

# Modi silences critics on Manipur



Prime Minister Narendra Modi replies to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha during ongoing Parliament session in New Delhi on Wednesday

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday silenced his critics on the Opposition benches in the Rajya Sabha by informing the House that violence in Manipur is continuously declining, schools have reopened in most parts of the State, and efforts are being made to ensure return of complete peace.

Replying to a debate in the Upper House of Parliament on the motion of thanks to Force (NDRF) to the flood-

President Droupadi Murmu's address to a joint sitting of Parliament, the Prime Minister said more than 500 people have been arrested and over 11,000 FIRs registered in Manipur.

Modi said the Centre is working with the State Government and others to restore normalcy in the State. Addressing Rajya Sabha members, Modi said Manipur is also grappling with floods, prompting the Centre to dispatch two teams of the National Disaster Response

hit State. Modi also promised action in the NEET paper leak case, and listed out achievements of his past two terms and priorities for the third.

The Prime Minister spoke at length on the alleged irregularities in the conduct of competitive exams, and asserted that tough action will be taken against those involved in paper leaks. We wanted there should be no politics on a sensitive issue

like paper leak, but the Opposition is used to it. I assure the youth of India that

action is being taken to ensure that those who play with the future of students are handed down punishment," he said. strict

On Manipur, Modi said Union Home Minister Amit Shah himself led from the front the efforts for peace by being in Manipur.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the deeply rooted social conflict in Manipur has a long history, leading to the imposition of President's rule 10 times since Independence. He also mentioned the fiveyear-long social conflict in Manipur from 1993 onwards. Modi emphasised that there is a need to handle the situation with wisdom and patience. He invited all the like-minded people to help him in his efforts to ensure normalcy and peace in Manipur.

The Prime Minister has been facing the wrath of Opposition led by Congress which has charged that Modi is yet to speak on the floor of Parliament on the burning issue of Manipur violence and had again given a miss to the subject in his more than twohour long speech in the Lok Sabha a day earlier.

The Opposition also alleged that the Prime Minister did not address the issue of paper leaks about which Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had written to the Prime Minister requesting a discussion on NEET and NET paper leaks.



Police personnel keep vigil outside a hospital during Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's visit to meet the injured victims a day after the stampede that occured during a 'satsang' (religious congregation), in Hathras district on Wednesday

### **Rush for darshan led** to Hathras stampede

### PNS LUCKNOW

haos caused after Narayan Sakaar Hari's followers, who tried to reach near his vehicle to seek "darshan", were pushed by the godman's security and a "slippery slope" resulted in the stampede that killed 121 people in Hathras, a preliminary report of the SDM said. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced a judicial probe into the tragedy while not ruling out the possibility of a "conspiracy" behind the stampede. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sikandra Rao submitted the preliminary report on the stampede to the district magistrate (DM).

The SDM, who gave permission for the 'satsang' (religious congregation), was also present at the venue when the incident occurred, according to the report. "A crowd of more than 2 lakh people assion on NEET and was present in the satsang pandal. Aper leaks. Shri Narayan Sakar Hari (Bhole Continued on Page 2 Baba) reached the satsang pandal at about 12.30 pm and the program went on for 1 hour.

"After this, at about 1.40 pm, Narayan Sakaar Hari (Bhole Baba) came out of the pandal to go towards Etah on National Highway-91," the preliminary report said, adding that when the godman was leaving the venue, his followers started running towards him for a 'darshan' and collect soil from around his feet.

"Satsangi women/men/children etc. Started applying the dust of Baba's feet on their foreheads (while trying) to get his darshan, touch his feet and take his blessings," reads the report dated July 2.

The situation worsened when more people waiting on the divider of the road ahead began running towards his vehicle, it said.

"A large number of people were already standing on the dividers in the middle and on the sides of GT road, who started jumping from the dividers and started running towards Baba's vehicle to get his darshan.

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### **Out on bail, Hemant** Soren to become **Jharkhand CM again**

### RAJESH KUMAR **E** RANCHI/NEW DELHI

In a major development, minutes after Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren resigned as the State's Chief Minister barely 152 days after taking oath, his predecessor and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's chief, Hemant Soren who is out on bail in the money-laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) staked claim to form the next Government which he relinquished a few months ago before his arrest by the probe agency. This is for the third

time that Hemant will become the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. He will be the 13th Chief Minister of the State, which was carved out of Bihar on November 15, 2000.



"A few days ago, I was made the Chief Minister and I got the responsibility of the State. After Hemant Soren was back, our alliance took this decision and we chose Hemant Soren as our leader. I have resigned as per the decision of the JMM-led alliance. Our alliance is strong. All know what had happened with Hemant Soren... I was given the responsibility by the coalition partners. Now, the alliance has decided in favour of Hemant Soren", Champai said after coming out of Raj Bhawan.

A request was also submitted to Governor C P Radhakrishnan by Hemant to form the Government. After meeting with the Governor, Hemant told the media that all formalities to form the Government are complete.

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### Kuki ailing in Manipur jail gets **Supreme Court's healing touch**

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday took a strong note of an undertrial prisoner lodged in a Manipur jail not being taken spita



## Seventh bridge collapse in 15 days alarms Bihar

ARCHANA JYOTI PATNA/NEW DELHI

Even as a high-level panel of Ethe Bihar Government has launched a probe into the recent spate of bridge collapses across the State, yet another incident on Wednesday involving a bridge over the Gandak river in Siwan district of the State has rais



This incident follows the collapse of an underconstruction bridge in the Madhubani region on June 28 which was being built by the Rural Works Department of the Bihar government at a cost of ₹3 crore since 2021.

Following the collapses, the blame game has already ensifving

just because he belonged to the minority 'Kuki' minority community, saying it does not "trust the State"

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan made some strong observations against the State while hearing a plea filed by Lunkhongam Haokip that he was suffering from piles and tuberculosis and was not taken to hospital by jail officials despite having severe backache.

"We do not trust the State...The accused was not taken to hospital because he is from the Kuki community. So sad! We direct him to be examined now. If the medical report reveals something serious, we will take you to task," the bench said.

The counsel for Haokip claimed the jail officials did not pay heed to persistent requests for medical help. and found that the lumbar spine".

undertrial prisoner was not taken to hospital since he was from Kuki community and "shifting him to a hospital will be hazardous taking into account the law and order situation".

Manipur has been in the grip of an ethnic conflict between the minority Kuki Meitei and majority communities.

The bench directed the jail superintendent and the State authorities "to make necessary arrangements for his transportation to the Gauhati Medical College and get him examined therein. The medical exam shall be as regards piles, TB, The bench perused an order tonsillitis, abdominal pain of the Manipur High Court as well as problems in lower

It sought a detailed medical report on or before July 15 and asked the State to bear

all the expenses including the treatment cost. Manipur descended into

chaos and violence in May last year over a high court order directing the State Government to consider including the non-tribal Meitei community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

More than 170 people have been killed and several hundred others injured since ethnic violence first broke out in the state on May 3 last year when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for ST status.

concern about the quality of infrastructure and public safety.

The latest bridge collapse marks the seventh such incident in a span of just 15 days in the State and second in Siwan district in the last 11 days.

Mercifully, however, despite the severity of these collapses, there have been no casualties thus far. With the State's rivers swelling due to continuous heavy rain, the possibility of more such incidents occurring in the coming days cannot be discounted, members of the Bihar Engineering Services Association (BESA) have warned.

The troubling series of incidents began on June 19 with the collapse of an underconstruction bridge in Araria, followed by collapses in Siwan on June 22, East Champaran on June 23, and Kishanganj on June 24.

The collapse of the bridge over the Gandaki river in Deooria Block in Siwan district on

platform



This incident follows closely

on the heels of another bridge

collapse in the district just 11

A view of the collapsed bridge amid heavy rain in Bihar's Siwan district on Wednesday

weakening

structure.

Wednesday has Kumar added severed essential connections between several villages and Mahrajganj, leaving the locals the collapse, with a surge in at the receiving end. Gandaki river potentially weakening the bridge's Deputy

Development Mukesh Commissioner Kumar said the exact cause is under investigation. Senior officials from the block have already reached the site, he added

days ago. On June 22, a portion of a bridge collapsed "A portion of a bridge in Deoria block collapsed this in Darounda area, prompting morning. The exact cause is the Bihar Government to set being investigated," he added. up a high-level committee to 'The incident took place investigate these occurrences. around 5 am. As per initial The cave-in was also reported information, the bridge was constructed in 1982-83. from the Bheja police station area of Madhubani district, Repair work was going on the situated in the State's northern bridge for the last few days," extreme, along the borders

Villagers suggested that heavy rainfall over the preceding days may have contributed to

bridge's

with Nepal. The bridge that collapsed in Bihar's Thakurganj was built in 2007-08, and had been rendered unusable after it developed a crack and sank by a foot.

Similarly, a bridge in Thakurganj block succumbed Similarly, bridge in to rising water levels in the Bund River following heavy rains, causing it to sink by a foot and crack, rendering it too dangerous for use. The bridge, located in Khoshi

Dangi village of Patharia panchavat, was constructed in 2007-2008 with funds from the MP budget of the then MP Md Tasleemuddin of was Thakurganj and connecting several

about accountability and Bihar's oversight in infrastructure management. Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge took a swipe at the bridge cave-in in the State while Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi smelled a possible behind the conspiracy incidents, implying a deliberate attempt to defame the BJP-led State Government. "Why has the State suddenly started witnessing incidents of bridge collapse? Why is it happening after the Lok Sabha polls? Why were such incidents not taking place a month before? I suspect some conspiracy behind Authorities concerned must look into this aspect," Manjhi said. He also acknowledged the use of sub-standard materials by contractors as a contributing factor and assured that the State Government is taking action

**Continued on Page 2** 

against those responsible.

### Twitters of Koo set to fall silent

#### ASAD NEW DELHI

The Indian dream of having an alternative to Twitter (now X) has been shattered as the 'desi' social media platform launched in 2020 with much fanfare, and with many top Indian politicians and Government departments joining in, is to shut down.

The world came to know about the yellow bird, Koo, stopping to chirp when its co-founders penned a touching note on Wednesday about the tough decision to bid adieu.

The disheartening news has been received with anguish by many Koo users. Die-hard Koo fan Vinit Goenka, former Governing Council Member of CRIS, Ministry of Railways, is upset with the news.

"This shutdown will be a significant setback for those who believe in the democratic values of social media, as it highlights the unending forced us to take this tough

dominance of Western media and their colonisation of the social media

app space," he said. an emotion-filled post on LinkedIn, co-founders Aprameya Radhakrishna and Mayank shared Bidawatka their frustrating journey and insurmountable challenges, "We explored writing, partnerships with multiple larger internet companies, conglomerates, and media houses, but these talks didn't yield the outcome we desired."

They expressed their regret, saying, While we would have loved to keep the app running, the high cost of technology and services to maintain a social media platform has

decision.

Founded in India, Koo soared to great heights, spreading its wings to Kenya and Brazil while in its prime. Its rise in Kenya followed the country's indefinite ban on Twitter for deleting a tweet by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari. Around 2021, Koo's popularity surged in India amid a contentious spat between the Indian Government and Twitter.

> conflict This prompted calls to the expand ecosystem of

digital homegrown platforms, echoing strongly across the virtual world and propelling Koo to prominence. For a while, it

significantly challenge and perhaps even surpass Twitter's popularity in India. However, this anticipated turn of event never came to pass as Twitter managed to smoothen its relationship with the Government. Koo experienced a rollercoaster ride in its short existence. At its peak, this indigenous platform boasted around 2.1 million daily active users, approximately 10 million monthly active users, and over 9,000 VIPs, including some of the most prominent personalities from various fields.

would

"We were just months away from beating Twitter in India in 2022 and could have doubled down on that short-term goal with capital behind us," they said.

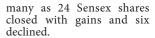
"Unfortunately for us, the mood of the market and the fund crunch got the better of us," the note mentioned seemed that this homegrown as the founders signed off.

### **Sensex breaches 80,000** mark for first time

#### PTI 📕 MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex Bbreached the historic 80,000 level intraday for the first time while Nifty raced more than 162 points to close at a fresh lifetime high on Wednesday following heavy buying in banking and FMCG shares amid firm global market trends.

the 80,000 level at 79,986.80, up by 545.35 points or 0.69 per cent over the last close. As



The BSE Sensex breached the 78.000 level on June 25 and 79.000 for the first time on June 27.

The Nifty climbed 162.65 points or 0.67 per cent to end at an all-time high of 24,286.50. During the day, it zoomed 183.4 points or 0.76 per cent to hit a fresh intraday record peak of 24,307.25. As many as 40 Nifty shares advanced, nine declined and one closed unchanged.

Among the Sensex pack, Adani Ports rose the most by 2.49 per cent. Continued on Page 2

The 30-share Sensex hit the historic 80,000 mark for the first time earlier in the day. It surged 632.85 points or 0.79 per cent to a record intraday high of 80,074.30.

The index later closed near





# Army Chief visits areas along LoC in Poonch TDF to promote self-reliance

#### MOHIT KANDHAR | JAMMU

A<sup>rmy</sup> Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi Chief General on Wednesday visited the forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in the frontier district of Poonch during his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir after assuming charge as the 30th Chief of the Indian army on June 30.

During his day-long visit, General Dwivedi also reviewed the overall security situation against the backdrop of the ongoing Amarnath yatra and the operational preparedness of the troops deployed in the region. General Officer Commanding-in-chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar, and Officer General Commanding of Jammubased White Knight Corps Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva accompanied the Chief of



Army Staff along with other senior officers

In Poonch, the Army Chief chaired a meeting of field commanders before taking an aerial review of forward areas. The Indian army in a post on X said, "General Upendra Dwivedi COAS, along with Army Commander Northern Command, visited the forward locations of White Knight Corps & reviewed the security situation along the Line of Control LOC. ČOAS was briefed on the operational preparedness by the

thickly forested jungles and the natural caves to dodge the security forces. According to official sources, between October 2021 and May 4, 2024, the Indian army suffered Commanders on the ground. damage in these ambushes COAS lauded All Ranks for orchestrated in the areas South of Pir Panjal to spread maintaining high standards of professionalism & exhorted

the 'arc of terror' across the Jammu region. The standoff them to remain steadfast in meeting all current & between the Indian and security emerging Chinese troops in eastern challenges".Earlier, when Ladakh also impacted the General Upendra Dwivedi commanded the Northern security scenario with the shifting of a large number of troops to beef up Indian defenses in the cold desert Command he outlined the 'Strat 24' for operational focus region.Statistics revealed a total number of 35 Army in the year 2024 to defeat the inimical designs of our personnel were 'killed in adversary and sponsored action' in different targeted terrorists. strikes across Jammu and

Currently, the Indian army is

Kashmir during the same carrying out intensive antiterrorist operations in the areas south of Pir Panjal to period. In contrast, only five terrorists were neutralized in flush out the foreign terrorists these operations. Interestingly, the foreign who may have carved out terrorists adopted the same fresh hideouts deep inside the

modus operandi in these 'audacious<sup>-</sup> strikes. The chief of Army staff also interacted with some exservicemen at 93 Infantry Brigade. According to an ADGPI post huge collateral

on X, "General Dwivedi also interacted with the parents of Bravehearts of the Poonch region who laid down their lives in the service of the Nation. COAS also met the Veterans & assured them of unwavering support from the Indian Army. He also interacted with officials of He also Jammu and Kashmir police & prominent Civil dignitaries and appreciated their synergy & cooperation with the Indian Army in maintaining peace & harmony in the region.

# in defence production

### PNS NEW DELHI

With the objective of enhancing self-reliance in defence manufacturing, the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme is encouraging the participation of public and

private industries, especially start-ups and MSMEs. Till date, a total of 77 projects, with a commitment of over Rs 300 crore, have been sanctioned to various industries, and 27 defence technologies have been successfully realised under the scheme, defence ministry said here on Wednesday. The TDF scheme is a

flagship programme of Defence Ministry of executed bv Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the 'Make in India' initiative. Citing some examples,

officials Combat said Robotics, the Pune-based start-up, has successfully developed an Innovative Simulator for Unmanned Vehicles. It is a multi-domain simulator that supports Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs), Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs), Unmanned Surface (USVs), Vehicles and

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), serving as an excellent development tool for agencies working on developing autonomous systems.

The simulator provides Comprehensive Environmental Modelling, Scenario and Vehicle Intuitive Modelling and Control Systems with Developer Documentation. It is designed to cater to the demands of testing, and validate the autonomous

behaviours of unmanned vehicles across multiple domains. It has been developed under the aegis of Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), a Bengaluru-based laboratory of DRDO.

nation 02

Similarly, virtual sensors for Aero Gas Turbine Engine Health Monitoring project involves development of a comprehensive diagnostic system of various parts of Aero Gas Turbine Engine (AGTE), leading to increased operational reliability and

longevity of the engine. The system is built on stronger foundations of modern Artificial Intelligence/Machine (AI/ML) Learning technologies. It efficiently handles large-scale data, and conducts operational assessments rapidly with a high degree of accuracy.

### Not hungry for posts: Bengal PCC chief Adhir SFI-linked students threaten college principal

#### SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

A<sup>mid</sup> reports that the Congress high command is looking for a new Mamata Banerjeecompatible face to lead the party's Bengal unit. The present Pradesh Congress President Adhir Chowdhury has made it clear that he is not hungry for posts and that he will quit his post whenever he is called upon by the central leadership to do so.

"Let my party workers and the people of Bengal know that I am not hungry for any post ... I have been in politics and worked for my party because I have loved to do so ... I never craved for any post ... nor I do crave for one now ... nor will I yearn for it in future,' Chowdhury the former Congress leader in Lok Sabha said.

Inside reports say that post elections and post his defeat in Behrampore some kind of



#### was never a permanent State coldness have entered in the relationship between party chief. "I am just a working president of the Chowdhury and his bosses in Delhi. Pradesh Congress and will The uncrowned king of Behrampore, Chowdhury continue to do my work till my party wants me to do so.' who won the parliamentary he said after the elections seat for five consecutive making it clear that he had times faced a shocking not put in his papers. According to PCC sources post elections the PCC has

candidate and former India sent the names of the party cricketer Yusuf Pathan in the recently concluded general elections. When asked earlier as to

defeat at the hands of TMČ

members to the national leadership and entrusted the entire function of selecting whether he was quitting as new office bearers including the PCC president he said he the PCC president on the

high command. Till then Chowdhury will continue to as the function PCC president.

A fierce bête noire of the Bengal Chief Minister whom the TMC supremo have repeatedly accused for spiking a Congress-TMC alliance Chowdhury holds Banerjee Mamata responsible for his party's sagging fortunes in the State. He has often gone on record saying that "Mamata saying Banerjee has literally killed the Congress in Bengal first by breaking the party in 1998 and then by defections, "engineering implicating our workers in false cases and forcing them to join the TMC. Chowdhury is of the view

that if the Congress still goes back to TMC for national compulsions then there would be no Congress left in Bengal. This is the reason his close

aides say why he opted for the Left and not the TMC as an alliance partner.

### KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

In a bizarre incident of its kind, students belonging to the SFI( the student wing of the CPI-M) at Gurudeva College of Advanced College Advanced Students, Kozhikode, have issued a death threat to Sunil Bhaskar, the principal of the college. Bhaskar is known as a stickler for discipline and decorum and the SFI's complaint against him arises for his refusal of permission to them to open a help desk outside his cabin in the college.

On Monday, when the college reopened for the new academic year and the fouryear degree course was launched, the SFI had arranged a welcome party to the new comers as part of the student organization's bid to establish its monopoly among the freshers. But the Principal requested them to have the merry making and other activities outside the college premises. This provoked the SFI chieftains who barged int

his cabin shouting slogans and threatening him with dire consequences," a member of the teaching faculty told The Pioneer

Enraged by the Principal's stance, the SFI leaders reportedly slapped and kicked him. But one of the SFI leaders accuse the principal of slapping him and he had to take recourse in the government hospital for treatment. "Our young comrade B R Abhinav is in a serious condition as a fall out of the Principal's brutality. We will not allow the principal to enter the college if he continues with the tirade against the SFI leaders,": said Navtej Mohan, area secretary of the SFI.

He also alleged that Abhinav is one of the strongest leaders in the region. "We will decide whether the Principal would be able to walk on his two legs. This is a statement being made by the SFI. When SFI makes a statement, we would have done it and we do things about which we say," said

Mohan. B P Bipeesh, leader of the DYFI, warned the principal that if the latter refuses to mend his ways, they would nit hesitate to burn him alive. The SFI is the most dreaded student wing in the State after the Islamic outfits like Popular Front of India, SIMI and SDPL

The SFI is hand in glove with these organizations as the members of the banned Islamic outfits operate through the students wing of the CPI(M). In 2018, the SFI activists had staged symbolic burial for Dr T N Sarasu, former principal of Government Victoria College, Palakkad, on the day of her retirement from service. They made a mock grave in front of the college and fixed a hoarding "Thanks for your great service". Sarasu had been fielded as a BJP candidate from the Alathur constituency in the recent Lok Sabha election."It really hurt me because this is what I got

the student community. The complaint against me was that I tried to save the decency and dignity of the girl students in the college," Sarasu had told this newspaper some time ago.SFI leaders who figure in mark list scams go around the State demanding that only persons acceptable to them should be appointed as principals. Many instances of students failing in degree examinations getting admitted to post graduate courses have come out in the open thanks to the good work being done by whistleblowers like R Sasikumar of the Save University Campaign.

R Bindu, minister for higher education, says that Kerala is the only State offering top quality higher education to Students. But Saji the Cherian, minister for culture says that students passing out of matriculation in Kerala are incapable of writing their names either in Malayalam or English. Both Bindu and Cherian are veteran CPI(M) leaders.

#### **Rush for** Boat carrying 15 darshan... journalists overturns From Page 1 From Page 1 Kotak Mahindra Baba's 'Then personal

security personnel (Black Commandos) and sevadars started pushing and shoving TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAL Corporation's Sarang Kulkarni the crowd, due to which some people fell down," the report and Dinesh Kamble.Shinde was himself behind the steering wheel of a boat states, adding this led to a minutes the mishap took place, panic and the crowd went our when he launched the tourism of control.

riding

boat

### Seventh bridge collapse in 15 days... Sensex breaches... From Page 1

Bank. HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, Power Baia

government is taking action against such contractors. The state authorities are probing the matter as well. I also request them to probe the conspiracy angle," he added. Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav took a sarcastic jibe at the Nitish Kumar-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar. In a post on X, he wrote, "Congratulations! The double power of the double engine government has led to only five bridges collapsing in just

"It is happening because of the sub-standard material being used by contractors. The state

in return for my services to

The Calcutta High Court has adjourned till

Thursday the hearing of the defamation suit filed by Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

After hearing the petition the Court directed the advocate of the petitioner to re-register the case on certain technical issues. In an unprecedented development in the history of post Independence Bengal a Governor had filed a defamation suit against a Chief Minister. Bose had earlier sued Banerjee over her alleged comments against him.

In an apparent reference to the "inordinate delay" being made by the Raj Bhavan in organising the oath-taking formalities of two newly elected TMC MLAs, Banerjee had reportedly said that she had been told by some women leaders that they were afraid of going to the Governor's House because of some activities taking place there.Bose had immediately retorted saying that such statements should not have come from a Chief Minister.

boat carrying around 15 Amedia persons overturned in the Wainganga River here at Bhandara eastern in project im Bhadara district, "I Maharashtra after Chief Minister Eknath Shinde enjoyed experience..... This water inaugurated a mega-water sports project will put tourism project. However, no one was injured. The local Bhandara on the country's police that the boat, which was tourism map, spur the development of the region and filled to capacity, turned turtle, when some of the media ensure a lot of new persons moved to the other employment opportunities to the locals," Shinde said. side of the vessel tilting its balance, resulting in several of "Maharashtra has a vast the journalists falling into the coastline of 720 kms and there water.

is huge potential for similar Before long, a team of National water sports related projects Disaster Response Force there. There is huge potential (NDRF) personnel that had for similar water sports related been stationed at a nearby projects there. During last week, the chief placed rushed to the scene rescued those in water and put minister had aaccorded approval to the water tourism them back in the boat which had by then regained its balance. Earlier, Shinde had project with Rs 102 crore, Of the amount, 43 crore would be launched the first phase of a Rs shared by the Water Resources 102 crore tourism water Department and the rest by the MTDC. The state government tourism project at the Wainganga River in the presence of Bhandara distrfic6t has allotted 450 acres of land near the river banks to set up Collector Yogesh Kumbhekar, the entire water tourism project which will offer various MLA Narendra Bhondekar, Maharashtra options to the tourists and Tourism Development water sports enthusiasts.

"Due to which the crowd ran towards the open field in front of the venue to get relief. on the other side of the road, where most of the people slipped and fell due to the wet slope while descending from the road towards the field," the report said.

Those who fell could not get up again and were run over by those coming from behind, it said.

"After this, they could not get up again and the crowd started running here and there over them," the report mentioned.'Mukhya sevadar Devprakash Madhukar and other organisers have been named in the first information report (FIR) filed at the Sikandar Rau police station late on Tuesday, a senior officer told

Yogi met those injured in the incident at the venue of the religious congregation here and obtained information from the eyewitnesses about the course of events preceding the tragedy. Asserting the Government

will ensure that such incidents do not recur, the Minister said a Chief standard operating procedure might be put in place for religious congregations. "A judicial probe by a retired high court judge will be conducted into the incident,' he said. "If this is not an accident, then whose conspiracy is this? All of these will be probed. Retired officials of the police and civic administration will be part of the judicial inquiry and action will be taken against those found responsible.

nad tormed a Special Investigation Team led by the additional director general (ADG) of police, Agra, which has given its preliminary report.

