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A NEW DAWN IN

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NORTH KOREA TEST-LAUNCHES

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FRESH RECORD TIBETAN DIPLOMACY TWO BALLISTIC MISSILES NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JULY 2, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4 Established 1864 the pioneer www.dailypioneer.com

NEERAJ OPTS OUT OF PARIS DIAMOND LEAGUE: REPORT

11 SPORTS

OPPOSITION FINDS VOICE IN PARLIAMENT Rahul debuts as LoP

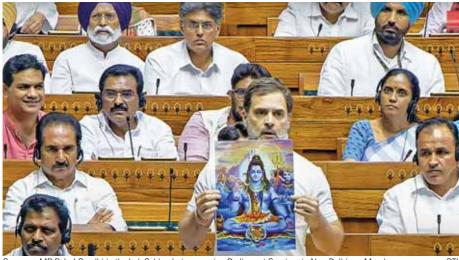
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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 BJP

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

Continued on Page 2

Government returns fire

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.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in the Lok Sabha during ongoing Parliament 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

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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 (BÑSS) 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 'Swadeshi'

This will function on Indian

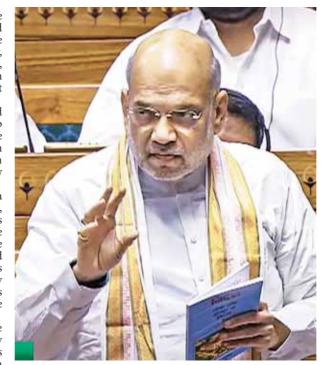
ethos. After 75 years, these laws were contemplated upon and as these laws have gone into effect from today, colonial laws stand scrapped, and laws made in the Indian Parliament are being brought into practice," he said.

The Home Minister said justice would be delivered up to the level of the Supreme Court in all cases 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



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

minutes past midnight. 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

"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

defined.

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

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

Continued on Page 2

a person and injuries to at

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

Delhi IGI canopy fall impacts 22,000 fliers

will remain only 15 days.

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 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 following the transition of flights from Terminal 1 to

Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu

on Monday visited the Airport

Terminals 2 and 3. According to the Ministry, a operations resume at T1. comprehensive assessment and deploy Union Minister of Civil was conducted, involving manpower

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,

evaluations.

structural engineers from IIT Delhi, engaged by the Civil Aviation Ministry, are 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

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.

Continued on Page 2

Flogging of couple: BJP seeks resignation of Didi

¬he BJP on Monday The BJF on monday, demanded the resignation of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who is also the State's Police Minister for failing to control the "deteriorating law and order situation" which according to the saffron outfit was evident from the public flogging of a couple at Chopra in Islampur block of North Dinajpur district on charges of extra-marital relationship.

Terming the viral video of the incident as "horrific" BJP national president JP Nadda wrote on the social media that the incident reminded of the "brutalities that exist only in theocracies. To make matters worse, the TMC cadre and MLAs are justifying the act. Be it Sandeshkhali, Uttar Dinajpur or many other places, Didi's West Bengal is UNSAFE for

Another senior leader of the party Gaurav Bhatia too



being a woman Chief Minister

should have been the first one

to come out and condemn this

incident," Bhatia said adding

the "Chief Minister is also in

charge of the Home Minister

and should have resigned in the

An alleged muscleman — nick-

named JCB — of Chopra MLA,

Hamidul Rehman, had alleged-

ple for their extra-marital rela-

tionship. "This Talibani practice

of giving justice is being

beaten up in public the cou-

first instance."

tion on grounds of her being the Chief Minister who was in charge of the Home portfolio The INDI block (Indian National Democratic and Inclusive Alliance) is silent on the issue of a woman being flogged, physically abused, along with a man. This has been done at a public place, violating their dignity and their fundamental right to associate with each other. What puts the entire country to shame is the fact that Mamata Banerjee has ship ... which should be condemned and the Government should be made accountable for this," Bengal BJP president and Union Minister Sukanta Majudar said.

The TMC leadership however refuted the BKP charges saying it was an isolated incident and was common in many parts of the country including the BJPruled States

"The BJP is making it a political issue but it is an isolated incident and we have seen similar things taking place in many BJP-ruled States and even the Left rule where people were flogged in kangaroo courts," party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said adding the saffron outfit was "trying to find out an issue in order to remain afloat in the State politics after having lost the elec-

Meanwhile, State Governor CV Ananda Bose wrote a letter to the State Government demanding a report on Chopra incident calling it "barbarous."

Reasi locals see sinister pattern behind terror attacks

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Reasi district, which is fast emerging as one of the 'hot spots' of Jammu and Kashmir with a successful trial run of rail services via the world's highest railway arch bridge over river Chenab, is becoming the cynosure of all eyes.

The recent incident of the terror attack on a pilgrim bus near a famous Shiv Khori shrine and the vandalisation of a religious place in the same area have created a sense of fear among the residents as they see a sinister pattern behind these incidents. Nine people including seven pil-grims were killed and 41 others received injuries in the terror attack on June 9. After the initial investigation by

the local police, the National Investigation Agency took over the investigation in the case and also conducted raids across several places to track down the footprints of overground workers (OGW) who may have facilitated the foreign terrorists behind the attack. So far Hakim Din- an overground worker has been arrested by the Reasi police. According to police Hakim Din sheltered the foreign terrorists and provided logistics support to execute the terror



plot in exchange for a paltry sum of Rs 6000.

To register their protest the residents in the Reasi district Monday observed a complete shutdown and demanded a high-level probe to expose the evil designs of those spreading a fresh reign of terror in the otherwise peaceful area.

Meanwhile, sensing the mood of the agitated residents, Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday said three more suspects have been rounded up in connection with the vandalisation of a religious place.

To contain the anger among the residents Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi Mohita Sharma Monday said, "Those found involved in the case will be booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA), while the district administration has decided to prepare a list of all temples for installation of CCTV cameras to work as a deterrent against such incidents'

Normal life remained paralyzed and in several places strong protests were organised seeking punishment for the perpetrators behind the incident. The place of worship was found vandalised by a visitor in a village in the Dharmari area on Saturday evening, sparking tension and protests.

Police registered an FIR under relevant sections of law and formed a Special Investigation Team headed by a deputy superintendent of Police to identify and arrest the culprits.

While 12 people were apprehended till Sunday, three more suspects were detained on the

intervening night of Sunday and Monday. The total number of those taken into custody for questioning in the case stands at 15, a police officer said.

He said the SIT is working on various clues to crack the case

and requesting people to maintain law and order. Police and paramilitary forces were deployed in strength in the sensitive areas as a precaution-

and order. Deputy Commissioner of Reasi Vishesh Paul Mahajan visited the protest site and tried to pacify the protesters, assuring that stern action would be taken

ary measure to maintain law

against the culprits. "Anyone trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere will not be spared. It is an attempt to create hurdles and sabotage devel-

opmental activities, besides communal harmony. This is my guarantee.... We will not tolerate any attempt to damage peace in the district," the deputy commissioner had

said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Mohita Sharma reiterated her appeal to the people to maintain calm and communal harmony, assuring that the police were committed to solving the case and tracing the culprits at the earliest.

HC to hear Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by CBI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court will hear on Tuesday Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the CBI in a corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam. The petition, which was filed on Monday, has been listed for hearing before Justice Neena Bansal Krishna.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor has also challenged a June 26 order of the trial court by which he was remanded in the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) custody for three days.

On June 29, Kejriwal was sent to judicial custody till July 12 in the corruption case by the trial court, which said his name has surfaced as one of the main conspirators and as the investigation is still in progress, his further custodial interrogation may be required. Kejriwal was arrested by the

CBI on June 26 from the Tihar



jail, where he was in judicial custody till July 3 in a related money-laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate

The CBI had claimed before the trial court that the AAP chief did not cooperate with the investigation and deliberately gave evasive replies. The federal agency had also expressed apprehension that Kejriwal might influence witnesses. While sending Kejriwal to the CBI's custody for three days on June 26, the trial court had

refused to declare his arrest illegal, as sought by the defence counsel, saying "the timing may be circumspect but it is not the clear criterion for declaring

an arrest illegal". 'Investigation is the prerogative of the investigating agency, however, there are certain safeguards provided in the law and at this stage, on the material on record, it cannot be said that the arrest is illegal. The agency, however, should not be overzealous," the trial court had

Army ready to face all challenges: Gen Dwivedi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Indian Army is ready and capable to face all current and future security chal-lenges facing India, new Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said on Monday amid the lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

A day after he assumed charge of the 1.3 million-strong force, General Dwivedi said working towards ensuring synergy among the Army, Air Force and the Navy would be one of his

In remarks to the media after inspecting a Guard of Honour at the South Block in Raisina hills, he said the Army is facing "unique operational challenges" and to remain prepared for such threats, it is crucial to continue equipping the soldiers with latest weapons.

"I am fully conscious of the responsibility assigned to me and I assure the country and fellow citizens that the Indian Army is fully capable and ready to face all current and future



challenges," he said. The newly-appointed Army Chief also said he will encourage induction of indigenouslybuilt military hardware into the force to boost self-reliance in

"The geo-political landscape is changing rapidly and technology is evolving at a very fast pace," he said. "The Indian Army faces unique operational challenges and to remain prepared for such threats and distinctive requirements, it is crucial that we continuously equip

our soldiers with state-of-theart weapons and technology and continue to evolve our warfighting strategies," he added.

General Dwivedi said the

Indian Army is on the "path to

transformation" and it aspires

to be 'Atmanirbhar' (self-

reliant) in defence. "To achieve this, we will encourage indigenous initia-tives and induct maximum war systems and equipment that are manufactured in our country," he said.

