



NATION 4

PM MODI, STARMER RECALL
INDIA-UK HISTORIC RELATIONS

MONEY 6

GOVT MAINSTREAMED
STARTUPS: PAYTM FOUNDER

SPORT 7

RAJAWAT STUNS WORLD
NUMBER 4 ANTONSEN

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Terrorists Encountered in Kashmir; one Jawan martyred



File Photo: PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
JAMMU

A jawan of the Indian Army on Saturday was martyred during an encounter with a group of heavily armed terrorists in the South Kashmir district of Kulgam. Till the time of filing the report, the security forces were engaged with the terrorists at two locations in the valley. According to a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police, the first gunfight took place in Modergam village of the south Kashmir district after security forces launched a cordon and search operation there following specific inputs about the presence of terrorists. The terrorists opened fire at the security forces and an encounter broke out. The officials said a soldier of the Indian Army sustained fatal injuries in the exchange of fire. In another gunfight,

contact with terrorists was established in the Frisal Chinnigam area of Kulgam. "Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X. Meanwhile, the Director General of Police RR Swain Saturday said the adversary across the border is using foreign mercenaries to create a fear psychosis among the people to sustain terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Interacting with the media in Doda after promoting seven special police officers (SPOs) as constables for their exemplary bravery during a recent anti-terrorist operation in the Gandoh area of the district, the police chief said people are fully cooperating with the security agencies and it is a matter of time when the terrorists start getting eliminated. Three foreign terrorists were killed in a gunfight in the

Gandoh area of the Doda district on June 26. This was the first encounter in Gandoh in more than a decade. Without naming Pakistan, Swain said, "Our adversary and enemy has posed a challenge, thinking that this is a border area and they can take advantage of it by pushing foreign terrorists to revive militancy by creating fear (among the people). "They (foreign terrorists) are not in big numbers and we are fully determined to defeat them, like we have done in the past, with the help of other forces and cooperation of the public," he said. The DGP said the foreign mercenaries do not belong to anyone and they also do not fall in the ambit of law. "They are involved in mass killings, taking sheep without paying money and their aim is to create fear and force the public into submission and create disturbance. But it cannot be achieved because the people are with us and we will fight them out," the DGP said. "Police and its security partners are fully determined and committed to defeating the terrorists with the active support of village defence guards, SPOs and commoners. It is only a question of time when they will start getting killed, and they will start getting eliminated," he added.



Bhole Baba breaks silence

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Following the stampede at his "satsang" in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras a few days ago, which resulted in the death of 121 people earlier this week, Bhole Baba, the former constable-turned-self-styled godman, expressed his sorrow over the incident. He said he is "deeply saddened" by the loss of lives, conveying his condolences and sympathy to the grieving families. "May God give us the strength to bear this pain. Please keep faith in the Government and the administration. I have faith that anyone who created the chaos would not be spared. Through my lawyer AP Singh, I have requested the members of the committee to stand with the bereaved families and the injured and help them throughout their lives," said Bhole Baba in a video statement. Meanwhile, Devprakash Madhukar, the key accused in the July 2 Hathras stampede, was on Saturday sent to 14-day judicial custody by a magistrate

court, officials said. Besides, Sanju Yadav, another suspect who has been arrested in connection with the case, was also sent to jail for the same duration, they said. Earlier in the day, Hathras Superintendent of Police Nipun Agarwal told reporters that the police would apply in the court to get the remand of Madhukar and other suspects. "Devprakash Madhukar and Sanju Yadav were produced before the judicial magistrate's court today and both were sent in judicial remand for 14 days," Assistant Prosecution Officer Uma Shankar Yadav told reporters. The APO said Ramprakash Shakya, who too has been arrested in the stampede case, would be produced in the court on Sunday since he was arrested after Madhukar and Yadav and has some police formalities pending. Madhukar was arrested from Delhi's Najafgarh area late on Friday night by a Special Operations Group of the Hathras police.

PM Modi Budget Ready

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi's third tenure as Prime Minister is all set to present its eleventh annual Budget consecutively and with this Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, serving her second consecutive term as Finance Minister, will become first Finance Minister to present seven consecutive Union Budgets, surpassing Morarji Desai, who presented six consecutive annual Budget of the Government of India. Interestingly the Budget will also be the first one in the new Parliament which was inaugurated last September during which the historic Women Reservation Bill was passed. President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday approved the proposal for summoning of both Houses of Parliament for the Budget Session, 2024 from July 22, to August 12 and the Union Budget 2024-25 will be presented in Lok Sabha on July 23. This will be the first Budget presented by the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's NDA third term. An interim Budget was presented in February ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, which were held in April-June and a Special Session concluded early this week where the new MPs took oath and new Council of Ministers were introduced besides the Presidential address to joint sitting was conducted. In her address to a joint sitting



of Parliament, she had said major social and economic decisions will be a highlight of the Budget. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju announced Budget Session will be held between July 22 and August 12 and Sitharaman will present the Budget on July 23. "President of India, on the recommendation of Government of India, has approved the proposal for summoning of both the Houses of Parliament for the Budget Session, 2024 from July 22, 2024 to August 12, 2024 (subject to exigencies of Parliamentary Business)." Given the key NDA partners — TDP and JD(U) — have shared their demands to the PM and separately to the Cabinet Ministers, including Sitharaman, the Budget is expected to give more weightage on the welfare aspects. Interestingly the crucial portfolios like, finance, home, defence, agriculture, roads and rails are with the BJP. The Union Budget plays a pivotal role in outlining the

government's economic priorities, fiscal strategies, and expenditure plans for the year ahead. It is keenly awaited by various stakeholders including businesses, investors, economists, and the general public for its implications on economic growth, sectoral allocations, taxation policies, and welfare measures. Sources said that a series of meetings with various political, social and economical including industrial stakeholders are on the anvil in the next fortnight, a usual practise, before the budget is shaped and prepared. Sources said the Economic Survey will be tabled in both the House — Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha — when the Parliament meets on July 22. Sitharaman has already met with economists, finance and capital market experts and industry bodies for pre-budget consultations. Sitharaman also chaired a meeting with Finance Ministers of different States and Union Territories towards the end of June to take suggestions for the upcoming Union Budget.

Monsoon's merciless march

Assam situation grim

PNS ■ ASSAM

Assam's flood situation remained critical on Saturday with over 24.50 lakh people reeling under the deluge in 30 districts and major rivers flowing above the danger mark at several places, an official bulletin said. The toll in this year's flood was 52 and 12 others lost their lives due to landslides and storms. The Brahmaputra river is flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat, Guwahati, Goalpara and Dhubri. Its tributaries Burhi Dihing at Chenimari, Dikhou at Sivasagar, Disang at Nanglamuraghat, Dhansiri at Numaligarh, Jia Bharali at NT Road crossing, and Kopili at Kamrup and Dharamtul are also flowing above the danger levels. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held a meeting with officials after returning from the severely affected Dibrugarh district and reviewed the flood situation in the State. Assam's famed Kaziranga National Park (KNP) has claimed the lives of 114 wild animals while 95 others have been rescued till Saturday, an official said. The animal mortality in the KNP has increased from 77 till Friday. The dead animals include four rhinos and 94 hog deer due to drowning in the KNP and 11 others during treatment.

Amarnath Yatra stalled

PNS ■ SRINAGAR



File Photo: PTI

The Amarnath Yatra was temporarily suspended on both routes to the cave shrine on Saturday as a precautionary measure due to heavy rainfall, officials said. Intermittent heavy rainfall has been seen along the Baltal and Pahalgam routes since last night, they said. The decision to temporarily suspend the yatra was taken as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of the pilgrims, the officials added. The number of devotees who have visited the 3,800-metre-high cave shrine and had 'darshan' of the naturally formed ice lingam has crossed 1.50 lakh. The Amarnath Yatra began on June 29 from the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal — and will culminate on August 19.

Lightning strikes Bihar

PNS ■ PATNA

Nine people were killed after being struck by lightning in six districts of Bihar in the last 24 hours, officials said on Saturday. The lightning deaths were reported from Jehanabad, Madhepura, East Champaran, Rohtas, Saran and Supaul districts, they said. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over the death of nine people due to lightning and announced an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh to each of the deceased's family members. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) on Saturday, Jehanabad district reported three deaths followed by two in Madhepura, one each in East Champaran, Rohtas, Saran and Supaul. The CM urged people to follow advisories issued by the Disaster Management Department.

Nimachal, U'khand disrupted

PNS ■ UTTARAKHAND

Heavy rain disrupted daily life in Uttarakhand. Daily life was disrupted in the Hill State as the rain triggered numerous landslides, blocking key roads, including the national highway leading to Badrinath with a five-year-old drowned in a rainwater-filled pit in Dehradun and a teenager in a Haridwar rivulet. Landslides triggered by heavy rains over the past few days have left the Badrinath National Highway blocked at more than half a dozen places, including Kameda between Gauchar and Rudraprayag, Bhanir Pani near Pipalkoti, Pagalnala near Tangni, Pinola between Joshimath and Badrinath and at Kanchanganga beyond Hanumanchatti. National Highways Authority of India and Border Roads Organisation personnel are busy clearing the roads. Also, heavy rain lashed parts of Himachal, including Kangra's Dharamshala and Palampur where rainfall levels exceeded the 200-mm mark. According to the emergency operation centre, 62 roads, including 38 in Mandi, 14 Kullu, five in Shimla, four in Sirmour and one in Kangra district, are closed for traffic following torrential rains on Saturday evening.

Malda Mangoes Multiply

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

For the first time in many decades perhaps Indians are getting to taste their own mangoes — sweet, fleshy, soft and smooth. Malda aam or Malda mango to be specific. The reason: Slumped export market owing to low yield, yet high price. The upshot: Crops are experiencing a bumper sale in the domestic outlets so to say. Says Afroz Bhai an orchard owner in Old Malda, "Not on many occasions you have a high quality product with a sluggish export... This year the export market has slumped because of high

quality and low quantity... the price fetched abroad is not as remunerative as the market would expect and so we are forced to sell it indoors." This year the Malda mango that you get for ₹80-₹120 in Kolkata is being sold at ₹100-₹150 per kilogram in Delhi, the Bengal Horticulture department officials said. The wholesale prices surged by about 50-60 per cent due to low yield and high quality. "We expected higher price abroad when we were booking customers from England or Dubai... they showed interest but owing to higher price they backtracked and then the mango route was diverted to



internal markets," said Roop Kanjilal a mango expert and a whole-seller of fruits, adding how this year the customers in Delhi played a "compensatory role" insofar as mango market is concerned. "About 17 tonnes of mango

was sold alone in the Delhi Mango festival... and though other varieties like Himsagar, Lakshman Bhog were in demand Langra for its high quality yield sold hugely," said a member of West Bengal Exporters' Coordination Committee. Malda is a historical medieval town where the Malda mango originated perhaps during the time of the Nawabs of Bengal one of whom loved the aroma of the fruit so much that he got a row of several varieties like Madhukulkuli and Begam Khas planted in his backyard apparently to please and enamour his queens in sleep.

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BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Omkar S/o Bhajan Lal #249, Ravindra Enclave Baltana Mohali declare that my son Mahesh Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from my movable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him at their own risk.

I, Lachman Singh S/o Sh. Santa Singh r/o H.No 153 NAC Manimajra, Chandigarh declare that my son Harpal Singh and Mrs Parvinder Kaur are out of my control I disown them from my all movable/immovable properties

We Sarabjit Kaur W/O Jasvir Singh And Jasvir Singh S/O Dilbara Singh R/O Balsuan Tehsil Rajpura Distt. Patiala Declare That My Son Satnam Singh And His Wife Sumanpreet Kaur Are Out Of My Control. So I Disown Both Of Them From All My Movable And Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

We, Kuldip Singh S/O Surta Singh And Harjinder Kaur W/O Kuldip Singh R/O Vpo Baba Bakala, Tehsil Baba Bakala District Amritsar Have Declare That Our Son Navneet And His Wife Parmeet Kaur Are Out Of Our Control We Disinherit Them From Our All Movable And Immovable Properties Any Body Deal With Them Is His Own Risk And Responsibility.

I, Sube Singh S/O Juglal Vill- Dhawanbas Tehsil Tosham Distt- Bhiwani Haryana Declare That My Son Pinku Kumar Is Out Of My Control. I Disown Him From My All Movable And Immovable Property. Anybody Dealing With Him, He/She Will Do At Their Own Risk.

I Kulwinder Singh S/O Sh Hissam Singh R/O Vpo Salwan Tehsil Assandh Distt Karnal Declared My Son Sukhwinder Singh And His Wife Ashwani Rani Is Out Of My Control. So I Disown Them From My Movable Or Immovable Properties. Anybody Dealing With Them On Their Own Risk.

We, Rishi Pal S/o Late Shri Jagtu Ram and Rajbala Devi W/O Shri Rishi Pal R/O House No. 203 Guru Nanak Enclave Dhakoli Zirakpur Mohali Punjab declare that our Son Vijendra and his wife Pooja completely out of our control. Therefore We disown both of them from all our movable-immovable Properties. Anybody dealing with them will do at his/her own risk and cost. We, Will nothing to do with it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Suraj S/o Sukhdev R/O Vill. Munak, Tehsil Balla, Distt. Karnal inform that in my 10th class certificate, my name is Suraj and my father's name is Sukhdev, whereas in my other documents, my name is Suraj Kumar and my father's name is Sukhdev Kumar. In future, let me be known as Suraj Kumar and my father as Sukhdev Kumar. All Concerned Please Noted.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Daljit Kaur w/o Sh. Gurcharan Singh R/O Village Manakpur Nanakchand Tehsil Kalka Distt. Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name from Daljeet Kaur to Daljit Kaur.

I, Randhir Singh S/o Amilal R/O 11/A2, New Campus, CCSHAU Hisar Teh. & Distt. Hisar declare that I am known by both names Randhir Singh Dhaka and Randhir Singh.

I, Ranjana Singh Spouse Of No JC- 386396P Rank Sub. Kanhaiya Kumar Village & Po. Parsauna Kapur Teh. Pakadi Dyal Distt. East Champaran Bihar. 845457 I Have Changed My Name From Ranjana Singh To Ranjina Singh.

I, Veerender Kumar S/o Garib Dass R/O 1035/1 Sector 37B Chandigarh have changed my name to Veerender Kumar Bhatia.

I, Ravnit Kaur W/o Harjinder Singh R/O Village Phulke P.O Chahal Kalan, Teh. Batala Distt Gurdaspur have Changed my name from Ravnit Kaur to Ravnnet Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Rupa Roy w/o Sajjan Roy, R/O Kansal SAS Nagar Mohali, Punjab have changed my minor son name from Niraj Ray to Neeraj Roy.

I, Basant Kumar S/o Parmeshwar Shah R/O Plot No.233, Phase-1, Industrial Area, Sector-15, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Basant Kumar to Basant Shah and my DOB from 01.01.1992 to 07.07.1992

I, Rajbir S/o Sh. Jaina Ram R/O Village Badesra, Tehsil & District Bhiwani declare that I have changed my name from Rajvir to Rajbir in my son Manoj's documents for all future purposes.

I, Jasvinder Singh Bajwa S/o Tirlochan Singh R/O 112, Patel Nagar, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Jasvinder Singh Bajwa to Jasvinder Singh.

I, Gurpreet S/o Parma Nand R/O VPO Dhogri Distt. Jalandhar 144025 Punjab have changed my name from Gurpreet to Gurpreet Singh. Singh is my surname and Gurpreet is my given name.

I, Urmila Devi D/o Shri Santu Ram, R/o # 3713, Sector 25-D, Chandigarh have changed my name to Urmila.

I, Manoj Kumar Saluja S/O Jagdish Lal R/O H.No. 10a, Dev Nagar, Near Devi Mandir, Panipat(Hr) Declare That Have Change My Name Manoj Saluja To Manoj Kumar Saluja For All Purposes.

I, Shalu W/O Manoj Kumar Saluja R/O H.No.10a, Dev Nagar, Near Devi Mandir, Panipat(Hr) Declare That Have Change Shalu Saluja To Shalu For All Purposes.

I, Nishchint D/O Vishal Dhawan R/O 786/31, Idgah Colony, Model Town, Panipat declare that have changed the name from Nishchint Dhawan to Nishchint for all purposes.

I, Urmila D/o Narinder Singh Chauhan R/O House No. 660, Milk Colony, Dhanas, Chandigarh have changed my name from Urmila to Urmila Chauhan.

I, Vaibhav s/o Ramesh Kumar r/o #127, Ram Nagar, Karnal (Haryana) have changed my name from Vaibhav to Vaibhav Batra. In future I should be known as Vaibhav Batra.

I, Sunita Khatri W/O Sh. Bijender Singh R/O H.No. 312, Street No. 5, Ward No. 10, Near Kuldeep Narsari, Jiwan Vihar, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Sunita Devi for all future purposes.

I, Bijender Khatri S/o Sh. Balbir Singh R/O H.No. 312, Street No. 5, Ward No. 10, Near Kuldeep Narsari, Jiwan Vihar, Sonipat, Haryana have changed my name to Bijender Singh for all future purposes.

I, Firoz Ansari S/o Naseem Ansari R/O H.No.976, Sector 13-17, Huda, Panipat, declare that my son name written as Firoj Ansari in my son 10th Marksheet. But my actual name is Firoz Ansari.

I, Narender Kumar S/o Sh. Kishan Chand R/O House No. 561, Sector 33, Part-1, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Narinder Kumar to Narender Kumar for all future purpose.

I, Renu Malhan W/O Sh. Amit Noonla R/O 46-B, New Rishi Nagar, District Hisar do hereby declare as under that Renu Malhan and Renu Noonla is same person.

I, No. 14831801A HAV/MT Kuldeep S/O Suresh R/O Vill. Seethal, Post Seethal, Tehsil - Tijara, Distt. Alwar, State Rajasthan, Pin- 301018 declare that in my Army Service documents my Father's name wrongly mentioned as Suresh Kumar whereas his correct name is Suresh and my Mother's name also wrongly mentioned as Koushala Whereas her correct name is Kaushlya.

I, Sumesh Kumar S/o Sh. Chander Bhan R/O H.No.42, Sector 11, Part 1, Near Devendra Bakers, Huda, Panipat, declare that Sumesh, Sumesh Kumar, and Sumesh Mittal three are my name and same person. Future i should be known as Sumesh Kumar.

I, Rishika D/o Sumesh Kumar R/O H.No.42, Sector-11, Part-01 Near Devendra Bakers Huda. Panipat. I have changed my name from Rishika Mittal to Rishika for all future purpose.

I, Suman Mittal w/o Sumesh Kumar R/O H.No.42, Sector-11, Part-01 Near Devendra Bakers Huda. Panipat, I have changed my name from Suman to Suman Mittal for all future purpose.

I, Harmeet Singh S/o Amarigbal Singh R/O Vill Thothian, Amritsar, Punjab-143111 have changed my name from Harmeet Singh to Singh is my surname and Harmeet is my given name.

I, Harjit Kaur Sahdev W/o Jatinder Pal Singh R/O H.No. 26, Gali No. 2, Tirath Nagar, 100 Ft Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Harjit Kaur Sahdev to Harjit Kaur.

I, Snehideep Singh Sahdev S/o Jatinder Pal Singh R/O H.No. 26, Gali No. 2, Tirath Nagar, 100 Ft Road, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name from Snehideep Singh Sahdev to Snehideep Singh.

I, hitherto Known as Pawandeep Singh S/o Pritam Singh R/O Village Easrup PO Nussi Tehsil Kartarpur & District Jalandhar, Punjab 144004 have changed My name Pawandeep Singh to Singh Pawandeep. Now my given name is Pawandeep and Surname is Singh. All Concerned note. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Bharti Sharma D/o Sh. Makhan Lal, R/O H.No. 3327/A-43, Gali No.1, Ward No.4, Anand Nagar, Teh. & Distt. Rewari (Haryana). In my 10th Certificate my name is Bharti & on the others documents as Bharti Sharma. I have changed my name from Bharti to Bharti Sharma. In future I will be known as Bharti Sharma.

I Hitherto Known As Som Parkash Son Of Tej Ram R/O Park Wali Gali Giddarbaha, Tehsil Giddarbaha, Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab, Pin Code 152101. Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Som Parkash Mittal. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

I Aryaansh S/o Sachin Agarwal R/O Flat no-G-602, Sushma Urban View, Sushma Square, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, Distt SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab, have changed my name from Aryaansh to Aaryaansh Agarwal.

