share of horticultural crops in the total agricultural area of the state is 11.20 percent. About 400 lakh MT horticultural crops are being produced in the state. The state ranks first in the production of spices, coriander, garlic, orange, and tomato and

The share of horticultural crops in the total agricultural area of the state is 11.20 percent

second in the production of chili and onion.

To protect these horticultural crops produced in the state from destruction and to add value, under the PMFME scheme run in the Horticulture Department, 35 percent of the project cost, a maximum grant of Ks 10 lakh, can be provided to the entrepreneurs willing to set up micro food processing enterprises.

Round table discussion between buyers and sellers The products and processing machines manufactured in the

representatives including buyers, sellers, exporters, and experts from the state and other states will participate. The event is bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders including growers, traders, buyers, and industry experts to promote buyer-seller interactions and promote growth in the horticulture sector. For this, a round table discussion will be held between buy-

ers and sellers of specific products, so that they can under-stand each other's needs and linkage can be created for future business and horticultural crops can get fair prices and market for their products/processed products.

Major activities to be taken up There will be production-based buyer-seller talks, a display of products manufactured under the PMFME scheme in the state and advanced machines for special horticulture products and processing, technical sessions by experts, and distribution of grant money to the beneficiaries of the scheme through a single click.

By organizing the program, small and marginal horticulture producers benefited under the scheme will get access to national and international level buvers and new markets. Through the technical session, information related to advanced techniques of horticulture and processing and branding, marketing, and export of products will be sought. Product-based round table discussion and mutual discussion and linkage between buyers and sellers will give rise to new possibilities and successes in the horticulture world.

Chief Minister for strict arrangements to stop cyber crime

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav has said the state **⊿**government is popularizing science. Science plays an important role in socio-economic development. Science and Technology Council is promoting scientific activities. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that on the announcement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it has been decided to celebrate National Space Day at Ujjain on August 23, 2024. Research and development activities are being conducted under the Department of Science and Technology. He directed that renowned sciension level fairs. Talented children should also be associated

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India.

Sport

Yadav was reviewing plans for

organizing division level science fair and National Space Day at Ujjain. Chief Secretary Smt. Veera Rana, Additional Chief Secretary Chief Minister's Office Dr. Rajesh Rajoura and senior departmental officers were present. Yadav said that an e-service portal has been created for all departments. Providing benefits of various schemes to the eligible beneficiaries using IT enabled services is an important task. He asked the concerning authorities to take measures for effective control of cyber crime using science

scope of spice industry in Neemuch.

Dr. Yadav said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, with the success of Chandrayaan-3 with the landing of Vikram lander on the lunar surface on 23 August 2023 and the deployment of Pragyan rover, India became the fourth country for suc-cessfully landing on the lunar surface. India has also joined the elite group of space pioneer nations to land near the south pole of the Moon. The outcome of this historic mission will benefit mankind for years to

Yadav said that the Science and income. He said that there is a that Ujjain has scientific impor-

tance. Efforts should be made to make Ujjain a research centre. Science tourism should be promoted. Various posts should be filled for running the research center of Dongla. Madhya Pradesh should be made a major research center in the field of defence. He said that engineering colleges should function like IITs. The activities for the proposed Science City in Ujjain should be launched quickly. Upgradation of planetarium

Yadav said that an environment should be created to increase interest in science. Science activities should be increased at divisional centres. The building and technology. Increase the Technology Department of the Science Center has been should also be made to increase ities on the ground. He said etarium in Ujjain has been upgraded.

Farmets protest

Bhopal: Farmers protested and created ruckus at Narmadapuram railway station after they were deboarded by the police, farmers were going to Delhi in GT Express. The farmers protested after being stopped forcefully from travelling. The police have taken the farmers into custody. More than 65 farmers have been taken from the railway station in three buses.

There was information that some office bearers of the farmers' organization were hid-ing in the GT Express train, due to which the train was stopped for 70 minutes and searched. According to City Magistrate Asmaram Chriman, 'A message was received to deboard stay in Srikunj Garden. No other information is available.' National South Indian River Interlinking Association Tamil Nadu President Ayyakannu was going to Delhi with his 114 workers and officials. There are also 15 women in the group. Delhi Police was following them from Chennai after receiving input that the farmer leaders may protest in Delhi demanding Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu.

CHANGE IN NAME

MOHAMMAD SHAJAD And Also Know as MOHAMMAD SHAHJAD MANSURY S/O BASHIR MOHAMMAD orn on 02/02/1981, resident at 95/3 GANDHI MOHALLA, MAHIDPUR ROAD Teh. MAHIDPUR DIST. UJJAIN M. P

MOHAMMAD SHAHJAD MOHAMMAD

456440. I have changed my name to MOHAMMAD SHAHJAD MANSUR S/O BASHIR MOHAMMAD, so nov

MANSURI S/O BASHIR ADD. 95/3, GANDHI MOHALLA,

MAHIDPUR ROAD The. MAHIDPUR DIST. UJJAIN M.P. 456440



Devotees participate in a shahi sawari of Lord Mahakal on the second Monday during the holy month of Shravan in Ujjain Madhya Pradesh on Monday.

Divine Solitaires joins hands with Vaani

setting a new benchmark in New Delhi: Divine Solitaires, a sports development.Former Legendary cricketer Sandeep leading diamond solitaire jew-Patil, chief guest said "Cricket ellery brand, is all set to add So has coaching and the approach to sports. Shrachi Sports has formed Athlead to ensure that the athletes take the sports in India to the next level, we need to ensure India can become a contender in all sports and all avenues of sports." While

Devendra Jhajharia, President of the Paralympic Committee of ambassador! India said "Shrachi Sports is scripting a new chapter in India's sporting history."
Shrachi Sports collaborated with YOS Sports Health

Specialists to develop High Performance, Sports Science and Medicine Centres and Rehabilitation centresRahul Todi, Managing Director of Shrachi Group,

some spark to the lean month of August and usher in the upcoming festive and wedding season. It is all set to bring back India's biggest diamond solitaire promotion with The Solitaire Festival of India (TSFI) for the third consecutive year in 2024- this time with actress Vaani Kapoor as the brand

Known for her roles in blockbuster films such as War, Shuddh Desi Romance and Befikre, this year, the event is set to be a grander success with the presence of actress Vaani Kapoor. Vaani brings a dash of star magic and an impressive Instagram following of 8 million, mostly comprising India's empowered youth, who will make this campaign the talk of

emphasized the vision to transform India's sports landscape town this year. This annual event will run through innovation.

from August 1-31 at over 200+ partner jeweller stores and will feature the solitaire collections of some of India's finest diamantaires. Throughout the month, customers from different states across India can browse through and indulge in stunning collections of solitaire jewellery pieces in their respective cities as well as online. The festival offers a unique

incentive for valued customers to receive assured gifts with every purchase of diamond solitaire jewellery. Each purchase includes coupons for weekly lucky draws scheduled for August 11, 17 and 24, featuring exciting prizes ranging from iPhones to Alto cars. The grand finale of the festival will have a bumper draw on September 4, where one luckywinner will drive home in a luxurious XUV 700, and other winners will take home addi-

tional prizes.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 07/2024-25 dt.: 26.07.2024

On behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Materials Manager North Central Railway, Jhansi, invites the E-procurement tender for following item:-

SN Tender No **Tender Opening date** 92246167 26.08.2024 01 No Brief Description: Supply, installation & Commissioning of Double Girder EOT Crane CAP-10/3 TON, SPAN 20 MTRS.

Note :- • The complete information of above E-Procurement is available on IREPS website i.e http://www.ireps.gov.in. Please visit this website regularly for any changes/corrigendum in the tender. No separate corrigendum will be published in the newspaper. 1325/24 (D)



Regd Off.: No. 29/1, 1st Floor, Sir M N Krishna Rao Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 www.canfinhomes.com **NOTICE FOR BRANCH SHIFTING**

ay 🗵 @ CPRONCR

We are pleased to inform all our customers that, our Indore branch will be shifted to an alternate premises & starts functioning from the new Premises w.e.f. 01.11.2024.

Our new branch address will be First Floor of House No. B-15 Victory Estate Colony, Ratlam Kothi, Indore-452001 (M.P.). Place: Indore, **Branch Manager** Date: 30.07.2024

आर.सी.व्ही.पी. नरोन्हा

प्रशासन एवं प्रबंधकीय अकादमी, मध्यप्रदेश, 1100 क्वाटर्स, भोपाल दुरभाष क्रमांक 0755-2445044

प्रशासन अकादमी सामान्य अनुरक्षण कार्य हेतु आवश्यक प्लंबर/सेनीटेशन सामग्री प्रदाय हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण :: निविदा सूचना :: आर.सी.व्ही.पी. नरोन्हा प्रशासन एवं प्रबंधकीय अकादमी मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल में आवासीय एवं गैर आवासीय क्षेत्र में

सामान्य अनुरक्षण कार्य के लिए प्लंबर⁄सेनेटरी संबंधी सामग्री प्रदाय हेतु अनुभवी एवं ख्याति प्राप्त एजेंसियों से द्वि-निविदा प्रणाली में ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाईन टेण्डर ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <u>www.mptenders.gov.in</u> के

माध	ध्यमं से आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। निविदा का सक्षिप्त विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-				
स. क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित वार्षिक लागत	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	समयावधि
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निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 30.07.2024 सुबह 10.00 बजे से प्रकाशित होंगे तथा दिनांक 06.08.2024 सुबह 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 20.08.2024 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक जमा किये जा सकेंगे। तकनीकी निविदा दिनांक 21.08.2024 अपरान्ह 03:30 बजे खाली जायेगी। निविदा सूचना में कोई भी संशोधन समाचार पत्र में न दिया जाकर ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल पर ही जारी किये जायेंगे। केवल उपरोक्त ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल से ही ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत निविदा तथा अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल के माध्यम से प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

संचालक

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क्रमांक 1263

G-14083/24

दिनांक :- 25.07.2024 मण्डल अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। उल्लेखित कार्यो का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	ग्रायांसे संभागीय कार्यालय	सिस्टम टेण्डर नम्बर	आमंत्रण का क्रम	कार्य का नाम	निर्माण कार्यो की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	विदिशा	2024_RES_359681_1	प्रथम	मल्टीपर्पज सेन्टर इनायतपुर ज.पं. गंज बार्सादा, जिला विदिशा	48.57
2	विदिशा	2024_RES_359680_1	प्रथम	मल्टीपर्पज सेन्टर पायरा खेड़ी, ज.पं. कुरवाई, जिला विदिशा	48.57
3	विदिशा	2024_RES_359679_1	प्रथम	मल्टीपर्पंज सेन्टर पिपरिया, ज.पं. नटेरन, जिला विदिशा	48.57
4	विदिशा	2024_RES_359677_1	प्रथम	मल्टीपर्पज सेन्टर गंभीरिया, ज.पं. ग्यारसपुर जिला विदिशा	48.57

उपरोक्त निविदाओं के निविदा प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डाक्यूमेंट), वेबसाईट: https://mptenders.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर क्रय किये जा सकेगें। ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय प्रारंभ करने की **तिथि 31.07.2024 समय 18:00 बजे** हैं। निविदा (बिड) प्रपत्र प्रस्तुत करने का अंतिम **दिनांक 14.08.2024 समय 18:00 बजे** तक है। विस्तुत निविदा सुचना व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है। संशोधन संबंधी सूचनाएँ केवल वेबसाईट पर दी जावेगी। पृथक से प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा

अधीक्षण यंत्री ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा भोपाल मण्डल भोपाल

Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

G-14132/24

Date: 30-07-2024

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

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.)

POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon

	S. N.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession	
1		(Loan Code No. 07600000863/ Vidisha Branch) Laxman Singh Kushwah (Borrower), Anita Bai Kushwah & Sachin Kushwah (Co-Borrowers)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Part of Aaraji No 224 Swaroop Nagar Old Railway Colony Hardukhedi Road Behind Railway Station, Vidisha , Madhya Pradesh, 464221. Boundaries : East - Gali, West- Way, North- House of Prasann Kumar Jain, South-House of Mukesh Kumar Sharma	08-09-2023 &	27-07-2024	
	Place: Madhya Pradesh Authorised Officer					

Fuel prices lowest in India despite global uptick: Minister

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said India is the only country where rates of petrol and diesel have come down between November 2021 and April 2024. Replying to various queries during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha, the Minister also said that the Government is encouraging dialogue between Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and dealers regarding margins for the

Puri noted that petrol and diesel were deregulated during the UPA Government. Deregulation means that prices of the commodity in the market are not set by the Government, he added.

"Prices here being high and elsewhere being low. It's exactly the opposite. In India today, the prices are the lowest and is the only country where prices have actually come down," Puri

He attributed this to very bold, ambitious and farsighted decisions taken by the Prime



"The prices in the world, I am giving you a two-year reference period between November 2021 and April 2024. Why I'm doing this because we have prices available. In India the price of petrol came down 13.65 per cent and of diesel 10.97 per cent," the Minister

However, he said in France the increase in petrol price has been 22.19 per cent, Germany 15.28 per cent, Italy 14.82 per cent, Spain 16.58 per cent.

These are all published international figures of prices, he

added. Puri also highlighted

that while prices in India have

declined, the rates have gone up

in neighbouring countries.

The Minister also attacked the UPA Government for floating oil bonds. "Oil bonds were floated for ₹ 1.41 lakh crore. Today we are having to pay back ₹ 3.5 lakh crore for that kind of a farsighted decision," he said.

On the dealers' margin increase, Puri said this is a commercial contractual situation between OMCs and the dealers whom they employ as part of that contract.

As of July 1, 2024, there are 90,639 retail outlets in the country of which about 90 per cent belong to public sector companies and rest to the private sector companies.

"We have been monitoring

this, there are discussions going on between OMCs and the dealers. Last time the margins were increased was in 2017." Dealers went to court, because they saw that some of the conditions in the stipulated guidelines were somewhat stringent. "So, when the dealer margin is raised, one of the conditions that the dealer has to comply with is to ensure that the wages to their employees are paid according to the minimum wages act.

"So OMCs won the case in the High Court and then the dealers went up to the Supreme Court in 2022. It is sub judice but we are encouraging dialogue between OMCs and dealers and we would like to see them coming to a conclusion,"

Surge in snakebites due to global warming, 50,000 deaths annually

 $E_{\text{ous studies on climate}}^{\text{choing findings from vari-}}$ change and biodiversity, BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy raised a critical issue in the Lok Sabha on Monday regarding the rise in snakebite incidents and fatalities in India.

Rudy attributed this surge to climate change, noting that rising temperatures above 28 degrees Celsius are contributing to an increase in snakebite cases. India already has the highest rate of snakebite fatalities globally, with approximately 50,000 deaths and 3 to 4 million bites reported annually in the country.

This is for the first time that the issue of surge in snakebites linking with climate change was raised in Parliament, thus underscoring the need for urgent action in the matter.

The MP from Saran constituency in Bihar emphasized that many of these deaths could be avoided, particularly in Bihar, which suffers disproportionately due to its poverty and vulnerability to natural disasters.

According to government data, snakebites result in 2,000 human-snake interactions are

deaths in the country but studies contravene these claims stating that only 7.23 per cent of snakebite deaths are officially reported. Studies, including one published in Lancet Planetary Health, suggest that climate change will alter snake habitats, pushing them into new areas and increasing the likelihood of encounters with

This shift is expected to occur if greenhouse gas emissions remain unchecked, with venomous snakes potentially moving into new regions by 2070. The World Health Organization (WHO) too has warned that climate change will exacerbate the problem by affecting snake distribution and behavior.

"As temperatures rise and extreme weather events become more frequent, predicted to become more common." According to According to WHO, changes in farming practices and increased human migration will further heighten these interactions.

Globally, snakebites afflict about 5.4 million people each year, resulting in 81,410 to 137,880 deaths, along with numerous amputations and

The study published in the Lancet Planetary Health which is co-authored by ecologist Pablo Ariel Martinez from the Federal University of Sergipe in Brazil predicts that savannas, grasslands, and deserts will see an influx of venomous snake species, while tropical rainforests will lose some. Notably, three viper species— Bitis rhinoceros, Vipera aspis, and Vipera ammodytes—are expected to expand into new habitats, particularly in areas undergoing agricultural expansion and experiencing warmer, drier conditions. Rural communities are particularly at risk as these new species encroach upon their environ-

Climate change induced

extreme weather events such as

floods can also worsen the problem. Research in Southeast Asia has shown that snakebite incidents increase during the monsoon season; this is because snakes and people both seek shelter away from floodwaters and become more likely to encounter each other. Hence, as climate change increases flooding, the risk of snakebite may rise even further. Despite these threats to humans, the researchers asserted that venomous snakes are crucial parts of ecosystems as predators of animals such as rats and insects.

They also brought home the point that these venoms contain some compounds that have potential medical uses unrelated to snakebite, such as cytotoxins with anticancer potential or proteins that can be used in antihypertensive drugs.

ICG rescues injured crew member from fire-hit LPG tanker

PNS NEW DELHI

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) successfully evacuated a critically injured patient from LPG tanker Limra (Flag: Panama) and brought to Kochi at 1942 hrs on Sunday, officials said here on Monday.

The patient was shifted to ther medical treatment.

Giving details, they said on Sunday at approximately 1620 hrs, the ICG Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Mumbai, received a distress alert from the LPG tanker Limra reporting major fire in engine room.

The incident occurred at around 1453 hrs resulting in total power and propulsion failure, prompting the crew to raise a distress alarm.

The vessel was en route from Chittagong, Bangladesh, to Khor Fakkan, UAE, with 21 crew including 18 Indian

nationals, 1 Ukrainian, 1 Sri Lankan, and 1 Pakistani national.

The crew successfully contained the fire; however, a 36vear-old Sri Lankan national, was found missing during the firefighting efforts. On locating the crew member his vitals were found to be critical.

aid and requested urgent medical evacuation. The ICG promptly activated the Search and Rescue mechanism and immediately dispatched. ICG Ship Abhinav for SAR assistance. Additionally, an

Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) equipped for medical emergencies was launched from Kochi at 1800 hrs approx-

The patient was evacuated and brought to Kochi at around 1942 hrs and transported toAster Medcity Hospital. Despite all efforts, the patient succumbed to his injuries.

PTI NEW DELHI dismissal of the PIL does not amount to a decision on the The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entermerits of the PIL as it was filed by a lawyer and not by aggriev-

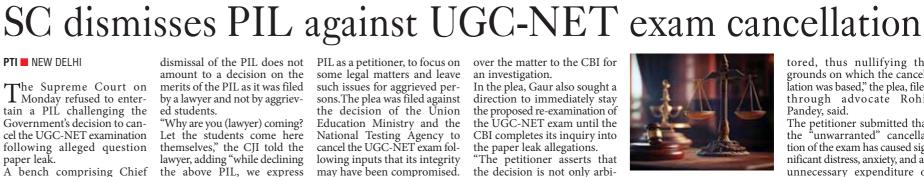
tain a PIL challenging the ed students. Government's decision to can-"Why are you (lawyer) coming? cel the UGC-NET examination Let the students come here following alleged question themselves," the CJI told the lawyer, adding "while declining A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and the above PIL, we express nothing on merits".

justices JB Pardiwala and The bench asked advocate Manoj Misra, however, said the Ujjawal Gaur, who has filed the PIL as a petitioner, to focus on over the matter to the CBI for some legal matters and leave such issues for aggrieved persons. The plea was filed against the decision of the Union Education Ministry and the National Testing Agency to cancel the UGC-NET exam following inputs that its integrity may have been compromised. The Ministry on June 19 had ordered the cancellation of the

an investigation.