Finance and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers. On the other hand, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors and Larsen & Toubro

> were the laggards. "A broad-based rally was witnessed in the Indian market, boosted by large caps, with financials taking centre stage. With the drop in Indian banks' GNPAs to a 12year low, the sector is anticipated to outperform in the near term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research,

Geojit Financial Services. On the global front, the US Federal Reserve chief's commentary on inflation cooling down to 2 per cent by the end of CY25 was sentimentally positive. FOMC minutes later in the day might give hints on the start of the rate-cut cycle, Nair added.

"Markets edged higher, gaining over half a per cent, driven by favourable cues. Upbeat global markets and strength in banking majors led to a strong start, followed by a range-bound movement until the close," Ajit Mishra -SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Congress, staged a walkout in the Upper House after the

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge was not of Opposition

allowed to intervene during

Prime Minister's speech.

Kharge wanted to intervene

during Modi's reply to a

discussion on the motion

thanking the President for her

address to the joint sitting of

the Parliament. Chairman

### to raise slogans demanding that the LoP be allowed to speak.

Modi continued his speech amid the din of sloganeering. This went on for some time with Kharge repeatedly pleading to be allowed to speak. When the permission did come through, INDIA bloc MPs staged a walkout in the House. Dhankhar condemned their action, saying this was an insult to the Constitution.

Modi, too, decried the walkout and said he is not trying to score points but is duty-bound to give an account of his government's performance.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, however, The 264th session of Rajva did not concede his requests, prompting INDIA bloc MPs Sabha, which began on June

### Out on bail, Hemant Soren to become...

#### From Page 1

nine days.

"Everything will be disclosed soon," Hemant said when asked about the swearing-in. Earlier in the day, Champai who had taken oath as the 12th chief minister of Jharkhand on February 2, met Governor Governor CP Radhakrishnan and tendered his resignation, paving way for the Hemant to take oath as the next chief minister. This comes after a meeting at Champai's residence with MLAs and other senior leaders of the ruling coalition who unanimously decided to elect Hemant as the leader of the party. His comeback has been agreed upon by the party's allies Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). Congress's Jharkhand in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir and its state president Rajesh Thakur also attended the meeting, besides Hemant Soren's brother Basant and wife Kalpana.

It is learnt that Champai is likely to be given a new responsibility as the Chairman of UPA

coordination committee and working president of JMM. Soon after the party's MLAs and leaders meeting, Champai has sought an appointment with Governor CP Radhakrishnan, who called him Raj Bhawan at 7.30 pm.

The political scenario in the state changed on June 28 when Hemant secured bail from the Jharkhand High Court in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged land scam, noting that there was "no reason to believe" that he was guilty of the alleged offence. He had been in jail since January 31, when he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the case. Hemant had resigned as the chief minister shortly before being arrested, after Champai Soren took over the post.

Meanwhile, in a post on X, BJP MP Nishkant Dubey said, "The Champai Soren era is over in Jharkhand. In the family-oriented party, people outside the family

27, concluded after Prime

Minister replied to the motion of thanks, and the

House adopted it. Rajva

Sabha was adjourned sine die

on Wednesday after the

House adopted the Motion of

Thanks on the President's

address to the joint sitting of

Parliament. Sources said the

Monsoon Session is likely to

begin shortly during which

the annual Budget is to be

presented by the third tenure

of NDA Government led by

Modi listed out achievements

of his previous terms, ranging

from raising of the minimum

support price for crops to

giving the poor access to the banking system and loans,

and driving India's rise to

Narendra Modi.

have no political future. I wish the chief minister drew inspiration from Bhagwan Birsa Munda and stood up against the corrupt Hemant Soren ji.

Jharkhand BJP president Babulal Marandi asserted that the tribals outside Shibu Soren's family are only temporary faces in JMM. That family believes in using people as per their needs and requirements, he alleged.

Marandi alleged that the real face of JMM, which had talked about rising above nepotism and electing a new chief minister five months ago, has once again been exposed.He claimed that the "tiger of Kolhan", as Champai Soren is known in political circles, has been turned into a mouse today.

While Jharkhand can have 12 ministers, the state Cabinet at present has a strength of 10.After the Lok Sabha elections, the strength of the IMM-led alliance in the state was reduced to 45 MLAs -JMM-27, Congress-17 and RJD-1.

become the fifth largest economy in the world.

Rejecting the charge that the Government was misusing probe agencies, Modi cited statements made Opposition leaders like late Mulayam Singh Yadav who had accused the UPA Government of using ED and CBI against them. He also accused the Opposition of selective outrage on atrocities against women, saying none of them said a word on public beating of a woman in West

Bengal. Modi accused the Grand Old Party of being "the biggest opponent of the Constitution" and of running a "fake narrative" to mislead the public.

### **GNDU** gets new Director Research

local

#### PNS AMRITSAR

Dr Maninder Lal Singh, Professor, Department of Electronics Technology courses joined as Director Research, Guru Nanak Dev University. On the occasion of his joining, Dr KS Kahlon, Registrar, Dr Shalini Behl, Professor Incharge (Examination), Dr Ravinder Kumar, Head, Department of of Electronics Technology, Dr Ravinder S Sawhney, Professor, Department of Electronics Technology and other Colleagues and Staff members were present.

### GNDU announces date for second counseling for UG

Bachelor The GNDU is admitting the students in the various UG courses: MBA (FYIP) (with dual specialisation)/ MBA (FYIP) (Finance)/ MCom (FYIP) / MCA (FYIP)/ Master of Hotel Management fashion and Catering Technology (MHMCT) (FYIP)/ Master that Tourism & Travel (MTTM) Management July. (FYIP)/ MSc (Computational Statistics & Data Analytics)

Journalism - & Mass (FYIP)/ Communication Business of Administration (Agri Storage and Supply Chain)/BA Social Sciences (4 Years), M.Sc designing etc. through UCAT - 2024. Prof Vikram Sandhu, Coordinator for the test and admission counselling, told 2nd round of counselling was fixed from 4 Interested candidates can check the updated schedule and list of vacant (FYIP)/ MSc Economics seats by visiting the website (FYIP)/ MSc Fashion https://gnduadmissions.org. Designing (FYIP)/ MA https://gnduadmissions.org.

Yogi said the Government had formed a Special

Modi silences critics on... From Page 1 INDIA Bloc parties, led by the

### capital 03



# Modi takes a dig at Congress for defending AAP after Kejriwal arrest

STAFE REPORTER NEW DELH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took a dig at the Congress for defending the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was sent to jail on accusations of corruption, underlining that Congress leaders in Delhi had accused AAP of the liquor scam. Modi attacked the Congress for what he called "save corrupt agitation" while attacking the AAP for alleged corruption including in the now-scrapped 2021-22 Delhi excise policy. He listed the alleged scams involving AAP including the excise policy

"The AAP does corruption, the AAP commits liquor scam, the AAP commits corruption, the AAP commits scam in building classrooms for children, the AAP even commits water scam... The Congress complains against the AAP. The Congress drags the AAP to court and when they are sent to jail, then they abuses Modi. Congress leaders addressed press conferences making corruption charges on AAP. Can they tell us today – was the evi-dence they showed correct or

false? They are duplicitous, Modi said, replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address. Modi said the Congress had

presented so many proofs of AAP's scams before the country in a press conference. Now that the Congress and AAP are partners, was all the evidence presented a lie?" The Congress should now answer whether those proofs were true or false, he said He accused the Congress and

AAP of double standards. "Those who are now accusing the Central government of misusing investigative agencies such as CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] and ED [Enforcement Directorate]



once appealed to the government to use them against the corrupt," said Modi. He said the AAP once urged the ED to arrest the then Congress chief minister of Chhattisgarh

Bhupesh Baghel. "How has the same ED and CBI become corrupt?" The prime minister asserted that taking action against corruption is a mission for the NDA government and not a matter of electoral gains. "I

want to state without hesitation and also tell the countrymen that I have given full freedom to the agencies to take the strongest action against the corrupt and corruption. The government will not interfere anywhere," the prime minister

in a week.

Directorate (ED).

high court.

"Yes, they (probe agencies) should work honestly for honesty. No person embroiled in corruption will be able to escape the law. This is Modi's guarantee," the prime minister said. Referring to the opposition members' charge that the government is misusing the probe agencies,

Modi cited statements made by opposition leaders like late Mulayam Singh Yadav who had accused the UPA government of using the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against them. He also said even the Supreme Court had termed the CBI as a "caged parrot". "Allegations have been made against the central investigative agencies. It has been said that the central government is misusing the investigative agencies.

Modi asserted that he had vowed in 2014, when the BJP came into power at the Centre, that the government will work for the welfare of the poor and also take actions against corruption and black money. "Action against corruption is a mission for us. It is not a matter of victory or defeat in elections for us," he added



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

vigil for 24 hours around his The Delhi Police has stepped residence, sources said. up security outside Congress leader Rahul Rahul Gandhi enjoys Z plus security with L (advanced secu-Gandhi's residence here folrity liaison) category under the CRPF (Central Reserve lowing an intelligence input of disturbance by right wing Police Force) personnel. groups, sources said on Wednesday. Rahul Gandhi's On Wednesday, the Delhi BJP leaders and workers staged a remarks against the saffron protest here over his remarks party had created ruckus in the against the saffron party and Lok Sabha on Monday. One platoon of paramilitary, The protesters assembled near JaisaÎmer House and tried to

including the local police personnel, has been deployed around Gandhi's residence, sources said. They said an input regarding

disturbance by right wing group members was received on Tuesday after which the security has been increased around the Congress leader's residence in central Delhi.

The police have suspected the people may gather with placard or hoardings outside his resi-dence. The local police has connection with the matter.



# Rahul's remarks against party

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $D_{\rm workers\ on\ Wednesday}^{\rm elhi\ BJP\ leaders\ and}$ staged a protest here over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks against the saffron party and sought an apology from him. The protesters assembled near Jaisalmer House and tried to move towards the Congress headquarters on Akbar Road, raising slogans against Gandhi and his party.

it was not the time to deliv-

er speeches but to "vigorous-

ly protest against the insult of

Hindu society". "The way

Rahul Gandhi accused the

entire Hindu society of being

violent, is an unpardonable

offence. The Congress and

Rahul Gandhi are repeat

offenders and in the past,

they tried to create a fake

need to be given a befitting eply Addressing the protesters, BJP Yuva Morcha's national He said Hindu society is violent. He may even say Hindus president Tejasvi Surya said

should be shot," Tiwari said targeting Rahul Gandhi. Delĥi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said if Hindus were violent, the temple in Mathura have been ɓuilt by now. "Unless Rahul Gandhi, a poll-time Hindu, apologises, we will continue to protest," he said. In his first speech as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Gandhi had launched a noholds-barred attack on the BJP, accusing it of practising violence and spreading hate, drawing massive protests from the treasury benches, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

AIMIM president Asaduddin narrative of saffron terror-Owaisi in central Delhi, ism." he charged. demanding his suspension from the Lok Sabha, for his BJP MPs Manoj Tiwari and Bansuri Swaraj, and other senior leaders of the party remark during oath ceremony in the Lok Sabha. The Delhi were present during the protest. Police has registered an FIR in

Those who insult Hindus

### Kejriwal moves HC seeking 100 per cent humidity makes city bail in liquor policy scam case weather suffocating for residents

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

AP convener and Chief AMinister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday moved the Delhi High Court seeking bail in a CBI case related to the alleged liquor policy scam.

The counsel for Kejriwal mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela which said it would be heard on Friday

Notably, Kejriwal has directly approached the High Court for seeking bail without approaching the trial court. According to AAP legal team, there is no bar in going directly to the High Court for bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal

Procedure (CrPC). Advocate Rajat Bhardwaj, appearing for Kejriwal, asserted that the applicant was taken into illegal custody without following the due procedure of



the CBI when he was called for interrogations in April 2023. His arrest is wholly illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable, the Chief Minister claimed, adding, that the remand orders are patently routine, leading to vitiation of the entire process of arrest and proceedings.

The investigations have already been completed and the tenant governor ordered a CBI materials which form the basis gathered. A premier investigating agency like the CBI cannot play truant with the process of law. It has to act with dispassion and objectivity while dispelling any notion of bias or lop-sided approach," the petition by Arvind Kejriwal read. Kejriwal has also challenged a trial court's July 1 order rejecting his application for directions to the prison authorities for allowing two additional meetings every week with his lawyers through video confer-

#### STAFF REPORTER two meetings with his lawyers

The Delhi Chief Minister's plea challenging his arrest by the s cloud cover enveloped A the national Capital as CBI and the trial court order remanding him to the agency's parts of the city received rain custody is also pending before on Wednesday, weather the High Court. The court remained muggy and suffohad issued notice and asked the cating for Delhiites due to 100 CBI to file its reply while listper cent humidity level ing it for arguments on July 17. recorded in the city. The AAP convener was arrest-

According to the India Meteorological Department ed by the CBI on June 26 from Tihar Jail, where he is still (IMD), the humidity level stood at 75 per cent at 8:30 am and 100 per cent at 5:30 pm. lodged in judicial custody in a connected money laundering Parts of the city and the case filed by the Enforcement Parts of the city and the adjoining region of Delhi received light to moderate rain accompanied by thun-derstorms, with wind speeds of 40 to 60 kmph, and light-ning. The sky remained cloudy throughout the day. Safdarjung, the city's prima-ry weather station. recorded Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED on March 21, was granted bail by the trial court in the money laundering case on June 20. However, the trial court's order was stayed by the The excise policy was scrapped ry weather station, recorded in 2022 after the Delhi lieuthe maximum temperature at 34.1 degrees celsius, three notches below the normal. minimum temp and settled at 29 degrees Celsius, a notch above the normal. Researchers suggest that these humid and hot conditions, largely driven by global warming, during monsoons are a significant challenge to the health and well-being of the people of India, especially to physical labour. Prolonged exposure to such conditions can result in potentially fatal health hazards.



outdoor working hours, especially in the regions experi-encing extreme moist heat conditions during monsoon season, as humid heat can severely impact labour productivity.

"For instance, a 3 degrees Celsius increase in global warming can reduce labour productivity by 7 per cent and wrote in the study published in the journal Earth's Future. Therefore, with work performance projected to decline in the country by 30-40 per cent by the end of the century, the rising moist heat during monsoon can be devastating in the future, they said. Further, there was no warning for heavy rain in Delhi by the met department after days of failed prediction by the IMD about heavy rain in the city. The IMD stated that their predictions analyse models

and other measurements, which sometimes do not align. For instance, due to the shifting of the rainfall belt, heavy rain did not occur in Delhi as forecast last time.

The IMD advised the public to be cautious of slippers roads, low visibility, disruption in traffic and localised water logging in low lying contribute to at least 4 per areas which was caused due to cent reduction of GDP in the rain spell. On Friday, areas which was caused due to India, which leads to inflation there was a flood like situa-

have made the struggle of these women only about yourself and have made statements that the attack on DCW started after your resignation," the letters read. Negi and Khan in their letters, the content of which was the same, stressed that Keiriwal and his government have stood with the DCW in the face of the attack on the commission.

"Ma'am, the attack on the comest of the system has been ongoing since 2016 and the Hon'ble chief minister and the elected government have always stood with the commission as



sought an apology from him.

move towards the Congress

headquarters on Akbar Road,

raising slogans against Gandhi

and his party. On June 27, a

group of men pasted posters

outside the residence of

### Panel members reject Maliwal's claim of AAP dismantling DCW

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Aday after AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal accused her party's government here of 'systematically dismantling" the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), two members of the panel on Wednesday dismissed her allegations as "malicious" and "fictitious". In their letters to Maliwal, DCW members Firdos Khan and Kiran Negi also urged the MP not to use for her "personal political gains" the struggle of more than 700 women employed by the commission and under grant programmes who have not got their salaries since November

last year. Maliwal on Tuesday wrote to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing his government of "systematically dismantling" the commission after she resigned as its chief. There from Maliwal on the letters of Khan and Negi, the subject lines of which read: "Request to stop using struggle of 700+ women for personal political gains". Maliwal had resigned as the DCW's chairperson following her nomination to the Rajya Sabha by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). "Over 700 women who have been employed in the commission and various grant programmes across the city have been left without any salary since November 2023 but you



As the counsel insisted on fixing the plea for hearing on Thursday, Justice Manmohan said, "Let the learned judge go through the papers. We will have it day after." In his petition, Kejriwal alleged

the CBI was continuously haranguing and harassing him in the garb of the ongoing investigations in the liquor policy case, and called it a matter of grave dismay and concern. The Chief Minister also alleged he rendered all due cooperation and assistance to probe into alleged irregularities tion involving its formulation execution.According to the CBI and ED, irregularities were committed while modifying the excise policy and undue favours extended to the licence holders. While a Rouse Avenue Court has extended till July 12 the judicial custody of Kejriwal in

the money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam. Kejriwal appeared before the court of Special Judge Kaveri Baweja through ence. He is currently allowed video conference.

They also drew attention to the immediate need to revise

ie city received heavy rain.

"Avoid going to areas that face water logging problems often, check for traffic congestion on your route and be updatwith weather warning, ed the IMD advised the public. In order to address the issue of water logging on National Highways during the monsoon season, NHAI has taken various measures for flood preparedness and provide emergency response on the National Highways across the country.

a strong shield," they said. "I humbly request you to kindly desist from attacking the elected government and instead, expose the Hon'ble LG (Delhi lieutenant governor) and the actual perpetrators of this attack on the commission, like you have done for all these years till two months back," they said in their letters.

### HC rejects plea seeking disgualification Sukesh threatens legal **Student wings of INDIA Bloc** of Modi, suggests medical help for litigant action over his biopic

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Sukesh onman Chandrashekhar, who is accused in a Rs 200 crore cheating case involving the wife of a former Fortis Healthcare promoter, has threatened to pursue legal action against individuals involved in creating a film or biopic based on his life and personality. "It has come to Our Client's

attention that numerous individuals are infringing upon his Personality/Publicity/Celebrity //biopic/life rights, by falsely asserting and misrepresenting their authorization to create a film or biopic based on his life and personality whether directly or indirectly," his lawyer stated.

He also threatened to press charges against anyone involved in doing so. "Please be informed that legal action, both civil and criminal, will be pursued against anyone found guilty of infringing upon Mr. Sukesh Chander Shekhar's rights, particularly regarding his personality, literary works, and biopic rights. Such infringements can lead to



severe legal consequences," he said

He added that Sukesh is a man of repute and enjoys goodwill in the Indian Film Industry, various business houses and Political Circles and holds goodwill and reputation both nationally and at a global level.

Further, he informed that Sukesh "has already licensed, assigned and/or otherwise dealt with all his rights in relation to, inter alia, his person-ality, attributes and life story and events to a third party and public at large is warned and cautioned to refrain from exploiting our client's personality and his life story, events, incidents, whether directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday rejected a plea seeking disqualification of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from contesting elections and said that person who filed the plea appeared to be suffering from mental health issues. A Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela asked the local Station House Officer (SHO),

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and the District Judge to keep a watch on the petitioner, Captain Deepak Kumar and exercise their powers under the Mental Healthcare Act, if necessary.

The bench said they were in agreement with the single judge, who had earlier rejected the plea, that the petition and the appeal are replete with "unsubstantiated, disjointed, scandalous and preposterous allegations"."Are you well?" an exasperated bench asked the appellant, adding he needs "medical help".

The plea has alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was hatching a conspiracy and was involved in an act of terrorism. The plea further alleged that Modi and his accomplices to this effect. I was also kidattempted to destabilise national security by planning a fatal crash of an Air India flight in 2018 which the petitioner commanded as a pilot. He alleged that Modi "made a false oath or affirmation which otherwise must be made after the nomination paper has been submitted to RO (returning officer)".

While dismissing the plea, the bench said, "All the allegations in the present appeal are a figment of imagination of the appellant and bereft of any material particulars."During the hearing, the bench said, "Are you well? Your application is inchoate. It is going from one end of the spectrum to another. It is going from they have taken false oaths to the three people you are naming be debarred from contesting elections to saying that the plane you were flying crashed to your daughter being missing to some former CJI trying to kill you. Are you well? No human being can understand the petition".

Responding, the petitioner said, "Yes I am well, Sir. The petition is very clear, Sir. Yes, my daughter is being kidnapped, there is a police report

napped and taken to a police station where they bargained with me that if I keep my mouth shut, they will hand over my child back to me."

The bench told him the plea makes no sense and the single judge was right in holding that it was replete with unsubstantiated allegations.While dictating the order, the division bench said it was of the opinion that the appellant, if not

suffering from hallucination, is conjuncting facts and certainly needs medical help. "But the appellant insists he is well and needs no medical help. However, keeping in view the provisions of the Mental Health Act, this court directs the SHO of the local police sta-

tion, SDM and district judge to keep a watch on the appellant and if required, may exercise the discretion conferred on them, individually or collectively, under the said statute," it said. On May 30, the single judge had rejected the plea saying the allegations levelled were "reckless" and "unsubstantiated" and the petition was tainted with malafide and oblique motives and such averments in a petition cannot be entertained.

# parties protest at Jantar Mantar

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Reintral government and the National Testing Agency (NTA), the student outfits of some INDIA bloc parties staged a protest at the Jantar Mantar here on Wednesday against alleged irregularities in several competitive examinations.

In a separate protest, the Congress' youth wing, Indian Youth Congress (IYC), staged a demonstration against the irregularities near the protest site. Several Youth Congress workers shaved their heads as a sign of protest while raising

"anti-Modi" slogans. The members of the Leftbacked All India Students Association (AISA), Student Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Federation (AISF), along with the Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha and the Congress' students wing NSUI gathered at the Jantar Mantar to take out a march. The student groups aimed to march to the Parliament to press for their demands of scrapping the National Testing Agency, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation and



decentralisation of entrance tests. However, the students were not able to hold the march due to heavy police deployment and barricading at

the site. They also demanded re-examination of the medical entrance test NEET-UG for all candidates, who had appeared in the May 5 exam.





# **Opp walkout during Modi** reply a disgrace: Dhankhar

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said the Opposition has set a "dangerous precedent antithetical to democratic values" by walking out during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply during discussion on the motion of thanks to President's address. In his concluding remarks of the 264th session of Rajya Sabha before adjourning the House sine die, Dhankhar also termed the instance of Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge walking into the well of the House during the session "a disgrace to parliamentary conduct and proprietary".

Summing up the proceedings of the session, the chairman said while there was active participation from both the treasury as well as opposition benches, he was constrained to make some observations that "weighed heavily on my mind



over the disruptions that marred the proceedings". "Witnessing seasoned mem-

bers conduct themselves irresponsibly was particularly disheartening. I wish to reiterate that disruption not only impedes the transaction of the listed business but also erodes the prestige of this esteemed institution,' he

asserted.Pointing out the instance of Kharge entering the Well of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, Dhankhar said, "It was extremely painful to notice that even the Leader of the Opposition walked into the Well of the House and that was

New law makes sexual

offences gender neutral



conduct and proprietary." He asked the members of the House to "exemplify their conduct so that this becomes a temple for deliberations, discussion, dialogue and debate". 'Their walkout today was extremely painful. It was a historic occasion.

The government was in its third term with the prime minister heading it continually after six decades. They walked away from their constitutional ordainment and that has set a dangerous precedent antithetical to democratic values," Dhankhar said

The 264th session of the Upper House began with President Droupadi Murmu's address to both houses of Parliament, which the chairman described as "an important tradition that set the tone and outlined the government's agenda".

The House also witnessed Modi introducing his new council of ministers after he was sworn-in as the prime minister for the third consecutive term.

"The Motion of Thanks to the President's address witnessed lively participation by 76 members for over 21 hours. The House also heard maiden speeches by 19 newly-elected members," Dhankhar said.

The Rajya Sabha chairman said while the prime minister gave a "spirited address while participating in the debate", the House lost 43 minutes due to forced adjournments but the shortfall was "made up by continuing discussion during lunch break and sitting beyond the scheduled time".

### Putin, envoys condole devotees' deaths in Hathras stampede

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday expressed condolences over the stampede at a religious congregation in Uttar Pradesh in which 121 people were killed. Several envoys here including Germany, China, France and Israel also mourned the deaths. "President of #Russia Vladimir Putin sent a condolence message to President of #India Droupadi Murmu & Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi over the tragic stampede in #UttarPradesh: Kindly accept the most sincere condolences over the tragic accident in Uttar Pradesh," the Russian Embassy in India said

in a social media post. The stampede took place on Tuesday at Phulrai village in Sikandra Rao area of the Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh. The victims were part of the crowd of thousands that had gathered near Phulrai village in the Sikandrarau area for the 'satsang' by religious a

preacher. Meanwhile, envoys of several countries, including Germany, France, China and Israel have mourned the loss of lives in a stampede in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras and extended condolences to the victims' families. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a social media post on on Tuesday had said he was deeply distressed by the known as Jagat Guru Saakar Vishwahari's Bhole Baba. tragic incident.

'Deeply distressed by the tragic loss of lives in a stampede in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. Sincere condolences to the bereaved families. Pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," he wrote on the social media platform.The stampede at a religious congregation killed 121 people as devotees suffocated to their deaths and bodies piled atop each other in the worst such tragedy in recent years. The incident took place as the devotees -- most of them women -- headed home after a 'satsang' in the Hathras district's Phulrai village.

