OPINION 6



DEHRADUN, TUESDAY JULY 2, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 Established 1864 the pioneer

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OPPOSITION FINDS VOICE IN PARLIAMENT **Government returns fire**

Rahul debuts as LoP

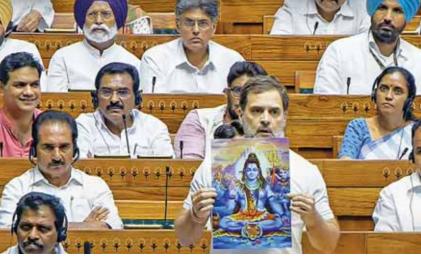
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Opposition parties, led by Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha and Mallikarjun Kharge in the Rajya Sabha, fired a salvo at the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in his third tenure, by "provoking" and then "prompting" the top Cabinet Ministers from the BJP, including Modi, Amit Shah, and Rajnath Singh, to respond and retort to the statements made by Congress leaders in Parliament. Amid several rounds of

interruptions, references to Rule Books, Parliamentary conventions etc, a brief 'clash' between Speaker Om Birla and Rahul and a few Opposition leaders was also observed apparently catapulting tough Opposition to resonate in Parliament after a hiatus of one decade.

In his maiden speech as LoP in Lok Sabha, Râhul triggered a row when he said those who call themselves Hindus are engaged in "violence and hate" round the clock.

Rahul said leaders of the ruling party are not Hindus as they engage in "violence and hate" round the clock, drawing massive protests from the Treasury Benches. He, however, hit back at



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha during ongoing Parliament Session, in New Delhi, on Monday

saying he was speaking about the BJP and neither the ruling party nor the RSS nor Modi represents the entire Hindu

society.
"It is not just one religion that talks about courage. In fact, all our religions talk about courage," Rahul said in his debut speech as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha that was watched by his mother Sonia Gandhi and sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from the visitors' gallery. Holding up pictures of Lord

Shiva, Ğuru Nanak and Jesus Christ, he referred to Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism and

Jainism to underline the importance of fearlessness. As Rahul held up a picture of Lord Shiva, Speaker Om Birla reminded him that rules do not allow displaying placards in the House.

"Shivji says daro mat, darao mat, shows the abhay mudra (the right hand held upright with the palm facing outwards), talks about ahimsa, but those who call themselves Hindus indulge in hatred, violence and untruths round the clock," Rahul said, pointing towards the BJP

In his one hour 40 minutes speech Rahul accused the BIP

of launching "systematic attacks" on the Constitution and the fundamental idea of India, noting that millions of people have resisted the ideas proposed by the ruling party. Rahul also claimed that the Armed forces know that Modi's Agniveer was brainchild, prompting Defence Minister Rajnath

House. He also hit out at the Centre over the situation in Manipur, alleging that it has pushed the northeastern State into a civil

Singh to accuse the Leader of

Opposition of misleading the

Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed "serious" the remarks made by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, by calling the entire Hindu society violent and he, along with Home Minister Amit Shah and other Ministers, demanded an apology from the Congress leader. Intervening during Rahul's speech, Modi said, "This issue is very serious. Calling the entire Hindu community violent is a serious issue? Modi, intervened twice, at least five Cabinet Ministers also interjected during Rahul's speech with demanding his apology for the Hindu community as violent.

The second intervention by Modi came when Rahul alleged that Ministers do not greet him due to the fear of Modi, the Prime Minister said democracy and the Constitution have taught him to take the Leader of Opposition seriously. Shah said the ruckus created

by the Opposition cannot drown the fact that the words —"those who call themselves Hindus indulge in violence" — were used in the House.



Session, in New Delhi, on Monday

Emergency and 1984 anti-Sikhs riots to hit back at Rahul, saying he has no right to talk about non-violence when the Congress had spread "ideological terror" in the country. Shah said Rahul insulted

"crores of Hindus" by saying that Hindus commit violence, lie and spread hatred. "He should apologise for this," the Home Minister demanded.

Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Kiren Rijiju accused Rahul of denigrating the responsible position of the Leader of Opposition "extremely

irresponsible" speech in the Lok Sabha. They also accused the

Congress leader of inflicting "grave insult" on the Hindus by allegedly linking them with violence and spreading untruth. Rijiju said the ruling BJP has

challenged many of the claims made by Rahul in his speech in the Lok Sabha and has sought action from the Speaker. He will have to substantiate

or tender an apology, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said slamming his allegations on Agnipath scheme and compensation

for the residents of Ayodhya during development projects

BJP Rajya Sabha member Sudhanshu Trivedi said the Congress has a history of insulting Hindus, as he cited former home ministers P Chidambaram and Sushil Kumar Shinde's alleged terrorism barbs for the

religion. Union Health Minister and BJP president JP Nadda also lambasted Rahul, accusing him of combining lies and hatred in his speech.

"It was a worst show by Rahul on his first day. Third time fail LoP has a knack for agitated, flawed logic. His speech today has shown that neither has he understood the mandate of 2024 (his third successive loss) nor does he have any humility, Nadda said.

Slamming Rahul for his remarks, Union Minister G Reddy Kishan said democracy will remain intact and there will also be peace "so long as Hindus are in majority" in the country Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar flayed Rahul for his remarks and said the Leader of Opposition only made "baseless remarks" in his speech and did not give any "positive suggestion" in the

Hurricane Beryl, now a Category 3 storm, is threatening several Caribbean nations

World Cup team stranded in Barbados

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Indian cricket fans might have to wait a little longer to see their T20 World Cup-winning heroes back in the country as the Rohit Sharmaled side's travel plans have been impacted by a hur-

Reports said that hurricane Beryl, originating in the Atlantic, had intensified with maximum sustained winds of 210 kmph. The Category 4 hurricane was about 570km east-southeast of Barbados and there are reports that the airport in Bridgetown will shut in the evening. The Indian team was supposed to take an Emirates flight from New York via Dubai. A source told PTI that the plan now is to fly the team back to India on a charter flight. "The team was supposed to leave from here (Bridgetown) to New York and then reach India via Dubai. But now the plan is to get a charter flight straight from here to Delhi.

A meeting with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also being considered," a source said. The Indian contingent, including support staff, families, and officials, consists of about 70

India had ended their 11-year wait for an ICC trophy on Saturday, overcoming South Africa by seven runs in a thrilling contest to win the T20 World Cup for the second time.

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

s the new criminal laws Acame into force on Monday amid apprehensions, Home Minister Amit Shah allayed fears regarding them asserting that the new laws have ended the era of British laws in India, converting the criminal justice system into

The new law prioritises the provisions of justice in contrast to the colonial-era law that focused primarily on penal action, the Home Minister claimed.

'Instead of 'dand', it is now 'nyay'; instead of delay, there will be speedy trial and speedy justice. Earlier, only the rights of the police were protected but now, rights of victims and complainants will be protected too," Shah said. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) came into effect on Monday. The new laws have replaced the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian

Evidence Act, respectively. Addressing conference in the Parliament premises, Shah said, "First of all, I would like to congratulate the people of the country that about 77 years after Independence, our criminal justice system is becoming completely

This will function on Indian

'Swadeshi'

ethos. After 75 years, these laws were contemplated upon and as these laws have gone into effect from today, colonial laws stand scrapped, and laws made in the Indian Parliament are being brought into practice," he said.

The Home Minister said justice would be delivered up to the level of the Supreme Court in all three years of the registration of an FIR under the new criminal laws.

"The new laws brought in a modern justice system, incorporating provisions such as Zero FIR, online registration of police complaints, summons served through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes," he

He said the new statutes were made more sensitive by adding a chapter on crimes against children and women and the inquiry report in such cases were to be filed within seven days. Shah said, according to the new laws, judgment in criminal cases had to be delivered within 45 days of completion of trial and charges must be framed within 60 days of first hearing.

The Home Minister said the laws would be applicable to cases occurring on or after July 1, 2024. Shah said the first case under the new laws was about a motorcycle theft registered in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior at 10 Madhya



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during ongoing Parliament session, in New Delhi, on Monday

He also said the police dismissed the case filed against a street vendor for selling water and tobacco products from a cart that allegedly obstructed a public way in central Delhi's Kamala Market after an investigation. Setting aside apprehensions regarding the new criminal laws, Shah said that new laws do not give more powers to police and remand period will remain only 15 days.

minutes past midnight.

"In the first-60 day period, police can take custody for 15 days any time," he said, adding that in the next 3/4 years, the entire system would get an uplift.

Shah also said the issue of bringing sexual crimes against men will be discussed since a Supreme Court verdict has mentioned this. On terrorism, Shah said it has been defined separately in the BNS "as we have a zero-terror policy"

There are some instances," recalled, conspiracies are hatched outside the country as was a bomb blast which occurred when he was Gujarat Home Minster. "All conspirators walked free as terror was not

Shah also rejected amid Opposition's criminal laws were a "cut, copy, paste" job and were rushed through without adequate discussion or debate.

defined.

He said misinformation was being spread in this regard. "We have been consulting on the new laws for four years. I attended consultative meetings. And in Parliament, there was a 9.29-hour debate in the Lok Sabha, 6.7-hour in Rajya Sabha on the new laws...34 members in Lok Sabha and 26 in Rajya Sabha participated [in the debate], Shah said

The Home Minister said organised crime, acts of terrorism and mob lynching had been defined, sedition was replaced with treason and video recording of all search and seizures made mandatory. "A new provision has been

added for the cases where physical relations have been established after giving false promise of marriage and statement of rape victims will be recorded by a woman police officer in presence of her guardian," he said.

Home Minister Amit Shah allays fears NEET toppers tally down

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency announced the revised rank list for the medical entrance exam NEET-UG on Monday.

The revised list was announced after a retest was conducted for candidates who were earlier awarded grace marks to compensate for loss of time as the exam on May 5 started late at six

For the retest conducted at seven centres on June 23 following a Supreme Court order, 48 per cent of the 1,563 candidates did not appear. NTA officials reported that 813 of the 1,563 candidates appeared for the retest while the others opted for the marks without

the grace. Centre-wise, Chandigarh — which had just two candidates — registered zero attendance. The under-scanner Jhajjar centre registered 58 per cent attendance, with 287 of the 494 candidates taking the

Allegations arose that the grace marks inflated scores, leading to six candidates from a single Haryana centre achieving a perfect 720, along with 61 others. Consequently, the top court ordered the cancellation of the grace marks and

provided an option for a retest. "At least 52 per cent — 813 out of 1,563 candidates — appeared for the retest. No candidates appeared in Chandigarh while the numbers were 291 from Chhattisgarh, one from Gujarat, 287 from Haryana, and 234 from Meghalaya," a senior NTA official earlier said.

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres, with approximately 24 lakh candidates appearing for it. Initially expected on June 14, the results were announced on June 4 due to early completion of answer sheet evaluations.

Delhi IGI canopy fall impacts 22,000 fliers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Days after the canopy collapse at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the Ministry of Civil Aviation shared data saying the incident impacted more than 22,000 passengers of IndiGo and SpiceJet. Around 21,690 passengers of

IndiGo and around 925 passengers of SpiceJet were affected. The Ministry said IndiGo

airline provided alternate flights to 12,194 passengers while refunded airfare to 9,431 passengers. SpiceJet

provided alternate arrangements passengers. Terminal was used for domestic flight operations by IndiGo and

Sources said 72 flights of IndiGo have been shifted from T1to T2 and T3, and 17 flights to T3, adding that all the flights are operational. The expanded T1, which had its

capacity increased to handle 40 million passengers from the earlier 17 million, is yet to become fully operational. According to the sources, it might be a few months before operations resume at T1. comprehensive assessment and deploy Union Minister of Civil was conducted, involving manpower

on Monday visited the Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC) at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) and held a meeting with senior officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA, BCAS, DIAL, and airline operators where he took stock of the operations. The meeting focused on reviewing current operations and passenger handling

Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu

following the transition of flights from Terminal 1 to Terminals 2 and 3. According to the Ministry, a

Restoration and relief work underway at the Terminal-1 of the IGI Airport where a canopy collapsed amid heavy rain in New Delhi detailed discussions on increased passenger flow.

ensuring smooth functioning and deploying additional to manage rigorous standards to ensure

Minister Naidu advised all stakeholders to maintain

prioritise passenger safety. All flights from T1 have been shifted to Terminal 2 (T2) and Terminal 3 (T3), and all of them were being operated

seamless operations and

As per an update provided by the ministry on Monday, the war rooms to help passengers have been activated and close coordination between DIAL and airlines is being facilitated. "All SpiceJet flights to/from Delhi from 1st July till 7th July, 24 will operate from Terminal 3, Delhi Airport. Necessary information has been communicated to all the passengers on their registered contact details (SMS/Email),"

the airline said in a post on X on Sunday. According officials,

structural engineers from IIT Delhi, engaged by the Civil Aviation Ministry, are expected to complete an independent assessment of the roof collapse at Delhi airport's T1 in a month's time. After a thorough assessment of the findings and taking into consideration other aspects, decision will be taken on restarting operations at the terminal. On June 28, a canopy at the

old departure forecourt of T1 partially collapsed amid heavy

rains resulting in the death of

least six people. Following the incident, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said structural engineers from IIT Delhi have been asked to immediately assess the partial collapse of the canopy. The official said the ministry was engaging structural engineers from IIT Delhi to do an independent assessment of roof collapse incident at T1 and they were expected to complete the assessment in one month. After the findings come in, a decision will be taken about recommencing operations at T1, the official added.

a person and injuries to at

CM directs Revenue **Dept to make Khatauni** online by July 15

PNS DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed the officers of the Revenue department that the land records (Khatauni) of the people in the State should be made available online by July 15. This measure will help in preventing people from visiting Tehsils for the certified copies of their Khatauni. These orders were given by chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami while chairing a review meeting with the officers of the revenue department at the State secretariat on Monday.

In the meeting the CM said that hearings should be made mandatory in the revenue courts two days in a week. He added that if a Magistrate is unable to sit in the revenue court on the date due to any reason, then it will be necessary for him to clearly mention it in the court diary. On a stern note

mutation of the land should be completed within the stipulated time period. He directed the Garhwal and Kumaon Commissioners to regularly review the settlement of mutation and the cases of revenue

Dhami said that all the services being provided under the 'Apunni Sarkar Portal should be provided to the people within the stipulated period of time. He added that the responsibility of the officers who are negligent in this regard should be fixed. He said that as many services of the Revenue department as possible should be linked to this portal.

Dhami said that the arrangements for sitting, drinking water and other basic facilities should be made for the people coming to the Tehsils. The CM also directed the Garhwal the CM said that the process of and Kumaon Commissioners

and all the District Magistrates to inspect arrangements in the Tehsils from time to time.

In the meeting, the CM directed the officers to expedite the process of Khatauni revision, updating records and preparation of a new database of the account and the coaccount holders of the land.

The CM also directed the officers to conduct a survey of the entire land registered in the revenue records by using modn methods without delay.

The deputy chairperson of the State infrastructure monitoring council Vishwas Dabar, additional chief secretary Anand Bardhan, principal secretary RK Sudhanshu, secretaries Shailesh Bagoli, Chandresh Yadav, additional secretary Vijay Jogdande and others attended the meeting.

Lt Gen Sharma new GoC-in-C of Army Training Command

Lieutenant general Devendra Sharma took over as the 25th general officer commanding in chief (GoC-in-C) of the Shimla based Army Training Command on Monday.

College, Ajmer, National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy, Lt Gen Sharma is a recipient of the coveted 'sword of honour' at IMA. He was commissioned into 'The Scinde Horse' on December 19, 1987.

An alumnus of Mayo

In an illustrious career spanning almost four decades, the officer has tenanted impor-

and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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tant command appointments in varied sensitive operational sectors, counter terrorism environment and high altitude ter-

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PFL claims its acquisition of Patanjali Ayurved Limited's **HPC** business to boost its **FMCG** portfolio

PNS DEHRADUN

¬he board of Patanjali **▲** Foods Limited (PFL) has approved the proposal of Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) to acquire the latter's Home and Personal Care (HPC) business which the PFL officials claimed would accelerate its transition into a Fast-Moving leading Consumer Goods (FMCG) company. They further said that the HPC business of PAL currently has strong brand equity in India's FMCG space and enjoys a loyal consumer base across the country. It presently caters to four key

E-AUCTION

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segments-dental care, skin care, home care and hair care. They also stated that this strategic initiative for acquisition of HPC business would strengthen the company's existing FMCG product portfolio with an array of marquee brands and also contribute to growth in terms of revenue.