General Dwivedi said he

would focus on ensuring that the Army is ready operate in the "full spectrum of conflict". "It will be my endeavour to ensure that the Indian Army is always ready to operate in the full spectrum of conflict, maintaining complete synergy with the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and other stakeholders, he said. "This will ensure that India's interests are secured and we become a major pillar of nation building to achieve the vision of 'Viksit Bharat-2047'," Gen Dwivedi said.

him to lead the force. "This is a moment of immense pride and honour for me to be assigned the responsibility to lead the Indian Army," he said "The glorious traditions of the Indian Army rest on the legacy of valour and sacrifice of our soldiers. On this occasion, I pay my solemn tributes to the bravehearts who made supreme sacrifice in the line of

The Army Chief said it is a

matter of immense pride for

duty," he added. The Army Chief said he was fully committed to protect interests of all the personnel in the force and to extend full support to ex-servicemen and their families.

"It will be my priority to ensure that the interests and welfare of all ranks and defence civilians of the Indian Army are looked after," he said.

"My responsibility towards veterans, 'veer naris' and their families is a sacred commitment and I assure this extended family, my full support," he

An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa (MP), General Dwivedi was commissioned into regiment of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles in 1984. He has a unique distinction of balanced command as well as staff exposure across Northern, Eastern and Western theatres in varied

operational environment. General Dwivedi was serving as the Vice Chief of the Army since February 19. Before becoming the Vice Chief, he was serving as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command from

2022-2024.

FMCG: Patanjali Foods' Home and Personal Care acquisition to boost its portfolio

PNS NEW DELHI

The Board of Patanjali Foods Ltd has approved the proposal ▲ of Patanjali Ayurved Limited's ("PAL") to acquire its Home and Personal Care ("HPC") Business, accelerating the Company's transition into a leading FMCG company. 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 segments, being (i) dental care, (ii) skin care, (iii) home care, and (iv) hair care. This strategic initiative for acquisition of HPC business shall strengthen the company's existing FMCG product portfolio with an array of marquee brands and also contribute to the growth in terms of revenue and EBITDA.

Hand symbol replica of presiding deity of Kerala's Hemambika Temple: Congress

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Congress led by Indira Gandhi selected The Hand as the symbol of the Congress (I) in 1978 after the party was split following its debacle in the 1977 Lok Sabha election. The claim by Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition, that the Congress' election symbol The Hand represents Abhaya Mudra of Lord Shiva and Guru Nanak is not correct, according to persons who were close to Indira Gandhi.

Indira Gandhi, who had offered prayers at Hemambika Temple in Palakkad district of Kerala at the instance of her acolyte K Karunakaran, decided to go ahead with The Hand symbol which is the presiding deity of the temple, popularly known as Sri Emoor Bhagwathy Temple. She had also consulted a battery of astrologers before making The Hand the party symbol. At the



'cow and calf; constituted the symbol of the party.

The Hand symbol proved the astrologers right as Indira Gandhi and the Congress (I) decimated the Janata Party which had been disintegrated into many Dals by the time. "The Hand symbol has nothing to do with Lord Shiva or Abhayamudra or even Guru Nanak. This is the first time I hearing such claims," said P Rajan, former editor of Mathrubhumi who has more than six decades of experience behind him as a political chronicler.

Delhi IGI canopy fall...

Indira International Airport (IGIA), operated by a GMR Groupled consortium DIAL, has three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3 -- and handles around 1,400 flights daily.

In response to a set of detailed queries related to T1, DIAL on Sunday said its cross-functional teams are evaluating the actively situation and engaging with various stakeholders to ensure passenger safety and convenience.

We remain committed to maintaining flight operations at T3 and T2, while operations at T1 are temporarily suspended. We appreciate the understanding and support of all and support of all stakeholders," a DIAL

statement on Sunday. To queries about business loss of concessionaries operating shops and services at T1, the spokesperson said as the evaluation process was still under way it was not possible to provide specific inputs.

Meanwhile, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been directed to issue a circular to all minor and major airports to conduct a thorough inspection of structural strength. "Based on the findings, the need for increased safety measures and the development of long-term policies to prevent the recurrence of unfortunate incidents will be formulated on a priority basis," the ministry said in the

Extension of trains for benefit of passengers

PNS NEW DELHI

In a bid to clear the extra rush of passengers, it has been decided to continue the services of few special trains. These trains will run with the existing days of service, timings and stop-

Accordingly Train No 07029 (Agartala - Secunderabad) Special will run on every Friday from 5 July to 4 October, 2024 and in return direction, Train No 07030 (Secunderabad - Agartala) Special will run on every Monday from 01st July to 30th

Rahul...

The former Congress chief slammed government over farmers' issues, saying it did not want to give a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

Referring to a row involving medical entrance exam NEET, Rahul Gandhi said students do not believe in the exam because they feel that it is for the rich people and there is no place in it for meritorious students.

Early in the day, INDIA bloc MPs staged a protest in Parliament premises against the alleged misuse of probe agencies by the government to "target" Opposition

leaders. On his part, Kharge took potshots at Modi's statement that the last 10 years of his rule was just a trailer and 'picture abhi baaki hai', saying the third term of NDA has seen exam paper leaks, terror attack in J&K, train accident, airport canopy collapse, bridges cave-ins and toll tax hike.

The Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha also criticised the PM for his poll speeches and also levelled allegations against the ruling BJP's ideological parent RSS, but most of his remarks were expunged by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Government returns...

BJP's partner in NDA, LJP leader and Union minister Chirag Paswan also slammed the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha saying the Congress leader started opposing the devotees of Lord Shiva in his attempt to oppose the government. Paswan also accused the former Congress president of lowering the dignity of the post of the leader of Opposition. "While opposing the government, he started opposing Shiv bhakts, I am one of them. I believe in Lord Shiva. The way you were waving Shiva's image in the House for your political benefits, no follower of Shiva will tolerate that," he added.

Indicative of repressive State: TMC on three new laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Trinamool Congress has once again condemned the BJP Government for "imposing three anti-people" laws --- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNA), 2023, The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, and The (BSA), 2023, and The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 --which were implemented from Monday --- "in order to perpetrate a repressive State. Calling it a "deep-rooted con-

spiracy against which the TMC would continue its struggle in time to come," party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh on Monday said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was "coordinating with the other INDIA constituents to chalk out a plan on the issue and has made her opposition against the new anti-people laws known to the Government."

Saying that his party was "apprehending a crisis in days to come" Ghosh said "the tone and tenor of the laws indicate at a repressive police State," adding "the opposition parties including our leader Mamata Banerjee was not consulted



before drafting such draconian

Earlier the Chief Minister had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to postpone the implementation of the new laws that replaced the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Evidence Act

In a strongly worded letter the she wrote, "If you kindly recall, on the 20th of December last year... That day, almost one hundred members of the Lok Sabha had been suspended and a total 146 MPs of the both Houses were thrown out of the Parliament. The Bills were passed in an authoritarian manner in that dark hour

"Ethically, I believe that it would be in the fitness of things to place these signifi-cant legislative changes before the newly elected Parliament for fresh deliberation and scrutiny. Given the wide-ranging reservations expressed in the public domain regarding

the hurriedly passed new laws, fresh Parliamentary review of these attempts would demonstrate a commitment to democratic principles and foster greater transparency and accountability in the legislative process," Banerjee who had for the past several days been in touch with a number of other Chief Ministers and senior leaders of other parties nation-

This approach would afford the newly elected people's representatives the opportunity to thoroughly examine the proposed reforms, address concerns raised by various stakeholders, and ensure that the laws reflect the collective will and aspirations of the citizenrv Banerjee wrote reminding how she had "argued that the outgoing Lok Sabha should not pass the new Bills with such far-reaching significance in undue by

NEET toppers tally...

Sixty-seven students scored a perfect 720, an unprecedented number in the NTA's history, with six from a single centre in Haryana, raising suspicions of irregularities and the role of grace marks. NEET-UG is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS,

AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions. The allegations of irregularities, including paper leaks, have led to protests and

litigation, with various quarters demanding a complete re-examination. The Centre, however, has maintained that incidents of irregularities were "localised" and it could not jeopardise the careers of lakhs of candidates who rightfully cleared the exam.

of democracy. Matter deserves review now." More so on "ethical and practical reasons," in undue hurry. Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any

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New criminal law: Street vendor booked in first FIR IMD predicts overcast skies,

s the three criminal laws Acame into force on Monday, Delhi Police registered its first FIR under provisions of the new criminal code Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against a street vendor for allegedly obstructing a public way in central Delhi's Kamala Market.

Addressing a press conference, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated the Delhi's case was not the first FIR registered in the country. He said the first case under the new laws was about a motorcycle theft registered in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior at 10 minutes past midnight. He also said the Delhi Police "dismissed" the case filed against a street vendor after an investigation. "By using the provisions of review, police have dismissed this case," he told the media.

The BNS, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respec-



Delhi Police sources said that they will initiate the process of cancelling the FIR registered against the street vendor and will have to inform the court for formally cancelling the FIR. The FIR was registered under Section 285 of the BNS which states, "Whoever, by doing any act, or by omitting to take order with any property in his possession or under his charge, causes danger, obstruction or injury to any person in any public way or public line of navigation, shall be punished with fine which may extend to

Police said 23-year-old Pankaj Kumar, a native of Patna, was found selling water, bidi and

cigarettes from a cart under a foot overbridge near the New Delhi railway station around 12:15 am. While the patrol officer asked Kumar to move his makeshift cart away from the path as it was hindering people's movement, he ignored the officer's instructions following which a case was registered at 1:30 am. The officer also asked four-five passersby to become witnesses but they refused, the FIR stated. The patrol officer used the e-Pramaan app to record the seizures made. The app, handled by the Delhi Police's Crime Branch, will directly feed the content to police records for further investigatraining to its 30,000 personnel, from the ranks of assistant sub-inspectors and inspectors to assistant commissioners and deputy commissioners, who are responsible for registering FIRs and conducting investigations. The force was among the first in the country to start training personnel on the new criminal laws, the officials said. Meanwhile, Delhi Police chief Saniav Arora said the force has started registering FIRs under the three new laws.

He told reporters during the Delhi Police's Commissionerate Day celebrations at Kingsway Camp that the force was fortunate the new laws came into force on this day. "We are fortunate as today is our Commissionerate Day and, on the same day, these laws are being implemented," Arora said.