I, Raj Pal S/o Balwant Rai R/O Gaushalia Road Zira Tehsil Zira District Ferozepur, Punjab that in my daughter Vanshika 10th & 12th school certificates my name wrongly entered Rajpal. But my correct name is Raj Pal. So Amend my name Rajpal to Raj Pal in my daughter's school certificates.

I, Salapu Chinathalli, legally mother of No. 16123660F Rank NK Name Salapu Srinivas Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of 14-4-132/5/A Bhageeratha Colony, Near Hanuman Temple, Mahabubnagar, Distt. Mahabubnagar State Telangana-509001 declare That I have changed my name from Anitha P Ramudu to P Anitha.

I, P Anitha spouse of No. JC-380344H Rank Sub Maj P Ramudu Unit 10 CSR C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of 14-4-132/5/A Bhageeratha Colony, Near Hanuman Temple, Mahabubnagar, Distt. Mahabubnagar State Telangana-509001 declare That I have changed my name from Anitha P Ramudu to P Anitha.

I, Jatin Gera S/o Jaswant Gera, Residing at House No. 76, Street No. 3, Jawahar Nagar, Hisar 125001, Haryana have changed my name from Jatin to Jatin Gera and will be known by this name in all future matters.

I, Mansab Ali S/o Sh Ali Hasan resident of village Mandi, Po. Sabapur, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar, I have changed my name from Mansav to Mansab Ali. All concerned note.

I, Lakhinder Singh Kahlon S/o Sh. Prabhath Singh, R/O village, Sera, PO Serathana, Distt Kangra (HP) have changed my name from Lakhinder Singh Kahlon to Lakhinder Singh. Lakhinder Singh Kahlon and Lakhinder Singh same person.

I, Nidhi w/o Pankaj Kumar r/o Bhattu Mandi, Tehsil & District Fatehabad, Haryana declares that Nidhi & Nidhi Rani both names are mine & one woman.

I, Jasvinder Singh s/o Ronki Ram r/o Village Chhorpur, Tehsil Shahabad Markanda, Distt. Kurukshetra have changed my name from Jaswinder Singh to Jasvinder Singh. In future I should be known as Jasvinder Singh.

I, Sonu Alias Sohan Lal S/O Sh. Satbir Singh R/O Village Rajli, Distt. Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Sonu Alias Sohan Lal to Sonu for all future purpose.

I, Pardeep Kumar S/o Sh. Mahender Singh R/O Village Sarsana, Teh. and Distt. Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Pardeep Kumar to Pardeep Kumar Sharma for all future purpose.

I, Vanshika Singh D/o Diwan Singh R/O Dadupur Roran, Po-Sirsi, Karnal, Haryana-132001 declare that name of my mother is wrongly written as Ritu Singh in my CBSE Class 10th And 12th Educational Documents. Actual name of my mother is Reetu.

I, Charanjit Singh Ladhra S/o Jagir Singh R/O H No. 203, Gali No-4, Baba Ram Lal Nagar, Malwal Road, Ferozepur, Punjab-152002 have changed my name to Charanjit Singh.

I, Tarlochan Singh S/o Lachman Singh R/O Gopipur, Kapurthala, Punjab-144628 declare that name of my father is wrongly written as Pritam Singh in my Passport No. M4136838 and Pan Card No. BOAPS8815N. Actual name of my father is Lachman Singh.

I, Saloney Verma W/o Vikram Verma R/O H No. 523/1, Arya Nagar Jail Road, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143521 have changed my name to Saloney Suri.

I, Hawa Singh S/o Sh. Ramanand Ahlawat R/O H. No. 345-B, Jaidev Nagar, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have change my name from Hawa Singh Ahlawat to Hawa Singh. In future I shall be known as Hawa Singh for all future purpose.

I, Virender Kumar S/o Mahavir Parsad R/O #213/9, Jain Nagar, Jhaji gate, Jind I have declared that my name Changed From Virender Kumar To Virender Sharma.

I, Baljit Saili S/o Madan Lal Sharma R/O H.No.1288, RamSharnam Colony, Tehsil & District Pathankot, Have Changed My Name From Baljit Saili To Baljeet Kumar Sharma, Note All Concerned.

I, Radha Rani W/o Krishan Singh R/O Vill: Nangal Awana, P.O- Dhoula Khera, Teh : Mukerian, Distt - Hoshiarpur Punjab declare that my previous name was Pushpa Devi. I have changed my name from Pushpa Devi to Radha Rani.

I, hitherto known as Rajnesh Rani W/o Rajinder Kumar, Residing at Village & Post Office-Jatliana, Tehsil-Radaur, District-Yamuna Nagar, Pin-135133, Haryana, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajni.

I Shivani Grover W/o Rajat Arora R/O House no. 6-C, C-Block, Gali no. 8, Guru Amardass Avenue, Ajnala Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Shivani Grover to Shivani Arora after marriage.

I Heera Masih S/O Channi Masih R/O H.No.847 Fatehgarh Chauri Road Ashyana Estate Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Heera Anthony

I Chanan Singh Saini S/O Darshan Singh R/O 194 Nirankari Colony Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Chanan Singh

I, Parveen Kapoor D/O Amolaj Ram Kapoor W/O Rajeev Khanna R/O H.No.52, Phase-2, G.T Road, Heaven City, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Parveen Kapoor To Ritu Khanna. Concerned Note

I, Manbir Singh Dhillon S/O Amarjit Singh R/O Village Kasel Havelian District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Manbir Singh Dhillon To Manbir Singh

I, Gursahib Singh S/O Joginder Singh R/O Village Manawala District Amritsar Have Changed My Name Gursahib Is My Given Name And Singh Is My Surname

I Amardeep Singh S/O Avtar Singh Soni R/O M-11 Green Avenue Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Amardeep Singh Soni

I Avneet Kaur Soni W/O Amardeep Singh Soni R/O M-11 Green Avenue Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Avneet Soni

I Dharamender Singh S/O Swarn Singh R/O H No 288, Circular Road, Jandiela Guru, Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Dharamender Singh To Dharmender Singh

I, Dheera Singh S/O Chhoo Singh R/O 662/2, Garden Colony Near Gurudwara, Patti, Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Dheera Singh To Dhira Singh

I, Sumedha Arora (Divorcee) D/O Sh. Rajneesh Arora (451, D Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar Have Changed My Son's Name From Arnav To Arnav Arora. Concerned Note.

I, Number: Jc-357049n Rank: Naib Subedar Name: Rajwinder Singh S/O Shri Balwinder Singh (Unit: 421 Engr Sqn) Resident Of Village Verowal Darapur, Post: Verowal Darapur, Distt. Tarn Taran, (Punjab) Do Hereby Solemnly/ Affirm Declare That My Daughter's Name In My Army Service Record Is Wrongly Mentioned As Mahupreet Kaur But Her Correct/Actual Name Is Mohpreet. Kaur. Concerned Note.

I, Suraja Devi W/O Khanjhati Ram R/O Jagdishapur (Mathuripur), Mangari, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Pin Code:-221202 Have Declare That My Son Rajesh Kumar (Rank Hav, 15581034a) Is Serving In Unit: 421 (I) Engr Sqn C/O 56 APO And My Name And Date Of Birth In His Army Service Record Is Wrongly Mentioned As Surja Devi And 05-02-1960 But My Actual Name Is Suraja Devi And Date Of Birth As 02-03-1966. Concerned Note.

I, Daya Nath S/O Sukh Ram R/O H.No. 110 Palam Vihar Majitha Road Amritsar Changed Name To Daya Nath Chaudhary

I, Sarbadi Singh S/O Preetam Singh R/O 5071, Verowal Road, Jujhar Nagar, Jandiela Guru Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sarbadi Singh To Sarabadi Singh

I, Manjit Kaur W/O Sarabadi Singh R/O 5071, Verowal Road, Jujhar Nagar, Jandiela Guru Distt Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Manjit Kaur To Manjeet Kaur

I, Himanshi D/o Dr. Ramesh H.Taxak R/O 1952/12, Gali No 11, Shanti Nagar, Tehsil Thanesar, Distt Kurukshetra have changed my father's name from Ramesh Hawa Taxak to Ramesh H.Taxak.

I, Balwinder Singh S/o Gurdeep Singh R/O Village Sanghar PO Dhariwal Distt Gurdaspur declare that in my passport, name of my village has been misspelled as Sangar. Correct spelling of my village is Sanghar which may be amended accordingly.

I, Javir S/o Sh. Dharampal R/O VPO Bithmara Tehsil Uklana, Distt. Hisar (Haryana) have changed my name from Jaivir to Jaibir Singh for all future purposes.

I, Manjeet Kaur W/o Gursahib Singh R/o. Kazi Kot Road ward no.11, TarnTaran Punjab have Changed my name to Manjit Kaur

I, Pawandeep Singh S/o Harpreet Singh R/O.VPO Valtoha Patti, TarnTaran-143401 Punjab have Changed my name to Pawandeep is my given name and Singh is my surname

I, Simranjit Kaur W/o Harpreet Singh R/O.VPO Valtoha Tehsil Patti, TarnTaran-143401 Punjab have Changed my name to Simranjit is my given name and Kaur is my surname

I, Bhavya D/o Anil Kumar Vaid R/O.947/8, Gali Kandaria Namak Mandi Amritsar have Changed my name to Bhavya Vaid

I, Danishdeep Singh S/o Kuldeep Singh R/O.H.No.F77-475, Kashmir Avenue Batala Road Amritsar have Changed my name to Danishdeep is my given name and Singh is my surname

I, Guneet Kaur W/o Danishdeep Singh R/O.H.No.F77-475, Kashmir Avenue Batala Road Amritsar have Changed my name to Guneet is my given name and Kaur is my surname

I, Danishdeep Singh S/o Kuldeep Singh R/O.H.No.F77-475, Kashmir Avenue Batala Road Amritsar declare that I have Changed my minor son name from Gurneesddeep Singh to Gurneesddeep his given name and Singh his surname

I, Harpreet Kaur Third W/o Jaswinder Singh R/O.87-A, Gali Dobian Wali, Near Dr. Malhotra Lawrence Road, Amritsar have Changed my name to Harpreet Kaur.

I, Nancy D/o Narinder Mittal R/O H.No.997, Block-2, Layalpur Colony, Thanesar, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Nancy to Nancy Mittal.

I, Gurmeet Singh Saini S/o Sohan Singh R/O H.No. 527, Sector 30 Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Gurmeet Singh Saini to Gurmeet Singh.

I, Sohan Singh Saini S/o Chhaju Ram R/O H.No. 527, Sector 30, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Sohan Singh Saini to Sohan Singh.

I, Swaran Kaur Saini W/o Gurmeet Singh R/O H.No. 527, Sector 30, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Swaran Kaur Saini to Swarn Kaur.

I, Ajay Kumar S/o Raj Kumar R/O #143, Ward No. 5, Mohalla Majri, Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Ajay (Given name) and Kumar (Surname).

I, Bharat Bhushan S/o Ved Parkash R/O Village Madlauda, District Panipat, have changed my name from Bharat Bhushan to Bharat Bhushan.

I, Damanjeet Singh S/O Balwant Singh R/O Burj Nand Colony No.02, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my Given Name Damanjeet Surname Singh.

I, Gurpreet Singh S/O Mangal Singh Vill.Saraswati Khera, Bhattmajra, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed my Given Name Gurpreet Surname Singh.

I, Ajmer Kaur W/o Avtar Singh Chhipa R/O H.No. 151A St.No. 2 Adjoining Dashmesh School Bachittar Nagar Gill Road GNE College (Ludhiana) have known by both names Ajmer Kaur and Ajmer Kaur Chhipa one and the same person.

I, Deepika Singla W/o Rahul Garg R/O #128, Golden City, Dirba, Distt. Sangrur Have Changed My Name to Deepika Garg.

I, Daljit Singh Hansra S/O Mukhtiar Singh R/O Burj Naklian (Ludhiana) have changed my minor son name from Paramveer Singh to Paramveer Singh Hansra.

I, Prit Pal Soni S/o Yash Pal Soni resident of 349, Gali No. 11, Tagore Nagar, Jalandhar, Pin-144002, Punjab, India have changed my name from Prit Pal Soni to Prit Pal as Given Name and Soni as Surname. All concerned please note.

I, Madan Mohan Joshi S/o Chandra Ballabh Joshi R/O 26, Gupta Colony, Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Madan Mohan Joshi to Madan Mohan. All concerned please note.

I, Bharti Sharma D/o Sh. Makhan Lal, R/O H.No. 3327/A-43, Gali No.1, Ward No.4, Anand Nagar, Teh. & Distt. Rewari (Haryana). In my 10th Certificate my name is Bharti & on the others documents as Bharti Sharma. I have changed my name from Bharti to Bharti Sharma. In future I will be known as Bharti Sharma.

I, Nikhil S/o Sh. Dayanand Sharma R/O H.No.U2/39 Block -U BPTT Parklands sector -76 Faridabad declare that I have changed my name Nikhil Sharma to Nikhil for all future purposes.

I, Kulwant Bir Singh S/O Nishan Singh R/O H.No.590/20, Urban Estate Batala Road, Gurdaspur, Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab, India. Have Changed My Name From Kulwant Bir Singh To Kulwant Bir Singh Boparai.

I, Narayan Singh S/O Kabal Singh Village - Bhaini Milwan Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur. Have Changed My Name Narain Singh To Narayan Singh.

I Baljit Singh Sidhu S/O Sarwan Singh R/O Vill. Rasulpur Malla District Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Baljit Singh.

I Harmander Singh Khosa S/O Ajmer Singh R/O Kot Karor Kalan (Ferozepur) Have Changed My Son Name From Sehajbir Singh To Sehajbir Singh Khosa.

I Richa Kataria W/O Ankush Arora R/O Talwandi Bhai District Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Richa Arora.

I Rani W/O Hamek Lal R/O Vpo. Haripur Khalasa, Vtc. Phillaur Jalandhar 144410 Have Changed My Name To Raj Rani.

I Kuldeep Singh S/O Roop Singh R/O Demru Road Old Pasa Nathuwala Garbi Distt. Moga Punjab-142038 Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Singh.

I Jagdeep Singh Rahal S/O Ajab Singh Rahal R/O Village Kotha Rahalan Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Jagdeep Singh.



AAI conference successfully concluded in three-day Shoolini University

The International Conference on Applied Artificial Intelligence (AAI), Yoganand School of Artificial Intelligence, Computer and Data Sciences concluded on Friday.

The three -day program was marked with unprecedented presentations, interactive workshops and lively academic discussions, highlighting the latest progresses and applications in AI. The purpose of the conference is to promote educational and commercial development in AI, provide a place for exchange of knowledge and networking. The last day of AAI began with Professor Neeladri Chatterjee's influential main speech session on "AI: A Case Study on Mental Health". His presentation emphasized the transformational role of AI in mental health diagnosis and treatment, showing better accuracy and new treatment options.

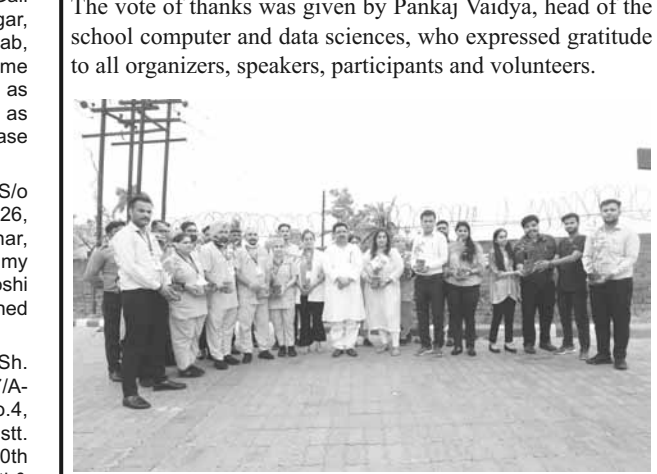
Through careful planned sessions, the program organized practical workshops on "Cloud Davops," "Kuberanets," and "Data Science", allowing participants to achieve practical insight from industry experts.

Pradeep Chintale won the Best Paper Presenter Award, shared his latest conclusions. Poster presentation was also organized and the session showed state -of -the -art research of eight participants. Master's student Aniket Bhardwaj won the Best Poster Presenter Award for his innovative project on advanced AI methods, who received significant attention and praise.

Professor Ravindra Hegdi, the chief guest of the conference, gave a speech praising the hospitality of the university and the extraordinary management of the conference. He appreciated the organizers for his careful planning and implementation, which ensured a smooth and successful event. In his address, from the organizing committee to the voluntary students, the cooperative sentiments and dedication of all the people involved were highlighted.

The conference included Professor Neeladri Chatterjee, Aniket Bhardwaj, Pradeep Chintale, Professor Ravindra Hegdi, Professor Pankaj Vaidya and Chancellor Professor PK Khosla.

The vote of thanks was given by Pankaj Vaidya, head of the school computer and data sciences, who expressed gratitude to all organizers, speakers, participants and volunteers.



Amritdhara My Hospital organised a tree planting program at different areas of the city.

The Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Sanjay Bathla participated in this program. The director of Amritdhara Hospital Smt.Meenu Malhotra promised that Amritdhara Hospital will keep on organizing such social programs in future also.

I, Mandep Singh S/O Amrik Singh Parmar R/O Vpo. Baddon Tehsil Garshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Mandep Singh To Mandep Singh Parmar.

I, Anjna Devi W/O Mandep Singh Parmar R/O Vpo. Baddon Tehsil Garshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Anjna Devi To Anjna Devi Parmar.

Punjab BJP slams Mann for 'deteriorating' law and order after attack on Shiv Sena leader

PNS ■ LUDHIANA

A day after a Shiv Sena (Punjab) leader was brutally attacked, Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar on Saturday blamed the alleged "incompetence" of the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government for the "deteriorating" law and order situation in the state.

Sandeep Thapar (58) was grievously injured after he was attacked with swords by three assailants in full public view here on Friday.

Jakhar attacked Chief Minister Mann, saying he is livid over the incident as he is busy camping in Jalandhar for the upcoming Jalandhar West assembly bypoll. "He (Bhagwant Mann) is living in

his own world and is busy saving his chair by camping in Jalandhar. The entire state government is sitting there," the BJP leader alleged.

The bypoll, necessitated by the resignation of Sheetal Angural as AAP MLA, will be held on July 10 and the votes counted on July 13.

Jakhar claimed that no one feels safe in Punjab except the chief minister's family which travels with a posse of security personnel at the cost of public exchequer. "Intolerance and hate crimes are increasing in Punjab. The government should wake up and understand its responsibility," he said.

"There is a pattern in Punjab now that anybody, who

claims that their sentiments have been hurt, wants to cause harm to the others. This is dangerous," Jakhar said. The BJP leader said that if the state government cannot provide basic security to people then the Centre is always ready to help.

He also visited the hospital, where Thapar is admitted, to enquire about his health. The Shiv Sena (Punjab) leader was attacked when he came out of the office of the Samvedna Trust near the Civil Hospital after attending a ceremony to mark the fourth death anniversary of the trust's founder-president Ravinder Arora on Friday, police said. The Samvedna Trust provides free ambulance service to patients and hearse vehicles.

Hours after the incident, two of the assailants were arrested from Fatehgarh Sahib district. CCTV footage of the incident surfaced on social media. In the purported video, the assailants dressed as Nihangs approached Thapar while he was on a scooter with his securityman riding pillion.

While Thapar was speaking to the assailants with folded hands, one of them suddenly attacked him with a sword as passersby looked on. Another assailant appears to be pushing Thapar's securityman away. After Thapar fell down, the third assailant also started hitting him with a sword. Later, two of the accused fled on Thapar's scooter, leaving him in a pool of blood.



A member of the victorious World Cup Indian Team and Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh got a rousing reception on his arrival at Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Mohali on Saturday. Pioneer Photo

Cyber Fraudsters Nabbed in Haryana for Rs 8.91 Lakh Crypto Fraud

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Cybercriminals increasingly target unsuspecting citizens through Telegram, exploiting the messaging platform to perpetrate fraud. In one such case, a resident of Hisar, Haryana, fell prey to a sophisticated scam, losing Rs 8,91,000 in a cryptocurrency investment scheme. However, swift action by the Haryana Police led to the arrest of the fraudsters, preventing further victims.