As per the acquisition proposal, PFL prepares to acquire the entire HPC business of PAL, including the assets and liabilities attributable to the business, relevant employees, distribution network, contracts, licenses, permits, consents and approvals integral to this operation. The transfer of the HPC business has been mutually negotiated between PFL and PAL for a lump sum Rs 1100 crore subject to customary closing date adjustments and other terms as set out in the business transfer agreement to be executed between PFL and PAL.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. MOHAMMAD SAALIM alias Mohmmad Saalim S/o Murtaza Husain R/o Ahbab Nagar, Jwalapur, Haridwar Uttarakhand-249407, changed my name to KUNAL and myreligion from MUSLIM TO HINDU w.e.f.11.05.2024.

PD/560/A

CLASSIFIEDS

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from KHUSHI to KHUSHI KESHWANI and in future should be known as Khushi Keshwani d/o Harish Keshwani address: Vardaan H No.- 226/A, Gali No.- 07, Khanna Nagar, Jwalapur, Haridwar, UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from SAROJ to SAROJ RANI and in future I should be known as Saroj Rani w/o Darshan Singh address: B-11, Shiv Vihar Colony, Jwalapur, Haridwar, UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name form Naveen (old name) to Naveen Rautela and in future I shall be known and recognised as Naveen Rautela S/o Kishor Singh address: vill- Rampur, Post Jajal, Patti-Kunjani, Narendra Nagar, District- Tehri

Garhwal Uttarakhand

This is to inform the public that I have changed my name from Pradeep Singh to Pradeep Singh Negi S/o Late. Sh. Vishnu Singh Negi R/o vill- Jogiana, near Shaheed Dwar, Jolly Grant, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, In future I should be known as Pradeep Singh Negi.

मेरी पुत्री की एल०आई०सी० पॉलिसी सं0 274453063 में उसका घरेलू नाम UTTAKARSHI SHARMA दर्जे हो गया है जबकि मेरी पुत्री का वास्तविक नाम ARUSHI है। भविष्य में मेरी पत्री को ARUSHI D/o ANUJ KUMAR SHARMA के नाम से जाना पहचाना व पुकारा जाए। निवासी म०नं० 156. राजपुताना पश्चिम रुडकी जिला-हरिद्वार

Registrar

Public Notice In the military records, the names of

both my sons have been erroneously recorded as Saurabh Singh and Gauray Singh, Whereas the real and correct names are Saurabh Rathour and Gaurav Rathour. In future, both my sons should be known and read by their correct and real names Saurabl Rathour and Gauray Rathour Sohan Kumar Rathour son of Govind Rathour resident of Doctorganj Bridge Number-01 Vikasnagar District Dehradun. Aadhar Card Numbe 979462000569

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Anganwadi workers seek action from CM

PNS DEHRADUN

The Anganwadi workers ■ submitted a letter to chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday to communicate their concerns regarding an increase in their monthly allowance and better retirement benefits. Stating this, the president of the Workers Anganwadi Association Rekha Negi informed that they have been consistently expressing the need for higher monthly wages and better retirement benefits to the State government for several years. Unfortunately, their pleas have been repeatedly ignored. Additionally, their demands have not been taken into consideration by the government due to the restrictions in place due to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. Following the

Kandwal asks DPO to

of minor giving birth

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Rishikesh, the chairperson

of the Uttarakhand State

Commission for Women

(USCW) Kusum Kandwal

instructed the Dehradun District Probation Officer (DPO) Meena Bisht to

ensure proper care for the

victim. Kandwal said that

upon learning about the

incident where a minor

girl gave birth in Rishikesh.

she visited the government

hospital. She met the fam-

ily members of the girl

and obtained information

about the health of the

minor and the newborn

from the hospital admin-

istration during her visit.

Subsequently, Kandwal

said that she spoke with the

station officer of the

informed her that hospital

administration had sent a

notice indicating that a

Ranipokhari area had

given birth at the hospital.

a female sub-inspector was

dispatched to the hospital.

PNS DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited

(UPCL) received a certificate

of appreciation from the

Central Board of Indirect

Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

on July 1. The certificate

was presented to UPCL in

recognition of its contribu-

tion to the nation through

timely compliance with

monthly and annual GST-

related obligations during

the financial year 2023-24.

from

To investigate the matter,

who

the

UPCL receives certificate of

appreciation from CBIC

Ranipokhari,

minor

ensure proper treatment

Taking serious cognisance of the case of a minor giving birth in Dichilosh the heimstern was determined that the

now submitted the letter to the chief minister.

She informed that in the letter they emphasised that under the Mahila Kalyan Kosh Anganwadi workers have to deposit Rs 100 per month. Based on the total amount deposited in the Mahila Kalyan Kosh, a lump sum of Rs. 10 lakhs will be provided to retiring Anganwadi workers aged 60 or above, or in case of sudden death, to ensure their well-being, she said.

She further highlighted that this fund was contributed by the Anganwadi workers for a secure future post-retire-ment. Further, Negi added that the monthly salary of Anganwadi workers should be raised in addi-

was determined that the

incident occurred within

the Ranipokhari police

police informed her that a

case has been registered

under the POCSO Act and

investigation has com-

menced. The accused boy,

who is also a minor, is cur-

rently absconding, but

efforts are underway to

apprehend him and place

him in Bal Sudhar Grah,

informed that she has also

directed Bisht to dispatch

Committee (CWC) team

to ensure the care and

protection of the newborn.

Following the directions,

the CWC team arrived

and proposed the option of

placing the victim in the

Government Shishu Sadan

for treatment and care if

she is unable to raise the

Notably, this is the third con-

secutive year that UPCL has

received this award, having

also been recognised in 2021

In response to this

achievement, the managing

director at UPCL Anil

Kumar emphasided that this

award is a matter of pride for

the corporation as well as for

Uttarakhand.

child, Kandwal added.

further

Welfare

she stated.

Kandwal

Child

She further said that the

station area, she said.

end of the MCC, they have tion to the enhanced retireances are addressed.

> workers had previously across the state for an extended period of time.

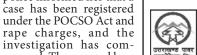
ment benefits. She further emphasised that if the government continues to ignore their demands, Anganwadi workers statewide will unite in protest until their griev-

It will be recalled that prior to the implementation of the MCC, the Anganwadi protested across the state for the fulfillment of their demands. Additionally during the protest, they also closed the Anganwadi centres

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice Sr. DEN/HQ/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender CONDUCT OF POST GRADUATE ENTRANCE TEST

against following tenders Nos. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts. FDR etc are no 56-DRM-MB-24-25 Dt: 28.06.2024

Work	I facilities at various Level crossing in the section of Sr DEN/HO/MR		
Tender	Closing Date Time	26.07.2024	
Adve	ertised Value (Rs.)	21,59,496.69	
Ear	nest Money (Rs.)	43,200.00	
Tend	er Cost (Rs.)	00.00	
Bio	lding Start Date	12.07.2024	
Perio	od of Completion	06 Months	
No. 75-W/2/3/V	NA/Publication Dt.: 28.06.202	4 1983/2024	
	Camilian Cuataman	Mish A Coults	



उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि० कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद खण्ड 33/11 के०वी० उपस्थान, श्रीनगर (ग०)

Provision of drinking water facility and augmentation to existing

निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित जानपदीय कार्यो हेतु केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार/निगमों व अनभवी प्रतिष्ठित , आयकर ,जी .एस .टी . एवं ई .पी .एफ आदि में पंजीकृत तथा जी .एस .टी . , ई . पी.एफ., जमा करने के नवीनतम चालान की प्रतिधारी ठेकेदारों से हस्ताक्षरयुक्त मुहरबन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं जो दिनांक 18.07.2024 के पूर्वान्ह 11.00 बजे तक बेची जायेगी तथा निविदायें उसी दिन अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे तक जमा की जायेंगी जोकि उसी दिन अपरान्ह 03.30 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा उपस्थित निविदादाताओं/ अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेंगी। उक्त तिथि में अवकाश होने पर निविदाएं अगले कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की व खोली जायेंगी। निविदा की वैधता खुलने की तिथि से 03 माह होगी। निविदाऍ किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्योलय में देखे व निविदा धनराशि बैंक ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चैक/नगद जमा करने पर निविदा प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं किसी भी अथवा सभी निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। डाक से निविदा मंगवाने पर डाक व्यय रू० १००.०० अतिरिक्त देय होगा तथा डाक से हुए विलम्ब पर विभाग का कोई उत्तरदायित्व नहीं होगा। जिन निविदाकारों पर विभाग द्वारा पेनाल्टी लगाई गई हो अथवा जिनके द्वारा विभागीय कार्य संतोषजनक एवं पूर्ण नहीं किए गए/कराये जा रहे हों , उन्हें एकल अथवा संयुक्त रूप से भी निविदा नहीं बेची जायेगी। शर्तेधारी निविदायें रवीकार नहीं की जायेंगी। निविदाकार निविदा प्रपत्र खरीदने से पूर्व निर्माण कार्य रथल का भली–भांति निरीक्षण कर लेवें। पिछले ०३ वित्तीय वर्ष में एक अनुबंध के अर्न्तगत अनुमानित लागत का 80% या दो अनुबंधों के अर्न्तगत प्रत्येक में 60% या तीन अनुबंधों के अर्न्तगत प्रत्येक में 40% तक के जानपदीय कार्य (civil works) का अधिशासी अभियन्ता (जानपद)/उच्च स्तर के अधिकारी द्वारा जारी किया कार्य अनुभव प्रमाण –पत्र प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य है। निविदा भाग ०१ में, अनुभव प्रमाण-पत्र, आयकर, जी०एस० टी०, ईं.पी.एफ पंजीकरण एवं निविदा वैधता हेतु हस्ताक्षरयुक्त रू० 100.00 के स्टाम्प पेपर पर रू० ०1 00 का रसीदी टिकट लगा तथा धरोहर धनराशि, अधोहरताक्षरी के पक्ष में प्रतिभूत करते हुए सी.डी.आर./एफ.डी.आर./एन.एस.सी. के रूप में तथा वांछित प्रमाण पत्रों तथा ई.पी.एफ, जी.एस.टी जमा करने की नवीनतम सत्यापित प्रति सहित प्रस्तुत की जायेगी। धरोहर धनराशि निविदा के निर्णय होने से पूर्व वापस नही की जायेंगी। निविदा भाग 02 में कार्य की दरें प्रस्तुत की जायेंगी। निविदा भाग 0 1 में वांछित धरोहर धनराशि एवं वांछित प्रपत्रों आदि के नहीं पाये जाने पर निविदा भाग 02 नहीं खोला जायेगा। क्रम संख्या- 1. 33/11 के0वी0 उपस्थान, श्रीनगर (ग०) परिसर स्थित अधिशासी अभियन्ता(वि०) आवास की विशेष मरम्मत एवं अन्य आवासों हेतु सैप्टिक टैंक निमार्ण कार्य। निविदा संख्या 04/विजाखश्री/2024-25, धरोहर धनराशि रू० 30000-00, निविदा मूल्य रू० 590-00(जी.एस.टी.सहित), कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 2 माह। 2. 33/11 के0वी0 उपस्थान , नरेन्द्रनगर (टि०ग०) पर एस० जी०आर० एवं आवासीय भवनों की विशेष मरम्मत एवं अन्य विविध जानपदीय कार्य। निविदा संख्या 05/विजाखश्री/2024-25, धरोहर धनराशि रू० ४५०००–००, निविदा मूल्य रू० ११८०–०० (जी.एस.टी. सहित), कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि- 3 माह। 3. 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपस्थान, बड़कोट जिला-उत्तरकाशी में जे०ई०/ई०ई० आवास की मरम्मत एवं अन्य विविध जानपदीय कार्य। निविदा संख्या ०६/विजाखश्री/२०२4–२५, धरोहर धनराशि रू० १००००–००, निविदा मूल्य रू० 295-00 (जी.एस.टी. सहित), कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि- 1 माह।

....... अर्ट्यायणजाणख०ष्रा०/टी-1/निविदा **अधिशासी अभियन्ता** दिनांक : 01.07.2024 ''राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें''

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE A Statutory Authority of Government of India under the Architects Act, 1972 India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

IN ARCHITECTURE (PGETA-2024)

Notification for PGETA-2024

All candidates, institutions and other stakeholders are hereby informed that the Council of Architecture shall be conducting a national level Postgraduate Entrance Test in Architecture (PGETA - 2024) for admission to Postgraduate programme being imparted at the architectural institutions approved by the Council for the academic session 2024-2025, as required as per Council of Architecture Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Guidelines for Postgraduate Degree Programme, 2022.

PGETA - 2024 shall be conducted on 28th July, 2024 and 4th August, 2024. The brochure containing relevant details of the Test and the eligibility criteria for admission to Post Graduate Programme is available at www.pgeta.in. A list of institutions imparting Postgraduate programme in Architecture approved by the Council in the country is available at the website of the Council-www.coa.gov.in. The registration for PGETA-2024 shall commence from 03.07.2024.

The candidates desirous to take admission into Postgraduate programme in Architecture are advised to register themselves for PGETA-2024 at www.pgeta.in.

New Delhi Dated : 02.07.2024

GICICI Home Finance Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri- Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400059, India Branch Office: Showroom No. 301, 3rd Floor, Shri Ram Arcade, Old Municipal No. 74, Rajpur Road, Dehradur Pin: 248009

Pin: 248009 [See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of Immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Prashant Kumar (Borrower) Roma Kumari (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LHDEH00001407775 & LHDEH00001409540	Plot bearing Khata No. 1876, Khasra 530, situated at Mauza Siddarwala, Pargana Parwa Doon, Tehsil Rishikesh, Distt. Dehradun, Ultarakhand - 248001	Rs. 8,73,483/- June 24, 2024	Rs. 9,22,185/- Rs. 92,220/-	July, 08, 2024 11:00 AM 03:00 PM	July, 19, 2024 02:00 PM 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- https://BestAuctionDeal.com) of our auction agency GlobeTech. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 18, 2024 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Showroom No. 301, 3rd Floor, Shri Ram Arcade, Old Municipal No. 74, Rajpur Road, Dehradun Pin: 248009 on or before July 18, 2024 before 04:00 PM The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Showroom No. 301, 3rd Floor, Shri Ram Arcade, Old Municipal No. 74, Rajpur Road, Dehradun Pin: 248009 on or before July 18, 2024 before 05:00 PM Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.-Auction" payable at Dehradun. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300 or our Sales & Marketing Partner NexXen Solutions Private Limited.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further rea For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icicihfc.com/

Date : July 02, 2024 Place : Dehradun

Authorized Officer ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

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

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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-

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



Bharadwaj registered a comstating that two unidentified with a knife when he was sitting near Ravidas Ghat. They allegedly snatched his phone

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

 $T^{\text{he additional chief secretary Anand Bardhan has}}$

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 meet-

ing of the board of directors of

the USTDC at the State sec-

In the meeting the ACS

directed that the new ideas

should be worked to strength-

en the corporation. He said

that the corporation should

retariat on Monday.

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.

The ACS suggested that efforts in the fields of vegeta-

bles, fruits and flowers can be

UP man becomes first Dhami welcomes implementation of new criminal laws

PNS DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami wel-comed 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- Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bhartiya 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

GICICIBank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank LTD Office Number 201-B, 2ND Floor, Road No 1 Plot No -B3, WIFI IT PARK,Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane (West) - 400604 The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

_					
Sr. No.		Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
		Manisha Pandey/ Umesh Pandey// (LBMUM00004862254)Flat No. 102, 1st Floor, B Wing, Shanti Madhuben Chs, Plot No. 271- 272, Sector 19 C, Koparkhairane, Navi Mumbai- 400709	Flat No. 25, 3rd Floor, "Shree Vishal Co-operative Housing Society Ltd", Behind Jimmy Tower, Plot No. 17, Sector-18, Koparkhairane, Navi Mumbai - 400709	May 24, 2024 Rs. 57,63,799.76/-	09-03- 2024
	2.	Piyush Kumar Pandey/ Sonal Piyush Pandey// (LBMUM00005741916) Room No. 15, Sector-9, Khanda Colony, New Panvel, Raigad-410206	Flat No. 107, 1st Floor, Building No. G, "life Republic", "Sector R-1/1st Avenue", Hinjewadi Marunji Kasarsai Road, New Survey No. 86 Part(Old S.No. 113/1A/1 Part+ 113/1A/1B+113/1B+113/2 & 114/2, 114/1 Part, S.No. 114/1 Part and New S.No. 74/B Part (Old S.No. 74/2, 74/3), Mouje Zambe & Marunji, Tal- Mulsi, Pune- 411057	May 11, 2024 Rs. 49,85,522/-	08-03- 2024

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.

plaint against two unidentified persons. The Haridwar senior superintendent of police Pramendra Dobhal said that plaint on Monday at 1:45 AM persons threatened to kill him

Transfer unused land to other | DGP holds inter-State departments: ACS to USTDC coordination meeting

> ahead of Kanwad Yatra PNS DEHRADUN

The officiating director general of police of Uttarakhand Abhinav Kumar held an made in the mountainous inter-State coordination meeting with six States on Monday in view of the upcoming Kanwad Yatra. Kumar said that observing the He directed the officers that rise in traffic during the ongoing Char Dham Yatra, traffic management will be one of the the dues of the Corporation to the industry should be cleared. main priorities of the police. The meeting was The ACS said that the pendheld at police headquarters in the evening. The ing payments of the trans-DGP said that he interacted with senior police portation fares to the farmers officials of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, should be disposed of at the Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and earliest. The ACS said that an Haryana along with the officials of the intelimprovement in capacity and ligence bureau to ensure harmony, safety and efficiency will help in law and order are maintained during Kanwad strengthening the corpora-Yatra. The police also expect a rise in the arrival of Kanwads and will make all the preparations accordingly, especially in Dehradun and The secretary agriculture Haridwar districts. The police will also ensure and farmer welfare Vinod tight security in border areas too, he added. Kumar Suman, district mag-The Kanwad Yatra is expected to commence istrate of Udham Singh Nagar in the third week of July and will reach the State work on other alternatives and Managing Director of in the last week. Considering rainfall and relatafter assessing its capacity USTDC Udairaj Singh and ed issues, the police will gear up the arrange-

others attended the meeting. | ments accordingly, he added.