The Noida Police on Monday registered its first FIR under provisions of the new criminal code BNS for cheating and forgery, and arrested five people in connection with the case. The case was lodged at Surajpur police station under the Central Noida police zone, a police spokesperson said.

heavy rainfall in coming days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted overcast skies and heavy rainfall in the coming days. An 'orange' alert has been issued, signaling significant rainfall that could lead to localized flooding and disruptions.

"Moderate to heavy rainfall is likely till Wednesday. From Thursday until Saturday, we will again see a reduction in rain intensity," the IMD said. Rainfall is expected to drop the maximum temperature by around 7during

period.Safdarjung, representative of Delhi's weather, recorded zero rainfall in the last 24 hours till 8:30 am on Monday. Though forecasts of moderate to heavy rain were in place for Sunday, weather experts said the monsoon trough did not move towards Delhi, instead keeping humidity high. As per the IMD, the temperature was 35 degree C but the feel like index was recorded at 46.1 degree C while humidity stood at 62 per cent. The IMD has clarified that the recent heavy rainfall in Delhi,



which caused significant disruptions, was not due to a cloudburst but was close to one. The IMD's Chief, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, provided insights into the weather patterns that led to the intense rainfall on June 28. This activity was supported by thermodynamic instability in the atmosphere, which is favourable for thunderstorms.

The Safdarjung Observatory recorded 228.1 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Friday, more than three times the June rainfall average of 74.1 mm and the highest for the month in 88 years -- since 1936. A cloudburst typically involves

hour within a localized area. The IMD classifies rainfall as 'light' when it is between 2.5mm and 15.5mm; as 'moderate' when it is between 15.6mm and 64.4mm; as 'heavy' when it is between 64.5mm and 115.5mm and as 'very heavy' when over 115.5mm in a 24-hour window. Regarding other States, the IMD forecast isolated heavy rainfall very likely over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana-ChandigarhDelhi, Uttar Pradesh, East Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh during Monday to Friday.

Atishi directs officials to tackle overflow of Central Delhi's drain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi PWD Minister Atishi on Monday directed offi-cials to find solutions for addressing the overflow of a drain, which runs through central Delhi, during heavy rainfall days after the rain on Friday wreaked havoc and created flood like situation in the national capital.

The drain overflowed following a record-breaking rainfall of 228 mm on June 28, causing waterlogging in nearby areas. Atishi inspected the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) drain number 12 at ITO along with Mayor Shelly Oberoi, Chief Secretary and other senior officials including, and senior officials from MCD, PWD, Urban Development, and Flood and Irrigation Control Departments.

"The water of central Delhi goes to Yamuna from drain No 12



near ITO. When Delhi received 228 mm of rainfall on June 28, the drain overflowed and caused waterlogging in the surrounding areas," the senior AAP leader said in a post in Hindi on X (formerly Twitter). "Today, I along with Mayor @OberoiShelly and senior officials, inspected this drain and gave instructions for finding short- and long-term solutions to stop the overflow," she

added. During the inspection, Atishi instructed the officials to find short-term solutions to prevent MCD drain number 12 from overflowing in the upcoming rainy season. She directed them to find a permanent solution to prevent the drain from overflowing so that the waterlogging problem does not arise in future and people do not have to face

AAP Government responsible for flooding in city, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW

FIR was registered at the

Seelampur police station, under

clause 109 (1), over a gun fir-

ing incident that led to the

injury of a 30 year old e-rick-

shaw driver. According to the

clause 109 (1), "Whoever does

any act with such intention or

knowledge, and under such cir-

cumstances that, if he by that

act caused death, he would be

guilty of murder, shall be pun-

ished with imprisonment of

either description for a term

which may extend to ten years,

and shall also be liable to fine;

and if hurt is caused to any per-

son by such act, the offender

shall be liable either to impris-

onment for life, or to such pun-

ishment as is hereinbefore

mentioned." In east Delhi dis-

trict, the first case was regis-

tered under section 303 (2) of

BNS in Shahdara over theft of

a mobile phone by an auto dri-

ver who forcibly stole it from

his passenger and fled away.

According to officials, two

cases under the BNS were also

registered in Delhi's Outer dis-

trict including one regarding an

accident in Nihal Vihar and an

encroachment case in Mangol

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Monday held the Arvind Kejriwal led AAP government responsible for creating flood like situation in the national Capital, calling it 'incompe-

Hitting at the Delhi government over the water logging situation in the city, he said "Delhi has 287 identified dangerous waterlogging spots, and on Friday, more than 250 of these locations had non-functional pumps?

He added that on the day Delhi received a record-breaking rainfall of 228 mm, over 400 out of the total 696 permanent water drainage pumps installed by the Public Works Department (PWD) in the city were. "According to our information, more than 100 pumps were non-functional because they did not have



diesel," Sachdeva said. Additionally, he said, "465 pumps are installed in Delhi by the Delhi Jal Board, the Flood Department, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and most of these are still not working. Proof of this is that two days after the flooding, Minister Atishi herself visited the pumping station at Minto Road Bridge, and even then, three out of eight pumps were not opera-

"At the Bharti Nagar Pumping Station, the pumps of the Public Works Department of the Delhi government were found to be non-functional on Friday, and the situation has not improved satisfactorily, the Delhi BJP Chief claimed while mentioning that every year during the monsoon, around 1300 additional temporary water drainage pumps are rented and installed, but this year not a single one has been installed.

He claimed that the Kejriwal government's argument, that the necessary tender could not be issued due to the election code of conduct, is false. "However, the truth is that the government, engrossed in securing the Chief Minister's bail and fighting elections, did not pay attention to this essential task," he said.

'Renting additional water drainage pumps for the monsoon is an annual public interest task, and if the Arvind Kejriwal government, intoxicated by power, had written a letter to the Election Commission seeking special permission, it would have certainly been granted, but they did not consider it necessary," he alleged

The Delhi BJP President said that the excuse of not being able to install additional water drainage pumps due to the election code of conduct is weak, as the code ended on June 5. "The Public Works Minister Atishi could have tendered on June 6 or 7 and installed additional pumps by June 20," he said.

Sachdeva challenged Atishi to disclose how many permanent and temporary water drainage pumps are needed during the monsoon and how many are currently operational.

He said, "The drowning of 11 people in the capital city is shameful. The BJP demands that the Delhi government provide one crore rupees in compensation to the bereaved families of these helpless individuals." Sachdeva demanded compensation from the Delhi government and the MCD for the damage caused to traders of wholesale markets in Old Delhi, as well as to ground floor and basement homes and offices throughout the

1,100 trees felled in Ridge: Probe committee already formed, says official "If a committee is required to mittee has been constituted

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

day after a three-member Aday after a time mem.

Afact-finding committee stituted over the felling of 1,100 trees in the Ridge area, Principal Secretary of Delhi government's Environment and Forest department AK Singh claimed that the committee consists of only political executives and an independent committee consisting of Officers of the Forest Survey of India and other impartial experts has already been formed

"In this regard, it is informed that vide Order dated May 15, Supreme Court of India has already constituted an independent fact-finding committee consisting of Officers of the Forest Survey of India and other impartial experts. The said Committee has also been given the liberty to inspect and collect all required information pertaining to the case being



examined by the Court,".Singh said.

He added that the committee has furnished preliminary report before the court and said, "Therefore, constituting another committee (in the name of fact finding) when the Apex Court is already in seize of the matter, is not only

improper but may also invite contempt of the court for interfering in the judicial process of fact finding."
Singh said that the Minister

In-charge of the Forest and Environment Department Gopal Rai is primarily responsible for disposal of business of that department.

be constituted to inquire on under the signatures of Department, the same any due authority or sanction Council of Ministers," he said. Further, the constitution of the fact finding committee is a departure from the general practice and procedure of the CiNCT. The undersigned / Principal Secretary (Environment & Forest) is being asked to report to the Minister Development, whereas there are no orders by the Chief Minister to that effect," he

the committee. He also alleged that the committee is nothing but a "Group of Ministers" which has not been constituted by the Council of Ministers to conduct the exercise as desired in the minutes of the meeting on Saturday and meeting notice

said while adding that Gopal

Rai is not even a member of

"The said fact-finding com-

on Sunday.

the initiative of the Saurabh Bharadwaj without

Ministers," he said. Further, he claimed, "Gopal Rai is the Minister In-charge (Environment & Forest), however he is neither disposing such business of fact finding in terms of Rule 4(2) of the ToBR 1993 nor any approval of the Council has been obtained for the purpose of constitution of the Committee of Ministers in light of provisions of Rule of ToBR 1993 read with clause 13 of Schedule to the Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR) 1993."

Hence, the constitution of the fact-finding committee to inquire into the cutting of trees in Southern Ridge by the DDA, without obtaining approval of the Council of $\bar{\mbox{Min}}\mbox{inisters},$ is a violation of the provisions of the business rules, he added.

NIA consent for Rashid Engineer to take oath as LS member on July 25

STAFF REPORTER MINEW DELHI

▲ Agency (NIA) gave consent for jailed Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid, known as Engineer Rashid, to take oath as a Lok Sabha member on July 25, ahead of the Delhi court's order on Tuesday. Additional sessions judge Chander Jit Singh will pass an order on the plea on Tuesday. Rashid could not take oath as a member of the 18th Lok Sabha on June 24 despite his name being called as he has been lodged in jail since 2019 after being charged by the NIA in a terror-funding case. The NIA's counsel said Rashid's oath taking should be subject to some conditions like not speaking to the media. He also said Rashid, who is in Tihar Jail, must complete the process within a day. Everything with-

in a day. Rashid, an Independent MP

the changes made in these

laws is that maximum atten-

tion has been given to those



from Baramulla who has been arrested in a 2017 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case, had moved the court seeking interim bail, or custody parole in the alternative, to take oath and perform his parliamentary functions.