In the plea, Gaur also sought a direction to immediately stay the proposed re-examination of the UGC-NET exam until the CBI completes its inquiry into the paper leak allegations.

"The petitioner asserts that the decision is not only arbitrary but also unjust, given the recent findings of the Central



"The CBI's investigation brings gesting the paper leak is doctored, thus nullifying the grounds on which the cancellation was based," the plea, filed through advocate Rohit Pandey, said.

The petitioner submitted that the "unwarranted" cancellation of the exam has caused significant distress, anxiety, and an unnecessary expenditure of resources for the aspirants who have rigorously prepared for

SC rejects ED's challenge to Jharkhand CM Soren's bail

In a relief to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the Enforcement Directorate's plea challenging a High Court order granting him bail in a money laundering case linked to an alleged

The apex court said the Jharkhand High Court's June was a "very well reasoned judgement"." We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned order," a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said. However, the top court said that since the observations made by the High Court were with regard to consideration for granting bail, the same would not influence the trial judge, either at the stage of trial or any other proceedings." We find a very well reasoned judgement has been rendered by the single judge (of the High Court)," the bench said, adding, "We don't want to



observe, you (ED) might be in difficulty."Soren, the Executive President of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), had resigned as Chief Minister shortly before the ED arrested him on January 31 in the case. After coming out of jail on bail in the case, he returned as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand on July 4.Opposing Soren's bail plea in the High Court, the ED had alleged that he misused his position as the Chief Minister to "unlawfully" acquire 8.86 acres of land in the Bargain area in the state capital Ranchi. Soren's lawyer had earlier con-

implicated in the criminal case

by the central agency. During the hearing in the apex court on Monday, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the ED, claimed the probe agency has evidence to show that the Chief Minister's office was directly dealing with the issue concerning the land in question."Detailed statements are there which clearly indicate his (Soren's) role," Raju said, adding that it is substantiated by evidence also. He argued the High Court has said that statements recorded by the ED under

Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cannot be relied upon at the stage of bail. The bench observed that the High Court has considered the statements recorded under Section 50 of the PMLA and given reasons.It said there was a specific finding that in all the records which were seized from one of the co-accused, there was nothing implicating Soren.

recent statement given by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud in Bengaluru that the trial courts play safe when the question of granting bail arises. The ED had claimed that during the probe, Soren's media consultant Abhishek Prasad admitted that the JMM leader had instructed him to manipulate official records to change the ownership details of the plot. The agency had also claimed that the original owner of the land, Raj Kumar Pahan, had tried to lodge a complaint about his land being usurped but it was never acted upon.

Min: Govt takes action to address student suicides

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he}$ Government has taken several steps to curb suicide cases among students, Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said in the Lok Sabha on Monday and added that 1.2 per cent of suicides were related to examination failures.

Kota, a hub of coaching centres in Rajasthan for competitive examinations, the Minister said a number of steps had been taken by the Central and the State Governments." Several initiatives have been taken by our Government to curb incidents of suicide among students. According to NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) and Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India, only 1.2 per cent of total suicide cases are related to failure in examinations," Majumdar told the House. He said the Union education ministry had started the



viding psychological support to students. He added that the Rajasthan Government had also taken several steps to ensure mental health support for the students."The Rajasthan Government issued a guideline in 2022 and again in 2023, which is enforced by the district administration. They have appointed 90 psychological counsellors ... There is also a toll free helpline," he said. Majumdar added that 10,000 hostel gatekeepers had been trained to identify if a student required mental health-related

SC launches Special Lok Adalat for settlement of cases, media allowed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a first, the first seven benches of the Supreme Court commenced a Special Lok Adalat at 2 pm on Monday for an amicable resolution of disputes, with media cameras being allowed inside court-

The week-long special Lok Adalat, celebrating 75 years of the Supreme Court, began with the aim to "facilitate amicable settlements of suitable pending cases", in matters that have "elements of settlement". Earlier in the day, Chief Justice

of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud said the first seven benches of the apex court will hear cases in the Special Lok Adalat at 2 pm. The top court will hold the Special Lok Adalat till August 3, in an effort to reduce the

pendency of cases.
"From today till Friday, we will have the Supreme Court Lok Adalat and the first seven benches will sit for it. If lawyers have cases which can go before the Lok Adalat, please bring them," the CJI said at the out-



set of the day's proceedings. Justice Chandrachud had earlier requested citizens, who have pending cases before the Supreme Court, to take part in the special Lok Adalat to get their disputes resolved amicably and speedily.

In a video message uploaded on the court's website, he had said, "From July 29 to August 3, the Supreme Court is organising a Special Lok Adalat. This is part of a series of activities which the Supreme Court is observing to commemorate the 75th year since the establishment of the Supreme Court."Most significantly, the CJI had said judges dedicated to the institution of justice are concerned about the large

backlog of cases.

"The Lok Adalat represents a very informal technologybased solution to resolve cases involving our citizens to their satisfaction in a purely voluntary, consensual mode.

Therefore, on behalf of all my

colleagues and the staff of the Supreme Court, I would appeal to all citizens who have cases before the Supreme Court or lawyers advocates on record to take the advantage and benefit of this opportunity in an attempt to resolve the cases speedily, in a manner which is acceptable to every contesting party," Justice Chandrachud had said. The top court said Lok Adalats are an integral component of the country's judicial system, enhancing alternative dispute resolution as a means of expediting and fostering amicable settlements.It said cases with elements of settlement, including those relating to matrimonial disputes, property disputes, motor-accident claims, land acquisition, compensation, service and labour, pending before the apex court would be taken up to facilitate

a speedy disposal.

DAC approves Advanced Navigation System for AFVs

PNS NEW DELHI In an effort to give a fillip to operational preparedness,

nod was given on Monday for acquisition of Advanced Land Navigation system (ALNS) to armoured fighting vehicles for the army and 22 interceptor boats for the Coast Guard. Giving details here, Defence Ministry officials said a meeting of Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday considered various Capital acquisition proposals. Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was accorded to the procure-ment of Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) for Armoured Fighting Vehicles

high levels of encryption. The ALNS Mk-II is compatible with Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, NAVigation using Indian Constellation (IRNSS, NavlC), India in addition to Global Positioning System (GPS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS).

(AFVs) of the Indian Army.

The system is spoof-proof with



patibility with Defence Series Maps resulting in very high accuracy in navigational applications for AFVs. This equipment will be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Chennai under Buy [Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (lDDM)] category.

In order to enhance the capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard, the DAC accorded AoN for procurement of 22 Interceptor Boats with latest state-of-art system capable of quick interception and shallow water operation in territorial waters. These boats will be used for coastal surveillance and patrolling, search and rescue operations, including medical

Navy pulls out oil tanker, looks for truck washed away in Uttara Kannada

PNS NEW DELHI

Indian Navy is working round the clock as part of rescue and relief effort in rain hit Shirur, Ankola in Uttara Kannada district (40 kms south of Karwar) since last week and pulled out an oil tanker. Rescue team were now looking for a truck washed away, Navy officials said here on Monday. Giving details, officials said incessant monsoon rains triggered a landslide at Shirur on Ankola — Kumta Road, in Uttara Kannada district (40 kms south of Karwar), Karnataka on July 16.

This led to the closing of National Highway 66 between Kumta and Karwar. It has been reported that a few personnel and vehicles including a Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) tanker were missing or washed away into the adjoining

Gangaveli river. The Uttara Kannada district administration had requested assistance from the Indian Navy to locate the HPCL tanker in the area. Responding promptly, two diving teams



(comprising twelve divers and six Hydrographers) with inflatable craft/ requisite equipment, from the Indian Navy's Base at Karwar were dispatched to the site in Shirur. In coordination with the

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team, the Naval personnel tackling strong river currents recovered the HPCL LPG tanker that had fallen into the river and by July 17 was hauled ashore, where representatives from HPCL then drained the gas making it safe and avoiding any potential

Thereafter, from July 19 onwards two Indian Navy teams, along with high-resolution sonar, have been searching for another missing truck purportedly driven by Arjun Mooladikuzhiyil from Kerala. The strong currents in the river, dislocated debris from the hill, and adverse weather conditions have made searching the riverbed difficult.

A coordinated response by the Indian Navy, the NDRF and the district administration is presently underway to locate the missing personnel and truck near the landslide area.

Ready to discuss Mekedatu project implementation with TN: Karnataka CM

PTI MYSURU

rarnataka Chief Minister KSiddaramaiah on Monday said his government was ready to discuss with Tamil Nadu regarding implementation of Mekedatu project across river Cauvery, but the neighbouring state

Siddaramaiah along with discuss. If the central Deputy Chief Minister D K government gives permission Shivakumar, several Ministers and officals today offered (traditional thanksgiving) to river Cauvery at Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam in Srirangapatna taluk in Mandya district.

It is customary to offer a 'bagina' to the rivers in the state, when the dams are filled to their maximum capacity. 'We are ready to discuss. Despite Mekedatu not causing any problem to them (Tamil

Shivakumar, who is also the Water Resources Minister, recently made

government gives permission

we are ready to construct the

Siddaramaiah said. He was

responding to a question on

whether he will hold discussions with Tamil Nadu

or the Centre for a "concrete

programme" as a lot of water

is flowing into the sea, with Mettur dam in Tamil Nadu

expected to fill up in a couple

Mekedatu



government implementation of the Mekedatu project, stating that it would be more beneficial to the neighbouring State.

Mekedatu is a multi-purpose (drinking water and power) project proposed by Karnataka, which involves building a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district (now renamed as Bengaluru South district). Tamil Nadu has been opposing the project, raising apprehensions that the state would be affected if the project takes shape.

The project, once completed, is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighbouring areas (4.75 tmcft); it also can generate 400 MW power, and the estimated cost of the project is Rs 9,000 crore (2019 rates), according Karnataka officials.

A separate Project Division and two Sub-Divisions have already been set up to implement the ambitious 'Mekedatu

drinking water project of Cauvery river' valley, Siddaramaiah had said, presenting the state budget in February.

"A survey to identify land that will be submerged under this project and the counting process of trees have already been initiated," he had also said, adding, "action will be taken on priority to commence the work early after obtaining remaining necessary clearances from the competent authorities.

Rajasthan Assembly adjourned thrice amid ruckus over crimes against Dalits

During Zero Hour, Bharat Adivasi Party MLA Thavar Chand raised the issue of the murder of a Dalit teacher in Salumbhar district last week while Congress MLA Pitram Singh Kala raised several cases of alleged atrocities

Tikaram Jully also targeted the government on the issue. Hitting out at the Congress, Minister Jogaram Patel said the party was shedding

House, prompting Speaker Vasudev Devnani to adjourn Within a few minutes of the House reassembling, the speaker had to adjourn it



reassembled for the second time, Devnani had to adjourn it for a third time for another half an hour. the three adjournments, when the assured opposition that he will get answer from the

Pacified by the speaker's assurance, the opposition members returned to their seats and the House proceedings resumed.

Kriplani raised the issue of MLA Shanti abusive Devnani said he would give a ruling on the matter after

ongoing budget session. had

whereabouts.

The family said the embassy also asked them to send a identification of the body.

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

A man

Monday.

22-year-old

"sent

frontline by the Russian Army to fight against Ukrainian forces" has died,

his family claimed on

Moscow confirmed the death of Ravi Moun, who

hailed from Matour village in Haryana's Kaithal district,

his brother Ajay Moun said.

Ravi Moun went to Russia

on January 13 after being

"hired" for a transportation job but was inducted into

The Indian embassy

transportation of his mortal remains requested by you." 'The Russian side has death. confirmed

added.

Ajay Moun also requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring his brother's mortal remains back to India. "We do not have enough money to bring back his body," he told reporters. The family sold off a one-acre land and spent Rs 11.50 lakh to send him to Russia, he said. Earlier this month, Russia agreed to India's demand to ensure early release and return of Indian nationals working in the Russian military as support staff after Modi raised the issue with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia had promised early discharge of all Indian nationals from the army.

Last month, the Ministry of External Affairs said the issue of Indian nationals serving in the Russian Army remained a matter of "utmost concern" demanded action from Moscow.

January 13. An agent sent him to Russia for a transportation job. However, from his close relatives," it raging since February 2022. The Russia-Ukraine conflict

Pawar raises fears of Maharashtra going Manipur way; BJP hits back



Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar has expressed deep concern over the potential for Manipur-like disturbances in Maharashtra and called for maintaining social unity for the development of the country.

Addressing a Social Unity

Conference in Navi Mumbai on Sunday evening, Pawar also criticised the Centre's handling of the ethnic strife in Manipur, which has claimed several lives since last May. Pawar didn't specify the reason for his assessment, however, the remarks come days after he flagged the "rift" among communities over the Maratha-OBC quota tussle and recent criticism by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who dubbed the veteran Maratha politician "corruption ringleader".

The prime minister never felt the need to visit Manipur in the wake of social disturbances in the northeastern state and console people. In neighbouring states also such incidents occurred, especially in Karnataka where same things happened,"

"In recent times there is a the state concern in (Maharashtra) that such a thing will happen. Everyone should work to create 'eksangha rashtra' (united nation) going beyond caste, creed and religion," he said.

The former Union minister also claimed an "atmosphere of concern" prevailed in different regions of India. "In our state also the situation

is directed towards this (social concern). The entire responsibility of creating unity in the society is of the government which is not doing it. All should come together to ensure social unity is not disturbed," he said. Notably, Maharashtra is

witnessing growing tensions between the Maratha community seeking the reservation under the OBC category and the backward classes.

Stressing social unity is crucial for developing and

strengthening the economy, Pawar said the current situation of tension and division is alarming.

The growing discord in the country requires unity beyond caste, religion and language. The responsibility of fostering social unity lies with the government," he said while accusing the government of failing to take effective steps to address these issues.

Pawar repeatedly highlighted Manipur in his speech.

"A discussion was held in Parliament on Manipur. People from various castes and creeds came to meet us in Delhi. They described how a small state, where people lived in harmony for generations, has become restless. A conflict between two communities saw houses being set afire, destruction of houses, and abuse of women," he added.People of Manipur, who have been living together and maintaining dialogue for generations, are now unwilling to speak with each other, the Rajya Sabha member added.

such a huge crisis and assure maintain law and order. Unfortunately, today's rulers have not even looked at this crisis. Despite so much turmoil, the Prime Minister of the country didn't feel the need to visit Manipur and console people," Pawar said. Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekar Bawankule on Monday slammed Pawar and described his remarks as

"It is the responsibility of

rulers to resolve and address

inappropriate.

He accused Pawar of using the language that could "instigate riots".

"He (Pawar) used language that could instigate riots, but the people of Maharashtra are intelligent and won't resort to rioting. Some people are trying to create a rift between communities and staging agitations.

Ī urge Pawar to come forward to stop such people," Bawankule told reporters apparently referencing protests for the Maratha referencing quota led by Manoj Jarange.

Haryana man 'sent by Russian Army to fight against Ukraine' dies

House reassembled, government on the issue during Zero Hour on

Earlier, during Question Hour, BJP MLA Shrichand Congress Dhariwal "using language" in the House.

Question Hour on Tuesday. The House also gave permission to former chief minister Ashok Gehlot to remain absent during the Devnani told the House that

permission to remain absent due to a slipped disc.

the military, his brother claimed. Ajay Moun wrote to the embassy on July 21 for information on his brother's "The embassy told us that he has died," he said.

> DNA test report for "Ravi went to Russia on

Moun's letter, The embassy had requested the concerned Russian authorities for confirmation death

he was inducted into the

Russian Army," Ajay Moun

The family's claim comes

days after Russia agreed to India's demand to ensure

early release and return of

Indian nationals inducted

into the country's military.

Ajay Moun alleged that the Russian Army asked his brother to go to the frontline

to fight against Ukrainian

forces or face 10 years in jail.

He was trained to dig

trenches and later sent to the

frontline, Ajay Moun said. "We remained in touch with

him till March 12 and he was

According to the Indian

embassy's reply to Ajay

quite upset," he said.

in eastern Europe has been

Transform districts into fulcrum of administration, Himanta directs DCs

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday called upon the district commissioners (DCs) to transform their respective districts into the "fulcrum of administration" to ensure convenient disbursal of benefits.

In his opening remarks on the first day of a two-day district commissioners' conference here, Sarma urged the DCs to lay more emphasis on areas and sectors that their respective districts are rich in, so that each district can contribute to the growth of the

He said that the newly created sub-districts in the state, a vital state government policy to decentralise administration, will start functioning from October 2 and on the same day, the foundation stone for their permanent offices will be laid.

A core team will be constituted at the state level to support DCs to delegate work to the sub-districts, he said.

Sarma directed the DCs to visit and supervise the construction of government buildings in their respective jurisdiction.

The CM also directed the officers to expedite work on health, education and anganwadi centres as they hold immense potential for development. He also asked the DCs to distribute flood rehabilitation grants by August 12.

Sarma also directed the officers to frequently hold meetings with the guardian ministers of the respective districts, preferably every

fortnight.
The DCs were also directed to keep government functions simple with only vegetarian food to be served in all government functions or during visits of the chief minister or ministers.

Sarma said that in case of the chief minister's visit to the districts, the motorcade should not consist of more than 10 vehicles, including those of the DC and the superintendent of police.

The chief minister also congratulated all the DCs on the successful conduct of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

Sarma will review the progress of all ongoing welfare projects with the ministers, senior officials and the DCs during the two-day conference which will conclude on Tuesday.

Mizoram, Assam to resume border talks after over a year

PTI ■ AIZAWL,

Mizoram and Assam will resume border talks in August, twenty months after the two northeastern neighbours held discussions to find an amicable solution to the inter-state boundary dispute. Mizoram Home Minister K

Sapdanga on Monday said the next round of border talks will be held in Aizawl on August 9. The two states held the last

round of talks in November 2022 in Guwahati. "The Assam home secretary last week communicated to

their intention to come to Aizawl on August 9 for talks. We conveyed our consent to the Assam government after consulting Chief Minister Lalduhoma," Sapdanga told

The Mizoram delegation would be headed by Sapdanga, while the Assam team would be led by its Border Protection Development Minister Atul Bora.

Sapdanga expressed optimism that the talks will yield positive results to bring an amicable solution to the dispute which remained unresolved for



Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had in February this year agreed to send Bora to Mizoram in March, no further steps could be taken due to the Lok Sabha elections, according Sapdanga.