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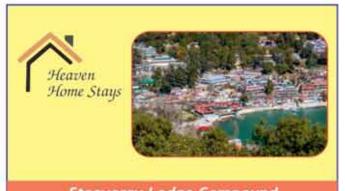
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Teaching-sharing system implemented in Uttarakhand

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

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

T n 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.

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 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.

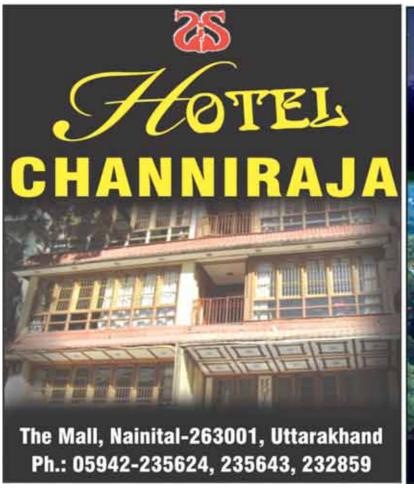
The meeting was attended by director general education Banshidhar Tiwari, director SCERT Vandana Gabriyal, director secondary Mahavir Singh Bisht, director primary Ramkrishna Uniyal, deputy secretary CBSE RK Gupta, secretary Uttarakhand Vidhyalayi Shiksha Parishad Vinod Simalti, representative of ICSE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

NORTHERN RAILWAY

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Tender No. Date	61-DRM-MB-24-25 Date 01.07.2024			
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Type of Contract		Works		
Tender Closing Date Time		25.07.2024 16:00		
Advertised Value (Rs.)		77,94,526.42		
Earnest Money	y (Rs.)	1,55,900.00		
Bidding Start	Bidding Start Date 11.07.2024			
Validity of Offe	ity of Offer (Days) 60 Days			
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BJP, INDIA Bloc spar over new laws

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 govern-ment 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 sys-

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 Îndian 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 chil-

"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

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 MÝs.'

"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

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 discusand Chidambaram said.

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

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.

Raĥul 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 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.

Lt Gen Raja

Subramani takes

heroes on Doctor's Day



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

July 1 is observed as the National Doctor's Day to commemorate Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned doctor who served as West Bengal Chief Minister too, and whose birth and death anniversary falls on this day.

In a social media post, Modi said, "Greetings on #Doctors Day. This is a day to honour the incredible dedication and compassion of our healthcare They can navigate the most challenging complexities with remarkable skill

"Our Government is fully committed to improving the health infrastructure in India and spread respect they deserve," he

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.

Modi praises healthcare Kharge seeks scrapping of Agniveer

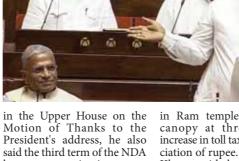
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

onstitution 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 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



has seen examination paper leaks, terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, train accident, 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

in Ram temple, collapse of canopy at three airports, increase in toll taxes and depre-

Kharge said the future of 30 lakh students has been affected due to recent paper leaks. "If Prime Minister visited nearly will stop their study," he said In the last seven years, there have been paper leaks 70 times, Kharge claimed adding that this has affected future of 2 crore students.

Leader of opposition further said the government was not doing anything on this matter and blames opposition parties for raising the issue in Parliament.

He asked the government to improve the examination system in the country.

Expressing dismay at President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament last week, he said the speech did not make

any mention of the Manipur

situation.

Kharge said the Prime Minister did not visit Manipur, which has been burning since the last one year. He also said the speeches during the poll campaign but did not visit Manipur. Congress President said there was no vision or direction in the President's address to Parliament and attacked the ruling party for only giving slogans and not doing development works.

Kharge said the President's speech has also "ignored" the challenges faced by the country and tried to hide the government's failure.

He said there was no mention about the poor, dalits and minorities in the President's address. Targeting Prime Minister Modi, he said oppo-

Doctors turn junkyard into fun

sition parties talk about the plight of common man, while Modi was only doing 'Mann Ki

Kharge said Modi is an expert

in only giving slogans. Charging the Prime Minister with trying to divide the society through his speeches during polls, he said no prime minister has done this before. Kharge also attacked the ruling benches for not taking along

opposition parties. He charged that many elected governments of opposition par-ties, including in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, were dislodged while chief ministers have been jailed and said this is against "democracy and the Constitution".

"This year, the President's first address was in January and the

The first address was for elections and the second was a copy of it. There was nothing for Dalits, minority sections and the backward classes in her address.

There was neither vision nor direction in the President's address. Like the last time, it was just about full of words of appreciation for the government," Kharge said.

He also appealed to Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to put back statues of Mahatma Gandhi, BR Ambedkar and that of other leaders at their original places in Parliament complex.

over as Vice Army Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI H

ieutenant General NS Raja LSubramani on Monday here assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of Army Staff. The General Officer was tenanting the appointment of General Officer Commandingin-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 Śervices 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 London and an 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-tobe-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, fishermen along with their boats and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody, the ministry

expedite the release and repa-

triation 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

prisoners who have been repa-"Pakistan has been asked to Pakistan has been requested to triated from Pakistan since ensure the safety, security and 2023 till date," it added.

welfare of all Indian and believed-to-be-Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation to India, it said.

The MEA said India remains committed to addressing on priority all humanitarian matters, including those pertaining to prisoners and fishermen in each other's country. "In this context, India has

urged Pakistan to expedite the nationality verification process of 75 believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen in India's custody, whose repatriation is pending for want of nationality confirma-tion from Pakistan," the statement said. "As a result of sustained efforts

by the government, 2,639 Indian fishermen and 71 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014. This includes 478 Indian fishermen and 13 Indian civilian

spot for kids with chronic diseases PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

n 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



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

activity and nurture mental well-being. Here, amidst laughter and play, children find respite from medical challenges, fostering a path to faster recovery, they

"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",

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 designed to promote physical children on the healing path can momentarily escape their medical concerns, thus aiding in their recuperation and ensuring their overall wellbeing.

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 elaborated Chairman Board

New criminal laws well designed to render justice: Pondy CM 3 killed, 1 injured as speeding

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

The three new criminal laws are Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Nagrik 2023, Bharatiya Suraksha 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

Addressing a special meeting of the Departments of Law and Police at the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Hospital here marking the launch of the three new criminal laws, Rangasamy said, "The Rangasamy said, territorial government is keen that there should be no

particularly heinous crimes". Thanking the government

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

"People should feel safe and secure so that a peaceful society can be ensured," he

Stating that Puducherry was becoming destination, chief minister said that there was every need to protect law and order. The government was going ahead with ensuring a peaceful environment. He also said that seven fast

track courts would come up soon in Puducherry. "Judicial officers and also

subordinate staff would be posted to man these courts, he said.

benefit of all. Minister The chief minister also Home Namassivayam said that 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.
Law Minister K

Lakshminarayanan said that the government was mulling appointment of a Director of

Prosecution.
Chief Secretary to the government Sharat Chauhan and senior police officials participated.

An official source said that training has already been given to police personnel and others concerned on the three new laws in the union territory.

The three new laws have

replaced the old Indian Penal (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) Indian Evidence Act.

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. The accident took place at a 'T' junction on the Sardar Patel Ring Road at around 5 am, they said.

Visuals showed beer cans in the SUV and some lying scattered near the car wreckage

The number plate of the SUV belonged to another car, sources said. The State Monitoring Cell

(SMC), which keeps a watch on illegal liquor sale in Gujarat, denied reports that its team



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.

She said the SUV coming from the Vaishnodevi Circle hit the other car when the latter was taking a turn towards Rajpath

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 Ahmedabad, she said.

Om Prakash and the SUV's driver Rajendra Sahu, who was seriously injured, residents of Rajasthan, she

"The SUV going towards Bopal rammed into another car, which was coming from Bopal side and taking a right turn towards the Rajpath Club Road. Two occupants of the car and one person in the SUV died on the spot. The SUV's driver was undergoing treatment at a hospital," 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

Singh also claimed that it is an attempt by political rivals who want to take advantage of the prevailing situation in the state which has been in the grip of violence since May last year. His statement came three days

after a media outlet reported that Singh is likely to resign "Manipur is passing through a troubled time. In such a

crucial time, the leaders of Manipur can't afford to be weak. We are fully confident of our abilities, the chief minister said. Addressing the Manipur issue

is more important, Singh told reporters after attending a programme in Imphal on the implementation of three new criminal laws across the "The rumours (on resignation)

are possibly spread by those who want to be CM and ministers, as well as the opposition," he said.

The chief minister said that his government communicates regularly with the PMO and



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

Singh also called on media publish outlets not to unfounded reports.

"Panic situation might be created if speculative reports published without verification. Publications of such unfounded reports may give pleasure to some people. However, chances are 90 per cent of the people in the state would start panicking," he

He asked media outlets to come to Manipur and take stock of the actual situation to help bring peace to the state. conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hill-based Kukis has led to

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."

Law against mob justice commences today with punishments imprisonment and even death... I want to appeal to the people of Manipur to give up mob justice" Singh said. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and

the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) came into Sakshya effect on Monday. The new laws replaced the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence respectively

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

PTI BENGALURU

 $K^{arnataka}$ Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he would abide by the decision of the Congress highcommand on the issue of leadership change, amid a political tussle within the ruling Congress. A Vokkaliga seer last week pub-

new laws and wanted its

Tamil translation for the

licly requested Siddaramaiah to step down and to make way for his deputy D K Shivakumar. "It is not a matter to be discussed in public. Whatever decision the High Command takes, we will go by it," Siddaramaiah told



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

"I don't want to comment on what Swamiji says. Ours is a

national party. There is a high command," the Chief Minister Meanwhile, Shivakumar warned

leaders not to issue public state-

ments on the matter of leader-

ship change and creation of multiple posts of Deputy Chief "If anyone crosses the limit, the

party will take a decision, Shivakumar said. There have also been demands

by some Ministers perceived to be close to Siddaramaiah to create more posts of Deputy Chief Minister and given to leaders from Lingayat, SC, ST, and

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. Shivakumar, a member of the

Vokkaliga community, is currently the only Deputy Chief Minister in the Siddaramaiah government. There was stiff competition

between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the Chief Minister's post after the declaration of Assembly election results in May last year, and the Congress had managed to convince the latter and made him 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 half years but they have not been officially confirmed by the party. Shivakumar has made no secret of his ambition to become chief minister, while Siddaramaiah had sought public support during the Lok Sabha polls so that the Congress wins maximum number of seats in the state, which would strengthen his

Reckless pleadings made in some petitions challenging reservation to Maratha community: HC of populaces in the state and challenged the setting up of Commission as the manner in which it has Maharashtra analysed and studied the

The Bombay High Court on Monday said it was sorry to note that certain reckless pleadings were made in a few petitions challenging the Maharashtra government's decision to grant reservation to the Maratha community. A full bench comprising Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya, Justices G S Kulkarni and Firdosh Pooniwalla said the issue was serious and was

going to affect a large number

the petitioners ought to have been more careful with the

A bunch of petitions were filed challenging the constitutional validity of the Maharashtra Reservation for Socially and Backward Educationally Backward Classes Act, 2024, under which 10 per cent reservation was granted to the Maratha community in government jobs and education. petitions

Backward Class Commission led by retired Justice Sunil Shukre, its methodology and its report recommending reservation to persons from the Maratha community.

The bench on Friday commenced the final hearing Friday in all the pleas.

On Monday, one of the petitioners Bhausaheb Pawar through his advocate Subhash Jha, filed an application

respondent in his plea. Pawar, in his plea, challenged the validity of the Act granting reservation and appointment of the commission. Advocate General Birendra

Saraf, appearing for the

Maharashtra government,

said he has been saying since day one that the commission must have a say in the matter as its appointment and its report are under challenge. "The petitioners have found also seeking impleadment of the fault with the commission and

issue, so the commission should be given an opportunity to answer itself," Saraf said. The petitioners opposed the

impleadment commission, claiming their pleas have challenged the constitutional validity of the and hence, commission need not be heard.

They sought the bench to continue hearing the matter.

MP Cabinet nod Assam flood: Over 43 per cent of forest camps in Kaziranga submerged 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 have to pay their own income

The cabinet approved another bill that seeks to impose penalty on owners for not filling or plugging open borewells, a move that comes in the backdrop of several incidents of children falling in open borewells and dying in the

A cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, was held in the assembly campus in Bhopal where several important decisions were taken.

It approved a bill for amending the Madhya Pradesh Cow Slaughter Prohibition Act, 2004, and giving right to district collectors to confiscate vehicles involved in transporting cows for slaughter, an official said. Under the Act, illegal transportation of beef and cows is banned in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Yaday, in a statement, said on several occasions vehicles caught while illegally transporting cows get released on court orders.

"We have decided that vehicles involved in cow slaughter will be confiscated and will not get released," the CM said. According to the official, the cabinet also a nod to a bill to prevent incidents of children felling in open borewells.

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.

As a significant portion of wildlife habitat is now sub-merged, scores of animals have started crossing the National Highway 715 in search of higher ground towards the southern direction in East Karbi Anglong However, no death of animals

has been reported as of now due to floods or accidents while crossing the highway.

Floodwaters have submerged a total of 101 forest camps, of which six have been vacated,

across Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, according to

a flood report. It said 35 camps in Agoratoli range, 21 in Kaziranga, 10 in Bagori, five in Burhapahar range and nine in Bokakhat are submerged.

Besides, 21 forest camps in Biswanath Wildlife Division of the national park have been inundated, the report added. 'Kaziranga National Park is well-prepared for the upcoming flood season with comprehensive measures in place to ensure the safety of wildlife, staff and visitors. Continuous monitoring and timely interventions will be prioritised to mitigate the impact of flooding," the report said. It said that herds of elephants have begun moving towards East Karbi Anglong through



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 prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC to safeguard the animals crossing the NH-715, which passes through KNP. Stating that the highway attracts huge traffic, Golaghat District Magistrate Vivek Shyam Pangyok said, "Plying of vehicles during active flood attracts during active flood attracts

imminent threat to wild animals. He said the animals use the corridors to temporarily migrate to the natural highland (hillocks) for shelter falling under Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council. Accordingly, a set of orders have been issued for traffic

management along NH-715

unwarranted risk and a cause for

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.
"Only local private vehicles will be allowed to cross KNP during

night hours," it added.

The order further mentioned various traffic diversion points for both commercial and private vehicles. The flood situation across the state continued to deteriorate with incessant rains inundating many districts, affecting lakhs of people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday enquired about the prevailing flood situation in Assam and assured of all support to handle the crisis, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

New policy for hoardings in Mumbai metropolitan region soon

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

Samant made the statement during a discussion about hoardings erected in the city by violating rules and the hoarding collapse incident in which 17 people lost their lives last month.

"A policy will be unveiled once the code of conduct for the legislative council polls ends after the results are declared for the graduates and teachers constituencies, the minister said.

He said the committee headed by former Allahabad and a 50 per cent discount on

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 Bhinde,

whose firm erected the hoarding that collapsed, was photographed with Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and his role should also be probed. Samant further said that permissions are not taken from the civic authorities to erect hoardings on railway

Of the 1,025 hoardings in Mumbai, 306 are on railway land, he said. BJP leader Ashish Shelar

demanded an inquiry into hoardings erected since the COVID-19 pandemic. He alleged that hoarding owners received subsidies



Uddhav then

held secret meetings with hoarding owners Thackeray-led government 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

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 official statement. Giving further details, Health investigated Minister Kamal Gupta on Monday said the BJP probing the committee hoarding Ghatkopar

Haryana CM Saini approves initiative for free renal, liver transplants up to ₹3 lakh PTI ■ CHANDIGARH committed to committed to healthcare

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).

