

UP man becomes first to register a case under new criminal law in U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A resident of Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, Vipul Bhardwaj became the first person to register a case under the new criminal laws in Uttarakhand. He registered an FIR in Jwalapur Kotwali of Haridwar district at 1:45 AM on Monday. The case was filed under Section 309(4) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS 2023) based on Bharadwaj's com-

plaint against two unidentified persons. The Haridwar senior superintendent of police Pramendra Dobhal said that Bharadwaj registered a complaint on Monday at 1:45 AM stating that two unidentified persons threatened to kill him with a knife when he was sitting near Ravidas Ghat. They allegedly snatched his phone



and cash worth Rs 1,400 and pushed him towards the Ganga river before fleeing. The SSP claimed that the police also provided a digitally signed copy of the FIR to the accused, which was the first FIR copy generated under the new criminal law in the State. The police have launched an investigation and are working to apprehend the accused, he added. Besides

this, the provision capital Dehradun also registered the first case of the Dehradun district under the new criminal law in the Rajpur police station. The complainant Rajesh Kumar registered a complaint against an unknown person who hit him with his vehicle, as per the police.

Dhami welcomes implementation of new criminal laws

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami welcomed the implementation of three new criminal laws starting from Monday. He stated that these laws are designed to prioritise justice and ensure freedom, human rights and equal treatment for every citizen, instead of focusing solely on punishment as the previous laws did. He said that these changes mark the first comprehensive reform in the criminal justice system since Independence. He stated this while addressing a Press conference at the police headquarters on Monday. The new three criminal laws- Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023 replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973 and Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively. Dhami said that the new laws put utmost focus on the importance of the safety of women, children and the underprivileged. "The new laws aim to provide transparent and quick justice to all. They have been incorporated with clarity and simplification. Our judicial system will now be completely indigenous, operating according to the laws made by India, for India and by the Indian Parliament. These new laws will further strengthen law and order along with protecting the rights of the citizens. For the first time since Independence, our laws completely define terrorism, organised crimes and economic crimes. Mob lynching has been clearly defined and clear provisions have been made for prosecution even in the absence of fugitives. The introduction of community service as punishment for very minor crimes is also a revolutionary step," the CM said. The CM also launched the IO app regarding new laws and distributed tablets to investigating officers. Besides this, the chief secretary Radha Raturi also said that the new laws uplift the weaker sections of the society. "The use of technology and forensic science has been emphasised in the new laws. When a crime is reported, the investigating officer will be able to promptly

visit the scene and gather evidence with the help of forensics, ensuring thorough and scientific investigation. This will significantly improve the possibility of achieving justice on time. The new laws will be implemented systematically in the State," Raturi said. The director general of police Abhinav Kumar also welcomed the introduction and implementation of the new laws as the most revolutionary change in the Indian judicial system since independence. He said, "This is the most revolutionary change in our judicial system since independence. These laws have been formulated to align with modern times and technologies. We are fully committed to implementing these laws across the State. The Police have been taking all the steps to ensure all police officers and personnel are educated and well informed about the new laws for proper functioning."

Transfer unused land to other departments: ACS to USTDC

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The additional chief secretary Anand Bardhan has said that the unused land owned by the Uttarakhand Seeds and Terai Development Corporation Limited (USTDC) can be transferred to other departments. He said that the revenue from this transfer of the land which is of no use for the corporation will help in paying its dues. The ACS made this suggestion while chairing the 247 meeting of the board of directors of the USTDC at the State secretariat on Monday.

The ACS suggested that efforts in the fields of vegetables, fruits and flowers can be made in the mountainous areas.

He directed the officers that the dues of the Corporation to the industry should be cleared. The ACS said that the pending payments of the transportation fares to the farmers should be disposed of at the earliest. The ACS said that an improvement in capacity and efficiency will help in strengthening the corporation.

In the meeting the ACS directed that the new ideas should be worked to strengthen the corporation. He said that the corporation should work on other alternatives after assessing its capacity and strengths.

The secretary agriculture and farmer welfare Vinod Kumar Suman, district magistrate of Udham Singh Nagar and Managing Director of USTDC Udairaj Singh and others attended the meeting.

DGP holds inter-State coordination meeting ahead of Kanwad Yatra

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The officiating director general of police of Uttarakhand Abhinav Kumar held an inter-State coordination meeting with six States on Monday in view of the upcoming Kanwad Yatra. Kumar said that observing the rise in traffic during the ongoing Char Dham Yatra, traffic management will be one of the main priorities of the police. The meeting was held at police headquarters in the evening. The DGP said that he interacted with senior police officials of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana along with the officials of the intelligence bureau to ensure harmony, safety and law and order are maintained during Kanwad Yatra. The police also expect a rise in the arrival of Kanwads and will make all the preparations accordingly, especially in Dehradun and Haridwar districts. The police will also ensure tight security in border areas too, he added. The Kanwad Yatra is expected to commence in the third week of July and will reach the State in the last week. Considering rainfall and related issues, the police will gear up the arrangements accordingly, he added.

Teaching-sharing system implemented in Uttarakhand

Expert teachers to teach students of different schools regardless of the Board affiliations

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In an important measure which will help the students, the Uttarakhand government has decided to implement the system of teaching -sharing in the State. An understanding between different education boards in this regard has been reached. A decision for implementing the concept of teaching- sharing as mentioned in the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 was taken in a meeting of the officers of the education department of Uttarakhand and representatives of different boards operational in the State. The meeting was chaired by the education minister Dhan Singh Rawat.

Informing about the decision Rawat said that under the teaching -sharing system good teachers of different subjects of a board will teach in the educational institutes of other boards. Apart from teaching, the teachers will be able to make use of laboratories and other resources of the schools where they will teach. The minister said that teaching- sharing is an important component of the NEP-2020. He added that the lakhs of students will get the benefit of the teaching sharing system. Rawat informed that the education department will enter into contracts with different boards for implementing the teaching -sharing system in the State. He said that officers of the department have been asked to prepare a proposal in this regard. The minister further informed that in the first phase a cluster of nearby schools in district and block level will be developed under the teaching -sharing system. He said that the NEP-2020 has proposed to reduce the load of bags of the students and has focussed on their overall development.

will organise debates, sports events, cultural programmes and agriculture works once in month. The minister said that the officers of the department have been asked to set up class wise norms for the weight of the school bags.