He said there was no violation of the status quo from both sides since the violent clash in July 2021 when police forces of the two states exchanged fire at the inter-state boundary, leading to the death of six policemen and a civilian from Assam. Three Mizoram districts -

Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit share a 164.6 km border with Assam's Karmganj and Hailankandi districts.

dispute The mainly stemmed from two colonial demarcations - 1875 and

Regulation (BEFR) 1873, falls within its territory Assam, on the other hand, regarded the map prepared by the Survey of India in 1933 as its constitutional boundary. Vast areas within the inner

square miles area of the

inner line reserved forest,

notified in 1875 under the

Bengal Eastern Frontier

line reserved forest now fall under Assam. Similarly, a certain extent of the area, as per the 1933

demarcation line, is now on the Mizoram side. There is no demarcation of boundaries

Mizoram claims that 509 between the two states.

was not coming forward despite it not "causing any problem to them". If the Centre gives necessary permissions, the State is ready to implement the project, he told reporters here. Nadu), they are not ready to

The Rajasthan Assembly was adjourned thrice on Monday as the opposition cornered the government over crimes against Dalits in

against Dalits. Opposition Leader of

Parliamentary crocodile tears. This led to a ruckus in the

the proceedings till 2 pm. again as continued.

Kolkata Police to

offensive messages

caste, creed, or gender may

Police said such obscene

Kolkata Police shared a

could lead to charges of

defamation under sections

"The car sticker you see in the image... Caught the attention of one of our

colleagues during his duty.

Initially, he perceived malice

and misogyny behind the

Furthermore, such an openly

provocative statement could

be deemed defamation under

the law, drawing penalties as per sections 499 IPC and

356(i) BNS," Kolkata Police

Police said they could have

pursued legal action, but

instead decided to approach

the vehicle owner first,

appealing to his better

"By displaying such a generic

and negative statement, was

he not also demeaning women in his own family?

Fortunately, he understood

the real intent behind our

request and removed the

sticker immediately," the post

added. "We appreciate the

cooperation from this fellow

citizen and urge everyone to

help maintain the stellar

reputation of India's safest

A senior officer from Kolkata

Police Traffic Department

posters,

women,"

"Displaying

derogatory

humour.

supposed

said in the post.

judgement.

concluded.

told PTI,

obscene,

messages,

499 IPC and 356(i) BNS.

buses and trucks.

messages,

crack down on

on vehicles

PTI KOLKATA

derogatory

the

Kamban's Ramayana to be translated into English for first time



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

 $T^{
m he\ biggest\ publishing}_{
m coup\ of\ 2024\ is\ here.\ The}$ monumental work Kampan Ramayana by (Tamil literary tradition's Greatest Poem) is being translated into English by a team of eminent scholars and the eight-volume work is expected to hot book shelves across the globe between 2028 to 2030, according to Random House. Penguin to

In a media release on Monday, Penguin's Saumya Jha, said that her company has acquired the complete English translation Kampan's Ramayana which 'stands out for its innovative use of language, the psychological depth of its characters, and its profound engagement with the themes of power, truth, and divinity. The influence of Kampan's Ramayana extends far beyond Tamil Nadu, impacting literary traditions in Kerala, parts of the Indian peninsula, and even the Southeast Asia. Despite its vast influence, a reliable and complete English translation of the text has been long overdue, largely due to its immense size. This new translation aims to prioritize completeness, clarity, and turned-Hari poetic beauty, making this influential poem accessible

hurt photographs that someone's sentiments or to both scholars and general relate to caste and creed is readers alike'. According to Saumya Jha, not allowed under the Motor Vehicle (MV) Act." Penguin Random House, the literary circles across India. our home secretary about

translation of Kampan's Ramayana is being executed by Dr. Shiv Subramaniam, Emory University - Volume 1: Bala (Youth), Prof. David Shulman, Hebrew University - Volume 2: Ayodhya (on Ayodhya), Prof. Whitney Cox, University of Chicago Volume 3: Ara?ya (Wilderness), Dr. Jennifer Clare, Independent Scholar -Volume 4: Ki?kindha (on Ki?kindha), Prof. Archana Venkatesan, UC Davis -

Volume Sundara (Loveliness), Aniruddhan Vasudevan, Princeton University -Volume 6 and 7: Yuddha Part 1 and 2 (War).

Professors Archana and David will also serve as the volume editors, and the authors of an Introductory Volume.Kamban 1250) was a Tamil poet who was honoured with the title The Emperor of Poets by Kulothunga Cholan III for his works Ramavataram (the Tamil version of the Great Epic Ramayana) popularly Kamba known Ramayanam. Kamban was a scholar in both Sanskrit and Tamil. Ramayana, especially the Valmiki Ramayana has generated a lot of interest among the new generation of readers. Dushyanth of readers. Dushyanth Sridhar, an IT professional-Katha exponent-turned-spiritual Guru has come out with the

first volume of Ramayanam

-Volume 1 which is widely

debated and discussed in

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Talk tough, act tougher

Despite PM Modi's stern warning to Pakistan, crossborder terrorism is showing no signs of waning

espite warnings, increased presence of troops and diplomatic manoeuvres crossborder terrorism remains a grim reality. In what must be a grave concern for all, the Indian Army has reported the loss of its 12th soldier this month, further straining the already tense relations between India and Pakistan. Rifleman Mohit Rathour was killed, and a Major along with three other soldiers were wounded in an unprovoked attack by Pakistanís Border Action Team (BAT) on an Indian forward post during an operation against terrorists attempting to cross the LoC at Kamkari in Machhal sector, north Kashmir. BAT, comprising Pakistani military personnel and terrorists, often provides cover fire for intruders crossing the LoC. In this latest assault, Pakistani personnel exploited poor weather and low visibility to attack the Army post with grenades and gunfire, resulting in a prolonged gunfight that critically wounded two soldiers, one of whom later died. In response to the surge in terror attacks, security in J&K



has been tightened, with the Government deploying two BSF battalions, totalling over 2,000 personnel, to the Union territory. The recent attack comes a day after the India Prime Minister warned Pakistan of dire consequences

On Kargil Vijay Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a stern warning to Pakistan, asserting that ithe evil designs of the masters of terror will never succeedî and that India will overcome every terror challenge. This strong message came amidst a rise in terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, including a deadly attack on a bus carrying pilgrims. But the PM's warning had little effect on the perpetrators.

The ongoing skirmishes along the Line of Control (LoC) and heightened insurgency activities in Jammu and Kashmir have contributed significantly to these casualties. While Pakistan's alleged support for militant groups continues to stir trouble, India must chalk out a comprehensive strategy to end such activities and ensure the safety of citizens and secure borders. Indeed, it is a tough task, given the difficult terrain but we must show resolve to take on terrorism and give fitting reply when such an incident takes place. Isolating Pakistan on international forums, especially at the UN, can work provided we present our case discreetly with proof. So far, despite the provocations, India has been steadfast in its efforts to normalise the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The Government's approach includes developmental initiatives, infrastructural investments, and engagement with local communities to foster peace and stability. But clearly, it is not enough and terrorists must be dealt with more vigorous force using high-tech solutions. The martyrdom of the soldiers should not go waste and we should strengthen India's resolve to pursue peace and stability in the region. Cross-border terrorism must stop now and we should have zero tolerance towards infiltrators to protect our borders and the people.





'Kanwariyas' gather at Har Ki Pauri ghat to collect 'Ganga jal,' in Haridwar

BRS faces existential crisis as KCR falters



Despite substantial party funds, the BRS now faces an existential crisis, compounded by internal defections and declining support

he Bharatiya Rashrta Samithi, formerly the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, sets itself apart from other declining political parties. Led by the ambitious K. Chandra Shankara Rao, or KCR, the party's national expansion has been marked by setbacks, including its failure to retain power in Telangana. This fate is shared by many political parties and their leaders, as most eventually fade away after holding power at a state or national level. The downslide continued as BRS suffered a significant and sudden setback with no Lok Sabha seat in 2024. Despite having around Rs 1,000 crore in party funds, KCR's hopes of national expansion were dashed. Rao renamed his party BRS in 2022, dropping the word Telangana, and KCR opened branches in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Those units are defunct

This is a stark example of how the political landscape can change instantly. Having lost power in the 2023 Assembly elections to Congress in the wilderness for the past ten years, the BRS is now facing a significant struggle for survival. The BRS has no representation in the Lok Sabha for the first time after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The party, which dominated Telangana politics for about two decades and ruled the state for almost a decade, has now been voted out of the Lok Sabha in 2024. Just last week, BRS, received a further setback. BRS MLA A. Gandhi defected to the ruling Congress, which reflects the party's decline.

The Congress now boasts 75 M.L.A.s, including 65 from Congress, one from C.P.I., and nine former BRS. Members. In 2001, KCR made a historic decision to resign from the Telugu Desam Party (T.D.P.). He believed that creating a separate state was the only way to end the discrimination in the Telangana region, sparking a demand for separation. TRS was formed to achieve separate Telengana, a seemingiy impossible regional objective. He was 47 at the time. T.D.P. was the second-largest party in the BRS. lost power last year, with National Democratic Alliance. In just 35 seats in the Assembly.

2004, the TRS. Joined forces with the Congress and secured five Lok Sabha seats. Following this, KCR was appointed the Union Minister for Labour and Employment in the United Progressive Alliance (U.P.A.) government, headed by U.P.A. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. He continued his struggle inside and outside Parliament. In 2009, he initiated a hunger strike to demand the introduction of the Telangana Bill in

Parliament. After a few days, the Centre conceded to his demands. Shortly before the 2014 election, the U.P.A. government announced the formation of Telangana state. The TRS. performed well in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, winning 11 seats, its highest tally. However, it lost power to the Congress in the 2023 Assembly polls. On December 9, 2022, TRS. was officially renamed BRS., indicating KCR's intention to pursue national ambitions.

Now that the BRS. has failed to win even a single Lok Sabha seat in the state and its vote snare has dropped to only 16.69%, the party faces a genuine existential crisis. The



UNLIKE CHANDRABABU, WHO HAD THE BACKING OF THE KAMMA COMMUNITY, KCR LACKS **SUPPORT** FROM ANY **CASTE GROUP EXCEPT** VELAMAS. A SMALL

GROUP

The BRS chief struggled to keep the party together during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It could not implement plans to field candidates in other states. KCR's attempt to establish a dynastic rule by appointing his son, nephew, and daughter to significant positions has been a point of contention. It was seen as a deviation from the party's founding principles and a sign of increasing autocracy. Secondly, like many dictatorial leaders, Rao failed to develop a second tier of leadership, which is an asset for any political leader except promoting his family. Thirdly, KCR, who rose to power through agitation and protests, steadily withdrew from public spaces. His inaccessibility and his aversion to media have significantly contributed to the disconnect between him and his leaders and workers. Rao surrounded himself with people who lacked substance and only praised him.

As a result, he could not see the reality and fell into the trap of his sycophants, who presented false facts. Unlike nandrababu, who had the backing of the Kamma community, KCR lacks support from any caste group except Velamas, a small group.

This political isolation is a significant factor in his decline. Fifthly, there were allegations of corruption. His daughter Kavitha is now in jail for alleged corruption in the Delhi liquor case. Sixthly, instead of concentrating on the state, KCR began dabbling in national politics and went around the Opposition-ruled states with a naked ambition of becoming Prime Minister. But he failed.

This wavering resulted in BRS. Unable to form the government in the 2024 polls. Seventhly, he thought he and his party were unbeatable and would continue to rule Telangana indefinitely like many other tinpot dictators. Eighthly, BRS. Faced defections.

However, he also induced defections when he was the chief minister. KCR has now joined a group of once-influential leaders such as Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Edapadi Palaniswamy, Deve Gowda, Mayawati, Uddhav Thackeray, and others who have previously held power but are now struggling. In politics, its like playi snakes and ladders.

> (The author is a popular columnist; views are

Monsoon mayhem: The pothole predicament

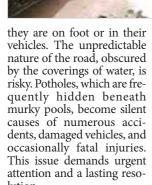


Despite millions being spent annually by road authorities to ensure safe travel, the recurrence of potholes raises serious questions about where the money is going

he arrival of the monsoon season brings relief from the scorching heat, but it also brings along a familiar foe: "Potholes". This issue constantly frustrates commuters and raises doubts about the effectiveness of road maintenance. Every year, the Road Authorities spend millions of rupees to ensure a smooth and secure journey for travellers. However, these hazardous holes continue to deface the roads. All that money—where is it going? The other day I had to take a chance and walk the distance between the Amar Business Zone and the Hinjewadi Bus Stop. The rain was so intense that vehicles and cabs were unavailable, so I had to face it on my own. I prayed while I walked, hoping that I would-n't hurt myself. The flooded streets and obscured footpaths turned the walk into a risky journey, where every step held the risk of either finding solid ground or

This scene is not unique. Every monsoon, countless homebound commuters endure this torment, whether

plunging into an unseen pot-



The persistence of potholes is a glaring testament to a systemic failure. Despite the annual financial outlay, the roads remain in a perpetual state of disrepair. One can't help but wonder about the quality of materials used, the thoroughness of the repair

work, and the accountability

of the authorities involved. Are these millions being funneled into quick fixes rather than sustainable solutions? Moreover, the economic implications of this issue cannot be ignored. In an inflated world, where every rupee counts, the costs incurred from vehicle repairs, medical bills, and lost productivity due to traffic caused by bad roads are substantial. It's an added

burden on the average citizen, who is already grappling with the rising cost of living. So, what can be done to address this perennial problem? First and foremost, there needs to be a shift from reactive to proactive maintenance. Regular inspections, espe-

cially before the monsoon

season, can help identify potential trouble spots and address them preemptively. Employing advanced materials and technologies in road construction can also play a pivotal role in enhancing durability.

Clear records must be kept of how the funds are spent and allocated. Citizens have the right to know where their money is going and, more importantly, to hold the authorities accountable for substandard work. It may be worth considering a publicprivate partnership to enhance the expertise and efficiency in road maintenance.

In conclusion, the monsoon, while a welcome relief from the heat, should not bring with it the dread of navigating pothole-ridden roads. It's high time the Road Authorities move beyond mere patchwork solutions and invest in lasting infrastructure improvements. For the sake of every commuter's safety and sanity, let's pave the way for smoother, safer journeys, rain or shine.

(The author is a freelance writer and a motivator: views are personal)

DO NOT SUBVERT NITI AAYOG

Madam — Boycotting NITI Aayog Meetings Undermines Democratic ProcessesBoycotting NITI Aayog meetings by some political parties contradicts the principles of cooperative federalism. With parties from the INDIA bloc attending, it was expected that others, including the Congress party with its significant representation in Lok Sabha, would also participate.

The central government's allocation of more funds to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, seen as politically motivated, should be addressed through dialogue rather than boycotts. Cooperation between the government and opposition is essential for national interest. Opposition parties staying away from NITI Aayog meetings miss the opportunity to voice their concerns and influence critical decisions.

Boycotts serve as ineffective protests, harming democratic processes and national unity. Continuous stalling of official processes by the opposition, since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure began, undermines the democratic framework. For citizens, the concern is about the smooth functioning of democracy. The opposition's confrontational approach hinders cooperative federalism, affecting national interest.

Addressing grievances through participation, not boycotts, ensures a healthier democratic process.Same Old StoryEducated middle-class citizens often await the budget with anticipation, only to feel disappointed afterward. The recent budget, though promising in terms of infrastructure, employment, and other areas, fell short of transformational changes, particularly in taxation. The Finance Minister missed an opportunity to significantly alter the taxation structure, leading to disillusionment among the middle class. This cycle of expectation and disappointment continues, echoing Indiana Jones' sen-

timent: "Same old, same old. Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

Ensure safety norms at coaching centres



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

 he coaching institutions at Old Rajinder Nagar in Delhi are endangering the lives of UPSC aspirants, who face numerous hardships to pursue their dreams of becoming IAS officers. The recent tragic incident where three aspirants drowned in a basement flooded with rainwater underscores the dire state of India's coaching centers. Previously, such stories were common from Kota, but now Old Rajinder Nagar has also gained

CELEBRATING PARENTS DAY

Madam — Parenting responsibilities are a testament to the unconditional love, support, and sacrifices parents make throughout their lives. This day emphasizes the importance of family values, fostering stronger relationships, and promoting gratitude and respect towards parents. Parents guide us with unwavering love and support, enduring countless silent and selfless sacrifices to ensure our happiness.

Despite the challenges of raising children, including teenage tantrums and door slams, their disciplined approach aims to provide us with a better life. As we transition into adulthood, parents continue to support us, often silently,

checking on us and ensuring our wellbeing. Their selfless gestures speak volumes, even if they are not always expressive. It is time to show our appreciation and thankfulness for the support and love parents provide. The young generation must understand that one day they would be parents too!

MR Jayanthi Mumbai

notoriety for exploiting students for profit. This area, known as the UPSC hub, is filled with overpriced, poorly maintained apartments rented out to students from low and middle-income families who struggle to afford them. The Delhi government must take immediate action against negligent property owners and coaching institutions, enforcing strict standards to ensure the safety of the aspirants. These standards should include regulations on the number of students per batch, proper ventilation, parking facilities, and reason-

able rent for student accommodations. Additionally, a toll-free number should be established for students to report grievances related to their living and studying conditions directly to the police, ensuring their safety and empowering them against exploitation. These measures are crucial to protect the lives and aspirations of future officers and uphold societal responsibility

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

NAIL THE MYTH

Madam —Scientific facts have broken several myths and misconceptions. Will it put a break to political rhetoric in India which advocates population control based on false assumptions that the minority population is growing at a faster pace than its majority counterparts. Now that the pandemic period is over, the focus must be to release the 2021 census based on latest survey conducted so as to ascertain a clear picture of the socio economic scenario rather than targeting any particular community or area. It is absurd to predict about the future only on narrow rhetoric and political compulsions rather than using the demographic dividend for the progress of the country. So, no single community or religion be held responsible for rising population since it can falsify facts. If the Minority phobia is real or a mechanism to gain political dividends is a million dollar question.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN THE HIDDEN **ENEMY WITHIN**

By keeping their ego in check, we can create a positive and productive work environment that will foster innovation and sustained success



oday, many of us insist the main impediment to a full, successful life is the outside world. The most common enemy that lies within an individual is the three-letter word 'Ego'. At the beginning of the career, it impedes learning and the cultivation of talent. With the progress, it blinds to their faults and sows future problems and in failure, it magnifies each blow and makes the recovery more difficult. The ego, which is often defined as a person's sense of self-esteem or selfimportance, is often viewed as a necessary trait for leaders. However, when ego inflates to unhealthy levels, it becomes a significant obstacle to effective leadership thereby stifling personal growth, distorting decision-making, eroding trust and ultimately jeopardizing the success of an organization. Collaboration is a cornerstone of effective leadership. Great leaders understand the importance of harnessing the collective intelligence and diverse perspectives of their team.