According to a statement by the Police, the victim, Bajrang, was lured into the scam through a Telegram channel promising high returns on cryptocurrency investments. Once hooked, the fraudsters, operating under the alias "CAPTAIN AMERICA," guided Bajrang to transfer funds into bogus bank accounts. These accounts were procured by an accomplice, Sahil, a bank employee, who sold them to the fraudsters for Rs 25,000 each.

When Bajrang realized he had been scammed, he immediately reported the incident to

the Cyber Helpline (1930). Recognizing the urgency, the state's Cyber Chief, ADGP OP Singh, promptly directed the Cyber Nodal Thana to investigate the matter. A joint team comprising the State Nodal Cyber Thana and the Haryana Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (HC4) began meticulously tracing the fraudulent transactions. Their efforts led to the arrest of three individuals. Chirag, son of Ved, a resident of Hisar is the primary perpetrator who received the funds from Bajrang. Sahil, a resident of Hisar was the bank employee who sold the bogus accounts. Mohit, resident of Fazilka, is the accomplice who connected with "CAPTAIN AMERICA" and facilitated the scam, according to the police.

ADGP OP Singh urges caution, emphasizing that greed often fuels such cyber frauds. He advises against joining unknown Telegram groups or investing based on mere promises of high returns. Before investing, individuals should thoroughly research and verify the legitimacy of the platform or scheme.

Will not let any Pong Dam displaced person remain landless: Chief Minister

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday campaigned in favour of the Congress party in Ludret, Nandpur Bhatoli, Jalrian, Guler, Gathuter and Bhatoli Fakorian of Dehra assembly constituency and sought votes in favour of the party candidate Kamlesh Thakur.

Sukhu said that the Congress government will not allow any Pong Dam displaced family to remain landless, adding that he will personally look into the matter and if the law has to be changed, he will change it, but the prob-



lems of the displaced will be resolved. He said that since 1972, 20,722 affected families

have been wandering from door to door in the hope of justice but their problems have

not been solved, but now the Congress government will solve their problems.

He said that the former MLA of Dehra, Hoshiar Singh, was engaged in his own development for only six years and did not pay any attention to the problems of Dehra. The Chief Minister said that the Congress government has been working for the welfare of the people from the very first day of assuming power.

Under the Mukhyamantri Sukhashray Yojana for orphan children, 4000 orphan children have been adopted. Along with financial assistance of Rs 3 lakh for building houses to widows and single women, the state government is bearing the expenses of higher education of their children up to 27 years of age. The Congress government is bearing the expenses of treatment of elderly people above 70 years of age.

Hry Anti-Corruption Bureau Arrests Two Private Individuals Demanding Rs 200,000 Bribe in Faridabad

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A team from the Haryana Anti-Corruption Bureau has arrested two private individuals in Faridabad on charges of soliciting a bribe. The accused allegedly demanded ₹200,000 in exchange for securing a job at ESIC Hospital.

In this case, Rakesh was apprehended while accepting ₹180,000 in bribe money, while another accused, Hakim, was found in possession of ₹120,000. The Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed an FIR at the

Faridabad police station against the accused individuals.

According to a government spokesperson, the Anti-Corruption Bureau received a complaint regarding the demand for a bribe from Rakesh, who was allegedly facilitating a job as a sanitation worker at ESIC Hospital in exchange for money. The complainant had already paid ₹20,000 to Rakesh prior to his arrest.

Following an investigation by the ACB, a plan was devised to apprehend the accused, resulting in the arrest of

Rakesh while he was accepting the bribe. During the investigation, another private individual, Hakim, was also found involved, leading to the recovery of ₹120,000 from his possession. The entire operation was conducted with full transparency before witnesses.

A spokesperson for the bureau appealed to the public, urging anyone who encounters demands for bribes in exchange for government work to immediately report such incidents to the Haryana Anti-Corruption Bureau's toll-free number at 1800-180-2022 or dial 1064

People gave support to Amritpal Singh; Govt should respect it and release him, says SGPC chief

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee chief Harjinder Singh Dhani on Saturday batted for the release of jailed Waris Punjab De activist and Lok Sabha MP Amritpal Singh, "considering the huge support people have given to him".

The Khalistani sympathiser, who won the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha seat in Punjab as an Independent while being lodged in a jail in Assam's Dibrugarh district under the National Security Act, was sworn in as MP on Friday.

Asked about Amritpal Singh after the SGPC chief

inaugurated a laboratory at Miri-Piri hospital in Haryana's Kurukshetra, Dhani said, "People have given huge support to him. The governments should consider this, respect it and he (Amritpal) should be released."

The apex Sikh body chief pointed out that Singh won from the Khadoor Sahib constituency by a margin of around two lakh votes.

Singh, who styled himself after slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, was arrested in Punjab's Moga last year after he and his supporters barged into a police station by breaking barricades, brandishing swords and guns, and clashed with police in an attempt to free one of his

aides from custody.

To a question on the release of 'Bandi Singhs', Sikh prisoners which the community claims are still lodged in different jails despite completion of their sentences, Dhani urged the Centre to release such prisoners. He also lashed out at the AAP government in Punjab over the law-and-order situation in the state, saying people do not feel safe.

The law-and-order situation is bad in Punjab, the SGPC chief alleged. His remarks came after Shiv Sena (Punjab) leader Sandeep Thapar was grievously injured after he was attacked with swords by three assailants in full public view in Ludhiana on Friday.

PGIMER to celebrate 61st Foundation Day on July 8

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Marking the completion of sixty-one years of its existence, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh is all geared up to celebrate its 61st Foundation Day on July 8.

Distinguished PGI alumnus Lt. Gen. Daljit Singh, Sr. Col. Commandant AMC will be the Chief Guest during the Foundation Day celebrations of PGIMER. He is the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS). With a stellar career in Neonatology, holds the prestigious title of Senior Colonel Commandant of the Army Medical Corps (AMC).

Conceived as a 'National Centre of Excellence' in 1961 with the concurrence of the Planning Commission, the Institute started functioning in 1962 and was formally inaugurated on July 7, 1963, by the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Within a short period of 4 years, PGIMER was declared as an "Institute of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament in April 1967. The



first batch of postgraduates was admitted in January 1963.

The Institute has 728 faculty members and around 1300 resident doctors (including sponsored/foreign national categories).

PGIMER offers 24 different postgraduate courses, 40 super-specialty courses and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) courses in all medical and non-medical disciplines along with 24 paramedical and postgraduate courses.

With 2233 beds, it serves over 3 million outpatients and around 100,000 in-patients annually, with 160 specialties and super-specialty OPDs and

numerous laboratory facilities catering to patients from all walks of life.

PGIMER continues to enhance patient services through initiatives like total computerization of OPD and IPD registration, online availability of lab reports, an online portal for hospital admissions, and upgrades to the PGI Poor Patient Cell. The institute features state-of-the-art technologies, including 384-slice dual source CT scan, advanced PET and CT facilities, advanced metabolic and genetic laboratories, and advanced vascular intervention laboratories, Kitten MRI machines etc.

Projects to take off soon with Haryana's land bank: CM Saini

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday stated that the land bank created from voluntarily offered land on the e-Bhoomi portal will help in the completion of projects soon. This initiative started by the state government is the first experiment in the country towards accumulating land for government schemes.

The Chief Minister chaired a meeting of the High-Powered Land Purchase Committee in which Minister of State for Urban Local Bodies, Subhash Sarda and Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Wildlife Sanjay Singh were also present. Saini said that some people generously donate land for welfare projects and praised Ramehar from Baroli village in Jind district for offering 2.8 acres of land to



the Public Health Engineering Department for a JalGhar, setting an example for the society.

During the meeting, discussions were held on the land offered as per the fixed rates on the e-Bhoomi portal in the districts of Ambala, Bhiwani, Hisar, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Sirsa, and Sonapat. The Chief Minister also spoke with the landowners via video conferencing. Apart from the land identified for drainage of water from the pump house in Ambala district, he discussed in detail the land offered on the e-Bhoomi portal for the ROB ser-

vice road in Adampur to Daroli Road in Hisar district, construction of a new road from Jind-Barwala Road to Rakhigarhi Museum in Hisar district and a new bypass in Kosli town of Rewari district. He directed the Deputy Commissioners of the concerned districts to finalise these agendas. Saini also directed the officers to inspect the land offered on the e-Bhoomi portal and to ensure its suitability for projects and emphasised that no forest areas should be harmed when starting any project and if necessary then ensure that new

trees must be planted as per the regulations. Chief Secretary, T.V.S.N. Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance and Planning, Anurag Rastogi, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Health Engineering, A.K. Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Town and Planning, Arun Kumar Gupta, Commissioner, Urban Local Bodies Department, Vikas Gupta besides other senior officers remained present in the meeting, and Deputy Commissioners of various districts were also connected through video conferencing.

42 pc increase in stamp sale and registration revenue in Punjab: Minister

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Government has registered 42 percent more income under the head "stamp and registration" in the month of June 2024, Revenue Minister Bram Shanker Jimpa said on Saturday.

In a statement, he said providing transparent, hassle-free and corruption-free services to the people of Punjab is the main goal of the government and due to this, the revenue of the state is continuously increasing. Jimpa said that in June 2024, the state exchequer received an income of 452.96 crore under stamp and registration, which is 42 percent more than June 2023. In June 2023, this income was 319.33 crore.

He said that in May 2024, the state exchequer has received an income of 526.36

cr, whereas this income was registered 430.63 cr in May 2023, which is 22 percent more than last year. The minister said that the income of the state is continuously increasing, adding that as soon as the government was formed, efforts were initiated to eradicate corruption from Punjab. The Revenue Department also issued a helpline number 8184900002 for filing complaints regarding the functioning of Revenue Department. NRIs can register their complaints on 9464100168. These numbers are for written complaints only.

Jimpa appealed to the people of Punjab not to give any bribe to any officer or employee of the revenue department and if anyone asks for a bribe then it should be reported immediately. He said that corrupt officers and employees will not be spared at any cost.

BRIEFS

ADVISER TO THE ADMINISTRATOR, RAJEEV VERMA, INAUGURATES PAUDH MELA



Chandigarh: Rajeev Verma, Adviser to the Administrator, UT Chandigarh, inaugurated the 'Paudh Mela' at the Lake Sports Complex parking area on Saturday. The event, which aims to promote greenery and environmental sustainability, saw a large turnout of enthusiastic citizens. The Adviser visited various stalls at the Mela, which featured free distribution stalls by the Department of Forest and Wildlife, Engineering Department, and the Municipal Corporation. Additionally, stalls from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, schools, and colleges showcased a wide variety of products and information, including compost and composting techniques, herbal seeds, bamboo products, kitchen waste composting, organic farming and gardening, bioenzymes, and more. Verma emphasized the importance of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, urging everyone to plant at least one tree during the monsoon season. As part of the event, saplings were distributed to the public, encouraging community participation in environmental conservation.

SPEAKER SANDHWAN CONGRATULATES 10 PUNJABIS ON THEIR VICTORY IN UK ELECTIONS

Chandigarh: Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kulraj Singh Sandhwan has extended his congratulations to 10 Punjabis who emerged victorious in the UK general elections. This significant win will amplify the voice of Sikhs and Punjabis in the House of Commons, he said. In a statement, Sandhwan felicitated Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi and others on their historic victory, which marks a milestone for the Punjabi community. For the first time, 10 Sikhs and Punjabis, including 5 women, have been elected to the British Parliament, a remarkable achievement. The Speaker expressed hope that the newly elected members will tirelessly work for the interests of the people of UK and the Punjabi community. He congratulated the winners and wished them success in their endeavors.

RS 25 LAKH ROBBED FROM ATM IN PHAGWARA

Phagwara: Unidentified robbers decamped with about Rs 25 lakh cash after looting an ATM of a public sector bank located on Phagwara-Palali road here early Saturday morning, police said. The robbers used a gas cutter to open the ATM and fled with the cash, they said, adding that efforts are on to identify the number of people involved in the heist. The heat of the gas cutter also resulted in the burning of some currency notes lying in the ATM, they said. Phagwara Superintendent of Police Rupinder Kaur Bhatti said that CCTV footage of cameras in the vicinity was being scanned to trace the robbers.

COMPLETE BAN ON EXIT POLLS ON 10TH JULY BETWEEN 7 AM TO 6.30 PM

Shimla: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Himachal Pradesh Maneesh Garg on Saturday here said that to ensure free and fair by-elections in Assembly constituencies of Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh the Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced a complete ban on the conduction, publication or dissemination of any type of exit poll from 7 AM to 6.30 PM on poll day on July 10. He said that during the period of 48 hours before the conclusion of the poll, display of any kind of election matter like results of opinion polls, or poll surveys in any electronic media would also be prohibited.

BAJWA SLAMS THE AAP GOVT FOR LAXITY IN GETTING FUNDS RELEASED FROM CENTRE

Chandigarh: The Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa on Saturday rebuked the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government for having an extremely lax approach to getting funds released from the BJP-led NDA government in the centre. Referring to a news report, Bajwa said that the BJP-led Union government had not released the sum of around 10,000 crores under various schemes and projects including, Rural Development Funds (RDF), National Health Mission (NHM) and Sarv Sikhiya Abhiyan (SSA). Bajwa said that in some cases like NHM, it is the AAP government in Punjab that failed to comply with norms and policies and consequently, the Union Health Ministry halted the flow of funds to the state. Meanwhile, the blocked amount under NHM has reached Rs 1000 crore. "The AAP government, particularly the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann should leave his arrogance aside and sort the issue of fund blockage with the Union Government out on a priority basis. It has also been observed that the Punjab government was misusing the funds released by the Union Government.", Bajwa added. Since the economy of Punjab has been in a knee-deep crisis, the Punjab CM has now turned to former economic advisor to the Government of India Arvind Subramanian for suggestions to bring the state's economy back on track. "With this, the AAP government has at least accepted that under the 2.5 years of the AAP regime, the economy has been on the verge of collapse. Before taking an expert opinion, the AAP government should introspect its misdeed and mend its own ways", Bajwa added.

CONGRESS 'LIES' WON'T WORK IN HARYANA ASSEMBLY POLLS: KHATTAR

Chandigarh: Union Minister and BJP leader Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday attacked the Congress, saying its "lies" will not work in the Haryana assembly polls, and exuded confidence that his party will form government in the state for the third consecutive time. The elections in Haryana are due later this year. "Congress party has become a factory of lies and rumours and their lies will not work in the assembly elections," said Khattar in a post on X. Talking to reporters in Karnal after a meeting with BJP workers on preparations for the polls, Khattar, a former Haryana chief minister, said the Congress "lies and rumours" will not work in the assembly elections. He exuded confidence that the BJP will form the government for the third time in Haryana. Opposition Congress has been attacking the BJP government in Haryana over several issues, including corruption, unemployment and law and order. To a question, Karnal MP Khattar welcomed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent announcement that the BJP will fight the upcoming state elections under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

HEAVY RAINFALL IN HIMACHAL: 150 ROADS CLOSED

Shimla: Heavy rain lashed parts of Himachal, including Kangra's Dharamshala and Palampur where rainfall levels exceeded the 200-mm mark. According to the emergency operation centre, 150 roads, including 111 in Mandi, 13 in Sirmour, nine in Shimla, eight each in Chamba and Kullu, and one in Kangra district, are closed for traffic following torrential rains. The centre also said that 334 transformers are disrupted and 55 water supply schemes have been affected in the state. Kangra's Dharamshala recorded the highest rainfall of 214.6 mm, followed by Palampur 212.4 mm, Jogindernagar 169 mm, Kangra city 157.6 mm, Baijnath 142 mm, Jot 95.2 mm, Nagrota Suriyar 90.2 mm, Sujampur Tira 72 mm, Dhualakuan 70 mm, Ghamroor 68.2 mm, Nadaun 63 mm and Berthin 58.8 mm. The Shimla meteorological office has issued a "yellow" alert, warning for thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places till July 12. Other tourist destinations of Dalhousie received 31 mm of rain, Manali received 30 mm, Kasuali 24 mm, Narkanda 19 mm and Shimla 17.2 mm.

PM Modi, Starmer recall India-UK historic relations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spoke to newly elected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer as the two leaders agreed to work towards an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-UK free trade agreement, a statement from Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. Modi congratulated him on assuming charge and a remarkable victory of his Labour Party in the election. The statement said both the leaders recalled the historic relations between the India and the UK and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen and advance the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the countries. Appreciating the positive contributions of the Indian community in the social, economic and political development of the UK, they agreed to continue to promote the close people-to-people ties. Modi also extended an invitation to Starmer for an early visit to India as the two leaders agreed to remain in touch, the statement said. In a social media post, Modi said, "Pleased to speak with



@Keir_Starmer. Congratulated him on being elected as the Prime Minister of the UK. We remain committed to deepening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and robust India-UK economic ties for the progress and prosperity of our peoples and global good." Modi had congratulated Starmer on his win via social media post on Friday. He also thanked outgoing prime minister Rishi Sunak for "your admirable leadership of the UK and your active contribution to deepening the ties between India and the UK during your term in office. Best wishes to

you and your family for the future." In a significant shift in the political scene, Labour secured 412 out of 650 seats in the House of Commons, marking their best performance since Tony Blair's 1997 victory. The Conservatives won only 121 seats, marking their worst-ever result and ending Rishi Sunak's leadership of both the country and his party. As regards the proposed trade pact, Starmer's election manifesto included plans for Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India, stressing shared values and strategic partnership. The India-UK Free Trade

Agreement (FTA) negotiations, which began in January 2022, aim to enhance economic ties by providing access to India's large and growing market, bypassing high tariff barriers. The agreement covers 26 chapters, including goods, services, investments, and intellectual property rights. Bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to USD 21.34 billion in 2023-24 from USD 20.36 billion in 2022-23. Starmer's stance on an FTA with India is articulated in Labour's 2024 election manifesto, which outlines plans for forging a "new strategic partnership with India, including a free trade agreement, as well as deepening cooperation in security, education, technology, and climate change." Addressing the India Global Forum (IGF) last year, Starmer said his vision for a revamped Labour Party is to pass FTA. "What my Labour government will seek with India is a relationship based on our shared values of democracy and aspiration. That will seek a free trade agreement (FTA), we share that ambition, but also a new strategic partnership for global security, climate security, economic security," he said.

Demand for NEET-UG retest, SC-monitored paper leak probe echo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday demanded that the medical entrance examination NEET-UG be conducted again and all "paper leak scams" thoroughly investigated under the Supreme Court's supervision. Amid the growing clamour for the cancellation of the controversy-ridden NEET-UG 2024 over alleged malpractices, the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) told the apex court on Friday that scrapping it without any proof of large-scale breach of confidentiality would be counterproductive as it could "seriously jeopardise" lakhs of honest candidates. The NTA, which conducts the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses, and the Union education ministry have been at the centre of media debates and protests by students and political parties over alleged large-scale malpractices ranging from question paper leaks to impersonation in the test held on May 5. In a social media post in Hindi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Modi government has told the Supreme Court that no paper has been leaked in NEET-UG. "This blatant lie is being told to lakhs of youths. Their future is being ruined," Kharge said. The Congress leader pointed out that the education ministry has said that "there have been irregularities or cheating only at a few places" but this is "misleading". The BJP-RSS has promoted the "education mafia" by taking control of the entire education system, he claimed. "Be it NCERT books or leakage in exams, the Modi government is bent on destroying our education system," Kharge alleged.



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Counselling for NEET-UG likely by end of this month

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Initially planned for the first week of July, the counselling for controversy-ridden National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2024 is now anticipated to commence by the end of this month, according to highly placed sources in the Union Health Ministry. However, the date is yet to be officially notified by the counselling authorities, causing anxiety among students awaiting admission. The issuance of permission letters to certain medical colleges is ongoing, with expectations of additional seats being included in the process. On Friday the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) had told the Supreme Court that scrapping it without any proof of large-scale breach of confidentiality would be counterproductive as it could "seriously jeopardise" lakhs of honest candidates. As the case is still in the court, there is not much clarity on the counselling issue. However, the sources said the process of issuing permission letters to some medical col-



leges was still underway and additional seats were likely to be added. "The date of counselling will be announced once the exercise gets over to ensure seats of the new colleges can be taken up in the first round itself," the source said. The apex court last month refused to defer the counselling process. It was hearing a petition seeking a direction to pause the process for two days. The NTA, which conducts NEET-UG for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses, and the Union education ministry have been at the centre of media debates and protests by students and political parties over alleged large-scale malpractice — ranging from question paper leaks to impersonation — in the test held on May 5.