He said every possible effort to improve the educational environment in the State is being made. The minister informed that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will provide free training to the teachers of government schools of the State.

The meeting was attended by director general education Banshidhar Tiwari, director SCERT Vandana Gabriyal, director secondary Mahavir Singh Bisht, director primary Ramkrishna Uniyal, deputy secretary CBSE RK Gupta, secretary Uttarakhand Vidhyalay Shiksha Parishad Vinod Simalti, representative of ICSE board Prem Kashyap and others attended the meeting.

The minister said that ' bag free day' will be compulsorily implemented in the State under which the students of all the schools operational in the State

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These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

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Tender No.	61-DRM-MB-24-25
Date	Date 01.07.2024
Name of Work	Making Ballasted Track for Line No. 1 & 2 in Lieu of deteriorated washable apron for Line No. 1 & 2 and CTR(P) of M/Line 1, 2 in HW-Yard on LR-RWL in the section of SSE/WORKS/HW and SSE/PWAY/DDN under ADEN/HW
Type of Contract	Works
Tender Closing Date Time	25.07.2024 16:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	77,94,526.42
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1,55,900.00
Bidding Start Date	11.07.2024
Validity of Offer (Days)	60 Days
Period of Completion	06 months

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BJP, INDIA Bloc spar over new laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the new criminal laws came into force from Monday, the BJP said they are a symbol of India's progress and resilience. The Congress, however, accused the government of getting them "forcibly" passed in Parliament after suspending 146 MPs and asserted that going forward, the INDIA bloc will not allow such "bulldozer justice" to prevail in the country's parliamentary system.

Defending the new laws, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said here they are a symbol of India's progress and resilience, positioning the country for a more just and secure future.

Responding to a question in a press conference, he said the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Indian Evidence Act, originating from 1860 and 1872, respectively, were outdated and ill-equipped to address contemporary issues.

"Today is a historic day in the annals of our free country, India. An evolving society needs laws that cater to its needs and demands, protecting its rights," he said.

Highlighting the comprehensive nature of the new legislation, he underscored several key changes. "In the earlier laws, terrorism had no definition, making it difficult for the prosecution and the police to file charges or prove a case. The new laws have defined terrorism," Bhatia said. This clarity, he said will strengthen India's resolve to eradicate terrorism.



Bhatia also emphasised the inclusion of mob lynching as a specific offence with the potential for death penalty. He also pointed out the special focus on the rights of women and children.

"There is a separate chapter for crimes against women and children, ensuring specificity and deterring criminals from committing these crimes," the BJP spokesperson said.

The new laws also aim to expedite the delivery of justice, he added. "A judgment, if reserved in criminal cases, has to be delivered within 45 days," Bhatia said. He pointed out that this provision addresses delays caused by judicial retirements and reconstitution of benches, ensuring timely justice for all.

Addressing broader societal implications, Bhatia said the

new laws are symbolic of the fact that a new, resilient India is ready to embrace laws duly enacted by our legislators. He positioned this legal transformation as part of a larger narrative of national progress and modernisation.

Hitting out at the opposition, Bhatia said, "I am sure they have not even read the three laws, just like they hold the Constitution in their hand but don't care to read it." He asserted that the entire nation has come forward to embrace and welcome the new criminal laws.

Criticising the laws, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said in a social media post "After the political and moral shock in the elections, Modi ji and the BJP are pretending to respect the Constitution, but

the truth is that the three laws of the criminal justice system which are being implemented from today, were passed forcibly after suspension of 146 MPs."

"INDIA will no longer allow this 'bulldozer justice' to prevail in the parliamentary system," he asserted. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also took a swipe at the government after the first FIR was lodged under the new laws.

"The first FIR has already been filed under Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita 2023. It is by Delhi Police against a street vendor for obstruction, after he was earning his daily livelihood under a foot-over bridge of New Delhi Railway Station," Ramesh said.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram also slammed

the government as the new criminal laws came into effect and said it was another case of "bulldozing" existing laws and replacing them with three new bills without adequate discussion and debate.

In a social media post, Chidambaram said, "90-99 per cent of the so-called new laws are a cut, copy and paste job. A task that could have been completed with a few amendments to the existing three laws has been turned into a wasteful exercise."

"Yes, there are a few improvements in the new laws and we have welcomed them. They could have been introduced as amendments. On the other hand, there are several retrograde provisions. Some changes are prima facie unconstitutional," he said.

MPs, who were members of the standing committee, pored over the provisions and wrote detailed dissent notes to the three bills, the senior leader said.

Chidambaram added the government did not rebut or answer any of the criticisms in the dissent notes and there was no worthwhile debate in Parliament. "Law scholars, bar associations, judges and lawyers have in numerous articles and seminars pointed out the grave deficiencies in the three new laws. No one in government has cared to answer the questions," he said.

"It is another case of bulldozing three existing laws and replace them with three new Bills without adequate discussion and debate," Chidambaram said.

The initial impact will be to throw the administration of criminal justice into disarray, he said. "In the medium term, numerous challenges to the laws will be instituted in various courts. In the long term, further changes must be made to the three laws to bring them in conformity with the Constitution and the modern principles of criminal jurisprudence," Chidambaram said.

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said the Congress' concern was that the bills were passed without discussion.

"Something as important and as far-reaching as this. Many of us had called for an overhaul of the IPC but we wanted a discussion and the discussion never took place and that is something very regrettable in a democracy like ours," he told reporters outside Parliament.

Congress MP Manish Tewari hit out at the government over the issue, saying these three new criminal laws are pernicious in nature and draconian in their implementation.

"They will throw a spanner in the works of the Indian criminal justice system. From today, two parallel systems will be in play. All those cases registered before June 30, 2024, midnight will be prosecuted under the old system and those cases registered after June 30, 2024, midnight will be prosecuted under the new system," he said.

"There are 3.4 crore pending cases and a bulk of them are criminal cases. So, there is going to be utter confusion," he said.