The 'satsang' was conducted by Baba Narayan Hari, who is also



German envoy Philipp

Ackermann in a post on

Tuesday evening offered con-

dolences to the families that

lost their loved ones in the

stampede and said he was

deeply saddened about the

"Deeply saddened about the

tragic events in Hathras. My

condolences to the families

that lost their loved ones. We

hope that help quickly reaches

the injured," he wrote on the

Later on Tuesday night,

Chinese envoy Xu Feihong

also took to X to mourn the

loss of lives in the incident.

socialmedia platform.

tragic incident.

'Shocked and saddened about the tragic events in Hathras, UP. Deeply mourn for the lives lost and extend heartfelt sympathies to victims' families. Wish the injured a speedy recovery," he wrote on the social media platform.

nation 04

French Ambassador to India Thierry Mathou also posted a message on X, which was reposted by the French Embassy in New Delhi.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives following the tragic stampede in Uttar Pradesh's #Hathras district. France expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved families of the victims and wishes the injured a speedy recovery," the envoy wrote on X.

Israeli Ambassador Naor Gilon also echoed the sentiments expressed by the other envoys. "Deeply saddened about the loss of lives at the tragic stampede in #Hathras, UP. Our thoughts are with the families of the victims. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. Such incidents are truly heartbreaking," he wrote on X.

### **BJP flays Opposition MPs for RS walkout**

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI H

Apolice officer can detain a person who resists or disregards lawful directions to prevent a cognisable offence, according to the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) which came into effect on Monday.

#### Also, the newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which replaces the British-era Indian Penal Code, has made sexual offences "gender neutral" for the victim and the perpetrator, according to official documents. The BNSS, which replaced the British-era Code of Criminal Procedure, has introduced "a

#### Noida Sec-63 Branch : H-1A/18, Sector-63, इंडियन बेंक 🛞 Indian Bank Noida Uttar Pradesh-201301 Tele-0120-2427115 | Email- N615@indianbank.co.in **ANNEXURE- A**

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties people must e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of conform to Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to Rule 8 (6) of the directions of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 police issued in

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the belo the course of described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which preventing the has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Noida Sector 63 Branch (Secured Creditor), will be commission of sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis" on 12.03.2024, for recovery of Rs. 23,87,890/a cognizable (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Only) as on 14.11.2021 plus offence, officials terest & other expenses till realization of the dues to the Indian Bank, Noida Sector 63 (Secured Creditor), fro said. M/s. A One Traders, and its Smt Ruksana (Properitor/Mortgagor) W/o Mr. Yasin Saifi, R/o Main Road- Dadr Road, Near Petrol Pump, Grater Noida, GB Nagar, UP-201009 and Jabal Colony, Near Barahi Mandir Surajpur, Greater Noida, G B Nagar, UP-201009 & 2) Mr. Yasin Saifi (Guarantor) S/o Ali Sher R/o Village Surajpur, Pargana Dadri, Greater Noida, G B Nagar, UP-201009

The specific details of the properties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below Detailed description of the All the part and parcel of Residential property at Plot All the part and parcel of Residential property bearing Khata no 248. Khet No 217, situated at Village Surajpur, Pargana Dadri, Disti and Tehsil Gautam Budh Nagar, U. P., admeasuring

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE DFI HI

The BJP on Wednesday flayed the opposition members for staging a walkout during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in the Rajya Sabha and said their intention was to only create ruckus in the House as they did not have the "strength" to hear the truth.

as Clause 172 The opposition parties' INDIA in 'Preventive bloc, led by the Congress, staged a walkout of the Rajya Sabha Action of the after the Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge was not It states that allowed to intervene during Prime Minister Modi's reply on the motion thanking President Droupadi Murmu for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

"The opposition is demoralised, aimless and anarchic due to its defeat (in the Lok Sabha polls) for the third time in a row. It is

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Haryana, Bays No. 55-58, Paryatan Bhawan, Sector-2, Panchkula, Haryana vide their file no. SEIAA/HR/2023/432 and EC Identification no-EC24B038HR158095 dated: 02.07.2024 has accorded the "Environment Clearance" to M/s H vramid intrateci Private Limited., having its Reg. office at H-38, Ground floor, M2K White House, Sector-57, Gurugram, Haryana-122002 for Proposed Group Housing Colony under TOD Policy over an area measuring 4.52 Acres in revenue estate of Village-Begampur, Khatola, Sector-71, Gurugram, Haryana. General Public is further informed that copy of said Environment Clearance Letter is available in the office of Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Panchkula and State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Panchkula, Haryana.



"These negative efforts by them cannot hinder the NDA government's journey towards achieving its goal of building a 'developed India'," he added. Nadda said that Prime Minister Modi paved the way for building a

"developed India" in the Rajya Sabha in his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address. This will become a roadmap for the progress of people and rapid development

progress and upliftment" of people."This journey of development will acquire new dimensions in 'Modi government 3.0'," the BJP chief said. "We will take the global prestige of the nation to new heights," he

added. Slamming the Opposition mem-bers, BJP Rajya Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi alleged that they staged a walkout during the prime minister's speech as they did not have the strength to hear the truth.

"It's sad. They had boycotted the prime minister's speech in the last session. They created uproar (in the Lok Sabha) in the current session as well and boycotted (PM's spe ch) in Rajya

### India-Mongolia joint military exercise to defence boost ties

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Giving a further boost to bilateral defence ties, the 16th edition of India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant' commenced on Wednesday at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya). The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from July 3-16, army said here. Last edition of the annual exercise was conducted in Mongolia in July 2023.

Giving details about the latest drill, officials said Indian contingent comprising of 45 personnel is being represented by a battalion of Sikkim Scouts along with personnel from other arms and services. The Mongolian contingent is being represented by personnel from 150 Quick Reaction Force Battalion of the Mangolian Army. The Opening Ceremony of the Exercise was attended by His Mongolian envoy to India Dambajavyn Ganbold and Major General Prasanna Joshi, General Officer Commanding 51 Sub Area of the Indian Army. The aim of the Exercise is to enhance joint military capa-



terrain.Tactical drills during the Exercise include Response to a Terrorist Action, Establishment of a Joint Command Post, Establishment of an Intelligence and Surveillance Centre, Securing of a Helipad/ Landing Site, Small Team Insertion and Extraction, Special Heliborne Operations, Cordon and Search Operations besides Employment of Drones and Counter Drone Systems

amongst others. Major General Gyanbyamba Sunrey, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Mongolia is scheduled to attend the closing ceremony on July 16 along with Lieutenant General Zubin A Minwalla, General Officer Commanding 33 Corps of the

Indian Army. The Exercise will enable both sides to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of conducting joint operations. The exercise will also facilitate developing intererability, bonhom camaraderie between the two armies. This will also enhance the level of defence cooperation, further augmenting bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.



media post.

	East : Plot of Momin North : Other Plot West : 15 feet Road South : Plot of Mohammad		
Encumbrances on Property	Not known to the Bank		
Reserve Price	Rs.35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Only)		
EMD Amount	Rs.3,50,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)		
Bid incremental amount	Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only)		
Date and time of e-auction	12.03.2024 between 11.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M		
Property ID No.	IDIB6466446281		

Bidders are advised to visit the website/www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibabi) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033 23400020/23400021/23400022 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://bapi.ir and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the websit with https://ibapi.in and www.mstcecommerce.com.

Date : 04 07 2024 Place : Noida

Authorised Officer

Authorised Officer

Noida Sec-63 Branch : H-1A/18, Sector-63, इंडियन बैंक 😣 Indian Bank Noida Uttar Pradesh-201301 ALLAHABAD Tele-0120-2427115 | Email- N615@indianbank.co.in

**ANNEXURE- A** 

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the bei described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Noida Sector 63 Branch (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis" on 24.07.2024, for recovery o Rs.1582079.00 (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand and Seventy Nine only) as on 01.08.2022 plus Interest & other expenses till realization of the dues to the Indian Bank, Noida Sector 63 (Secured Creditor), from M/s R. R. Construction Company, at GF-23, Durga Chamber, RDC Complex, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad, Utta Pradesh - 201001 and Shri Hemant Pratap Singh (Partner) S/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh R/o M-73A Sanjay Nagar, Sector 23, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201001 and Smt. Lakshmi Devi (Partner) W/o Shri Ran Niwas Singh R/o C-102, Sanjay Nagar, Sector 23, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201001.

And Guarantors -

.Smt. Urmila Chauhan W/o Shri Homendra Pratap Singh R/o M73A, Sanjay Nagar, Sector 23, Ghaziabad, Utta Pradesh-201001.

Also at: Residential Property situated at Flat no. N 452A, First Floor without roof rights, GDA Flat Block N, Sector 23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201001

The specific details of the properties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below

All the Part and Parcel of Residential Property situated at Flat no. N 452/ Floor without roof rights, GDA Flat Block N, Sector 23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaz Uttar Pradesh – 201001 admeasuring 33.07 Sq. Mirs. standing in the name of Urmila Chauhan Wio Shri Homendra Pratap Singh having boundaries as foll East: Flat no. N450A, North : 25 Feet Road on ground floor West: Flat no. N419A, South : Flat no. N451A		
Not known to the Bank		
Rs.11,21,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty one Thousand only)		
Rs.1,12,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twelve Thousand only)		
Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only)		
24.07.2024 between 11.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M		
IDIB6461375176		

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi) of our e auction servic provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033 23400020/23400021/23400022 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. Fo Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status pleas contact ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.ii and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the web with https://ibapi.in and www.mstcecommerce.com.

Date : 04.07.2024

Place : Noida

#### Place: Gurugram

new insertion"

Police?

Dated: 03.07.2024 M/s Pyramid Infratech Private Limited, Reg. office at; H-38, Ground floor, M2K White House, Sector-57, Gurugram, Haryana-122002 added.Nadda said the last 10 years under Prime Minister Modi's leadership have been marked by "revolutionary decisions, historic

Sabha. This shows that perhaps, as the prime minister also said, they do not have the strength to hear the truth," he told reporters in Parliament complex, when asked for comment.

bility of both sides to undertake counter insurgency operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban and mountainous

### Congress predicts fall of Modi Government any time

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's legitimacy has been diminished to "one-third" and his Government is on its "last legs" and can fall anytime.

Hitting out at the Prime Minister over his remarks on Manipur in the Rajya Sabha, the Congress also said he made an "astounding claim" that the situation is normal there when in actuality it is still tense and pointed out that he has still not visited the State since violence

erupted in May last year. The Opposition party's assertion regarding recently held Lok Sabha polls came over the Prime Minister's remarks in the Rajya Sabha that since the results came out, one Congress leader kept on beating the drum that there is a "one-third government" in place."What can be a bigger truth than this that we have completed 10 years, 20 more are left. Onethird is done, two-thirds are speech in the Rajva Sabha, still left and so we are very Prime Minister Modi said happy for this prediction," the 2024 general election Modi said in his reply to the verdict showed people have debate on the Motion of rejected propaganda and Thanks to the President's voted for performance. He Address to the joint sitting of said the politics of misleading people has been defeat-Parliament. ed

Modi's remarks were an apparent dig at Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who



"In actuality, the situation is still tense as the MP from Inner Manipur pointed out in the Lok Sabha on 1st July And the non-biological Pradhan Mantri has still not visited Manipur since it erupted on the night of May 3rd, 2023 — nor has he met with the political leaders of the state.

Modi said for his party BJP, the Constitution is not just a



Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank under SARFAESI Act and in xercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3, issued Demand Notice under Section (3(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors listed hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "said Borrowers"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the Notice, within 60 days from the date of eipt of Notice, as per details given below

2. The said Notices have been returned undelivered by the postal authorities/have not been duly acknowledged y the borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors. \* Hence the Bank by way of abundant caution is effecting this ublication of the demand notice. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the mises of the last known addresses of the said Borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors as per the said Act. opies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned and the said Borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors. ay, if they so desire, collect the said copies from the undersigned on any working day during normal office

Against the above background, Notice is hereby given, once again, to said Borrowers/ m parantors to pay to Indian Overseas Bank, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the mounts indicated/payable as given below under the loan & other documents. As security for due repayment of he loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to Indian Overseas Bank by the respective parties as

S No.	Name of the Borrowers/ Mortgagors/ Guarantors with Address	Total Outstanding as on 08.05.2024 (in Rs.)	Description of Secured Assets	Date of Demand Notice
1.	1. SHASHIBALA W/O VIRENDER, Permanent Address: HOUSE NO - 2456, RAJENDER COLONY, ROHTAK, 124001, 2. VIRENDER, Permanent Address: H NO 2456, RAJENDERA COLONY, ROHTAK, 124001	1336156,87*	H NO 1294, Property Id 257-C-644- U-295 situated at New RAJENDER NAGAR, old sugar mill Road, Near Bhi wani Chungi, Rohtak measuring 121 sq yds in the name of Smt. Shashi Bala w/o Sh. Virender East 18'9' Gali 15' wide West 20'6' House of Anil North 58'6' House of Salish South 53'6' house of Salish	08.05.2024

\* payable with further interest at contractual rates/rests as agreed from the date mentioned above till date or

4. If the said borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors fail to make payment to Indian Overseas Bank as aforesaid then Indian Overseas Bank shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act and Rules entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the said borrowers/ mortgagors

Further, the attention of borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the ction 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets

The said Borrowers/ mortgagors / guarantors are prohibited under the SARFAESI Act from transferring th cured assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Indian Oversea Bank. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules shall be liable for nt and/ or fine as given under Section 29 of the Act.

Date : 03.07.2024 Place : Rohtak	Sd/
Place : Rohtak	Inc

- Authorized Officer dian Overseas Bank

BRS MLA booked

officials on duty

for obstructing Govt

PTI KARIMNAGAR (TELANGANA)

under relevant sections of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS), which came into force

from July 1 and he perhaps

became the first public

representative in the state to be

Kaushik Reddy, who had

staged a protest during the Zilla

Parishad General Body

meeting here on Tuesday,

booked under the new law.



# **MP** Budget focuses on infrastructure development, women and tribal welfare

### BHOPAL

¬he Madhya Pradesh L government on Wednesday presented its budget for FY 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 3.65 lakh crore, marking substantial allocations for infrastructure development and initiatives for women and tribals, amid din by Congress over a nursing college "scam".

Finance Minister Jagdish Devda described the budget "sarvsparshi" (allas inclusive), announcing no new taxes during its presentation in the state legislative assembly.

The assembly session, however, saw disruptions from Congress members who demanded the resignation of former medical education minister Vishvas Sarang over the nursing college "scam" and sought the setting up of a committee House of members of all parties.

'The budget for the year 2024-25 aims to double its size in the next five years, with increased capital investment in roads, irrigation, electricity, quality health facilities, attracting investments for employment generation, and promoting good governance," Devda stated amidst din created by Congress members.

Speaking to reporters after the Budget presentation, Devda condemned the conduct of the opposition in the House.

The budget proposes an outlay of Rs 3.65 lakh crore, marking a 16 per cent increase from the previous year. Significant allocations include Rs 26,560 crore for the women and child development department, up 81 per cent from the last



fiscal. Capital expenditure is allocation has been raised expected to rise by 15 per cent compared to the from Rs 22,732 crore in the previous FY to Rs 26,126 previous year, amounting to crore. Devda highlighted plans to 4.25 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product. double the budget size in the

The fiscal deficit in 2024-25 coming is estimated to be 4.11 per improvements in per capita cent of the GSDP, the income and poverty alleviation efforts. "The per minister said. Allocations have also been capita income in the state has gone up to Rs 1.42 lakh in enhanced for infrastructure

from Rs 49,009 crore in the previous fiscal to Rs 53,460 crore, urban and rural Devda, citing Niti Ayog data, development from Rs 39,326 in poverty with 2.30 crore crore to Rs 44,588 crore, Scheduled Tribe sub-plan people lifted out of it over the past decade. The budget allocates 15% for (Rs 40,804 crore), and Scheduled Caste sub-plan infrastructure, 13% for health, 11% for education, (Rs 27,900 crore). The 'Ladli Behna Yojana', the

BJP government's flagship scheme under which eligible women are paid Rs 1,250 per month, receives Rs 18,984 crore, while Rs 15,509 crore is earmarked for establishing government primary schools and Rs 9,258 crore for middle schools. The agriculture sector

infrastructure related to the Simhastha 2028 congregation in Ujjain.

religious tourism initiatives like the "Shri Krishna Pathey Yojana" to identify and develop the route covered by lord Krishna in Madhya Pradesh and "Ram Path Yojana" Gaman were emphasised, alongside a Rs 341 crore allocation for establishing "Vedant Peeth". While Devda was reading the budget speech, many MLAs from the Opposition entered the well of the House raising slogans over the nursing college scam. Notably, the CBI is probing

the alleged irregularities in the functioning of several nursing colleges that lacked infrastructure while some existed only on paper.

Devda could Before complete his speech, which remained inaudible amid the din, the opposition members led by Singhar staged a walkout from the House and sat on a dharna in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue in

the assembly complex. Ahead of the Budget speech, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Additionally, cultural and had said appropriate time was given to the Opposition

for raising the issue on Tuesday and they should participate in the budget presentation as per the House tradition. Legislative Affairs Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya said the assembly proceedings will run as per the rules and traditions of the House and

the opposition should raise their grievances through an appropriate procedure. Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar said the issue (nursing college scam) was raised by the opposition on Tuesday after the relaxation of the House rules.

However, the opposition members ignored Vijayvargiya's suggestion and kept raising slogans in the well of the House. After standing for a while before the speaker's podium, the opposition members squatted on the floor of the well.

Assam Govt keen to develop clean source of coal for industries, says Chief Secy

### PTI GUWAHATI

The Assam government is keen to develop the state as sustainable and environmentally clean source of coal for relevant industries.

Chief Secretary Ravi Kota said. Kota said this while reviewing coal projects in the state with chairman and managing director of Coal India Limited (CIL) P M Prasad.

The state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, is also exploring ways to maximise exploration and utilisation of coal resources to accelerate economic growth, to reduce import of coal and to help in employment generation, Kota said while employment reviewing the progress of the ongoing projects of the North East Coalfields India Limited (NECIL) with Prasad.

A delegation of senior CIL officials, led by Prasad, called on the chief secretary. At present, one coal mine in Margherita sub-division in Tinsukia district, under NECIL is actively extracting with an annual coal production of two lakh metric tonnes of coal.

BSES

NIT No

increase to three lakh tonnes per annum very soon and efforts are being undertaken to expand the same to 15 lakhs tonnes (1.5 mn tonnes) per annum, he said.

'To achieve the same coordinated action of the revenue and disaster management, environment and forest, and mines and mineral departments of Assam with NECIL will be undertaken. It is anticipated that the increased production of coal will not only meet the requirements of state-based industries but also increase the revenue to the state exchequent significantly', Kota said.

The chief secretary said that to improve the livelihood of the mining workforce of the state through targeted CSR Coal activities, India identify authorities may schools and hospitals in the areas of mining and work on infrastructural development The production is likely to wherever required.

**TENDER NOTICE** 

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders

Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 | Website : www.bs

Brief Tender Description

CMC/BB/24-25/ SUPPLY OF 33KV & 66KV XLPE INSULATED

RB/PR/RJ/1217 RATINGS OF OIL TYPE DT'S UPTO 100 KVA

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifyin

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that, Nidhi Nijhawan wife of Col. M. Nijhawan resident of Flat No.89, Ground Floor, Basant Enclave, New Delhi is owner/mutatee and in physical possession of DDA SFS Flat No.89, on Ground Floor, Cat-SFS-II, Basant Enclave, New Delhi, which has been allotted by DDA vide File No.F.14(1421)379/

SFS/BE and applied for conversion from lease hold into free hold of said flat in D.D.A. The

original Possession Letter, NOC for Water ar

nis flat can personally inform or write to D irector (LAB) H, D Block 3d Floor, Vika

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

RB/PR/FH/1215 ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR POWER CABLE in BRPL

CMC/BR/24-25/ RATE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF VARIOUS

of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani P<u>ower Limited, BSES Bhawan. Nehru Place. New C</u>



### "restrained" District Collector Pamela Sathpathy and others officials from discharging their duties, they said. "Demanding immediate action against an official, the BRS legislator sat on the floor in the Zilla Parishad meeting hall when the District Collector was about to leave the conference hall," a police official said. The Collector told the legislator

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

Due Date & Time of Submissio

24.07.2024

15:00 HRS

24.07.2024

15:00 HRS

that she would enquire into the allegations (against the official). Dissatisfied with the reply of the Collector, he "obstructed" her from doing duty, police said.

Date: 04.07.2024

Date & Time of Opening

24.07.2024

15:15 HRS

24.07.2024

15:30 HRS

Head (Contracts & Materials)

tion No.: U40109DL2001PLC11152

Public Notice To be known to all that I, Garimella Suryanarayana S/o Garimella Salyanarayana R/o H.no. C-123/1-7 1074/i/71, Sri Datta, Sai Apartment RTC X Rd, Opp Saptragin Theatre,Musheerabad,Hyderabad,Telanga-PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Rama Sareen who is owner of Flat on Second floor without roof rights bearing Pvt. No. E, Built on Property No. 275, area measuring 150 sg. yds., situated in the layout plan of Delhi Bangali Hindu CHBS Ltd., area of Village Tagore Park, known as Tagore Park. Delhi-110009 vide Relinquisment Deed dated 0.605.2015 (vide Document No.4697) at Sub-Registrar, VIA, New Delhi/Delhi; and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, That Surviving Wember Certificate is Lost/Misplacet/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBEC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/tile/ interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said mornor thy is free from all. PUBLIC NOTICE na-500020 owner of DDA SFS CAT-II, Flat 450, G.F Pkt-10, Sec-11, Rohini, Delhi has applied for certified copy of the aforesaid flat in DDA. All the original documents i.e Allocation Letter, Fifth & Final Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Letter, NOC Water & Electricity issued by DDA, of the above property have been lost, An FIR against this effect has been lodged in Police station. Any persons claiming

any right interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write contact with above named person at above address/Ph No 9949000967 within 15days from the 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 (SFS) or Director (H)-1 D-Blcok, 3RD floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT E-Tender Notice No. : Mech-LMG-ET

02-2024-25, Dated: 01-07-2024; E fender are invited by the undersigned f the following work: Name of work : Annua Maintenance Contract for 04 nos EO Cranes at New Guwahati for a period of 03 years. Tender Value: ₹ 26,64,884.64 Earnest Money : ₹53,300/-; Date & tim of closing of tender at 13:00 hrs. an opening at 16:00 hrs. on 22-07-2024. Fo details please visit in websit www.ireps.gov.in

original Possession Letter, NOC for Water ann Electric connection, and other relater documents of said flat have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged. Any person(s claiming any right, interest, having an objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/Phone No 8527215634 within 15 days from the date o publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect t this flat can personally inform or write to Du Sr. DME. Lumdin O NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

### AT LUMDING DIVISION E-Tender Notice No. Sr.DEE/ LMG/12 of 2024-25 Dated: 01-07-

General Public is hereby informed that State Environment impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Haryana Bays no. 55-58 Paryatan Bhawan, Sector-2, 2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: ula. Harvana vide thei

SALE ON "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS OF DAMAGED GOODS TENDER NOTICE BELONGING TO C L GUPTA OVERSEAS LLP Affected factory at Plot No-A-1 Sez, Moradabad -244001 04.07.2024 to 15.07.2024 from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm eriod of inspection of damaged Mr. Girdhari Gupta Mobile Contact person No 8218581693/8126538705 Last date & time of submission of tender document By 2.00 pm on 16.07.2024 2.30 pm on 16.07.2024 Date of opening of tender document xpected Minimum Price Rs.70 to Rs. 80 Lakhs

Estimated Cost Cost of EMD

5.01

Lakhs

4.84 Lakhs

ments, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission

(₹)

5.01

2.42

Crore

Expected Minimum Price [18,7/0 to K8, 80 Lakks Cost of the Tender document would be Rs1000/- to be paid either in cash or in DD Sealed Tenders are invited from intending buyers for the disposal, strictly on "as-Is-where-is" basis with all defects of Damaged Salvage (Referred as "Damaged Items") of Burnt and melted Building Pre -Feb Structure, Roof sheets, machinery, electrical cables-Aluminum & Copper, elec-trical motors , soot affected corrugated box & Powder coating material and belonging to C GUPTA OVERSEAS LLP lying at our Factory Plot NO. A-1, Sez, Moradabad -244001 Tenders to be submitted on or before 16.07.2024 by 2.0.0 m to THE COMMERCIAL HEAD C L GUPTA OVERSEAS LLP at Plot NO. A-1, Sez, Moradabad -244001 Under no circumstances, tender forms will be accepted after this date. Tenders will be opened on 16.07.2024 at 2.30 p.m.