IMA seeks deletion of section from new law to prevent criminal prosecution of doctors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stressing the need for proper implementation of protective provisions for doctors in cases of alleged medical negligence, as per the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The IMA emphasised that doctors typically do not have criminal intent when treating patients. Therefore, their actions should not attract criminal prosecution under Section 106.1 of the BNS, which cur-



rently allows for criminal charges against doctors in cases of alleged negligence.

The IMA also requested that investigating officers invoke Section 26 of the BNS, which

recognises that doctors fall outside the purview of criminal law for actions taken during patient treatment unless there is evidence of recklessness. They argued that cases should be referred to expert committees for opinion in rare instances of recklessness. Dr RV Asokan, IMA President, advocated for the deletion of Section 106.1 to prevent the unjust criminal prosecution of doctors. He asserts that without criminal intent, doctors should only be held accountable under civil law. The letter also highlighted the increasing violence against doctors and hospitals, describing it as a "national shame" and an

epidemic that creates an atmosphere of fear and mistrust in healthcare facilities. "The government should introduce a central law to protect doctors from such violence as existing state laws have been ineffective in securing convictions," said the letter. Acknowledging the government's past efforts to protect doctors, including the amendment of the Epidemic Diseases Act during the COVID-19 pandemic, which shielded healthcare professionals from violence, the doctor's body has called for further legislative action to ensure comprehensive protection for medical practitioners.

NHRC asks Centre, States to frame policy to protect beggars

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bustling urban area of Mumbai, 10-year-old Reshu was found begging on the streets during school hours. Upon investigation, it was discovered that Reshu was brought to Mumbai from a rural village in Bihar by a local trafficker promising her parents a better life for their daughter. Instead, she was forced to beg on the streets under threat of violence and withheld food if she didn't meet daily quotas set by her handler. Fatima Begum, a widow and mother of three, from a rural village in Uttar Pradesh took up begging following her husband's sudden demise due to illness, with no formal education or vocational skills, she made the difficult decision to migrate to Bengaluru in search of work. Faced with mounting debts and the pressure to provide food and shelter for her children, Fatima resorted to begging on the streets of the Silicon city. Tragically, Reshu and Fatima Begum are among lakhs of beggars seeking alms on the street in the country. According to the 2011 census, there were more than 4,13,000 (4.13 lakh) beggars and vagrants in India. Now, for the first time coming to the rescue of such vagrants, the National Human Rights



Commission (NHRC) has now issued a comprehensive advisory to the Central and State governments seeking framing of a national policy for their protection and rehabilitation, drafting welfare schemes with financial assistance and vocational training and creating a national database among others. The top rights body also took cognizance that despite a number of initiatives and welfare programmes implemented by the central and state governments, begging persisted across the country. Children between the ages of six and 14 who are engaged in begging should be registered and enrolled in schools under the Right to Education Act. Shelter home residents are

encouraged to participate in skill development and vocational training programs facilitated by government-recognized vocational centers, empowering them to pursue sustainable livelihoods. Support from NGOs and Civil Society: NGOs and civil society groups are encouraged to assist shelter home residents in forming self-help groups. They can also facilitate access to loans for self-employment, promoting economic independence and social integration. These recommendations collectively aim to eradicate forced begging, protect the rights of vulnerable individuals, and provide pathways for their rehabilitation and dignified livelihoods.

Future of labourers in danger: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the country's labourers as "builders of India", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday claimed that under the Narendra Modi government their future was in danger, and asserted that he will ensure that they get their full rights and respect. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha made the remarks in a social media post in Hindi as he shared a video of his recent interaction with daily wage workers at Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar in Delhi during which listened to their problems. "In Narendra Modi's government, the 'builders of India' are facing terrible hardships," Gandhi said in his post. The daily wage workers are forced to run their households for four days with a single day's earnings, he said. They have no savings and are living off the burden of paying interest, he added. "I got a chance to meet street vendors and daily wage workers in GTB Nagar and get to know their struggles," Gandhi said. "The future of the families of those who are building the 'India of the future' is in danger. I will ensure that the hardworking labourers of India get their full rights, security and respect - this is my resolution," Rahul Gandhi asserted. After meeting the daily wage labourers on Thursday, Rahul Gandhi had said providing full rights and respect to those involved in manual labour is the mission of his life. In the video, Rahul Gandhi is seen working with the labourers in laying the stone on a staircase. He listened to the problems of the workers who said that their biggest issue was not finding work on a daily basis.

Foreign medical exam held smoothly

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) 2024 began smoothly on Saturday and no untoward incident was reported, Health Ministry officials said. The command centre to monitor the examination has been set up at the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) headquarters in Delhi, they said. "The content was successfully downloaded at all test centres.



The examination started at all examination centres smoothly. A team of officers from MHA has visited NBEMS HQ. No untoward incidence has been reported," an official said.

The FMGE is a screening test for medical graduates to become eligible to practice medicine in the country. The June 2024 examination for foreign medical graduates were being held at 71 centres in 50 cities of 21 states. The examination will be held on two shifts -- 9 am to 11.30 am and 2 pm to 4.30 pm. According to officials, 255 appraisers were appointed for 71 centres and 53 faculty members were in the flying squad. Apart from this, Directorate General of Health Services

(DGHS) has nominated 71 members to visit the examination centres. 42 NBEMS staff have been deputed at the centres, with 35,819 candidates scheduled to take the exam on Saturday, officials said. A command centre has been set up at the NBEMS headquarter, Dwarka where members of the governing body, officials of the NBEMS, technical team of 20 TCS officials, senior police officers are monitoring the progress of the examination.

Modi pays tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to BJP ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 123rd birth anniversary on Saturday. Modi said Mookerjee made India proud with his fierce nationalistic ideas, and that his sacrifice and dedication to the motherland will always inspire people. Mookerjee was one of the founders of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the forerunner to the Bharatiya Janata Party. He was a member of Jawaharlal



Nehru's Cabinet, which he quit in protest over his differences with the prime minister and then formed the Jana Sangh with support from the RSS. Mookerjee died in 1953 following his arrest in Jammu and Kashmir during his agitation against the restriction imposed there on Indian citizens who were not from the state. He was opposed to the special status given to the state. Modi had described his government's decision to revoke Article 370, which granted the state special rights, in 2019 as a fulfilment of Mookerjee's wish.

Apex court to hear on July 8 plea on free sanitary pads for Class 6-12 girl students

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on July 8 a plea seeking directions to the Centre and states to provide free sanitary pads to girl students of class 6-12 and ensure separate female toilet facilities in all government-aided and residential schools. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J P Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is scheduled to hear the plea of Congress leader and social worker Jaya Thakur in which she has highlighted the difficulties faced by adolescent females from poor backgrounds in the schools. During the last hearing of the matter on February 5, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed that the Centre is in the process of collating all necessary material to form a national policy on the distribution of menstrual hygiene products to school-going girls in terms of the orders dated April 10, 2023, and November 6, 2023. On June 13, the Union education ministry, in an advisory to schools, said girl students should be allowed to take necessary restroom breaks during board exams for classes 10 and 12 and free sanitary napkins



must be made available at all examination centres. The Supreme Court is set to reopen on July 8 after summer vacation. On November 6, the top court directed the Centre to lay down a national model for building toilets commensurate with the number of girl students in all government-aided and residential schools across the country. While emphasising uniform procedure, it also asked the Union government about the policy it has formulated for the distribution of sanitary napkins to female school students nationally. During the hearing, the Centre informed the apex court that a draft national policy for the distribution of sanitary napkins

free of cost to school-going girls has been formulated and sent to stakeholders to elicit their comments. The top court earlier warned the states, which had not submitted their response to the Centre on formulating a uniform national policy on menstrual hygiene for girls studying in schools, that it would take recourse to the "coercive arm of the law" if they failed to do so. On April 10, the apex court appointed the secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) as the nodal officer to coordinate with states and UTs and collect relevant data for formulating a national policy. It noted that MoHFW, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Jal Shakti have

schemes on menstrual hygiene management. The court also ordered all states and UTs to submit their menstrual hygiene management strategies and plans that are being executed with the help of funds provided by the Centre or through their own resources to the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission within four weeks. The apex court said the states and UTs shall also indicate to the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission the appropriate ratio of female toilets for residential and non-residential schools in their respective territories. It asked all states and UTs to also indicate the steps which have been taken to provide low-cost sanitary pads and vending machines in schools and their appropriate disposal. The plea filed by Congress leader Thakur has said adolescent females from poor backgrounds between the ages of 11 and 18 years face serious difficulties in receiving education, a constitutional right under Article 21A of the Constitution. "These are adolescent females who are not equipped with and are also not educated by their parents about menstruation and menstrual hygiene," the petition said.

Free anti-rabies vaccination drive held

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), a leading manufacturer of animal rabies vaccine (Raksharab) and human rabies vaccine (Abhayrab) in the country has conducted free anti-rabies vaccination to over a lakh canine across the country on the eve of the Zoonosis Day. It is one of the largest drives to create social awareness about "One Health", which means healthy co-existence of animals, human beings and ecosystem. Diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans and vice-versa are known as Zoonotic diseases. The drive was conducted at around 100 centres across 21 states in the country through veterinary dispensaries and NGOs. "Seventy percent of all emerging diseases such as Rabies, Swine Flu, Brucellosis, Leptospirosis, Zoonotic Cysticercosis, Nipah, Zika etc that affect humans are zoonotic in nature. In India, occurrence of Rabies is prevalent and accounts for more than 90% of all zoonotic cases reported in the country, said Dr K Anand Kumar, MD, IIL.

Top line can grow to ₹2.5 lakh cr in 5-10 yrs if we execute well: Zepto CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Quick commerce unicorn Zepto revenue can grow tenfold to Rs 2.5 lakh crore in 5-10 years if the company is able to execute the business well, a top company official said on Saturday.

Speaking at 7th JIIF Foundation day, Zepto Co-Founder and CEO Aadit Palicha said grocery and household essentials are the mother of all categories that are sold on leading e-commerce platforms Flipkart and Amazon in India.

He said the grocery and household essentials market was around USD 650 billion in India in FY23 and is growing at 9 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) and is expected to get to about USD 850 billion by FY29. "If we execute well, we can realistically take this business from Rs 10,000-plus crores in top line today to potentially to... Rs 2.5 lakh crore of top line over the next 10 years or next five years," Palicha said.

"Your grocery is bigger than all the other categories that Amazon and Flipkart serve



combined. If you look at electronics, apparel, furniture, you combine everything, and you double it, it's still not as large as grocery and household essentials," Palicha said.

The company's revenue has grown over fivefold to over Rs 10,000 crore in FY24 from about Rs 2,000 crore in FY23. Last month, Zepto raised USD

665 million in an investment round that valued the firm at USD 3.6 billion, almost triple of what it was worth a year ago, and is preparing to list soon.

The three-year-old startup raised USD 665 million (about Rs 5,550 crore) from new investors, including New York-based private equity firm Avnir Growth Capital,

venture firm Lightspeed, and Avra Capital, a new fund started by former Y Combinator Continuity head Anu Hariharan and Andreessen Horowitz. Existing investors, including Glade Brook, Nexus, and StepStone Group also participated. Palicha said the biggest challenge for the company is to hire people in the company with right attitude. The startup plans to double warehouses used to deliver groceries within 10 minutes in a radius of two kilometres to more than 700 by March 2025 by reinvesting sales from mature stores to fund the expansion.

Zepto has about 29 per cent market share in 10-minute grocery delivery service (known as quick e-commerce), up from 15 per cent in March 2022. Blinkit is the market leader with nearly 40 per cent and the rest is with Instamart. "We have been able to turn 75 per cent of our stores fully profitable and so we want to continue that trajectory even as we are expanding into new cities," Palicha said.

FMCG sector to see 7-9 per cent revenue growth this fiscal: CRISIL

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector is expected to see revenue growth of 7-9 per cent this fiscal, according to a report released by CRISIL Ratings on Saturday.

The expected revenue increase this financial year (2024-25) will be supported by higher volume growth on the back of a revival in rural and steady urban demand. The estimated growth of the FMCG sector in 2023-24 was 5-7 per cent.

The report said product realisation is expected to grow in single digits with a marginal rise in prices of key raw materials for the food and beverage (F&B) segment. However, the prices of key raw materials for the personal care and home care segments are likely to be stable.

CRISIL Ratings Director Rabindra Verma said, "Revenue growth will vary across product segments and



firms. The F&B segment is expected to grow 8-9 per cent this fiscal, aided by improving rural demand. The personal care segment is likely to grow by 6-7 per cent, and the home care segment is likely to grow by 8-9 per cent." The FMCG players will continue to eye inorganic

opportunities, which will help them expand product offerings, the report said. Sustained improvement in the rural economy, which depends on the monsoons and farm incomes, will be essential for generating steady demand, it added.

Bandhan Bank appoints Ratan as interim MD & CEO

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Ratan Kumar Kesh, executive director and chief operating officer of Bandhan Bank, has been appointed as interim MD & CEO of the private lender with effect from July 10.

The present MD&CEO and founder of the bank will retire on July 9. In a regulatory filing with the stock exchange on Saturday, the lender said Kesh will be the interim MD & CEO for a period of three months or till the new incumbent takes charge, whichever is earlier.

The appointment of Kesh is pursuant to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and on the basis of the recommendation of the nomination and remuneration committee and the board of directors of the bank at its meeting held during the day. Kesh is not debarred or disqualified from holding office of director by virtue of any order of the SEBI or any other such authority, the filing stated.

India has deep expertise, scalability to become global player in semiconductor industry: IT Secy

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India has the talent and deep expertise to become a global player in the semiconductor industry which is a vital sector for the country, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Secretary, S Krishnan said.

The government was helping industries to create the ecosystem to build the semiconductors, he said. Krishnan made those comments at a conference organised by fabless semiconductor firm iVP Semiconductor Pvt Ltd here on Saturday.

The government was helping industries to create the ecosystem to build the semiconductors, he said. Krishnan made those comments at a conference organised by fabless semiconductor firm iVP Semiconductor Pvt Ltd here on Saturday.



Electric Vehicles and a significant hub for technical expertise. "The semiconductor industry is vital for the country and India has the talent, deep expertise and scalability to be a global player. The Government is helping the industry to create the ecosystem to build the semiconductors," Krishnan said.

Krishnan said the iVP Semiconductor Pvt Ltd plays an important role in creating demand to fill up the manufacturing capacity in wafer fab. "I would like to congratulate iVP Semiconductor on the creation of an Indian fabless chip company," he said. IVP Semiconductor Pvt Ltd Co-founder Raja Manickam said his company secured a USD 5 million pre-series A funding and has plans to set up a production test facility in Chennai and another in South India. The company has targeted revenues of USD70 million to USD 100 million in the next 3-4 years, he added.

Govt mainstreamed startups, says Paytm founder

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has mainstreamed startups ushering a truly golden period for them, Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma said, adding this is a dramatic shift from the days when startups would rank at the bottom of the "food chain" in job picks.

The 'American dream' folklore in business and technology parlance has given way to the 'Indian dream' and 'Indian startup', Sharma said, adding that this is "truly a golden period" for founders and entrepreneurs here.

Speaking at the 7th JIIF Foundation day, Sharma credited the government for mainstreaming startups and giving visibility to founders. Urging entrepreneurs to make most of the opportunities in front of them by leveraging technology and innovation, Paytm top boss said, "this is truly a golden period" and "best ever that India has been". Sharma said that India has come a long way from the time when job aspirants chose to go abroad or eyed jobs in foreign IT companies or large domestic tech firms. "We (startups) were more or less the last player of the food chain, we had to make do with whatever was left... Now we are right in the front... That line now starts from startups... This is a dramatic difference... It is truly a golden period... Obviously no period is perfect... But this is simply the best ever India has

ever been," he said. Sharma said college pass-outs and job aspirants now choose to stay back in India, instead of making a beeline for jobs abroad.

For companies that are looking to go public, Sharma advised them to opt for Indian bankers and not underestimate them. He also advocated that companies eyeing an IPO need to gauge the sentiments and mood of domestic, retail investors well in advance through roadshows and interactions. He further said companies need to breakdown jargons and complex terms, and speak out and clear terms on points that are relevant to investors.

"Everything you write in your DRHP, or announce, should be such that future models can envisioned on it... If it is confusing, remove it... If it is clarifying, then keep it," he said. According to him, going forward, the distinction between fintech and financial services companies will blur and they will become similar and homogeneous. Given India's economic growth targets and the underlying credit growth potential, India's financial services market has a bright future, he said. It is a market obligated to grow, and its potential is restricted only by someone's mistakes or temptation. The foundation and base of all businesses is financial services, he said, adding the market will always grow and "future is bright".

National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.
Reg. Off: C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2024

all amounts are presented in INR thousands, unless otherwise stated

	Schedule	As on 31.3.2024 (Current Year)	As on 31.3.2023 (Previous Year)
Capital and Reserves			
1 Reserve Fund and other reserves	1	14,72,730	13,71,120
2 Principal/Subsidiary State Partnership Fund Account	2	29,88,077	32,12,156
3 Deposits & Other Accounts	3	354,90,995	279,512,611
4 Borrowings	4	-	-
5 Bills for Collection Being Bills Receivable as per Centre			93.38
6 Branch Adjustments			
7 Overdue Interest Reserve on Loans & Advances		571.90	1,815.38
8 Interest Payable	5	8,070.58	48,29
9 Other liabilities	6	155.96	3,601.95
10 Profit & Loss			5,577.51
Total		405,859.61	325,328.51
Assets			
12 Cash	7	2,083.98	1,485.65
13 Balances with Other Banks	8	82,284.50	39,927.20
14 Money At Call & Short Notices			
15 Investments	9	235,008.90	220,131.09
16 Investment Due Of The Principal subsidiary			
17 State partnership fund			
18 Advances	10	73,188.75	53,918.57
19 Interest Receivable		4,197.89	2,852.45
(iii) On Loans & Advances PA			
(iii) On Loans & Advances (as per Centre)		571.90	1,815.38
20 Bills Receivable Being Bills for Collection as per Centre			93.38
21 Branch Adjustments			
22 Fixed Assets	11	82.06	129.78
23 Other Assets	12	8,420.52	4,895.01
24 Satisfaction Of Claims (Stating Mode Of Valuation)			
Total		405,859.61	325,328.51
Contingent liabilities	13	5,243.87	5,153.60

As per our Report of Even Date annexed For National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. CA. VIVEK ARORA (Partner) M.No. 093704 Place: New Delhi Date: 28.06.2024

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH 2024

all amounts are presented in INR thousands, unless otherwise stated

	Schedule	Year ended on 31.3.2024 (Current Year)	Year ended on 31.3.2023 (Previous Year)
I. Income			
a Interest and Discount	14	22,720.70	19,426.24
b Other Receipts	15	2,581.97	1,420.03
Total		25,302.67	20,846.27
II. Expenditure			
a Interest expended	16	11,828.92	10,286.08
b Other Expenditure	17	12,118.88	10,926.55
c Provisions and contingencies	18	-4,085.67	2,847.78
Total		19,861.13	24,040.41
III. Profit/Loss			
a Profit/Loss for the year		5,471.55	3,194.14
b Profit/Loss brought forward		-5,771.51	-2,383.38
Total		-159.96	-5,577.51
IV. Appropriations			
a Transfer to statutory reserves		-155.96	-5,577.51
b Transfer to other reserves			
c Transfer to Government/proposed dividend			
Balance carried over to balance sheet		-159.96	-5,577.51
Earning Per Share		39.81	-23.76

As per our Report of Even Date annexed For National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. CA. VIVEK ARORA (Partner) M.No. 093704 Place: New Delhi Date: 28.06.2024

AVA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
4 - F, 4th Floor, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Place, New Delhi - 110008
Email: ava@avaa.in | website: www.avaa.in

Independent Auditor's Report

To: The Members, National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accounting financial statements of National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd (the "Bank") as at 31 March 2024, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024, and the Profit and Loss Account for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, and in the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 2003 and the Rules made thereunder and the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the generally accepted accounting principles and, in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India of the state of affairs of the Bank as at March 31, 2024 and its loss for the financial year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under these Standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Bank in accordance with the 'Code of Ethics' issued by the ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the financial statements.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note no. 19(b)(ii) of the financial statements on an outstanding of Rs. 22.68 Lakhs in Suspense Account representing amount recoverable, out of Rs. 44.80 Lakhs of an unauthorised withdrawal by the suspended directors of a constituent under CRIP during moratorium period. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of Board of Directors including other explanatory information but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The report of the Board of Directors is expected to be made available to us after the date of this report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

When we read the Annual Report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibility of Management for the Financial Statements

The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and the financial performance of the Bank in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, including the Accounting Standards issued by ICAI, provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Rules made thereunder, provisions of Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 2003 and the Rules made thereunder and circulars and guidelines issued by RBI from time to time. The responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Acts for safeguarding the assets of the Bank and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Bank or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Directors is also responsible for overseeing the Bank's Financial Reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal controls in the Bank in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bank's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or actions may cause the Bank to cease operations or to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and a declaration of our independence and other matters that may be relevant to their assessment of our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal & Regulatory Requirements

- The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Delhi State Co-operative Societies Act, 2003 and the rules made there under.
- Also annexed hereto are:
 - Audit Objectors' suggestions pointed out by the previous year's auditors and action taken by the management thereon as Part - A;
 - Specific responses to the directions issued by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies as Part - B;
 - The members' resolutions adopted for the year ending 31.03.2024 as Part - C.
- As required by rule 80(b) of Delhi Cooperative Societies Rules, 2007, we report that:
 - We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and have found to be satisfactory.
 - In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Bank so far as appears from our examination of those books and proper returns adequate for the purposes of our audit have been received from the branch/offices.
 - The transactions of the Bank which came to our notice have been within the powers of the Bank.
 - The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account dealt with by this report, are in agreement with the books of account and the returns.
 - The accounting standards adopted by the Bank are consistent with those laid down by accounting principles generally accepted in India so far as applicable to Banks.
 - In our opinion and according to information and explanations given to us, we have not noticed any material impropriety or irregularity in the expenditure or in the realization of money due to the Bank.
 - The members have been enabled to see the books of account and the returns made thereon.
- As per the information and explanations given to us and based on our examination of the books of account and other records, we report as follows on certain matters specified in sub rule (7) of rule 80 of the Delhi Co-operative Societies Rules, 2007:
 - We have not come across any transactions which appear to be contrary to the provisions of the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 2003, its rules or the bye-laws of the Bank.
 - We have not come across any material or significant transactions which appear to be contrary to the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
 - Based on our examination of the books of account and other records and as per the information and explanations given to us, the money held by the Bank which appears to be due or doubtful or recoverable are detailed below:

Category	Principal outstanding as on March 31, 2024 (Rs. In Lakhs)
Doubtful Advances	15.89
Non-Performing Investments	Nil
Other Assets	Nil
- The Bank has given loan to Mr. Vabhav Gupta, a director in the Board of Directors. Due standing as on 31.03.2024 is Rs. 45.59 Lakhs and interest charges charged Rs. 1.17 Lakhs for the year.
- We have not observed any violation of guidelines, conditions etc., as specified by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Registrar of Cooperative Societies in this regard has not issued any matters to the Bank.