Opp MPs protest in Lok Sabha, allege misuse of agencies by Centre



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Several INDIA Bloc MPs staged a protest in Parliament premises on Monday against the alleged misuse of probe agencies by the government to "target" Opposition leaders.

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and several leaders of the INDIA Bloc, including those from the TMC and AAP, participated in the protest on the steps leading to the Makar Dwar in Parliament.

The Opposition leaders carried placards which read "stop misusing agencies to silence Opposition" and "BJP mein jao bhrashtachar ka licence pao (Join the BJP and get a licence for corruption)". AAP MP Raghav Chadha held a poster that showed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal standing behind bars.

Opposition MPs raised slogans demanding release of three arrested ministers in West Bengal, and stopping "misuse" of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, and against former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

"The whole INDIA bloc is united against the misuse of central agencies against opposition leaders," Congress leader Rajeev Shukla said.

The Opposition protest comes days after a court here sent Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12 in a corruption case related to the alleged excise scam.

He was formally arrested by the CBI last week. Previously, he was arrested by the ED in a money-laundering case linked to the policy. He was recently granted bail by a trial court that was stayed by Delhi High Court.

Hemant Soren was released on Friday after the state High Court granted him bail in a money laundering case, observing that he was not guilty, and there was no likelihood of the petitioner committing an offence on bail.

Modi praises healthcare heroes on Doctor's Day



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of Doctor's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his government is fully committed to improving the health infrastructure in India and ensuring doctors get the widespread respect they deserve.

In social media post, the prime minister hailed chartered accountants for their "vital role" in shaping the country's economic landscape.

"Happy Chartered Accountants Day! CAs play a vital role in shaping our economic landscape. Their expertise and strategic insights are beneficial for businesses and individuals alike," Modi said.

"They also contribute significantly to economic growth and stability. They are equally integral to our financial well-being," he said.

Kharge seeks scrapping of Agniveer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Constitution and people of India are supreme and the Modi government has failed to implement various policies on ground and instead indulge in speeches, Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said on Monday. He also demanded scrapping of Agniveer scheme.

In its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections 2024, the Congress has promised to scrap this new recruitment scheme and return to the older one where soldiers were recruited for 16 years of service.

Kharge also said the recent Lok Sabha elections was the first one to make the Constitution an issue. "Elections can only be conducted when there's a Constitution. Some people object to anyone even talking about the Constitution, but are okay with making it a poll issue," he said.

"And today, when we talk about democracy, there are provisions in the constitution like Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, but leaving that post vacant for five years, is this a democratic way?" Kharge asked in the Rajya Sabha.

"The Opposition was sidelined, while the post of the deputy speaker has been lying vacant (for the past five years). Participating in the discussion



in the Upper House on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, he also said the third term of the NDA has seen examination paper leaks, terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, train accident, airport canopy collapse, bridge cave-ins and toll tax hike.

Taking potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that last 10 years of his rule was just a trailer and 'picture abhi baaki hai', (last ten years was just a trailer, the real picture is yet to come) and said "How the PM's picture would be, we have been able to imagine in the last one month," Kharge quipped.

Listing out many recent incidents, Kharge pointed out that there have been examination paper leaks, cancellation of many examinations, train accident, three terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, leakages

Lt Gen Raja Subramani takes over as Vice Army Chief



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani on Monday here assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of Army Staff. The General Officer was tentatively the appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command based at Lucknow. He was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985. He has graduated from the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA) and Indian Military Academy (IMA). He is an alumnus of Joint Services Command Staff College, Bracknell (UK), and National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi.

He holds a Master of Arts Degree from King's College London and an M Phil in Defence Studies from Madras University.

He has in his illustrious career spanning over 37 years served across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles and has tenanted a host of Command, Staff and Instructional appointments. The General Officer has insightful knowledge and a deep understanding of operational dynamics on both the Western and Northern Borders.

Lt Gen Subramani has the distinction of commanding a battalion during 'Operation Rhino' in Assam, an infantry brigade along the international boundary with Pakistan and a 'Black Cat' division in North East India.

He also commanded Uttar Bharat Area in 2020 and the premier Kharga Corps at Ambala. Lt Gen Subramani also held a number of key positions including that of a brigade major of a mountain brigade, assistant military secretary in the Military Secretary Branch, Colonel General Staff at headquarters Eastern Command, deputy director general of Military Intelligence in the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence and Brigadier General Staff in Eastern Command.

MEA: 2,639 Indian fishermen repatriated from Pakistan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Pakistan on Monday exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said and added that 2,639 Indian fishermen and 71 civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014 as a result of New Delhi's sustained efforts.

Under the provisions of the bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008, such lists are exchanged every year on January 1 and July 1, the MEA said in a statement.

"India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody," it said.

India has shared the names of 366 civilian prisoners and 86 fishermen in its custody who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani. Similarly,



Pakistan has shared the names of 43 civilian prisoners and 211 fishermen in its custody who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian, the MEA added.

The government of India has called for "early release and repatriation" of civilian prisoners and fishermen along with their boats and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody, the ministry said.

"Pakistan has been asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 185 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners, who have completed their sentence.

In addition, Pakistan has been asked to provide immediate consular access to the 47 civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody, who are believed-to-be-Indian and have not been provided consular access so far," the statement said.

Pakistan has been requested to ensure the safety, security and

Doctors turn junkyard into fun spot for kids with chronic diseases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an initiative that goes beyond medical treatment, a team of doctors has turned a once desolate junkyard in their hospital into a vibrant space filled with fun and frolics for young patients battling paediatric cancer and chronic illness like neurological, lung, liver and heart diseases.

Located within Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here, this transformation is more than just a physical renovation. Led by the visionary minds of Senior Paediatrician Dr Anil Sachdeva and Chairman Board of Management of the Hospital, Dr Ajay Swaroop, the Pediatrics department developed the corner where swings and slides offer more than mere recreation to the little patients.