Apart from collaboration, Constructive feedback is also essential for personal and professional growth. Leaders who embrace feedback can adapt, learn and improve continuously. While a healthy level of self-confidence is essential for leadership, an inflated ego can have detrimental effects. Leaders with big egos often believe their ideas are superior, which can prevent them from valuing the input of their team. This attitude can stifle creativity and innovation, as team members may feel undervalued and less motivated to share their ideas.

Moreover, such leaders may resist feedback, seeing it as a threat to their authority or self-image. This resistance can prevent them from growing and improving, leading to repeated mistakes and missed development opportunities. Above all, ego can erode trust within a team. If team members feel that their leader is self-serving, they may become disengaged and less loyal to the organization. For a high-functioning team, it is the trust, and clear accountability mechanisms, that can allow leaders to build strong relationships with their team members thereby fostering a positive work environment where individuals feel safe, valued and motivated to contribute their best efforts.



The absence of the said factors can lead to a toxic work environment as leaders with large egos may struggle to admit when they are wrong which will ultimately prevent learning from mistakes and perpetuate problems. For an organisation to flourish, it becomes vital to acknowledge the mistakes continuously for continuous improvement and to build a culture of honesty and transparency. There is no denying the fact that leaders with inflated egos may prioritize short-term gains and personal accolades over long-term success and sustainability. This can lead to decisions that provide immediate benefits but can harm the organization in the long run. The only way to mitigate this is by encouraging leaders to engage in self-reflection and seek feedback; creating an environment where open communication is valued and establishing clear accountability mechanisms that can help them become more aware of their ego and its impact.

By addressing and learning from their failures, leaders can drive continuous improvement and inspire their teams to do the same. Moreover, leaders who practice humility and openness, encourage a culture of collaboration, thereby fostering an environment where ideas can flourish and the best solutions can emerge. Remember, ego in the workplace leadership can be a double-edged sword. By promoting self-awareness, fostering a culture of humility, encouraging open communication, setting clear accountability, and leading by example, organizations can mitigate the negative impacts of ego and cultivate more effective and empathetic leaders. In an era that glorifies social media and other forms of shameless self-promotion, the battle against ego must be fought on many fronts. Great leaders recognize the importance of humility, empathy and a commitment to the collective goals of their team and organization.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Equitable revenue sharing is must for fiscal federalism



Punjab's declining GDP reflect the broader issue of uneven development. Addressing these disparities is essential for promoting holistic growth and preventing social distress across states



he current state of India's fiscal federalism is significantly detrimental to the states. The system needs to be reoriented to spur a competitive environment across the country, not just within some individual states. The recent union budget was expected to set a comprehensive five-year economic agenda for the country's wholesome growth.

In Budget 2024-25, unique packages were granted to Bihar of Rs 26,000 crore and Rs 15,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh in exchange for political support, resulting in an even wider fiscal imbalance. It's essential to ask why a similar approach has yet to be taken to address the economic growth of other financially distressed states. For example, Punjab, as a landlocked border state facing locational disadvantages, requires a fair platform to compete on an equal footing.

Once a prosperous and progressive state, Punjab grapples with a significant problem of unchecked unemployment stemming from distressed farming and an imbalanced industrial base dominated by 99.7% of small and medium-sized enter-

Punjab accounts for only 5% of industrial units in the country, with a 3.6% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in the industrial sector over the last five fiscal years, ranking 12th. In contrast, the neighbouring state of Haryana has demonstrated higher growth rates at 5.9%. Punjab ranked first in GDP in 1981 and fourth in 2004. In the fiscal year 2023-24, with a GDP of Rs 6.98 lakh crore, the state was ranked 16th.

In comparison, the neighbouring state of Haryana's GDP stands at Rs 11.20 lakh crore, ranked 12th. Interestingly, Bihar, once part of the economically challenged states known as 'BIMARU' (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh), is now a fast-growing economy with a growth rate of 10.6% and a GDP of Rs 8.59 crore in FY 2023-24. Allowing lopsided economic development in a sensitive state like Punjab will have serious repercussions. Failing to ensure



ONCE A **PROSPEROUS PROGRESSIVE** STATE. PUNJAB **GRAPPLES WITH** A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM OF

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SIZED **ENTERPRISE**

holistic development will ultimately lead to accusations of inefficiency in managing human resources. Unemployment exacerbates various issues in distressed areas, including mental health, crime, and drug abuse. Substantial evidence links drug abuse and law and order prob-lems directly to unemployment. These issues must be addressed assertively to ensure the overall progress and well-being of Punjab.

Economic distress in Punjab has led to unemployment and a significant migration of its human resources to Canada, which has created a breeding ground for radicals and anti-Indian Khalistani extremist activities on Canadian soil; it is a globalised challenge that must be addressed promptly. Secondly, the Pakistan border has been adversely affecting Punjab's economy.

This, along with illegal arms supply and drug-related terrorism, has severely impacted Punjab's social fabric and law and order. The central government has not adequately compensated Punjab for its unique challenges compared to other states. The revenue-sharing disparity is a pressing issue causing significant, alarming socio-economic distress in Punjab. The state receives only 51 paise for every rupee it contributes to the Centre's tax pool, compared to states like Bihar, which receive Rs 1.20. This highlights the urgent need for equitable revenue sharing to ensure Punjab's socio-economic well-being.

Currently, Punjab's contribution to the country's tax kitty stands at approximately 3%, and it only receives 1.8% of the divisible pool of taxes allocated by the

is concerning that Punjab only received 1.8% of the Rs 8,16,649 crore distributed by the Centre to the states during 2022-23. However, the large areas and population figures of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar provide them with additional leverage from the central tax pool. Uttar Pradesh received the highest share at 18% (Rs 1,46,525 crore), and Bihar received the secondhighest share of 10%.

This highlights why Punjab and other states argue they must receive a fair share of funds despite contributing more to the exchequer.During the fiscal year 2022-23, Punjab contributed Rs 32,800 crore to the central taxes fund, which included CGST, income tax, corporation tax, wealth tax, union excise duty, customs, and service tax. However, in return, the state only received Rs 14,756 crore. Punjab has raised the issue with Finance Sixteenth Commission, which believes it deserves a fair share of central tax. The Finance Commission recommends the distribution of tax revenues between the Centre

Despite recommendations to allocate 42% and 41% of net tax revenue to States, their share of gross tax revenue fell to 35% in 2015-16 and 30% by 2023-24. For 2024-25, the Gross Tax Revenue (GTR) is projected to grow at 11.7%, raising concerns about adequacy in meeting state fiscal needs. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act has had significant and varying consequences on fiscal federalism.

and States.

It has given the Centre more extensive taxation powers, altering the budget landscape and ism in the country.

While GST has led to revenue growth, it also restricts the financial autonomy of the states.In a recent memorandum submitted to the 16th finance commission chairman, Punjab highlighted the loss on account of GST introduction, indicating that the state would have earned more than Rs 45,000 crore with VAT versus the budgeted GST of Rs 25,750 crore in FY 2024-25.

This gap is expected to increase to Rs 95,000 crore with VAT and GST at Rs 47,000 crore by 2030-

The Way Forward: In the current fiscal federalism, it is crucial to adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach to budgetary prudence, local employment generation, and social harmony, regardless of demographic and political differences. Devolve more fiscal powers to states, enhancing their flexibility in rev enue generation, expenditure planning, and borrowing limits. Reforms are necessary to address imbalances in the revenue transfer system.

A Finance Act amendment is still pending to establish fairness and accountability in managing the resource imbalances between the Centre and the States, which has led to growing regional tensions. Ultimately, fair, competitive, and effective fiscal federalism is essential to ensure that resources result in improved services and infrastructure for citizens.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are personal)

India's population: A liability or an untapped asset with immense potential

As the world population nears 8 billion, it becomes imperative to reassess the impact of population dynamics on sustainability and progress.

uch is being written and spoken about India's teeming human population. Huge concerns are being raised on the spectre of the burgeoning population becoming a severe liability for national survival. India's population was 1.44 billion in January 2024 and could be a shade above this at present. This population has been growing at the rate of nearly 1 per cent per year during the last decade. People say that the country cannot progress economically and become a developed nation unless population growth is checked. Or, in other words, a big population is a most severe dampener to national growth and develop-

How far is this true and is there historical precedence to cor



roborate this concern? The subject of the population needs to be analysed from a larger, global perspective. The population of the world is close to 8 billion today and has trebled over the last 100 years. The core issue regarding population being considered an asset or liability pertains to the current paradigms of tapping and using global material resources and the huge disparity in ownership of those resources. Humans do not and cannot if science is correctly under-

produce babies at will like goods are produced in a factory. Humans can only cohabit and copulate, like lower animals. This is borne out by the fact of decreasing fertility in many parts of the world despite the professed advancements of modern medical sci-

Scientists and medical professionals can help with the process of fertilisation of reproductive cells but cannot achieve conception at will. It stands to reason that babies are produced in the factory of nature by the subtle action of a supernatural, omnipotent entity. You can call him Creator or God who is also the controller and regulator of the world and the larger universe. This is a prime scientific fact stood as the systematic and logical treatment of any subject. Hence population growth or decline is a subject more of God than of man. If population growth is high and humans fear that it will make human life unsustainable, their Creator knows better. He makes humans learn and realise their mistakes through natural disasters like climate change, wildfires, cyclones, tornados, earthquakes, floods and epidemics. These serve to balance out the excessive population from time to time. It has to be admitted that modern science has done a lot to conquer life-threatening illnesses and increase the longevity of humans. Average life expectancy globally today is almost double

compared to what it was 200



years ago. But this increase has come at the cost of the environment. We have used chemical fertilizers for crops abundantly which have undermined the quality and fertility of soil. We have used chemical, reductionist formulationbased drugs and vaccines aplenty whose serious, sneaky side effects are slowly coming into evidence. But we cannot go on doing it ad infinitum without seriously prejudicing sustainability. Today, humans

are ravaging and pillaging global material resources like never before. They are enhancing human comforts at the cost of the environment.

Life expectancy is rising at the cost of life quality. Infectious diseases are being combated through strong chemical formulation drugs, while insidiously inviting chronic diseases and newer ailments unheard of before. Humans are unwittingly proceeding towards a situation of unsustainable existence. Let us go back to the prime metaphysical truths of existence. God regulates all life. He is the source of all knowledge which is enshrined in the divinely revealed scriptures called Vedas.

These scriptures are the repository of all knowledge including science and technology.

Vedic hymns declare that each human couple should produce 10 children. The same Vedas exhort humans to live up to at least 100 years, healthy and fit. In the above backdrop, the human population is an asset, not a liability. We should know how to utilise the manpower productively and fruitfully. If we follow the modes of agriculture and food production as per Vedic sciences, using technologies based on such sciences, we will never have to compromise the quality or fertility of the soil and can produce bumper crops season after season.

We can achieve this through strictly organic farming and protect our environment and ecosphere. Following assiduously the principles of Ayurveda, we can ensure

sound health and high longevity without recourse to synthetic chemical drugs. All we have to do is change our systems and paradigms of living to reduce the stark wealth disparity witnessed today where 20 per cent of the global population holds 80 per cent of global resources. Our instinct of self-aggrandisement, driven by capitalism based on the banal baser element of greed has led to the present situation. Population needs to be considered an asset and it will be regarded as an asset if we change our living paradigms to align with nature and embrace environment-friendly technologies expounded in our ancient Vedic scriptures. (The author is a management

consultant based in New *Delhi*; *views are personal*)

Quad calls for respecting sovereignty of nations

In a loud and clear message to China, the Quad on Monday reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific and resolved to work towards a region where no country dominates others and each state is free from "coercion" in all its forms

The grouping comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia, after a meeting of their foreign ministers, announced a plan to expand its ambitious Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) programme to the Indian Ocean region that would facilitate monitoring the strategic waters.

The Quad also said that it was working for early operationalisation of its South Asia programme through India's Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region.

The Quad foreign ministerial meeting also called for upholding the free and open rules-based global order and respecting the principle of freedom, human rights, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity of

Without directly naming China, the ministers expressed serious concern over the situation in the East and South China Seas and reiterated the Quad's strong opposition to any "unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion."

China accuses Quad of 'inciting' confrontation

Beijing (PTI): China on Monday accused the Quad nations, including the US and India, of "artificially creating tension" and "inciting confrontation" to "contain" the development of other countries in the Asia Pacific region. Beijing's statement came hours

after the foreign ministers of the Quad countries, comprising the US, Japan, India and Australia, in a meeting in Tokyo, reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, vowing to work towards a region where no country dominates others and each state is free from coercion in all its forms. The Quad was "artificially creating tension, inciting con-

frontation and containing the

The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong. "All countries have a role in contributing to regional peace, stability, and prosperity, while seeking a region in which no coun-

development of other coun-tries", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a press briefing here when asked for his reaction to the joint statement of the foreign ministers of the Quad countries released after the

end of their meeting.
This is against the global trend of peace and development and stability in the Asia Pacific, Lin

In a loud and clear message to China, the Quad foreign ministers in Tokyo called for upholding the free and open rules-based international order and respecting the principle of freedom, human rights, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations. The meeting was attended by

try dominates and no country is dominated, competition is managed responsibly, and each country is free from coercion in all its forms and can exercise its agency to determine its own future," the ministers said in a joint state-

It said the Quad continues to advance the development of a "trusted, secure and robust"

Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Australia's Penny Wong. Without directly naming

China, the four foreign ministers expressed serious concern over the situation in the East and South China Seas and reiterated the Quad's strong opposition to any "unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion". Lin said China believes cooperation among countries and regional initiatives to be conducive to regional development, stability and prosperity rather than forming small circles harming mutual trust and cooperation

telecommunication network, and announced a plan to roll out Open Radio Access Networks (Ōpen RAN) in island nation

In his remarks at a press conference, Jaishankar said the Quad is not a "talk shop" but a platform that generates practical out-

In their statement, the Quad for-



Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, left, Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, second left, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, second right, arrive for the Quad Ministerial Meeting, at the Foreign Ministry's likura

eign ministers also expressed "deepest concern over the war raging in Ukraine including its terrible and tragic humanitarian consequences

'We reiterate the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in line with international law, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity," they said.

The Quad foreign ministers also referred to increasing Chinese manoeuvres in the South China Sea, especially the "dangerous use" of coast guard and maritime militia vessels."We continue to express our serious concern about the militarisation of disputed features, and coercive and

intimidating manoeuvres in the South China Sea, "the joint statement said."We also express our serious concern about the dangerous use of coast guard and maritime militia vessels, the increasing use of various kinds of dangerous manoeuvres, and efforts to disrupt other countries offshore resource exploitation

6 UK lawmakers vie for Conservative Party leadership post-election defeat

London (AP): Six British lawmakers have announced they are running to lead the defeated Conservative Party, ahead of a Monday deadline, in a contest that will decide whether the opposition party tacks to the right or steers toward the political centre ground. Contenders include former Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and lawmaker Tom Tugendhat from the party's centrist grouping. Former Home Secretary Priti Patel and ex-Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch have support from the right of the party. Former immigration minister Robert Jenrick and lawmaker Mel Stride also have secured the required support of 10 Conservative lawmakers before the deadline of 2:30 pm (9:30 am EDT, 1330GMT) on Monday.Badenoch, who came third in the party's last leadership election in 2022, was the early favorite with bookmakers. She said the party should lead "a renewal for capitalism" built around a smaller state and seek to persuade voters "why conservatism should matter." In the wake of the party's defeat this month, Conservatives are split between moderates and hard-liners who want tougher migration and law and order poli-cies to regain political territory lost to the Reform UK party led by antiimmigration firebrand Nigel

Maduro wins Venezuela's presidential election

Nicolas Maduro was declared the winner in Venezuela's presidential election Sunday, even as his opponents were preparing to dispute the results, setting up a high-stakes showdown that will determine whether the South American nation transitions away from one party rule. Shortly after midnight, the National Electoral Council said Maduro secured 51% of the vote, overcoming the main opposition candidate, Edmundo González, who garnered 44%

But the electoral authority, which is controlled by Maduro loyalists, didn't immediately release the tallies from each of the 30,000 polling booths nationwide, hampering the opposition's ability to challenge the results after claiming it had data for only 30% of the ballot boxes.

Foreign leaders held off recognizing the results as the electoral council promised to "coming hours."

The Maduro regime should understand that the results it published are difficult to believe," said Gabriel Boric, the leftist leader of Chile. "We won't recognize any result that is not verifiable.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. has "serious concerns that the result announced does not reflect the will or the votes of the Venezuelan people," speaking

in Tokyo. The delay in announcing results — six hours after polls were supposed to close indicated a deep debate inside the government about how to

evening all but claiming victo-When Maduro finally came out to celebrate the results, he accused unidentified foreign enemies for trying to hack the

proceed after Maduro's oppo-

nents came out early in the

"This is not the first time that they have tried to violate the peace of the republic," he said



the presidential palace. He provided no evidence to back the claim but promised "justice" for those who try to stir violence in Venezuela.

Opposition representatives said tallies they collected from campaign representatives at the polling stations showed Gonzalez trouncing Maduro. Meanwhile, the head of the electoral council said it release the official voting acts in the coming hours.

Maduro celebrated the result with a few hundreds supporters at the presidential palace.

Maduro, in seeking a third term, faced his toughest chal-lenge yet from the unlikeliest of opponents in Gonzalez: a retired diplomat who was unknown to voters before being tapped in April as a lastminute stand-in for opposition powerhouse Maria Corina Machado.

Earlier, opposition leaders celebrating, online and outside a few voting centers, what they assured was a landslide victo-

ry for González. "I'm so happy," said Merling Fernández, a 31-year-old bank employee, as a representative for the opposition campaign walked out of one voting center in a working class neighborhood of Caracas to announce results showing González more than doubled Maduro's vote count. Dozens standing nearby erupted in an

to a few hundred supporters at impromptu rendition of the $national \hat{\ } anthem.$

This is the path toward a new Venezuela," added Fernández, holding back tears. "We are all tired of this yoke.

Voters started lining up at some voting centers across the country before dawn Sunday, sharing water, coffee and snacks for several hours.

The election will the Americas, with government opponents and supporters alike signaling their interest in joining the exodus of 7.7 million Venezuelans who have already left their homes for opportunities abroad should Maduro win another six year

Authorities set Sunday's election to coincide with what would have been the 70th birthday of former President Hugo Chávez, the revered leftist firebrand who died of cancer in 2013, leaving his Bolivarian revolution in the hands of Maduro. But Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela are more unpopular than ever among many voters who blame his policies for crushing wages, spurring hunger, crippling the oil industry and separating families due to migration. The opposition managed to line up behind a single candidate after years of intraparty divisions and election boycotts that torpedoed their ambitions to topple the

Vandalism hits communication lines in France

Paris (AP) The French government says multiple telecommunications lines have been hit by acts of vandalism, affecting fiber lines and fixed and mobile phone lines as cities around France are hosting events for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The scale of the impact is unclear, as is whether it has affected any Olympic activities. The vandalism came after a rson attacks hit train networks around France on Friday, hours before the Olympics opening ceremony. Marina Ferrari, secretary of state in charge of digital affairs, posted on X that damage in several regions overnight Sunday to Monday affected telecommunications operators. She said that led to localized impact on access to fiber lines and fixed and mobile telephone lines.