We further report that:

- In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Bank so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- The reports on the accounts of the branches audited by us / branch auditors have been dealt with in preparing our report in the manner considered necessary by us.

AVA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
4 - F, 4th Floor, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Place, New Delhi - 110008
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Independent Auditor's Report

To: The Members, National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accounting financial statements of National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd (the "Bank") as at 31 March 2024, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024, and the Profit and Loss Account for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, and in the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 2003 and the Rules made thereunder and the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the generally accepted accounting principles and, in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India of the state of affairs of the Bank as at March 31, 2024 and its loss for the financial year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under these Standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Bank in accordance with the 'Code of Ethics' issued by the ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the financial statements.

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In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal controls in the Bank in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bank's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or actions may cause the Bank to cease operations or to cease to continue as a going concern.
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We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and a declaration of our independence and other matters that may be relevant to their assessment of our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

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 - Specific responses to the directions issued by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies as Part - B;
 - The members' resolutions adopted for the year ending 31.03.2024 as Part - C.
- As required by rule 80(b) of Delhi Cooperative Societies Rules, 2007, we report that:
 - We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and have found to be satisfactory.
 - In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Bank so far as appears from our examination of those books and proper returns adequate for the purposes of our audit have been received from the branch/offices.
 - The transactions of the Bank which came to our notice have been within the powers of the Bank.
 - The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account dealt with by this report, are in agreement with the books of account and the returns.
 - The accounting standards adopted by the Bank are consistent with those laid down by accounting principles generally accepted in India so far as applicable to Banks.
 - In our opinion and according to information and explanations given to us, we have not noticed any material impropriety or irregularity in the expenditure or in the realization of money due to the Bank.
 - The members have been enabled to see the books of account and the returns made thereon.
- As per the information and explanations given to us and based on our examination of the books of account and other records, we report as follows on certain matters specified in sub rule (7) of rule 80 of the Delhi Co-operative Societies Rules, 2007:
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 - We have not come across any material or significant transactions which appear to be contrary to the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
 - Based on our examination of the books of account and other records and as per the information and explanations given to us, the money held by the Bank which appears to be due or doubtful or recoverable are detailed below:

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Other Assets	Nil
- The Bank has given loan to Mr. Vabhav Gupta, a director in the Board of Directors. Due standing as on 31.03.2024 is Rs. 45.59 Lakhs and interest charges charged Rs. 1.17 Lakhs for the year.
- We have not observed any violation of guidelines, conditions etc., as specified by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Registrar of Cooperative Societies in this regard has not issued any matters to the Bank.

We further report that:

- In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have



RAJAWAT STUNS WORLD NUMBER 4 ANTONSEN

PTI ■ CALGARY (CANADA)

Continuing his dream run, rising Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat stunned top seed and world number four Anders Antonsen of Denmark to cruise into the semifinals of the Canada Open here. World number 39 Rajawat defeated Antonsen 21-11, 17-21, 21-19 in a gruelling one hour 19 minutes quarterfinal on Friday night. However, the women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made a quarterfinal exit.

The third-seeded Indians were handed a 18-21 21-19 16-21 defeat by Chinese Taipei's Pei Shan Hsieh and En-Tzu Hung. The win against Antonsen is the 22-year-old Rajawat's first-ever victory over a top-10 player. He will take on Alex Lanier of France in what will be his second World Tour Super 500 semifinal. Rajawat was off to a bright start, taking a 7-4 lead in the opening game before Antonsen levelled it at 9-9. The Indian then picked up five points on the trot to gain the upper hand and while the

Dane tried to fashion a comeback, Rajawat claimed seven successive points to take the first game. Trailing 0-1, Antonsen made a strong comeback in the second game and although Rajawat matched him, even levelling the game at 17, he lost four straight points as the world No. 4 forced a decider. In the final game, Rajawat initially led 5-1, but Antonsen responded with six consecutive points, bringing the score to 7-5 in favour of the Danish player. Rajawat staged a comeback by

winning three points but the experienced Dane entered the mid-game break with a slender 11-10 lead. With little differentiating the two players, it could have been anybody's game but at 19-19 Rajawat won back-to-back points to seal the match. Rajawat is the only Indian left in the competition. He had pulled off victories against higher-ranked opponents -- world number 24 Rasmus Gemke of Denmark and Japan's Takuma Obayashi, ranked 33rd, in the first and second rounds respectively.

All Olympics-bound Indian athletes, including Neeraj Chopra, fit: IOA CMO Pardiwala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Renowned sports medicine expert Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala on Sunday said that all the Indian athletes participating in the Paris Olympics, including ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, were "fit enough" to perform on the big stage when the quadrennial showpiece gets underway on July 26. Pardiwala, the chief medical officer (CMO) of the nearly 120-strong Indian contingent for the Paris Games, added that his 13-member team will render the best possible medical assistance to the contingent in the areas of injury management, sports nutrition, mental conditioning, sports massage, recovery and sleep. "All the athletes that are going for the Olympics are fit right now. Some athletes will have minor niggles here and there. I am not going to be discussing any specific injuries to any athlete that they've had in the past, but all of them who are there are because they are going to be capable and they're gonna be fit enough to perform," he said. Pardiwala has treated some of the top athletes, including India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, who suffered serious injuries during a car crash, and Tokyo Games silver medalist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu. The Indian Olympic Association, Sports Ministry and the Sports Authority of India have brought together a team of top medical experts, headed by Pardiwala, to give the best rest and recovery facilities to the athletes as they bid to better the seven-medal haul at the Tokyo Olympics.



"This is the first time the Indian athletes will have a recovery room and a preparational rehabilitation room to make them game ready," said Pardiwala. In the past, athletes had to visit a common polyclinic for approximately 10,000 competitors to avail physiotherapy and recovery services, and getting slots was time consuming. But this time around, the 13-member medical team will take care of those aspects as well so that the athletes only focus on their events and "not waste time" thinking about rest and recovery. "It will be open 24x7. We've also got a sleep therapist on board because, over the years, one of the concerns has been inadequate sleep for rest and recovery. Time zones are different, the pressures and anxiety is there. So, to ensure athletes don't land up with inadequate sleep, we've got a

sleep therapist on board who will address all these concerns," he said. "We've already started sleep therapy sessions and we are also going to have some sleep pods for helping our athletes on the sleep aspect," he said. Several athletes have personal physios, mental trainers and nutritionists, and Pardiwala said for those who cannot take their support staff to Paris, his team had already coordinated with them and will help them in every possible way. "Ever since the sports science team was announced, the first thing we have done is start knowing our athletes in three different aspects -- sports medicine, sports nutrition and mental conditioning. We have visited national camps, competitions etc to know their needs better." With warm weather expected during the Games and the Paris Olympics not promoting air-conditioning in the

Athletes' Village, there is a genuine concern about rest and recovery of the athletes. Pardiwala said, "Yes, there is not going to be air-conditioning per se supplied by the organisers in the Village. Their main issue is they want it to be a green Olympics, and if we want it to be green Olympics, then we don't want air-conditioning to be there because that is not environmentally friendly. "Several contingents have said 'our athletes are used to temperature-controlled environments'. They (Paris organisers) have a sort of geothermal system where there will be a temperature within the Village of at least 5-7 degrees less than the ambient temperature. And the expected temperature in Paris is supposed to be between 18 and 26 degrees C. If ambient temperature is 5-6 degrees less, I think it's going to be quite OK," he reasoned.



Sable, Jena up against world class field in Paris League in tune-up to Olympics

PTI ■ PARIS

Top Indian 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable and javelin thrower Kishore Jena will hope to fine tune their Olympics preparations in the Paris League of the prestigious Diamond League one-day meeting series on Sunday. Reigning Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has opted out of the Paris DL apparently due to adductor niggle that has been troubling him for the past couple of months. Both Sable and Jena have not been in the best of forms and have not competed in too many events ahead of the Paris Games but they would be looking to get acclimatised to the conditions of the city which will host the Olympics. Athletics competitions in the Olympics begin on August 1. The 29-year-old Sable has competed in just two 3000m steeplechase events, one at the Portland Track Festival in the USA, where he has been training, and the other at the National Inter-State Championships in Panchkula, Haryana last week. He had clocked 8:21.85 at Portland and 8:31.75 in Panchkula, while he has a personal best of 8:11.20. After winning gold at the National Inter-State Championships, Sable had vowed to make amends for mistakes he committed in the last few years and deliver a memorable show at the Paris Olympics with a different approach. "I committed mistakes in the last two years. I had gone with good fitness in the two world championships (2022 and 2023) but could not do well at both. I want to make amends, hope that this Olympics will be my best," said the reigning

Asian Games gold medalist. On Sunday, he will be up against Kenyan Abraham Kibiwot, the 2023 World Championships bronze medalist and gold winner at the 2022 Commonwealth Games where Sable had won a silver. Another Kenyan, Simon Kiprop Koeh, the 2023 Diamond League champion, will also be a top-three contender on Sunday in the absence of reigning Olympic champion Soufiane El Bakkali of Morocco and Lamecha Girma of Ethiopia. In five Diamond League appearances so far in his career, Sable's best show has been a fifth-place finish. Jena has also had a forgettable season so far with efforts of 76.31m in Doha Diamond League and 75.49m in the Federation Cup before an 80.84m throw to win a bronze at the National Inter-State Championships. He has a personal best of 87.54m which he did while winning a silver in the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023. Jena, who will be competing in his second Diamond League on Sunday after Doha, had revealed that he was coping with a minor left ankle pain, which he felt after the Federation Cup (May 15-19) in Bhubaneswar. "The pain has reduced and it's almost all right now," he had said in Panchkula last week. He will be up against the likes of Tokyo Olympics silver medalist and 2023 Diamond League champion Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, former world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and reigning Commonwealth Games medalist and 2023 World Championships silver winner Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan.

Ronaldo heading home as France beats Portugal 5-3 in penalty shootout in Euro 2024 quarterfinals

AP ■ HAMBURG

France's heartache in penalty shootouts is over. So is Cristiano Ronaldo's last-ever European Championship. In a clash of the soccer superstars, it was Kylian Mbappé - and not Ronaldo, his idol - advancing to a semifinal match against Spain as France beat Portugal 5-3 in a shootout following a 0-0 draw on Friday. Portugal substitute Joao Felix hit a post with the only miss in the shootout and Theo Hernandez showed no sign of pressure by converting the clinching kick into the top corner. It was a record sixth and final European Championship for the 39-year-old Ronaldo, who scored Portugal's first penalty in the shootout and ended up consoling fellow veteran Pepe afterward as the 41-year-old defender cried on his captain's shoulder. "We need to go through this moment of our loss, which is very painful," Pepe said. Ronaldo's 20-year career in the Euros included the title in 2016 - when Portugal beat France in the final - and it remains to be seen if the five-time world player of the year will continue



playing for his country through to the 2026 World Cup, when he will be aged 41. "Everything is too raw," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez, when asked if that was Ronaldo's last game for his country. "We are suffering a defeat as a team - there are no individual decisions at this point."

The victory ended the recent heartbreak of Mbappé and France in shootouts, having lost in them at their last two major tournaments - in the last 16 at the Euros in 2021 and in the 2022 World Cup final. Before that, the French were also defeated on spot kicks by Italy in the 2006 World Cup final so it had been 26

years - since beating the Italians in the quarterfinals of the World Cup in 1998 - that Les Bleus had been victorious in a shootout. Mbappé didn't even take a penalty this time, having been substituted during halftime of extra time following a couple of knocks to his broken nose that was covered by a protective mask. France coach Didier Deschamps said his captain was tired, too. Les Bleus didn't need their star player, as Ousmane Dembele, Youssouf Fofana, Jules Kounde and Bradley Barcola all found the net in the shootout - held at the end housing Portugal's vocal fans - before Hernandez's coup de grace set off jubilant scenes for the French inside the stadium in Hamburg. "It wasn't easy," France goalkeeper Mike Maignan said. "We didn't always play that great, it was a complicated game. "We got to the penalty shootout and didn't waver. We can be proud of ourselves." France will play Spain in the semifinals after its extra-time win over Germany in Stuttgart earlier Friday, with Les Bleus staying on course for a third European Championship title after 1984 and 2000.

Merino's last-gasp goal sends Spain to Euro 2024 semis after dramatic extra-time win over Germany

AP ■ STUTTGART (GERMANY)

Spain and its fans celebrated as if they'd won the European Championship. After eliminating tournament host Germany in a thrilling quarterfinal, Luis de la Fuente's team has a great chance to lift the trophy in Berlin next week. Spain snatched a 2-1 win in extra time on Friday thanks to substitute Mikel Merino's header in the 119th minute. Merino celebrated by running around the corner flag, mimicking his father Miguel Merino's celebration after he scored in the same stadium for Osasuna in the UEFA Cup against Stuttgart in 1991. "I knew that there was very little time left and that it was one of the last attacks we would have," Merino said. "I didn't believe that it had gone in until a couple of seconds later. When you get 30 slaps on your back it sinks in real quick. "I am very happy for me and the entire team. It all comes down to one moment (the goal), but there is so much work behind it, all the training, the hope, the faith, and the belief in ourselves." Extra time came only after Florian Wirtz's equalizer in the last minute of regulation.



Dani Olmo, who set up Merino's winner, netted the opener early in the second half. All three goals came from substitutes. Spain defender Dani Carvajal was sent off late in extra time for a second yellow card and will be suspended from Tuesday's semifinal against France. Fellow defender Robin le Normand will also miss that match after picking up another booking. France knocked out Portugal and Cristiano Ronaldo in a penalty shootout 5-3. Spain eliminated the host of a major tournament for the first time in 10 attempts. Germany players were morose

and coach Julian Nagelsmann looked on with his hands on hips and his face etched with disappointment. "We were so close, that's what makes it so bitter," Germany midfielder Toni Kroos said after the final match of his excellent career. The 2014 World Cup winner had said he was retiring when Germany's campaign ended. "We all had a big goal that we wanted to achieve together," Kroos added. "And this dream we all had has been simply shattered now." Teammates who might also have played their last international included captain Ilkay Gundogan, Thomas

Muller and Manuel Neuer. Despite the disappointment and the "hurt," Nagelsmann managed to crack a joke during his news conference: "It's hurting also that we have to wait two years to become world champion." The quarterfinal pitted the Euros' only three-time champions, the teams who have played the best soccer at Euro 2024, and it didn't disappoint. There was a blistering pace from the start with crunching tackles and end-to-end action. Kroos was lucky not to be booked for a mistimed challenge that upended Spain midfielder Pedri. Another hefty challenge moments later forced Pedri to leave injured and in tears. He was replaced by Olmo in the eighth minute, the fastest replacement in Euros history. "Pedri is in pain. It deserved a red card," De la Fuente said. He added it was too early to know if the young Barcelona midfielder would recover by Tuesday. From the resulting free kick, Lamine Yamal almost became the youngest ever goal-scorer at the tournament but the 16-year-old's effort flashed past the right post.



Bhambri-Olivetti pair ousted from Wimbledon

PTI ■ LONDON

India's Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti made a second-round exit from the Wimbledon Championships after losing to Germany's Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz in three sets here. The Indo-French pair squandered a one-game lead to go down 6-4 4-6 3-6 to the eighth seed Germans in two hours, five minutes on Friday. Bhambri and Olivetti had downed the Kazakh duo of Alexander Bublik and

Alexander Shevchenko in the opening round. On Saturday, veteran Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Mathew Ebden will be in action. The second seeds, who are the reigning Australian Open champions, will face Germany's Hendrik Jebens and Constantin Frantzen in the second round. Bopanna is the only Indian left in the tournament as Olympic-bound Sumit Nagal and N Sriram bowed out of the tournament earlier this week.

Badminton body holds event for coaches



PNS ■ GURUGRAM

The 11-day residential Coaches Development Programme, organised by Badminton Association of India (BAI) in collaboration with REC Limited and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) simultaneously at the National Centre of Excellence (NCE), Guwahati and Raipur, concluded today with a total of 53 participants from 22 States of India being trained in grassroots coaching methodologies.

India Women look to bounce back in do-or-die 2nd T20I against South Africa

PTI CHENNAI
A 12-run defeat in the first game putting them on the backfoot, India Women would look to dish out an improved batting and fielding performance in the second T20 International and bounce back in the three-match series against South Africa here on Sunday.

Both the camps have concerns to deal with following Friday's match. India's Richa Ghosh and South Africa's Brits had gone off the field with concussion and cramps respectively. As per the BCCI's statement, Richa had "neck pain and dizziness" following a failed catch attempt, with the ball hitting her face. Her face too seemingly hit the ground. "She has been sent for further scans & the BCCI Medical Team is monitoring her progress," read the BCCI's statement.



caught everyone off-guard, with three dropped catches and a few mis-fields. The fielding flop show will definitely be one aspect that will be playing at the back of the home players' minds on Sunday, especially given that head coach Amol Muzumdar is extremely strict about it.

As for batting, the Indian top order needs to add a bit more flair, barring Smriti Mandhana, who has been in fine touch lately. However, the Indian middle order has been efficient, thanks to captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues, who made 35 and 53 not out respectively on Friday.

The South Africans clicked with the bat, especially the top order. The likes of Brits and Kapp, along with skipper Laura Wolvaardt and Chloe Tryon, are expected to come in handy yet again on Sunday. Also, it was an all-round bowling performance, with

four different wicket-takers. However, Eliz-Mari Marx might be under the scanner, having given away 36 runs in her three overs in the first match. The Chepauk pitch on Friday was above par and is expected to be more or less the same on Sunday. Although there was low bounce and mild dew on Friday, playing the sweep shots effectively will be a good

choice, given how the Proteas executed them perfectly. THE TEAMS (FROM): India Women: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Dayalan Hemalatha, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Sajeewan Sajana, Deepti Sharma, Asha Sobhana, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka

Singh, Shabnam Shakil, Pooja Vastrakar and Radha Yadav. South Africa Women: Laura Wolvaardt (c), Tazmin Brits, Mieke de Ridder (wk), Sinalo Jafta (wk), Anneke Bosch, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Marizanne Kapp, Sune Luus, Chloe Tryon, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Eliz-Mari Marx, Nonkululeko Mlaba and Tumi Sekhukhune.