Here, amidst the laughter and play, children find temporary respite from their medical challenges, fostering a conducive environment for faster recovery. Brainchild of the initiative, Dr Sachdeva and Dr

Doctors turn junkyard into fun spot for kids with chronic diseases

Swaroop talked about the need for such spaces which "are in supporting the emotional resilience of young patients." Beyond swings and slides, the park offers a therapeutic space designed to promote physical activity and nurture mental well-being.

Here, amidst laughter and play, children find respite from medical challenges, fostering a path to faster recovery, they said.

"This endeavour not only provides a playground for physical activity but also fosters a healing environment that supports the mental well-being of these courageous children", elaborated Chairman Board



of Management Dr Swaroop. Children are able to relax and forget their medical issues leading to faster healing and recuperation, added Dr Sachdeva. The idea was to provide corners where such children on the healing path can momentarily escape their medical concerns, thus aiding in their recuperation and ensuring their overall well-being.

The park also provides a space for families to connect, feel a sense of community, and derive strength from their common experiences while navigating the emotional roller coaster that is caring for a sick child.

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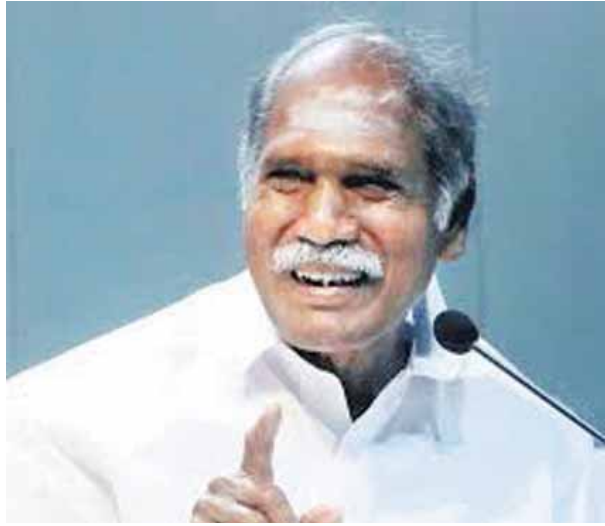
The park also provides a space for families to connect, feel a sense of community, and derive strength from their common experiences while navigating the emotional roller coaster that is caring for a sick child.

New criminal laws well designed to render justice: Pody CM

PTI ■ PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy said that the three new criminal laws which came into force across the country on Monday are well-designed to curb crimes, particularly heinous crimes.

particularly heinous crimes". Thanking the Central government for implementation of the new laws, the chief minister said that they are aimed at imposing deterrent and stringent punishment on the culprits and also ensuring justice to the victims of crimes.



subordinate staff would be posted to man these courts," he said. The chief minister also released a handbook on the

new laws were absolutely necessary and they were made by Indians for Indians, unlike the previous laws which were designed by the British during colonial rule.

3 killed, 1 injured as speeding SUV rams into car in Ahmedabad

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Three persons were killed and one was critically injured when a speeding Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) rammed into another car in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city on Monday morning, police said.



was chasing the SUV. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic (West), Neeta Desai said the SUV driver was in their "custody" and a probe was ordered to find out if he was speeding because of their involvement in any illegal activity.

The deceased have been identified as SUV occupant Om Prakash (37), the other car's driver Ajit Kathi (32) and its occupant Manish Bhatt (52), both residents of Viramgam town in Ahmedabad, she said.

Manipur CM denies report on resignation, asks media not to spread rumours

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday described a report on his resignation as unfounded and asked the media not to spread rumours.



the Union Home Ministry on the Manipur situation. "If we leave, who will lead the people? More chaos will be created. We have to guide the people," said Singh who heads a BJP government in the northeastern state.

the deaths of over 200 people since May 3, 2023, and rendered thousands of people homeless. Earlier, addressing a gathering, Singh said, "The new laws allow registration of zero FIRs anywhere and also gives scope for registration in local language or dialect."

Leadership change: Will abide by Congress high command's decision, says Siddaramaiah

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he would abide by the decision of the Congress high command on the issue of leadership change, amid a political tussle within the ruling Congress.



reporters when asked about the Vishwa Vokkaligara Mahasamsthana Mutt seer Chandrashekhara Swami's appeal.

national party. There is a high command," the Chief Minister added. Meanwhile, Shivakumar warned leaders not to issue public statements on the matter of leadership change and creation of multiple posts of Deputy Chief Minister.

minority communities. The move is seen in some quarters as an attempt to clip the political wings of Shivakumar, who is also the State party chief.

the Deputy Chief Minister. There were some reports at the time that a compromise had been reached based on a "rotational chief minister formula," according to which Shivakumar will become CM after two-and-a-half years but they have not been officially confirmed by the party.

MP Cabinet nod for bills on seizing vehicles used in cow transportation

PTI ■ BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh cabinet on Monday approved a bill providing for seizing vehicles involved in transportation of cows for slaughter, and also gave its nod to another proposed legislation under which state ministers will henceforth have to pay their own income tax.

Assam flood: Over 43 per cent of forest camps in Kaziranga submerged

PTI ■ GOLAGHAT/JORHAT (ASSAM)

With worsening flood condition in Assam, rising water levels have impacted more than 43 per cent of the 233 forest camps at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, an official report said on Monday.

across Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, according to a flood report. It said 35 camps in Agorotoli range, 21 in Kaziranga, 10 in Bagori, five in Burhapahar range and nine in Bokakhat are submerged.



movement. "Joint patrolling by commando action groups and forest teams is being conducted regularly. Additional staff from neighbouring divisions have been deployed to intensify patrolling. Joint patrolling in the fringe

areas of the park is being carried out by Forest and Police Departments," the report said. The Kaziranga National Park (KNP) authority has set up a dedicated floodwater gauge station with support from the Central Water Commission,

while rescue teams and veterinary care units are on standby for immediate deployment. "Boats, boatlines, barricades, raincoats, rescue materials and medicines have been procured and are already deployed. Country boats, speedboats and

mechanized boats have been strategically deployed in key areas for swift response," the bulletin said. Meanwhile, the Golaghat district administration on Sunday evening issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC to safeguard the animals crossing the NH-715, which passes through KNP.

passing through the KNP with effect from Monday. It said no commercial vehicle shall be allowed to move through Kaziranga National Park and only private ones will move at the regulated speed during the daytime.