### M/s FORTEASIA REALTY PVT. LTD. Regd. Office: J-221, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, M/s Forteasia Realty Pvt. Ltd. is in process of undertaking of development of an Affordable Plotted Colony in sector 22D, Rohtak, Haryana over an area measuring 22.33125 acres in revenue estate o Village- Maina, accordance of license no. 215 of 2022 dated 29.12.2022 granted by Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh. And whereas, the earlier approved Layout Plans are now proposed to be revised. And whereas, the office of Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of 22.33125 acres Lavout-cum- Demarcation Plan as a precondition for allowing such proposed and revision in the Layout-cum Demarcation Plan vide letter Memo No. ZP-1744/AD(GK)/2024/19854 Dated 03.07.2024. In compliance thereof, by this public notice, objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed and revision of the Layout-cum-Demarcation Plan of the said colony. A copy of existing approved Layout Plan bearing Drg. No. 8909 dated 09-01-2023 and provisional and proposed revised Layout- cum- Demarcation Plan vide Drg. No. DTCP-10325 dated 03.07.2024 both, are available for perusal on our website i.e. www.forteasia.in. The said both Lavout-cum Demarcation Plans can also be perused at the office of undersigned as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Rohtak. Any allottee having any objection on the revision of proposed Layoutcum- Demarcation Plan in favour of M/s Forteasia Realty Pvt. Ltd., may file his objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Rohtak within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed Layout-cum-Demarcation Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE **ASSAM FLOODS** 11 wild animals drown in Kaziranga **National Park** 

 $E^{\text{leven animals, mostly hog}}_{\text{deer, have drowned while}}$ r animals have been

To be known to all that I, Puneeta Chauhan W/o Charan Singh Chauhan R/o. PLOT NO. 856, Area Measuring 32.00 Sq.Mtrs, Block-C Pocket-01 Sector-35, Rohini Delhi, Mob. 9811276414 Email: advocate12nm@gmail.com, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The original papers e. Mutation Letter, Demand- Cum Allotment Letter Possession Letter And Site Possession Slip issued by DDA of abovesaid property has been lost. A FLR to this effect has been lodged to police station dt. 23/06/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may winte/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact -Deputy Director C Block First Floor, DDA, Vikas sadan, New Delhi-110023. Possession Letter And Site Possession Slip issued

Triveni Co-Operative Group Housing Society Limited Plot No. 24/1 Sec-9 Rohini, Mob. 8168530958 Email: advocate12nm@gmail.com, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The original papers i.e. Original Allotment Letter and Possession Letter issued by society of abovesaid property has been lost. A F.I.R to this effect has been lodged to police station dt. 23/06/2024. Any person(s) claimin any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date

of publication of this notice & can personally contact -Deputy Director Group Housing C- Block Second Floor, DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023. ENGINEERING WORKS AT LUMDING DIVISION E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/85

years, citing

2022-23 from Rs 13,465 in

reported a notable reduction

and 7% for agriculture, with

8% each designated for loan

The 'Ladli Laxmi Yojana' has

benefited 48.03 lakh women

since its inception, while

other provisions include

constructing Sant Ravidas

memorials in 30 districts and

a Rs 500 crore provision for

repayment and interest.

2003-2004," he said.

9.02.2024 as Doc. no. 3919 executed by Md. Irshad a favour of Mrs. Khurshida in respect of the said in favour of Mrs. Khurshida in respect of the said Property. Mrs. Khurshida is in the process of mortgaging the said SMF6 India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (*Formerly* Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (*Formerly* Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.) Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered bublic notice. Any objections usubmitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered bublic notice. Any period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Utar Pradesh-201301; Landine(s): +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in PUBLIC NOTICE lo be known to all that I, Kishan Lai And Sat Narain both S/o Shri Tek Chand R/o. Flat No. B-1/11,Ganga

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

My client HDFC Bank Ltd, Capital Court, Munirka, New Delhi, in the business of Housing Loan, from whom Mr. Manu Gemini has taken a housing Ioan against Flat No. 964, HIG-I, 9th

addy, failing which it shall be presumed that the aid property is free from all type o incumbrances, lienetc. Lucem Legal LLf \_\_\_\_Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park New Delhi-110049,Contact # 011-40046316 Public Notice This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Khurshida is the Owner of Plot of Land area measuring 100 Sq. yds., i.e. 83.61 Sq. Mirs., out of Khasra No. 508, Situated at Budh Nagar, Village Saddulabad, Loni District Ghaziabad, UP. She is acquired above Said plot through Gift Deed dated 2002 0202 ce Dear op. 2010 consult letzhed letzhed

rescued from floodwaters in Kaziranga National Park in Assam, an official said on Wednesday

**PTI** GUWAHATI

Forty-two hog deer, two otters and sambars each and a Scops owl have been rescued, the official of the national park said. Of the 233 forest department camps in the Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, 173 have been inundated by gushing floodwaters, up from 167 on Tuesday, he said. In the Agoratoli range of the national park, 24 of the 34 camps have been inundated, while 51 of 58 camps in the central range, 37 of 39 in Bagori, 13 of 25 in Burapahar and seven of nine in Bokakhat range are under floodwaters.

Altogether nine camps have been vacated by forest personnel so far, including two in Agoratoli, three in Bokakhat, two in the central range and one each in Biswanath and Nagaon wildlife divisions.

"FORM NO. INC-26"

Irsuant to rule 30 the Compan (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

Advertisement to be published in Newspaper for the change in Registered Office of the Company from one state to another Before the Central Government Northern Region Bench, Delhi.

In the matter of sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Companies Act 2013 and clause (a) of subsection (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules 2014

In the matter of OPTICO SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED having its Registered Office at D-195, GALI NO.2, WEST VINOD NAGAR DELHI, WEST Delhi

Notice is hereby given to General Public that the Notice is nereby given to General Public that the company proposes to make the application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of Memorandum of Companies of the company in term of special resolution passed at Extra ordinary General Meeting held on WEDNESDAY, 19TH DAY OF JUNE 2024 to applie the company to change its Desistered Meeting held on WEDNESDAY, 19TH DAY OF JUNE 2024 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Madhya Pradesh".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change, may deliver either on MCA portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filling investor complaint form or cause to be deliver or send by registered postof his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the Address B-2 WING, 2nd FLOOR, PARTAVARAN BHAWAN, CGO COMPLEX, NEW DELH = 110003, within 14 Davs of date of NEW DELHI - 110003, within 14 Days of date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the below: ADDRESS OF REGISTERED OFFICE:D-195, Gali No.2, West Vinod Nagar Delhi, West Delhi 110092 (Present Address) For an or behalf of the Board Optico Solutions Private

Place: Delhi

Varun Singh Kushwah

Directo

DIN: 08923393

CHANGE OF NAME

ATHE PIONEER A

• LASSIFIED •

I, Parbati Devi W/o Shri Shankar Prasad Sah R/o Flat No. 57D, DDA Flats, Pocket-1, Sector-10, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075, hereby declare that Parbati Devi and Parbati Kumari is one and the same Person. PD(568)C

Public Notice BIHAR BANDHU CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD Flat No.3.Pocket-DDA Flats, Sector-12, Dwarka, Delhi-110078 In accordance with rule 19(2) of DCS rules 2007, it is to inform publicly that the 9 members of the Bihar Bandhu CGHS Ltd. have resigned from the society and they have been paid their share money & contributions. The names of resigned member are 1. Asha Aline & Anand Kr. John (M. No. 146) 2. Lalit Tirkey (M. No 147) 3. Rosalia & Late J.P.P. Kujur (M.No.149) Nilip Kumar & Jagrani Minj (M.No. 151) Francisca & Tarcus Kujur (M.No. 152) Suresh Bandhooni (M.No. 173) 7. Rajeev Bhardwai (M.No. 184) 8. Lokeshwar P. Budakoti (M.No.201) 9. Late Ram Kishar Bhardwaj (M.No.229). If anyone who is having objections, may lodge objections at the society office, which is located at Flat No.3, Pocket-5 DDA Flats, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-78, or at the RCS office. Parliament Street. New

publication of the public notice.

Delhi within 15 days from the date of 0 Secretary - Bihar Bandhu CGHS Ltd ndida

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

	//	,		
S. N.		Sale Start Date	Sale End Date	Tender Opening Date and Time
1	Job No 03/ E-TENDER/ SPO/2024-25	05.07.2024	18.07.2024 upto	19.07.2024 11.00 AM
	Name of Work- Stitching of Summer Uniform (Safari Suit and Suit & Salwar) for Contract Staff of Noida Authority, Estimated Rs. 97,38,300.00		5:00 P.M.	
s	ector-39. NOIDA		Store Pu	rchase Officer NOID4

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** 

f 2024; Dated: 01-07-2024. E-tender Floor, in Project Mahagun Puram are invited by the undersigned for the Gayatri, Ghaziabad, U.P but in the ollowing work: SN.1. Brief Description internal movement of file one file of Item: Gradient verification of stations containing the original Sale Deed ards and section using Lidar Survey dated 18.04.2018 Document bearing echnology in Lumding Division under No. 2884, is not traceable, if any body Sr.DEN/C/Lumding. Tender Value: find the same may return to the 2,44,60,432/-; Earnest Money: undersigned, if anybody misuses the ₹2,72,300/-. E-tenders will be closed a 15:00 hrs. on 29-07-2024 and opened same, the same shall be at his/their own risk and cost at 15:00 hrs. on 30-07-2024. The complete information with tender

Karnail Singh, Advocate, K-8, LGF Jungpura Extension New Delhi-14 Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363



01-07-2024. Open E-tenders are invited by

the undersigned for the following work

NOTICE is hereby given that Kusum Sharma claims to be owner and in possession of Flat no. 101,FF "Amrapali

Vaishali", Block A, Plot No 11/2, Sec-3

/aishali Ghaziabad, (UP) (herein afte

called the said property) having inherite

### INSERTION OF IN-SITU GLUED JOINTS AT

DRM/Works, Lumdin

locuments of above e-tender will be

available upto 15.00 hrs. of 29-07-2024

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

in website http://www.ireps.gov.in.

Serving Cu

Name of work: Provision of Video DIFFERENT STATION YARD Surveillance System at 340 (D & E E-Tender No.: RE-NJP-TENDER Category) stations of N.F. Railway under the NGG-WT-296; Dated: 01-07-2024. umbrella work of Provision of Video ender are invited by the undersigned for Surveillance System at 1105 (D & E e following work; Name of work Category) stations of Eastern region nsertion of 896 nos. In-Situ Glued Joint Advertised Value: ₹44,07,95,523.36 nostly 52 Kg) required at different static Earnest Money: ₹23.54.000.00: E-tende ard with all other ancillary works betwe will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on 29-07 ) Furkating Jn.-Barua Bamungao 2024. The complete information with the Mariani Jn., (ii) Tinsukia-Makum Jn tender document of above e-tender wi Dangari & (iii) Makum Jn.- Tirap single be available in website www.ireps.gov.in ne section in Tinsukia Division in Pr. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer nnection with the Railway Electrification ork of N.F. Railway. (Gr.-310) Maligaon **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** Advertised Value: ₹ 3.11.42.128.64 arnest Money: ₹ 3,05,700/-; Date & time f closing of tender at 12:00 hrs. of PUBLIC NOTICE

22-07-2024. For details please visit i bsite www.ireps.gov.in

> NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Construction Organizat

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.) horityonline.in Website : www.noidaai E-TENDER NOTICE

A) (Rs. 30.00 Lacs to 100.00 Lacs)

of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, eritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, ar nereby intimated 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 clien shall proceed with the disbursement of loar and subsequent creation of mortgage i respect thereof. Vishal Diwan (Advocate

For Diwan and Company LLP H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19 Mobile No. 9818399999 Tender No. EL/LM/24-25/09. Name of work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance, Escorting, Operation A, B & C check of 500 KVA DG Sets (Cummins, Greaves, Kirloskar fitted in power cars of different rakes originating from Agartala alongwith its accessories fitted in power cars o primary maintained rakes at Agartala coaching depot for the period of two vears. Tender Value: ₹6.23.75.953.91 Earnest Money: ₹4,61,900/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 11.00 hrs of 23-07-2024 & opening at 11.30 hrs. of 23-07-2024. The complete information with the tender documer of above e-tender will be available upto

11.00 hrs. of 23-07-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in Sr.DEE/G&OP, Lumding

BEFORE THE HON'BLE STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION F.A.No: 296 OF 2024 Against C.C.No: 94 of 2022 (On the file of District Consumer disputes dressal Commission. Kanchepuram District at Chengalpattu) M/s. Zenbi Eventures Pvt.Ltd

Registered Office at : B - 282, GF- Flat, Sector - 7 Harijan Basti Palem Extension New Delhi, West Delhi - 110045 Also office at : M/s..Zenbi Eventures Pvt.Ltd No.282, Ramphal and Chowk Road Chandar Vihar, Block - B, Sector -7, Dwarka, New Delhi 110 Mr. Chandra Mohan Ja Director, M/S Zenbi E No.282, Ramphal an Chandar Vihar, Block Dwarka New Delhi - 11 Mrs.Srilakshmi Janap Director,M/S Zenbi Eve No.282, Ramphal ar Chandar Vihar, Block Dwarka New Delhi - 110 Mr.Ashok, M/S. Zer

Pvt.Ltd No.282, Ramphal and Chandar Vihar, Block Dwarka New Delhi - 11 Sub : The Hon'ble State Cor

Redressal Comm ission, Che Addressal Commission, Chel OF2024 against C.C. No.94 Rajesh Gupta -Appellant –Vs- Mohanraj Ra others - Respondents In the above Appeal prefer

Opposite Party against the No.94 OF 2022 in which passed on 11/10/2023 challe Appellant had preferred the which came up for hearing or which date, the Hon'ble App pleased to Order Notice Publication to you returnable Please take notice in the oned Appeal and ente either in person or through a before 22/07/2024 at 10.30 when the case is taken up f

which the Hon'ble Forum case by setting you Expa For. M/s. SWARAJ ASOCIATES M.P.RAJENDRAN, Advocat **Counsel for Appellar** 

file no. SEAC/HR/2024/089 and EC Identification no. EC24C3802HR5726980N dated: 25 06-2024 has accorded the "Environment Clearance" to Sh. Ram Kishan Rana, Sh.Kuljish Rana, Sh. Partap Singh s/o Sh.Balbir Singh in Callsheer to the Charles of the Share to Partap Singn sio Sh. Baloir Singn in collaboration with Aarize Realtech LLP having Reg. office at 301-309, 3rd Floor, Spaze Boulevard-1, Sohna Road, Sector-47, Gurugram-122001, Haryana, India for proposed Commercial Colony in the revenue estate of Village Bajghera, Sector - 114. District - Gurugram. Sector - 114, District - Gurugram Haryana.

General Public is further informed that copy of said Environment Clearance \_etter is available in the office of Haryana state Pollution Control Board Panchkula and State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Panchkula, Haryana.

Place: Gurugram Dated: 04-07-2024

Sh. Ram Kishan Rana, Sh. Kuliish Sh. Kam Kishan Rana, Sh. Kuijish Rana, Sh. Partap Singh s/o Sh. Balbir Singh in collaboration with Aarize Realtech LLP having Reg. office at 301-309, 3rd Floor, Spaze Boulevard-1, Sohna Road, Sector 47, Gurugram-122001, Haryana, India

Place: New Delhi Date: 04.07.2024

Project Head M/s Forteasia Realty Pvt. Ltd.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020. CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

0075						
Janapareddi Eventures Pvt.Ltd nd Chowk Road	Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date	
: - B, Sector -7, 10075 bareddi entures Pvt.Ltd and Chowk Road : - B, Sector -7, 10075 enbi Eventures and Chowk Road : - B, Sector -7, 10075 onsumer Disputes ennai FA, No.296	1.	Ashok Mallick/ Barnali Das Mallick/ Orchid Apartment Atul Prasad Sarani, Doodh More A.P. Sarani, E.V.N. Pally. District Darjeeling West Bengal Siliguri- 734006/ LBSG100005329764	Flat No. B, Second Floor, Front Side, "Kunja Apartment", Part of R.S. Plot No. 10134/ 14263, R.S. Khatian No. 2955/1, J.L. No. 110 (88), Ward No. 15, Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Police Station Siliguri, Hakimpara, Mouza Siliguri, Pargana Baikunthapur, District Darjeeling, West Bengal Admeasuring An Area of 800 Sq. Ft. More or Less Including Super Built Area Together With One Open Parking Space Measuring About 200 Sq. Ft. Out of Total 381.64 Sq. Ft. of Open Parking Space Situated At Western Side of Ground Floor Together With Undivided Share In The Land	May 13,2024 Rs. 21,74,623/-	25/03/ 2024	
4 OF 2022 – Mr. Ravi Shankar & 6 Intred by the 7 th complaint C.C. the Orders are lenging which the re above Appeal	2.	Ashwini Damai/ Kumar Damai/ Krishna Devi/ Champasari, Near Loyola School District Darjeeling West Bengal Siliguri- 734003/ LBSG10006297451/ TBJP100006244166/ TBJP100006244167	R.S. Plot No. 119, L.R. Plot No. 128/ 129, R.S. Khatian No. 20 and 18/2, L.R. Khatian No. 1029, J.L. No. 43, Police Station Matigara, Champasari Gram Panchayet Area, Mouza Palash, Pargana Patharghata, Sub Division Siliguri, Addl. District Sub Registry Office Siliguri II, Bagdogra, District Darjeeling, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of 3 Kathas or 0.05 Acres	May 13,2024 Rs. 22,86,380/-	07/03/ 2024	
on 24-06-2024 on pellate Forum was b through Paper e by 22/07/2024. e above subject ryour appearance an Advocate on or 0 am or as and	3.	Swastik Mohanty/ Saroj Kumar Mohanty/ Vill Jagannathpur P.o. Keonjhargarh, P.S. Town Dist. Keonjhar Odisha Keonjhar - 758031/ LBBPD00004545969	Khata No. 177, Plot No. 175, Mouza. Baripada Town Unit No. 3 Forest Colony, Pargana. Majhalabhaga, Pargana No. 89, Sro. Baripada, P.S. Baripada, Dist. Mayurbhanj, Odisha (Admeasuring An Area of Ac 0.03 Decimals From North Side, Out of An Admeasuring Area AC 0.135 Decimals	May 20,2024 Rs. 10,70,600/-	09/03/ 2024	
for hearing failing ould proceed with parte.	app	licable) is/are advised to make the	stituted service of Notice. The above bor e outstanding payment within 60 days fi cen as per the provisions of the Securiti	om the date of publish	ning this	

Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provis ions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: July 04, 2024 Place: Delbi/Ncr

Sincerely, Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.



### Chief Engineer-II/Con, Maligao Serving Customers With A Smile

NEW DELHII THURSDAY | JULY 4, 2024

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### -PAPER WITH PASSION-**Innocent lives lost**

Stampede at a satsang in Hathras kills at least 121, highlighting the urgent need for stronger regulations

n a tragic and devastating incident in the Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh, a stampede during a satsang resulted in the deaths of at least 121 people. Although the exact cause of the mishap will be determined after a detailed investigation, eyewitness accounts reveal that the stampede occurred when devotees surged forward to seek blessings from Narayan Sakar Vishwa Hari, also known as Bhole Baba. The devotees rushed to touch Bhole Baba's feet and attempted to gather soil from his path, a customary practice that led to the chaos. Many people fell into a nearby drain. Some eyewitnesses reported that after the satsang concluded, many followers rushed toward Bhole Baba to touch his feet or catch a glimpse of him as he departed in his car. People wanted to get his *darshan* and collect soil from the road on which his car left the venue. As the satsang ended, people started leaving in groups. Due to the rain, many slipped, and others fell on top of them, lead-



ing to a crushing cascade. Others maintain that people started rushing out due to the humidity when the incident occurred, and many followers, most

of whom were women, felt suffocated. The incident exposes many disturbing facts, ranging from the negligence of the administration to the unchecked influence of godmen over innocent people. Bhole Baba is reportedly absconding. First of all, the number of attendees far exceeded the permitted limit. The chief sewadar (organizer) of Baba's program estimated an attendance of around 80,000 people, but the actual number was significantly higher. Indeed, this breach of the permitted

capacity likely exacerbated the situation, leading to overcrowding in a venue that was inadequate. Now, after this horrific incident, the government is in damage control mode. Compensation for the deceased has been announced, and the Chief Minister is expected to visit Hathras. Additionally, a team has been set up to investigate the cause of the incident. However, in all probability nothing will change and that this incident will soon be forgotten like many before. As we mourn the loss of 121 lives and support the injured and their families, it is imperative to learn from this tragedy and implement effective measures to prevent such incidents in the future. We must prioritise safety, preparedness, and responsible management to ensure the safety of the people. Moreover, shouldn't there be a check on the activities of mushrooming godmen who exploit people's faith and endanger their lives? Many such godmen become so powerful that they are able to dictate terms to the administration and have considerable political clout which gives them power. However, the lack of awareness among people and their sense of helplessness contribute to the proliferation of these godmen who thrive on the ignorance and innocence of the people.



# Pandemonium in Parliament



KALYANI SHANKAR

As the Modi Govt navigates a new power dynamic, the increased presence and assertiveness of the Opposition suggest a challenging path ahead

he 18th Lok Sabha has the potential for positive functioning. The Modi government said they wanted consensus. Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought agreement and criticised the Opposition for causing problems. Modi stated that in his third term, his Government would aim to build consensus. The Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, also emphasised the importance of the Opposition's role in representing the 'voice of the people' in the House. But at the start of the session, they couldn't agree on important issues. Congress leader Sonia Gandhi wrote in an editorial recently in an English daily that Prime Minister Narendra Mod was "Preaching consensus, provoking confrontation.'

Sonia Gandhi criticised Prime Minister Modi for not acknowledging the electoral outcome and for promoting confrontation over consensus. She expressed disappointment with the first few days of the 18th Lok Sabha, pointing out that there's no sign of a changed attitude from the Prime Minister. The 18th Lok Sabha is a significant shift in Indian politics, marking the first time in a decade that Modi is leading a Parliament from a less dominant position. This shift in power dynamics requires him to navigate a coalition and contend with a more assertive opposition. The Modi government now relies on crucial support from two key allies - JD(U) and TDP. This means the NDA allies could significantly influence the Government's plans and actions, a departure from the substantial majority the BJP enjoyed in 2019 and 2014. The increased presence of the Opposition in various parliamentary panels is likely to generate greater engagement. The first session of the current Lok Sabha began with a strong Opposition asserting its rights. Before the session started, there was a dispute over the appointment of BJD M.P Bhartruhari Mahtab as the protem Speaker to administer. The Congress and the INDIA 1975 Emergency imposed by

bloc members felt that Congress MP Kodukkunil Suresh, elected eight times, should have been given the position. However, the BJP argued that they followed the rules. Mahtab was elected to the House seven times in succession, while Suresh lost two elections. This appointment is significant as the Speaker plays a crucial role in the Indian parliamentary system as the head of the Lok Sabha, responsible for maintaining order, conducting debates, and ensuring the House's smooth functioning. Secondly, Rahul Gandhi said he would back Om Birla, the NDA candidate, but only if the Deputy Speaker position, usually given to the Opposition, was assured. While Thambi Durai of the AIADMK, a BJP ally at the time, served as the Deputy Speaker from 2014 to 2019, the position remained vacant from 2019 to 2024.

Article 93 states two Lok Sabha members will be selected as the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Om Birla has been re-elected as the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha, bringing continuity and stability to the



SOME OPPOSITION PARTIES THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL SPEECH TO A JOINT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT **IGNORED THE** COUNTRY'S MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS. ALSO, THE **OPPOSITION CALLED** FOR REMOVING THE SENGOL, WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAD INSTALLED WITH MUCH

late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. This surprising move caught many off guard and caused tension with Congress, as the Emergency was declared on the same date in 1975. This led the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, to lead a group to the Speaker to express their objec-tion to a political statement from the chair.

Fourthly, some opposition parties thought the president's inaugural speech to a joint session of Parliament ignored the country's most serious problems. Also, the Opposition called for removing the Sengol, which the Prime Minister had installed with much fanfare before the Election. Fifthly, Rahul and other Opposition MPs proposed discussing the leakage of the NEET question paper first. The Speaker, however, insisted that a discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, a significant issue, should be held first. The first week's confrontation shows despite the decrease in numbers, the BJP is unlikely to change its working methods.

An energised opposition will

ing a discussion on the NEET question paper leak issue. There was also a heated argument between the Chairman and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. The functioning of the House lies with the Speaker, a position of utmost importance in maintaining order and ensuring fair debates.

The Rajya S bha Chairman presides over the Upper House. A functioning House is necessary and a prerequisite for a healthy democracy. The need for constructive cooperation between the Government and the Opposition cannot be overstated.

The House functions effectively in addressing the pressing issues facing the nation. Both sides must recognise the truth and collaborate to make Parliament more organised. After all, the Government is accountable to Parliament. The parliamentary system emphasises collective responsibility, accountability, and flexibility. As former President Pranab Mukherjee said, its functioning is based on Debate,

House. After being congratu lated, the newly elected Speaker took out a paper and read a resolution against the FANFARE BEFORE also be belligerent. The proceedings in Rajya Sabha also THE ELECTION saw disruptions and adjourn-

Dissension, and Decision (The writer is a popular ments as Opposition memcolumnist; views expressed are personal) bers raised slogans demand-

#### ЕТТ

ground realities but also exposed his blatant pandering for political

gain.Gandhi's speech was aimed

more at scoring political points than

offering any genuine insight or under-

His condescending tone towards

Hinduism reeked of arrogance and

ignorance, further alienating him from

the sentiments of millions of Hindus

who hold their faith in high

regard.Instead of engaging in meaning-

ful discourse on issues that truly mat-

Gandhi delivered a sermon that was hol-

low, shallow, and devoid of substance.

His misguided attempt to redefine

Hinduism through a narrow political

lens was a slap in the face to the diver-

sity and richness of our cultural her-

itage.As citizens, we deserve leaders who

respect and uphold our values, not those

who manipulate them for their selfish

ends. It's time for Gandhi and his ilk to

introspect and understand that India

deserves leaders who inspire unity, not

Sandeep Sharma |Bengaluru

standing.

division

ter to the people,

### Modernising Govt IT: Imperative shift to a multicloud future



SRINIVASCHARY T

This will ensure that services are not only delivered effectively but also in a cost-efficient and secure manner as it bolsters cybersecurity

rom cybersecurity threats to unprecedented data management complexity to systems outages, outdated IT hinders the government's ability to provide important services in the safest and most efficient manner possible.