On June 22, a special court here had adjourned the matter and asked the NIA to file its response. The agency has been consulting with Parliament and jail authorities on the matter. While Rashid's counsel had cited AAP leader Sanjay Singh being granted custody parole to take oath as a Rajya Sabha MP, charges were different. This session of Parliament is scheduled to end on July 3. Procedures allow MPs to take oath in the speaker's chamber even when Parliament is not in session. Rashid has been in custody since August 2019 under the (Prevention) Act for his alleged involvement in the terror fund-

ing case. His name surfaced during the probe of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who was arrested for allegedly financing terrorist groups and separatists in the Kashmir Valley. The NIA had earlier filed a chargesheet against several individuals, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Sved Salahuddin in connection

with the case.

Rajiv Dhankher appointed DMRC's new director of projects and planning

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail ■ Corporation (DMRC) has appointed Rajiv Dhankher, an Indian Railways Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer, as its new director of projects and planning, officials said on

Monday.

Dhankher, an IRSE officer of the 1992 batch, has three decades of experience in projects, planning and execution at numerous key positions, they said.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kharagpur and master's degree from IIT Delhi. Dhankher also holds a postgraduate diploma in management from Gurugram and an LLB from Delhi University, the officials said.



the DMRC, he was the DRM in the Ajmer division of Indian Railways. During his tenure, the Udaipur-Himmat Nagar railway section was commissioned. He has also worked as a chief project

the Sahibabad-Ghaziabad-Duhai priority section, they

Dhankher was also involved in the commissioning of the Jammu-Udhampur Rail Link Project, the officials added.

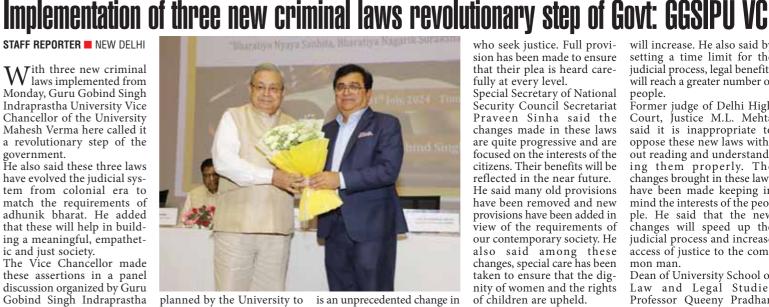
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With three new criminal laws implemented from Monday, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University Vice Chancellor of the University Mahesh Verma here called it a revolutionary step of the government.

He also said these three laws have evolved the judicial system from colonial era to match the requirements of adhunik bharat. He added that these will help in building a meaningful, empathetic and just society.
The Vice Chancellor made

these assertions in a panel discussion organized by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University's School of Law and Legal Studies on the three new laws.

He also said there is a need to make the people aware about these laws and also train those who will implement them. He enumerated the various activities being



the Indian judicial system, play a key role in this area. which will benefit every sec-The Vice Chancellor added that that in these new laws, tion of the society Former District & Sessions the word 'Nyay' has been used in place of 'Dand' and Judge H.S. Sharma said the community work has also most important thing about

been included as a punish-

ment for minor crimes. He

concluded by saying that this

that their plea is heard carefully at every level. Special Secretary of National Security Council Secretariat

who seek justice. Full provi-

sion has been made to ensure

Praveen Sinha said the changes made in these laws are quite progressive and are focused on the interests of the citizens. Their benefits will be reflected in the near future. He said many old provisions have been removed and new provisions have been added in view of the requirements of our contemporary society. He also said among these changes, special care has been taken to ensure that the dignity of women and the rights

of children are upheld.
Former Judge of Delhi High
Court, Justice Talwant Singh said a lot of emphasis has been laid on digital evidence in the new laws.

This will increase digital intervention in the judicial process and the demand for forensic science professionals will increase. He also said by setting a time limit for the judicial process, legal benefits will reach a greater number of Former judge of Delhi High

Court, Justice M.L. Mehta said it is inappropriate to oppose these new laws without reading and understanding them properly. The changes brought in these laws have been made keeping in mind the interests of the people. He said that the new changes will speed up the judicial process and increase access of justice to the common man.

Dean of University School of Law and Legal Studies Professor Queeny Pradhan said about 800 students and staff participated in this discussion. Nodal officer of the program Dr. Upma Gautam said many such programs will be organized by the University in the future to increase awareness about the

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 MPs.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

a democracy like ours," he

told reporters outside

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.

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

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

Opposition MPs raised slogans demanding release of three arrested ministers in West Bengal, and stopping

junkyard into fun

spot for kids with

chronic diseases

Doctors turn

"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.

Kharge seeks scrapping

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Sanjay Kumar/ Rachna/ A/c No. TBROH00006618685/ House No.238, Kanwar Singh Colony, Bijender Singh, Behind HDFC Bank Ward No. 1 Haryana Jhajjar- 124103	Plot No-264, Situated at Oyster Greens, Sector-102/102A, Village Kherki Majra, District Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001	24/05/2024 Rs. 91,21,847/-	01-02- 2024
2.	Ashwani Mishra/ Rajni Mishra/ A/c No LBGUR00003134211/ House No.1626, Near Kamla International School, Sector 15, Part 2, Haryana Gurgaon- 122001	Flat No. A-19, 1st Floor, 63 Golf Drive, Tower-A, Sector 63A, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001	06/06/2024 Rs. 7,76,072/-	27-02- 2024
3.	Prasant Kumar Mohanty/ Banashree Pattanayak A/c No. LBFDB00003735998/ Flat No.B2-401, Eastern Heights Appartment, Nyay Khand-111, Indirapuram, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad- 220734	Flat No.1535/GC-05, 14th Floor, Tower-E, GC-05/5th Avenue, Gaur City, Situated at Plot No.GH-01, Sector-4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh- 201307.	24/05/2024 Rs. 25,49,829/-	02-03- 2024
4.	Prasant Kumar Mohanty/ Banashree Pattanayak/ A/c No. LBGUR00004047850 Flat No.B2-401, Eastern Heights Appartment, Nyay Khand-111, Indirapuram, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad- 220734	Flat No.1535/GC-05, 14th Floor, Tower-E, GC-05/5th Avenue, Gaur City, Situated at Plot No.GH-01, Sector-4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh- 201307.	24/05/2024 Rs. 1,17,013/-	02-03- 2024
5.	Somvir/ Neelam/ A/c No. LBGUR00005631045/ House No.57/4, Sheetla Colony, Scr Public School, Haryana Gurgaon- 122001	Flat No.506 (2 Bhk Type A), 5th Floor, Tower-T8, Aashiyara, Situated at Sector-37C, Gurgaon Haryana- 122001	03/06/2024 Rs. 14,11,911/-	03-03- 2024
6.	Sarvesh Mathur/ Chandrika Mathur/ A/c No. LBFDB00005426858/ Flat No.203, 2nd Floor, Tower-4, Kakshila, Height Sector-37 C Haryana Gurgaon- 121104	Apartment No. T9-201, 2nd Floor, Situated at Mahima Shubh Nilay, Revenue Village Chimanpura, Tehsil Sanganer, District Jaipur, Rajasthan- 302020	06/06/2024 Rs. 26,13,640/-	04-03- 2024
7.	Anshil Bhatnagar/ Kavita Bhatnagar/ A/c No. LBKNL00006259714/ House No.43, Gali No.2, Near Shiv Mandir, Haryana Karnal- 132001	Flat No.507, 15th Floor, Tower A8, Ras Basera, Situated at G.T Road. Sector-16, Taraori, District Karnal, Haryana- 132001	18/05/2024 Rs. 5,053/-	07-03- 2024
8.	Anshil Bhatnagar/ Kavita Bhatnagar/ A/c No. LBKNL00006599949/ House No.43, Gali No.2, Near Shiv Mandir, Haryana Karnal- 132001	Flat No.507, 15th Floor, Tower A8, Ras Basera, Situated at G.T Road. Sector-16, Taraori, District Karnal, Haryana- 132001	18/05/2024 Rs. 27,083.36/-	07-03- 2024
9.	Anshil Bhatnagar/ Kavita Bhatnagar/ A/c No. TBKNL00006230183/ House No.43, Gali No.2, Near Shiv Mandir, Haryana Karnal- 132001	Flat No.507, 15th Floor, Tower A8, Ros Basera, Situated at G.T Road. Sector-16, Taraori, District Karnal, Haryana- 132001	18/05/2024 Rs. 13,62,721.74/-	07-03- 2024
10.	Sandeep Singh Brar/ Adarsh Gill/ Taurus Institute Insurance Training/ A/c No. LBGUR00001967601/ Ms-12/703, Sector-56, Kendriya Vihar, Haryana Gurgaon- 120010	Apartment No.203, 2nd Floor, Block-07, The Close South, Nirvana Country, Southcity-2, Phase-2, Situated In Sector-49,50 & 57, Revenue Estate Villages Adampur, Fatehpur, Tigra, Samaspur and Badshahpur, Tehsil and District Gurgaon, Haryana-122001	06/06/2024 Rs. 1,51,205/-	09-03- 2024
11.	Prashant More/ Jyoti Anand/ A/c No. LBFDB00006653877/ 242A/7, Near Geeta Colony Thana, Ghondi Village, East Delhi, Delhi- 110051	Flat No. T1-1102, 11th Floor, Advitya Homes, Tower- T1, Situated at Main Mathura Road, Sector-143, Village Sikri, Faridabad Haryana- 121002	03/06/2024 Rs. 78,579/-	09-03- 2024
12.	Prashant More/ Jyoti Anand/ A/c No. TBFDB00006433165/ 242A/7, Near Geeta Colony Thana, Ghondi Village, East Delhi, Delhi- 110051	Flat No. T1-1102, 11th Floor, Advitya Homes, Tower- T1, Situated at Main Mathura Road, Sector-143, Village Sikri, Faridabad Haryana- 121002	03/06/2024 Rs. 15,19,914/-	09-03- 2024
13	Sumer Bai/ Rajbala/ A/c No. LBHIS00006624518/ Bhiwani, Haryana Kairu Haryana Chandawas- 127029	Part of Bearing Khewat No.288, Khasra No.132//1(8-0)-2(7- 8),133//4(5-4)-15(4-10),133//5/1(7- 2),66//15(3-8), Situated at Kharia Bass Tehsil Tosham, District Bhiwani, Hissar Haryana- 127040	22/05/2024 Rs. 64,397/-	09-03- 2024
14.	Sumer Bai/ Rajbala/ A/c No TBHIS00006614361/ Bhiwani, Haryana Kairu Haryana Chandawas- 127029	Part of Bearing Khewat No.288, Khasra No 132//1(8-0)-2(7- 8),133//4(5-4)-15(4-10),133//5/1(7- 2),66//15(3-8), Situated at Kharia Bass Tehsil Tosham, District Bhiwani, Hissar Haryana- 127040	22/05/2024 Rs. 12,40,247.66/-	09-03- 2024
15.	Sandeep Singh Brar/ Adarsh Gill/ Taurus Institute Insurance Training/ A/c No. LBDEL00001469984/ Ms-12/703, Sector-56, Kendriya Vihar, Haryana Gurgaon- 120010	Apartment No.203, 2nd Floor, Block-07, The Close South, Nirvana Country, Southcity-2, Phase-2, Situated In Sector-49,50 & 57, Revenue Estate Villages Adampur, Fatehpur, Tigra, Samaspur and Badshahpur, Tehsil aand District Gurgaon, Haryana-122001	06/06/2024 Rs. 4,03,049.05/-	09-03- 2024
16.	Vivek Bajpai/ Rupali/ A/c No. LBFDB00006081421/ House No.2741 Ground Floor, Near Gate No.24 NHPC Colony Haryana Faridabad- 121010	Flat No. T1: 1507, 15th Floor, Sector-C, Situated at Kabirpur, Moazzamnagar Dularmau, Faridabad, Haryana- 226378	06/06/2024 Rs. 19,80,491/-	16-03- 2024
17.	Baljeet Kumar/ Raupwati/ A/c No. LBGUR00004037935/ House No.128, Kadarpur, Haryana Gurgaon- 122001	Flat No.1052 (Ground Floor), Type- EWS-2/GF, Residential Colony Known as Housing Board Colony, Sector-51, District Gurgaon, Haryana-122001	05/06/2024 Rs. 12,80,596.74/-	04-04- 2024