New policy for hoardings in Mumbai metropolitan region soon

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government will soon unveil a policy regarding hoardings in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), state Minister Uday Samant told the legislative assembly on Monday.

High Court chief justice Dilip Bhosle is probing the May 13 hoarding collapse in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area. BJP legislator Ram Kadam alleged that Bhavesh Bhide, whose firm erected the hoarding that collapsed, was photographed with Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and his role should also be probed.



licences. "The then Uddhav Thackeray-led government held secret meetings with hoarding owners for liaisoning. They received a 50

per cent waiver on their license. This conspiracy must be investigated. According to a report by the IIT, drivers face inconvenience due to the intense light of LED hoardings. Will this be taken into serious consideration? Permissions were granted to install LED on hoardings during the pandemic," Shelar said.

The BJP leader also pointed out that of the 1,025 big hoardings in Mumbai, 179 are in the railway limits and do not have permission from the BMC. Samant assured that the decision taken by the previous government regarding hoardings during the pandemic will be investigated by the committee probing the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse.

Haryana CM Saini approves initiative for free renal, liver transplants up to ₹3 lakh

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has approved an initiative that will provide free renal and liver transplantation services up to Rs 3 lakh for eligible beneficiaries under the Mukhya Mantri Muft Ilaj Yojana (MMMIY).

committed to healthcare reform and patient welfare. With this new initiative, the patients will be able to receive critical renal and liver transplants at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak without worrying about the prohibitive costs, Gupta said. The decision aims to offer life-saving medical treatments to those in dire need, ensuring no one is denied essential healthcare due to financial constraints, he added. Gupta said that by alleviating the financial burden associated with complex medical procedures, the Govt is paving the way for a future where healthcare is a fundamental right accessible to all regardless of economic status.



FIRST COLUMN

THE EVOLVING PATH TO SUCCESS WITH UPSKILLING

Success is more than just good intentions. It's a journey paved with education and skill



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

The saying "Where there's a will, there's a way" offers a reassuring belief that sheer determination can overcome any obstacle. However, navigating the complexities of real-world success involves more than just good intentions. It requires a foundation built on education, experience, and often, a blend of both.

Specialists possess targeted expertise, backed by rigorous education in a specific field. Their qualifications often serve as a shortcut past initial professional hurdles, providing a clear and direct path to success. Yet, this path can be fraught with its own challenges.



one. The most successful individuals often embody a blend of both approaches. They possess a solid foundation in a core discipline but are equally committed to continuous learning and adaptation.

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They understand that change is the only constant and that adaptability is the ultimate competitive advantage. Rather than seeing your career as a ladder to climb, envision it as traversing a vast, ever-shifting landscape.

(The writer is an author and has penned three books; views are personal)

Focus shifts to prudent public wealth management



UTTAM GUPTA

The new Govt is overhauling India's disinvestment policy. It is supporting non-profit enterprises, and maintaining a strong presence of State-run firms in strategic sectors

The new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is reviewing the existing disinvestment policy to shift its focus from selling central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) to prudent public wealth management (PWM), supporting not-for-profit enterprises, and ensuring strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors.

The extant policy on disinvestment was announced by the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech for FY 2021-22.

Under it, CPSUs were classified into two broad categories i.e. strategic and non-strategic. The strategic group covers atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services.

As for undertakings in non-strategic sectors, it wanted to reduce its shareholding to below 50 percent in 'all' of them. Put simply, they would all be privatized.

Also tagged to this policy was government's intent to use the proceeds from disinvestment for meeting its fiscal deficit (excess of total revenue over total expenditure) or FD target. This part was a continuation from the past when the Modi - government started selling its shares in CPSUs in 2015-16 with particular focus on 'strategic' disinvestment.

But, the process has remained stuck in the slow lane even as the targets of proceeds from sales were missed year-after-year. Only during two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19, it achieved the target.

During 2017-18, the government sold



51.11 percent of its shareholding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) yielding Rs 37,000 crore. In the following year, it undertook the sale of its 52.63 percent stake in the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) yielding Rs 13,000 crore.

IN CASES WHERE THE STRATEGIC SALE IS MOOTED, THE GOVT FACES A BIGGER CHALLENGE AS APART FROM A FAVOURABLE MARKET, IT NEEDS BIDDERS WITH DEEP POCKETS

The results during 2021-22 and 2022-23 were particularly disconcerting. During 2021-22, against a target of Rs 175,000 crore, the actual proceeds from disinvestment were a meager Rs 15,440 crore. During 2022-23, against a target of Rs 65,000 crore, the actual was nearly half at Rs 31,059 crore.

In a briefing following the presentation of the Budget by Sitharaman on February 1, 2024, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan had stated that the "government no longer views disinvestment from the perspective of balancing the budget".

laneous capital receipts" which includes disinvestment proceeds besides receipts from asset monetization.

The very idea of garnering resources from the sale of government shares in CPSUs is inherently flawed. This is because unlike tax revenue, which can be projected with a degree of certainty based on the existing tax rate and a reasonable assessment of the growth in nominal GDP, the same cannot be said about proceeds from disinvestment.

In cases where the strategic sale is mooted, the Government faces a bigger challenge as apart from a favorable market, it needs bidders with deep pockets. The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red tape further undermines the chances of its kicking the ball rolling just around the time when the strategic investors are ready to put in their bets.

The Niti Aayog identifies companies for disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself, which takes it to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) - a group of ministers, including finance, road transport & highways, administrative reforms, etc., for approval.

In view of above, the government shouldn't put any number to

receipts from share sale while preparing the budget as the end of the year, slippage is inevitable. Even so, the government's tax revenue is buoyant (for three years in a row since 2021-22, these have exceeded the target) and it is getting higher dividends from CPSUs as also higher dividends from the Reserve Bank of India (for its FY 2023-24, the RBI has made a huge dividend transfer of Rs 210,000 crore to the Centre for latter's use during 2024-25) and public sector banks (PSBs).

From the emphasis on public wealth management (PWM), strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors, one gets sense that the government has completely abandoned the path of privatizing CPSUs in these sectors. As it is, under the 2021-22 policy, it had intended to retain at least one (and a maximum of four) undertakings in the strategic sector. Now, it seems it won't privatize even one.