Our technology infrastructure should receive the same attention and investment as our roads, bridges, energy, and broadband infrastructure. Instead, current policies deter government IT leaders' ability to choose the best solutions to meet modern challenges. Public agencies are too often using outdated technology and face too many barriers to effectively modernize their systems. With modern technology and data availability, the government will be able to better track life-threatening

illnesses, while policymakers would be armed with relevant data to chart robust policies for prevention and treatment.

According to a Deloitte research report, BFSI sector is also investing more on cloud to transform systems. cloud by design approach, ment with upgraded multi-



Federal and state agencies better data control, allows have been slowly upgrading access to the best services from each provider, and IT infrastructure over the offers more flexibility as IT past decade by shifting to a public cloud computing leaders can optimize workmodel. This is primarily load placement based on driven by the promise of workload requirements. While government agen-cies - and ultimately taxpayincreased efficiency, lower costs, and improved continuity to enhance the serers--that adopt multicloud vices they offer to the pubapproaches can also have lic. While many governgreater control over cost, ment organizations have which is critical at a time taken advantage of the flex-ibility public cloud computwhen research firm IDC estimates that nearly twoing offers, given privacy, thirds of organizations are compliance and security spending more on cloud concerns, this approach than initially budgeted. does not work in every sit-Policymakers need to make this multicloud modernuation. It is critical that IT leaders have flexibility to ization process a reality by choose the most cost-effecinvesting in the technology modernisation fund allowtive solutions. ing government agencies Government agencies to replace legacy equipshould consider a multi-

where you use cloud sercloud computing solutions that will ensure agencies vices from multiple public and private cloud providers. can provide critical ser-While a single-cloud stratvices quickly and securely. This will require that all egy might seem simpler, it limits service offerings and agencies conduct multicloud computing readiness often commits organizations to a single vendor, assessments through an which often costs more in evaluation of current IT A multicloud approach to

infrastructure, processes, and policies to determine the best path for adoption. The assessment should look at things like are the agency's applications con-sidered cloud-enabled, what is the cost of migration, do cloud computing solutions meet security and compliance requirements, as well as what is the impact on civil service employees.

We cannot fight off cyberattacks and provide the best services possible in the digital age with inadequate and outdated IT infrastructure. Adopting a multicloud approach will help securely manage critical data, cut costs, and allow for our government to use the solutions that are most effective to meet our citizens' needs. (The writer is Lead

Solution Architect, Dell Technologies India; views are personal)

### **CYBERCRIME ON THE RISE**

Madam - Despite warnings, people are losing huge amounts of money to cyber criminals via stock market investments and online purchases. Fraudsters generally target the middleaged and the elderly but youngsters are not spared. People are lured by attractive advertisements on social media platforms like WhatsApp, telegram, Instagram and facebook. When innocent citizens are asked to pump money through websites, they fall in line because the "profit accrued by similar investors" is prominently displayed in the common group. Furthermore, the fraudsters "train" the investors in stock market intricacies.

Unsuspecting investors are unaware that another victim's money is transferred to his/her " account" to show profit. Duped investors sense something is amiss when they are asked to cough up a substantial commission and when their genuine queries go unanswered or are vaguely shrugged off. However, only when the scamster swindles the hard-earned money out of a person does the latter go to the cyber police. Since most states, if not all, have cyber crime helplines, it is vital to report the fraud very quickly because the cheaters are known to waste little time in hoodwinking the law. It is always a good practice to ask SEBI or RBI licence from the opposite party. Fake websites can always be checked. Sharing one-time password(OTP) is never a good idea

Ganpathi Bhat| Akola

#### **RAHUL GANDHI MUST INTROSPECT**

Madam - Rahul Gandhi's recent speech in Parliament was nothing short of a disgraceful spectacle. His attempt to lecture on Hinduism was an insult to the intelligence of the nation. By clumsily parroting platitudes about Hindu philosophy, Gandhi not only displayed his profound disconnect from

### **Tragedy strikes Hathras**



Bhagwan Thadani Mumbai

### **CONCERNS ON NEW CRIMINAL LAWS**

Madam — The editorial on the three new criminal laws(2-7-24) is welcome. In the name of extending justice, the government has hurried through at every stage keeping all democratic norms aside. The Bills were introduced after suspending around 140 opposition members in the parliament and were passed with the least discussion. Such an important Bill should have been placed before the public for widespread discussions and debates and the opposition members who are also elected by the people should have been involved in the process, besides consulting the luminaries in the field.

Nothing is done. How such a law is going to ensure justice? Moreover, it may take quite a long time for all those in the legal field to get themselves familiarised with the new versions. It looks to be a case of smashing a mountain to catch a small rat.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

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### **FIRSTCOLUMN UNDERSTANDING** THE DIVINE HAND

Recognise and reciprocate God's boundless efforts by embracing dharma



### AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

e don't give credit to God, because we take it for granted that Creation will go on. How about a business? We are all aware that it has limited longevity, however long it may run. But Creation, which is God's business runs and runs. Why? Because God keeps it going. Just picture this. There are many nuclear-armed countries; some of whom have crazy leaders. How does God prevent an all-out nuclear war? Simple; God has access to our hearts. He knows what we are thinking. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 13.2) And He knows how to mould it if His Creation is at risk. God is fully alert all the time; there is no chance of a slip-up. And we may be thinking that God is sitting somewhere or even sleeping. If this task undertaken by the Lord was not too much, just imagine being available to all eight billion of us all the time. You pray and God has to respond appropriately, if at all warranted. Why? Because most of the prayers are ridiculous like a student, having not studied all year, who prays for passing.

How does God achieve this task? Lord Krishna explains, "Having limbs on all sides; having eyes, head and mouth on all sides; having ears on all sides, God is situated in this world pervading all. (13.13) God does it in His unmanifest form. (9.4) He doesn't have to be doing it in gross form like we perceive someone to do. God is different from us, very different.If this task is not onerous enough, God ensures that we are justly rewarded and yes, punished also. Justice is always done, and no one is rewarded at the expense of another. Imagine two teams playing and their supporters fervently praying for victory. Who wins? The team with the right karmaphalas of course, i.e. what was destined. We don't know how it was arrived at but be sure that this was the right result.

Yes, God responds to prayers, but only to those who deserve it. And He knows who deserves it; more praying is not sufficient. One must pray and also qualify for a favourable result. If we wish to know what is required to qualify for God's kripa (favour), God has given detailed instructions in bonafide scriptures like the Bhagavad-Geeta. Additionally, God is very keen to guide, us if we pray sincerely for it. Picture our requesting for guidance from a local if lost. What does the local do? He does his best



to help us. God is not different; He helps.God is very much in the picture to safeguard good people from demons, as there is always a tussle going on between divine and demonic forces. God sides with the divine forces without infringing dharma, as was done in the Mahabharata War and during Lord Ramachandra's incarnation; the Lord killed Ravana among many other demons. Not only big killing, God takes care of all big tasks as Karta (doer) for His devotees. How do you think Arjuna was able to kill/maim big warriors? Because God controls all the relevant five factors for success; nobody else has this control; we can control only ourselves. The place of action is determined by circumstances. Similarly, the instruments at our disposal are limited, for example, a doctor is hampered if all the right medicines are not readily available. Our efforts are also limited because we are limited by our health, etc. And the providence is surely not in our control. (18.14) God has no such infirmities. God is always very busy. Not only engaged, but God is very carefully engaged in action. Why? Because men follow His lead, God is the most superior entity. As pointed out earlier, God has taken upon Himself many tasks; I have pointed out only a few. What is the message of this article? That we should become aware of God's enormous contribution to our well-being if we choose to take His shelter and follow His instructions, especially dharma. What does God want in return from us? That we should work actively towards our progress and help and serve others so that they do likewise. God wants us to be useful just as God is. (The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

# Wake-up call against rising plastic pollution

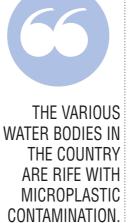


analysis 07

International Plastic Bag Free Day, observed annually on July 3, aims to raise awareness about the escalating crisis of plastic pollution



The International Plastic Bag Free Day is celebrated on Jul 3 every year. The awareness created due to observance of this day helps put focus on the threat of the silently growing footprint of plastic pollution. This is essential given the fact that plastic pollution, especially of Single Use Plastics (SUP) has now permeated all aspects of the environment. Today SUP and plastic microfibre pollution can be found from the highest point to the deep-est part of the earth. The influx of 45,000 trekkers per year to Mt. Everest has unfortunately ensured that microplastic pollution can now be found in snow samples close to the peak of the world's highest mountain. Similarly, relentless marine traffic and indiscriminate disposal of rbage into the oceans has resulted in high microplastic pollution across the seas including in The Mariana Trench, Earth's deepest point in the Pacific Ocean, more than 11 km deep from mean sea level. As humanity achieves this dubious distinction of spreading litter to virtually all corners of the planet, India unfortunate-ly is firmly at the forefront of plastic pollution spree. The figures speak for themselves. According to the Plastic Overshoot Day report by Swiss non-profit EA, Earth Action states that global plastic waste generation has risen by 7.11 per cent since 2021. The world is estimated to have generated 220 million tons of plastic waste this year, 70 million tons of which will end up polluting the environ-ment. India is not far behind. India ranks 3rd globally contributing 5.5 KT of SUP and ranked ninety-fourth with per capita single-use plastic waste of 4 kg per year. The much-publicised SUP ban in India addresses only 11 per cent of the entire gamut of SUP plastic waste. India is among the twelve countries responsible



for 60 per cent of the planet's mis-managed plastic waste. With a population of more than 1.44 billion, India generates 26,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day. This is the equivalent of approximately 26,000 small cars.

Unfortunately, only 8 per cent of this plastic is recycled. The Swiss report also states that India is poised to release 391,879 tonnes of microplastic into water bodies by the end of 2024. Second only to China. With abysmal conditions such as these, Índia's grip on plastic pollution can at best be described as feeble. The efforts to rein in the runaway plastic pollu-

record time. While India continues to construct a circular economy that reduces plastic waste, the focus must now be firmly shifted to handling the plastic pollution problem on large scale basis. As a part of this India must set up large-scale waste sorting facilities that can use artificial intelligencebased algorithms to automatically sift through various types of plastic waste and identify the same.

access plastic-degrading enzymes that can degrade and consume This as compared to traditional recycling methods can speed up plastic waste in record time. This can go a long way in accelerating the process of recycling and therea year's plastic waste recycling fore increase the quantum of plastic recycled at the facility in one activity to a few months.

The process followed is called

"Agglomeration Fixation" which

clumps microplastics together

on the surface of the water after

which they are simply skimmed

off. The process is simple, scalable with no side effects and can be

applied to a variety of water bodies be it freshwater, seawater

or even wastewater.Furthermore,

the science of biochemical

research can be leveraged to

tion have to begin at the grassroots level.

IN THIS REGARD. The International Plastic Bag Free INDIA CAN TAKE A Day focuses on the same by increasing awareness about the LEAF OUT OF THE harmful impact of plastic bag INNOVATIVE usage and pollution. Additionally, stress is also laid on encouraging INITIATIVE TAKEN individuals, businesses, and BY GERMANY. organisations to adopt sustainable alternatives for SUP products. The special day urges govern-ments across the world to step up WASSER 3.0 IN **GERMANY HAS** policy changes and introduce rad-PERFECTED THE ical systemic solutions to reduce plastic use and waste. PROCESS OF NOT The current statistics of plastic

pollution in India demand serious **ONLY REMOVING** and innovative solutions that look MICROPLASTICS beyond the traditional answers such as simple unsorted recycling BUT ALSO MICROof plastic, landfilling or co-pro-POLLUTANTS cessing.

The need of the hour is ultra-inno-FROM WATER vative remedies that deliver scalable and sustainable results in

snift. This in turn can ensure that the facility can sort and recycle an entire district's monthly plastic waste within a week. An example in this regard is Sweden's plastic waste sorting facility called Site Zero which can handle up to 200,000 tonnes of plastic packaging every year, more than any other facility in the world, and enough to deal with the whole country's household plastic packaging waste.Similarly, microplastic pollution in water is a major concern.

The various water bodies in the country and the seas are rife with microplastic contamination. In this regard, India can take a leaf out of the innovative initiative taken by Germany. Wasser 3.0 in Germany has perfected the process of not only removing microplastics but also micro-pollutants from water-that too without any filters.

With the aid of science, and arti ficial intelligence (AI) software the possibilities of innovative plastic pollution combat options are endless. AI aided by satellite support for instance can help India clean up its seas on a large-scale manner, special software-driven clean-up technologies can dredge up decades of plastic and other pollutants thereby providing a chance of survival for the delicate marine life.Plastic is in our everyday life and diet as well.

A World Wildlife Fund study has revealed that an average human being ingests 5 gm of plastic every week. It is time to cut the growing footprint of this harmful substance to size in the interests of mankind and the environment. So next time we reach for that plastic bag, let us not.

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

### Unveiling the leadership legacy of Narendra Modi: A definitive exploration

A new book, 'Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi,' offers a profound examination of Modi's leadership journey

ast ten years have been dominated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the helm of affairs. An outsider as he would call him has made deep inroads into the Indian politics as also into the hearts and minds of the millions of Indians who adore him for his unwavering determination and fulfil his promise of making India a developed nation. His leadership is indeed exemplary and has provided the country with a sense of purpose and confidence.

A new book delving into the leadership qualities of Narendra Modi is a treat. Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi, authored by the distinguished development scholar Dr R Balasubramaniam, offers an



MADHU SEN

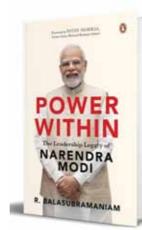
#### in-depth exploration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership journey, meticulously capturing his contributions to India's socio-economic landscape. Launched amidst notable dignitaries such as former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh, and Prof. B Mahadevan from IIM Bengaluru, the book is a testament to PM Modi's significant impact on the nation's

development, particularly in the realm of digital public

infrastructure. Balasubramaniam, Dr. renowned for his pioneering work with rural and tribal communities, brings a unique perspective to the narrative. He contrasts Western trait-oriented leadership approaches

with Indian practice-oriented philosophies, offering readers a comprehensive understanding of leadership dynamics. This blend of perspectives provides a nuanced view of Modi's fifty years in public life, from his formative years to his tenure as Prime Minister, underscoring the enduring qualities that have defined his leadership. The book is particularly com-

pelling in its discussion of PM Modi's role in the digital trans-



formation of India. As highlighted by Amitabh Kant during the launch, under Modi's leadership, India has achieved an astounding 130 billion fast

payment transactions annually. This achievement, stemming from initiatives such as the 100 Digital Melas in 2017, reflects Modi's relentless and meticulous approach to enhancing digital public infrastructure. Kant's insights, drawn from his tenure as NITI Aayog CEO, provide a vivid illustration of Modi's forwardthinking vision and commitment to digital inclusion. Dr. Balasubramaniam captures these achievements through a series of poignant anecdotes and testimonies from Modi's colleagues, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The narrative paints a vivid picture of a leader dedicated to self-discovery and service, striving to uplift the nation through inno-

author's detailed exploration of Modi's leadership style, juxtaposing it with both Western and Indic leadership frameworks, offers valuable lessons for aspiring leaders and public servants.

His work encapsulates wisdom on leadership and its true essence. He suggests that, "exercising leadership is a way of giving meaning to our lives by contributing to the lives of others. And such an opportunity to express leadership crosses our paths every day. What is required is the sensitivity to recognize purpose when it emerges and the courage to act on it as a labour of love.

Notable figures such as Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra Group, and Falguni vation and hard work. The Nayar, Founder and CEO of tributing to others, is a pow-

Nykaa, have praised the book for its thought-provoking insights and its ability to shift The book is a must-read for perceptions on leadership. Mahindra hails it as a work that will "undoubtedly change perspectives and perceptions on powerful leadership," while Nayar emphasizes its relevance in understanding the dynamics that have propelled

India to new heights. Power Within is more than a biography; it is a guide to understanding the essence of leadership. Dr. Balu's reflections on the nature of leadership, emphasizing the importance of sensitivity to purpose and the courage to act, resonate deeply.

His portrayal of leadership as a labor of love, a way of giving (The writer is a senior jourmeaning to our lives by connalist and an arts critics; *views are personal)* 

erful message that underlines the entire narrative.

anyone interested in leadership, public service, and the transformative journey of one of India's most influential leaders. Dr. Balasubramaniam's nuanced portrayal of Narendra Modi's legacy provides not just a look at the man behind the political figure, but also a roadmap for those aspiring to lead with purpose and integrity. Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi promises to be an essential addition to the library of anyone seeking to understand the dynamics of impactful leadership.



## **'Israel has made largest West Bank land seizure in 3 decades'**

### AP .IFRUSALEM

An anti-settlement watch-dog says Israel has approved the largest seizure of land in the occupied West Bank in over three decades. The Israeli group Peace Now said Wednesday that authorities recently approved the appropriation of 12.7 sq km (nearly 5 sq miles) of land in the Jordan Valley. The group's data indicate it was the largest single appropriation approved since the 1993 Oslo accords at the start of the peace process. The land appropriation was likely to worsen already soaring tensions linked to the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Violence has surged in the West Bank since the start of the war, with Israel carrying out near-daily military raids that often spark deadly gunbattles with Palestinian militants. The land seizure, which was approved late last month but only publicised on Wednesday, comes after the seizure of 8 sq km (roughly 3 square miles) of land in the West Bank in March and 2.6 sq km (1 square mile) in February. That makes 2024 by far the peak year for Israeli land seizure in the West Bank, Peace Now said. The parcels are contiguous and located northeast of the West Bank city of Ramallah, where

Western-backed

### Strike kills family as Israeli evacuation order sparks panicked flight from Gaza

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip) city — has triggered the third (AP) An Israeli airstrike killed mass flight of Palestinians in as a prominent Palestinian doctor many months, throwing the population deeper into confuand eight members of his extended family after they sion, chaos and misery as they complied with military orders scramble once again to find to evacuate their home and safety About 250,000 people live in the area covered by the order, according to the United Nations. Many of them had just moved into an Israeli-designated safe zone.

The Hamdan family around a dozen people from three generations — fled their returned to their homes there home in the middle of the night after fleeing Israel's invasion of after the Israeli military ordered Khan Younis earlier this year or had just taken refuge there an evacuation from the southafter escaping Israel's offensive in the city of Rafah, further ern Gaza city of Khan Younis. They found refuge with extended relatives in a building further south. The order also prompted a frantic flight from European north, inside an Israeli-declared safe zone. But hours after they arrived, an Israeli airstrike on General Hospital, Gaza's sec-Tuesday afternoon hit their ond-largest hospital, located in the evacuation area. The facilbuilding in the town of Deir al-Balah, killing nine members of the family and three others. ity shut down after staffers and more than 200 patients were In all, five children and three evacuated overnight and on Tuesday, along with thousands of displaced who had sheltered women were among the dead, according to hospital records on the hospital grounds, according to the staff and the and a relative who survived.Israel's order on International Committee of Monday for people to leave the eastern half of Khan Younis the Red Cross, which had a the territory's second-largest medical team there.

Palestinian Authority is head quartered. By declaring them state lands, the Israeli government has opened them up to being leased to Israelis and prohibited private Palestinian ownership.

The Palestinians view the expansion of settlements in the occupied West Bank as the main barrier to any lasting peace agreement and most of the international community considers them illegal or illegitimate.

Israel's current government considers the West Bank to be the historical and religious heartland of the Jewish people and is opposed to Palestinian statehood. Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for a future state. Israel has built well over 100 settlements across the West Bank, some of which resemble fully developed suburbs or small towns. They are home to over 500,000 Jewish settlers who have Israeli citizenship. The 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank live under seemingly openended Israeli military rule. The Palestinian Authority administers parts of the Israelioccupied West Bank but is barred from operating in 60% of the territory, where the settlements are located.

### Stop Labour's 'supermajority': UK PM's message as election campaign winds up

Sunak is trying to drive home on Wednesday, the final day of campaigning ahead of polling day on Thursday, as most of the incumbent Conservatives seem to have all but conceded defeat in the general election. 'This is what unites us. We need to stop the Labour supermajority that will put up your

taxes. The only way to do that is to vote Conservative tomorrow," said 44-year-old Sunak on social media, as he focused on drumming up support in the last few hours of the campaign trail. With his party trailing far behind the Keir Starmer-led Labour Party, the British

Indian leader and his team's strategy seems to be to canvas their traditional voters to ensure a strong enough turnout in the polls on Thursday and narrow the gap of their widely expected defeat after Tory victories in the last three elections.

"I totally accept where the polls are at the moment means that tomorrow is likely to see the largest Labour landslide majority - the largest majority that this country has ever seen. Much bigger ṫhan 1997," Sunak's Work and Pensions Secretary Mel Stride told the BBC.



polls are at the moment... that we are therefore tomorrow highly likely to be in a situation where [Labour has] the largest majority that any party has ever achieved," he said, effectively conceding his party's defeat. It is being seen as a fear tactic to jolt Tory voters into action, with the hope of keep ing the Labour majority under that won by former prime minister Tony Blair led Labour Party in 1997 of 179 seats.

Thursday's vote is now all come and help, of course I couldn't say no. We're all here about forming a strong enough Opposition. One needs to read the writing on the wall: it's over, Johnson told a cheering Tory crowd. and we need to prepare for the reality and frustration of the Opposition," Suella Braverman, this election except to usher in

the most left-wing Labour government since the war with a huge majority, and we must not let it happen," he warned. The Labour Party, meanwhile, is keen to override this message of victory as a foregone conclu-sion a day before the polls to fight against any complacency within the ranks and among its own voter base.

world 08

"People are saying the polls predict the future – they don't predict the future, every single vote counts, every single vote has to be earned... It isn't 'job done," said Starmer.

Polling experts have forecast a low turnout, which stood at 67 per cent in the last general election in December 2019 when Johnson won a solid majority on his "get Brexit done" message. On Thursday, polling booths will open across the country at 7am local time and close at 10pm local time as voters elect their MPs for the UK Parliament's 650 constituencies - with 326 required for a majority and to avert a hung Parliament.

All eyes will then be on the election night exit poll at 10pm, which gives a fair snapshot of what can be expected nationally as the counting commences and centres up and down the UK. If opinion polls are to be believed, the incumbent Tories are in line to win anywhere between 53 and 150 seats, with Labour projected to win a landslide.

# Deuba asks PM Prachanda to quit to allow formation of new govt

#### PTI KATHMANDU

Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba Wednesday asked Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to step down and pave the way for the formation of a new government after the Himalayan nation's two largest political parties struck a powersharing deal to oust the former

guerrilla leader. "The Prime Minister should resign after the largest parties NC and UML said that they would form a new govern-ment together," Deuba told reporters after a crucial meeting of the party at his residence at Budhanilkantha on the outskirts of Kathmandu.

Deuba, 78, and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman K P Sharma Oli, 72, - both former premiers - inked a power-sharing deal Monday night to form a new government. They

agreed to share the Prime Ministerial position on a rotation basis for the rest of the

term of the Parliament. Nepali Congress, the largest party in the 275-member House of Representatives, has 89 seats at present, while CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is sufficient for a majority of 138 seats in the lower house. Prachanda's party has 32 seats.

The Nepali Congress Central Work Performance Committee (CWC) met at residence Deuba's at Budhanilkantha to discuss the current political situation and the party's future strategy. "The meeting reviewed the

latest political situation in the country and discussed the future course of action," said former foreign minister Narayan Prakash Saud. The meeting also endorsed the agreement reached between Deuba and Oli to form a new

PTI WASHINGTON

Prime Minister on a rotation basis. The meeting mainly dis-

cussed the agenda and modality of formation of the new coalition government, said Saud, who is also a Nepali Congress central committee member.

The seven-point deal finalised between Deuba and Oli on Monday night includes the sharing of the remaining three-year term of Parliament between the two parties, the ministerial division, provincial leadership roles and a rotation for the prime ministerial position. Oli will assume the post of Prime Minister in the first phase and after one-anda-half-year, the Nepali Congress will get the leadership

of the government. Speaking to journalists after the meeting, party spokesperson Dr Prakash Sharan Mahat said, "The prime minister should pave the way coalition and share the post of after the largest parties –

Nepali Congress and UML said they would form a new government together. This is also included in the decision."

"Other parties, too, are supporting the new Nepali Congress-UML alliance. So, the Nepali Congress CWC has requested the prime minister to pave the way," he added.

Mahat said a new govern-ment will be formed through the constitutional process if the prime minister does not pave the way for the formation of a new government.

A senior leader of CPN-UML indicated that all the ministers of the CPN-UML will resign en masse to put pressure on Prachanda to step down.

"Our ministers are ready to quit the post en masse but we are waiting for the Prime Minister to resign by Wednesday evening," said Bishnu Rijal, central committee member of UML. The UML has already urged the Prime

Minister to resign from the post paving the way for the new government formation.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson of Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal Manish Suman said that his party will support the new coalition but has not yet decided on joining the government. JSP Nepal has five mem-

bers in the Parliament. Rastriya Prajatantra Party with 14 members in the House of Representatives and Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party with four seats have also indicated support for the new coalition.