as Housing Board Colony, Sector-51, District Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001 These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (a 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 o Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: July 02, 2024 Sincerely, Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd. PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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 conducted when there's a

operative Society Ltd., Sohna to be held on 11.08.2024.

Exhibition of List of voters as required under Sub Para(2) of rule 35 and objection on the list of

Exhibition of Voter list in the office of Assistant

Hearing of objection of the list of voters

as required under sub para(4) of rule 35

Voters will be submitted on the last day

registrar, Coop. Societies Gurugram

Filing of Nomination Papers.

04. Scrutiny of Nomination Papers.

list of candidates.

07. Allocation of Symbols

09.

PARTICULAR

05. Display of List of Validity nominated Candidates. 26-07-2024

Withdrawal of Nomination Paper display of

BejulSomaia Vs. State of Haryana in CWP no. 3648 of 2007

and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

08. Display of List of contesting candidates.

Name of the Borrower/Co-

Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address

Flat No. 246/6, SBP Homes, Extension -3, Chhajju Majra, Sector-126, Kharar, Mohali, Punjab-140301. A/c No. LBZMO00005455689

Srishti Shrivastava, 0, Flat No. 706, Tower-E, Aar City Regency Park, Gaur City 2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Naga Uttar Pradesh- 201306.

A/c No. TBAMT00006623136

J, Flat No. 706, Tower-e, Adr City Regency Park, Gaur City 2, Sector-16c, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh- 201306.

A/c No. LBAMT00006638779

Srishti Shrivastava,

Taking of poll, if necessary.



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.

Election programme for the election of the Managing Committee of The Sohna Primary Agriculture Co-

02-07-2024

15-07-2024

16-07-2024

23-07-2024

26-07-2024

31-07-2024

31-07-2024

31-07-2024

11-08-2024

Note:- (1) Election of the Managing Committee of the said society will be held as per section 28 ibid of the Haryana

Cooperative Societies Act 1984 (2) Election will be held as per orders of Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana in

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loar 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

Description of Secured

Apartment No. 247/6, 6th Floor, Tower No. 15, S.B.P Homes, Land Measuring 1/4 Marla Being 1/2096 Share of 26 Kanal 4 Marle, Comprised In Khewat Khatoni No. 95/117, Khasra No. 22//3 (8-0), 4(8-0), 7(8-0), 14/2(2-4), As Per Jamabandi Year 2017-18, Situated At Village Chajumajra, Within Municipal Limits Kharar, Hadbast No. 33, Tehsil Kharar, District Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Mohali, Punjab- 160055

Property Plot Private No. 148, Measuring 216.66 Sq. Yards, Comprised In Khasra No. 4091, 4092, 4093, 4094, 4095, 4096, 4097 & 4098 All Min. (As Per Sale Deed), And Khasra No. 4093 Min. As Per Jamabandi Year 2015-16, Khewat No. 1041, Khatoni No. 2810, Situated At Sultanwind Sub-urban Taraf Mahal-2, Abadi Kot Mit Singh (Silver Estate), Near Flat Tarn Taran Road, Tehsil And District Amritsar, Punjab-143001

Property Plot Private No. 148, Measuring 216.66 Sq. Yards, Comprised In Khasra No. 4091, 4092, 4093, 4094, 4095, 4096, 4097 & 4098 All Min. (As Per Sale Deed), And Khasra No. 4093 Min. As Per Jamabandi Year 2015-16, Khewat No. 1041, Khatoni No. 2810, Situated At Sultanwind Sub-Urban Taraf Mahal-2, Abadi Kot Mit Singh (Silver Estate), Near Flat Tarn Taran Road, Tehsil And District Amritsar, Punjab-143001

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (a 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

PICICI Bank | New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

9:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

to 3:00 p.m

10:00 a.m.

to 2:00 p.m

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m

4:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m

to 2:00 p.m

03:00 p.m.

04:00 p.m.

08:00 a.m

to 4:00 p.m.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor,

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

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

Minister Narendra Modi's statement that last 10 years of his rule was just a trailer and 'picture abhi baaki hai', (last ten vears 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.

PLACE
(1). In the Regd. Office of the Society &

(1). In the Regd. Ollice of the Society (4) Willage failing in the area operation of the Society. (2). Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies, Gurugram Neal John Hall Civil Line, Gurugram (3). Central Cooperative Bank, Gurugram

ARCS Office, Gurugram

In the office of Assistant Registrar

-- Do-

-- Do-

--- Do-

- Do

In the premises as per list of booth

Date of Notice sent/

Outstanding as on Date of Notice

21/05/2024

Rs. 12,05,792/-

29/05/2024 &

Rs. 19,36,077/-

31/05/2024

61,125/-

03/04

(Devender Beniwal)

attached

Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Gurugram, (Returning Officer)

Co-operativeSocieities, Gurugram, Near John Hall, Civil Line, Gurugao

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

In an initiative that goes beyond **⊥**medical treatment, a team of doctors has turned a once desolate junkvard in their hospital 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 designed to promote physical activity and nurture mental wellbeing.

Here, amidst laughter and play children find respite from medical challenges, fostering a path to faster recovery, they said. "This endeavour not only pro-

vides a playground for physical activity but also fosters a healing environment that supports the mental well-being of these courageous children", elaborated Chairman Board Management Dr Swaroop.

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

Lt Gen Raja Subramani takes over as Vice Army Chief



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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 Services Command Staff College, Bracknell (UK), and National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi.

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

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

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

He also commanded Uttar Bharat Area in 2020 and the premier Kharga Corps at Ambala. Lt Gen Subramani also held a number of kev 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.

Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Date: July 02, 2024 Place: Delhi/NCR Sincerely, Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

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

PTI PUDUCHERRY

 $P_{N\ Rangasamy\ said\ that}^{uducherry\ Chief\ Minister}$ 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 2023, Bharatiya Nagrik 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. The chief minister also

Tamil translation for the benefit of all. Minister Home Namassivayam said that the

new laws and wanted its

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. town

Om Prakash and the SUV's driver Rajendra Sahu, who was seriously injured, were 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

between Siddaramaiah and

Shivakumar for the Chief

Minister's post after the decla-

ration of Assembly election results in May last year, and the

Congress had managed to con-

vince the latter and made him

There were some reports at the

time that a compromise had been reached based on a "rota-

tional 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 pub-

lic support during the Lok Sabha polls so that the Congress wins maximum

number of seats in the state,

which would strengthen his

the Deputy Chief Minister.

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

PTI IMPHAL

 $M^{\text{anipur Chief Minister N}}_{\text{Biren Singh on Monday}}$ 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

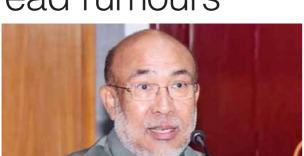
after a media outlet reported that Singh is likely to resign "Manipur is passing through a

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 outlets not to publish unfounded reports.

"Panic situation might be created if speculative reports are 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 Ethnic 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 punishments life 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 Evidence Indian respectively

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

PTI BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he would abide by the decision of the Congress highcommand on the issue of leadership change, amid a political tussle within the ruling Congress. A Vokkaliga seer last week

publicly 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 Vishwa Vokkaligara Mahasamsthana Mutt seer Chandrashekhara Swami's appeal.