Israeli military detains 9 soldiers for alleged detainee abuse

Tel Aviv (AP) The Israeli military said Monday it was holding nine soldiers for questioning following allegations of "substantial abuse" of a detainee at a shadowy facility where Israel has held Palestinian prisoners throughout the war in Gaza. The military did not disclose additional detailsur-rounding the alleged abuse, saying only that its top legal official had launched a probe. An investigation by The Associated Press and reports by rights groups have exposed abysmal conditions at the Sde Teiman facility, the country's largest detention centre. A report by the United Nations

agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA, earlier this year said that detainees alleged they were subjected to ill-treatment and abuse while in Israeli custody, without specifying the facility.



southern Israel after Military Police investigators arrived to detain suspects for

The military has generally denied ill-treatment of detainees. Following the accusations of harsh treatment, Israel has said it is transferring the bulk of Palestinian

detainees out of Sde Teiman and upgrading it.

Israeli media reported that military police officers who arrived at Sde Teiman in south-

were met with protests and scuffles. The detentions of soldiers prompted an outcry among members of Israel's farright government, who condemned the investigation into their conduct, saying it was an affront to their service.

Israel has detained thousands of Palestinians since the Oct 7
Hamas attack that sparked the
war in Gaza, according to official figures, though hundreds
were released after the military determined they were not affiliated with Hamas.

Israeli human rights groups say the majority of detainees have at some point passed through Sde Teiman.

International mediators are trying to bring Hamas and Israel to agree to a cease-fire deal that would wind down the war in Gaza and free the remaining 110 hostages held

Absolutely no reason why Kamala Harris should not win: Rushdie

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Mumbai-born author Salman Rushdie has endorsed Kamala Harris's candidacy for the US presidency and said he believes she is the person who can prevent former president Donald Trump from dragging the country towards authoritarianism. Rushdie on Sunday extended his support and endorsement of US Vice President Harris during a virtual 'South Asian Men for Harris' event attended by scores of leading names from the Indian-American community, including prominent lawmakers, authors, policy experts, entrepreneurs and diaspora organisations. "It's a critical moment. I'm a boy from Bombay and it's great to see an Indian woman running for the White House. And my wife is African-American, so we like the fact

that a Black and Indian woman is running for the White House,"

Rushdie said. Harris, 59, is the presumptive presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. She officially declared her candidacy after incumbent President Joe Biden withdrew from the race for a second term on July 20. She is expected to be officially declared as the presidential candidate by the Democrats next month. The 77-year-old British-American novelist also noted that ethnicity itself is not enough. "We would not be gathering in this way let's say for Usha Vance or Nikki Haley," he said, referring to the Indian-American wife of Republican Vice Presidential nominee I D Vance and the Indian-American former South Carolina governor. Rushdie emphasised that the momentum is because something "very extraordinary,

transformative has happened in American politics" in just under one week. "The conversation has entirely changed with the arrival of Kamala Harris's candidacy and it's changed most joyfully, a way of optimism and positive, forward-thinking," he said.Rushdie underscored that the community has to make that work because "we can't allow the alternative to happen"."This hollow man without a single noble quality, trying to drag this country towards authoritarianism. That cannot happen," he said, referring to 78-year-old Trump, a Republican. Rushdie voiced his confidence that Harris "is the person who can prevent it. And so I'm right in 1,000 per cent in for her."He added that star power matters in America and one could argue that Trump's celebrity status from being on TV for many years helped him get elected to the

White House in 2016. "Well, right now, he doesn't look like the star. He looks like the old fat guy. Kamala looks like the superstar. And I think the charisma she brings to the cam-paign could be critical in the weeks ahead," he said.

In response to a question that there are sceptics in the country who believe that America would not elect a woman with Black and Indian heritage as President, Rushdie said this may well have been an argument even as recently as maybe a decade but the times have changed."I think the way in which women's leadership is viewed now is different. The way in which the race issue can be made a positive is a new thing. And so I think there's absolutely no reason why Kamala Harris should not win and actually win it quite handily," Rushdie said.

Firefighters make progress amid wildfires spreading smoke across US West

Forest Ranch (US) (AP): Firefighters made progress and were aided by improving weather over the weekend in the battle against wildfires covering massive areas and leaving a trail of damage in the western United States, but further evacuations and resources have been necessary as thousands of personnel tackle the flames.

The so-called Park Fire, the

largest wildfire in California this year, was one of more than 100 blazes burning in the US on Sunday, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre. Some were sparked by the weather, with climate change increasing the frequency of lightning strikes as the western US endures blistering heat and bone-dry conditions. The Park Fire had scorched an area greater than the city of Los Angeles as of Monday, darkening the sky with smoke and engaging thousands of firefighters. The blaze spanned more than 562 square miles (1,455 sq km) of inland Northern California.

Winds and temperatures were expected to increase slightly amid a drop in humidity, officials said in an update early Monday. Air quality alerts were issued for Monday in the northwestern US and western Canada.

The Park Fire started Wednesday, when authorities say a man pushed a burning car into a gully in Chico and then fled. A man accused of setting the fire was arrested Thursday and is due in court Monday. Firefighters increased containment to 12% on Saturday, aided by cooler temperatures and more humidity, officials said.

Social media hinders teens' self-discovery

AP SUNSHINE COAST

voting system.

Over recent months, a number of politicians have supported calls to ban social media for children under 16 in Australia. Currently, kids under 13 are not allowed to use social

There's some research that suggests social media can be helpful for certain young people by, for example, connecting them with like-minded peers

That said, there are a raft of reasons for this proposed change. The most compelling is evidence showing inappropriate screen time and social media use are linked to poor mental health in children and young people, including depression and anxiety.

Overuse or misuse of social

of psychological wellbeing. But, as an expert in adolescent development, I've been exploring one that's not often considered: identity development.

Identity development has long been regarded as the core psychological business of adolescence. You decide who you are, what you want to become, what underlying values you stand for and what you want out of life as you move toward adulthood. But might social media risk thwarting this process?

Between the ages of about 11 and 15, the human brain becomes increasingly sensitive to attention and feedback from peers. The parts of the brain responsible for developing perspective, judgment, critical thinking and self-control will

media can damage many areas not fully mature until a person's early to mid 20s. Teenagers have always com-

pared themselves to others. They seek validation from peers as they explore their values, develop their personalities and seek to express themselves. But social media have provided a platform for adolescents – particularly those high in FOMO, or fear of missing out – to obsess over how they compare to many more people, including aptly named "influencers".

It can be difficult for a young person to develop a clear sense of self when they're constantly comparing themselves to and following others.

Similarly, young people are developing many of their opin-ions based on what they see on social media. An individual's people's opinions is sometimes called the "bandwagon effect". While plenty of social media content can be harmless enough, social media – like the real world – are becoming increasingly political and polarised, with little tolerance for opposing ideas. Some teens may find themselves latching onto ideologies fed to them via marketing algorithms. And we know young people can become radicalised through social media. How do you see yourself? Are you the same person in public, in private, with friends, family or at work? Would you honestly admit some of your deepest feelings to your work colleague, friend, or even your partner? How about to

tendency to conform to other

as tourist attraction on Google Maps PTI ■ WASHINGTON Alife-size statue of Bollywood superstar

Amitabh Bachchan installed by an Indian-American businessman outside his New Jersey residence in the US has now been listed by Google as a tourist attraction. Gopi Seth installed Bachchan's

life-size statue in August 2022 outside his residence in Edison city, about 35 kilometres south of Manhattan in New York. "Our home has become one of

the most popular tourist attractions, thanks to the Amitabh Bachchan statue. Recognised by Google Search, this site attracts a growing number of visitors each day," Seth told PTI instagram and X.



Amitabh Bachchan statue in US listed

then, fans of the Indian superstar have been coming to this place, taking pictures and selfies, with many of them posting on social media platforms like

the statue, with 20 to 25 cars of families arriving daily. Visitors often leave greeting cards and letters, expressing their admi-ration for the legendary actor," Seth said, sharing some of the videos of the fans visiting the Seth said the popularity of his home extends far beyond in-person visits. "Enthusiastic fans

around the world travel to see

post videos, photos, and tweets about their experiences, flooding social media platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. These posts have garnered significant attention, further boosted the site's fame and made it a trending destination on the internet," he said.

150 killed in unrest, B'desh announces mourning Groups of youths held scattered

For the first time, the Bangladesh government on Monday officially acknowledged that 150 people were killed across the country during the students' unrest over the quota system.

Violence gripped Bangladesh recently and the government called in the army to quell protests against job quotas. The protests, which started in universities and colleges earlier this month, quickly turned into a more widespread agitation against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government. The unrest has left several thousand people, including policemen, wounded and major government installations damaged.

"The government has decided that a nationwide mourning will be observed tomorrow.. People have been urged to wear black badges to mourn the deaths (during the vio-lence)," Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain told a media briefing after a meeting chaired by Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

He said mosques, temples, pagodas and churches across the country were also urged to offer prayers for the departed souls and the wounded people. The top bureaucrat said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal presented a report at the meeting about the overall situation and confirmed 150



deaths in clashes across the

The announcement came on a day when the military and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets of the capital Dhaka while police in riot gear enforced a strict vigil as a faction of the protesting students overnight called a new round of protests.

The group called the new protest after six of their coordinators announced the withdrawal of the demonstrations, which the protestors said was obtained under duress in police

The six student leaders in an appearance before the media overnight announced the withdrawal of the street demonstrations as their demand for reforms in the quota system was met by the government following a Supreme Court order. "We have mobilised forces to prevent fresh violence," a police official said

Witnesses and live TV footage showed the security forces guarding major points in the capital with military and police armoured personnel carriers patrolling the streets alongside the paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh.

The protests subsided after the apex Appellate Division of unitary Bangladesh's Supreme Court on July 21 ordered a massive quota reform, keeping only seven per cent of reserve posts instead of the existing 56

street protests but were quickly chased away by police in parts of the capital and else-Their demand included a pub-

lic apology from the prime minister for the casualties, the dismissal of several of her ministers, and the reopening of schools and universities around the country which were closed for an indefinite period as the unrest reached its peak.

A nationwide curfew gripped Bangladesh mid-July, and the government called in the army in aid to the police and paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to quell protests against job quotas that, according to media reports, killed more than 200 persons across the country. The mass circulation 'Prothom

Alo' newspaper cited 210 deaths, 113 of them being children. Most others were juveniles and youths. The newspaper said at least 9,000 people were arrested nationwide since the beginning of the unrest. According to observers and political commentators, the students protests were largely peaceful until the ruling Awami League student activists were asked to quell the protestors and police attacks on demonstrators, who were later presumed to be backed by the opposition political quarters. The government leaders said the peaceful and issue-specific students' movement was not

uted the anarchy to the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) party and their student activists backed by the main Opposition outside par-liament Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of ex-premier Khaleda Zia. The BNP had boycotted the January 7 elections. The government has accused JI of hijacking the protests to cause a nationwide anarchy.

The unrest significantly

impacted Bangladesh's economy with the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) estimating the economic impact to be around USD 10 billion and rising. President of the country's apex business chambers, Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), Mahbubul Alam, said the major export-earning garment industries alone incurred losses of Bangladeshi Taka 6.4000.000 (USD 5,45,167). Bangladeshi authorities said they restored internet services in the country after a 10-day disconnection of both mobile internet and the key social media platform as the situation

protests. However, the resumption of mobile internet on Sunday

returned to normal following

the disbandment of the

failed to relieve tens of thousands of F-commerce sellers, who rely on Facebook to sell their goods and services, were vet to resume.

Braverman lashes out on colleagues over Tory leadership race

Britain's former home secre-tary, Suella Braverman, on Monday lashed out at her Conservative Party colleagues for branding her "mad, bad and dangerous" as she decided not to contest the Tory leadership contest to succeed Rishi Sunak as Opposition Leader.

The 44-year-old Indian-origin member of Parliament from Fareham and Waterlooville in south-east England was widely expected to not join the race by Monday's nomination deadline to go up against fellow Indianorigin former home secretary Priti Patel and other former ministers - Kemi Badenoch, James Cleverly, Tom Tugendhat, Robert Jenrick and Mel Stride. However, contrary to some media reports that she had failed to find the requisite 10 MPs to propose her candidacy, Braverman said she had chosen to step aside because her party was unwilling to accept her diagnosis of what led to its worst electoral defeat in history earlier this month.

'I've been branded mad, bad and dangerous enough to see that the Tory Party does not want to hear the truths I've set out," writes Braverman in 'The Daily Telegraph'.

"Although I'm grateful to the 10 MPs who wanted to nominate me for the leadership, getting onto the ballot is not enough. There is, for good or for ill, no point in someone like me running to lead the Tory Party when most of the MPs disagree with my diagnosis and prescription. The traumatised party does not want to hear these things said out loud. Instead platitudes about 'unity' are fashionable. That's all fine but it's not honest," she writes.

According to the former minister who was sacked by Sunak as home secretary, the party's disastrous election result was down to the party's failures on "migration, taxes and trans ideology". She also lamented the lack of a proper rebellion against the former British Indian leader as she criticised his leadership over the party's controversial Rwanda scheme to deport illegal migrants to the African

She writes: "The reality is that we were a united party under Rishi Sunak. We MPs united to

install him as PM with a coronation...Precisely everything on Rishi's agenda was nodded through: smoking bans, pedicabs, tax rises, Windsor framework and even the misguided early general election.

'In fact, if only our Rwanda rebellion had succeeded, we would have got flights off. But not enough colleagues joined us, instead putting 'unity' above a fatally flawed law that failed to stop the boats – as we predicted." A barrister by profession, the Goan heritage politician had led calls for the UK to leave the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to make the Rwanda scheme work. something the incoming Labour government has categorically ruled out as it shelved the deportation programme.

However, while admitting that the Tories got things "monumentally wrong" and declared that the general election defeat was "predicted, preventable, deserved and, as yet, unad-dressed", she pledged to support whoever takes charge as a backbench MP.

'I wish all the candidates the best. The survival of our party depends on the outcome of this contest. And it is not just about unity. Pretending that we are united on the surface when we are unreconciled on policy won't work," she added.

The final list of candidates in the

race to replace Sunak will be unveiled this week after which they will kick off their campaigns to sway enough MPs to vote for them in the first round of votes ahead of the Conservative Party conference at the end of September. After a whittling down process to the final two candidates who will fight it out for the wider Tory membership vote through October, the new leader will take their place as the UK's Opposition Leader on November 2.

Pak seeks reprofiling of over \$27-bn debt with friendly nations

Islamabad (PTI): Cashstrapped Pakistan has sought the re-profiling of more than USD 27 billion in debt and liabilities with China and two other friendly nations to secure a bailout package from the IMF, according to a media report on Monday. Washington-based

International Monetary Fund last month announced that it signed a staff-level agreement with Pakistan to provide a USD 7 billion loan which would be disbursed for 37 months.

However, it attached stringent conditions with it, requiring Pakistan prior action before the fund's board accords final approval for the loan.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb after returning from Beijing told the media on Sunday that talks have been going on with China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE for a re-Aurangzeb said Pakistan had already asked the friendly bilateral trio of lenders to roll over its more than USD 12 billion annual debt portfolio by three to five years to secure the IMF board's approval, which is expected next month.

This is on top of Islamabad's request to Beijing to convert imported coal-based projects to local coal and re-profile more than USD 15 billion in energy sector liabilities to create fiscal space amid difficulties in timely repayments.

Pakistan has a peculiar financial arrangement with these three countries in the shape of commercial loans and SAFE deposits that are rolled over every year and form a major part of the IMF programme in terms of external financing needs.

Pakistan has now requested the maturity period of these loans USD 5 billion from China, USD 4 billion from Saudi Arabia, and USD 3 billion from the UAE — to be extend-

n international rights

Agroup on Monday accused

a paramilitary group in war-

torn Sudan of sexual violence

against women, including rape,

gang rape, and forced and child marriage. A smaller num-

ber of incidents were also

attributed to the military, it

Human Rights Watch called for

the United Nations and the

African Union to establish a

joint mission to protect civil-

have raped, gang raped, and

forced into marriage countless

women and girls in residential

areas in Sudan's capital," said

ed to at least three years, offering greater predictability under

the IMF programme. Aurangzeb said the Chinese side acknowledged Pakistan's foreign exchange difficulties and wanted to help in new business ventures and the reprofiling of energy sector payments besides playing its role in supporting Pakistan's case at the IMF board as one of the major stakeholders

He said the process of debt and equity rescheduling had been started and would now go to the working groups with relevant financial institutions and sponsors of Chinese projects for which Pakistan hired local Chinese consultants.

Between now and the IMF board meeting (on the 37month bailout package), we have to ensure confirmation of external financing" from friendly bilateral partners, the minister said.

he explained the Chinese energy sector debt reprofiling had nothing to do with the IMF programme as other prior actions had been completed and structural benchmarks were under implementation.

Aurangzeb said he was in contact with the Chinese, Saudi and UAE finance ministers for an extension in debt rollover for three years and they had assured their support that would place Pakistan in a very comfortable position in terms of external financing gap. "I can assure you we are at a

very good place on external financing for the next three years, including year one, year two and year three," he said. He said the IMF had

worked out a financing needs assessment for three years that also included its own USD 7 billion Extended Fund Facility After rollovers from friendly countries, the remaining external financing gap would become very manageable, he

director at Human Rights

Watch. The group also accused

both warring parties of block-

ing survivors' access to critical

emergency care, and said the military has "willfully restrict-

ed" shipments of humanitari-

an supplies to RSF-controlled

areas, including medical sup-

plies and aid workers since

The RSF, meanwhile, has pil-

laged medical supplies and occupied medical facilities, it

said. RSF fighters also commit-

and the RSF exploded into

open fighting in the capital,

Khartoum, and elsewhere in

October last vear.

Pakistan court extends remand of PTI's info secretary by two days

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistani court has extend-Aed the physical remand of a close aide of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party for two more days and sent a female social media activist, allegedly linked to the political organisation, to judicial remand. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) presented Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Central Information Secretary Raoof Hasan before Dis-trict and Sessions Judge Judge Murid Abbas on Sunday after the expiry of his three-day remand granted last week, the Dawn newspaper reported on Monday. The FIA prosecutor informed the judge that the case record, including transcripts of videos, has been submitted to court. The forensic analysis of the videos has to be carried out, the pros-

At least three people have been killed and many oth-

ers were injured when protest-

ers clashed with security per-

sonnel in Pakistan's restive

Balochistan province following

a sit-in for the rights of Baloch

people in Gwadar city, media

reports said on Monday.
The sit-in organised by the

Committee (BYC) began on

Sunday even as scores of peo-

ple, including 14 persons in

Mastung, were injured in

clashes with security person-

The BYC is holding a demon-

stration for the rights of the

people of Balochistan province

and the safeguarding of its nat-

Although the authorities set up

roadblocks at several places

'Sexual violence rampant in Sudan civil war'

and wounded 33,000 others,

according to the UN, but rights

activists say the true toll could

The conflict has created the

world's largest displacement

crisis, with over 11 million peo-

ple forced to flee their homes.