However, embattled Prime Minister Prachanda has refused to resign from the post and said he would rather face a vote of confidence in Parliament.

According to the constitutional provision, the prime minister losing a majority sup-port in the House will be required to prove a majority within 30 days. The prime minister must seek a vote of confidence once a ruling alliance withdraws support. This will be the fifth time Prachanda, 69, will seek a vote of confidence within a term of one and a half years.

The former guerilla leader has won three votes of confi dence in Parliament.

The CPN-UML has already urged Prime Minister Prachanda to step down from the position so that a new government can be formed as per the constitutional provision.

It also asked all the political parties to join the "nation al government" under the leadership of Oli to bolster political stability in the country.

But delaying its earlier decision, the party has decided to not recall ministers from the Prachanda-led Cabinet immediately.

"We don't want more animosity [against the CPN-Maoist Centre] and so we did not recall our ministers today.

UK election set to deliver more diverse Parl, high number of British Indian MPs

### PTI LONDON

The UK general election on Thursday is expected to deliver the most diverse Parliament in the country's history, including in the number of parliamentarians of Indian heritage likely to be elected from across the nation. According to an analysis by the British Future think tank, the Labour Party is set to have by far the largest number of eth-nic minority MPs if the party wins an overall majority and even more in a landslide scenario. With around 14 per cent of MPs coming from an ethnic minority background this time, the analysis finds that the new Parliament will be closer than ever to reflecting

Jaginder Singh. Some of the key British Indian candidates to watch in Thursday's polls include Praful Nargund, who is contesting for the Labour Party in Islington North - the seat of the party's now-suspended former leader Jeremy Corbyn, who is contesting as an Independent candidate.

Jas Athwal is contesting in another Labour stronghold of Iford South, while Baggy Shanker in Derby South, Satvir Kaur in Southampton Test, and Harpreet Uppal in Huddersfield are contesting more marginal seats for the party.

Rajesh Agrawal, the Indoreborn former Deputy Mayor of London for Business, is fightng to her ome a first

from Leicester East and is up

against a fellow British Indian

Conservative candidate.

Shivani Raia. This constituen-

cy, representing a large Indian

heritage electorate, will be

keenly watched as its former

long-term Goan-origin MP,

Keith Vaz, is also in the race as

British Sikhs, including solic-

itor Warinder Juss from

an Independent candidate.

### sacked as home secretary by Rishi Sunak, told 'The Telegraph'. Meanwhile, former prime minister Boris Johnson - not exactly a close ally of Sunak ever since the partygate scandal of COVID pandemic law-breaking parties - was also rolled out by the party at a campaign

event in London to warn

against a "sledgehammer

majority" being handed to the

Keir Starmer led Labour Party.

When Rishi asked me to

because we love our country,"

"They can achieve nothing in

### Trump Campaign outraises Biden by over \$67 mn in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Egypt swears in

### new Cabinet

Cairo (AP): Egypt's new Cabinet was sworn in Wednesday as the country faces an ailing economy and raging conflicts in neighbou ing nations. Prime Minister Mustafa

Madbouly — who was first appointed in 2018 - has been again tapped to form the new Cabinet which includes several technocrats

Some ministers, including those in charge of police and tourism, remain in place, but others, particularly defence, foreign affairs and economyrelated portfolios, represent major challenges. The ministers have taken the oath before President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi in Cairo. Among the changes were the finance, electricity, justice, petroleum, education and investment portfolios. The new government comes three months after el-Sissi was sworn in for his third term

 $R^{epublican\ presumptive}_{nominee\ and\ former\ pres-}$ ident Donald Trump has out-raised incumbent President Joe Biden by over USD 67 million in the second quarter of this year by raising USD 331 million. Trump, 78, the pre-sumptive Republican Party candidate, is pitched against 81vear-old incumbent President Ioe Biden from the Democratic Party for the November 5 presidential elections. The Trump

Campaign raised USD 331 million against the USD 264 million raised by the Biden-Harris Campaign during the second quarter of this year, according to the figures released by the two campaigns. However, the Biden-Harris Campaign outraised Trump in June, raising a record USD 127 million. Of this, USD 38 million was raised in the four days following the first presidential



The Biden-Harris Campaign has USD 240 million in cash on hand - up from USD 212 million last month. Team Trump's cash on hand at the end of June is USD 284.9 million. 'President Trump's campaign

fundraising operation is thriving day after day and month after month. Winning this quarter brought us a cash-ondebate in Atlanta on June 27. hand advantage, which is punc-

grows while yielding no tangible results for them," said Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles from the Trump Campaign. "Despite Biden spending nearly USD 120 million on TV, cable and radio alone, polling and voter enthusiasm continue to grow for President Trump. This fundraising momentum is likely to grow even more as we head into a world-class convention and see the Democrats continue their circular firing squad in the aftermath of Biden's debate collapse," they said. "June's USD 127 million haul

tuated by a Biden burn rate that

was not just Team Biden-Harris' best month overall, it was the strongest grassroots month to date. Nearly twothirds of June's raise came from grassroots donors, and of the USD 38 million raised following the debate, more than USD 30 million came from grass-roots donations," said the Biden-Harris Campaign.

This second quarter haul is USD 75 million more than Team Biden-Harris' raise in the first quarter of 2024.

Since launch, more than 2.5 million Americans have contributed to Team Biden-Harris more than 1.1 million of them are brand new donors, it said. Team Biden-Harris also now has 1.3 times more recurring donations than at this point in the 2020 cycle, and 95 per cent of all donations are less than USD 200 – another proof point of strong, sustained grassroots support, it said. "Our Q2 fundraising haul is a testament to the committed and growing base of supporters standing firmly behind the President and Vice President and clear evidence that our voters understand the choice in this election between President Biden fighting for the American people and Donald Trump fighting for himself as a convicted felon," said Biden-Harris 2024 Campaign

Manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez. "President Biden is building a positive future for our country - where every American has a fair shot, our rights are protected, and our president fights to strengthen our democracy – not tear it apart," she said.

And on the other side, every single day, Trump becomes more unhinged and dangerous, whether he's bragging about his role in overturning Roe or proudly and openly refusing to commit to accepting the results of this November's election," she added.

National Democratic Committee Chair Jaime Harrison said in June, Democrats had their best fundraising month to date. These dollars will go to opening offices, hiring staff, and

spreading Democrats' message of hope — all of which will power Joe Biden and Kamala Harris back to the White House," he said.

**Beryl heads toward Jamaica** 

electorate.

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e Briti

'This election will see the biggest rise in ethnic minority representation and the most diverse Parliament ever," said Sunder Katwala, Director of British Future."In the space of 40 years, we'll have gone from zero to one in seven MPs being from an ethnic minority background. Britain is closing the gap between the diversity of Parliament and the electorate much faster than anyone thought possible," he said.

The last general election in 2019 resulted in 15 MPs of Indian heritage crossing over the line, many of whom are contesting again alongside several first-timers. Conservative Party MP Alok Sharma and Labour veteran Virendra Sharma are among the most high-profile British Indians not seeking re-election this time, from Reading West and Ealing Southall, respectively. The latter constituency, with a large Punjabi electorate, has two British Sikh candidates contesting as Independents -Sangeet Kaur Bhail and

Wolverhampton West in cen-tral England and Gurinder Singh Josan from Smethwick, will be hoping to make gains for Labour, as will Bihar-born Kanishka Narayan contesting in Vale of Glamorgan - hoping to be elected as the first Indian origin MP from Wales, and Sonia Kumar hoping to overturn a Tory majority in Dudley. For the Conservative Party, Chandra Kanneganti in Stokeon-Trent Central and Ameet Jogia in Hendon are facing a tough fight in a race consistently forecast in favour of the

Opposition Labour Party. "A diverse parliament brings different perspectives to its work, which can lead to more effective policy-making.

### Indian mission in NY launches initiative to help students find internship opportunities

New York (PTI): In a new initiative to support Indian students here, the Consulate General of India in New York has developed a special platform for them to find internship opportunities at companies in the US as well as provide access to attorney and medical information.

The Consulate General of India in New York serves the north-eastern US states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. As part of the initiative to support Indian students in its jurisdiction, @IndiainNew York has developed a platform for Indian Students to find internship opportunities at companies in the USA," the Indian Consulate said in a post on X on Tuesday. The new facility for students is part of

the Consulate's effort to support Indian students in its jurisdiction. "Several Indian and American companies and organisations have agreed to consider deserving Indian students for internship opportunities," the Consulate said, adding that students are advised to apply directly to the companies as per the details provided in the portal.

The portal lists student internship opportunities in companies across several sectors such as finance, IT, investment banking, automotive, software, science and technology, healthcare, hotels, multinational corporations and technology, government agencies, aviation, artificial intelligence, pharma and Tata Sons. The Consulate is also offering attorney and doctor information to support and help the students.

Committed to serving the Indian diaspo-ra, the Consulate said it has reached out to some renowned attorneys within its jurisdiction who have agreed to "assist distressed Indians residing in the Northeast United States of America"

'Members of the community may reach out to the Attorneys directly with the Consulate General's reference. It may please be noted that this initiative is aimed at assisting the Indian community and that the Consulate does not hold any responsibility for the outcome of the case," it said Further, the Consulate has also reached out to some renowned doctors in its jurisdiction, who have agreed to assist Indian students enrolled in the 10 states under its jurisdiction with "psychiatry counselling and other consultations (including via telemed if needed)".

#### Beryl roared through open waters Tuesday as a powerful Category 4 storm heading toward Jamaica after earlier crossing islands in the southeast Caribbean, killing at least six people. A hurricane warning was in effect for Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac. Beryl was losing intensity but was forecast to still be near major-hurricane strength when it passes near or over Jamaica early Wednesday, near the Cayman Islands on Thursday and into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Friday, according to the National Hurricane Centre. A hurricane watch was in effect for Haiti's southern coast and the

St Georges (AP): Hurricane

issued a tropical storm watch stretching south from its border with Mexico to Belize City. Late Monday, Beryl became the earliest storm to develop into a Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic and peaked at winds of 165 mph (270 kph) Tuesday before weakening to a still-destructive Category 4. On Tuesday night, the storm was about 300 miles (480 kilometres) east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica. It had top winds of 150 mph (240 kph) and was moving west-north-west at 22 mph (35 kph), the centre said.

Beryl was expected to bring lifethreatening winds and storm surge to Jamaica, where officials warned residents in flood-Yucatan's east coast. Belize prone areas to prepare for evac-

uation. "I am encouraging all Jamaicans to take the hurricane as a serious threat," Prime Minister Andrew Holness said in a public address Tuesday. "It is, however, not a time to panic. In Miami, National Hurricane Centre Director Michael Brennan said Jamaica appears to be in the direct path of Beryl. "We are most concerned about Jamaica, where we are expecting the core of a major hurricane to pass near or over the island," he said in an online briefing. "You want to be in a safe place where you can ride out the storm by nightfall (Tuesday). Be prepared to stay in that location through Wednesday." Storm surge of 6-9 feet (1.8 to 2.7 metres) above

typical tide levels are likely in

Jamaica, as well as heavy rain-fall. "This is a big hazard in the Caribbean, especially with the mountainous islands," Brennan said. "This could cause life threatening flash floods and mudslides in some of these areas." A tropical storm warning was in place for the entire southern coast of Hispaniola, an island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

As the storm barrelled through the Caribbean Sea, rescue crews in southeastern islands fanned out to determine the extent of the damage Beryl inflicted on Carriacou, an island in Grenada. Three people were reported killed in Grenada and Carriacou and another in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, officials said.



### **'Current Pak govt brought disrepute to country'** Iddat case of Imran & Bushra: Court

### PTI ISLAMABAD

 $B_{
m of\, former\, prime\, minister}^{
m ushra\, Bibi,\, the\, jailed\, wife}$ Imran Khan, has claimed that Pakistan is now ruled by "fraudsters and thieves" and that the government is responsible for bringing disrepute to the country and its military. Bushra Biwi, the 49-year-old wife of the 71-yearold founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, has been imprisoned at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi since February. Khan has been imprisoned since last year. The Express Tribune newspaper report-ed: "Bushra Bibi, the jailed wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s imprisoned founding leader Imran Khan has said that the government is responsible for bringing disrepute to the country and its military.

"In the afterlife, there are two places: Alim Barzakh, where there are muttaqis (righteous people) and abstainers, while the other is the prison where souls come

to Earth, where there is a place where there is a government of devils," Bushra Bibi, said to be a faith healer, said while speaking informally

with journalists at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. "She went on to say that the country is ruled by fraudsters and thieves, and labelled every individual within the government as the devil," the newspaper reported. Khan has accused the current

federal government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as illegitimate and accused the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) party of stealing its mandate in the February 8 general elections when candidates backed by PTI won the maximum number of seats. However, in a post-election deal, the PML-N and the

Pakistan Peoples Party led by former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, formed the government, sidelining Khan's PTI. Bushra, who was sentenced to 14 years in prison on January 31 along with Khan in the

Toshakhana (a gift repository) case, was first confined to their Bani Gala residence, declared a sub-jail. The couple was later acquit-

ted in the case. However, both of them were later convicted in what is popular as the Iddat case in February, days before the general elections on February 8. A Pakistani anti-corruption court on Tuesday granted pre-arrest bail to her in a case

of alleged corruption. Khan and Bibi, along with other accused, face charges of causing a loss of about Rs 50 billion to the national exchequer in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case, which involves allegedly providing benefits to a property tycoon in return for getting land for

a university.Judge Muhammad Ali Warraich presided over the hearing at Adiala Jail and approved her pre-arrest bail plea. However, despite the grant of bail, Bushra will remain behind bars due to a convic-

tion in the illegal marriage case

to announce verdict on July 12 PTI ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani court on Wednesday said it will announce on July 12 the verdict on the appeals of Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi against their conviction in the illegal marriage case, the only case keeping the embattled former prime minister behind bars.On February 3 - days before the general elections on February - an Islamabad court convicted the couple based on a complaint filed by Bushra Bibi's exhusband, Khawar Fareed Maneka, who alleged that they contracted marriage during the former first lady's Iddat period.

În Islam, a woman can't remarry before completing four months after divorce or the death of her husband.

In his plea, Maneka urged the court to declare the marriage



null and void. After hearing the On June 27, the same court arguments, District and Sessions Court Judge rejected the appeals of Khan and Bushra Bibi to suspend Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka their sentences in the case. After the hearing, Pakistan adjourned the case until July 8 with remarks that the defence Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Gohar lawyer should complete their Khan said that the Iddat case arguments.

Judge Majoka also declared to politically victimise Khan that the court must deliver its decision by July 12. and put pressure on him. "A personal nature case was

woman in this case," he said. Khan and Bibi married in 2018, the year Khan went on to win elections and become prime minister. Bibi was ostensibly his spiritu-al guide but the two developed affection for each other during their meetings. She got divorce from her husband of 28 years

with whom she had five children. She is the third wife of Khan, a former cricketing hero, who during his heydays of sporting career had a playboy reputa-tion.Khan, 71, has been behind bars since August last year after he was sentenced in the was a first of its kind designed Toshakhana corruption case and subsequently sentenced in other cases ahead of the February 8 elections.

Pakistan court acquits ex-PM Imran Khan in protest case

disqualification by the election

world 09

Islamabad: A Pakistani court on Wednesday acquitted forcreated to bring Khan Sahib mer prime minister Imran into compromising situations, but he has remained strong Khan and several senior party colleagues in a case registered against them for protesting against the jailed premier's despite the involvement of a

> commission in the Toshakhana corruption case. Other leaders who have been exonerated in the case by the district and sessions court here are Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Sheikh Rasheed, Asad Qaiser, Shehryar Afridi, Faisal Javed, Raja Khurram Nawaz and Ali Nawaz Awan. Judicial Magistrate Yasir Mehmood pronounced the verdict, which was reserved last week on the petitions seeking acquittal, during the hearing on Wednesday, the Geo News reported. The case was registered against the 71year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Khan and other politicians at Aabpara Police Station for protesting against the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Toshakhana corrup-tion verdict in 2022, which disqualified him from holding office for a limited time. The office for a limited time. The Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries.

The Toshakhana issue over the sale of state gifts received by the former cricketer-turnedpolitician became a major issue in national politics after the ECP disqualified Khan for making "false statements and incorrect declaration' Khan had earlier contended that recent amendments to the Elections Act 2017 limit the ECP's jurisdiction in deciding the qualification or disqualification of a member based on a court conviction. He had accused the ECP of acting with unlawful zeal and haste to exclude him from the February 8 general elections rather than ensuring fair and free elections.

On August 5 last year, Khan was sentenced to three years in imprisonment and fined Rs 100,000 in the Toshakhana corruption case, a conviction later suspended by the Islamabad High Court. *PTI* 

### 'China told coast guard to not interfere in detention of Taiwanese boat crew'

### AP TAIPE

Taiwan said Wednesday that China warned Taiwan's coast guard against interfering in the detention of a Taiwanese fishing boat, in what is seen as Beijing's latest attempt to encroach on

Taiwanese territory. The incident comes amid heightened political tensions following the election of President William Lai Chingte, whose party rejects unification with the mainland, and an apparent threat by Beijing to execute supporters of Taiwanese independence.

Taiwan's coast guard repeated its call for the release of the boat and its crew members who were taken from waters off the Taiwanese-controlled island of Kinmen just off the Chinese coast on Tuesday night. That call is complicated by China's refusal to communicate with Taiwan's government.

A spokesperson for Taiwan's coast guard, Hsieh Chingchin, said the boat was not in Chinese waters when it was boarded by Chinese agents

and steered to a port in the Chinese province of Fujian.

'First, we call on the (Chinese side) to provide an explanation, and second to release the boat and its crew," Hsieh said. The Dajinman 88 was intercepted by two Chinese vessels, and Taiwan dispatched three vessels to help but the one that got close to the fishing boat was blocked by three Chinese boats and told not to interfere, the coast guard's initial statement said. Hsieh said four other Chinese boats joined in the operation, a sign of the massive expansion in recent years of China's navy, coast guard and maritime militia. The pursuit was called off to avoid escalating the conflict, Hsieh said. The boat had a captain and five other crew members, according to Taiwan's official

Central News Agency. The crew are Taiwanese and Indonesian. The vessel was just over 20 km (12 miles) from Jinjiang in mainland China when it was boarded, Taiwanese authorities said. China claims self-governing Taiwan as its territory and says

the island must come under its control. Fishermen from both Taiwan

and China regularly sail the stretch of water near Kinmen, and tensions have risen as the number of Chinese vessels has increased.

In February, two Chinese fishermen drowned while being chased by Taiwan's coast guard off the coast of Kinmen, prompting Beijing to step up patrols

China has been increasing military action around Taiwan, as well as the island groups of Kinmen and Matsu, which lie within sight of the Chinese coast. More worrying is China's daily dispatch of warplanes and navy ships around the island and military exercises, seen as rehearsals for a potential blockade or invasion. Taiwan's Defence Ministry said 20 Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force planes crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait between Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Last month, China passed new injunctions threatening to hunt down and potentially

execute "die-hard Taiwan

independance separatists". In response, Taiwan warned its citizens to avoid visiting the mainland and the semiautonomous Chinese cities of Hong Kong and Macao. On Tuesday, a spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office said the threat would affect only a hard-core minority of Taiwanese, and accused the ruling Democratic Progressive Party of "willfully misinterpreting" the action in an attempt to spread fear. Taiwanese citizens over-

whelmingly favour the island's current status as de-facto independent, even while it faces military threats and diplomatic isolation imposed by Beijing. A former Japanese colony, Taiwan rejoined China after World War II, but split away in 1949 as the Nationalists under Chinag Kai-shek were swept from the mainland by Ma Zedong's Communists. No peace treaty has ever been signed, even as ties including direct flights between the sides have burgeoned

### Taliban and US envoys discuss release of American prisoners

### AP ISLAMABAD

The Taliban's delegation to the third United Nations-led Doha meeting on increasing engagement with Afghanistan met with US envoys on the sidelines and discussed the two Americans imprisoned in the central Asian country. Zabihullah Mujahid told reporters in Kabul Wednesday that the meeting aimed at "finding a solution". He said: "During our meetings, we talked about the two American citizens who are in prison in Afghanistan," adding, "but they must accept Afghanistan's conditions. We also have prisoners in America, prisoners in Guantanamo. We should free our prisoners in exchange for them.

Special Representative Tom West and Special Envoy Rina Amiri met directly with the Taliban, according to State Department spokesman Vedant Patel. West pressed for "the immediate and unconditional release of US citizens unjustly detained in Afghanistan," Patel said on Tuesday. When prodded if there was any headway on the matter, Patel said the issue "was

just raised." One of the two Americans believed to be held by the Taliban for nearly two years is Ryan Corbett who was abducted Aug 10, 2022, after returning to Afghanistan, where he and his family had been living at the time of the collapse of the US-backed government

there a year earlier. He arrived on a valid 12-month visa to pay and train staff as part of a business venture he led aimed at promoting Afghanistan's private sector through consulting services and lending.

Corbett has since been shuttled between multiple prisons, though his lawyers say he has not been seen since last December by anyone other than the people with whom he was detained. It was the first time that representatives of the Afghan Taliban administration attended the UN-sponsored meeting in the Qatari capital on Sunday and Monday that focused on increasing engage-ment with Afghanistan. However, a UN official said Monday the gathering did not translate into a recognition of the Taliban government.

Envoys from some two dozen countries also attended the meetings The Taliban were not invited to the first meeting, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said they set unaccept-

able conditions for attending the second one, in February, including demands that Afghan civil society members be excluded from the talks and that the Taliban be treated as the country's legitimate rulers.

Ahead of Doha, representatives of Afghan women were excluded from attending, paving the way for the Taliban to send their envoys - though the organizers insisted that demands for women's rights would be raised. Mujahid said there was an opportunity for them to meet with representatives of various countries and they had 24 side-line meetings. He added that the messages from the Taliban "reached all participating" coun-tries at the meeting. Afghanistan needs cooperation with the pri-vate sector and in the fight against drugs, he also said. "Most countries expressed their willingness to cooperate in these areas

### Leaders of Russia and China to meet in Central Asian summit

### bills in two decades

Japan issues first new

Tokyo (AP): Japan issued its first new banknotes in two decades Wednesday, yen packed with 3-D hologram technology to fight counterfeit-

ing. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida praised as "historic" the stateof-the-art anti-counterfeit traits of the new 10,000 yen, 5,000 yen and 1,000 yen bills.

"I hope the people will like the new bills, and they will help energize the Japanese economy, he told reporters at the Bank of Japan. While the new bills were released with fanfare, currency already in use will remain valid. In fact, people will still need older bills to use most vending machines and to pay bus fares local media reported. Kishida noted the people featured on the bills celebrate Japanese capitalism, women's equality and scientific innovation. The 10,000 ven bill, worth about USD 62 at the current exchange rate, has the face of Eiichi Shibusawa, known as "the father of

Japanese capitalism," a key fig ure in building Japan's modern economy. He is credited with founding hundreds of companies. The 5,000 yen bill, worth about USD 30, features Umeko Tsuda, a pioneer feminist and educator who founded a college. The 1,000 yen note, worth about USD 6.20, portrays physician and bacteriologist Shibasaburo Kitasato, who was

instrumental in the research of tetanus and the bubonic plague. The backs of each of the bills feature Tokyo Station, wisteria flowers and ukiyo-e artist Katsushika Hokusai's Mount Fuji, respectively. The new bills also feature larger printing so they're easier to read, especial ly for the nation's aging population. By the end of March next year, nearly 7.5 billion new banknotes will have been printed, according to the government. The amount of money in the new bills going out in a single day is estimated at 1.6 tril

lion yen (USD 10 billion).

#### AP ASTANA

 $R^{ussian\ President\ Vladimir}_{Putin\ and\ Chinese}$ President Xi Jinping will meet Thursday for the second time in as many months as they travel to Kazakhstan for a session of an international group founded to counter Western alliances.

Putin and Xi last got together in May when the Kremlin leader visited Beijing to underscore their close partnership that opposes the US-led democratic order and seeks to promote a more "multipolar" world

Now they'll be attending a session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in the Kazakh capital of Astana. A look at the summit: The Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation was established in 2001 by China and Russia to discuss security concerns in Central Asia and the wider region, Other members are Iran, India, Pakistan,

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Observer states and dialogue partners include Turkiye Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Besides Putin and Xi, and summit host President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, other leaders there will be Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, President Shavkat Mirzivovev of Uzbekistan, President Emomali Rakhmon of Tajikistan, and President Sadyr Zhaparov of Kyrgyzstan. President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus will attend because his nation is becoming a full member.

Iran is still choosing a successor to President Ebrahim Raisi, killed in a helicopter crash in May, with a runoff election Friday, so acting President Mohammad Mokhbar will attend.

Other guests of the SCO include President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkiye and President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

Also present will be UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who is visiting Central Asia. Guterres wants "to position the UN as an inclusive organisation that's talking to all the big clubs,' said Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Centre.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India is sending his foreign minister S Jaishankar. Putin wants to show that Russia is not isolated over Western sanctions from the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. An arrest warrant has been issued for him by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for abductions of children from Ukraine. Kazakhstan is not party to the Rome Statute and thus is not obliged to arrest him. For Putin, the meeting is about "prestige and the symbolic optics that he's not alone,"

Gabuev said. The meeting is another chance

strate the strong personal ties in their "strategic partnership" as they both face soaring tensions with the West. They have met more than 40 times. Putin's meeting with Xi in May showed how China has offered diplomatic support to Moscow and is a top market for its oil and gas. Russia has relied on Beijing as a main source of high-tech imports to keep its military machine running.