Changing horses midstream won't be in the best interest of the country. Fundamentally, the State shouldn't be in the business of running enterprises. There always remains a risk of political interference and bureaucratic red tape which can seriously hamper the working of CPSUs.

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

Surviving the scorch: Strategies for managing heat waves in India

The summer of 2024 has seen record-breaking temperatures. It is imperative for policymakers to understand the underlying causes and implement effective measures

The country is in the midst of intense heat waves causing severe hardship in the entire North, Central and Western India for more than a month. India may have recorded the hottest-ever temperature in 2024. On 29th May 2024 Delhi recorded 52.3 Degrees Celsius temperature at a weather station in Mungeshpur a suburb of Delhi though later on it was proved that it was slightly on the higher side.



V K BAHUGUNA

ing to prolonged outages. Several people have died due to heat waves across the country. According to official sources, 150 people have died due to heat waves and around 30,000 people suffered heat stroke from March to mid-June 2024.

and in the process causing heavy traffic jams and throwing in disarray the civic amenities in several towns and cities. The River width of Ganga in Varanasi has reduced by 35 % and similar reports are forthcoming of the narrowing of other streams and rivers.

The experts have been warning the government and the society at large about the changing weather trends of the country. The policy makers, professionals and administrators is to assess the causes of such an unprecedented rise in temperature and how to mop up resources to deal with it.

ity and cohesiveness in the society.

One thing all must learn is the fact that high temperatures are the results of the combined effects of global warming, increasing urbanisation/concretization leading to changing weather patterns. As far as Delhi and nearby areas are concerned the dry and warm westerly winds from Rajasthan and Haryana are the causes of the heat wave.

'urban heat island effect'. In nature trees and other vegetation in the landscape along with green roofs help in reducing the urban heat island effects by releasing moisture through transpiration, and by shading reflecting the sun radiation back into the atmosphere. Therefore, the massive dense urbanisation, buildings, roads and pavements absorb and retain the heat and hence the urban heat island effect with disastrous consequences.

shortage. India is not the only country affected by heat waves. Europe is also suffering from heat waves since April 2024. The temperature is above 30 degrees Celsius in south Europe, particularly in Spain. This year in Europe the highest temperature was noticed in Zeneca and Bosnia at 33.3 degree Celsius on 14th April 2024.

One of the fundamental requirements is the need to remould the district administration by creating an integrated and holistic approach so that climate-resilient development is ensured and preparations are made in advance to deal with any emergent situation.

ment is ensured and preparations are made in advance to deal with any emergent situation. However, real change in the entire civic administration is essential in urban areas. The town and country planning needs complete overhauling as also revisit the power-centric civic bodies. The drainages are in shamble and must be protected so that the next emergency in rainy weather does not derail the life and property.

(The author is the former Director-General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and Chancellor of FRI University; views are personal)



NEERAJ CHOPRA OPTS OUT OF PARIS DIAMOND LEAGUE: REPORT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has opted out of this Sunday's Paris Diamond League, citing the adductor niggle that has been troubling him for the past couple of months, according to a report. Speaking to 'ESPN', Chopra said he is focussing on training and strengthening his blocking leg. "I need to strengthen my blocking leg when I throw because that's when my groin gets pulled. We're working on that to see how we can reduce the impact on the groin and control the pressure on it," he said, explaining the issue for which he will consult "different doctors" after the Paris Games. "I could have competed in more events for sure and that was the plan. But I have realised that my health is paramount, that comes first. Even if I feel the slightest discomfort or like I am pushing myself too much in training, I've learnt to pause for a bit," he added.

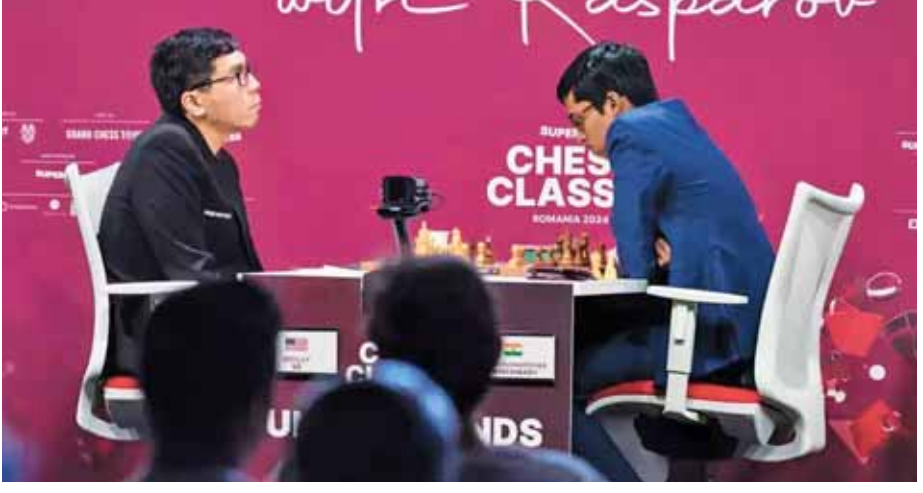
Mbappé says he feels like he is in a virtual reality game wearing his mask at Euro 2024



AP ■ DUESSELDORF (GERMANY)
Kylian Mbappé felt like he was in a virtual reality game when playing in a mask to protect his broken nose at the European Championship. The France star was smiling while telling the story Sunday on the eve of facing Belgium in the round of 16. But clearly he does not enjoy playing his role as the masked man of Euro 2024 - "an absolute horror," he said. "I had the impression in the first game that I was playing in 3D," Mbappé told reporters,

scoring with a penalty in a second straight draw. "It's really difficult. It limits the vision, the sweat stays blocked so you have to keep lifting it to flow out," Mbappé said. "As soon as I can take it off, I will. It's annoying, it's annoying, it's annoying." "Now, I don't have a choice, I can't play without. So I have to stay thank you to the mask," he said. Those two draws dropped France to second place in Group D - won by Austria - and sent Les Bleus into the top half of the draw that few expected. Belgium also unexpectedly landed in the top half, by finishing runner-up in a group to Romania after a 0-0 draw with Ukraine as boos rained down from its fans. It set up a rematch of a semifinal at the 2018 World Cup that France won 1-0 six years ago en route to Mbappé's star role in the final. The winner on Monday in Duesseldorf will find a difficult path to the final. Portugal, which plays Slovenia on Monday, is potentially waiting in the quarterfinals, then Germany and Spain are possible semifinal opponents. "The teams that are considered to be the big nations on paper, we're doing everything we can to stay in it," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "But actually it's something that's quite intense, highly, highly intense." Deschamps acknowledged his team has not been scoring, but he at least has his biggest threat back.