The formerly military-aligned

RSF grew out of the Janjaweed

militias formed during the conflict in Darfur in the 2000s

by former President Omar al-

Bashir, who ruled the country

for three decades until he was

be much higher.

Balochistan

ural resources.

Laetitia Bader, deputy Africa killed more than 14,000 people

Yakjehti

ecutor said and sought eight days' physical remand of Hasan. Following the arguments, the judge extended Hasan's physical remand for two more days, the report said.

The government subsequently

issued a Gazette notification in

line with the order saying 93

per cent of jobs would be open

Our main demand for logical

reforms to the government job

quota system has been met,"

student coordinator Nahid

Islam on Sunday said in a

video message, calling for edu-

cational institutions to re-open

However, other students, call-

ing for a new protest, claimed

their leaders were forced to

announce while in police cus-

tody. Meanwhile, the govern-

ment ignored an ultimatum to

release their leaders and apol-

ogise for those killed in dead-

to candidates on merit.

During the last hearing on Thursday, the FIA presented a report to the court claiming that Hasan received "instructions through messages, audio notes, graphics and videos" from abroad daily. It alleged that the PTI member oversees the party's social media teams that run trends on social media platforms "to incite violence, create law and order situation and fan cyberterrorism".

The FIA also presented Syeda Arooba Kanwal, a social media activist who was allegedly linked with the PTI in court.

The FIA prosecutor claimed that Kanwal was operating the party's account on social media

3 killed after protesters clash

with security forces in Gwadar

leading to Gwadar, a large number of people still man-aged to gather at Marine Drive

for the rally named the 'Baloch

Rajee Muchi' (Baloch National

Gathering), the Dawn newspa-

Clashes were reported with

security personnel at some

checkposts and near Gwadar as

protesters started arriving at

There were also reports of

protesters attacking checkposts

in some areas, forcing securi-

ty personnel to use tear gas shells and rubber bullets.

Till Monday, at least three

people died in the clashes

while around 28 have been

injured, hospital sources con-

Three dead bodies at the gov-

ernment hospital in Gwadar

besides eight others injured,

and child marriage during the

conflict in Khartoum and the

nearby cities of Omdurman

and Bahri, or Khartoum North.

The three cities are known as

These acts constitute "war

crimes and crimes against

The group said most of the

cases were attributed to the

Rapid Support Forces, but

some were also blamed on the

military, especially as the mil-

itary retained control of

Omdurman earlier this year. It

Greater Khartoum.

humanity", it said.

per reported.

the Marine Drive.

firmed.



platform X, which she refused to surrender to the investigators, and sought her physical remand for investigation.

The defendant's lawyer, Ali Bukhari, said Kanwal was an employee and handled PTI's social media account. He claimed the entire case has been based on data retrieved from a

On Saturday evening, securi-

ty forces opened fire during

clashes, injuring 14 persons in

Mastung. Four others were

injured in Turbat on Sunday.

Balochistan Home Minister

Ziaullah Langove and provin-

cial spokesperson Shahid Rind

were unavailable for comments

due to a communications

blackout in many parts of

Later, addressing the gathering

in Gwadar, BYC leader Dr

Mahrang Baloch and others

vowed not to abandon their

struggle for the rights of the

Baloch people and the protec-

tion of the province's resources.

Authorities said life has been

derailed in many parts of the

province since Sunday with

roads and highways leading to

Gwadar and Quetta blocked

by protesters or security

Balochistan.

personnel.

FIA's custody. The advocate requested the court to discharge all the accused.

cell phone, which is already in

However, the judge sent Kanwal to jail on judicial remand. The Pakistan government last week formed a joint investigation committee to identify those involved in creating disorder in the country through "malicious social media campaigns". No party or person has been named against whom the possible investigation would be directed. However, analysts say, the step may be targeted at the PTI party. Hasan was arrested on Monday last week along with 11 other PTI supporters and was booked by the FIA's cybercrime wing under Sections 9 (glorification of an offence), 10 (cyber terrorism) and 11 (electronic forgery) of the Prevention of

Electronic Crimes Act (PECA)

lop radical leader

booked in Pak for

Islamabad (PTI): An FIR was

filed against a top leader of the

radical Islamist group

Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan

and its 1,500 workers for issu-

ing death threats to Chief

Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez

The FIR was registered against

Pir Zaheerul Hasan Shah, the

Deputy Amir of Tehreek-e-

The charges against Shah

include sections of the Anti-

Terrorism Act (ATA), inciting

religious hatred, causing pub-

Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

issuing death

threats to CJ

NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION OF TENDER

No. E-499218/302

Due to insufficient participation of bidders in the e-tender invited vide NIT No. E-499218/3 dated 11 June 2024, are cancelled and re-tender is invited. The detailed notice inviting re-tender

sanyog/CF/902/24/30-Jul-24



Sd/-Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. E-499218/301

Date: 27.07.2024

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, invites bids from registered appropriate class of contractor for 8 group of building works in different schools as per the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website https://www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The last date of submission of tender is 19-08-2024 upto 2:00

/og/CF/899/24/30-JUL-24

Sd/-Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axon Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

APPOINTMENTS

The Punjab state Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (Milked Punjab) invites applications/resumes for appointment of 01 post of Animal Nutrition Officer (ANO), 02 posts of Animal Nutrition Supervisor and 05 posts of Calf Rearing Programme Supervisor on contract basis till March 2026 under JICA Project (which could be extended further as per requirement of the project)

1. For the post of Animal Nutrition Officer:- Veterinary post graduate/graduate or agriculture post graduate/graduate with relevan

2. For the post of Animal Nutrition Supervisor:- Graduation in veterinary Science/agriculture. However, if such graduates cannot be found, then candidates with diploma in veterinary science/agriculture will be considered, if even such candidates are not available then bachelor's degree in any discipline, having field experience will be considered.

3. For the post of calf Rearing Programme Supervisor:- Any graduate. In case person with graduation is not available, then suitable candidate with Higher Secondary School

Certificate(Class 12) will be considered.

NA/12/24407/2023/36097 Dated CHD :- 7/29/2024

All the requisite details of the posts and process of submitting applications are available under "Career Section" of our website http://www.verka.coop/career/. The last date of receipt of the resumes/applications is 15.08.2024.

General Manager (QA&E)/ Incharge (HR)

He warned that permitting ians in Sudan as more than 15 ted sexual violence against seroverthrown during a popular said men and boys have also vice providers, the group said, been raped, including in detenuprising in 2019. He is wanted months of fighting between the 'The United Nations and by the International Criminal tion. Both the RSF and the milmilitary and the paramilitary citing local responders. African Union need to mobilise Sudan plunged into chaos in Court for charges of genocide itary didn't immediately answer Rapid Support Forces has this protection and states structure. shown no signs of abating. "The Rapid Support Forces should hold to account those April last year when simmering and other crimes committed requests for comment. tensions between the military

Human Rights Watch said neiduring the conflict. In a report released on Sunday, ther party has taken meaningful steps to prevent its forces Human Rights Watch said it documented widespread sexufrom committing rape or the country. The fighting has al violence, as well as forced attacking health care, nor to

ly investigate crimes committed by their forces. It said an RSF spokesman

denied occupying hospitals or medical centres in Khartoum sexual violence by its forces.

responsible for ongoing sexual violence, attacks on local responders, health facilities and the blocking of aid," Bader

independently and transparent-

and its sister cities, but didn't provide evidence that the group has carried out effective investigations into allegations of It called on the African Union and the United Nations to jointly deploy a new mission to protect civilians in Sudan, including preventing sexual and gender-based violence.

lic disorder, intimidating the judiciary, threatening the judiciary, interfering in official duties, and obstructing legal functions. According to the FIR, during a protest outside the Press Club, Shah incited hatred against the judiciary and announced a reward of PKR

10 million for anyone who brings the head of Justice Faez Isa. The FIR also includes charges against 1,500 Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan workers. The FIR was registered after Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that strict action would be taken against those issuing death threats to the Chief Justice, emphasising that the state will not tolerate such

During the press conference, Asif condemned the inflammatory remarks made against Chief Justice Isa and highlighted attempts on social media to incite the public to commit murder.

such rhetoric could lead to the disintegration of the state's

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif pointed out that there are efforts to incite violence in the name of religion, with Chief Justice Isa being targeted through various pretexts.

is avilable in the website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Govt's debt set to rise to ₹185 lakh cr in FY25

The government estimates its debt, including external borrowing, valued at current exchange rate and public account and other liabilities will increase to Rs 185 lakh crore, or 56.8 per cent of the GDP, during the current fiscal year.
The total debt stood at Rs

171.78 lakh crore, or 58.2 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), at the end of March 2024, Minister of State Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on

As per the International Fund, World Economic Outlook, April 2024, India's Gross Domestic Product at current prices has already reached ÛSD 3.57 trillion in 2023-24, he said.

Replying to another question, Chaudhary said the growth rate of the private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) at constant prices in



per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, he said, quoting provisional GDP estimates for 2023-24 released by the National Statistical Office.

The growth rate of PFCE at current prices in 2022-23 and 2023-24 is 14.2 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively, he said, adding that the ratio of PFCE to the GDP at current prices in 2023-24 is 60.3 per

In response to another question, Chaudhary said the normal net borrowing ceiling (NBC) of the states for 2021-

2022-23 and 2023-24 is 6.8 22 was fixed at 4 per cent of gross state domestic product (GSDP) as recommended by

Commission. Of the normal NBC of 4 per cent of projected GSDP for the borrowing ceiling of 0.50 per cent of the projected GSDP was earmarked incremental capital expenditure incurred by states during 2021-22, for which, a target for capital expenditure was fixed for

rates from any generator in

any corner of the country,

thereby enabling cheaper

substations have been added,

upgrade of 3,965 existing sub stations has been carried out

and 8.5 lakh ckms of high

tension and low tension lines

have been added/upgraded,

As a result of these measures,

the availability of power in

rural areas has increased from

12.5 hours in 2015 to 21.9

hours in 2024, Naik said,

power in urban areas is 23.4

electricity

consumers.

the MoS said.

Besides,

each state, he said. In another reply, he said the

Union government under the 'Special Assistance under Demands for Grants 'Transfers to States' provide grants-in-aid to states for committed

liabilities for which Budget provision is not made and for other need-based assistance Further, NITI Aayog, in its report titled 'Report on Developmental Support to

the Successor State of Andhra Pradesh under Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act (APRA), 2014' dated December 1, 2015, has, recommended "...A total assistance of Rs 2,100 crore for the seven backward districts of Andhra Pradesh at the rate of Rs 300 crore per district.

Based on recommendations of NITI Aayog, he said the Department of Expenditure has released an amount of Rs 1,750 crore so far under the APRA, 2014 for development of seven backward districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Digitalisation in finance paving way for next-generation banking: RBI Guv

Digitalisation in finance is paving the way for next-generation banking and improving access to financial services at affordable cost, said Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday. In the foreword of the Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for 2023-24, the Governor also said the flagship Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionised the retail payment experience for endusers, making transactions faster and more convenient. In the digital currency arena,

the Reserve Bank is at the forefront with pilot runs of the e-rupee, the central bank digital currency (CBDC). The digital lending ecosystem

is becoming vibrant with initiatives such as Open Credit Enablement Network, Open Network for Digital Commerce and the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit.

said fintechs are collaborating with banks and non-banking



lending service providers. They are also operating platforms to facilitate digital credit. BigTechs are backing payment apps and lending products as third-party service providers.

"Digitalisation in finance is paving the way for nextgeneration banking; improving access to financial services at affordable costs; and enhancing the impact of direct benefit transfers by effective targeting of beneficiaries in a costefficient manner," Das said. He noted that loans in the

segment are being enabled by online payments and innovative assessment models with instant disbursements. Also, e-commerce is being boosted through embedded finance.

"All these innovations are making financial markets more efficient and integrated," the Governor

At the same time, Das said digitalisation also presents challenges related cybersecurity, data privacy, data bias, vendor and thirdparty risks, and customer

connectedness may lead to systemic risks. Additionally, emerging technologies can introduce complex products and business models with risks that users may not fully understand, including the proliferation of fraudulent apps and mis-selling through dark patterns," he said.

Das further said digitalisation may induce human resource challenges in the financial sector, necessitating strategic investments in upskilling and reskilling.

Taking stock of India's digital journey so far, the report explores emerging opportunities and challenges, supported by surveys of key stakeholders and analytics.

It finds empirical support for positive role of the regulatory framework in increasing the confidence of consumers financial products, boosting operating and technical efficiencies of institutions and engendering more liquid and integrated

India's power generation capacity rises to 4.46 GW in 10 years: MoS Power

Tndia's total installed power Igeneration capacity has grown around 80 per cent over the last 10 years to 4,46,190 MW (4.46 GW) in June 2024, Parliament was informed on Monday.

The installed capacity, which was 2,48,554 MW in March 2014, reached 4,46,190 MW in June, the Union Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik

In a reply to the Rajya Sabha, he said the installed capacity of coal-based power has increased from 1,39,663 MW in March 2014 to 2,10,969 MW in June 2024

While the installed capacity of sector increased from 75,519 MW in March 2014 to 1,95,013 MW in June 2024, the minister

The Government of India proposes to set up an additional minimum 80 GW coal-based capacity by 2031-32, Naik said.

He further said 1,95,181 circuit kilometer (ckm) of



transformation capacity and 82,790 MW of inter-regional capacity have been added, connecting the whole country into one grid running on one frequency with the capability of transferring 1,18,740 MW from one corner of the country to another.

"India's grid has emerged as one of the largest unified world. Connecting the whole country into one grid has transformed the country into one unified power market," he

the distribution adding that the availability of Now, companies (discoms) can buy

Rupee settles flat at 83.73 against US dollar in restricted trade

The rupee moved in a I narrow range before settling flat at 83.73 (provisional) against US dollar on Monday as a firm American currency in overseas markets offset the gains from weak crude oil

Forex traders said a recovery in the US dollar and dollar demand from importers restricted gains for the domestic unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.70 and touched a low of 83.74 against the dollar during the trading session.

It finally settled at 83.73 (provisional) against the currency, American unchanged from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee recovered from its all-time low level and appreciated 5 paise to 83.73 against the US

"We expect the rupee to trade



month-end dollar demand from importers and oil marketing companies. recovery in the US Dollar ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting this week may also weigh on the rupee," said Anuj Choudhary – Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP

Choudhary further noted that "a positive tone in the domestic markets and fresh foreign fund inflows may support the rupee at lower levels. Investors may remain cautious ahead of the FOMC. Bank of England (BoE) and Bank of Japan (BoJ) meeting

Sensex, Nifty settle flat after hitting fresh all-time high levels

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit intra-day record high levels before closing almost flat on Monday due to a refer to the control of the Monday due to profit-taking in FMCG and IT shares by cautious investors ahead of the key US Fed interest rate decision later this week.
The 30-share BSE Sensex closed higher by 23.12 points

or 0.03 per cent at 81,355.84 -- its all time closing high --with 16 of its components advancing and 14 ending lower. The index opened higher and jumped 575.71 points or 0.70 per cent to hit a new intra-day record peak of 81,908.43 in late morning deals following a decline in US bond yields. However, investors preferred

to book profits at record high levels amid high volatility dragging the index down.

The NSE Nifty ended

marginally up 1.25 points or 0.01 per cent at an all-time closing high of 24,836.10. During the day, it surged



to hit a fresh lifetime peak of 24,999.75.

From the Sensex Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Mahindra Finsery. UltraTech Mahindra, Cement, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries and Sun Pharma were among the biggest gainers.

Bharti Airtel, Titan, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra and HDFC Bank were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong settled in the positive

the Fed might cut rates in September, leading to a global rally. However, profitbooking was triggered in the domestic market given trading in the overbought territory and closed flat," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Foreign Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,546.38 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude

European markets were

trading on a mixed note. The

US markets rallied on Friday.

"An ease in the US personal

consumption expenditure to 2.5% and the subsequent drop in the US 10-year yield

have fuelled optimism that

declined 0.31 per cent to USD 80.88 a barrel. The BSE benchmark jumped 1,292.92 points or 1.62 per cent to settle at 81,332.72 on

The NSE Nifty surged 428.75 points or 1.76 per cent to settle at an all-time closing

IN BRIEF

NTPC DECLARES 01 FY25 UNAUDITED RESULTS New Delhi: The country's largest integrated power utility- NTPC Ltd

with a group installed capacity of more than 76GW, declared unaudited financial results for Q1 FY25 on July 27, 2024. NTPC Group generated ₹114 Billion Units in Q1 FY25 as compared to ₹104 billion units in Q1 FY24. NTPC's standalone gross generation in Q1 FY25

is ₹98 billion units as compared to ₹88



billion units in the corresponding previous period

INTEGRATION OF AI INTO DENTAL EDUCATION

New Delhi: A high-level stakeholders meeting was held at GGSIPU to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into dental education. As per the WHO Global Oral Health Status report, oral diseases affect 3.5 billion individuals globally. To tackle this case load, the academic experts feel Al can play a vital role. The technology enhances



diagnostic accuracy, treatment planning, and patient care in dentistry

JUNCKERS' OAK NATURE LAUNCHED

New Delhi: Freddy Svane, the Ambassador at the Royal Danish Embassy in New Delhi launched "Oak Nature" by Junckers, Europe's leading manufacturer of premium solid wood flooring for sports residential, and commercial uses. The launching was celebrated the Junckers' 25 successful years in India, marking significant growth in the industry. The launch event, titled "Discover Junckers: A Night of Art and Design," was held at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) in Saket highlighting Danish craftsmanship in an Indian setting

LOHIA LAUNCHES ELECTRIC 3-WHEELER MODELS New Delhi: Lohia, one of India's largest electric automobile manufacturers, has announced the launch of new electric three-

wheeler (E3W) models, signalling a renewed focus on this segment This strategic move aims to revolutionise the EV market with innovative, sustainable solutions, offering a wide range of electric rickshaws and three-wheelers to meet diverse customer needs

REC DECLARES 1ST INTERIM DIVIDEND OF 3.50 PER SHARE

New Delhi: The Board of Directors of REC Limited, today approved the limited reviewed standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ended



INTER-SCHOOL AQUATIC MEET HELD

Nautica, on July 26, 2024 welcoming 233 participants from 22 prestigious schools across the

region. The event, held at LPS Global School, showcased spirited competition and camaraderie among young athletes passionate



Report flags employer-employee expectations mismatch

Around 34 per cent of organisations in the country struggle to find the right talent and one in three grapples with retaining existing employees as the gap employer between expectations and employee realities regarding hiring and retention continues to grow,

according to a report. Even as employers and job seekers agree that flexibility, higher salaries and career progression are top priorities, employees value company culture and ethics more than the organisations realise while organisations overvalue the importance of brand and incentives, said Michael Page 'Talent Trends 2024 - India

Coming out of the pandemic, a convergence of factors resulted in a subtle but

The Indian economy could grow higher than 7 per cent and possibly

closer to 7.5 per cent in the current

fiscal on the back of normal monsoon

and receded electoral uncertainty,

economic think tank NCAER has said.