'I don't want to comment on what Swamiji says. Ours is a national party. There is a high command," the Chief Minister added.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar warned leaders not to issue public statements on the matter of leadership change and creation of multiple posts of Deputy Chief Minister. "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 cre-

ate more posts of Deputy Chief Minister and given to leaders

PUBLIC NOTICE
I AK Chadha, S/o Mr. Shyamlal Chadha
and my wife Madhubala Chadha, resident of G-503, Dasnac The Jewe of Noida, Plot no 14, Sector 75, Noida,

from Lingayat, SC, ST, and

minority communities. The

move is seen in some quarters

as an attempt to clip the polit-

U.P. (201301) Due to the misbehavior and immoral conduct of our son Saurabh Chadha and daughter-in-law Sonia Chadha, we evicts both of them from our movable and immovable property and breaks the relationship. They themselves will be responsible

for any work and transaction done by

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public at large is informed that my client Smt. Baljeet Kaur W/o Sh. Arnandeep Singh R/o H. NO. 72 L- Type, U/G/F, Kh. No.33/11, Gurunanak Vhar, Nilothi Extension, Delhi-110041 has severed all her relations with her son, namely Sh. Harpreet Singh S/o Sh. Arnandeep Singh. My client has disowned / disinherited her son, Sh. Harpreet Singh and his all legal heirs, successors, attorney from all there moveable and immovable properties with immediate effect. As my client son, Sh. Harpreet Singh is not under the control of my client and he does not listen to her at all. Henceforth, if anyone dealing with my client son he/she shall be doing so at his/her own risks and consequences. And, my client shall not be responsible for any act of her son in any mnanoert, Karan Singh, Advocate, Ch. No. 813, Dwarka Court.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE b le known to all, CHANDER KANTA ADLAKHA (7) S.H. VIJAY KUMAR ADLAKHA R/O S-331, RST FLOOR, GREATER KAILASH PART-1, NEW ELHI-110048 OWNEY/purchaser of SFS FLAT 0,217,GROUND FLOOR,CAT-III, NILGIRI PARTIMENTS, ALAKNANDA, NEW DELHI-1100 I bewa Panjida for pertifical gropies in DNA The

esponsible for any act, deed or dealing done DEEPAK SEHGAL (Advocate

ical wings of Shivakumar, who

Shivakumar, a member of the

Vokkaliga community, is cur-

General Public is hereby informed that my Hient Smt. Babli and her husband Sh. Rajpal

their relations with their Younger son namely

quarrelsome and misbehaved nature. My above named client have also disowned and debarred both of them from all their movable

and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her/ their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be

is also the State party chief.

Neelam Mehta W/o Subhash Mehta R/o 5017 Roshanara Road Gali Chaman Ganj Sabzi Mandi Malka Ganj Delhi-110007, in respect of Property No. D-449/3A, Gali No. 1. Askhok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093. FIR has been lodged vide LRlo.1844831/2024 Dated: 25/06/2024. If anyone founds may ontact- 98108 82799. If anyone misuses the property document then

legal action will be taken against them. PUBLIC NOTICE

client (1) Sh. Aakash Sharma (2) Sh. Imant Sharma S/o Sh. Rati Ram Sharma the per of plot of out of khasa no. 179, situated in Owled to plot of our Nalesano. 179, Sucasson the village Chaura Raghunthpur Tehsil Dadri Distt Gautam Bugh Nagar through registered gift deed dated 02.05.2024 executed by Sh. Rati Ram Sharma S/o Sh. Ganga Ram Sharma in favour of (1) Sh. Aakash Sharma (2) Sh. Heemant Sharma S/o Sh. Rati Ram Sharma vide reg. no.2900 at SR-III Noida U.P. the between the plant of the plant sharma S/o Sh. Rati Ram Sharma vide reg. no.2900 at SR-III Noida U.P. the between the plant of the plant sharma S/o Sh. Rati Ram Sharma vide reg. no.2900 at SR-III Noida U.P. the between the plant of the plant sharma S/o Sh. Rati Ram Sharma vide reg. no.2900 at SR-III Noida U.P. the vide reg. no.2900 at SR-III Noida U.P. the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived vishal mehan, apvocate have been waived VISHAL MEHAN, ADVOCATE E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811215181

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that We Arun Kumar Arora and Mansi Arora both R/o N-5/22, DLF Phase-II, Plot No.11, Block C, LSC, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-57 has applied for conversion of aforesaid Plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no LD38710CL/CON/27032024 dt.28.03.24 in DDA. That original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter Lease Deed & D Form of above properly have been lost, A FIR dt.01.07.24 bearing LR no 1859584/2024 against this effect has been lodged at crime branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write Ph. No. 9810248300 within 15 days from date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL), DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-23

THE PIONEER O

General public is hereby informed that We (1) MR. ARUN
GOSWAMI son of Late Shrii Joga Binode Goswami,
resident of 6-1347, Ground Floro, Chittaranjan Park, New
Delhi-10019, (2) MR. KAMAL GOSWAMI son of Late
Shri J. B. Goswami, resident of D57/49 D, Maulvi Bagh,
Soniya Road. Varanasi, Ultar Pradesh-221010 and (3)
MRS. SHARMILA GOSWAMI wife of Shri Kumar
Amarendra Narayan Singh, resident of G-1347,
Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 are filing a pplication
in L&DO for substitution / mulation of the property no.
G-1347, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 are filing a pplication
in L&DO for substitution / mulation of the property no.
G-1347, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 are filing a pplication
mane of (1) MR. ARUN GOSWAMI, (2) MR. KAMAL
GOSWAMI and (3) MRS. SHARMILA GOSWAMI, on the
grounds of Death Certificate of Mrs. Ralyan Goswami,
bearing No. MCDOLR08035690 dated 15.05.2008 duly
recorded in the records of Municipal Corporation of Delhi
and Surviving Member Certificate bearing No.
90660000157331, dated 03.09.2022, issued by Office of
District Magistrate, Kalikaji if there are any objections/
claims from the general public on this application, the
same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting
documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at
ldoginacin, within 30 days of publication of this notice.
Name: MR. ARUN GOSWAMI I, Jitender S/o Harsh Bahadur

Name: MR. ARUN GOSWAM! Address: G-1347, Ground Floor, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019, Phone: +91 8586858558

rently the only Deputy Chief

Minister in the Siddaramaiah

government. There was stiff competition

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of M/s India Resurgence ARC Private Limited (IARC), an Asset Reconstruction Company (registered with Reserve Bank of India) having its Registered Office at: 3rd Floor, Unit No. 304, Piramal Tower, Peninsula Corporate Park, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013 under the provision of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 0F 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "IARC") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued

Demand Notice dated 10.06.2020 calling upon,

ABHINAV SALES, THE PROPRIETORSHIP FIRM THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR ABHINAV SINGHVI / 1. ABHINAV SALES, THE PROPRIETORSHIP FIRM THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR ABHINAV SINGHVI A 26 KASTURBA MAGAR NIRMAN NAGAR AJMER ROAD JAIPUR JAIPUR RAJASTHAN-32019. 2. ABHINAV SINGHVI, 26 A KASTURBA NAGAR NIRMAN NAGAR JAIPUR JAIPUR RAJASTHAN-32019. ALSO AT - P NO 6 HILL VIW FARM HOUSE YOJANA GRAM PAHARIYA RANWAL TEHSIL PHAGI JAIPUR JAIPUR RAJASTHAN. 3. NIRMALA SINGHVI, W/O ASHOK KUMBA JAIN 39 A GAUTAM MARG FINI SHAKTI NAGAR NIRMAN NAGAR JAIPUR JAIPUR RAJASTHAN. 3. AUTAM PAHARIYA RANWAL TEHSIL PHAGI JAIPUR JAIPUR RAJASTHAN HOUSE YOJANA GRAM PAHARIYA RANWAL TEHSIL PHAGI JAIPUR RAJASTHAN-302019. ALSO AT - P NO 6 HILL VIW FARM HOUSE YOJANA GRAM PAHARIYA RANWAL TEHSIL PHAGI JAIPUR RAJASTHAN-302019. ALSO AT - P NO 6 HILL VIW FARM HOUSE YOJANA GRAM PAHARIYA RANWAL TEHSIL PHAGI JAIPUR JAIPUR RAJASTHAN-302019. ALSO AT - P NO 6 HILL VIW FARM HOUSE YOJANA GRAM PAHARIYA RANWAL TEHSIL PHAGI JAIPUR JAIPUR RAJASTHAN. 5. ASHOK

FARMI MUOSE TOJAINA GRAMI PANARITA RAINWAL LETDIE FIRADI JAPUR JAJPUR MAJOSTANIA. 3. ABADA KUMAR JAIN 5/O BILAM CHAND JAIN, 6. ANIJI SINGHIVI, DIRECTOR OF TIRUPATI MULTITRADE PRIVATE LTD S/O ASHOK KUMAR JAIN, Both at - 39 A GAUTAM MARG SHIV SHAKTI NAGAR NIRMAN NAGAR JAJPUR JAJPUR RAJASTHAN-302019. ALSO AT - P. NO 6 HILL VIW FARM HOUSE YOJANA GRAM HARIYA RANWAL TEHSIL PHAGI JAIPUR JAIPUR RAJASTHAN

Prinkaria Karawat, Ichail Prinkal pair Dirick Rayas India To repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 82,09,930.28/- (Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty & Paise Twenty Eight Only) along with interest from 20-05.2020, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice vide loan application ID 639742 & he borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public

general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with, rule 8 of the Security

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "IRARC" for an amount Rs. 82,09,930.28/(Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty & Paise Twenty Eight Only) and interest other charges thereon 20-05.2020. The attention of borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY:

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF P NO 6, HILL VIW FARM HOUSE YOJANA, GRAM PAHARIYA, RANWAL TEHSUL PHAGE DISTRICT INIPUR RAIASTHAN ADMEASURING 2996 66 SQUARE YARDS ROUNDARIES AS

UP-20130. | E-mail :- n615@indianbank.co.in Phone no. 0120-2427115 Notice under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforceme

of Security Interest Act 2002 - As regards taking possession of movables hypothecated nd not hypothecated to the Bank - (ABANDONMENT of items not hypothecated to the Borrower: 1. M/s Capital Trading Co. A/35, 2nd Floor, J P Garden, Mohan Nagar

Ghaziabad-201005,(U.P.) 2. Proprietor: Mrs. Chitra Mittal W/o Shri Avinash Kumar Mittal R/o A/35, 2nd Floor, JF

Sarden, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad-201005,(U.P.) 3. Gurantor: Shri Avinash Kumar Mittal S/o Shri Vinod Kumar Mittal

R/o A/35, 2nd Floor, J P Garden, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad-201005, (U.P.) Mortgager: 1. Mrs. Chitra Mittal W/o Shri Avinash Kumar Mittal, R/o A/35, 2nd Floor, .