Made some errors as a bowling unit: Radha Yadav on 1st T20I loss

PTI CHENNAI
India spinner Radha Yadav admitted that the bowling unit made some errors during

their 12-run loss to South Africa in the opening women's T20I here, adding that the pacers should have relied more on yorkers.

Indian bowlers were at the receiving end of some formidable batting by Tazmin Brits (81) and Marizanne Kapp (57), who helped South Africa set an imposing 190-run target for the hosts. "It was important to know which length and pace to bowl at on this wicket. We did make some errors as a bowling unit; maybe gave away 10-15 extra runs," said Radha during the post-match media interaction on Friday. The South Africans used the sweep shot effectively with the

pitch offering low bounce. "We needed to hit them (at yorker length) since the ball was skidding," she added. Asked about the animated discussion that happened on the field when the Proteas were batting, Radha said that it was about setting up an attacking field. "We were discussing about making them play where the fielders were stationed and also look to attack and take wickets. But, they did it well. "We need to back our plans and quickly judge how the

wicket is playing out. It will make things a lot easier for us." India will play the second T20I here on Sunday and they will have to improve their catching skills to level the three-match series. India dropped three catches, which cost them dear on Friday but Radha said it was just a bad day in office. "I think it was just a bad day. All are brilliant fielders in our group, and everyone has been training in hard work and putting in. We'll look to bounce back," she said.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/10/2024-25 Dated: 04-07-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works. SN.1. Tender No. 60/24/5005/OT/74/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 18-07-2024

AXIS BANK LTD. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS
THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED PLACE...

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002
The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)...

Table with columns: Sr No., Loan Account No., Type of Loan, Name of borrowers and co-borrowers, Section 13 (2) Notice Date, Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice. Contains details for various borrowers and their loan information.



CHESA VEGLIA ST MORITZ



THE NEWEST AND BIGGEST OUTDOOR POOL AT ST MORITZ



BADRUTTS PALACE

ST. MORITZ SUMMER'S RICH ALPINE PALETTE

Apart from being famous for its enchanting winter charm, St. Moritz also changes its appearance during the summer. It unveils a collection of lush green scenery which offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy nature, engage in thrilling sports, and fully embrace the peaceful Alpine way of life

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

Setting off on an enchanting Swiss journey armed with an eight-day Swiss Travel Pass and a carefully crafted plan, my travels unfolded like a dream aboard a selection of prestigious panoramic trains - the Bernina Express, Glacier Express,

and GoldenPass. The quintessential Swiss adventure began with my first lengthy train ride from Zürich to Chur. Emerging from a dark tunnel, the train revealed a stunning mountain view against the vast sky, almost like a scene from a perfectly set movie. This

was the Switzerland I had always imagined - reminiscent of the landscapes found in Heidi's stories and the ads for Ricola. The sight of quaint chapels perched daringly on rocky cliffs amid lush meadows and glimmering peaks brought me immense joy. Changing trains at Chur, I arrived in the elegant town of St. Moritz. Despite its small year-round population of under 6,000 residents, this former host of the Olympics and luxurious mountain escape has captured the hearts of the wealthy and famous. During the summer, St. Moritz transforms into a place that feels more like the Mediterranean than northern Europe, with most days filled with abundant sunshine.

A SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA With just a single word, Badrutts Palace exudes allure. It's renowned among a select few for its post-ski parties in the King's Social House, chance meetings with well-heeled billionaires in Moncler gear, and hosting one of the most sought-after New Year's Eve celebrations globally. Additionally, it conjures images of lavish bedrooms with views of the frozen lake, making it a top choice for winter getaways among the elite. Another facet of Badrutts, lesser-known but equally captivating, comes alive in St. Moritz during the summer. This version offers a fresh experience



waiting to be explored. During our stay, our suite featured a balcony opening to a picturesque terrace. On our first night, we enjoyed a horse-drawn carriage ride, soaking in the stunning scenery of the lake, the majestic mountains, and the vast Engadin valley. In the summer, the mountains transform from a monochrome landscape of snow and rock to a vibrant tapestry of colours and textures. From lush green forests hugging the calm blue lake to vivid emerald meadows and the rugged peaks dusted with remnants of winter snow, the view

from our balcony was awe-inspiring. Unlike many hotels that claim to be palaces, Badrutts lives up to its regal status. The grand state rooms exude a palace-like atmosphere, inviting guests to wander in elegant attire. While casual wear is allowed, formal dress seems more appropriate. In Le Restaurant and Le Relais, the elegant dining options call for formal attire to match the graceful setting. The ambiance is truly exceptional and sets Badrutts apart as a regal retreat where luxury meets sophistication effortlessly.

SUMPTUOUS FEASTS, MOUNTAIN MAJESTY

As I set foot on Paradiso Mountain Club & Restaurant for my initial summer escapade under the stewardship of Badrutts Palace Hotel, I awaited eagerly the promise of sun-soaked days amidst stunning vistas. Paradiso, embodying a steadfast commitment to local traditions and unwavering standards of excellence and openness, presents a menu that encapsulates the essence of St. Moritz's Mountain lifestyle - a tribute to delectable fare, pure mountain breezes, and abundant sunshine. The dining experience at Badrutts transcended mere expectations. Our culinary voyage led us to the enchanting Chesa Veglia, a quaint heritage abode just

a skip across the street, metamorphosed into what can only be described as the epitome of high-class pizzerias. Here, within this tucked-away gem, Badrutts Palace seemed to unfurl a more carefree, laid-back persona, akin to a majestic retreat momentarily letting loose, bedecked in an Italian leather bracelet, relishing in copious servings of Ornellaia. The pizzas served were sheer perfection - a symphony of flavours that would satisfy even the most discerning pizza aficionado. The ambiance at Chesa Veglia exuded an air of joviality, with the staff mirroring the joy and enthusiasm of the guests, creating an atmosphere where every bite felt infused with a sense of shared merriment and contentment.

RECHARGE IN ENGADIN

Nestled in the heart of Palace Wellness, we had the pleasure of enjoying a refreshing swim in the newest and largest outdoor pool in St. Moritz at a luxurious hotel in Engadin. The pool overlooks breath-taking views of the mountains and the lake, creating a picturesque backdrop for a delightful lunch at La Diale. The restaurant's name, which means 'mountain fairy' in Romansh, reflects its deep connection to the surrounding environment and offers a light and wholesome

menu. Even on the one cloudy day we experienced during our week-long stay, we found solace in the expansive indoor pool area, complete with its own artificial rock mountain perfect for kids to dive off. The deep-tissue massages at the spa were as rejuvenating as expected, adding to the overall relaxation experience in a mountain spa setting. St. Moritz's charm in the summer goes beyond extravagant lunches, indulgent spa treatments at Palace Coiffeur, savouring ice creams at Gelateria, and admiring the panoramic views of the lake. Engaging in activities like kitesurfing on Lake Silvaplana, sailing on Lake St. Moritz, and exploring the scenic nature trails by bike or on foot offers guests of Badrutts Palace a diverse range of outdoor adventures at their fingertips. Moreover, the distinction of Badrutts Palace as one of the World's 50 Best Hotels further solidifies its reputation as a top-tier destination for discerning travellers.

Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category.

Rejoice in the Monsoon Magic This Season

Embark on a journey to charming monsoon retreats for a blissful vacation, writes SHARMILA CHAND

With monsoons round the corner, it is time to plan a vacation to soak in the beauty of nature. Immerse in the rich tapestry of exotic destinations across the country. From the mist-laden cliffs of the Western Ghats to the tranquil backwaters of Kerala, and lush green landscape of Goa, enjoy an alluring escape into nature's lap. Let the droplets of rain be musical notes and characteristic scent of the wet earth allure all your senses. Rain Soaked Offerings At Radisson Blu Resort and Spa, Alibaug

After braving a hot summer, you deserve to cool off and enjoy the rainy season, and a luxury resort lets you do that while providing every comfort your heart could desire.

Whether you are traveling on holiday or business, the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Alibaug invites guests to experience unparalleled luxury and the tranquility of natural beauty.

Guests can enjoy a leisurely walk around the landscaped gardens, or simply sit beside the stillness of the Lotus pond. For adventure seekers, the resort offers activities such as guided cycling tours, nature trails, and bird watching. By being close to historical sites such as the Kolaba Fort and Alibaug Beach, there are also opportunities for exploration and adventure to ensure a rich and fulfilling stay for all. Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Alibaug is designed around wellness and relaxation, with moments of mindfulness offered in the form of daily yoga and meditation sessions - the resort provides a sanctuary for rejuvenation of the body and mind.

RAINDROPS AT THE MACHAN - A TREEHOUSE RESORT, LONAVALA

The Machan, a unique eco-resort located near Mumbai and Pune, offers a selection of tree-houses that ascend 30-45 feet above ground level, allowing visitors to stay in 'treetop' accommodations. Nestled in Jambulne, a 'biodiversity hotspot' as one of the 25 globally, The Machan is a great destination for nature lovers. On the property, visitors can participate in a number of



activities such as trekking, bird watching, and exploring historic sites. The resort also offers comfortably furnished chalets and "tree houses." Feeling a bit adventurous? Start your day with a rush of adrenaline by waking up in the 'Tree House' perched 30 to 45 feet above the forest floor in Jambulne. The experience of the monsoon season at the Machan will usher in a sense of tranquility as you enjoy your endless supply of hot beverages and snacks. Along with the unique and luxurious tree house accommodations, The Machan has much to offer to keep one busy during their stay. With guided nature walks, bird watching and historical forts and caves nearby, there's always something to do. A stay at the Machan during the monsoon season rewards you with abundant waterfalls, cool breezes and lush greenery for a truly ethereal experience as you enjoy your hot drinks and comforting snacks. Plus, the resort recycles 80% of its grey water and is almost entirely powered by renewable solar and wind energy. So when you book your monsoon getaway here, you aren't just rewarding your soul - you're doing your bit for sustainability.



ENCHANTING VIEWS OF NERUL RIVER AT HILTON GOA RESORT

Nestled in the picturesque hills of Saipem, Hilton Goa Resort is a synonym for luxury and tranquility. It provides enchanting views of lush greens and Nerul River. The resort will offer you an incredible opportunity to escape from the hustle and bustle. Relax by one of the excellent four outdoor pools or break a sweat in the well-outfitted fitness center. The restaurant with a patio on the resort offers a unique dining experience with mesmerizing coastal views of Goa, while the Doce cafe and Coco lounge bar provide the taste buds with an extensive range of patisserie and Mediterranean flavors.

When it comes to families, the kids club ensures your kids have a good time as you relax. The resort's location is convenient for exploring attractions such as Aguada Fort and Panjim, with Vagator Beach only being a 30-minute drive away for even more sea, sun and sand. If you are looking for a romantic getaway, family vacation, or corporate-relaxation, the resort's event facilities and group travel services offer all you will need. In Hilton Goa you can sip your morning coffee and watch the raindrops fall on the lush greenery outside as the

clouds wash away the heat of the summer. Take a dip in one of the four outdoor pools, hit the gym at the fitness centre, or simply walk about outside and enjoy the pitter-patter of the raindrops.

WATCH RAINDROPS ON PADDY FIELDS AT EVOLVE BACK, COORG

One can only imagine what it feels like to be woken up by the smell of coffee and the cold mountain breeze. That's exactly what a monsoon trip to the 300-acre Evolve Back resort in Coorg will buy you. The private pool villas are traditionally furnished as they were in ancient times, making them perfect for outdoor experiences whether you are alone or with family members. For quiet moments, the Reading Lounge is an ideal spot. Here, you can enjoy a cup of freshly brewed coffee while watching the rain fall on the lush paddy fields, creating a perfect ambiance for relaxation and reflection. Visit to Evolve Back is incomplete without taking part in its rich coffee culture. Right inside this place is a Coffee Museum where people have opportunities to journey through history while learning about processes involved in growing coffee plants and beans. Just by stepping into the plantation field and walking across lush coffee farms one can find better appreciation for their favorite morning drink. The resort also offers a range of cultural and wildlife experiences that highlight the region's biodiversity and heritage. Guided nature walks, bird watching tours, and interactions with local artisans provide a comprehensive understanding of Coorg's rich ecosystem and traditions. Whether you're seeking

adventure, relaxation or want to curl up with coffee in the Reading Lounge while watching the rain fall on the lush paddy fields Evolve Back, Coorg is your destination.

MISTY LANDSCAPES AT RIVERMIST RESORT CHIKMAGALUR

In the lap of the Western Ghats, Chikmagalur is known for its lush coffee plantations and misty landscapes. In the monsoons, it transforms into a vibrant tapestry of green, punctuated by cascading waterfalls and blooming flora, making it a sanctuary for rare bird species, elusive animals, and unique insects. Hidden amidst this mountainscape, is a boutique getaway called RiverMist Resorts. Perfectly situated with the Charmady Ghats in the backdrop, it provides guests with an authentic experience of this region. Traditional Malnad architecture, and local cuisine adds to its charm. Unique nature centric activities and luxury accommodations that offer mesmerising views of the mountains from wooden cottages on stilts to the Luxury Pavilion that features glamping tents with outdoor jacuzzis and showers, is an experience to behold. RiverMist Resorts is more than a place to stay; it's a story in itself. Upon arrival, guests cross a river in a 4x4 vehicle, setting the tone for the



adventures ahead. The resort boasts an infinity pool that overlooks the surrounding hills, providing a peaceful spot to relax while enjoying the vistas. Nature walks led by an in-house naturalists offers a fun and insightful journey through the diverse flora and fauna. They guide guests along winding trails through the property, revealing smaller natural wonders that you may have otherwise missed. The resort's private waterfall is in full gush during the monsoons, offering a peaceful escape to sit and enjoy the soothing sounds of flowing water.

Another highlight is the Nature Connect. Every evening, as it gets dark, guests are encouraged to gather by the pool area and soak in the sounds of nature. All the lights of the resort are switched off for ten minutes and amidst the darkness, your sense of hearing begins to heighten as the sounds of birds and animals slowly waking up become louder, your eyes adjust to the darkness and you see fireflies and more stars. You begin to feel one with nature in the true sense. As night falls, the bonfire is then lit and you are welcome to join the naturalist on a night trail. Further, RiverMist organises monsoon treks to Ballarayana Durga, Kudremukh and Nethravathi peaks for the trekking enthusiasts. If not, you can opt to go offroading around the estate or even drive up to explore the Rani Jhari viewpoint which is close by.

So if you are someone who enjoys the beautiful synergy of monsoons, mountains and meaningful experiences, RiverMist Resort is an ideal destination.

MONSOON BLISS AT COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT GOA COLVA

Courtyard by Marriott Goa Colva offers a unique and enchanting monsoon getaway. Its comfortable accommodations and amenities, combined with the lush beauty of Goa's landscape, provide an idyllic setting for relaxation and rejuvenation. Whether savouring local cuisine, exploring the lush surroundings, or simply enjoying a serene stay, guests are guaranteed an unforgettable experience that captures the essence of Goa's monsoon magic. The hotel's recent opening in the midst of the rainy season perfectly showcases a different, greener side of Goa, making it a must-visit destination for those seeking a blend of serenity and revelry. Located in the serene village of Colva in South Goa, the hotel offers an immersive experience of Goa's lush, rain-kissed scenery, surrounded by verdant paddy fields and swaying coconut farms. The monsoon season breathes new life into the region, and the resort provides the perfect setting to witness this transformation. As the rain begins to fall, the surroundings of the hotel come alive with a symphony of nature's sounds and sights. The paddy fields turn a vibrant green, creating a stunning contrast against the moody grey skies. The coconut palms, tall and graceful, sway gently in the breeze, adding to the picturesque scenery. The hotel is designed to blend seamlessly with this lush environment, offering guests a comfortable and welcoming retreat amidst nature's bounty. Nestled away from the bustling tourist hubs, the hotel

provides a peaceful haven where guests can truly relax and unwind. The monsoon amplifies this sense of tranquility, as the rains cool the air and the landscape transforms into a bright green paradise. Guests can take leisurely walks or cycle through the surrounding locale, breathing in the fresh, rain-scented air, or simply relax on their private balconies, soaking in the serene views. Courtyard by Marriott Goa Colva is more than just a hotel; it is a tribute to the destination itself. It offers the serenity of South Goa married to the vibrancy of North Goa, presenting guests with a different side of the region. This blend creates a unique experience that combines relaxation with excitement, making it an ideal destination for all kinds of travelers. Dining at Courtyard by Marriott Goa Colva is an experience in itself, especially during the monsoons. Colva Kitchen, the hotel's all-day dining restaurant, offers a menu that celebrates the flavours of the region, with an emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Guests can savor a variety of local delicacies, from traditional breakfast specials to flavourful Goan curries, ending with warm desserts. With its large glass windows, this dining area provides a perfect vantage point to watch the monsoon showers, with the sound of raindrops creating a soothing backdrop to the culinary delights.

The hotel also offers a range of activities designed to make the most of the monsoon season. Guests can indulge in spa treatments that utilize natural ingredients, providing a holistic and rejuvenating experience. The hotel's pool offers a unique opportunity to swim in the rain, adding a touch of magic to the monsoon experience. For those looking to explore, the hotel organizes guided tours of the surrounding village routes and paddy fields, providing an intimate glimpse into the local way of life. Families can enjoy quality time at the hotel's Kids Club, which offers engaging activities for children.

Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist who writes on Travel, Food and Lifestyle

"See how the Ganga flows by and what a nice building! I like this place. This is the ideal kind of place for a Math"
— Swami Vivekananda



BKP SINHA



DR ARVIND K JHA

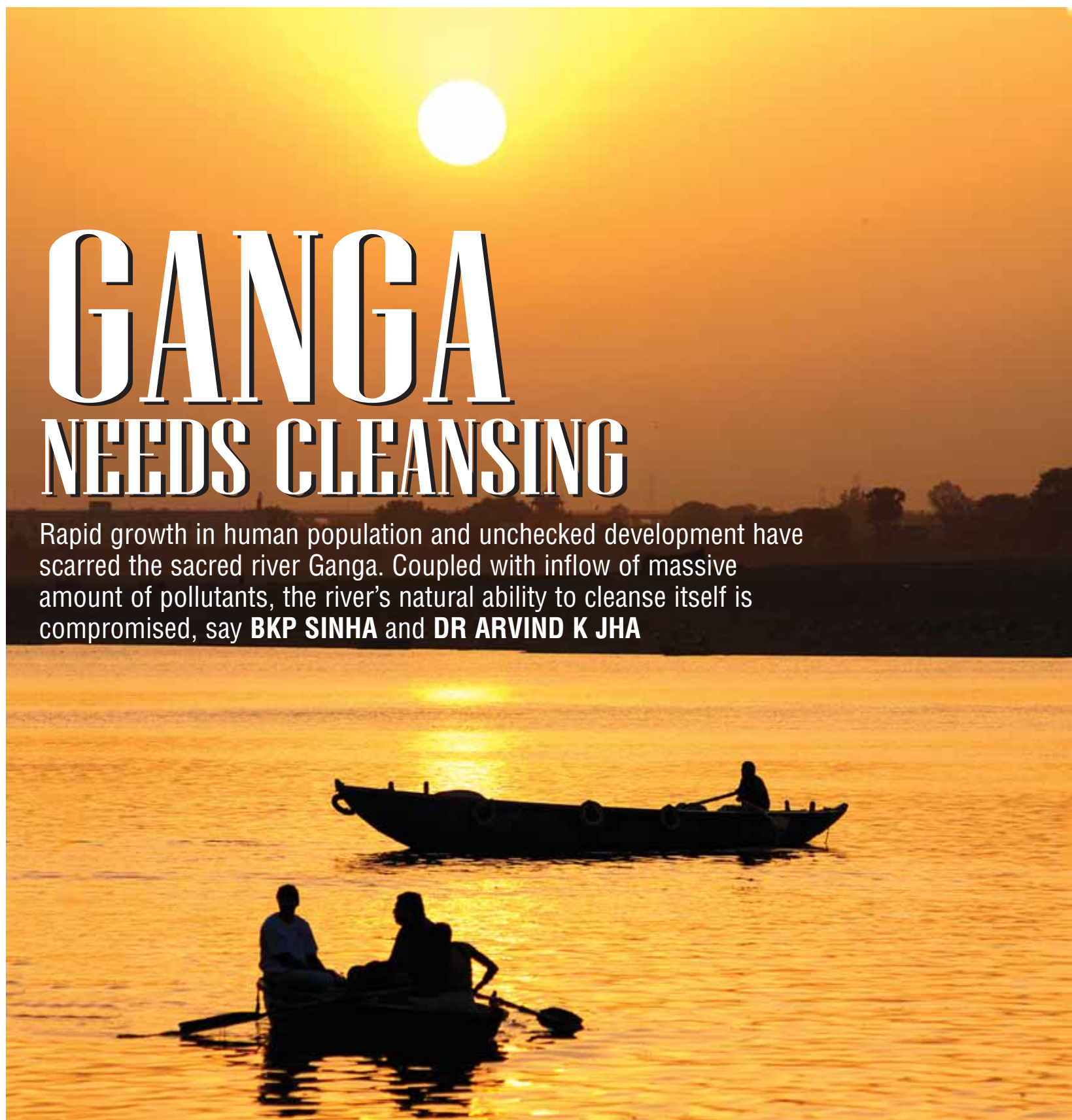
The Ganga River, also known as the Ganges, is the longest river in India with the most populated basin, the home to 600 million people. Originating from the Gangotri glacier in Uttarakhand, it embarks on a journey of 2,525 kilometers, meandering through five states - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal before it merges with the Bay of Bengal. It nourishes a variety of life forms, provides livelihoods to people, and contributes to country's economy, trade, and commerce. The Ganga basin, spanning an area of 10.16 lakh square kilometers, contributes around 40% of the country's GDP. As per Hindu mythology, the river is believed to have descended from heaven when King Bhagiratha performed intense austerities for the river to descend to Earth. Considering river's immense force, Lord Shiva received the celestial river in his matted locks releasing it in a controlled flow. The Ganga is revered as a goddess; its journey symbolizes purity, life, and redemption; and its water is believed to wash away sins and facilitate *Moksha*, the liberation from the cycle of life and death. The Ganga itself, however, is under severe threat today.