In its July 2024 issue of Monthly Economic Review (MER), NCAER said

real GDP grew by 8.2 per cent in FY2023-24, driven by stable

FY2023-24, driven by stable consumption demand and steadily

"Based on the momentum in the high-

monsoon, a relatively benign global

outlook and receded electoral

uncertainty, both in India and in the

normalised

improving investment demand.

frequency indicators,

Expectation Gap' report.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



transformative change workplace dynamics, with people thinking more holistically about the value their job gives to their lives, said Page Michael Vietnam.

Nicolas Dumoulin, Managing Director for India, Thailand, Philippines, and Michael Page 'Talent Trends 2024 - India Expectation Gap' report is based on interviews among 3,087 respondents

Gupta said

transition

rest of the world, growth will likely turn out to be higher than 7 per cent, and possibly closer to 7.5 per cent," NCAER director general Poonam

Capacal.

The NCAER-NSE business confidence index (BCI) increased to 149.8 in the first quarter (Q1) of FY25, up from 138.2 in the fourth quarter (Q4) of

GDP during 2024-25.

The report further revealed that, on one hand, companies struggle to meet salary expectations, while on the other hand, they face a scarcity of applicants with the required skills who also align with the organisation's culture.

Meanwhile, the report found that most employees are open to new careers and job roles in 2024 compared to last year and 94 per cent of respondents were open to exploring different roles this year, according to the report. Though openness to new roles has varied slightly across demographics, this shift has endured since 2022, during the great resignation,

The report also revealed that 41 per cent of respondents in would refuse promotion to maintain well-

Indian economy likely to record over 7% growth: NCAER

Gupta said the Union Budget 2024-25

lived up to the expectations of

unwavering commitment to fiscal

The Budget has kept the fiscal deficit

target at 4.9 per cent of GDP and

capital expenditure at 2.4 per cent of

According to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER),

the short to medium-term growth

strategy is based on six key areas -

private sector capital formation, green

development, agricultural transformation, Education and skill

development, and enhanced state

capacity.
The NCAER-NSE business confidence

financing,

consolidation, prudence, and quality.

When it came to workplace discrimination, the report found that in India 47 per cent of employees report workplace discrimination, which is higher than the Asia Pacific average of 31 per cent. However, 45 per cent of the Indian employees experienced discrimination still face barriers in formally reporting such incidents, it

added. "Discrimination remains a pervasive issue in India's workplaces, as highlighted in our Talent Trends 2024 -India Expectation Gap' report. This has created an need urgent comprehensive diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&Í) initiatives to address systematic bias and foster a more inclusive environment...," Michael Page

India Managing Anshul Lodha told. Director

FY24, indicating an improvement in

The International Monetary Fund

(IMF) revised its growth projection for

range of projections for India for the

current fiscal year is between 6.6 to 7.2

As per the Economic Survey 2023-24,

India's real GDP grew by 8.2 per cent in

FY2023-24 due to stable consumption

and improving investment demand,

and it is projected to grow between

6.5-7 per cent in FY2024-25. The Union Budget for FY2024-25

emphasised fiscal prudence and capex.

Nominal GDP is projected to grow at 10.5 per cent in FY2024-25; while the

fiscal deficit is budgeted at 4.9 per cent

business sentiments.

per cent.

Vedanta Nico signs pact for supplying nickel to US-based **AEsir Technologies**



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vedanta Nico, a subsidiary of Vedanta Ltd, on Monday said it has entered into a pact with US-based AEsir Technologies for the supply of nickel, a critical component for generation batteries.

Nickel plays an important role in EV battery technology, particularly in the cathode, where it enhances energy density, power output, and battery lifespan. Nickel-rich batteries, such as nickel-zinc variants, offer fast charging, India upward to 7 per cent, while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) maintained its projection at 7 per cent as of July 2024 for FY2024-25. The reduce reliance on cobalt, and improve the overall electric vehicle (EV) proposition.

The global demand for nickel in batteries is projected to reach 500,000 tonnes by 2025 from 150,000 tonnes in 2020 due to the expanding EV market adoption. The International Energy

Agency (IEA) forecasts that the number of electric cars will rise from over 10 million in 2020 to 145 million by 2030, spurred by larger battery capacities, charging, and advancements in reducing cobalt use.

'Vedanta Nico, primary nickel producer, has signed Memorandum Understanding (MoU) with

AEsir Technologies, Inc, a US-based innovator in advanced technologies," Vedanta Nico said in a statement. Vedanta Nico has now joined

forces to develop and commercialise cutting-edge nickel-zinc batteries for critical infrastructure, 5G telecom, and electric vehicle chargers, it said. We are thrilled to partner

with AEsir Technologies to create a game-changing battery solution for the critical infrastructure, 5G telecom, and EV market. Our expertise in nickel production, coupled with AEsir's innovative zinc battery technology, positions us to deliver a product that meets the evolving needs of the industry.

This collaboration aligns with our vision of contributing to a sustainable future through responsible mining and value-added value-added products," Vedanta Nico COO Prashuk Jain said.



Manu-Sarabjot duo enters bronze medal round; Ramita finishes seventh

PTI ■ CHATEAUROUX

confident Manu Bhaker placed herself in Contention for a second medal as she combined with Sarabjot Singh to make the bronze playoff in the 10m air pistol mixed team event but Ramita Jindal ended seventh in the 10m air rifle women's competition here on

The 22-year-old Bhaker came the mixed team qualifications after winning a historic bronze medal in the 10m women's air pistol event on Sunday. Bhaker and

Sarabiot finished with a total of 580 to make the medal round to be held on Tuesday.

The Indians will face Koreans Oh Ye Iin and Lee Wonho, who shot 579, in the bronze-medal match. The other Indian pair of Rhythm Sangwan and Arjun Singh Cheema finished 10th with a score of 576 and failed to make it to the medal rounds. who equalled Qualification Olympic Record with 582, and Serbia (581), finished second, respectively, will contest the

gold-medal match. Bhaker was sensational with her 98s in the first two series,

but a 95 in the third set pulled the team down a bit. However. the pair did enough to make the medal round in the end.

Sarabiot, who missed out on gaining a spot in the finals of the men's 10m air pistol event by a whisker, shot 97 in the second and third, after a 95 in

RAMITA FACES TOUGH **COMPETITION:** Young Indian shooter Ramita's score was 145.3 when she bowed of the high-quality eight-women final. She was placed seventh after 10 shots ($\hat{10}4.0$), when the elimination began. In danger of being eliminated,

a 10.5 pushed Ramita to sixth place even as Norway's Hegg Jeanette Duestad made an exit. But the Indian could not save herself after that. She was placed fourth at one

point but failed to maintain the momentum. In the qualifications on Sunday, she performed

exceedingly well to make the final in the fifth place. Ramita, the Hangzhou Asian Games bronze-medallist in the beat event, World Championship medallist Mehuli Ghosh and Tilottama Sen at the domestic trials to

Refugee athletes want more of them to compete at Olympics as migration takes global focus

The first time Perina Lokure Nakang began to run for sport, she ran 9 miles (14 kilometers) along the road near her refugee camp in northwestern Kenya.

Now, the 21-year-old South Sudanese runner is competing in the Paris Olympics, among many of the 37 athletes on the Olympic refugee team who are pushing to see more refugees like her able to compete in the

"I told myself if I continue running this, it is going to change my life," she said. "In the Olympics, everyone is looking to me to represent

They are getting support from former refugee Olympians and U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, who told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday that the team is "a symbol of inclusion, of equality, of achievement for a large community around the of refugees and displaced people."

The Olympic refugee team was born at the 2016 Olympics Rio de Janeiro, a collaboration between the International Olympic Committee and UNHCR, with just 10 athletes from four different countries.

Now, it has expanded to dozens of athletes that have fled 11 countries - ranging from Cuba to Afghanistan and South Sudan like Nakang, who escaped war when she was 7. The refugee team has spurred hope by many to recover their dreams that were lost when



they left their lives behind to start from scratch in a new country. These athletes have taken center stage in the Paris Olympics, a competition that has underscored themes like diversity and inclusion at a time of historic global

migration. or's opening Grandi was Friday's ceremonies, honored with the Olympic laurel for his support of the Olympic refugee team and "his dedication to support refugees recognizing

power of sport."
"It is a moment in which people that have often lost everything can gain back dignity, identity and give back to the communities hosting them," Grandi told the AP.

"And they're not the objects of charity in a way, but are actors and the active participants in their communities.

The Olympics are set during a tense time in France: The country's far-right party has made political gains in recent elections while focusing on anti-immigration policies.

French and local authorities in Paris also have come under fire for breaking up homeless camps largely made up of migrants from African countries once colonized by the French, including Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

Migrants have been loaded up on buses and taken out of the city in an effort by authorities to clean up the streets during

"We understand the city needs to manage itself," Grandi said. But especially with asylumseekers, finding "solutions that are humane is very important. And this is a message that goes far beyond the Olympics. This is a message that goes far beyond the

government." Still, many current and former refugee athletes like Yiech Pur Biel see the platform offered by the Olympics as crucial in a larger push to humanize refugees and people fleeing their homes as nations around the world clamp down on

access to asylum. Another South Sudanese runner, the 29-year-old Biel was among the first 10 athletes to compete on the Olympic refugee team in 2016. Now living in Nebraska and working with UNHCR, Biel said he hopes the team can "bring back the dream of refugees" and "showing what

refugees can do." With growing representation of refugees in the Olympics, he said he hopes to reduce the need for there to be a refugee team at the Games.

The team will grow. We don't want to see (refugee populations) growing, but no one can control what is happening in the world," Biel

Nemour impresses with her bars routine at Olympics

When Kaylia Nemour competes alongside alongside and her Biles gymnastics rivals at the Paris Olympics, she feels right at home. The 17-year-old athlete, one of the best in the world on uneven bars, was born in France. She grew up here, and still trains here

She posted the best score on her favorite apparatus during Sunday's women's qualifications and will be aiming for the gold medal in that discipline. Too bad for the Olympics host country, she competes for Algeria. The situation is due to a dispute

between the French gymnastics

AP ■ MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

cooperate

Olympics.

 $E_{\text{soccer}}^{\text{mbattled Canada women's}}_{\text{coach Bev}}$

Priestman apologized to her

players and pledged to

investigation into the drone-

spying scandal at the Paris

The feam was deducted six

points and Priestman was

banned for a year after two of

her assistants were caught

using drones to spy on New

Zealand's practices before their

"I am absolutely heartbroken

for the players, and I would

like to apologize from the bottom of my heart for the

impact this situation has had

on all of them," Priestman said

in a statement. "As the leader of

the team on the field, I want to

take accountability, and I plan

to fully cooperate with the

Canada kept alive its hopes of

advancing despite the sanction

by beating France 2-1 Sunday

after Vanessa Gilles's winner in

the 12th minute of added time

in Saint-Etienne. But the win

still left the defending Olympic

champion pointless and in need of victory against

Colombia in its final Group A

Canada's players celebrated

wildly after the winning goal -

likely in response to the

pressure the team has felt after

a turbulent first week at the

Priestman led Canada to the

Olympic title in Tokyo in 2021,

but her reputation has been

marred by the scandal, which

has raised questions about the

practices of the country's men's

and women's soccer teams and

how widespread the issue

investigation.

Games.

opening game Wednesday.

with

an

of Avoine Beaumont, which has led the gymnast to embrace father's Algerian nationality.

The long-lasting crisis was settled after the French minister for Sport intervened following an initial refusal from the federation to release the gymnast that could have jeopardized her presence in

Nemour's massive score of 15.600 on Sunday unmatched by any of her rivals. It was the second highest score of the day on any apparatus, bettered only by Biles' first vault score of 15.800. Nemour was consistent on all four events and also qualified in fifth place for the all-around final, where French athlete will be

She also apologized to Canada

as a nation, but appeared to try

to defend her legacy.
"This program and team have

allowed this country to reach

the pinnacle of women's

soccer, and their winning of

the gold medal was earned

through sheer grit and

determination, despite reports

to the contrary," she said. "I

fought with every ounce of my

being to make this program

better, much of which will

understood. I wish I could say

more, but I will refrain at this

time, given the appeals process

and the ongoing investigation."

It has emerged that a

complaint against the women's

team for filming an opponent's

training session was made at

the 2022 CONCACAF W

Championship, which served

as a qualification tournament

for last summer's Women's

The revelation is part of the

FIFA banned Priestman - who

had already been sent home

from France - and two of her

coaches and imposed a hefty

\$226,000 fine on Canada

fallout of the drone scandal.

World Cup.

known

be





"I'm in the mix with the best, and I can improve things, I have some time left to work," she said.

The conflict between Nemour -

Banned coach Bev heartbroken, apologises in

There was little sympathy from

Hrubesch, who said Canada's

Canada was looking into an

appeal, but said they suspected

Also Sunday, Canada sports

minister Carla Qualtrough

said the government will

withhold funding "relating to

suspended Canada Soccer

officials for the duration of

their FIFA sanction." Drone

surveillance of a closed practice, she said, "is cheating."

She called the episode a

"significant distraction and

Canada Soccer CEO and

general secretary Kevin Blue

said this week he learned of a

involving the men's national

team at the recent Copa

He said it was his

understanding that it did not

have an impact on the competitive integrity of the

tournament but would not

Asked whether men's coach

Jesse Marsch was aware of

possible drone usage at that

tournament that ended this

month in the United States,

Blue said Marsch was aware

"denounced it as a practice to

Copa semifinals to Argentina

confirmed a complaint at the

2022 W Championship but

offered few details. The United

States defeated Canada in the

tournament final in Mexico,

with both countries earning a

berth in the Women's World

CONCACAF official

drone incident

behavior was "stupidity."

"systemic

coach

Horst

ethical

for all

Canada drone-spying scandal at Olympics

Germany

shortcoming."

embarrassment"

Canadians.

possible

America.

offer details.

2-0.

and the French federation started after Nemour suffered from a bone and cartilage condition and had to undergo surgery on both knees in 2021. The federation thought her

Cup and Olympics. The Sports Network in Canada

reported other incidents of

surveillance, including at the

Tokyo Games, citing unnamed

sources with knowledge of the

filming. FIFA declined comment when asked by the

AP if the matter would lead to

a wider investigation into

The case is an embarrassment

for the Canadian federation.

which is teaming with the

United States and Mexico to

host the 2026 men's World Cup

Change of Name

number 15674315H resident

Village- Gangpur, PO- Aniya,

Tehsil- Sherampur, District-

Hooghly (W.B.). Declare that

my child's name Debansh is

wrong. The correct name of my

child is **Debansh Ghosh**.

have corrected my child name

vide Affidavit Number BR

025824 Dated 03.07.2024 pre-

sented in Mhow Court district

I Hav Bikash Ghosh service

drone spying in soccer.

across North America.

overtraining during a time her body was growing up and decided to postpone the moment she would return to competition, despite her surgeon giving a go-ahead.

The long dispute ended last year as she was finally authorized to put on an Algerian leotard. Since she switched, Nemour has been on a high-speed ride to success.

year's world last championships, she won a silver medal on uneven bars, the first World medal by a gymnast representing an African nation. She is also an African all-around champion and has an element named after her in the Code of

Meanwhile, Canada's sanctions

are likely heading for the Court of Arbitration for Sport's

special Olympic court in Paris.

Change of Name

Makam Kiran Kumar, Age 18 Years

residing at 364-A, Dunn Marg

Mhow Contonment, Mhow District

Indore (M.P.) Pin 453441, have

changed name CHARUSHREE to

MAKAM CHARUSHREE (new

name) vide Affidavit No. 6930/2024.

Date 26/07/2024 before Public

Change of Name

Bikash Ghosh service number

15674315H resident Village-

Gangpur, PO- Aniya, Tehsil-

Sherampur, District- Hooghly

(W.B.). Declare that my name

Nimai Chandra Ghosh is wrong.

My correct name is Nemai

Ghosh, I have corrected my

name vide Affidavit Number BR

025823 Dated 03.07.2024 pre-

sented in Mhow Court district

I Nemai Ghosh father of Hav

Notary Mhow.

I, MAKAM CHARUSHREE D/o

कार्यालय नगर निगम. भोपाल विद्युत शाखा प्रथम तल, आई.एस.बी.टी. भवन, होशंगाबाद रोड, हबीबगंज, भोपाल-462023 निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र क्र. 275/वि.शा./2024

भोपाल दिनांक 29.07.2024

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धित के अनुसार मोहरबंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है। क्र. ऑनलाईन निविदा ठेकेदार कार्य हेत निविदा अवधि अनमानित धरोहर निर्धारित Upgradation of Metering Infrastructure 29.07.2024 社 3,03,41,414/- 1,51,707/- 12,500/-As per as SOR and Tender NON SOR and associated infrastructure at Variou 27.08.2024 तक

Pre bid meeting Date- 05.08.2024 at 15.30 Hrs. ISBT Elect Section Bhopa नियम व शर्ते :-

निविदा प्रपत्र की निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे अन्य समस्र विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा। प्र. कार्यपालन यंत्री (विद्युत)

नगर निगम भोपाल

🖈 केनरा बैंक Canara Bank



Sai Baba Complex, Near GDA Building, Phool Bagh, Gwalior Ph. 0751-2423126

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer the Canara Bank (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 28.08.2024 for recovery of bank dues to the Canara Bank (Secured Creditor

Name of Branch Demand Notice Dt Reserve Price Possession Dt. EMD Amt. Name and address of the Name of Property Owner **Borrower & Guarantors** orena, Ph.: 82912-20220, Email: cb17837@canarabank.c Borrower - 1. M/s Ram Niwas Emt of Land and Building Situated at Land Rs.23.80,000/-22.11.2021

Veram Swarnkar Add: DK Market, Jhanda Chowk, Town City Morena (M.P.) Borrower - 2. Sh. Ramnivas Verma S/o Sh. Shrilal Verma Add: Pati Gali Dattoura, Morena

06.12.2023 Rs. 6,19,457.49

Part of Survey No. 2526, Village Lalor Rs.2,38,000/-Municipal No. 189, Ward No 16 Situated At Pachouri Wali Gali, Pati Gali Dattapura Morena (M.P.) Area: 616 Sqft. Boundaries: North: Property Mahila Kaur

East: Kua At Present Property Pandit South: Road, West: Property Santoshi Lal

Morena (M.P.)-476001 Branch : Canara Bar ho, Chhatarpur, Ph.: 99971-03509, Email: cb1186@canaraba 29.10.2021 Emt of Land and Building Situated At Rs.20.01.000/

Borrower - 1. M/s. Shri Ram Trading Company, Pro. Satyendra Kumar Gupta Add: House No. 297, Gomakala, Gomakla Rs. 39,92,554.91 Chhatarpur (M.P.)-471625

Borrower - 2. Sh. Satyendra Kumar Gupta S/o Sh. Jagdeesh Prasad Gupta Add: House No. 297, Gomakala, Gomakla Chhatarpur (M.P.)-471625

House No. 1901, Ward No 14, Rajnagar 04.03.2022 Chhatarpur Area 1500 Sqft Boundaries: North: House of Vrindaban

East: Plot of Ram Vilas South: House of Omprakash, West: Road

Rs. 25,84,000/

26.03.2024 Borrower-1. Shri Om Prakash Katare

Branch: Canara Bank, Jayendraganj, Gwalior,

Add- C/O Shri Lakshmijnarayan Katare, Kids Garden Public School Wali Gali Shivaji Nagar Gadai Pura

Birla Nagar, Gwalior (M.P.) -474003 Borrower- 2. Smt. Ilà Katare Add- C/O Om Prakash Nahar Gadaipura, Shivaji Nagar. Birla Nagar, Hazira, Gwalior (M.P.) -474003

04.06.2024 Rs. 21,50,112.00

Emt of Apartment No. 305, 2 BHK, 4rd Floor, Omraj Avenue, Survey No. 350 of Village Sirol, Patwari Halka No. 79, Having Municipal No. 1198, Ward 22/61, Village-Sirol, Gwalior (M.P.) Measuring-70.63 Sar Mtr

Boundaries: North: Flat No. 304

Date & Time of E-Auction: 28.08.2024, 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM (With Unlimited Extension of 5 Minutes Duration Each)

ther Terms and condition The Property will be sold in "AS IS WHERE IS" condition including encumbrances, if any. (There are no encumbrances to the knowledge of

the Bank. For details of encumbrances, contact the undersigned before deposit of the Earnest Money Deposit referred to in Clause 9(d) below). Auction/ bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website: www.indianbankseauction.com Bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings

The Property will be sold only for a price above the Reserve Price. The property can be inspected with prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, on any working day between 3.00 PM to 5.00 PM before 19-08-2024

The intending bidder shall submit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) being 10% of Reserve Price by way of DD favouring, Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, Concerned Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank (Mentioned above in the table) on or before 19-08-2024 upto 5.30 PM.