P Garden, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad-201005,(U.P.)

2. Shri Avinash Kumar Mittal Sio Shri Vinod Kumar Mittal, Rio A/35, 2nd Floor, J P iarden, Mohan NagaR, Ghaziabad-201005,(U.P.)

Loan Account No. 6444960881 Sub: Secured Overdraft account no. 6444960881 in the name of M/s Capital Trading

Co. with Indian Bank, Noida Sec-63 branch -Reg. irst of you has availed Secured Overdraft facility from Indian Bank, Noida Sec-63 branch he repayment of the said loan/OCC is secured by mortgage of certain property. 1st of you

iled to pay the outstanding to the bank and therefore was called upon to pay the amoun due vide notice dated 18.09.2017 issued under Sec. 13 (2) of the Act. It was made clear that payment is not made within 60 days. Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights by

As M/s Capital Trading Co failed to make payment, Bank took possession of the property more fully described in the schedule hereunder on 13.06.2024. While taking possession, Bank has taken inventory of movables/goods/items, which were found inside the schedule-mentioned property, not hypothecated to the Bank.

A copy of the same is available with the AO, You are hereby called upon to make arrangements to remove the said items not hypothecated/charged to the Bank within 15 Days time. It is hereby made clear that Bank shall not be responsible for any loss

pilferage of such items. It is also made clear that Bank shall not take any insurance coverage for these items, as they are not charged/hypothecated to the Bank. ou are at liberty to take possession of those movables at your cost and expenses at a time to be fixed in advance with the Authorized Officer. If you do not remove those movables

nmediately and / or within 15 days, Bank will be constrained to abandon the items withou any further reference to you in this regard. Bank will not be responsible for any insurance and I or deterioration in value of the ecurities. The items are kept in a separate place only in adherence to principles of natural

stice, though there is no legal obligation cast on the Bank. Take final notice to take delivery of goods within 15 days of this notice, failing which Bank will be constrained to abandon all the items, for which you and you alone will be held responsible.

SCHEDULE he specific details of the assets which has been taken possession of and which has been let out on tenancy to be given hereunder:

All the Part and Parcel of Residential Property ad measuring 104.26 Sq Mtr (Super area). at Plot No. A/35, 2nd Floor with roof rights, J P Garden, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad (U.P.), Plot boundaries as follows - East: Plot No. A-66 North: Plot No. A-36 West: Road 12n Wide South: Road 9m wide

Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Indian Bank

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

PTI ■ BHOPAL

The Madhya cabinet on Pradesh Labinet 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 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.



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 sub-

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. Ćontinuous monitoring and timely interventions will be

prioritised to mitigate the impact of flooding," the report It said that herds of elephants have begun moving towards East Karbi Anglong through Hati Dandi corridor and animal sensors are in place to detect the movement.

"Joint patrolling by commando He said the animals use the coraction groups and forest teams ridors to temporarily migrate to



deployed to intensify patrolling. Joint patrolling in the fringe areas of the park is being carried out by Forest and Police Departments," the report said. The Kaziranga National Park (KNP) authority has set up a dedicated floodwater gauge station with support from the Central Water Commission, while rescue teams and veterinary care units are on standby for immediate deployment.

"Boats, boatlines, barricades raincoats, rescue materials and medicines have been procured and are already deployed. Country boats, speedboats and mechanized boats have been strategically deployed in key areas for swift response," the bulletin said.Meanwhile, the Golaghat district administration on Sunday evening issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC to safeguard the animals crossing the NH-715, which passes through KNP.

Stating that the highway attracts huge traffic, Golaghat District Magistrate Vivek Shyam Pangyok said, "Plying of vehicles during active flood attracts unwarranted risk and a cause for imminent threat to wild ani-

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 passing through the KNP with effect from Monday.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Pawan

19, in Gujrat CHBS Ltd, known as Gujarat Vihar, Vikas Marg, illaga Shahdara, Delhi-92 (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed executed by Corporation Bank Doc. No. 7327, dated 13.12.2018 & said Pawan Kumar Gupta has agreed to sell the said Property to Chander Shekhar & Said Chander Shekhar has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients, Axis Bank Limited, Axis House Sector 128, Noida U.P. All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof. Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

For Diwan and Company LLP H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19 Mobile No. 9818399999

Kumar Gupta claims to be owner and in possession of Third Floor of Prop. No

APARTMENTS, ALAKNANDA, MEW DELHI-1100
19) have applied for certified copies in DDA The
original Accuments. I.e. ALLOCATION
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Singh R/o F-23 Hari Nagar

CHANGE OF NAME

Part 2 Near Hari Nagar Extn Badarpur New Delhi 110044 have changed my name Jitender to Jitendra Bahadur Singh for all future purposes.

nion 06

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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-



ernment was insistent on giving the right of way to Red China, believe it or not. The USA, or at least its State Department continued to believe for years that the Soviets and the Chinese were a single communist bloc. The extent of the animosity between the two was fully realized only after the Sino-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

The Chinese blamed India for

appointee.

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 and brotherhood was oblivious to this. The sufferers were

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

from Tibet and India.

THE EDITOR

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

and resilience, dominating the tournament with



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

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

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

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

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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**

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-

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

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.

One of the fundamental requirements is the need to remould the district adminis-The first thing to be done is to tration by creating an integrated and holistic approach so declare the temperature beyond a certain limit as a nat- that climate-resilient develop-

India

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 areas, the government must ensure a supply of potable water and electricity as well as

a mobile dispensary to provide

quick health care services. In

each village lakes and ponds

should be created compulso-

rily so that people including

It needs short-term planning

risk assessment and early

warning systems based on the

Department forecast.

Meteorological

farmers and cattle get water.

However, real change in the entire civic administration is essential in urban areas. The town and country planning needs complete overhauling as also revisit the power-centric civic bodies. The drainages are in shamble and must be protected so that the next emergency in rainy weather does not derail the life and 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



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 Pen's National Rally a strong

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.

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

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

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

ing the eight-month war against Hamas

held in Israeli custody. "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

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

He said the medical staff at dif-

ferent facilities where he was

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

the US. 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

bution of the Hindu American community.

edge on rivals competing in

online ad or social media ser-

tion, or other forms of hate. Congressman Rich McCormick welcomed the continued and growing engagement of the Hindu American and Indian American community in policy 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 contribu-

> 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

tions of Hindu Americans, and

asked the community to contin-

ue pursuing the American

dream, which celebrates inno-

vation, hard work, success, and

Three killed in shooting near University of Cincinnati

firm readiness to repel any provo-

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



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 **AP** MELBOURNE term to enshrine in the constitution an Indigenous panel

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, modern 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

that would advise the government on Indigenous issues. 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 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-

He said that he would not tolerate Hinduphobia, discrimina-

minority Hindu community in

temples, while celebrating the

past decade.

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.



south of the Rhone saw particreported him missing was ularly heavy rain, and the body found early Sunday at a hotel in the Alpine resort of Saas-Grund. They said he is believed to have been caught by surprise by floodwaters. Another man has been missing

since Saturday evening in the Binn area, in the upper Rhone valley near the Italian border, police said.

Floods, thunderstorms and landslides also hit various regions in northern Italy. Firefighters said they carried

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

Dangerous Hurricane Beryl restrengthens 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

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

Chinese waters. 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.

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 dis-

placement 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.'

Ûkrainian 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 alliance," he added.

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

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.

prices hiked in Pak after Eid PTI ■ ISLAMABAD 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

reported. The increase in petroleum 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.

Petrol and high-speed diesel S'pore Indian-origin opp 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,

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

sometime in November this

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 "tireless-" to bridge the divisions in the country 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.

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, noting 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

citizens and encouraged unity.

On behalf of the United States,

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

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

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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

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 wellestablished 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.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $B_{\text{the parent firm of online}}^{\text{rainbees}} \ \text{Solutions} \ \text{Ltd,}$ platform e-commerce FirstCry, has received Sebi's approval to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed on Monday.

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

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



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

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

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

M&M, other entities selling

shares in the OFS are PI

Opportunities Fund, TPG,

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

necessity,



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 ommercial 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, well as any facial biometrics that are stored in other registries, must be 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

clearly set out in the policy,"

K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (case) relating to the proportionality of the policy,' after the departure of the the principles laid down in the study said.

The verdict pertains to the constitutional right

The study recommended that

cybersecurity audits and vulnerability testing of the to Digi Yatra platform to ensure that reliability, usability, there must be frequent information security in the there must be a provision for

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

lympic and world champion avelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has opted out of this Sunday's Paris Diamond League, citing the adductor niggle that has been troubling him for the past couple of months, according to a report. Speaking to 'ESPN', Chopra said he is focussing on training and strengthening his blocking leg. "I need to strengthen my blocking

leg when I throw because that's when my groin gets pulled. We're working on that to see how we can reduce the impact on the groin and control the pressure on it," he said, explaining the issue for which he will consult "different doctors" after the Paris Games.

"I could have competed in more events for sure and that was the plan. But I have realised that my health is paramount, that comes first. Even if I feel the slightest discomfort or like I am pushing myself too much in training, I've learnt to pause for a bit," he added. The block phase is a crucial 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 flying. 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 commitments like he used to do

before his Olympic gold.
"Back then, if I had an entry in 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.

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

Six Indians in ICC Team of Tournament

The International Cricket Council has picked six Indians in its 'Team of the Tournament' for the just-concluded T20 World Cup but there was no place for star batter Virat Kohli, who played a match-winning knock in the final against South Africa.