The SCO helps China project its influence, especially across Central Asia and the Global South. Xi called for "bridges of communication" between countries last week and wants to further promote China as an alternative to the US and its allies.

Erdogan could use the meeting to hold talks with Putin, who has postponed several visits to Turkiye. The leader of the NATO member has balanced relations with both Russia and Ukraine since the

for Putin and Xi to demonwar began, frequently offering to serve as a mediator.

For host Kazakhstan and the other Central Asian nations, the meeting is a way to further their cooperation with bigger, more powerful neighbours. Kazakhstan, for instance, frequently engages with both neighbouring Russia and China, while also pursuing links with the West, with visits this year from US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

Countering terrorism is a key focus. Russia had what it has called two terrorist attacks this year, with more 145 people killed by gunmen at a Moscow concert hall in March, and at least 21 people were killed in attacks on police and houses of worship in the southern republic of Dagestan in June. In the March violence, the US warned Russian officials about the possibility of an attack — information that was dismissed by Moscow.

The SCO is not a collective security or economic alliance and there are "significant security differences between its members," said Nigel Gould-Davies, a senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and a former British ambas sador to Belarus. The "principal value" of the organisation lies in the optics of non-Western countries gathering together, he added. Gabuev agreed, saying the SCO is a place for conversation rather than a platform where "collective decisions are made, imple mented and have an impact? This year, close Moscow ally Belarus will become a full member of the organisation, and its admission indicates how Russia wants to bolster blocs of non-Western countries. Gould-Davies said the SCO is raising its profile "by growing its membership rather than by deepening its cooperation.

### Employer arrested for Indian farm worker's death in Italy Malaysian court tosses jailed ex-PM's bid to serve graft sentence in house arrest ing Singh's manslaughter death, Rome (PTI): Italian police

Kuala Lumpur (AP): A Malaysian court on Wednesday dismissed a bid by imprisoned former Prime Minister Najib Razak to serve his remaining corruption sentence under house arrest. In an April application, Najib said he had clear information that then-King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah issued an addendum order allowing him to finish his sentence under house arrest. Najib claimed the addendum was issued during a Jan 29 pardons board meeting chaired by Sultan Abdullah, which also cut his 12-year jail sentence by half and sharply reduced a fine. Najib's counsel, Mohamed Shafee Abdullah, said it was disappointing for the High Court to rule Wednesday that the gov-

ernment has "no legal duty" to verify if such an order existed. He said they would file an appeal. "The court said there is no legal duty but in terms of ethics, the government should have answered," Shafee told a news conference at the court building.

In his application, Najib has accused the pardons board, home minister, attorney-general and four others of concealing the sultan's order "in bad faith" Sultan Abdullah hails from Najib's hometown in Pahang. He ended his five-year reign on Jan 30 under Malaysia's unique rotating monarchy system. A new king took office Jan 31. Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said he had no knowledge of such an order as

he wasn't a member of the pardons board. The others named in Najib's application have not made any public comments. Shafee said Najib's application was not based on hearsay but that there was "digital evidence" of the addendum as Trade Minister Zafrul Aziz had taken a snapshot of it on his

mobile phone when told by Sultan Abdullah. He said the government's silence also implied there is such an addendum order. "One thing is clear, not one per-

son or any government institutions have said that this adden dum doesn't exist. If it doesn't exist, just say so... If the government dare says clearly there is no addendum, we can all go home and sleep," he said.

have arrested the owner of the agriculture company who dumped a 31-year-old Indian worker on the road without medical assistance after his arm was severed by heavy farm machinery, causing his death, a tragic incident that shocked the country and its leadership. Satnam Singh was abandoned

by his employer after a strawberry wrapping machine severed his arm in Lazio, near Rome, last month and died due to "copious bleeding", the ANSA news agency reported. The Sikh casual farm labourer died in a hospital in Rome two days later after being airlifted there when he was eventually found.

Police on Tuesday arrested the alleged gangmaster, Antonello Lovato, on suspicion of caus-

the report said. Prosecutors said in a statement

that the Sikh farmer, who died of a massive haemorrhage in a Rome hospital, "would in all likelihood have been saved if he had been promptly assisted". 'We were waiting for this news, we were angry," the president of the Lazio Indian community, Gurmukh Singh, said. 'The worst thing (Lovato) did was to leave him outside his home instead of taking him to hospital," he was quoted as saying. "An accident can happen, but not calling for medical assistance is unacceptable," he said.

Singh's death has spurred outrage at gangmastering, which is widespread in Italy, especially in the south of the country, and modern forms of slavery. According to an earlier report,

Lovato loaded Singh and his wife into a van and left them by the side of the road near their home. Singh's severed arm was placed in a fruit crate. Meanwhile, Singh's widow Soni, who was treated for shock after the incident, received a special 'justice' stay permit to end her illegal status in Italy, it said.

On June 26, India asked Italy to take prompt action against those responsible for Singh's death.

Muktesh Pardeshi, Secretary [CPV & OIA], conveyed to Luigi Maria Vignali, the Director General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies, India's "deep con-cern" about the death of Singh, the Indian Embassy in Italy said in a post on X. He "called for prompt action against those responsible. Embassy is in con-

tact with the family of Satnam Singh for consular help & transportation of mortal remains," the mission added. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said last month that Singh, one of thousands of Indian immigrants who work the fields in the country, was the victim of "inhuman acts". 'These are inhumane acts that do not belong to the Italian people. I hope that this barbarity will be punished harshly," she said following a Cabinet

meeting. Italy's Minister of Labour, Marina Calderone, said the death of Singh had been an "act of barbarity

Opposition 5-Star Movement (M5S) leader Giuseppe Conte had urged Meloni to act to stamp out brutal gangmastering. "You lose your arm while

you're working in the fields for four euros an hour. You're not immediately treated. They put you in a van, and they dump you like rubbish outside your nome," Conte wrote on X.

Beside you, a strawberry bas ket in which your severed arm is left. You bleed out and die. It sounds like the story of a slave centuries ago. We can't close our eyes, we can't think about making profits while cancelling the dignity of work and the last shreds of humanity," he wrote.

We are ready to do our bit in parliament against these barbarities, which must be rooted out of the fields all over Italy, he added.

Gangmastering and the often violent exploitation of migrant farm labourers is a chronic problem in Italy, especially in the south.



## India's services sector growth rises in June: PMI

### PTI NEW DELHI

Tndia's services sector ∎growth quickened in June from May's five-month low, amid a stronger rise in new orders and an unprecedented expansion in international sales, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index rose from 60.2 in May to 60.5 in June, pointing to a sharp expansion in output.

In the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"Activity growth in India's service sector accelerated in June, with the index rising by 0.3 ppt (percentage point) to 60.5, led by an increase in both domestic and international new orders. This encouraged services firms to increase their staffing levels at the fastest pace since August 2022," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Demand strength and rising intakes of new business were cited as the key determinants of growth. New orders received by Indian service providers continued to increase in June, extending the current sequence of expansion to nearly three years. There was also a record

expansion in international orders. Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the US were all cited as sources of new work from abroad. appetite Positive client



although

said.

rates.

said.

companies.

the level

optimism moderated sharply

during the month," Bhandari

Meanwhile, the HSBC India

Composite Output Index

recovered from 60.5 in May to

60.9 in June, as new business

of

encouraged service providers in India to recruit additional staff at the end of the first fiscal quarter. Staffing levels increased at the fastest pace since August 2022, as shortterm and permanent staff were taken on to support pipelines of new work. On the price front, service

providers recorded moderate increase in their accelerated in June, supported average expenses due to by greater inflows of new higher food, fuel and labour orders. Manufacturing firms costs. The pace of inflation contributed more to the was nevertheless the weakest expansion than services firms," Bhandari said. in four months. Subsequently, Composite PMI indices are selling prices also rose at the weighted averages of comparable manufacturing slowest pace since February. Going ahead, service providers remained confident and services PMI indices. of a rise in business activity Private sector employment over the course of the coming 12 months, with nearly 23 per cent of panellists expressing the optimism.

"Input costs rose at a moderate pace, resulting in a softer uptick in output charges in June. Overall, service providers remain confident about the year ahead business outlook,

experiencing tightness in

domestic availability of

natural rubber for some

time. However currently a

severe crunch is being

witnessed despite the fact

that NR prices have touched

a multi-year high. The

paucity of natural price

needs to be addressed at the

earliest so that tyre

estimated the total domestic

natural rubber stock available in the country at 3.7 lakh

tonnes at the start of the

current fiscal, it said, adding

that "unfortunately, the visibility of such a high stock

to support domestic demand

### Food services market in India to reach ₹10 lakh crore by 2030: Report

### PTI NEW DELHI

The food services market in India is expected to reach up to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2030 with the addressable customer base estimated to expand to up to 45 crore, according to a report.

The online food delivery segment is estimated to grow at 18 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) and penetration is set to rise from 12 per cent in 2023 to 20 per cent by 2030, said the report titled 'How India Eats' by Bain & Company and Swiggy. The food services market in

India, which encompasses dining out and ordering in, is currently valued at Rs 5.5 lakh crore. The market is poised to grow at 10-?12 per cent annually over the next seven years, reaching Rs 9 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2030, it said.

and output expanded at faster "This growth trajectory will be 'The Composite PMI also driven by robust fundamentals, including an expanding customer base, growing consumption occasions, and a rise in supply. Additionally, online food delivery is expected to grow faster at (around) 18 per cent CAGR, of contributing 20 per cent to the overall food services market by 2030," the report said. Swiggy Food Marketplace

expanded at a sharp pace that CEO Rohit Kapoor said the Indian food services market. was among the quickest since especially food delivery, has series started in December 2005, the survey witnessed buoyant growth over the last few years.

The HSBC India Services PMI is compiled by S&P "Higher incomes, digitisation, improved customer experience, and an inclination Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel to try new experiences have all of around 400 service sector contributed to this growth," he added.

Upbeat about the growth in the coming years, Kapoor said China has four times the number of restaurants per million urban population compared to India and the

study highlights this headroom. Bain & Company Partner and co-author of the report Navneet Chahal said the Indian food services market is at the cusp of transformation and the sector's dynamic nature, characterised by shifting consumer behaviours digitisation, and regional diversity, offers immense

growth potential As we look toward the next decade, with an estimated growth rate of 10-12 per cent annually, exciting opportunities loom on both the demand and supply fronts. By 2030, the market is poised to serve an additional 110 million customers, gradually shifting eating out from a special event into a convenient lifestyle," she said. The addressable customer base

for the Indian food services market is expected to expand by 11 crore, growing from the current 32 crore to 34 crore to approximately 43 crore to 45 crore by 2030.

This surge will be supported by macroeconomic tailwinds, including rapid urbanisation and a rise in affluence," the report said.

The study pointed out that approximately 70 per cent of food services consumption as of 2023 is concentrated in the top 50 cities and among upper-middle and high-income segments, which are expected to remain demand hotspots in the medium term.

## Sebi notifies institutional mechanism for brokers to prevent market abuse

### PTI NEW DELHI

 $M_{
m notified}^{
m arkets}$  regulator Sebi has mechanism that requires stock brokers to put in place systems for detection and prevention of market abuse.

Before this, there were no specific regulatory provisions that cast responsibility on brokers to have a system to prevent market abuse.

Under the institutional mechanism, broking firms as well as its senior management will be accountable for detection and prevention of fraud or market abuse, by setting up robust surveillance and control systems, according to a notification. Further, brokers need to

frame appropriate escalation and reporting mechanisms. Sebi has also listed out

probable instances of fraud or market abuse which a broker's system needs to be equipped to monitor. The probable instances can include creation of misleading appearance of trading, price manipulation, front running, pump and dump, insider trading and mis-selling and unauthorised trading, including facilitation of 'mule accounts'

In its notification dated June 27, the stock broker will have to inform details pertaining to detection of any suspicious activity to the stock exchanges within 48 hours from such detection.

Further, they will have to submit a summary analysis and action taken report on instances of suspicious activity, fraud and market abuse or a 'nil report' where no such instances were detected, on a half-yearly



basis to the stock exchanges. "Any deviation in adherence

to internal controls, risk management policy, surveillance policy, policy for onboarding of clients along with the proposed corrective actions for such deviation shall be placed before the appropriate Committee, Board of Directors or such other equivalent or analogous bodies of the stock broker at regular intervals and such deviations shall also form a part of the report to be submitted by the stock broker to the stock exchanges," Sebi said.

The stock broker will have to establish and implement policy whistleblower providing for a confidential channel for employees and other stakeholders to raise concerns about suspected fraudulent, unfair or The unethical practices. policy should establish procedures to ensure

adequate protection whistleblowers.

Also, the regulator has tightened rules to curb trading through the mule accounts.

In its notification, Sebi said that transactions through mule accounts for indulging in manipulative, fraudulent and unfair trade practice shall be and shall always be deemed to have been included in PFUTP included in PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) norms.

Mule account is a trading account maintained with a stock broker or a demat account or bank account linked with such trading account, which is controlled

by another person. To give these effects, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has amended stock brokers and PFUTP rules that became effective from June 27.

### India faces high debt, but sustainable for now: NCAER director Tyre makers facing severe crunch in domestic natural PTI NEW DELHI rubber availability: ATMA

### PTI NEW DELHI

Tyre utomotive AManufacturers Association on Wednesday said its members are witnessing a 'severe crunch' in the availability of domestic natural rubber and it may disrupt production unless supply issues of the raw material are addressed. Despite high prices of natural

production processes are not disrupted," ATMA Director General Rajiv Budhraja said rubber (NR), its availability has shriink Automotive Tyre in a statement

t nearly 82 per cent of AGDP, India's public debt is very high, but the country doesn't face debt sustainability issue on account of high growth rate and higher share of local currency debt, NCAER Director General Poonam Gupta has said. Participating in an event organised by NCAER, Gupta said India's high debt levels are sustainable for now because of higher real or

### the debt is held in rupee.

The states together hold onethird of the total debt, and in the 'business as usual' situation, their debt levels will only increase further over the next five years. Gupta said. "In a handful of states like Puniab and Himachal Pradesh, Debt-to-GDP ratio could increase by 50 per cent,' Gupta said, adding that the states, including the most indebted ones, also don't face sustainability issue as they have implicit guarantee of the Centre and as states cannot nominal GDP and as most of hold debt in foreign currency



or floating rate. Drawing a comparison between Punjab, one of the

Guiarat, with low debt, she pointed out that the most indebted states are ironically most indebted states, and better off, as the interest rate

is similar for all and in fact more indebted states hold longer maturity and pay little premium

More prudent states need a better deal. They are de facto the more subsidizing indebted states. The Finance Commission may reward such states for their fiscal prudence, and incentivize the profligate ones to become fiscally more responsible," Gupta said.

Participating in the discussion on "States' Fiscal Challenges", M Govinda Rao, Councilor, Takshashila Gujarat.

Institution. 'proliferation of subsidies for electoral gains" as one of the reasons for rising debt of the

Pointing to the Centre's responsibility of overall control of debt and stressing the need for a different approach, he said, "interest payments of profligate states

states.

are still taken as legitimate." As of 2022-23, Puniab Himachal Pradesh and Bihar are top three most indebted states, while least indebted are Odisha, Maharashtra and

Manufacturers Association The Rubber Board had (ATMA) said, expressing apprehension that some 'sections of natural rubber producing interests or trade are withholding the material in anticipation of an increase in the NR prices worsening the availability". The "tyre industry has been is not there".

### BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT BFU-24/14

#### VACANCIES

Online applications are invited w.e.f 06/07/2024 to 31/07/2024 from eligible candidates through University website i.e www.bfuhs.ac.in for the recruitment of 120 Staff Nurse under Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. For eligibility, terms & conditions & other information visit university website i.e www.bfuhs.ac.in

REGISTRAR

Sd/

#### MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR (EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECH) Tel No.: (0240)2333536-40 Address: Chhatrapati Sambhajinag Municipal Corporation, Executive Fax No.: (0240)2331213 Engineer (Mech) Head Office : Town Hall, Pin No.431 E-Tender Call CSMC (For Help) Mob No : 9764999780 No.CSMC/ Mech/448 /2024 Dt. 02/07/2024 Corrigendum

#### Ref: Tender ID No. 2024-AMCA-998054-1

As per the reference, tender called for Fabrication & supply of 70 Mtr. Hydraulic Platform for fire fighting and rescue operation with 10 years CSMC (01 No.). Regarding this tender corrigendum is published on www.mahatenders.gov.in portal. Rest of the condition remains unchanged.

Executive Engineer (Mech) Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar



<u>डू-111वया पूर्व</u>न एतदद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपत्तों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के विद्युत विकास एवं विद्युत अनुरक्षण एवं रख-रखाव कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों|निगमों / प्राधिकरणों / परिषदी/नगर निकार्यों में पंजीकृत विद्युत लाईसेन्सी एवं अनुमधी ठेकेरारों / फर्मों से ई—निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं जो दिनांक 06.07.2024 को अपरान्ह 4.00 करो से दिनांक 24.07.2024 को अपरान्ह 5.00 बजे तक अपलोढ की जा सकती हैं निविदा को दिनांक 25.07.2024 को अपरान्ह 04.00 बजे खोला जायोगा| निविदादाता द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां विनांक 29.07.2023 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती हैं। ई—निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विद्यला निम्बत् है—

I	क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत रु. (लाख
	1.	কার্য কা নাম Upgradation of Street Light & High Mast with 3 year AMC at Bhara Pachpera, Distt-Pilibhit	100.18

नोट- 1. निबिदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित दरें अंकित करें। जी एस.टी. अलग से देय होगी 2. वियुत कार्यो हेतु निविदादाता को निविदा अपलोड करते समय 'शिघुत चुख्या विमान' उ.प्र. शासन, लखनर में श्रेणी 'क' अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किय

विदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website:www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थित ई–लिंव एवं यूपीएलसी की website:http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

प्रबन्धक (मु.) विद्युत उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्रा. कानपुर

### **Rupee falls 4 paise to close** DigiPivot 5.0 at 83.52 against US dollar to be launched

PN NEW DELHI

initiative

ΗN

introduced

market.

Free

herbs

poised

consumer's taste.

Saundarya

DigiPivot 5.0, inviting women from diverse career For the fifth consecutive year, Avtar, a Diversity, participate. stages to Registrations for DigiPivot 2024 are open and the last Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Solutions firm, has teamed up date for registration is July 9. with Google India and the She highlighted Avtar's Centre for Executive Education at the Indian School of Business (ISB) to research findings, stating that a significant portion of women on career breaks are launch DigiPivot 5.0. This eager to explore new career focuses paths, while many in on empowering women through continuous employment seek free skill development in the meaningful transitions in digital marketing field. The their careers.

Dr Rajesh said that the field move aims to provide career opportunities to women. offers remote work flexibility, Rajesh, earning substantial Founder-President of Avtar opportunities, global prospects, and demands valuable digital skills. Group, underscored the transformative potential of

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 4 L paise to settle at 83.52 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by elevated crude oil prices.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee depreciated on strength in crude oil prices, which touched a two-week high on Tuesday. However, a firm tone in domestic markets and favourable macroeconomic data cushioned the downside. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local

unit opened at 83.51 and hit the intraday high of 83.49

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at 83.48 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on softening of the US dollar and rise in global risk sentiments. Strength in the domestic markets may also support sentiments," said Choudhary Anuj Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas

"However, elevated crude oil price and FII outflows may cap sharp upside. Traders may take cues from ADP non-farm employment, weekly unemployment claims, ISM services PMI, Challenger job cuts, trade balance and factory orders data from the US. Investors may remain cautious ahead of FOMC meeting minutes," Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.10 per cent lower at 105.61. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 0.09 per cent higher at USD 86.32 per barrel.

In the domestic equity market, Sensex hit the historic 80,000-mark and Nifty scaled a fresh lifetime high. The 30-share BSE Sensex finally ended the day 545.35 points, or 0.69 per cent, up at 79,986.80 points.

### Herbal beverage Pio aims to disrupt MNC-dominated soft drink market

TI 📕 NEW DELHI options," Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Move over multinational cola giants, there's a new

а

artificial

modern

redefine

'Pio'.

revolutionary herbal beverage

aiming to shake up the competitive soft drink

sweeteners and caffeine, 'Pio'

blends time-tested traditional

nutritional science, offering a

healthier alternative that is

refreshment in keeping with

This drink represents a

healthier alternative to

conventional sodas, reflecting

the country's commitment to

fostering indigenous, health-

with

to

from

Singh said about the drink developed by the 'Made-in-Ĭndia' fizz in town! government's premier science research affiliated lab situated The CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) has in Lucknow.

Backed by rigorous research, no preservatives have been used in the product and its expiry is of four months for the drink which comes with the tagline 'Pio Herbal, Jio Har Pal

"Soft drinks are consumed by people of all ages, be it children or elderly. Hence, there was an urgent need for replacing these unhealthy drinks with healthy options. A team of scientists carried out an in-depth study to develop scientifically validated and standardised health beverages by fortifying them with certain health conscious food and beverages protective/promotive



'mulethi',

moonseed

Ashwagandha,

functional attributes," said commonly NBRI Director Ajit Kumar Shasanv traditional "Based on knowledge, we selected certain herbs. Extracts of herbs like liquorice (Glycyrrhiza glabra), product," he added.

"These extracts are blended with carbonated water in such a way that the drink tastes like any other synthetic drink available in the market. Sugar mixing is kept on a minimum level to tackle the bitterness of plant-based extracts," he said. The NBRI Director added that Pio had no alcohol, cocoa, and other synthetic chemicals and has been successfully evaluated for its efficacy.

The product is a unique blend of modern nutraceutical concepts with traditional knowledge in the soft drink category where the product is fortified with medicinal plants having colour and taste similar to synthetic beverages," Shasany said.

(Boerhavia diffusa), common "The herbal plant extract grapevine, and cardamom used in the drink has have been used in the hepatoprotective, antioxidant,

immuno-enhancing, cardiotonic, diuretic and digestive properties. The technology and process of the soft drink has also been patented," he said, adding that the technology to manufacture this herbal soft drink has been transferred to a private company.

Sandip' Vyas, managing Sandıp vyas, director of the private firm overseeing production, expressed confidence in its potential to disrupt the competitive soft drink market.

conducted "Having comprehensive tests to ensure production efficiency and efficacy at the high-tech labs of the NBRI following intensive research, 'Pio' is all set to become a preferred choice among consumers seeking healthier beverage alternatives.



It finally settled at 83.52 (provisional) against the dollar, 4 paise lower than its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated 4 paise to settle



to remember for Romania

and its loud mass of yellow-

clad fans, who have lit up

the tournament. It was only

the second time Romania

had qualified for the

knockout stage at a European Championship

and it did so as group

The bouncing yellow wall at

one end of the stadium gave its team such a magnificent send-off - singing and

applauding the players long

after the final whistle - that

it was almost as though Romania had won the

Today we ended a great

story, which we started two years ago. We continued

that story here in Germany

along with the fans of the

national team," Romania coach Edward Iordanescu

said. "The team gave a great effort, but there is some sadness. "We wanted more,

but we gave our all. Thank

you to my lads, the supporters and Romanians

everywhere in the world

Romania had dominated

possession until Gakpo's

goal, but never really tested Netherlands goalkeeper

Bart Verbruggen. Instead

the opener came when Xavi

Simons surged forward

before finding Gakpo on the

left. The Liverpool forward

cut inside the blue-haired

who supported us."

winner.

game.

# **Chopra says Paris Diamond League was** not part of his competition calendar

PTI SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY)

lympic and world champion javelin thrower Neera Wednesday Chopra on clarified that Sunday's Paris Diamond League was never a part of his competition calendar this year.

The statement came after a media report stated that Chopra pulled out of the event due to the adductor niggle that has been troubling him for the past couple of months.

The 26-year-old took to 'X' to say that there was no question of a withdrawal when he had not even entered his name.

"Hello, everyone. Just to clarify: the #ParisDL wasn't part of my competition calendar this season, so I haven't 'withdrawn' from it. I'm focusing on getting ready for the Olympic Games.

"Thanks for your understanding and support, and wishing all the athletes competing all the best! #RoadToOlympics," Chopra

No Messi

**Olympic** 

**AP** BUENOS AIRES

month in Paris.

in Argentina's

soccer squad

Olympics starting later this

Coach Javier Mascherano included four World Cup

winners in the squad he announced Tuesday, including

posted.He was exempted from last week's National Inter-State Championships, which was a mandatory event for all Indian athletes, by the Athletics Federation Of

India. The AFI said the relaxation

was given to him due to the



turnaround time short between the domestic event and the Diamond League on July 7

"We have made it very clear that every athlete will compete in India at the Inter-State Championships," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla

**Gunok's wonder-save at Euro** 

**2024 sparks Turkish celebrations** 

said, "But had Paris Diamond League is clashing Inter-State with the Championships and we feel that Paris Diamond League will be very important for him (Neeraj) before the Olympic Games therefore he is the only guy who has been

given special permission to participate in the Federation Cup," he added.

Chopra had However, indicated last month that his schedule will be decided according to the state of his body. "We had a discussion that I would play in the

National Inter-State Championships (June 27-30) and it's going to be held in Panchkula in Haryana but it was very near to the Paris Olympics," Chopra had said. "Since I was playing in Doha which is near to India. Moreover, there is Paris Diamond League (on July 7) between National Inter-State and Olympics. So, we decided to compete here (Federation Cup)," Chopra had said.

Further competition schedule will be decided later according to situation and my body. Otherwise, I will go to Paris from there (after competing in Turku)."