The rapid growth in human population and unchecked development have degraded its catchments. With obstruction and diversion of its flow coupled with inflow of massive amount of pollutants from industrial, human, and agricultural sources, its natural ability to cleanse itself is compromised. The polluted water in the changed flow regime poses serious threat to humans and river's own biodiversity alike. While the future of 140 fish species and 90 amphibian species is threatened, Gharial and endangered Ganges River dolphin respectively are classified by IUCN as critically endangered and endangered. Severity of the issue that impacts the life, health and livelihoods of people and even undermines the cultural and spiritual significance of the Ganga deserves to be realized in its entirety and tackled with promptitude. Efforts have been made to clean and preserve the Ganga. During the late 1980s the Ganga Action Plan was implemented. This initiative led primarily to

the construction of wastewater treatment facilities at selected places in addition to the closure of a number of polluting industrial plants along the river. In 2008, the Ganga was declared as the national river of India. Subsequently, in 2014, the Government of India initiated the Namami Gange project that aimed to rejuvenate and protect the Ganga River by addressing pollution sources and promoting sustainable practices for improving its biological richness. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), popularly known as the Namami Gange Mission, was billed as a "scientific programme" by the Indian government that aimed to clean the river using advanced technologies at a project cost of INR 20,000 crores with the dual objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of the Ganga River.

GANGA NEEDS CLEANSING

Rapid growth in human population and unchecked development have scarred the sacred river Ganga. Coupled with inflow of massive amount of pollutants, the river's natural ability to cleanse itself is compromised, say **BKP SINHA** and **DR ARVIND K JHA**



Photos: Pankaj Kumar/The Pioneer

EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CLEAN AND PRESERVE THE GANGA. DURING THE LATE 1980S THE GANGA ACTION PLAN WAS IMPLEMENTED. THIS INITIATIVE LED PRIMARILY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES AT SELECTED PLACES IN ADDITION TO THE CLOSURE OF A NUMBER OF POLLUTING INDUSTRIAL PLANTS ALONG THE RIVER. IN 2008, THE GANGA WAS DECLARED AS THE NATIONAL RIVER OF INDIA

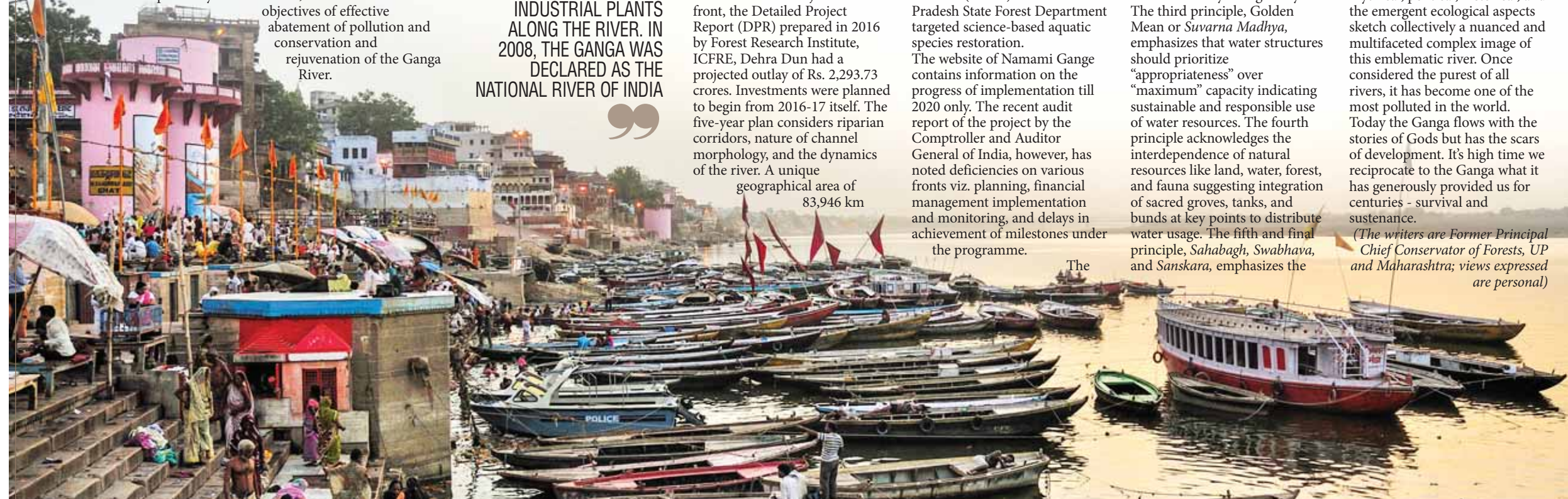
The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (MWRRDG) issued a notification on 7th October 2016, defining the River Ganga to include the entire length of six head-streams in the State of Uttarakhand, namely, Rivers Alakananda, Dhauri Ganga, Nandakini, Pinder, Mandakini and Bhagirathi, as well as the main stem of the river up to Ganga Sagar, including all its tributaries up to Ganga Sagar. The establishment of sewerage treatment plants and sewerage networks with a primary focus on bioremediation figured predominantly in the Namami Gange project and accounted for about 80 percent of the overall project outlay. On the conservation and rejuvenation front, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared in 2016 by Forest Research Institute, ICFRE, Dehra Dun had a projected outlay of Rs. 2,293.73 crores. Investments were planned to begin from 2016-17 itself. The five-year plan considers riparian corridors, nature of channel morphology, and the dynamics of the river. A unique geographical area of 83,946 km

delineated as 'Ganga riverscape' along the Ganga has been identified for planning, assessment, and implementation of measures that include activities like reforestation or afforestation, managing vegetation to prevent soil erosion, and creating buffer zones to protect the river from pollutants. Further, the Wildlife Institute of India prepared the 'Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation' plan with focus on development of local level 'Ganga Prahari' volunteers for playing a crucial role in conserving the ecological integrity of the Ganga and reducing the direct dependency of locals on the river. The projects of the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) and the Uttar Pradesh State Forest Department targeted science-based aquatic species restoration. The website of Namami Gange contains information on the progress of implementation till 2020 only. The recent audit report of the project by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, however, has noted deficiencies on various fronts viz. planning, financial management implementation and monitoring, and delays in achievement of milestones under the programme.

The current scenario warrants improvement not only on the above aspects but also introduction of innovative and effective approach. In this context, one can draw inspiration from an ancient text by Sage Kashyapa on agriculture. He outlined five principles for water resources development. The first principle, *Udhgamsthana*, suggests that conservation should commence at the river's source. This includes construction of temples for protection, management of upper catchments, and redirecting streams and rivulets to enrich river's source. The second principle, *Nyunatam Gati-avarodh*, advocates for minimal disruption to the natural flows of water and air to maintain the hydrological cycle. The third principle, *Golden Mean or Suvarna Madhya*, emphasizes that water structures should prioritize "appropriateness" over "maximum" capacity indicating sustainable and responsible use of water resources. The fourth principle acknowledges the interdependence of natural resources like land, water, forest, and fauna suggesting integration of sacred groves, tanks, and bunds at key points to distribute water usage. The fifth and final principle, *Sahabagh, Swabhava, and Sanskara*, emphasizes the

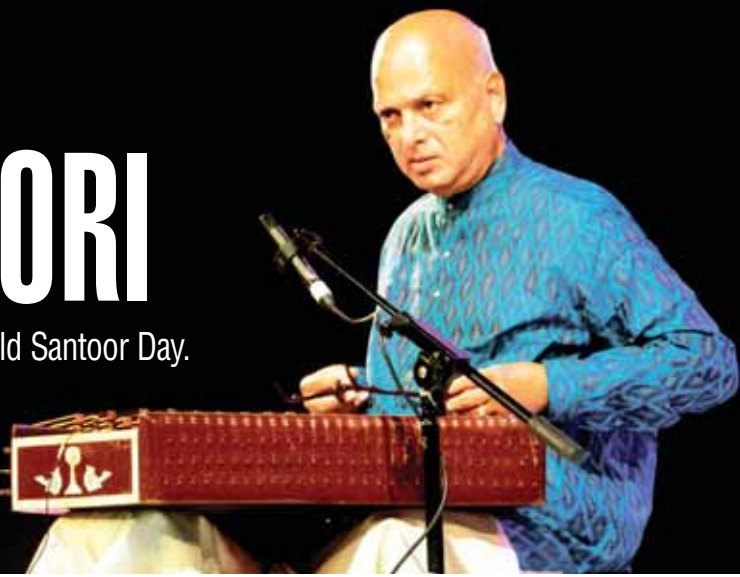
need for community participation that takes care of the needs of all stakeholders. The concept of Rejuvenation defined as 'restoring a living entity to a previously agreed state of health and wellness' is most relevant in the context of the Ganga. Given the definition of Ganga by the MWRRDG, it's high time that the rejuvenation approach for Ganga targets the entire riverscape in an integrated manner while drawing and utilizing funds from all concerned departments. All the tributaries require treatment to ensure they remain clean and flowing and contribute to the flow of the Ganga. In order to foster larger community engagement in the rejuvenation mission, catchment areas of tributaries can be named after revered personalities or temples at their origin, followed by the suffix 'Namami Gange Van'. For instance, the catchment of Ramganga, originating from the Doodhatoli ranges of Pauri in Uttarakhand, could be named 'Veer Chandra Singh Gadhwal: Namami Gange Van'. Similarly, as the Ghagra river converges with the Ganga after the confluence of Mahakali (Sharda) at Tanakpur housing the Purnagiri temple, the catchment could be named 'Purnagiri: Namami Gange Van'. Likewise, the catchments of Gomati in Pilibhit could be named Vashishtha, that of Sai river meeting Gomti in Parsa village (Hardoi) as Adi-Ganga, that of Saryu and lower Ghagra as Ram, and those of Gandak, Kosi, and Budhi Gandak as Valmiki, Kausika, and Champakaranya respectively. The origin of Ganga's tributary, the Sone River at Amarkantak could bear the name Sone, the catchment of Punpun river originating in Jharkhand as Punpun, and the Namami Gange Van of Damodar, Mayurakshi, Ajay, Bansloi, and Ghumani could respectively be prefixed with the names Sarhul, Trikut, Ajay, Venu, and Rajmahal. Restoration of suitable forest cover, construction of water conservation structures, keeping river beds encroachment-free, prevention of water diversion, and curbing exploitative livelihood systems near the banks shall have to be prioritized in these areas as in the main stream of the Ganga. The overarching strategy for rejuvenation must combine pollution prevention through stricter regulations and rigorous implementation in order to transform Ganga's biological profile making it 'NIRMAL' and the restoration of status of its stream to 'AVIRAL'. In 2017, the Uttarakhand High Court declared the rivers Ganga and Yamuna as 'legal persons' with all corresponding rights of a living person. Considering it together with the concepts of spiritual ecology and earth stewardship, one should come up with innovative strategies in the Indian context. Standing on its banks, one is left with a profound sense of awe and a lingering question—what will the next chapter in the Ganga's story be? The narratives connected with religious, mythical, political, historical, and the emergent ecological aspects sketch collectively a nuanced and multifaceted complex image of this emblematic river. Once considered the purest of all rivers, it has become one of the most polluted in the world. Today the Ganga flows with the stories of Gods but with the scars of development. It's high time we reciprocate to the Ganga what it has generously provided us for centuries - survival and sustenance.

(The writers are Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views expressed are personal)



A RESOUNDING TRIBUTE TO PANDIT BHAJAN SOPORI

A symphony of strings fills the air as the world unites to celebrate the first World Santoor Day. This poignant tribute honors the legendary **PANDIT BHAJAN SOPORI**, the "Saint of Santoor," while ushering in a new tradition that celebrates the instrument's captivating melody and rich cultural legacy says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



In an extraordinary celebration of music and heritage, the inaugural World Santoor Day brought the global music community together in a magnificent tribute to the legendary Santoor maestro, Pandit Bhajan Sopori. Hosted by the Sopori Academy of Music and Performing Arts (SaMaPa) last week, this event marked not only the birth anniversary of Pandit Bhajan Sopori but also established a new tradition in the world of classical music. The choice of 22 June for World Santoor Day is profoundly fitting, honouring the 76th birth anniversary of Pandit Bhajan Sopori, celebrated as the 'Saint of Santoor' and the 'King of Strings'. His unparalleled contributions to the Santoor and Indian classical music have left an indelible mark, and this day served as a perfect homage to his legacy. The evening at Triveni Kala Sangam was nothing short of spectacular. The event featured an impressive lineup of performances by distinguished Santoor players like Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori and Padmashri Pandit Satish Vyas. The programme included a rich tapestry of Indian classical music, Kashmiri Sufiana and Iranian classical music have left an indelible mark, and this day served as a perfect homage to his legacy. The evening at Triveni Kala Sangam was nothing short of spectacular. The event featured an impressive lineup of performances by distinguished Santoor players like Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori and Padmashri Pandit Satish Vyas. The programme included a rich tapestry of Indian classical music, Kashmiri Sufiana and Iranian classical music have left an indelible mark, and this day served as a perfect homage to his legacy. The evening at Triveni Kala Sangam was nothing short of spectacular. The event featured an impressive lineup of performances by distinguished Santoor players like Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori and Padmashri Pandit Satish Vyas. The programme included a rich tapestry of Indian classical music, Kashmiri Sufiana and Iranian classical music have left an indelible mark, and this day served as a perfect homage to his legacy.

international dimension with their renditions, all presented via online projector. The live performances were a testament to the enduring legacy of Pandit Bhajan Sopori. Divyansh Srivastava, a disciple of Pandit Bhajan Sopori and Pandit Abhay Sopori, opened the live

segment with a mesmerising rendition of Raga Kaushik Dhvani, followed by a series of intricate compositions in the Sopori Baaj style. Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori himself took the stage, presenting Raag Jog with a blend of Tantra and Gayaki, accompanied by Ustad Akram

Khan on Tabla. The evening culminated with Padmashri Satish Vyas, accompanied by Pandit Ram Kumar Mishra on Tabla, who performed Raag

Rageshwari with remarkable finesse, leaving the audience spellbound. Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori eloquently captured the spirit of the day, stating, "There couldn't be a better event than 'World Santoor Day' to pay tribute to a legend like Pandit Bhajan Sopori. This day will promote greater appreciation and understanding of the Santoor and its cultural philosophy. Papa's contribution to the Santoor is immense, and this day will honour his legacy. This day shall not only honour the Indian Santoor but also similar instruments worldwide, such as the Santur in Iran,

Santouri in Greece, Yangqin in America and Cimbalom or Hackbrett in Europe." Prof. Aparna Sopori, Chairperson of SaMaPa, emphasised the historical and cultural significance of the Santoor, noting, "World Santoor Day will spotlight the rich heritage, historical significance and legacy of the Santoor, or Shatatantri Veena, on a global stage, emphasising its deep roots in Kashmir Shaivism culture." The event also saw tributes and wishes from renowned personalities through video messages, including AR Rahman, Kailash Kher, Anup Jalota, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Vidushi Sumitra Guha, Ustad Akram Khan, Ustad Rafiuddin Sabri, Siddharth Kak, Dr Agni Shekhar, and Utpal Kaul. The presence of many eminent musicians, such as Pt. Rajinder Prasanna, Pt. Chetan Joshi, Pt. Bholanath Mishra, Ustad Asghar Hussain, Ustad Saeed Zafar Khan, Pt. Ajay P Jha, and Pt. Ajay Prasanna, added to the

occasion's grandeur. Sohrab Sopori expressed his gratitude and vision for the future, saying, "This first edition is being celebrated in cities across India and around the world. We are fortunate to have so many voices come together to mark 22 June as World Santoor Day. From next year, it will be organised in a grander way with more cities and musicians joining hands." Reflecting on Pandit Bhajan Sopori's enduring legacy, Pt. Vijay Shankar Mishra remarked, "Pandit Bhajan Sopori's legacy is great. He was a visionary, keeping things simple yet broad enough to touch the souls of music lovers through his music. His contribution is immense, and Abhay Rustum Sopori is carrying it forward to the next generation. He will always be among us." Padmashri Pandit Satish Vyas echoed these sentiments, stating, "It is a great occasion and I am delighted to present my recital here and pay my tributes to Pandit Bhajan Sopori." Attending the first World Santoor Day was an experience steeped in both reverence and celebration. The event not only honoured the profound legacy of Pandit Bhajan Sopori but also showcased the Santoor's rich cultural heritage and its universal resonance. The evening's performances were a powerful reminder of music's ability to transcend boundaries and connect souls. As the Santoor's enchanting melodies filled the air, one couldn't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude for the maestros who continue to enrich our lives with their art. The first World Santoor Day was a resounding success, setting a high standard for future celebrations. It was a fitting tribute to a legend and a testament to the timeless beauty of the Santoor.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

A Celebration of Artistic Diversity and Creative Dialogue

Step into the dynamic realm of art at CONFLUENCE 24, where each masterpiece narrates an alluring tale. This lively gathering of established and emerging artists explored diverse creative practices, embracing art and community for an enriching week-long celebration. says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