The chief minister has also sanctioned the creation of a specialized fixed renal and liver transplant package of Rs 3 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana -Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY-AB) scheme, according to an

government in the state is regardless of economic status.

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 lifesaving 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 complex procedures, the Govt is paving the way for a future where healthcare is a fundamental right accessible to all

reform and patient welfare.

With this new initiative, the

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Cosmetic makeover

The new criminal laws have retained old laws with minor changes while others could impact civil liberties harshly

■ ndia has finally shed its colonial legacy in jurisprudence, embracing a new era with indigenous criminal laws. The big question being asked is whether it has truly moved beyond nomenclature or if it's merely a name change. The archaic Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Indian Evidence Act, and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) have been replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, respectively. This historic change, taking effect from July 1, 2024, has stirred considerable debate among legal experts, practitioners, and the broader public. While some provisions break from the past, others are just old wine in new bottles, adding a layer of confusion in the legal system. The IPC, established in 1860, and the Evidence Act, enacted in 1872, have long been the cornerstones of India's criminal justice system. Both were products of the British colonial administration and have been criticized for their outdated and colonial-era perspectives. The CrPC of 1973 also

formed a significant part of the legal framework governing criminal procedures in India.

The new legal laws Replacing the IPC, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita aims to update and Indianise the criminal code. There are some provisions that are definitely new while others are mere replicas of the old ones. One notable change is the adoption of the definition of terrorism from the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). This new definition encompasses a broad spectrum of activities intended to threaten the unity, integrity, and security of India. However, critics argue that this broader definition could lead to misuse and the criminalisation of legitimate dissent. Another stark

departure is Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam which replaces the Indian Evidence Act and seeks to modernise the rules of evidence in line with contemporary technological advancements. A significant change is the new stance on electronic evidence. Last but not the least, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, replacing the CrPC, introduces several changes aimed at streamlining criminal procedures. The new law redefines the use of handcuffs and expands the scope of police custody beyond the initial 15 days, a change that has sparked considerable concern regarding potential misuse and the risk of increased custodial violence. So far, the legal fraternity has been rather jittery about the new laws. Prominent legal luminaries, State Bar Councils, and Bar Associations have expressed apprehensions about the potential implications of these changes. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has commented that the new laws could create a positive impact only if there are concurrent investments in infrastructure development and capacity building for forensic experts and investigating officers. The expanded powers of the police and the handling of electronic evidence are areas of particular concern, highlighting the need for careful implementation and oversight to ensure that the new laws do not lead to increased misuse of power or injustice.



Pilgrims wait in a queue to get themselves registered for the annual Amarnath Yatra, in Jammu

A new dawn in Tibetan diplomacy PRAFULL GORADIA



A seven-member American delegation led by US House Representatives met with the Dalai Lama, indicating a shift in the US stance on Tibet

seven-member American delegation led by Michael McCaul, and Nancy ▶Pelosi, both leading lights of the US House of Representatives, recently met the Dalai Lama at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh; this is a particularly significant event. They delivered a clear message that the USA no longer accepts Tibet as a part of China; and the US Congress will be soon passing an Act to be made into a law, called the "Resolve Tibet-China Act". The delegation told the Tibetan spiritual leader that "things have changed now". This American message has unmistakably resisted in Chinese ears. This US delegation first called on His Holiness at Dharmashala, indicating they were calling on the Tibetan government-in-exile, calling on Prime Minister Narendra Modi only thereafter. The Government of India has not hesitated to welcome the delegation. Xi Jinping may have forgotten that Mao Zedong's regime had first claimed 'suzerainty' over Tibet. Before long, it asserted that

Tibet was a Chinese province, before attempting to erase Tibet's heritage and culture, language. These events have their roots in what happened towards the end of World War II. By allowing Stalin's Red Army to enter Berlin first and occupy it, the US made the Russians believe that they were the prime victors of WWII. In 1949, the Soviet Communist regime, by hook or crook, acquired the atom bomb. This made them believe even more they were now a superpower. Eco-militarily though, the Soviet Union was no 'super' but only a Eurasian power, as it had historically been.

Similarly, the ÚS overestimated the Communist Chinese as well. Compared to Chiang Kai Shek and his Kuomintang (KMT) on the mainland, the Maoists were much more committed. That, however, was no reason to dump the KMT as well as Formosa, now Taiwan from the UN as an intentions should become official member. In fact, India should have been the correct time. India's stand has also replacement, but the Nehru gov-



Soviet clash along the Ussuri

River in 1969. It was only thereafter that President Nixon decided to call on Chinese Premier Mao Zedong in 1972, which brought a great deal of prestige to Dr. Henry Kissinger. The ultimate beneficiary of this resumption of relations was China, when Deng Xiao Ping introduced economic reforms, emphasizing manufacturing and exports. The surplus of trillions of dollars accumulated by China came largely through exports to America. The course of these events explains why the State Department of the USA until now ignored the treatment of the hapless Tibetans by successive Chinese regimes over the last seven decades, beginning in 1959. The question is: is this because of repeated provocations over Taiwan, or could there be some larger reason unknown to us: The clearer with the unfolding of



XI JINPING MAY

HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT MAO ZEDONG'S REGIME HAD FIRST CLAIMED 'SUZERAINTY' OVER BEFORE LONG, IT **ASSERTED THAT** TIBET WAS A CHINESE PROVINCE, BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ERASE TIBET'S CULTURE, HERITAGE

AND LANGUAGE

Unfortunately, the Leftists and communists in the country had clamoured for the (then) newly formed Red Chinese regime, which had requested its recognition within a few days of its winning the civil war. Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel, on the other hand, was of the clear view that there was no hurry to recognize the new Chinese regime. In November 1949, Patel invited the American charge d'affairs Donovan to verify if there was an urgency in the recognition of Red China.

Knowing the Sardar through his long correspondence with Jawaharlal Nehru on the subject of China, uppermost in his mind must have been the concern that the Sino-Indian border should be mutually recognized. But Jawaharlal Nehru was in a hurry and without consulting the Sardar, informed the Chinese of India's decision to recognize their regime in the December of that year itself.

While expressing its delight at Nehru's message, China also laid down a few preconditions. India would pass on to the new regime all properties and assets of China. Secondly, India would not recognize any members of the KMI. Thirdly, India should support the expulsion of Nationalist China from the UNO, as well as its replacement by the

communist regime. China's perfidious intentions can be gauged from the fact that its communist announced the 'liberation' of Tibet as the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) task just one day before the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Tibetans had expelled the Chinese Amban, although he had been a Kuomintang government

appointee.

The Chinese blamed India for it, abusing Nehru as "a lackey of British imperialism" and complicit in the British humiliation of China, which Mao sought to reverse.The People's Daily of China in an editorial denounced the concept of suzerainty as feudal and oppressive—the very thing China demanded over Tibet. It even called on the UNO to examine India's relationship with Bhutan. The reality, which the Nehru government chose to ignore despite even Ambassador K.M. Pannikar's warnings was that China was eyeing Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan too. But India's first prime minister, a votary of international peace

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

and brotherhood was oblivi-

ous to this. The sufferers were

from Tibet and India.

Unveiling the deception: Decoding food labels for healthier choices



It's vital to scrutinise food labels beyond their claims. Decoding the fine print ensures that what we eat aligns with our health goals

ecoding LabelsAs a dietician, I strive to provide the best possible tailored meal plans to my clients, so why would I not stop and flip food packages to scrutinize labels to ensure what goes on my plate and my family's? Albeit, every time I do that I stop to think about the actual intent of documenting the ingredients on the package and I feel deceived. The idea behind all this 'extra work' was to keep the consumer informed and help them make intelligent choices for themselves. But

I see a granola bar labelled "whole grain" and "healthy snack," only to find sugar listed as the first ingredient! Has the food industry turned food labels into a game of hide-and-seek with our health? Food manufacturers have become masters of a deceptive language game. Over time, they've developed tactics to maximize sales and keep their customers hooked, often at the expense of health. Buzzwords like "natural" and "low-fat" create an illusion of health, while hidden sugars and cleverly disguised serving sizes make it difficult to deci-

pher the truth. These tactics paint a picture of a healthy snack, obscuring the reality which can be quite different.So, does this mean we're doomed to fall victim to marketing tactics? Absolutely not! With a little knowledge, we can become empowered to decode food labels, making informed choices about what

purchases we make. Here are a few key areas to focus on during your next grocery run and fill your shopping cart with what is right for you:As I said earlier, don't allow the food companies to trick you into buying their products just because they claim to be "natural", "low-fat" or "multigrain". Low fat doesn't alone mean that literally. The term also implies added sugars and the use of unhealthy

rice has wooed Indian buyers, but this does not mean that brown rice syrup is any good and a healthy replacement for sugar! High fructose corn syrup, agave nectar, palm, etc are scattered through the list of ingredients keeping even the most discerning customer, from grasping the true sugar content. When you see "sugar-free" on the label, know that other forms like sugar alcohol or artificial sweeteners might be in play. The latest in line is, "natural sweeteners" or "fruit extract" which again is sugar; no less,

The biggest gamble lurks in the Serving Sizes. As a standardized directive laid down by the FDA, it is ideally meant to help consumers compare the same products from different brands, empowering them to make the best choice for themselves. But, most manufacturers shrink the serving size per package, compared to what an average consumer would typically eat. Consider finishing a whole bag of munchies in one go while the manufacturer suggests two servings per container. All ingredients fillers. For the longest brown are specified per serving and

vou ended up twice what vou thought was good for you! Ensure you keep a tab of serving size and calculate your portion and calorie/sugar intake accordingly. "Rich in protein", "Fiber-rich" etc are another set of crowd pullers that mostly tend to divert customer's attention from other not-so-healthy ingredients. Bearing these points in mind, your next trip to the supermarket will be a game-changer for your household. Don't get carried away by big claims made on the face of the package, TURN IT AROUND & be sure to read the numbers. Whether it is calories, saturated and trans fats, sodium or added sugars, learn the limits and decide for yourself what suits you best. Employ help from label-reading apps that can demystify tricky labels and provide additional information about ingredients. See-through those marketing gimmicks and bring to the table what is healthier and more wholesome for you and your family.

(The author is a dietician and Clinical Nutritionist Ambassador of FIT INDIA Movement of GOI; views are personal)

REFORMING JUSTICE Madam — India is poised to undergo

a transformative shift in its criminal justice system with the implementation of three groundbreaking laws starting July 1st, 2024. However, the primary concern lies in the readiness of our institutions to handle these changes, necessitating a nationwide audit. There has been no thorough assessment of the preparedness across various criminal justice institutions in different states.

Additionally, the transition from old laws to new ones is likely to create significant confusion. It would be prudent to postpone the implementation of these laws until a comprehensive and independent audit of institutional readiness is conducted. Alternatively, a phased implementation to test the waters would be a more sensible approach.

Noopur Baruah | Tezpur

A DEMOCRACY IN DISARRAY

Madam — The signs were clear for all to see. We eagerly awaited the end of the elections and patiently anticipated the results. Yet, once Parliament convened, it quickly became apparent that walkouts and paralysis were the order of the day. The drama of democracy played out in full view, with heightened agitation across the country. On the anniversary of the Emergency, Parliament was divided, and the opposition was relentless in disrupting proceedings at every turn, reflecting the turbulence within our socalled democratic framework. Opposition leaders harshly criticized President Droupadi Murmu's address, dismissing it as a government-scripted speech riddled with falsehoods. They accused the government of imposing an undeclared emergency and challenged its claims of economic growth and

Leaders highlighted issues facing farmers, unemployed youth, and recent national events. The true nature of our

India's T20 World Cup victory

THE EDITOR



ndia celebrated a momentous victory over South Africa in the T20 World Cup 2024 final, marking a glorious return to World Cup triumph after a 13-year hiatus since their last ICC trophy win in 2011. Under the astute leadership of Rohit Sharma, the team showcased exceptional prowess

with their election appearing to serve only as a means to create chaos, disrupt parliamentary decorum, and hinder smooth functioning.

The disarray within Parliament serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for a recommitment to democratic principles and decorum. The behavior of our elected representatives, which seems aimed more at creating chaos than fostering progress, threatens the very foundation of our democratic institutions. It is imperative that we, as citizens, demand accountability and a return to a more respectful and effective form of governance.

Jayanty Subramaniam | Mumbai

FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

Madam — India's head coach, Rahul Dravid, is not one to seek the spotlight. Yet, it inevitably finds him, whether during his illustrious playing career or his post-retirement role as a coach for both junior and senior Indian cricket teams. As his era of strategic brilliance and parliamentarians has been laid bare, mentorship draws to a close, we bid

and resilience, dominating the tournament with consecutive victories. This win was particularly poignant as it marked a grand farewell for two Indian cricket stalwarts, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, along with head coach Rahul Dravid, who had not previously won a World Cup trophy. Both Rohit and Virat announced their retirement from T20 internationals, making this victory an emotional and proud moment for all Indians. Rohit's tactical brilliance and Virat's consistent performances have been instrumental in India's cricketing success over the years. Their departure signifies the end of an era. The Indian cricket team displayed outstanding skill and determination, ensuring that they lifted the ICC trophy and gave their beloved captain and star player a memorable send-off. This victory will be cherished as one of the most emotional and proud moments in Indian cricket history. Bishal Kumar Saha, Murshidabad

farewell to a coach whose wisdom has guided Team India to new heights. Dravid's tenure has been marked by unforgettable victories and moments of cricketing genius, from nurturing young talent to instilling a culture of discipline and resilience.

Bishal Kumar Saha | Murshidabad

His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of cricketers, embodying the values that define our beloved sport. A World Cup win would be the perfect capstone to Rahul Dravid's remarkable journey. As we celebrate Rahul Dravid's contributions to Indian cricket, we also honor a figure whose integrity, dedication, and humility have left an indelible mark on the game. His departure marks the end of an era, but his legacy will continue to inspire and shape the future of Indian cricket for years to come. What a distinguished man and an outstanding

Jayanthi S Maniam | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

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 LAKHPATI

he 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. The path to achievement is multifaceted, demanding a strategic combination of willpower, continuous learning, and specialization. Enter the upskilling advocate. These individuals champion the importance of lifelong learning, asserting that the pursuit of new knowledge can unlock doors that even traditional qualifications cannot. The argument holds weight, especially in an era where technology evolves at breakneck speed. The ability to adapt to these changes is crucial. However, the journey of upskilling can sometimes feel like an endless treadmill—each completed course leads to another, creating a perpetual cycle of learning without a clear endpoint. On the other hand, we have the specialist.

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. As industries transform and new technologies emerge, specialization that once seemed advantageous may become obsolete. The clear road that once led to career success can abruptly end, leaving the specialist in need of new directions. So, who holds the advantage in this dynamic landscape? The truth, as with many aspects of life, is that the ideal path is a balanced



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. For instance, someone with a degree in marketing might pursue courses in digital analytics to stay relevant in an increasingly data-driven world. This duality-rooted in depth of knowledge but flexible in acquiring new skillsis what makes them particularly valuable. Employers who recognize the importance of this balance are making the smartest investments.

They seek out candidates who not only have the expertise to excel in their current roles but also the agility to navigate the shifting landscape of the professional world.

These employers understand that a blend of foundational knowledge and a willingness to upskill can create a workforce capable of responding to change with confidence and competence. The key takeaway? While willpower is essential, it must be channeled effectively. Start by building a strong educational foundation in a chosen field, then continually seek opportunities for growth and learning. This approach fosters a mindset of perpetual improvement, positioning individuals to thrive amid the uncertainties of the modern workplace. Yet, the journey doesn't end with acquiring new skills. The future of work demands the ability to unlearn outdated practices and embrace new paradigms. The most successful professionals will be those who approach each challenge with a growth mindset, eager to expand their knowledge and reshape their skills.

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 willingness to learn and grow continuously is key to unlocking a fulfilling and successful career in an ever-evolving world. So, abandon the notion of being a finished product and embrace the journey of lifelong learning. It's a marathon, not a sprint. With the right mindset, you'll be well-equipped not just to survive but to thrive in the ever-changing world of work. Are you ready for the adventure?

(The writer is an author and has penned three books;

views are personal

Focus shifts to prudent public wealth management-



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

he 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 rudent public wealth management (PWM), supporting not-for-profit enterprises, and ensuring strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors'.

A CPSU is an undertaking in which the Union government has majority share holding meaning it holds more than 50 percent of its shares. Disinvestment is fancy nomenclature for sale of these shares to private investors. When, disinvestment results in reduction of the government's shareholding in the CPSU to below 50 percent and concomitant transfer of ownership and management control to private entity, this is termed as 'strategic' disinvestment or privatiza-

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. The non-strategic category includes all other sectors viz. industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing and so on. The government's intent was to sell all undertakings in the strategic sector with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sec-

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. All loss-making undertakings in this category would be closed.