Sole shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.

Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider M/S Canbank computer service LTD., Help Line No. 9480691777 and 8553643144, Help Line e-mail ID: eauction@ccsl.co.in, Immediately on the same date of payment of the EMD amount the bidders shall approach the said service provider for obtaining digital signature (If not holding a valid digital signature) The intending bidder should register their names at portal www.indianbankseauction.com get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider Canbank computer service LTD. Help Line No. 9480691777 and 8553643144, Help Line e-mail ID: eauction@ccsl.co.in

The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (including of EMD already paid), immediately on the allotment of bid in his/her favour and balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. If the successful fails to pay the price as stated above, the deposit made by him 3) All charges for conveyance, stamp duty and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. For proceeds of Rs.50 (Rupees Fifty) lacs and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the sale proceeds and sumit

the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank. 0) For further details contact Recovery & Legal Section, Canara Bank Circle Office, Bhopal Phone No. 0755-2671005, CRM Section Regional office Gwalior 0751-2423126, Canbank Computer Service LTD., Help Line No. 9480691777 and 8553643144 Help Line e-mail ID: eauction@ccsl.co.in, Special Instruction/Caution: Bidding in the last minutes /seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the service provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of bidder or vender in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation bidder are requested to make all the necessary arrangement/alternatives such as back-up, supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully

Date: 28/07/2024

Indore (M.P.) Indore (M.P.) NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY 526

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Jhansi, DRM's office Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through or after the fact and has Line (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Approx Cost: Rs. 6905670.70 Earnest Money: Rs. 138100/his staff." Canada lost in the Description of work: Provision of S&T work at SSE/Sig./JHS depot and other depot along with modernization of signalling and Telecom depo

> Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 21.08.2024 DIVISION-S AND T).

E-Tender Notice No.: JHS-N-W-44-24 **E-TENDERING NOTICE**

Cost of Tender Form: Nil, Opening of tender: 21.08.2024 Time 15:00 Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 12 Months

 For full details and submission of bid please see the India Railways website www.ireps.gov.in (NORTH CENTRAL RLY/ JHANSI 1314/24 (A)

AUTHORISED OFFICER CANARA BANK

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Rs. 2,58,400/-

Rs.2,00,100/-

Rs. 10,000/-



Rohit, Kohli among India players to train ahead of ODIs against Sri Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

ndia skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and a few other players will start their training from Monday ahead of the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka starting August 2.

While the Indian T20I team under Suryakumar Yadav will

play the third and final match on Tuesday in Pallekele, Rohit, Kohli and a few others like rookie Harshit Rana will train in Colombo after reaching the island nation's capital on Sunday. Rohit, Kohli and Kuldeep Yadav will hit the ground running nearly a The squad also features Delhi month after they helped India all-rounder Rana, who was a

Americas for the second time The ODIs against Sri Lanka will also mark the return of Shrevas Iver into the national side. It was in late 2023 that Iyer last played a limited-overs match for India, against South Africa in December.

The squad also features Delhi win the T20 World Cup in the member of the IPL-winning

Kolkata Knight Riders' team earlier this year.

These players will train under assistant coach Abhishek Nayar in Colombo. Each of the three ODIs will be played at the R Premadasa Stadium here. While the first match is on August 2, the second and third ODIs are on August 4 and 7 respectively.

Players will fight tooth and nail to be there: Dravid on cricket's Olympic debut at LA 2028

An ardent supporter of cricket's inclusion in the Olympics, former India head coach and batting legend Rahul Dravid says the "serious dressing room conversations" that he has heard indicate that players are going to "fight tooth and nail" to be there at the world's biggest sporting event. Dravid was in the French capital on Sunday to attend a panel discussion on 'Cricket at the Olympics: Dawn of a New Era, celebrating the sport's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Games, at the recently inaugurated India House.

"I've already heard a few conversations in the dressing room. People are talking about the 2026 T20 World Cup, there is an ODI World Cup in 2027, and you hear people saying there is the Olympics in 2028," Dravid, who also caught up on some tennis action at the Games before coming for the said during the discussion

"People are going to want to win that gold medal, stand on the podium, and be a part of the Games Village, a great sporting event, and interact with so many athletes.

"As you get closer, I have no doubt that teams will be preparing and checking out facilities. They will take this seriously, and players will fight

tooth and nail to be out there," he added.

The Test great had ICC CEO Geoff Allardice for company during the discussion at İndia House here.

"You grow up watching the Olympics, seeing Carl Lewis winning the gold medal, watching the great athletes perform. You always want to be part of great events like this part of great events like this. The environment, the energy -it's a dream come true.

Dravid hoped that India would win both the men's and women's gold medals at the LA Games.

'The dream for me to have a fantastic cricket tournament, hopefully Indian men and women winning the gold which would be nice.

"Unfortunately, I won't be able to play, but I will make every effort to be in LA in some capacity or another. If not anything else, I will try to get a media job," joked Dravid, who ended his tenure as India head coach after the recent T20

The men's and women's cricket will competitions concurrently at the LA Olympics.

World Cup triumph in the

West Indies.

As far as Allardice is concerned, he said cricket will be one of the "star attractions" in LA four years from now.

"It's quite surreal to be here in Paris, seeing the energy around sport and how it's getting together. Cricket is starting to dawn on the global sporting

"I think cricket will be one of the star attractions in Los Angeles...When you see global stars of big sports around the world competing in one city at a time -- watching Rafael Nadal at tennis this afternoon -- and then if you are in LA, you can watch the best tennis players, best golfers, and the best cricketers.

"We are going to be very, very strong come 2028," he said. WOMEN'S CRICKET IS GOING FORWARD: Dravid also shared his thoughts on the growth of women's cricket, saying it is progressing well and increasing participation by young players is making the

attractive. 'Women's cricket is already going forward. I don't think it needs anything else. It's fantastic to have it going on concurrently. Even when you talk to people at the grassroots level, to coaches, one of the things they constantly tell you is the level of participation from young girls.

sport more inclusive and

Every year in every academy, the percentage is growing exponentially, sometimes even more than the boys. Cricket is becoming a lot more inclusive and attractive. This could potentially be a career. You would not have said that five or six years ago. That's what we

Clinical India eye series whitewash against wobbly Lanka in third T201

PTI PALLEKELE

There will be no let-up in intensity as ruthless India, under the leadership of new coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Suryakumar Yadav, seek to exploit Sri Lanka's weaknesses and push for a series whitewash in the inconsequential third and final T20I here on Tuesday. The fate of the series was decided after

India swept aside Sri Lanka in the first two games, leaving the possibility of an embarrassing whitewash hanging over the hosts' heads. India secured a seven-wicket victory on

Sunday in a rain-shortened match in the second T20I, thwarting Sri Lanka's charge once again.

Despite the hosts' flying start, their fight fizzled out for the second consecutive game due to subpar batting.

Dambulla but it seemed to have no impact on the men's continued to grapple with existing

Sri Lanka's embarrassing batting collapses in the middle overs is the prime reason of their undoing in this series so far, while India have gone about their business like a true world champion side.

India has proven to be the superior side by a significant margin, demonstrating greater confidence in their plans, skills, and execution, and never faltering under pressure.

There have been moments when Sri



On the same day, the Sri Lankan Lanka have appeared to be running women's team beat tournament- away with the contest but each time favourites India in the final for their India has found their way back, maiden Women's T20 Asia Cup title in particularly with their incisive bowling, to keep their upper hand.

> not only marshalled his troops with precision to make effective bowling changes, but he has looked to lead from front with the bat having scored 58 and 26 in the two outings so far.

> India have remained aggressive right from the word go to reap rich benefits, putting a 200 plus score in the opener. In the second game, a slight change in the batting line-up delivered a seven-wicket win which helped them seal the

It remains to be seen if vice-captain and opener Shubman Gill is fit in time for

already

this contest after he missed the second game due to a stiff neck.

His replacement, Sanju Samson had to wait for over an hour to face his first ball due to a rain break and when his missed one from Maheesh Theekshana for a golden duck.

Samson and India will be seeking improved performances from the batter, who has been a fixture around the T20I squad for some time, including serving as a non-playing member of the World Cup-winning

But at the other end, Yashasvi Jaiswal has looked to go all-out with his attacking game to rake up 70 runs in two outings and he remains one of the biggest threats for the Lankans

For the hosts, Pathum Nissanka (111 runs) and Kusal Perera (73) have provided the fireworks at the top but Sri Lanka's middle-overs struggles have led to their downfall.

India spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who helped script a win in the second game with 3/26, highlighted Sri Lankan batters' inability to navigate spin bowling in the

"They play spin really well but I do not know what (has) happened, they are collapsing in the middle overs," Bishnoi said after the second T20I.

"They are known as a good spin-batting team but I think something has gone wrong," said Bishnoi, possibly hinting at the lack of skills and aptitude among Sri Lankan players generally which has led to their struggles across formats. With the ball, Matheesha Pathirana

returned an expensive 4/40 in the opening game but Sri Lanka will want a lot more from their bowlers.

TEAMS (FROM):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Parag Rishahh Pant (wk) Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohammed Siraj.

Sri Lanka: Dinesh Chandimal, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis (wk), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Perera, Charith Asalanka (c), Wanindu Hasaranga, Kamindu Mendis, Dasun Shanaka, Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Binura Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka, Matheesha Pathirana, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith

Covering 22,000 kms in 2 years, Kerala cyclist reaches Paris to cheer for Neeraj was diagnosed with a heart ailment in 2015. His father

India's star athlete Neeraj Chopra will have a special supporter at the Paris Olympics: a Kerala cyclist who has travelled all the way from Calicut, riding more than 22000 kilometers over two years.

Fayis Asraf Ali's arrival in the French capital was the culmination of a long journey on his Surly bicycle that took him across 30 countries, beginning on August 15, Ali set off with a mission to

cycle from "India to London to spread peace and unity". Having cycled across 17 countries, he stopped in Budapest one August afternoon last year, when he came to know that the Tokyo Olympics gold medallist was staying across the street.

iavelin thrower with the athletics contingent for the World Championships in which claimed another historic win.

A few hurried calls to a 'known Kerala coach" led to a "dream meeting" with his sporting idol.

got a few minutes to talk to the Indian athletes and Neeraj told me since 'you are going to London why don't you come to Paris for the Olympics," Ali told PTI during an interaction after ending his journey at India House here on Sunday. "I thought it would be a Being the only son, he had to

wonderful opportunity to see him again in Paris so I altered return to India to look after my plan a bit and procured the required visa and cycled to the UK before ending my journev here. 'I am so excited to meet him

again. I've requested PT Usha ma'am (IOA chief). I'm here to see him create history again. We will cheer for him (on August 8)," he added. He carries four pairs of

clothes, a tent, a sleeping bag and a mat that takes the total weight of the cycle to 50kgs. "I never stay in a hotel and

get some sponsors on the way and that's it. In between twice, I flew to Kerala to arrange visas. "Visa is all you need to cross the border, a cyclist does not need any other nentation Is he not tired or facing any health issues?

"No, never. The love of the people and the warm reception I get everywhere keeps me going. I'm here and so excited," added Ali, who was greeted by star cricketers Chris Gayle, Harbhajan Singh and Suresh Raina while he was in the UK.

An engineer by profession, Ali was into his fourth year in Saudi Arabia when his father

his father. He had quit his job and was back home in Calicut. His wife is a medical professional and he has two

died in 2018.

He also has a thyroid issue that makes him put on weight.

'Those three years made me realise that health is the most important thing in life, not money. One fine morning I saw a couple of cyclists touring and thought of starting riding," he recalled. He first bought a Rs 13K

bicycle to get used to riding and then chalked out plans for his maiden solo ride: Calicut to Singapore. Then he upgraded it to a Rs 1 lakh cycle, especially designed for ong trips. For the tri he had to buy a more advanced bicycle, costing Rs 2.5 lakh. He set out on his first trip on August 7, 2019 and reached Singapore on November 21, clocking 8000kms across seven countries.

'Rotary arranged my trip and got a few sponsors. But my biggest supporter was my wife who took care of both my kids and the family. So I just had to embark on my journey," he

India's tennis campaign at Olympics ends in single day

PTI ■ PARIS

India's tennis campaign at the Paris Olympics lasted just one day as Sumit Nagal and the men's doubles pair of Rohan Bopanna and N Sriram Balaji bowed out after losing their respective opening matches to French challengers, here Sunday.

but his strong baseline game didn't seem to be enough against mercurial Corentin Moutet, who earned a stylish three-set win In his second appearance at

Nagal was first to take court,

the Olympic Games, Nagal bounced back after losing the first set but fell 2-6 6-4 5-7 in two hours and 28 minutes at a packed court seven at the Roland Garros.

In the Tokyo Games, Nagal had lost in the second round to Russian Daniil Medvedev but could not make the most of a manageable opener today. He was up 2-0 in the decider with an early break but allowed Moutet to claw his way back and win.

Later in the day, Bopanna and Balaji went down fighting 5-7 2-6 against Edouard Roger-Vasselin and Gael Monfils, who replaced injured Fabien Reboul in the home team at

the last minute. India have won only one when Leander Paes bagged a ensued, which ended in home bronze in the 1996 Atlanata team's favour. At second set

Monfils' big-hitting helped the home team that was egged on by the partisan crowd. It was probably the last time Bopanna represented India in a multi-sport event. The 44-

has

announced his retirement

year-old

from Davis Cup. The doubles match featured several fiery baseline exchanges between Bopanna and both the French players. The French ploy of engaging Bopanna in long rallies from the back took Balaji out of the picture on many points, and it largely denied the debutant

opportunity of a quick finish at the net. The Indians dropped serve first when Bopanna went down 0-40 in game six following a long rally that ended with Indian team's

unforced error. Bopanna and Balaji though got the break back in the next game on Roger-Vasselin's serve. Down by a breakpoint, Monfils could not put away a volley.

The match was back on serve. Eventually, Balaji came out to serve at 5-6 to stay in the set. Feeling the nerves, he struggled to put first serves in and committed a double fault unforced error cost him the Olympic medal in tennis, to get to 15-30. A long rally opening game.

team's favour. At second set oint, Bopanna netted a backhand volley.

Balaji could not hold serve in the second set, as Bopanna too stuggled to cope with the powerful strokes of the French players. The match ended with Indian

team's unforced error. It has always been a battle of attrition between Nagal and Moutet with three of their last

four outings being three-set affairs and it was no different Nagal had got the better of Moutet in their last meeting in Grand Prix of Hassan in the Moroccan city of Marakkech in April this year. Nagal didn't seem to have a plan B but Moutet had a few

and the backhand slice very effectively. The chants of Coco-Coco, Aaale-Aaale and Moutet-Moutet certainly gave the home player the energy required in such a slugfest.

Nagal had a nervy start with a boisterous crowd behind Moutet. A drop volley error at 30-all put him down by a break point. Another



The French player began with an underarm serve, much to the amusement of the home fans. He, however, ended up serving a double fault. It was an easy hold for the southpaw even as Nagal also bounced

Nagal said he was expecting underarm serves from him obviously appreciate that. Moutet struggled a bit with

his backhand more to build on the break. Nagal had his chances to get

the break back in game four but squandered four his first serve but fed Nagal a

He was down by another break point in game five but saved and held when Moutet just missed the line with his return. The crowd favourite again amused the gathered supporters at court seven as he crossed over the court to check the spot if the ball landed inside the line. It was crucial for Nagal to

hold serve after falling behind 2-4 but he erred on overhead volley at breakpoint.

Moutet pocketed the opening set when Nagal'a forehand return soared over the baseline.

The second set was not a oneway traffic with Nagal finding his rhythm. The free points were not given. The set remained in serve till game

After playing two deuce points, Moutet again served underarm, and this time he got the point as Nagal netted the return. Nagal was furious but the crowd loved the moment.

Nagal finally had his first break of the match when Moutet's dropped crashed into the net.

Before that on the second break point, when he netted the return, Nagal had banged his racquet on the court, letting go of the frustration. However, he gathered himself with the crucial break. The

singing the national anthem to egg on their favourite. Nagal though, consolidated the lead with a hold and levelled the match by breaking his rival in game

crowd stood and began

eight when Moutet netted a volley return. The French player yet again resorted to giving high balls and drop shots to Nagal to break the momentum, and

almost succeeded, but Nagal too stuck to his guns, avoiding an early break. He then broke Moutet when he double faulted while facing

his fourth break point.
Leading 2-0 in the decider,
Nagal had a perfect opportunity to run away with

the match but found himself down 0-40. He saved the first breakpoint but a drive volley error from him meant that the set was back on serve. Serving at 5-5, Nagal began by netting a forehand, and Moutet found a stunning

forehand slice passing-winner on the run. Another forehand error put Nagal down by three break points. He lost fourth point in a row when he could not pick up a half volley. It was not difficult from there for Moutet to close the match. He will play either Australian world number six Alex di Minaur or Germany's Jan-Lenard Struff next.