In the world of art, where every individual in the exhibition appreciates and understands the worth of each artist, the immersive experience of CONFLUENCE 24 truly stood out. The Welham Old Boys Society (WOBS) proudly presented this spectacular event, a week-long art exhibition and community engagement initiative held at The Stainless Gallery, New Delhi. This second edition of CONFLUENCE 24 was an evolving platform that supported diverse creative practices and upheld constructive dialogue across multiple communities. During this eight-day group art exhibition, featuring established and emerging artists, architects, designers and photographers from diverse backgrounds, the exhibition featured prominent Indian artists Anupam Sud and Ananda Moy Banerji, both renowned for their significant contributions to art education. Akshay Raj Singh Rathore's artwork, grounded in social realities and Viveek Sharma's powerful pieces offered immersive and thought-provoking experiences for visitors. Amongst the artists from the younger generation, New York-based photographer Nanki Singh stood out with her focus on social documentaries. Her work, "Aaine Tak Ka Safar," was immersive and beautiful, featuring a series of photographs depicting survivors of acid attacks. Kunal Batra, a water-colourist photographer, enthralled viewers with his artwork that evoked the serene beauty of Himalayan landscapes, complete with charming huts that felt like scenes from a dreamy, fairytale-like midnight. Artist Divyam Raghunath, presented his work on subconscious interpretation, titled "Architectural Demise." His journey began with photographing Indian urban architecture, which he used as references in his paintings. However, the mesmerising aspect of his work was his ability to paint without direct

references, relying instead on his imagination. As he explained, "I let the brushstroke create curiosity within the painting," which added a unique beauty to his art. His architectural pieces formed abstract shapes, with one painting inspired by Bangalore's MG Road. Exhibition attendees perceived his work in diverse ways, some recalling the Durga Puja of Kolkata, while others were reminded of the streets of Japan, showcasing the varied perspectives his art elicited. Delhi-based sculptor Pratima Narang's iconic sculptures, 'Divide' and 'Gaze,' added significant value to the exhibition with their beautiful craftsmanship. A journal depicting a "Trip to the Andamans" was also displayed, resonating deeply with visitors by capturing every detail of the journey in a visually appealing form. Artist Saksham Singh's paintings, created with natural pigments like turmeric and pomegranate, highlighted the connection to nature using everyday materials. His other works, made with indigo, were inspired by his experiences in the forests and grasslands of Bangalore and the Western Ghats. Singh aimed to help people connect with nature, finding landscapes within themselves as well as outside. Photographer Aliza Mirza's lino-cut depictions of the 'Nasreen Building' were truly immersive and glorious. Additionally, artist Guncha Sharma's beautiful depictions of European streets, adorned with pink bougainvilleas under the summer sun, and her hand-painted rhododendrons transported viewers back to childhood holidays in the hills. Her work combined the tactile texture of hand-painting with a vibrant mix of colours, creating an evocative and nostalgic experience for all who viewed it. CONFLUENCE 24 unfolded as a mesmerising window of artistic expression, showing a rich array of artworks by talents like Usha Chengappa, Archita Bharadwaj,

Harshi Agarwal and Tushar Sharma. The exhibition further illuminated the creative landscape with the contributions of educators like Nirupama Sekhri, photographers including Dr. Abhishek Gaurav and Harsh Bansal, wildlife conservationist Mohit Dang and the promising advertising student Ujjwal Gupta, captivating visitors with their unique perspectives and creative flair. After the well-deserved success of the first edition, Rohit Jaiswal, President of Welham Old Boys Society, and his team were enthusiastic about staging this year's CONFLUENCE 24. The focus on art education, particularly in regions facing multiple challenges, underscored the exhibition's commitment to assist and promote creative talent. As one artist at the exhibition poignantly noted, "Nothing is more valuable for us than having people here see every artwork and create their own understanding and thoughts. It feels surreal." CONFLUENCE 24, a week-long collective gathering featuring photography, architecture, design, conversations, sessions and more. This evolving platform supported diverse creative practices and encouraged constructive dialogue within and across multiple communities. Visitors at The Stainless Gallery witnessed the beauty and depth of CONFLUENCE 24, where every piece of art told a story and every individual found a unique connection. As the curtains close on CONFLUENCE 24, the echoes of creativity and the spirit of artistic expression linger on. The exhibition not only showcased the immense talent of artists but also served as a platform for meaningful conversations and reflections. It was a celebration of art, culture and creativity, reminding us of the profound impact of artistic expression on our lives. CONFLUENCE 24 was more than an exhibition; it was a tribute to the power of art to inspire, provoke thought and bring people together.

CAPTURING HOPE THROUGH THE LENS

In the bustling world of photography, Nanki Singh stands out as a beacon of compassion and change. This young, New York-based photographer has made waves with her powerful exhibition "Aaine Tak Ka Safar" which shines a light on the lives of acid attack survivors in India. Singh's work goes beyond mere images; it's a call for empathy and action says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Photographers are the lens of everyone's life as they have the power to deliver a message that needs to be seen by everyone. Every photograph has the ability to share unspoken messages to the world that words can't express. This is where Nanki Singh excels, using her photography not just to capture moments, but to tell compelling stories that resonate deeply with audiences around the globe. Nanki Singh is an emerging New York-based photographer who is passionate about social photography. Her work reflects a deep involvement and an undeniable soul, making her lens a viaduct that connects the hearts and minds of viewers to diverse stories, emotions, and journeys. Focusing largely on the determined women of India, Singh offers a glimpse into their often challenging lives, creating powerful narratives that demand attention and inspire change. Nanki Singh's journey as a photographer began in an unexpected manner. As a shy and diffident schoolgirl, she struggled to express her thoughts until she started experimenting with her cousin's camera. It was during a holiday to Namibia at the age of 16, while shooting wildlife on a borrowed camera, that Singh discovered her voice. The diversity of the world around her became her muse, and through photography, she found a means to articulate her innermost thoughts and feelings. "Fashion, weddings, and product photography are enjoyable, and I love being in a studio, but it is photo-documentation that truly captivates me," Singh reflects. This love for capturing real-life stories led her to focus on social issues, with a particular emphasis on the struggles and triumphs of women in India. Singh's latest exhibition, "Aaine Tak Ka Safar," at the Confluence 24 art exhibition holds special significance for her. The title, which translates to "Journey to the Mirror," was inspired by the stories of acid attack survivors who found it



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

excruciatingly difficult to look at themselves in the mirror post-attack. While society often considers their physical pain, medical journey and psychological trauma, the everyday anguish of facing a mirror is frequently overlooked. Singh wanted to highlight this overlooked aspect and offer viewers a glimpse into the survivors' mirrors. Her collaboration with the Chhanv Foundation, an organisation supporting acid attack survivors, was pivotal. Singh's initial attempts to work with medical professionals were stifled by restrictions that threatened her artistic voice. However, Chhanv Foundation welcomed her interpretation, allowing her to portray the survivors not as victims, but as strong, resilient individuals who had worked hard to overcome unimaginable pain and trauma. Starting this project at the age of 18, Singh faced numerous challenges, the foremost being making the survivors feel comfortable and at ease. "I set very strict boundaries for myself," she explains. "I was always mindful of their trauma and decided to sensitively depict their story without sensationalising it. I gave them full agency over how they were portrayed, engaging them in discussions about their representation." Her creative process was slow and deliberate, nurtured over four years. She embraced a simple, documentary style, ensuring her subjects were depicted true to their personalities. "My work should aim to empower the subjects and give them a voice," Singh states. "It's crucial to represent women authentically and respectfully,



avoiding stereotypes and clichés." The reaction of the survivors to being photographed and having their stories shared was overwhelmingly positive. Singh's empathetic approach and long-term commitment made the survivors comfortable with her being their voice. They drew her into their lives with their positivity, resilience and strength. Singh always "Photography raises awareness and drives societal change by capturing and sharing the stark realities of issues like acid attacks in a way that is accessible and emotionally engaging." Through her visual storytelling, Singh humanises victims, educates the public, challenges societal norms, and inspires action. The impact of Singh's work is profound. By presenting these images to the public, she provokes deeper reflection on cultural and societal norms. "How does our society perpetuate conditions that

enable such acts?" she asks. "What roles do power dynamics, gender roles and lack of legal protections play?" These are the questions Singh hopes her work will inspire viewers to consider. Singh's exhibitions have garnered attention both in New York and New Delhi. While the Chelsea exhibition was a success, raising \$13,000 for the survivor's cafe, Singh found the Delhi exhibition particularly meaningful. "What made The Confluence '24 in Delhi exhibition better was the girl's presence," she says. "I have always felt it was their story and they were there that day to tell it." Nanki Singh's "Aaine Tak Ka Safar" is more than an exhibition; it is a powerful narrative of strength, resilience and hope. Through her empathetic and authentic approach, Singh bridges the gap between viewers and the often overlooked stories of acid attack survivors. Her work not only raises awareness but also inspires change, challenging societal norms and advocating for justice. In a world where brutalities like acid attacks reveal a disturbing undercurrent of violence and misogyny, Singh's photography serves as a beacon of hope and a call to action. Her lens captures not just images, but the very essence of human experience, making the invisible visible and the forgotten remembered. Through her work, Nanki Singh continues to prove that photography has the power to change the world. Nanki Singh is not just a photographer to watch - she's a vital voice in the ongoing dialogue about gender, violence and human rights in India and beyond.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week brings a wave of potential transformations across various aspects of your life, including relationships and career. It's a time when being open and receptive could lead to significant benefits. Sticking rigidly to the old ways might cause regret later, so it's essential to shift from introspection to active engagement with the world. Make use of different communication platforms—whether online or in-person—to connect with others. A significant, unexpected shift is on the horizon that could dynamically alter your current trajectory. Life constantly evolves, and embracing change fuels growth. Midweek, expect an unexpected positive turn, potentially enhancing your financial or personal life. For those in collaborative ventures, harmony and smooth operations are anticipated, leading to greater achievements and a more balanced professional environment.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

In life, challenges and obstacles are inevitable, but your inherent bravery steers you toward your objectives. Your current phase demands persistence; success is within reach through continued effort and clear leadership. As the week progresses, you may find yourself more emotionally vulnerable, facing feelings of neglect or emotional distance in personal connections. Patience will be your ally, as this is merely a passing storm. The weekend promises a shift towards stability and strengthening of bonds. Expect an overall improvement in well-being and financial matters, alongside an enriching social life. Communication flows more smoothly, and relationships bring satisfaction and joy. Everything aligns, bringing you to a state of fulfillment and happiness.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Sea Green
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Navigating through life's complexities might sometimes seem daunting due to your fluctuating motivations. To counter this, clarify your objectives and harness your inner strengths. This week, you may find yourself swept up in a wave of nostalgia, prompting a potential trip to reconnect with friends, family, or colleagues. Such reunions can spark joy and lead to unexpected positive outcomes. Meanwhile, there might be surprising gains, potentially through financial boosts or inherited assets. This surge of positivity will invigorate you, enhancing your vitality. As the week closes, embrace your role as the architect of your fate. Feel the guiding presence that subtly steers you, helping you harmonize your emotions, desires, and holistic wellness, aligning you with your true course.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Off-white
Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, you embody the essence of prosperity and success. With a firm grasp on reality, you push toward your ambitions with unwavering determination and focus, broadening your horizons and leaving a notable impact on those around you. Your disciplined approach to pleasure ensures that your actions remain measured and effective, underpinning your achievements. You are master of your desires, not a servant to them, and you show a genuine regard for the emotions and well-being of others. This week, however, requires you to adopt a more stringent discipline to prevent potential setbacks. Those in leadership or top positions should pay close attention to this advice. As the week concludes, your generosity and service to others will bring fruitful outcomes, enriching your life materially and spiritually.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week focuses on correcting past mistakes and learning from them, emphasizing that every action leads to a consequence. For those in search of employment, opportunities may arise unexpectedly. Those already working can anticipate a significant increase in activity, which promises to be beneficial. Relationships may undergo transformations; if you are in a committed partnership, it could face challenges. Exercise caution and avoid hastiness to maintain harmony. Taking time for quiet reflection can enrich your insights. Your investments are likely to yield favorable outcomes, so continue with your current strategies. You will experience heightened vitality across physical and emotional spheres. Over the weekend, consider reassessing aspects of your life that no longer contribute positively, such as unfulfilling relationships or careers, and think about embracing new beginnings.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You possess a unique blend of innovation and intuitive insight, fueling your creative endeavors and imbuing your projects with a dynamic energy. Your exceptional organizational abilities and mild-mannered approach inspire collaboration among peers and partners. With a grand vision for your professional pursuits, you skillfully balance imaginative efforts with seasoned expertise, driving impressive outcomes that enhance your standing and influence in your field. By mentoring your juniors effectively, you enrich your enterprise, as they commit wholeheartedly to overcoming current challenges. Your focus remains firmly on professional growth, prioritizing work over personal matters. Your dedication is complete, promising substantial achievements. As the week closes, you seek solace in quiet moments spent with close ones, recharging from your diligent efforts.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, it's essential for you to take a step back and focus on relaxation. The recent pressures have left you feeling drained, and now is the perfect time for self-care and recovery. Reflecting on your current circumstances will be beneficial, allowing you to gather strength and clarity. Find time for solitude to help restore your energy and uplift your spirit. Despite any challenges that may appear, your resilience and determination will see you through, keeping you focused on your objectives. You might receive some uplifting news that boosts your morale. You might also find yourself embarking on a new journey, which could be a literal trip or a metaphorical exploration of personal growth. Ensure you prioritize your well-being and protect your interests, especially towards the week's end when you may encounter a competitive individual.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The week begins on a subdued note, with a noticeable dip in your energy and enthusiasm. Health concerns might surface, slightly disrupting your usual pace. Financially, it's a time for caution rather than worry, reminding you that sometimes, stepping back is as strategic as forging ahead. Remember, minor setbacks should not overshadow your larger goals. It's crucial to tune into your inner guidance during these moments, identifying any areas of your life that may require recalibration. As the week progresses, expect a shift towards abundance. These interactions are set to expand your social network significantly. Amidst this busyness, dedicating time to introspection will clarify your objectives. The latter part of the week is optimal for reflection, allowing you to strategize and make informed decisions that will influence your future success.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You are brimming with energy and excitement, yet you may find yourself at a crossroads, unsure of how to set your objectives. Venturing into new projects will require your focus and endurance. Significant financial commitments could become a source of stress, particularly in managing funds, loans, and income. It's crucial to allocate time to plan your finances carefully. During this period, stay vigilant as slight distractions could complicate your current situation. You might consider borrowing or accessing funds through other means, which could open doors to new opportunities. Embrace the possibility of forming new bonds that enrich your life. Expressing your deepest feelings with someone close or reconnecting with an old friend or family could bring great joy and fulfillment to your life. Enjoy this enriching time.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week ushers in a fresh wave of youthful vigor and an eagerness to embrace all facets of learning. You're on the brink of a significant event that promises to enhance your material well-being. Known for your diligence and financial prudence, this period rewards your efforts with abundant opportunities for enjoyment, financial gain, and relaxation, marking a well-earned period of success. A burst of inspiration strikes you, paving the way for a novel artistic direction. Your imagination is lively and reminiscent of a child's wonder, setting the stage for delightful surprises. This week may bring joyous announcements related to new beginnings in the family. Your inherent belief in your abilities propels you forward in a world filled with challenges, while your creative and spirited approach continues to open new avenues for joy and self-discovery.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your resilience and focus are the pillars of your strength, enabling you to lead and shape situations positively according to your will. You naturally inspire and motivate those around you, with your disciplined approach, light-heartedness, and ability to connect with peers, earning their respect and support. An opportunity for travel appears on your horizon, potentially linked to work or a family vacation. This journey, possibly to a distant place, promises to be rewarding and fulfilling. As the week concludes, a festive atmosphere prevails, marked by celebrations, gatherings, and special events that recognize your accomplishments. Indulge in some personal pampering through shopping or a spa day, which will leave you feeling rejuvenated and admired by all.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

If you have lofty aspirations for your love life or are hoping for significant achievements in your professional endeavors, it's important to stay grounded rather than getting lost in daydreams. Embrace a practical mindset, as it could open doors to positive opportunities. You may find that your partner has high expectations that are difficult to meet, leading to potential misunderstandings and disappointments. Challenges in relationships could lead to emotional strains or even separations, so tread carefully. Family, particularly parents, can be pivotal in steering your life in a new direction. Address any health and emotional concerns with innovative strategies. As the week concludes, you might find yourself drawn to spiritual activities, perhaps organizing or participating in a spiritual gathering, which could also coincide with a promising new professional opportunity.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Sunday

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WHO IS A FOOL?

One who feels too much or one who feels too little? The neglect of the mind, the seat of intellect, breeds a state of perpetual flux and discontent. However, transcending the fickleness of the mind lies the realm of intellect, the beacon of wisdom that guides us through life's tumultuous seas

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
Spiritual Guru

Which is more important: the objects we desire, or the senses through which we experience them? The senses are actually more important than the objects themselves. For instance, your eyes are more valuable than a television, your ears more precious than music, and your tongue more important than delicious food. Our skin, too, is more crucial than the things we touch.

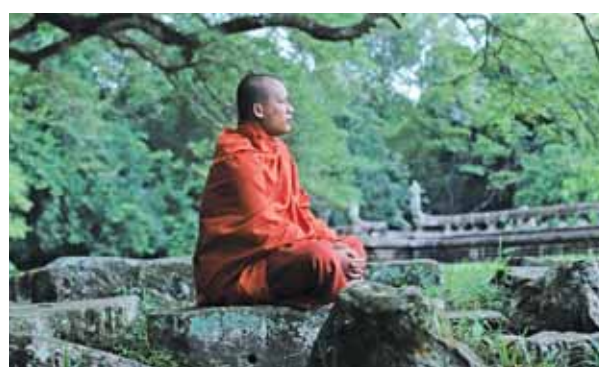
But what do fools do? They do not realize this truth and give more importance to sense objects than the senses. They know that looking at the TV for too long harms their eyesight yet they continue watching television for hours. They understand that overeating is bad for their health, yet they prioritize food over their well-being. Knowing that our senses are more important than the objects of senses is the first step.

The mind is even more

important than the senses. Often, we do things without being fully present—our minds are elsewhere. In such a state, our actions lose their meaning, and we become depressed. When the mind is neglected and only the senses and their objects are cared for, depression sets in. Depression arises from prioritizing material desires over the needs of the mind. If you want certain type of food, and you don't get that, you feel low. The fool attends to the senses over the mind.

What is the nature of the mind? It fluctuates, much like the moon's phases. The mind is often compared to the moon, which waxes and wanes. Just as the moon is not constant, our minds too are in a constant state of flux.

Beyond the mind lies our intelligence, or intellect. If we merely follow our minds, we will experience constant ups and downs without any sense of purpose. People who are driven solely by their minds often end up feeling more miserable. Their minds may tell them to



seek solitude, but even in silence, they remain unhappy. That's why in many schools of thought it's said: kill the mind. In the military they teach you to kill the mind. In schools and colleges the discipline is imposed on you, you are asked to kill the mind. The key to overcoming the mind is discipline, which can only be understood by the intellect. Discipline is what can truly control the mind's erratic tendencies.

Discipline kills the tendencies of the mind. It is a quality of the intellect. Intellect, therefore, is more important than the mind. It is the intellect that guides us with wisdom, distinguishing between right and wrong. Fools follow the mind, going with their whims and fancies, like a rolling stone. Fools will start a business and close it, and start another, then close it...because of their cravings and aversions. What is the big deal about your feelings, your mind's likes and dislikes? One who does

not care for the feelings will reach the Self.

Who cares for your feelings? It comes for a moment and passes away. Experience it, don't run away from it.

Instead of your feelings, go by your dedication and commitment. Your life is dedicated to a cause on this planet. That brings out valour, vigour, peace, and stability from within you. Otherwise, you'll feel good one moment and bad the next. Haven't you experienced feeling miserable even in the best situations?

When we don't worry about our feelings much, then we get established in the wisdom. And being established in wisdom brings you to your Self which is Peace, Joy, and Love. Self is the Power. Your emotions make you very weak and they also make you very strong. When your emotions are positive it makes you sensitive to the truth, it makes you subtle, delicate, and it takes you into a deep meditation.

I was watching the news few

days back. A lady received an Oscar award and was struggling to speak, shivering with excitement. She looked absolutely miserable. She could not handle that excitement of the Oscar award. She looked absolutely miserable. It's just a piece of metal! Holding it, she exclaimed, "This is the greatest moment in my life, what I've craved for!" How foolish! A few judges praised her performance. How many such people have come to this planet, died, and more will come, yet she puts her whole life behind that piece of metal? Someone tells you, "You are good." Don't you already know that? You wanted some judge to give you this award. Such idiocy! Anyone with a little intelligence would see how foolish it is to seek validation from others. You don't need to break down over that little piece of metal. Do you see what I'm saying? Gracefully accept it. Suppose you are given the Oscar, what will you do? If you shiver there, you better not say you have done Art of Living course!

The mind, if left unchecked, can lead to misery and confusion. People often prioritize their feelings over their intellect, constantly seeking validation and approval from others. They become slaves to their emotions, constantly seeking external validation.

We must be willing to commit ourselves fully to a cause, regardless of the challenges we may face. This commitment is what separates the brave from the timid, the lions from the chickens. Life's challenges are meant to be embraced with courage and determination. Knowledge, enlightenment is only for brave people, not for people who chicken out and run away here and there.

So we must learn to prioritize our intellect over our emotions, our commitment over our desires. By doing so, we can lead a more meaningful and fulfilling life, free from the ups and downs of the mind. Life is a journey, and it is up to us to navigate it with wisdom and courage.