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 partic ular focus on 'strategic' disinvestment. In the backdrop of devastation caused by Covid-19 pandemic and debilitating effect on its finances during 2020-21 (in that year, FD had scaled to 9.2 percent of GDP), in the budget for 2021-22, Sitharaman had put even greater reliance on proceeds of disinvestment by setting an ambitious target of Rs 175,000 crore. During that year, the government had planned big ticket disinvestments such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), IDBI Bank, NMDC Steel and Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and

But, the process has remained stuck in the slow lane even as the targets of proceeds from sales were missed year-afteryear. Only during two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19, it achieved the target. That was primarily because, in those vears, it had conducted two big-ticket sales of its shares from one CPSU to During 2017-18, the government sold



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**

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. But, those sales can't be termed as strategic as the purchaser being another CPSU namely ONGC/PFC, the Government continues to have effective ownership over the divested entity viz. HPCL/REC.

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 target of Rs 65,000 crore, the actual was nearly half at Rs 31,059 crore. For 2023-24, the FM had lowered the target to Rs 51,000 crore which during the course of the year was further revised downwards to Rs 30,000 crore. Even against this, the actual proceeds were a meager Rs 14,564

What does the interim Budget for 2024-25 say?

In a briefing following the presentation of the Budget by Sitharaman on February 1, 2024, Secretary Somanathan had stated that the "government no longer views disinvestment from the perspective of balancing the budget". Can it be taken to mean that it has shed its age-old stance of using proceeds from share sale for reducing FD. The answer is 'No' as it has set a target of Rs 50,000 crore for 2024-25 under the head "miscel-

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 this case, a lot depends on the market scenario and, in particular, the perception of investors about the company in which share-sale is contemplated.

In cases where the strategic sale is mooted, the Government faces a bigger challenge as apart from a favorable market, it needs bidcrore. During 2022-23, against a ders 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 & high-

ways, administrative reforms, etc.,
- for approval. After AM's
approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) moves a proposal for in-principal approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

In view of above, the government

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). These positive trends should be good enough for managing fiscal deficits; hence, no need to depend on 'miscellaneous capital receipts'.

What happens to strategic sale? From the emphasis on public wealth management (PWM), strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors, one gets sense that the government has comoletely 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. The government's decision to drop its plan for sale of BPCL which was on its agenda since 2019-20 is an indication of things to come.

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 government should continue the process of share sale and focus on debureaucratizing it.

(The writer is a policy analyst;

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

¬he 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 hottestever 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. Even cooler places like Dehradun have noticed the highest temperature of the last 53 years this year. More than 30 crore people in India are prone to high risk due to lack of means to escape heat waves. The people are feeling severe shortages of power and water and many grids are collapsing due to overload lead-



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. The people from Delhi and other adjoining areas are rushing to hill stations of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and other hills to escape the heat torture ters will be ruining the stabil-

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. Now the question for the policymakers, 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. If the mandarins in power in the centre and state do not change the way to deal with it efficiently and effectively many disasity 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. Now these winds continue during the night and do not allow the night temperature to fall and this is further accentuated when these westerly winds lead to cloud formation in the sky which prevents cooling the temperature. To find the solution our planners and civic administrators in cities must meet the challenges of the '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. On the other hand, the effects of heat waves in rural areas are different; there is less or minimal heat island effect but the heat effects mostly relate to health issues like severe dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion and gastro-intestinal diseases exacerbated by the long power cuts and water

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. The European country's architecture is such that they cannot cope up well with continuous heat waves. The objective of this article is to stress that in India the Central and State governments should jointly devise a policy to effectively deal with summer weather. The first thing to be done is to

declare the temperature beyond a certain limit as a nat- that climate-resilient develop-

ural disaster/climate emerment is ensured and preparagency and put in place stantions are made in advance to dard operating procedures to deal with any emergent situadeal with it for the different cities and rural areas. In rural However, real change in the entire civic administration is areas, the government must ensure a supply of potable essential in urban areas. The town and country planning water and electricity as well as a mobile dispensary to provide quick health care services. In

warning systems based on the Meteorological India Department forecast. One of the fundamental requirements is the need to remould the district administration by creating an integrated and holistic approach so

each village lakes and ponds

should be created compulso-

rily so that people including

It needs short-term planning

risk assessment and early

farmers and cattle get water.

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 properthe Development Ministry set up a task national force to recommend action?

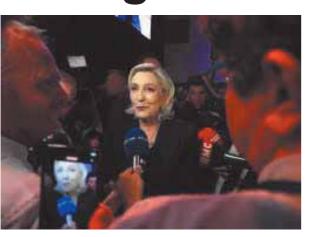
(The author is the former Director-General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and Chancellor of FRI University; views are personal)

French far right leads after elections' 1st round

France's National Rally surged into the lead in the first round of legislative elections, according to results released early Monday, bringing the far-right party to the brink of power and dealing a major blow to President Emmanuel Macron's centrists in an election that could set the country, and Europe, on a starkly different course. The results confirmed polling

that showed the party with a history of racism and xenophobia and once shunned by the mainstream - is no longer taboo, confined to the fringes of French politics. There remains another torrid week of campaigning before the decisive final voting Sunday, and whether the National Rally will be able to win an outright majority and form France's

first far-right government



Pen's National Rally a strong

lead, with about 33 per cent

of the vote. The number

includes the votes from a

Marked by high turnout of nearly 68 per cent that reflected the high stakes, voters handed the Marine Le

group of conservative candidates of The Republicans party who had allied with the far-right party in the first round. The New Popular Front, a leftist alliance, finished second with about 28 per cent. The president's centrist group came third with ing to figures released by the Interior Ministry. When Macron dissolved the

National Assembly on June 9, after a stinging defeat at the hands of the National Rally in French voting for the European Parliament, the deeply unpopular and weak-ened president gambled that his rivals wouldn't repeat that success when the country's own fate was in the balance. He and his allies, as well as politicians on the left, are still hoping they can head off an outright win by the National Rally, and horse-trading began Monday, with some efforts to block far-right candidates taking shape. The leftist coalition said it would withdraw its candidates in districts where they arrived in third position in order to support other politicians opposed to the far right. Macron's centrist alliance also said some of its candidates

In Sunday's voting, 78 of the National Assembly's 577 seats were won outright, by candidates who got more than 50 per cent of the vote in their district, according to French newspaper Liberation's analysis of the Interior Ministry data. Of those, 38 were from the National Rally, including Le Pen herself.

That triumph provided an additional boost for the farright parties in Europe as Viktor Orbán's Hungary takes over the European Union's rotating presidency for six

To underline her party's tri-umph, Le Pen said that National Rally lawmakers would meet at the parlia-ment on Monday and sym-bolically claim their scate bolically claim their seats. Addressing a jubilant crowd waving French tricolour flags of blue, white and red, Le Pen

would step down before the runoff.

In Sunday's voting, 78 of the called on her supporters and voters who didn't back her party in the first round to push it over the line and give t a commanding legislative majority. That scenario would make the party's young leader, Jordan Bardella, prime minister - and force him and and Macron into an awkward power-sharing arrange-

> Macron, first elected in 2017, has said he will not step down before his second term expires in 2027."The French have almost wiped out the Macronist' bloc," Le Pen said Sunday night. The results, she added, showed voters' "willingness to turn the page after 7 years of contemptuous and

corrosive power. If the National Rally is able to form a government, it has promised to dismantle many of Macron's key domestic and foreign policies, including taking a more confrontationUnion and stopping French deliveries of long-range missiles to Ukraine. The National Rally has historical ties to Russia, which invaded its neighbour two years ago neighbour two years ago. At home, the party's plans include the rollback of

Macron's pension reform that raised the retirement age and promises to boost voters' spending power without clearly detailing how it would pay for the pledge that could also spook European financial markets

National Rally opponents fear for civil liberties if it takes power. Macron himself warned that the far right could set France on a path to civil war. Its plans to boost police powers and curb immigration also alarm many, including minorities. The National Rally has long been hostile toward France's Muslim community.

He said the medical staff at dif-

ferent facilities where he was

held had also taken part in the

abuse "in violation of all laws".

He said some detainees had limbs amputated because of

poor medical care. There was

no immediate response from

EU accuses Meta of breaking digital rules

London (AP): European Union regulators accused social media company Platforms on Monday of breaching the bloc's new digital competition rulebook by forcing Facebook and Instagram users to choose between seeing ads or paying to avoid them. Meta began giving European users the option in November of paying for ad-free versions of Facebook and Instagram as a way to comply with the continent's strict data privacy rules.

Users can pay at least 10 euros (\$10.75) a month to avoid being targeted by ads based on their personal data. The US tech giant rolled out the option after the European Union's top court ruled Meta must first get consent before showing ads to users, in a decision that threatened its business model of tailoring ads based on individual users online interests and digital activity.

The European Commission the EU's executive arm, said preliminary findings of its investigation show that Meta's "pay or consent" advertising model was in breach of the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets

Meta's model doesn't allow users to exercise their right to 'freely consent" to allowing their personal data from its various services, including Facebook, Instagram Marketplace, WhatsApp, and Messenger, to be combined to target them with personalised online ads, the commission

Meta's model also doesn't give users the option of a service that's less personalised but still equivalent to its social networks, it said. The commission had opened its investigation shortly after the rulebook, also known as the DMA, took effect in March. It's a sweeping set of regulations aimed at preventing tech "gatekeepers" from corner-ing digital markets under threat of heavy financial penalties. One of the DMA's goals is to rein in the power of Big Tech companies that have collected vast amounts of personal data on their users, giving them an

edge on rivals competing in

online ad or social media ser-

North Korea test-launches two ballistic missiles

North Korea test-fired two ballistic missile Monday, South Korea's military said, a day after the North vowed "offensive and overwhelming" responses to a new US military drill with South Korea and Japan. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were launched 10 minutes apart in a northeastern direction from the town of Jangyon in southeastern North Korea.

It said the first missile flew 600 kilometres (370 miles) and the second missile 120 kilometres (75 miles), but didn't say where they landed. North Korea typically test-fires missiles toward its eastern waters, but the second missile's flight distance was too short to reach those waters. South Korean media said an unidentified South Korean military source reported that it was highly like-ly the second missile crashed in an inland area of the North Possible damages on the North's ground weren't immediately reported. The reports said the first missile landed in the waters off the North's eastern city of Chongjin. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, which did not comment on the media reports, said South Korea maintains a firm readiness to repel any provo-

cations by North Korea in conjunctions with the military alliance with the United States. The launch came two days after South Korea, the US and Japan ended their new multidomain trilateral drills in the region. In recent years, the three countries have been expanding their trilateral security partnership to better cope with North Korea's evolving nuclear threats and China's increasing assertiveness in the region. The "Freedom Edge" drill was meant to increase the sophistication of previous exercises with simultaneous air and naval drills geared toward improving joint ballistic-missile defence, anti-submarine warfare, surveillance and other skills and capabilities. The three-day drill involved a US aircraft carrier as well as destroyers, fighter jets and helicopters from the three countries. On Sunday, North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a lengthy statement strongdenouncing the "Freedom Edge" drill, calling the US-South Korea-Japan partnership an Asian version of NATO. It said the drill openly destroyed the security environment on the Korean Peninsula and contained a US intention to lay siege to China and exert pressure on Russia. The statement said North

Korea will "firmly defend the soy ereignty, security and interests of the state and peace in the region through offensive and overwhelming countermeasures." Monday's launch was the North's first weapons firing in five days. On Wednesday, North Korea launched what it called a multiwarhead missile in the first known launch of a developmental, advanced weapon meant to defeat US and South Korean missile defences. North Korea said the launch was successful, but South Korea dismissed the North's claim as deception to cover up a failed launch. In recent weeks, North Korea has floated numerous trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea in what it has described as a tit-fortat response to South Korean activists sending political leaflets via their own balloons. Last month, North Korea and Russia also struck a deal vowing mutual defense assistance if either is attacked, a major defence pact

that raised worries that it could

embolden Kim to launch more

provocations at South Korea

Meanwhile, North Korea opened

a key ruling party meeting Friday

to determine what it called

"important, immediate issues"

related to works to further

enhance Korean-style socialism

Israel releases director of hospital it says was used as Hamas base

AP KHAN YOUNIS

Israel released the director of Gaza's main hospital on Monday after holding him for seven months without charge or trial over allegations the facility had been used as a Hamas command centre. He said he and other detainees were held under harsh conditions and tortured.

The decision to release Mohammed Abu Selmia, apparently taken in order to free up space in overcrowded detention centres, sparked uproar from across the political spectrum, with government ministers and opposition leaders saying he should have remained behind bars.

They reiterated allegations that he had played a role in Hamas alleged use of Shifa Hospital, which Israeli forces have raided twice since the start of the nearly nine-month war with Hamas. Abu Selmia and other health officials have repeatedly denied those accusations, and that fact that he was released without charge or trial was likely to raise further questions about them.

Abu Selmia was released back into Gaza along with 54 other Palestinian detainees, many of

Ultra-Orthodox protest turns violent in Jerusalem

Jerusalem (AP): Thousands of Jewish ultra-Orthodox men clashed with Israeli police in central Jerusalem on Sunday during a protest against a Supreme Court order for them to begin enlisting for military service. The landmark decision last week ordering the government to begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men could lead to the collapse of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition as Israel wages

Tens of thousands of men rallied in an ultra-Orthodox neighbourhood to protest the order. But after nightfall, the crowd made its way toward central Jerusalem and turned violent. Israeli police said protesters threw rocks and attacked the car of an ultra-Orthodox Cabinet minister, pelting it with stones. Water cannons filled with skunk-scented water and police mounted on horses were used to disperse the crowd. But the demonstration was still not under control late Sunday. Military service is compulsory for most Jewish men and women in Israel. But politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties have won exemptions for their followers to skip military service and instead study in religious seminaries. The long-standing arrangement has bred resentment among the broader public, a sentiment that has grown stronger dur-

whom also alleged abuse. The allegations could not be independently confirmed but matched other accounts of Palestinians who have been held in Israeli custody.

ing the eight-month war against Hamas

"Our detainees have been subjected to all kinds of torture

behind bars," Abu Selmia said at a news conference after his release. "There was almost daily torture." He said guards broke his finger and caused his head to bleed during beatings, in which they used batons and

tution an Indigenous panel

that would advise the govern-

That referendum was defeated

last year and though Albanese

has not yet announced plans

for a republic referendum, the

office of Assistant Minister for

the Republic has been created

to prepare the nation for change. Critics of Mostyn's

appointment highlight her past

ment on Indigenous issues.

the prison service, which has previously denied similar accu-Israeli forces raided Shifa Hospital in November, alleging that Hamas had created an

elaborate command and control centre inside the facility. Abu Selmia and other staff denied the allegations and accused Israel of recklessly endangering thousands of patients and displaced people who were sheltering there. The military uncovered a tunnel beneath Shifa Hospital leading to a few rooms, as well as other evidence that militants had been present inside the medical centre, but the evidence fell short of what it had claimed before the raid. Abu Selmia was detained on Nov 22 while escorting a UN-led evacuation of patients from the hospital He said his detention was "politically motivated", adding that he had been brought to court at least three times but was never charged or allowed

US lawmakers pledge support to Indian-Americans

American lawmakers have pledged their support to Indian Americans to fight against increasing Hinduphobia and discrimination against the minority Hindu community in

Organised by the Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA), the 3rd National Hindu Advocacy Day attracted several Hindu students, researchers, and community leaders on June 28 to discuss the concerns faced by the Hindus living in the US. "We are here, and we are fighting," Congressman Shri Thanedar said in his address at the day-long advocacy here. "The voice you all have, the voice the Hindu community has in Congress," said Thanedar, a Democrat, who has introduced House Resolution 1131 (H.Res 1131), which condemns Hinduphobia and attacks on temples, while celebrating the

bution of the Hindu American community. He said that he would not tol-

the US.

erate Hinduphobia, discrimination, or other forms of hate. Congressman Rich McCormick welcomed the continued and growing engagement of the Hindu American and Indian American community in poli-

cy making and its potential to transform the future of America. The Republican Party lawmaker called attention to his support for House Resolution 1131, honouring the contributions of Hindu Americans, and asked the community to continue pursuing the American dream, which celebrates innovation, hard work, success, and its traditions.

Republican Congressman Glen Grothman expressed solidarity with the community, and Congressman Ro Khanna celebrated the growth of the community's advocacy over the past decade.