Praggnanandhaa misses against Wesley So on another day of draws



PTI ■ BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)
Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa yet again squandered promising position to settle for a draw against American Wesley So in the fifth round of Superbet Classic tournament as none of the five boards produced any decisive result, here. The lead positions remained unchanged with Fabiano Caruana of United States still ahead on 3.5 points, enjoying a half point lead over world championship challenger D Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa. French duo of Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan. Local hopeful Deac Bogdan-Daniel is still at the bottom with 1.5 points. Gukesh also enjoyed some advantage that slipped away against Abdusattorov while Vachier-Lagrave played solidly to hold Caruana. Bogdan-Daniel drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi in the 10-player double round-robin event, offering USD 350000 as prize money. Praggnanandhaa is usually spot-on when it comes to accurate calculation or tactics but somehow here he has been missing on advantageous positions and also some winning moves. Having missed out on a technically winning endgame against Gukesh, Wesley So found himself lucky as the Indian missed a not-so-difficult manoeuvre that he would find in seconds on another day. Inspired by the presence of Garry Kasparov in the playing hall, Praggnanandhaa chose the King's Indian defense as black, faced the Fianchetto variation and did not have many troubles in maintaining the balance. Wesley became a little ambitious towards the final stages of the middle game and this is where Praggnanandhaa could have penetrated his king side decisively. Wesley survived with the skin of his teeth. Gukesh also had a chance



Canada Open: Fourth seed Lakshya Sen hopes to regain form as defending champion

PTI ■ CALGARY (CANADA)
With fond memories of his past, defending champion Lakshya Sen will look to end his title drought when he begins his campaign at the Canada Open badminton tournament here on Tuesday. The world No 14 Sen is the only Indian competing in the BWF World Tour Super 500 meet who will compete in the Paris Olympics. The reigning Commonwealth Games gold medallist's form has slipped since his Canada Open triumph around this time last year as he is yet to win a title since then. Sen will look to find his rhythm back as he gears up for the Paris Olympics, which begins in less than a month's time. With a No 4 seeding, Sen finds himself in the bottom half of the draw which also features the Japanese duo of Kodai Naraoka (WR 6) and Koki Watanabe (WR 20). The former world championship bronze medallist Sen will start off against a qualifier and may head into a potential quarterfinal clash with Hong Kong's WR 23 NG Ka Long Angus. There are three other Indians in the men's singles main draw. Priyanshu Rajawat will face eighth seed Rasmus Gemke of Denmark. Rajawat recently had a notable last-eight finish in the US Open Super 300 event, wherein he lost to Lei Lax Xi. Kiran George will take on Yushi Tanaka of Japan, while Ayush Shetty is the fourth Indian in the draw, starting his campaign against the sixth seed Watanabe (6). On a high after her semifinal finish in the US Open last week, Malvika Bansod will face Julie Dawall Jakobsen of Denmark in her opening women's singles fixture. Malvika is also in the bottom half of the draw which has WR 14 Nozomi Okuhara as the second seed. But her immediate next challenge may be against WR 21 Line Hojmark Kjærskeld of Denmark. The Danish player has got a fourth seed and could be Malvika's last 16 challenger. If she is able to overcome the pre-quarters hurdle, Malvika may face fifth seed Sung Shuo Yun, who is WR 24.

Portugal sure to respect Slovenia in Euro 2024 round of 16 with fresh memory of upset losses

AP ■ FRANKFURT
Portugal coach Roberto Martinez knows to respect the underdog, having already seen his team lose to Slovenia when the round of 16 opponents at the European Championship met in a friendly in March. Portugal lost by the same 2-0 score to Georgia in a Euro 2024 group game, and Martinez was asked Sunday about the underdog trend at the same time that Slovakia was frustrating England with a lead that lasted until the last seconds. "All the teams here have a lot of personality. They believe that they can win," Martinez said ahead of Portugal facing Slovenia again on Monday. "The same applies to Slovenia. They are very well organized,



competitive, and believe in what they're doing," he said in translated comments. Portugal, the European champion in 2016 and still with the veteran presence of Cristiano Ronaldo and Pepe, is a big favourite. Slovenia is playing its first elimination game in the knockout rounds at a major tournament, its fourth in 32

years as an independent soccer nation. "It's a historical moment for Slovenian football," Martinez said, praising his counterpart Matjaž Kek. "We admire what their coach is doing because their national team plays like a club." "They attack very quickly. (Andrej) Sporar and (Benjamin) Šeško have a very strong bond, and they kept a clean sheet against England." That 0-0 against England was a third straight draw for Slovenia, one of six teams still unbeaten at Euro 2024. Kek joined in the mutual respect, calling Martinez "a gentleman, he always behaves like that." The game is likely to follow a pattern. Portugal leads the tournament in most time possessing the ball and Slovenia has the least, with UEFA assessing their scores as 64.3 per cent and 36.7 per cent. "They don't need a lot of possession to be dangerous," Martinez said. Portugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes expects patience to be key to beating goalkeeper Jan Oblak, who he described as one of the world's best.

Spain beat Georgia 4-1 to reach Euro 2024 quarterfinals, next plays host Germany

AP ■ COLOGNE (GERMANY)
Spain recovered from conceding an early own-goal to beat Georgia 4-1 for a spot in the Euro 2024 quarterfinals, ending one of the tournament's most compelling underdog stories. Goals from midfielders Rodri and Fabián Ruiz brought Spain back into the game after Robin Le Normand's own-goal in the 18th minute had given Georgia a shock lead. Nico Williams and Dani Olmo took the game out of Georgia's reach with two more goals late in the game as heavy rain fell.