Chopra, who scripted history by becoming the first Indian to win a track and field medal at the Tokyo Olympics, had won the gold at the at the Paavo Nurmi Games last month.

Following this, he had opened up about his adductor niggle which has affected his season, saying he will consult "different doctors" after the Paris "different Olympics.

### Much-improved Netherlands beats Romania 3-0 to reach first Euros quarterfinals in 16 years

### AP MUNICH

The Netherlands could be peaking at just the right time.

The Dutch team reached its first European Championship quarterfinal in 16 years with a 3-0 win over Romania on Tuesday after its best performance by far at Euro 2024.

Cody Gakpo broke the deadlock in the 20th minute and substitute Donyell Malen scored two late goals to send the Dutch to their first quarterfinal in the tournament since 2008.

"I think the whole performance today was outstanding and that's what we need to have a chance to continue in this tournament," coach Ronald Koeman said. "This is the level. If you go down in that level, then we don't reach the final."

The Netherlands had missed a plethora of earlier opportunities to add to the lead and captain Virgil van Dijk also hit the woodwork. It was nevertheless a muchimproved display compared to its disappointing group stage performance, which ended in a 3-2 loss to Austria.

Koeman's side could get a quick rematch in Berlin on Saturday if Austria beats Turkey in the final round of 16 match later Tuesday.

'Sometimes it's difficult to explain why you play bad," Koeman said. "Even today, the start was difficult. They were really aggressive. But finally we found our ball position

What we created was good football... Maybe one critical point was that it took too long to score the second one. ... It's difficult to explain why one time you play badly and the next time you are really sharp from the beginning?

"I am

has

been generous in their

allowed us to participate in

globally, buy heating plant

and other various training

equipment for the pool," she

said. Parth Jindal, Founder of IIS,

which

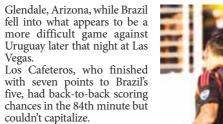
competitions

### Colombia draws Brazil 1-1 and will play Panama in quarterfinals while Seleção face Uruguay

### AP SANTA CLARA (US)

Daniel Muñoz scored the tying goal in the first-half stoppage time, and Colombia won its first-round group at the Copa America with a 1-1 draw against Brazil that extended its unbeaten streak to 26 games. Colombia goalkeeper Camilo Vargas saved Brazil's final chance on a shot by Andreas Pereira in the fifth minute of

second-half stoppage time. Colombia plays Panama in a quarterfinal on Saturday at ionel Messi won't be in L'Argentina's squad at the



and pumped his fist as the seasoned Seleção struck first on a blazing-hot night at Levi's Stadium, home of the NFL's San Francisco 49ers

Vegas.

Brazil went ahead in the 12th minute when Raphinha launched a left-footed free kick into the upper right corner of the net just above the outstretched hand of Vargas. The Brazilian winger jumped

### another shot in the 16th that Andrei Raiu and fired into It was nevertheless a match A crowd of 70,971 attended the the near bottom corner. sailed high.

### AP LEIPZIG (GERMANY)

striker Julián Álvarez and defender Nicolás Otamendi. A moment of Mert Gunok brilliance sparked The 37-year-old Messi, who has struggled with injuries this Abrilliance sparked celebrations for Turkish fans year, is now playing at the and a big exclamation from Copa America, aiming to defend the continental title he Austria rival Michael Gregoritsch, who described regorits victory it as one of the best saves he'd ever seen. Goalkeeper Gunok pulled off one of the saves of the European Championship deep into injury time on Tuesday to secure Turkey's place in the quarterfinals. He leaped instinctively into a full-stretch dive to his right to palm away a close-Unbelievable, really. range header from Austria's Austria coach Ralf Rangnick Baumgartner Christoph four minutes into stoppage was asked if the goal reminded him of England time, preserving his team's 2-1 win and preventing the goalkeeper Gordon Banks' famous stop to deny Pelé at the 1970 World Cup. round-of-16 match from going into extra time. "I think that's one of the best True," he replied. Later, Rangnick rued the saves I've ever seen live on save, saying he was sure that if the ball had gone in, the field," Gregoritsch said. 'You have to give credit to the Turkish goalkeeper because I think it was Austria would have gone on to win the match. "With Gordon Banks in extremely difficult to stop.



### 30 swimming prospects to get training at IIS for Olympic & Asian Games glory

### PTI 📕 BELLARY

As many as 30 "high-potential" swimmers have been identified for training as part of a newlyaunc Programme' at the Inspire Institute of Sports here to prepare them for the 2026 Asian Games and the 2028 Olympic qualifiers.



echoed the sentiment. "It energises our mission to make India a sporting superpower. Their belief in our swimming programme is inspiring, and I am excited ture

Players put on an entertaining show in the Group D finale, with Brazil's Bruno Guimarães average of 46,475. average of 46,475. The Bay Area is facing an calling Colombia "a stone in our shoe" in the lead up to excessive heat warning and the Tuesday. What was expected to temperature at kickoff was 98 be a tense, physical, foul-filled degrees - though about half the match more than lived up to field on one sideline was that hype featuring five yellow shaded. cards as a sea of jerseys the In the eighth minute, James

same color representing both countries packed the seats once the fans finally got inside, that is. Some scanning equipment became very hot and slowed down the process.

Rodríguez had Colombia's best early chance when he hit the bar on a left-footed shot on a direct free kick from outside the penalty area He had

2021 That served as a springboard for Argentina to lift the World Cup in 2022.

Messi won the gold medal at Beijing in 2008 in his only Olympic campaign.

The Olympic men's soccer tournament is for under-23 teams, but three older players are allowed on each squad.

Mascherano, who won the Olympic gold medal as a player in 2004 and '08, will add goalkeeper Gerónimo Rulli, Otamendi and Álvarez to his squad after Copa America is finished. Midfielder Claudio Echeverri, a recent signing for Manchester City from River Plate, will also join.

Argentina will play two friendlies in France before its Olympic soccer tournament opener against Morocco on July 24.



goal, that was the last chance that we had," the German coach said.

It was Gunok's fourth big save of the game, including a one-on-one situation against Marko Arnautovic. It meant Merih Demiral's two goals were enough to send Turkey through to a quarterfinal against the Netherlands in Berlin's Olympiastadion on Saturday.

Inspire Institute of Sports has entered into a partnership with Mizuho Bank for this. The two entities have identified swimming as one of the key sports which can be developed at the grassroots level and announced a

partnership to support 30 swimmers Launched in 2023, the IIS Programme Swimming features two state-of-the-art pools, and promises technical coaching, competition exposure, and support in sports science, strength and conditioning, nutrition, education, mental

health residential their potenatial. and grateful to be a part of such a programme. Mizuho has facilities

young swimmers Talented Íatel, Maana Kushagra Rawat, Ishaan Mehra, Astha Choudhury, Ashmitha Chandra, and Bikram Changmai are part of the programme.

Maana Patel said the partnership will go a long way in helpingthem realise

support will "Mizuho's significantly raise our standards. Our rapid growth and success promise a transformative impact on Indian sport," Rushdee Warley, CEO of IIS, added. Mizuho, a leading global bank with over 28 years in India, operates five branches and four entities, including Mizuho Bank and Mizuho Securities.

Piyush Agarwal, Senior Managing Director & Head -Corporate & Institutional Banking (India) at Mizuho, said, "We believe India, with its youthful population, deserves a place on the global podium. Sports build essential skills like resilience and teamwork, and we hope to inspire many through this initiative?

### Vondrousova is 1st defending woman Wimbledon champ out in first round since 1994

#### AP LONDON

Marketa Vondrousova became the first defending women's champion at Wimbledon to lose in the first round the next year since 1994, eliminated 6-4, 6-2 by Jessica Bouzas Maneiro at Centre Court. Vondrousova was a surprise title winner at the All England Club 12 months ago, the first unseeded woman to claim the trophy at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament.

Now she enters the books in another — and less-wanted historic way. The only other time in the sport's Open era, which dates to 1968, that a woman went from championship at а Wimbledon to an immediate exit a year later was when Steffi Graf was defeated by Lori McNeil 30 years

ago. "I was happy to be back on the Centre Court," Vondrousova said. "It just didn't go as planned today." Vondrousova was seeded No. 6 this time, but the left-hander, who was the runner-up at the 2019

ago, was never quite able to demonstrate her full game Tuesday. She appeared to still be suffering after-effects from a fall during a tuneup tournament on grass in Berlin last month that hurt her hip.

"I was a bit slower, maybe. I was a bit scared," Vondrousova said. "But credit to her. She was playing a good match, too. I didn't feel at my best, (but) she didn't gave me many points for free."

How big a deal was this for Bouzas Maneiro?

She is competing in a Grand Slam tournament for only the third time and came into the day with an 0-2 record at those events. Bouzas Maneiro also had never won a match at a tour-level grass tournament and never beaten an opponent ranked in the top 10.

This is one of the most important moments in my life, in my career, here in this sport. This is amazing," said Bouzas Maneiro, a 21-year-old from Spain who is ranked 83rd this week, equaling her career high.

"I was like, I have no pressure. Just



tournament.' Just trying to be free playing, and I did it, so I'm happy for that," she said

Vondrousova added to the series French Open and a silver medalist "I was like, I have no pressure. Just of past major title winners at the Tokyo Olympics three years" enjoy the moment, enjoy the dropping out of the singles

brackets within the first 30 hours of action at Wimbledon this year although others did so without playing a point.

Earlier Tuesday, Andy Murray

decided he wasn't able to compete a little more than a week after having surgery to remove a cyst from his spine. His final appearance at Wimbledon, which pulled out of singles because he he won in 2013 and 2016, will

come in doubles alongside his older brother, Jamie.

donations,

various

Two seeded women who both have been ranked No. 1 and own two Australian Open championships apiece, No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 16 Victoria Azarenka, withdrew on Monday before their first-round matches because of shoulder injuries. Sabalenka was the pretournament favorite to take the women's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Intermittent rain delayed matches on the outside courts more than once Tuesday, and the retractable roofs at Centre Court and No. 1 Court were shut to allow play in those two stadiums. No. 6 seed Andrey Rublev lost, while winners on Day 2 included No. 1 Iga Swiatek, 2022 champion Elena Rybakina and No. 5 seed Jessica Pegula among the women, and seven-time champion Novak Djokovic, No. 4 seed Alexander Zverev and No. 7 Hubert Hurkacz among the men.

For Djokovic, his 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win against qualifier Vit Kopriva was the first match since having

surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee on June 5.

"Obviously started a little bit more cautious, I would say. I didn't really maybe go for certain shots 100% ... (in) the first set," said Djokovic, who wore a gray sleeve on his right knee. "I played, I think, just enough to win confidently in straight sets. I felt like as the match progressed, I moved better."

The initial signs of trouble for Vondrousova on Tuesday came right away: She double-faulted three times in the very first game and got broken to trail 1-0.

"My serve wasn't so good today," Vondrousova said. "Overall, I think, I wasn't at my best."

She would wind up with seven double-faults, part of her total of 28 unforced errors, twice as many as Bouzas Maneiro in a match that lasted only a little more than an hour. "I'm surprised with myself, honestly. At the beginning, I was a little bit nervous, but then ... The atmosphere was so nice," Bouzas Maneiro said. "I was comfortable here playing, and I was like at home.



# sport 12 **GILL-LED TEAM INDIA LANDS IN HARARE FOR T20IS AGAINST ZIMBABWE**

#### PTI 📕 HARARE

A young Indian cricket team led by skipper Shubman Gill and with National Cricket Academy chief VVS Laxman as coach arrived here to play a fivematch T20 International series against Zimbabwe beginning July 6.

The team was seen exiting the airport with their luggage in a video posted by Zimbabwe Cricket on X. The entire squad had departed from Mumbai on Tuesday, while Gill, who was a travelling reserve with the T20 World Cup side in the Americas, arrived here from

New York after a break. "We welcome T20 World Cup champions India," wrote ZC on Tuesday night in a post on

Young top-order batter Riyan Parag, who will be making his India debut in the series, said in a video posted by BCCI that he had a childhood dream of travelling like this (with the national side)

'The feel of donning India jersey, travelling with the side is different. Coming from Assam, I had this dream of playing for India. Really happy. There will be a special connection for Zimbabwe when I play my first match. "That will be a special moment for that ground and myself, which would be very sacred,"

he said "After misplacing my passport, to phones, we are finally here after a 20 hour journey. Now, really looking forward to the tour," Parag added.

Another newcomer, medium pacer Tushar Deshpande, said the feeling of being in the national setup is "slowly sinking in and it's like a dream come true for me. Playing for the country is a very special thing."

"Travelling with the team is the most important and getting to know them, knowing the atmosphere of the team and most important for me is the fun we have during travel," added



### Deshpande.

Big-hitting left-hander Abhishek Sharma said from the day he started playing cricket, he had only one dream, which was to play for the country. "I know if I continue working

hard, I will get an opportunity but I didn't know I will get it outside India in Zimbabwe. "I got a call from (skipper) Shubman after my name was announced in the squad. Everyone has been giving me so much of affection. For me it was a very big thing," added Sharma.

"When I reached home after my name had been announced, I saw my family members giving interviews. So, I think, that was one moment I will always

moment I will always remember," he said. India will play their opening match against the Sikandar Raza-captained Zimbabwe on July 6 at the Harere Cricket Ground. The remaining four games will also be played at the same venue. The series will

batter Rinku Singh, travelling reserves for the T20 World Cup, are also currently in Barbados. The BCCI has not named

Pacer Khaleel Ahmed and

conclude on Iulv 14

Bervl.

Tuesday

T20 World Cup travelling reserves Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal along with all-

rounder Shivam Dube were

slated to join the Zimbabwe-

bound group but are stranded

in Barbados due to hurricane

Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma

and Harshit Rana were on

replacements for trio in the

Indian squad for the first two

Samson, Jaiswal and Dube

along with the other senior players will be arriving in India aboard a charter flight on Thursday morning. The players will later be felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra

matches of the series.

Modi in New Delhi.

named

replacements for the duo even though they are in the squad for Zimbabwe series.

### Markram was brave, tactically astute while leading South Africa in T20 World Cup: Smith

### PTI 📕 MUMBAI

iden Markram was A'brave' and 'tactically astute' while leading South Africa to their first-ever appearance in the final of the T20 World Cup which they narrowly lost to India last week at Barbados, said former skipper Graeme Smith on Wednesday. South Africa had a nearperfect campaign in the T20 Cup World under Markram's captaincy with their only defeat coming in the final when India pipped the Proteas by seven runs. "Aiden was particularly good during tournament. He

greatest South Africa the captains. Smith praised Ottneil was good tactically astute had Baartm plans and was brave enough to make the big calls and then get all his players to the commit to it," said Smith in a media release. "We have, of course, seen Aiden captain in this manner before over the course of the past two SA20 seasons, leading the Sunrisers Eastern Cape to confidence experiences back-to-back championship phenomenal," Smith said. titles, but now he has transferred this experience to the international arena," added Smith, who is SA20's league commissioner. immense pressure. The four Smith said SA20, in its two wickets Netherlands and the last seasons so far, has been able over against Nepal definitely to prepare the South African stands out," he added. cricketers to be ready for

### Hardik Pandya becomes first Indian to occupy top spot in ICC T20I all-rounders' rankings

### PTI 📕 DUBAI

Hardik Pandya rose two places to become the first Indian to occupy the number one spot in the ICC's T20I allrounders' rankings on Wednesday, as the country's cricketers improved their standings following their title-winning performance in the just-concluded World

Cup. The 30-year-old, who handed telling blows to South Africa in the T20 World Cup final on July 29 by dismissing half-centurion Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller in his 3/20 effort, climbed up two places to go level with Sri Lankan star Wanindu Hasaranga as the top-ranked men's T20I all-

rounder. Following a topsy-turvy IPL where he was the target of fans' boos as Mumbai Indians' new captain, Pandya turned it around in style in the T20 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean.



Pandya made impactful cameos down the order with bat and made breakthroughs with the ball when the team needed him to. He finished with 144 runs at a batting strike-rate of over 150

the final when he triggered a dramatic South African collapse after the Proteas needed 30 runs from 30 balls with Klaasen in full flow. Pandya gave the decisive blow by dismissing Klaasen in the

runs to help India pip South Africa by seven runs and win their second T20 World Cup title.

### **BIG MOVER BUMRAH**

India's star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, who won the Player of the Tournament award at the T20 World Cup for his 15 wickets, moved up 12 spots to be just outside the top-10. He's at 12th, his highest position since the end of  $\overline{2020}$ .

There were other movements in the top 10 of the T20I all-rounders' rankings, with Marcus Stoinis , Sikandar Marcus Stoinis , Sikandar Raza, Shakib Al Hasan and Liam Livingstone rising by one spot each.

Mohammad Nabi moved down four spots to go out of the top five.

In the T20I bowling rankings, South Africa's Anrich Nortje rose seven places to a careerand also took 11 wickets in<br/>the tournament.first ball of the 17th over.<br/>He went on to bowl the tense<br/>final over and defended 16best second spot to be just<br/>behind top-ranked Adil<br/>Rashid with 675 rating points.

in Superbet Classic chess PTI BUCHAREST **T**ndian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa was held to

Praggnanandhaa draws with **Bogdan-Daniel, Alireza shines** 

a draw by lowest ranked Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania in the sixth round of the Superbet Classic tournament, a part of the grand chess tour here.

Iranian-French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja shined with his moves against Wesley So of the United States. World With the

Championship on his mind, India's D Gukesh seemed to keep in reserve his real weapons and signed for peace with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France.

Praggnanandhaa tried his hand against the ever-solid Nimzo Indian defense. But it was an off day for the Indian who was confidently breached by the Romanian.

Bogdan-Daniel matched Praggnanandhaa move for move and the game was drawn through repetition after 38 moves.

as well as he seemed to withheld his true preparation for the World Championship match against Ding Liren, scheduled in November this year in Singapore. Alireza stole the show on a dull day in the grand chess tour. He was at his best and crawled back with his second win of the tournament to be in striking distance of tournament leader Fabio Caruana of the United States. With just three rounds remaining in the USD 350000 prize money tournament, Caruna seems to be sitting pretty at the top, with three Praggnanandhaa and Alireza in pursuit.

### I had momentum, could have done better: Nagal on first-round loss in Wimbledon PTI LONDON

Vagal feels he had

on even terms but the Serbian, ranked 52nd, won Indian tennis ace Sumit the next two to advance. 'This is my first main dray

the



goals that I need to finish, and the way it is. In events like that will be one of them - to this, you've got to take your keep on climbing the chances, otherwise, you're

going to come out

losing end."



for his impressive performances, particularly in the group stage, wherein right-arm bowler produced measly spells. Ottneil is the epitome of a SA20 success story. A

due

with

against

pressure and challenges at the highest level.

"From the outset, the

league, alongside Cricket

South Africa, has wanted to

provide South African

opportunity to be exposed

to a higher level of domestic

cricket where the players are

able to rub shoulders and

learn from some of the best the game has to offer," he

said. "Players are exposed to

competitive cricket and this

experience stood them in good stead in the US and

Caribbean," said one of the

cricketers

high-pressure

with the

and

Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia but his relative inexperience on grass cost him the match. relatively unknown player before SA20 that has The 26-year-old Indian, who is set to participate in his transformed and grown in second Olympics in less than a month, lost the Wimbledon to men's singles opener to Kecmanovic, ranked 19 places the Sunrisers Eastern Cape is higher than him, in a marathon four-setter lasting nearly three-and-a-half <sup>°</sup>Despite playing in his very first T20 World Cup, he backed his skills under hours

Nagal lost 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6. The 71st-ranked from Jhajjar, the making it to the Wimbledon main draw for the first time, won the second set to come

Wimbledon, and playing on momentum in the third set of the Wimbledon first-round the grass surface is not easy; you need a bit of experience. tie against higher-ranked But I think I did whatever I could, I fought hard. I felt like I could have served better, and there were a few things here and there in the match l could have done better," Nagal told Star Sports.

"Later on in the third set, the momentum was kind of shifting towards me. I think, like I said, if I could have broken him at 5-3, him serving, I think the match could have changed in a

funny way? He said the SW19 experience was the one to cherish.

"It was a great experience.

Obviously, when you play for three, three-and-a-half hours, you always feel like, 'this could have been done or that could have been done.' But like I said, if I could have changed things in the third set, I would have really liked

5-3). Nagal said his aim is to keep climbing up the rankings ladder and he is looking forward to a good show at the Paris Olympics, where he will have to shift to clay courts.

"I keep on climbing the that (broken the opponent at rankings. There are a few

approach to our preparations.

We're in a good rhythm and are

eagerly looking forward to be

back at the Olympics.

Comprehensive physical and mental conditioning is at the

The duo has been troubled

Skaarup

heart of our preparation."

Former Davis Cupper Zeeshan Ali said Nagal

"Now, I'm going back on clay to get ready for Paris. I'm looking forward to it; it's going to be my second Olympics, and I'm super, super excited for it."

Nagal, who was ranked 160th during the Tokyo Olympics, had lost in straight sets to Daniil Medvedev in the second round.

legend Mahesh Tennis Bhupathi also indicated that Nagal should have converted half chances.

"Everyone's disappointed, but he's had a breakthrough year, he's played high-quality tennis. That guy's a good player and he had his chances there in the third set and that's

Olympics is the greatest, biggest

tournament there is and natu-

rally there are hopes and wish-

es from each Olympic-bound

"We don't want to think so

much about the pressures, we're

looking to go out there, enjoy

the atmosphere, have a great

time on court and take it one

game at a time and see how it

goes. We do not want to put

ourselves under any pressure

"We're used to the expectations

and pressures that come along

in our game... We're primarily

looking to go out there and do

great things on the court and

from the word go.

athlete.

should not get disappointed as he gave his opponent a tough time. "I feel that Sumit should not be very disheartened by this loss because he played a very good match. He played an

incredibly good second set and he had a lot of chances.

"Going forward, I think he definitely needs to prepare better to play in a tournament like Wimbledon, maybe get a couple of matches in before the main draw of Wimbledon starts, and that would definitely help him prepare better," said Ali.

### Satwik-Chirag eyeing great things at Paris Olympics after cracking service variation challenge

### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has "cracked" the service variation challenge and is focussing on "comprehensive physical and mental conditioning" to ensure peak performance at the upcoming Paris Olympics.

Satwik, 23, and Chirag, 26, have been troubled by the wide variations of tumble, spin and wide serves that their opponents, mainly the Koreans and Indonesians, have employed against them during the recent tournaments.

Chirag said they have addressed the "new challenge" and remains confident of negotiating it during the Paris Games

"Regarding serve variations, they are a new challenge, but placing complete importance

on that wouldn't be right," ing focused, and adapting to Chirag told PTI in an email different playing conditions," interview. Satwik said.

"There was a time when we struggled with receiving them, but we eventually cracked it. We know what to do, we've been practicing, and we're confident we'll come out strong at the Olympics to counter that." The current world number 3 pair had narrowly missed out of a quarterfinal berth in the last Olympics when despite winning two of their three group matches, the duo couldn't qualify for the knockout stage as it was settled on the basis of the number of games

won and lost. "The experience of playing in the Tokyo Olympics has been invaluable in our preparation for the Paris Games. Competing at such a high level

has taught us crucial lessons

about handling pressure, stay-

Chirag added: "The intensity and atmosphere of the Olympics are unparalleled, and having been through it once, we now have a better under-

standing of what to expect and the initial jitters of being at the Olympics for the first time are also not going to be there. 'Additionally, winning the French Open has naturally given us a significant confidence boost."

In the last couple of years, the duo worked its way to become the world number one after a series of sensational performance, including winning the Commonwealth Games gold medal, a bronze at the World Championships in 2022, and

gold in the Ĥangzhou Asian Games. They also played a crucial role



in India's epic Thomas Cup win in 2022. Satwik and Chirag have won the French Open and Thailand Open this year after reaching the finals at the Malaysian Super 750 and India Super 750

"As the Olympics draw closer, our approach is becoming more focussed and strategic. We're fine-tuning every aspect of our game to ensure peak

performance when we step onto the court in Paris," Satwik said.

"This includes developing specific game plans for our potential opponents by studying their strengths and weaknesses in detail, concentrating on targeted drills, and enhancing our on-court positions and shot selections

sometimes by the left-right combinations such as Korean Seo Seung-jae and Kang Minhyuk and Danish Kim Astrup and Anders Rasmussen but Chirag feels

they don't have any problem against any particular pair. I can't really pinpoint a specific pair that we find particularly tricky to play against. On any given day, if a pair plays well, they can pose a challenge. However, I believe that if we play at our best, we can beat anyone," he said.

have fun while doing that." 'So, there's no specific pair or Chirag and Satwik are also lefty-righty combination that "We are taking a holistic particularly affects us. That mentors of PNB MetLife Junior

Badminton Championship (JBC), which will begin on said, all our competitors in the Olympics will be quite good ...? August 1 in the national capi-On expectations and handling pressure at the big-ticket event, Satwik said: "We understand tal "IBC offers a fantastic oppor-

tunity to nurture budding badminton talent in India. JBC also offers players access to mentoring, coaching, and training from veterans in the sport. Badminton has significantly shaped my life, and I want to share its benefits with the next generation, helping them achieve their dreams," Chirag said.

Satwik said: "As JBC mentors, we offer guidance on videos to young athletes on drills, techniques, strategies to improve their game, tips on mental resilience, and managing competition stress. Chirag and I will also be offering tips to players in person, whenever we visit any city edition

matches."

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