In his new role as an opener, Kohli had an underwhelming World Cup before rising to the occasion in the big final where he was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 59-ball 76. India pipped South Africa by seven runs in a sensational comeback in the death overs to win their second T20 World Cup title after 17 years. The ICC XI featured Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, Survakumar Yaday, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and two pacers in Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh.

Rohit led from the front with 257 runs at a splendid strike-rate of

156.7 to his name. He was the second most leading run-getter after Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz. The Player of the Tournament and India's trump card in their title win, Bumrah returned with 15 wickets. But more than his wickets, his impact in restricting the scoring rate of teams made Bumrah India's most important player right through the tournament.

His economy rate of 4.17 was the best ever by any bowler in a single edition of the men's T20 World Cup. Following their historic semifinal finish, Afghanistan found three players in the ICC team, including left-arm quick Fazalhaq Farooqi,

who topped the wicket-takers chart jointly with Arshdeep (17 wickets

Wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who topped the runs scorers' list with 281 runs as an opener for Afghanistan, also found a place alongside skipper Rashid Khan. The crafty leg-spinner brilliantly led Afghanistan in their historic run and returned with 14 wickets with a tidy economy of 6.17.

Marcus Stoinis of Australia and Nicholas Pooran of the tournament co-hosts West Indies completed the XI. Runners-up South Africa did not

find a player in the XI and pacer

Anrich Nortie was named the 12th man. Nortje began the tournament with a brilliant 4/7 against Sri Lanka and took at least one wicket in all but one match.

In the final, he was the pick of South Africa's bowlers with figures of 2/26 from his four overs.

ICC TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT: Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh (all Indians); Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rashid Khan, Fazalhaq Farooqi (Afghanistan); Marcus Stoinis (Australia) and Nicholas Pooran (West Indies); 12th man: Anrich Nortje.

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



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All three white ticked off; one red to go, tick it: Dravid to Kohli



PTI BRIDGETOWN

Staying true to his no-nonsense taskmaster taskmaster image, outgoing India head coach Rahul Dravid had an assignment for star batter Virat Kohli even on his last day at work and within hours of India winning the T20

World Cup.

"All three white ticked off, one red to go. Tick it," Dravid told Kohli in a video of the Indian dressing room celebrations shared by the ICC on its Instagram page. By three white he meant the

limited-overs global trophies
-- the T20 World Cup, the
ODI World Cup and the Champions Trophy -- all of which Kohli has collected as a player. What's left now is winning the World Test

Championship Final. India $\bar{h}ave$ lost the WTC Final twice (against New Zealand in 2021 and Australia in 2023). The 35-year-old Kohli, who

retired from Internationals after the World Cup triumph here on Saturday, merely smiled at Dravid as he repeated himself to assert his point, albeit with a warm smile on his face. "Go tick it."

The 51-year-old Dravid, who was appointed India coach in 2021, ended his tenure with this event

India defeated South Africa by seven runs in the humdinger to claim their second overall T20 world crown, having won the title in

its inaugural edition in South Africa back in 2007 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni. In the ODI format, India won

the 1983 and 2011 World Cups before snaring the 2013 Champions Trophy. The congratulatory video also

featured Suryakumar Yadav, whose blinder of a catch to dismiss David Miller proved crucial in the final here.

The Mumbaikar said it would take him at least two days to fully grasp the enormity of the achievement.

"No feelings right now, I don't know what to say," he said. Pacer Arshdeep Singh flaunted a couple of polaroid shots of his, one taken on the morning of the final and the other with the winner's medal around his neck and the trophy in his hands in the afternoon

"This is what belief can do," he

said. The Indian team is currently stranded here as Barbados has been shut down due to hurricane Beryl, originating in the Atlantic. The category 4 hurricane has intensified with maximum sustained winds of

210 kmph. The Īndian team was supposed to take an Emirates flight from New York via Dubai. A source told PTI that the plan now is to take the team back to India on a

charter flight. contingent Indian including support staff, families, and officials, consists of about 70 members.



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

PTI CALGARY (CANADA)

With fond memories of his past, defending champion Lakshya Sen will look to end his title drought when he begins his campaign at the Canada Open badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

The world No 14 Sen is the only Indian competing in the BWF World Tour Super 500 meet who will compete in the Paris Olympics. The reigning Commonwealth Games gold medallist's form has slipped since his Canada

Open triumph around this time last year as he is yet to win a title since then. Sen will look to find his rhythm back as he gears up for the Paris Olympics, which begins in less

than a month's time. With a No 4 seeding, Sen finds himself in the bottom half of the draw which also features the Japanese duo of Kodai Naraoka (WR 6) and Koki

Watanabe (WR 20). The former world championship bronze medallist Sen will start off against a qualifier and may head into a potential quarterfinal clash with Hong Kong's WR 23 NG Ka Long Angus.

There are three other Indians in the men's singles main draw. Priyanshu Rajawat will face eighth seed Rasmus Gemke of Denmark

Rajawat recently had a notable last-eight finish in the US Open Super 300 event, wherein he lost to Lei Lax Xi.

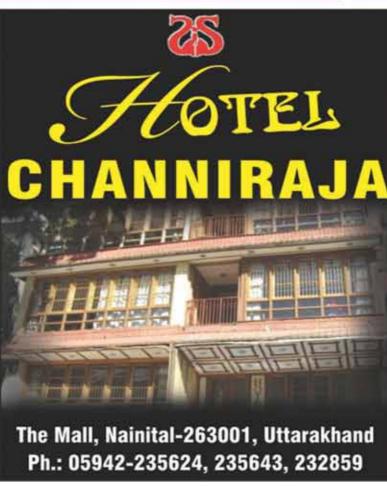
Kiran George will take on Yushi Tanaka of Japan, while Ayush Shetty is the fourth Indian in the draw, starting his campaign against the sixth seed Watanabe (6)

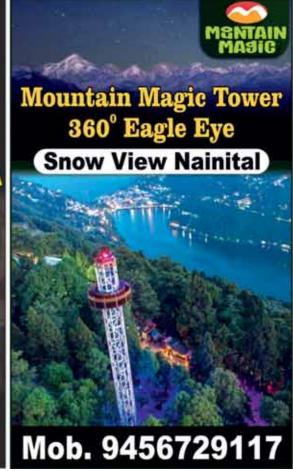
On a high after her semifinal finish in the US Open last week, Malvika Bansod will face Julie Dawall Jakobsen of Denmark in her opening women's singles fixture. Malvika is also in the bottom half of the draw

second seed. 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.

which has WR 14 Nozomi Okuhara as the

If she is able to overcome the pre-quarters hurdle, Malvika may face fifth seed Sung Shuo Yun, who is WR 24.

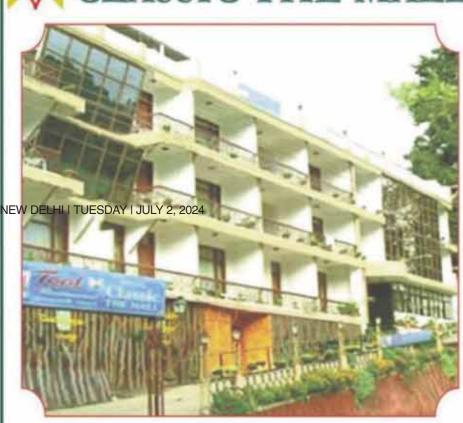




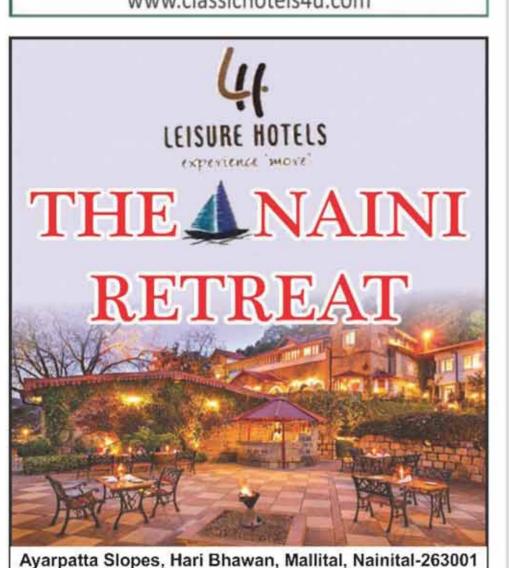


Nainital: Monsoon pitter-patter sounds like lullaby for weary souls

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Afzal Hussain Fauji Nainital

Nainital, the lake town known for its peerless beauty world-wide, assumes a kind of ethereality when it starts raining. As the monsoon breezes gently blow, the old, tall trees-covering the hills with eye-soothing greenery- cheerfully swing. Nainital beckons tourists all the year round, but its charm peaks when the summer heat 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-

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

supposed to wash away the

old, making life look new

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 during their stay in monsoon which are not available for the summer- time tourists because of the rush and push.

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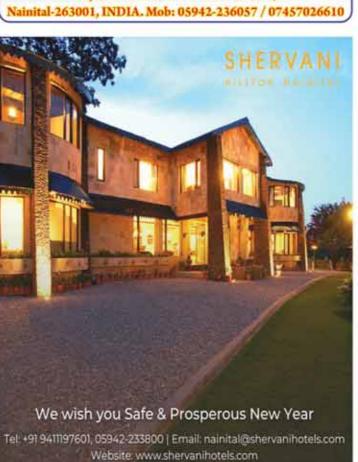
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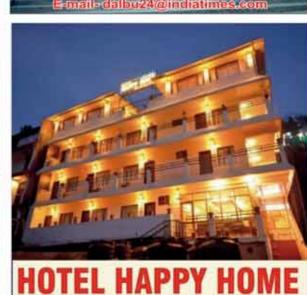


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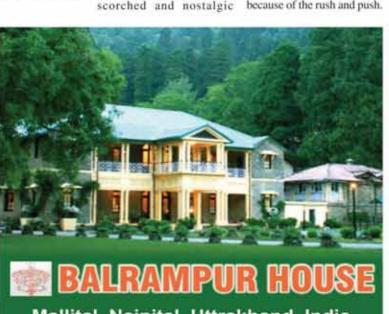




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