Three killed in shooting near University of Cincinnati

Cincinnati (US) (AP): Five people were shot, including three fatally, near the University of Cincinnati campus early Monday, police said. Two people were taken into custody, including one of the wounded. "There were multiple firearms recovered at the crime scene and two subjects (one of which was also shot) are being detained at this time," Cincinnati police Capt Mark Burns told The Associated Press in an email He said he had no further information.

Earlier, the university's public safety department posted on the social platform X that police were responding to an emergency shortly before 3

Albania's world-renowned novelist Kadare dies at 88

Tirana (AP): Renowned Albanian novelist Ismail Kadare has died after being rushed to a hospital in Tirana, his publishing editor said on Monday. He was 88.

Kadare has long been mentioned as a possible contender for the Nobel Literature Prize. Onufri Publishing House editor Buiar Hudhri said the noted author died Monday morning. A nurse at the hospital, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorised to talk to the press, said he was taken to the emergency room after suffering a cardiac arrest.

Kadare became internationally recognised after his novel "The General of the Dead Army" was published in 1963 when Albania was still governed by the communist government of late dictator Enver Hoxha. Kadare fled Albania to France in the fall of 1990, just a few months before the fall of

ularly heavy rain, and the body



the communist regime follow ing student protests the previ-ous December. He lived in Paris and had recently returned to Tirana.

Last year, French President Emmanuel Macron awarded him the Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor title during a visit by the French president to the Albanian capital. France had previously also made him a foreign associate of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, as well as Commander of the Legion of

Aus appoints second woman governor-general in 123 years Quentin Bryce, who described term to enshrine in the consti-

AP MELBOURNE

ustralia appointed Sam A Mostyn on Monday as only its second woman governorgeneral, a largely ceremonial role representing the British monarch who is the nation's head of state. It is the first such Australian appointment since the reign of King Charles III began in 2022 and the first by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's centre-left Labor Party government that wants to replace the British monarch with an Australian president as head of state. The businesswoman and gender equality advocate, who in 2005 became the first woman Australian Football League Commissioner, was sworn in as Australia's 28th governor-gen-

eral since 1901. In her first speech in her new role, Mostyn quoted Australia's first woman governor-general

her role in 2013 as "striking a balance between observing traditions and protocol and being thoroughly contemporary." "I will be an optimistic, mod-

ern and visible governor-general, committed to the service and contribution that all Australians expect and deserve from the holder of this office," Mostyn said.

Mostyn said she had spoken about the role with all five surviving former governors-general, including Bryce who was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II on the advice of a Labor prime minister and served from 2008 and 2014.

Albanese's government was elected in 2022 advocating for a referendum to create an Australian republic with an Australian citizen as head of state. But he gave preference to holding a referendum in his government's first three-year

activism. She had also supported an Australian republic and described Australia Day, the arrival of the first British colonists at the site of Sydney on January 26, 1788, as

Invasion Day," a term used by some Indigenous leaders. Mostyn said she had met the king in Britain in May and passed on Australians' best wishes for the health of both he and Kate, Princess of Wales, who are being treated for can-

Storms in Switzerland and Italy cause flooding and landslides, at least 4 dead

AP ■ BERLIN

Storms in Switzerland and northern Italy caused extensive flooding and landslides, leaving at least four people dead, authorities said Sunday. The bodies of three people

were recovered following a landslide in the Fontana area of the Maggia valley in the Italianspeaking Ticino canton (state) on the southern side of the Alps. Storms and heavy rain pounded southern and western Switzerland on Saturday and overnight. Camping sites along the

Maggia River were evacuated, and part of the small Visletto road bridge collapsed. One person was missing in the nearby Lavizzara valley. Farther north, the Rhone River burst its banks in several areas of Valais canton, flooding a

highway and a railway line.



Binn area, in the upper Rhone valley near the Italian border, police said. Floods, thunderstorms and

found early Sunday at a hotel

landslides also hit various regions in northern Italy. Firefighters said they carried

to have been caught by surprise

Another man has been missing

since Saturday evening in the

out about 80 rescue operations, evacuating dozens of people in the northern Piedmont region. Between Montanaro and San Benigno Canavese, two adults and a 3-month-old girl were rescued after the rising waters of the Orco torrent left them stuck in their car, firefighters

Several villages were isolated due to overflowing streams, storms and landslides in the

to Category four off Grenada San Juan (AP): Hurricane Beryl closed in on the southeastern Caribbean late

Sunday after strengthening into what experts called an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm, and government officials pleaded with people to take shelter. The storm was expected to make landfall in the Windward Islands on Monday morning. Hurricane warnings were in effect for Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. "This is a very dangerous situation," warned the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami, saying Beryl was "forecast to bring life-threatening winds and storm surge.

Beryl was centred about 150 miles (240 kilometres) southeast of Barbados late Sunday. It had maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph) and was moving west at 20 mph (31 kph). It is a compact storm, with hurricane-force winds extending 30 miles (45 kilometres) from its centre.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Martinique and Trinidad. A tropical storm watch was issued for Dominica,

Haiti's entire southern coast, and from Punta Palenque in the Dominican Republic west to the border with Haiti. Beryl was expected to pass just south of Barbados early Monday and then head into the Caribbean Sea as a major hurricane on a path toward Jamaica. It was forecast to weaken by midweek, but still remain a hurricane while heading toward Mexico. Beryl initially strengthened into a Category 3 hurricane Sunday morning, becoming the first major hurricane east of the Lesser Antilles on record for June, according to Philip Klotzbach, Colorado State University hurricane researcher. It took Beryl only 42 hours to strengthen from a tropical depression to a major hurricane - a feat accomplished only six other times in Atlantic hurricane history, and with September 1 as the previous earliest date, hurricane expert Sam Lillo said.Beryl then gained more power, becoming the earliest Category 4 Atlantic hurricane on record, besting Hurricane Dennis, which became a Category 4 storm on July 8, 2005, hurricane specialist and storm surge expert Michael

Dangerous Hurricane Beryl restrengthens

Lowry said.

Beryl is an extremely dangerous and rare hurricane for this time of year in this area," Lowry said in a phone interview. 'Unusual is an understatement. Beryl is already a historic hurricane and it hasn't struck yet."Hurricane Ivan in 2004 was the last strong hurricane to hit the southeastern Čaribbean, causing catastrophic damage in Grenada as a Category 3 storm.

"So this is a serious threat, a very serious threat," Lowry said of Beryl. Reecia Marshall, who lives in Grenada, was working a Sunday shift at a local hotel, preparing guests and urging them to stay away from windows as she stored enough food and water for everyone. She said that she was a child when Hurricane Ivan struck and that she doesn't fear Beryl."I know it's part of nature. I'm OK with it, she said. "We just have to live with it." Forecasters warned of a life-threatening storm surge of up to 9 feet (3 metres) in areas where Beryl makes landfall, with up to 6 inches (15 centimetres) of rain for Barbados and nearby islands.

China deploys second aircraft carrier

China has deployed its sec-ond aircraft carrier 'Shandong' which was spotted patrolling waters off the Philippine coast as Manila stepped up efforts to assert its claims over a shoal in the disputed South China Sea firmly opposing Beijing's counter-

Shandong, an aircraft carrier with a displacement of about 70,000 tonnes, was seen patrolling the waters of the Philippines which serves as a deterrence against "continuous Philippine provocations" on Chinese islands and reefs in the South China Sea, staterun Global Times media reported on Monday.

The aircraft carrier is likely on a scheduled exercise that could also prepare it for a potential far sea voyage into the West Pacific, it quoted Chinese experts as saying.

Shandong's deployment comes after the People's Liberation Army (PLA) deployed major surface combat ships, including large and medium destroyers as well as

the main amphibious landing ship in the South China Sea as the maritime territorial conflict with Manila escalat-

Ni Lexiong, a defence professor in the Department of Political Science at Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, was quoted by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post as saying that the Shandong's passage was meant to be a deterrent to Manila and Washington and underline "China's determination to protect territorial sea sovereignty" amid tensions over the Second Thomas

Chester Cabalza, president and founder of International Development and Security Cooperation, a Manila-based think tank, said the carrier's patrol was an example of "performative politics" by Beijing that could become a frequent event. If so, it "would mean that there is a red flag on their national security", he said, adding that "once we see massive military force, that means that Beijing is preparing for a war", the Post report**SOUTH CHINA SEA TENSION**

The China-Philippines confrontation to assert their claims in the disputed South China Sea took a violent turn last month as their naval ships collided in the first such incident after Beijing issued new rules to act against foreign vessels and detain foreigners "suspected of violating" regulations in the

few weeks ago, a Philippines naval ship and a Chinese vessel collided near the Second Thomas Shoal of the South China Sea claimed by Manila.

Chinese waters.

The navies and the coast guards of the two countries were having face-offs in the last few months as the Philippines, backed by the US, made a strong bid to assert its claims over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea (SCS) claimed by China.

China claims most of the South China Sea (SCS) which the Philippines, Malaysia,

Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan hotly dispute.

China alleges that the Philippines deliberately ran a naval ship aground in 1999 at the Second Thomas Shoal, which it calls Renai Jiao, and converted the damaged ship into a permanent installation into a permanent installation manned by naval personnel. The Philippines, backed by

the US, is trying to assert its claims over the SCS based on the 2016 ruling by a tribunal of the UN Convention of Law of Seas, (UNCLOS) endorsing its rights. China, which boycotted the tribunal, however, rejected the tribunal findings and fiercely asserted its claims.

Last month, China promulgated a new law authorising its coast guard to seize foreign ships that illegally enter China's territorial waters and to detain foreign crews for up to 60 days. The law empowers China's coast guard to fire upon foreign ships if nec-

For its part, the US has

deployed the mid-range Typhon missile systems in the Philippines as a show of strength for its backing for ManiĬa's claims.

The Philippines has also imported India's Brahmos missiles. China currently has two air-

craft carriers, Liaoning, which was a refit of the Soviet-era ship, and Shandong, which is an indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier commissioned China's third aircraft carrier

Fujian, which is larger than the two carriers with a displacement of 80,000, is currently undergoing trials. It is the "first fully domestically developed and constructed" aircraft carrier with an elec-tromagnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS) similar to that of the American aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R. Ford according to official media reports. China's other two aircraft carriers are equipped with ski-jump take-off ramps while the Fujian features a flat-top flight deck. China

operates its indigenously built

J-15 aircraft for its carriers.

A propane tank explosion at a restaurant in the western Turkish city of Izmir on Sunday left five people dead and 63 others injured, authorities said. Security cameras recorded the explosion, which devastated the street and caused minor damage to surrounding buildings. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced on social media that dozens of rescue personnel were immediately dispatched to the scene. Izmir Gov. Suleyman Elban visited the injured at the hospital and announced that 40 of them had already been released. Authorities have detained one suspect who might be responsible. The man had replaced the

Bolivian president orchestrated 'self-coup,' Evo **Morales claims**

La Paz, Bolivia (AP): Former Bolivian President Evo Morales on Sunday accused his political ally-turned-rival President Luis Arce of deceiving the Bolivian people by staging a "self-coup" last week to earn political points among the electorate, marking a sharp downturn in an already fraught relationship. Morales was initially among the country's most powerful voices to say that approximately 200 mem-bers of the military who marched on Bolivia's government palace alongside armoured vehicles on Wednesday had attempted a "coup d'état."

"We are convinced that democracy is the only way to resolve any difference and that institutions and the rule of law must be respected," Morales wrote in a post on the social media platform X on the day of the military action. "We reit-erate the call for all those involved in this riot to be arrested and tried." But on Sunday, Morales joined others who believe Arce himself orchestrated a "self coup" to win the sympathy of Bolivians at a time when his popularity is extremely low.

Arce "disrespected the truth, the Bolivian people but to the whole world," Morales said in a local broadcast program on

Sunday. Morales is throwing his support behind an accusation made by former Gen. Juan José Zuñiga, who allegedly led the coup attempt. Morales said Zuñiga informed colleagues and family of his plan before carrying it out, and that while in custody he told authorities that Arce had "betrayed" him. "The president told me: The situation is very screwed up, very critical. It is necessary to prepare something to raise my popularity," Zúñiga quoted the Bolivian leader as saying. That theory was quickly adopted by Arce's political enemies who dubbed it a "self-coup." "At some point the truth will be known," a handcuffed Gen. Juan José Zúñiga told reporters while being transferred to prison Saturday

Morales called for an independent investigation into the Wednesday military action in a post on X on Sunday.

Ukraine's convicts offered release at high price: Joining the fight against Russia

t a rural penal colony in At a rural penal colony in southeast Ukraine, several convicts stand assembled under barbed wire to hear an army recruiter offer them a shot at parole. In return, they must join the gruelling fight against

"You can put an end to this and start a new life," said the recruiter, a member of a volunteer assault battalion. "The main thing is your will, because you are going to defend the motherland. You won't succeed at 50 per cent, you have to give 100 per cent of yourself, even 150 per cent."

Ukraine is expanding the draft to cope with acute battlefield shortages more than two years into fighting against Russia's full-scale invasion. And its recruiting efforts have turned, for the first time, to the country's prison population.

Although Ukraine does not announce any details of troop deployment numbers or casualties, frontline commanders openly acknowledge that they

problems as Russia continues to build up forces in eastern Ukraine and make incremental gains westward.

More than 3,000 prisoners already have been released on parole and assigned to military units after such recruitment was approved by parliament in a controversial mobilisation bill last month, Ukrainian Deputy Justice Minister Olena Vysotska told The Associated Press. About 27,000 inmates could potentially be eligible for the new program, according to Justice Ministry estimates. "A lot of the motivation comes

from (inmates) wanting to return home a hero, and not to return home from prison," Vvsotska said.

Ernest Volvach, 27, wants to take up the offer. He's serving a two-year sentence for robbery, at the penal colony in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region. He works in the kitchen, ladling dollops of food into tin bowls.

"It's stupid to sit here doing nothing," Volvach said, adding

he's wanted to "do something for Ukraine" and have the opportunity to enlist. "Now it's appeared.'

Ukrainian soldiers on active duty are typically identified only by their first name, or a call sign, for security reasons. Many of the inmates at the Dnipropetrovsk penal colony also asked to be identified only by their first names to avoid difficulties if they enlist.

Another inmate, 30, who gave his name only as Volodymyr, makes rivets at a penal colony workshop. He said he plans to volunteer after his sentence ends in one year, but wouldn't do so now because there's effectively no home leave under the parole program. Prisoners can get the conditional release after an interview, medical exam, and a review of their conviction. Those convicted of rape, sexual assault, murdering two or more people or crimes against Ukraine's national security aren't eligible.

Ukrainian officials are keen to draw a distinction between

their program and recruitment in Russia of convicts to serve in the notorious Wagner mercenary group. Those fighters typically have been funnelled to the deadliest battles, the officials say, but the Ukrainian program aims to integrate the inmates into regular Ukrainian frontline units.

The country has a prison population of some 42,000, according to figures forwarded by the government to the European

While recent reforms have reduced the number of prisoners and are credited with improving conditions at some facilities, the US State Department noted credible reports of "degrading treatment or punishment" by prison authorities in its annual report on human rights last year.

After screening, paroled inmates are rushed to basic training at camps where they learn how to handle weapons and other combat fundamentals. Training is completed later once they join the individual

Nepal's Prachanda-led govt faces uncertainty amidst Deuba-Oli talk year 2024-25, which he had

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A high-level meeting between Nepal's two largest parties - Nepali Congress and CPN-UML has led to fresh speculation that days of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'-led government are numbered.

Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba went to the residence of Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman and former prime minister K P Sharma Oli, who is part of the ruling coalition, on Saturday to discuss the latest political situation in the politically fragile country.

Although the details of the closed-door meeting have not

been made public, there is speculation among some political circles that the two leaders might have discussed the formation of a new coalition government to oust Prachanda. Oli, eying premiership once again, was unhappy with the recent budget allocations made by the government for fiscal

publicly spoken about. However, sources close to Prime Minister Prachanda have dismissed "rumours about change in the power equation", saying that the two top leaders of the ruling alliance CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Prachanda and CPN-UML chairman Oli are determined to continue the present coalition for the full term. Prachanda and Oli held two meetings on Sunday and Monday at the Prime Minister's Office at Baluwatar during which "the two leaders discussed the latest political situation and ways to strengthen the present coalition govern-ment," claimed Prime claimed Prime Minister's Press advisor Govinda Acharya.

The two leaders discussed ways to make the performance of the government more efficient and take forward the ongoing coalition government in a consolidated manner, he said. "There is no truth in rumours about a change in the present coalition government and formation of a new

alliance," he added. The two leaders agreed to include some other political parties like Nagarik Unmukti Party which voted in favour of the government during the vote of confidence in the government, he said.