Spain will play host nation Germany in the quarterfinals on Friday in Stuttgart. The loss ends Georgia's first ever major tournament campaign, which included a 2-0 upset win over Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal. Despite the lopsided score, Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili had another standout game with nine saves to prevent a rout. Spain had beaten Georgia 7-1 in a qualifying last year, but this game was a close contest until the last 20 minutes and testament to Georgia's rapid improvement under coach Willy Sagnol.



Playing its fourth game of Euro 2024, Spain had yet to concede a goal all tournament. That soon changed when Otar Kakabadze surged down the right flank for Georgia and crossed low. Le Normand chested the ball past his own goalkeeper, with the defender apparently distracted by Khvicha Kvaratskhelia arriving behind him to meet the cross. Spain took its time to get back into the game, but Rodri -- back from a one-game suspension -- leveled the score in the 39th with a low shot from just outside the box.

Bellingham's stunning goal rescues England in 2-1 win over Slovakia, advance to Euro 2024 quarters

AP ■ GELSENKIRCHEN (GERMANY)
Jude Bellingham needed to produce something special to keep England at Euro 2024. And he did. England was seconds away from slumping to one of the biggest upsets in the history of the European Championship when trailing 1-0 to Slovakia deep into stoppage time in the round of 16 on Sunday. But Bellingham's spectacular overhead kick in the fifth of six added minutes at Veltins Arena sent the game into extra time, and Harry Kane sealed a 2-1 win that keeps alive England's hopes of a first major trophy since 1966.

"I think it was 30 or 20 seconds until we were out of the European Championship," Bellingham said. "It's hard to deny that it was one of the most important moments of my career so far." He's had a few. The midfielder, who turned 21 on Saturday, has just completed a stunning debut season at Real Madrid, winning the Champions League and the Spanish title. At such a young age, he is one of England's most important players at Euro 2024 and delivered a moment of magic when all hope seemed lost. "His world is different to pretty much every other 21-year-old in the world... What he can provide are these moments where he grabs things by the scruff of the neck and his character and his personality creates moments that can change in a big game," England manager Gareth Southgate said. England - one of the pre-tournament favorites and runner-up at the last Euros - trailed 1-0 to 45th-ranked Slovakia after Ivan Schranz's 25th-minute goal. With the clock running down, Bellingham's time came. Kyle Walker launched a long throw from the right. Marc Guehi leapt to flick the ball on. Bellingham was in the box and had to readjust his body



to execute a perfect overhead kick, sending the ball into the bottom corner to leave Slovakia goalkeeper Martin Dubravka stuck on his line as he watched it nestle into the back of the net. Some England fans had already left the stadium. Those inside erupted. "I had a funny feeling the game wasn't dead and I know that sounds ridiculous. We were pushing and probing," Southgate said. Bellingham's goal was England's first shot on target in the match. It didn't have to wait long for its second as Kane headed home to score his seventh goal in his last seven knockout

games at major tournaments. It was also a record-extending 65th for his country. England will play Switzerland in the quarterfinals in Duesseldorf on Saturday. But for so long it looked like being a humbling exit for Southgate's team - bringing back memories of its elimination at the hands of Iceland at Euro 2016. "It's knockout football and anything is possible," Southgate said. England had faced fierce criticism for its performances in the group stage and boos rang around the stadium in the first half as frustration grew among its fans following Schranz's strike. It needed to improve in the second half. Phil Foden had a goal ruled out by VAR, Kane headed wide from close range and Declan Rice hit the post in the 81st. Slovakia had already produced a shock by beating No.3-ranked Belgium in the group stage and it looked like doing it again against the No. 5-ranked team in the world. That was until Bellingham struck. "They scored a goal from a player who is valued at 100 million euros. This was a team worth 1.5 billion (euros). You concede just half a meter and you will get punished," Slovakia coach Francesco Calzona said.

Nainital : Monsoon pitter-patter sounds like lullaby for weary souls

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Afzal Hussain Fauji
Nainital

Nainital, the lake town known for its peerless beauty world-wide, assumes a kind of ethereality when it starts raining. As the monsoon breezes gently blow, the old, tall trees-covering the hills with eye-soothing greenery- cheerfully swing. Nainital beckons tourists all the year round, but its charm peaks when the summer heat sings the plains. However, its beauty in monsoon, according to many, soothes the weary souls, rejuvenating them with verve and vigour with the romantic pitter-patter of the bounteous monsoon.

We love rain because it is supposed to wash away the old, making life look new again. Rain not just washes away the dust and dirt; it washes away fear and anxieties that gnaw at us from within and once these are washed away we are filled with new energies and if we are a little spiritually inclined we feel as though we are living in the infinity and eternity, away from the space and time our life is limited by. This is what Nainital becomes during the monsoon, a perfect setting to suddenly feel revived physically, intellectually and even spiritually. With raindrops sounding as lullaby, strolling amidst light drizzling along the lakes and the fog-wrapped hills may transport one to an idyllic plane where everything appears beautiful, pure and pristine. Another beauty that is lurking in this lake town is the colonial vestiges still visible. Once the summer capital of the United Provinces, it still boasts of its cluster of beautiful and sprawling bungalows and villas where the summer-scorched and nostalgic

Britishers would come and spend days in quaintness. The Naini Lake, the crescent-shaped, natural, freshwater body appears as the prima donna of this hill station. Indulging in a boat ride on this placid, sapphire-hued lake surrounded by vibrant greenery significantly adds to its attraction. And in the monsoon months, the charm of the lake and the delight of boatrips are said to reach their acme. No wonder, tourists who love to spend alone time away from noise and clamour with themselves or with their near ones through this iconic hill station in the monsoon time when the sunshine exhilarates, rain refreshes and wind resuscitates. In the three monsoon months, the tourist footfall drops significantly, but this deepens the serenity of the place.

Importantly, hotels based in Nainital give huge discounts to the tourists in the monsoon months. Besides, they enjoy numerous facilities during their stay in monsoon which are not available for the summer-time tourists because of the rush and push.



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