Despite having taken a vote of confidence in Parliament thrice, Prime Minister Prachanda in his one-and-ahalf-year term, the country is still plagued by political instability, pointed out Gunaraj Luitel, chief editor of Nagarik Daily. Political stability will be maintained only if the largest party in the Parliament Nepali Congress and the second largest party CPN-UML join hands and share power, argued Luitel. "It seems unnatural when the third largest party Maoist Centre is steering the government and the largest party NC is sitting in the opposition," he added. The Nepali Congress has 89 seats in the 275-member House of Representatives whereas CPN-UML and CPN-Maoist Centre have secured 78 and 32 seats

Female suicide bombers kill 18 in Nigeria attack

AP NIGERIA

remale suicide bombers targeted a wedding, a funeral, and a hospital in coordinated attacks in northern Nigeria that killed at least 18 people, local authorities said Sunday. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the the attacks in Borno state, which has been heavily affected by the insurgency launched in 2009 by Boko Haram. The extremist group previously has used women and girls in suicide bombings, prompting suspicions that some attackers come from the many thousands of people the militants have kidnapped over the years, including schoolchildren.

The first suicide bomber detonated a device during a marriage celebration in the northeastern town of Gwoza, Barkindo Saidu, director-general of the Borno State Emergency Management Agency, told reporters. "Minutes later, another blast

occurred near General Hospital," Saidu said, and the third bomber at the funeral service was disguised as a mourner. Children and pregnant women were among those killed. At least 30 others were wounded, and, Saidu said, injuries included abdominal ruptures and skull frac-

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu said in a statement that the attacks were "desperate acts of terror" and "an isolated episode? The insurgency, which has

spilled across borders around Lake Chad, has killed more than 35,000 people, displaced 2.6 million others and created a humanitarian crisis.

Boko Haram, with one branch allied to the Islamic State group, wants to install an Islamic state in Nigeria, West Africa's oil giant of 170 million people divided almost equally between a mainly Christian south and a predominantly Muslim north.

Petrol and high-speed diesel S'pore Indian-origin opp prices hiked in Pak after Eid PTI ■ ISLAMABAD reported. The increase in petro-

Weeks after slashing the prices of fuel ahead of the Eid ul Adha festival, the cashstrapped Pakistan government on Monday sharply hiked their prices for the next fortnight as it began the new fiscal year. According to a notification, the prices of petrol and High-Speed Diesel (HSD) were raised by Rs 7.45 and Rs 9.56 per litre respectively on the first day of a tax-laden budget for 2024-25, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Last month, the government slashed the prices of petrol and HSD by Pakistani Rs 10.20 and Pakistani Rs 2.33 per litre respectively, ahead of Eid ul Adha. The Ministry of Finance in a late-night announcement said the prices of petroleum products have seen an increasing trend in the international market during the last fortnight, the Dawn newspaper

leum product prices has been made based on the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority's (Ogra) recommendations and with the prime minister's approval, The Express Tribune said.

The new ex-depot petrol price for July 1 to 15 would be Pakistani Rs 265.61 per litre compared to Rs 258.16 in the previous fortnight, up by 2.9 per cent, the Dawn reported. However, petrol would be available for over Pakistani Rs 266 per litre in the retail market, it said. On the other hand, the new ex-depot price of HSD is Pakistani Rs 277.45 per litre, or 3.6 per cent higher than the Pakistani Rs 267.89 over the

past fortnight. Hours before the price hike announcement, Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced on Sunday evening that the petroleum levy would not be increased. Although its ceiling

had been increased to Pakistani Rs 70 per litre in the budget from Pakistani Rs 60 to create "headroom" for the future, the Dawn reported.

Officials said the prices of petrol and HSD had increased in the international market by about USD 4.4 and USD 5.5 per barrel, respectively, in the last fortnight, the report said. Since May 1, the prices of both petrol and HSD have been going down mainly because of slump in the international market. Petrol prices dropped by nearly Pakistani Rs 35 to about Pakistani Rs 259 per litre on April 30. Likewise, the HSD price came down by about Pakistani Rs 22 to Pakistani Rs 268 per litre in the second fortnight of April. Finance Minister Aurangzeb on Sunday conceded that the people were stressed due to new taxes imposed in the budget after his revenue measures were criticised by almost everyone.

leader re-elected Secy Gen of Workers' Party

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore's Indian-origin Leader of Opposition Pritam Singh has been reelected secretary-general of the Workers' Party (WP), ahead of the city-state's next general election.

A total of 14 members, led by re-elected chairwoman Sylvia Lim, were voted into the Central Executive Committee (CEC) — the top decisionmaking body of the Workers' Party (WP).

Singh, 48, was elected unopposed on Sunday. He has been WP's secretary-general since 2018.

"Fantastic result. We're looking forward to working with this CEC for the next two years,"

Singh told reporters. "This wasn't about candidature, this was an internal party election, so my comments will be restricted to that," Channel News Asia quoted Singh as

Media reports say the WP CEC, elected for two years, is set for the city-state's next general election, which has to be called by November 2025 but could be held earlier, sometime in November this

Singh was charged in court on March 19 for lying in Parliament about a case involving former WP member Raeesah Khan.

Khan had allegedly lied in Parliament in 2021 over a sexual assault case and accused the police of mishandling the case. Singh, who has pleaded not guilty to the charges, is set to go on trial in October.

His trial is set for October and November, media reports said, citing court records on May

Veteran SL politician & Tamil leader passes away

PTI ■ COLOMBO

 $R^{\text{Sampanthan, a veteran Sri}}_{\text{Lankan politician and a}}$ moderate Tamil leader, who relentlessly pursued a life of peace, justice and dignity for Tamil nationals in the island nation, passed away on Sunday

Sampanthan, 91, passed away while receiving treatment in a hospital, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) announced. Sampanthan led the TNA from 2004 and became only the second Tamil to become the main

opposition leader in the Sinhala-majority country. He was ailing for a long time and had missed the current parliamentary sessions for a

long time. In a message, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe said that

Sampanthan worked "tirelesscountry and his loss would be mourned nationwide.

"I express my deepest condo-

"My deepest condolences to the family and friends of veteran TNA leader R. Sampanthan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X on Monday along with a picture of his meeting with the Sri Lankan Tamil

Tamil nationals of Sri Lanka.

" to bridge the divisions in the

lences on the passing of Mr R. Sampanthan. As a national leader, he worked tirelessly to bridge the divisions in our country. His loss will be mourned across the nation," he said in a post on X.

"Will always cherish fond memories of meetings with him. He relentlessly pursued a life of peace, security, equality, justice and dignity for the

He will be deeply missed by his friends and followers in Sri Lanka and India," Modi wrote. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar condoled Sampanthan's death on X, not-

ing that he dedicated his entire life to fighting for equality, dignity and justice for Tamils in the island nation. "Deeply saddened to hear

about the passing away of Sri Lankan Tamil leader Shri R. Sampanthan," he said. "Recall my many meetings and

conversations with him over several decades. He dedicated his entire life fighting for the equality, dignity and justice for Tamils in Sri Lanka. Condolences to his family and followers," he said. Indian High Commissioner

Santosh Jha also took to X and

said the veteran politician

would be remembered for his

"seminal contribution to the Sri Lankan Tamil cause" and "goodwill towards India".

Deeply saddened at the demise of TNA leader Shri R Sampanthan. Met & interacted with him on many occasions, Jha said in a post. "He will be remembered for his

seminal contribution to the Sri Lankan Tamil cause & for his goodwill towards India. Heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones," he Former Lankan President

Mahinda Rajapaksa also condoled the politician's passing. "My deepest condolences on the passing of TNA Leader R. Sampanthan. He was an old friend and colleague and we shared many a day discussing various issues. His demise is a loss to Sri Lanka political fraternity and may his family & friends overcome this sad loss," he said in a post on X. Sri Lankan Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa also mourned

Today, we mourn the loss of Mr. Sampanthan, who served Sri Lanka for over half a century. His dedication to equal rights for all Sri Lankans is a beacon of hope. His fair and just leadership will continue to inspire me and many others. Truly, it is the end of an era," he said in a post on X.

"Deeply saddened to hear of the passing of MP R. Sampanthan, a veteran Tamil politician who worked to create a cohesive, peaceful society within Sri Lanka. His advocacy for equal rights for minorities helped advance broader human rights for all Sri Lankan citizens and encouraged unity. On behalf of the United States,

extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones," said US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung.

Sampanthan was a moderate Tamil who had been leading the political movement to achieve a negotiated political settlement to the Tamil demand for political autonomy. The Tamils put forward their demand for autonomy since gaining independence from Britain in 1948, which, from the mid-70s, turned into a bloody armed conflict.

He took office as the leader of the opposition in 2015 and was actively involved in the process of drafting a new Constitution until 2019.

A brilliant lawyer, Sampanthan entered Parliament for the first time in 1977 from the eastern port district of Trincomalee.

उत्तराखण्ड सहकारी चीनी मिल्स संघ लि0

निकट रेलवे क्रॉसिंग, बद्रीपुर रोड, जोगीवाला, देहरादून–248001 (उत्तराखण्ड) दूरमाष–0135–2974413, ई–मेल– uksugars@gmail.com वैबसाईट– www.uttarakhandsugars.com, GST No. 05AABFU7713K2Z1 पत्रांक- 446 / क्रय / 22 / 2024-25

चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट की नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञप्ति उत्तराखण्ड शुगर्स के अधीनस्थ सहकारी एवं सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की चार चीनी मिलों क्रमशः किच्छा / बाजपुर / नादेही / डोईवाला में वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25, 2025-26 व 2026-27 में वाह्य चार्टर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट के स्तर से लेखा सम्बन्धी कार्यों क्रमशः-कम्प्यूटरीकृत लेखांकन का कार्य, इन्वेन्ट्री का कार्य एवं पर्यवेक्षण के कार्यो हेत्

इच्छुक चार्टेर्ड एकाउन्टेन्ट फर्मों के आवेदन पत्र आंमत्रित किये जाते हैं। उपरोक्त वांछित कार्य सम्पादन हेत् इच्छुक फर्म / संस्था अपने पक्ष में विभागीय वेबसाईट (www.uttarakhandsugars.com) में अंकित विवरणानुसार अनुभव पंजीकरण सम्बन्धी प्रपत्र एवं वांछित अभिलेखों को संलग्न करते हुए अपने द प्रस्ताव विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशित होने के तिथि से 10 दिवस अर्थात् दिनांक—11.07.2024 की सांय 04:00 बजे तक पंजीकृत डाक एवं स्वयं के माध्यम से उत्तराखण्ड शुगर कार्यालय में जमा कराना होगा। तिथि समाप्त होने के उपरान्त किसी भी चार्टर्ड

एकाउन्टेन्ट फर्म के आवेदन पत्र पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा प्रबन्ध निदेशक, उत्तराखण्ड शुगर्स देहरादून को किसी एक अथवा सभी प्रस्तावों को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रहेगा। प्रस्तावों से सम्बन्धित नियम एवं शर्तें कार्यालय की वेबसाईड (www.uttarakhandsugars.com

इस विज्ञप्ति के सम्बन्ध में सभी संशोधन, स्पष्टीकरण, शुद्धिपत्र, परिशिष्ट, समय वृद्धि आदि को केवल (www.uttarakhandsugars.com) पर ही दिया जायेगा निविदादाता अद्यतन जानकारी के लिए नियमित रूप से इस वेबसाइट को पढ़ते रहें।

Sensex, Nifty hit fresh record

 $\begin{array}{c} B_{443} \text{ points to close at a} \\ \text{new record high while Nifty} \end{array}$ settled above the 24,100 mark on Monday on buying in banking and IT shares in line with gains in Asian and European markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex settled higher by 443.46 points or 0.56 per cent at an all-time high of 79,476.19. During the day, the barometer soared 528.27 points or 0.66 per cent to

The broader Nifty rose by 131.35 points or 0.55 per cent to close at a fresh lifetime high of 24,141.95. Intra-day, the index hit a high of 24,164, just 10 points short of its lifetime high of 24,174 hit on

Among Sensex shares, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Steel, Infosys, HDFC Bank,



Tata Motors and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers. NTPC, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Axis Bank were among the

laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled higher. European markets were trading with gains. US markets ended lower on

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

e-commerce

sustained sustained its upward momentum, with a reduction momentum, with a reduction in US PCE inflation raising hopes for a rate cut by the US Fed in September. This optimism contributed to the strong performance of IT stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.51 per cent to USD 85.43 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 23.09 crore on Friday, according to exchange data..

exchange data..
The BSE benchmark declined 210.45 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 79,032.73 on Friday. During the day, it jumped 428.4 points or 0.54 per cent to hit a fresh record trading peak of 79,671.58. The Nifty went lower by 33.90 The Nifty went lower by 33.90 points or 0.14 per cent to 24,010.60. During the day, it climbed 129.5 points or 0.53 per cent to hit a new lifetime high of 24,174.

GST reduced tax rates on household goods, brought happiness, relief to every home: FinMin

Goods and Services Tax (GST), which completed 7 years of implementation on has brought happiness and relief to every home through reduced taxes on household appliances and mobile phones, the finance ministry said on Monday.

GST, which subsumed about 17 local tax and cesses, was rolled out on July 1, 2017. The theme of the 7th GST Day is Sashakt Vyapar Samagra Vikas (empowered trade overall growth).

With reduced tax rates on household goods after GST i m p l e m e n t a t i o n , #7yearsofGST has brought happiness and relief to every home through lower GST on household appliances and mobile phones," the ministry said in a post on X.

The GST taxpayer base has April 2024 from 1.05 crore as and



witnessed "We have quantum jump in taxpayers base along with improved compliance," Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal said.

Giving comparative charts of pre- and post-GST tax rates of household goods, the ministry said GST has enhanced the ease of living with every household saving increased to 1.46 crore in on expenditure on food items items

consumption

implementation. The rate of food items like unpacked wheat, rice, curd, and lassi, which were taxed at 2.5-4 per cent before GST implementation, is at nil after the GST rollout.

Household goods like cosmetics, wrist watches, sanitary plastic ware, doors and windows, furniture and mattresses are taxed at a lower rate of 18 per cent in the GST regime, lower than 28 per cent in the erstwhile excise and

The ministry said mobile phones, TVs up to 32 inches, refrigerators, machines electrical appliances (other than air conditioners), geysers and fans which attracted 31.3 per cent taxes in

the pre-GST era, are now in the 18 per cent tax slab in GST regime. It further said the compliance burden was reduced for small taxpayers, and the GST Council has recommended to waive off annual return filing requirement for taxpayers with aggregate

turnover of up to Rs 2 crore in fiscal 2023-24. The quarterly return filing and monthly payment of taxes (ORMP) scheme has reduced the number of returns filed in a year from 24 to 8, for more than 44 lakh small taxpayers, IFF (Invoice furnishing (Invoice furnishing Facility) ensured seamless passage of ITC (Input Tax

Credit), the ministry added.

TVS Mobility arm acquires **Italy-based automotive** components supplier



PTI ■ MUMBAI

TVS Mobility group on Monday said its subsidiary SI Air Springs has Italy-based acquired automotive components supplier Roberto Nuti Group, which will help it broaden the product range and strengthen its position in the global market.

partners includes the 100 per cent purchase of Roberto Nuti Group by TVS Mobility indirectly, through its wholly-owned Indian subsidiary, SI Air Springs Limited Private investments appropriate to the full re-launch of the company, TVS Mobility

group said in a statement. It also said that both companies will continue to operate normally during the integration period. TVŠ Mobility has a well-

established presence in Europe with some of the other businesses that are part of the group such as TVS Supply Chain Solutions and TVS Srichakra Ltd.

Following this collaboration, the Bologna (Italy)-based group will now operate on a more international scale, benefiting from the market and product leadership of TVS Mobility, it said. "This acquisition marks a

significant step in our global expansion strategy, allowing us to combine our distinctive skills in air spring business with the Nuti Group's suspension systems expertise," said P Srinivasavaradhan, Director of SI Air Springs.

Springs, which Air operates from Madurai in Tamil Nadu provides air commercial vehicles, Bus OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers), tra manufacturers Tier suspension System suppliers and Indian Railways

On the other hand, Roberto Nuti Group produces and distributes shock absorbers and air springs for the aftermarket mainly for industrial and commercial vehicles.

"We are excited about the international growth potential this agreement brings us and we are confident that partnering with SI Air Springs will allow us to take advantage of their capabilities.

"Both companies will continue to operate normally during the integration period, and we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for all our stakeholders," said Luca General Randighieri, Manager at the Nuti Group.

part from this, three more companies -- SaaS platform

Unicommerce eSolutions, Maharashtra-based Gala Precision Engineering and Interarch Building Products -- obtained the regulator's nod to float the initial share

 $B_{\text{the parent firm of online}}^{\text{rainbees}} \ \text{Solutions} \ \text{Ltd,}$

FirstCry, has received Sebi's

approval to raise funds through an initial public

offering (IPO), an update with the markets regulator

showed on Monday.

platform

These companies -- who filed their preliminary IPO

January and May 2024 -- obtained the regulator's observations during June 25-28, according to the update. In Sebi's parlance, obtaining its observations means its approval to float the public

According to the fresh draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), Pune-based (DRHP), Brainbees Solutions' IPO proposed combination of a fresh issue of equity shares, aggregating up to Rs 1,816 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 5.44 crore equity shares by existing shareholders. Under the OFS, SVF Frog, a

Cayman Islands-registered filed their preliminary IPO entity of Softbank, will sell papers with Sebi between 2.03 crore equity shares of



FirstCry's parent firm Brainbees Solutions gets Sebi's go ahead to float IPO

Brainbees Solutions Ltd, and Mahindra & (M&M) will automaker Mahindra offload 28.06 lakh shares of the company. Currently, Softbank holds a

Brainbees Solutions, and M&M owns a 10.98 per cent stake in the multi-brand retailing platform. Apart from Softbank and

per cent stake in

M&M, other entities selling shares in the OFS are PI Opportunities Fund, TPG, NewQuest Asia Investments, Apricot Investments, Valiant Mauritius, TIMF Holdings, Mauritius, TIMF Holdings, Think India Opportunities Fund and Schroders Capital. Brainbees Solutions re-filed preliminary papers with Sebi in May after the company was directed by the regulator to re-file the draft papers, citing insufficient disclosure of key performance of key performance indicators (KPIs), market key sources had said.

company's performance indicators include its number of orders, average order value and annual transacting

Unicommerce's issue is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) aggregating up to 2.98 crore equity shares by the selling shareholders.
Under the OFS, SB Investment Holdings (UK)
Ltd, an affiliate of Japan's SoftBank, will offload 1.61

crore shares, promoter AceVector Limited (formerly known as Snapdeal Limited) will sell up to 1.14 crore shares, and B2 Capital Partners will be selling up to 22 lakh shares.

Since the IPO is completely an OFS, the entire proceeds will go to the selling shareholders. Shares of these four

companies will be listed on the BSE and NSE.

Rupee falls 11 paise to 83.45 against US dollar

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 11 paise to settle at 83.45 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking rising crude oil prices in

However, a firm trend in domestic equity markets, positive manufacturing PMI data and a weak US dollar against major currencies overseas capped the sharp fall, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.39 and moved between the high of 83.38 and the low of 83.47 against the greenback during the session. The unit finally settled at 83.45 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 11 paise from its previous closing level. On Friday, the rupee settled 11 paise higher at 83.34 against the US dollar.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the rupee depreciated on a surge in US treasury yields and rising crude oil prices.

Oil prices were hovering at nearly two-month high levels while the US bond yields above 4 per cent pressurised Asian



currencies. However, positive domestic markets and a rise in manufacturing PMI supported the rupee. Choudhary further said the rupee is lkely to trade with a slight positive bias on gains in domestic markets and expectations of fresh foreign inflows.

"Traders may take cues from ISM manufacturing PMI and construction spending data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.10 to Rs 83.70,"

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 105.24, lower by 0.28 per cent. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.41 per cent to USD 85.35 per

In the domestic equity market, The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 443.46 points, or 0.56 per cent, to close at 79,476.19 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 131.35 points, or 0.55 points.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC Manufacturing India Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased from 57.5 in May to 58.3 in June, indicating a sharper improvement in business conditions.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 23.09 crore, according to exchange data.

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 816 million to USD 653.711 billion in the week ended June 21, the RBI said on Friday. In the previous week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 2.922 billion to USD 652.895 billion.

The central government's fiscal deficit was 3 per cent of the annual estimates at May-end 2024-25, the first two months of the financial year during which model code of conduct was in place due to Lok Sabha

ATF price hiked 1.2%, commercial LPG cut by ₹30

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jet fuel or ATF price on Monday was hiked by 1.2 per cent while that of LPG hotels and restaurants cut by Rs 30 per 19-kg cylinder in line with international oil price trends.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was hiked by Rs 1,179.37 per kilolitre, or 1.2 per cent, to Rs 96,148.38 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase followed a steep 6.5 per cent (Rs 6,673.87 per kl) reduction effected on June 1. The ATF rate in Mumbai was increased to Rs 89,908.30 per kl from Rs 88,834.27. Prices differ from state to

state depending on the incidence of local taxes. Alongside, oil firms cut the price of commercial LPG by Rs 30 to Rs 1,646 per 19-kg cylinder.

This is the fourth straight monthly reduction in rates. The price was last cut by Rs 69 per cylinder on June 1. Prior to that, rates were on



May 1 reduced by Rs 19 per cylinder, and by Rs 30.5 on April 1.

Rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2kg cylinder.

Indian Oil State-owned Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise prices of ATF and cooking gas on 1st of every month based on the average price of benchmark international fuel and foreign exchange rate.

Prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. Rates had been cut by Rs 2 per litre in mid-March. Petrol costs Rs 94.72 a litre in Delhi while diesel is priced at Rs

Gold flat at ₹72,350 per 10g, silver rises by ₹200

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices traded flat at Rs 72,350 per 10 grams while the local market on Monday, according to HDFC Securities. Silver prices rose by Rs 200 to Rs 90,300 per kg from the previous close of Rs 90,100 per kg. "In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading flat at Rs 72,350 per 10 grams, unchanged from the previous close," Gandhi, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,327 per ounce, slightly up USD 1 from the previous close. Gold struggled to find direction on Monday and moved in a narrow range above the USD 2,320 level during the European trading session, Gandhi said.

..Traders appear cautious about making aggressive directional bets given uncertainties about the US Federal Reserve's interest ratecutting plan, resulting in sluggish range-bound price activity," he added.

Digi Yatra policy should spell out all rules on passenger info deletion, suggests study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The policy for Digi Yatra — a digital platform to verify air travellers using biometric data — needs to spell out all the rules related to deletion of passenger information from the database once the travel is complete, according to a study instituted by NITI Aayog.

There have been privacy concerns in various quarters about Digi Yatra user data.

Based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), Digi Yatra provides for contactless and seamless movement of passengers at various

checkpoints at airports. As per the policy for Digi Yatra, facial biometrics are deleted from the local airport's database 24 hours

However, the rules related to deletion of other information collected from the passengers, biometrics that are stored in other registries, must be clearly set out in the policy," the study said.

Digi Yatra envisages an management ecosystem for Indian airports, which can enhance the capabilities of Indian civil aviation infrastructure, digitise manual processes at airports, improve security standards and lower the cost of operations of airports. "While the Digi Yatra Policy

states that it is completely voluntary in nature, if the use of Digi Yatra is made mandatory in any way then the same must comply with after the departure of the the principles laid down in the study said.

well as any facial

K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (case) relating to the necessity, proportionality of the policy,'

The verdict pertains to the constitutional right to

The study recommended that there must be frequent information security in the there must be a provision for

cybersecurity audits and vulnerability testing of the Digi Yatra platform to ensure that reliability, usability,

ecosystem is a subject of continuous engagement and is adaptive to the rapidly evolving threats that exist in this sphere. In addition to cybersecurity

audits, it is imperative to establish a mechanism for performing algorithmic audits by independent and accredited auditors, prior to system deployment at periodic intervals, it added. According to the study, the Digi Yatra SOP must specify timelines and purposes for retention of different types of data within the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem, beyond which personal data is deleted. "Internal SOPs for handling personal and

sensitive personal data must be identified," it said. The study also noted that the ongoing monitoring of the performance of the entire system. It also suggested that the use

of facial recognition data and other relevant subject data for providing value-added services should only be activated through an opt-in rather than an opt-out method of consent with an ability to revoke consent at any time.

Digi Yatra proposes use of FRT to authenticate a passenger's travel credentials, allows checkpoints at an airport to be operated in an automated form with minimal human involvement. The use of FRT prima facie has the potential to streamline operations at airports and provide tangible benefits to the civil aviation

Amid persisting concerns over user data privacy, the Digi Yatra Foundation, in April, said the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE) never stores any of the ID credentials data, which has Personally Identifiable Information (PII) anywhere in any central repository. The foundation is the nodal agency for the app. In India, as part of its efforts

to improve travel experience, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has initiated the Digi Yatra programme using the FRT, and facial verification technology (FVT) to be used at different process points. FRT refers to an AI system that allows identification or verification of a person based on certain images or video data interfacing with the underlying algorithm.



NEERAJ CHOPRA OPTS OUT OF PARIS DIAMOND LEAGUE: REPORT

and world champion javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has opted out of this Śunday'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

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

maneuver as it is the point at which the pace generated by the run-up is transferred to the hip and then to the throwing arm before the javelin is sent

Chopra, who topped the field in last month's Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, with a throw of 85.97m, said he has become wiser over the years and no longer puts himself at risk to fulfill commitments like he used to do before his Olympic gold. a competition, I would definitely go and compete no matter what happened. But now with more experience, I am better placed to make correct decisions," he said.

"I was happy with my performance in Turku, but I felt there was more work to do. I was slow on the runway compared to my normal speed. "I want that speed back and for that, I need proper confidence that I am fully fit and that my groin is fit. I want to feel confident when I run on the runway," he pointed out.

Praggnanandhaa misses against Wesley So on another day of draws



PTI ■ BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

Grandmaster R Praggnandhaa yet again squandered promising position to settle for a draw against American Wesley 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 Wesley share the third spot and Wesley share the third spot on 2.5 points each, a half point ahead of Anish Giri of Holland 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 Carrians 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-sodifficult 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 decisively. survived with the skin of his Gukesh also had a chance out on the opportunity.

Caruana showed his opening expertise to hold Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in a Ruy Lopez open. The American went for a little known variation as black and it was clear that his home work rap. clear that his home-work ran deep. Vachier-Lagrave decided not to take his chances for too

against Nodirbek through a

tactical stroke that would have

ensured consistent pressure

and a long-term advantage.

The game was drawn without

much ado once Gukesh missed

long and drew vide repetition in just 28 moves. Monday is the only rest day in the tournament and the sixth round will be played on

Tuesday. Results round 3: D Gukesh (Ind, 3) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 2.5); Wesley So (Usa, 2.5) drew (Ind, 3); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 3.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 2) drew with Firouza Alireza (Fra, 2.5); Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou, 1.5) drew with I Nepomniachtchi (FID, 2.5).

Slovenia, one of six teams still unbeaten at Euro 2024.

Kek joined in the mutual respect, calling Martinez "a gentleman, he always behaves

The game is likely to follow a pattern. Portugal leads the

tournament in most time possessing the ball and Slovenia has the least, with



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.

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

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).

former 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

Rajawat recently had a notable last-eight finish in the US Open Super 300 event, wĥerein 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 But her immediate next

challenge may be against WR 21 Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt 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.

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



AP ■ DUESSELDORF (GERMANY)

∕ylian Mbappé felt like he Kyllan Muappe Ich. —
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 absolute horror," he said.

"I had the impression in the first game that I was playing in 3D," Mbappé told reporters,

putting his hands to the sides of his head and mimicking wearing a VR headset.

"I saw people but I had the feeling it was not me that was playing," he said of his comeback in a 1-1 draw against Poland on Tuesday.

Mbappé's nose was broken in an accidental collision with an Austria defender's shoulder during a 1-0 win for France in its opening game on June 17. Without its captain and key goalscoring threat, France drew 0-0 with the Netherlands and on his masked return he played tentatively though scored 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 It's annoying, 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 Those two draws dropped

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

Portugal sure to respect Slovenia in Euro 2024 round of 16 with fresh memory of upset losses strong bond, and they kept a clean sheet against England." That 0-0 against England was a third straight draw for

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 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 years as an independent 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

Slovenian moment football." Martinez said, praising h Matja⊠ Kek. his counterpart

"We admire what their coach is doing because their national team plays like a club."

They attack very quickly. (Andra⊠) Šporar and (Benjamin) Šeško have a very

64.3 per cent and 36.7 per cent. "They don't need a lot of posséssion 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 Bearly own-goal to beat Georgia 4-1 for a spot in the Euro 2024 quarterfinals, ending one of the compelling tournament's most 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 OImo 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

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



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 onegame suspension -- leveled the score in the 39th with a low shot from just

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

AP ■ (GERMANY)

Tude Bellingham needed to J 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.

GELSENKIRCHEN "I think it was 30 or 20 he can provide are these 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-Bellingham was in the box year-old in the world... What and had to readjust his body

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



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.

goal was Bellingham's 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 Świtzerland

in the quarterfinals Duesseldorf on Saturday. But for so long it looked like being a humbling exit for Southgate's team - bringing back memories of 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

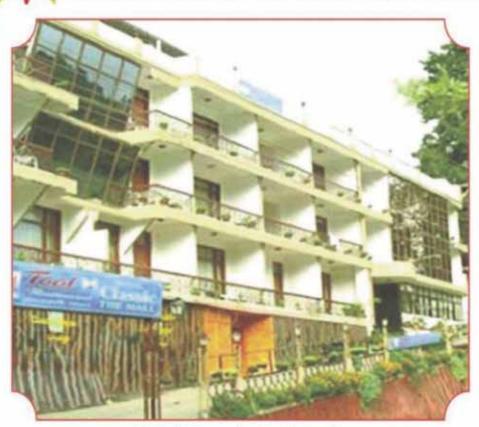
produced a shock by beating No.3-ranked Belgium in the group stage and it looked like doing it again against the No. 5-ranked team in the world. That was until Bellingham struck.

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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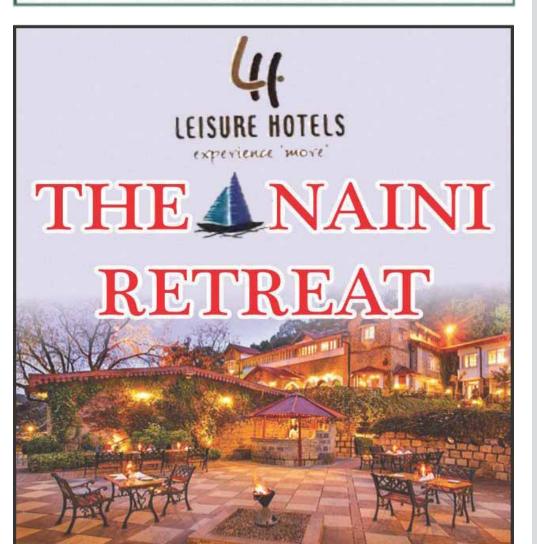


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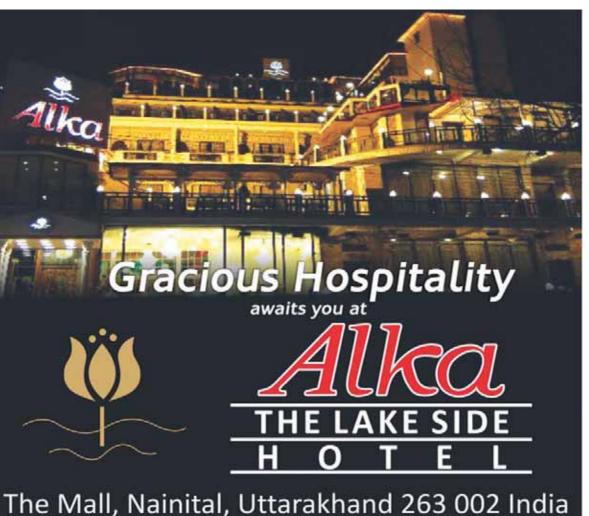
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(05942) 236629

Ph.:

Fax:



Afzal Hussain Fauji Nainital

Mainital, 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 singes 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 mon-

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

We love rain because it is supposed to wash away the

spend days in quaintness. The Naini Lake, the crescentshaped, 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 boatride 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 throng 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

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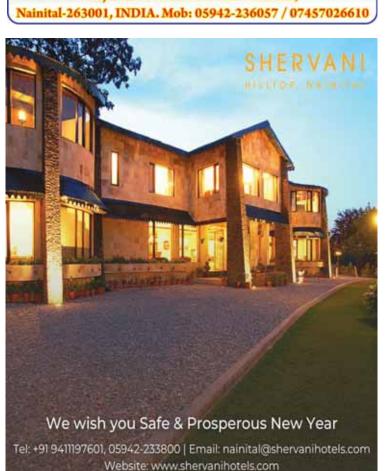
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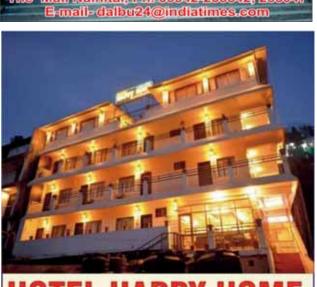
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> Delhi Office **Balrampur House Annexe** 16 Tilak Marg, New Delhi



