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HARDIK PANDYA TO LEAD INDIA IN T20IS AGAINST SRI LANKA

# Spiralling Terror in Jammu claims four Army personnel

Acaptain of the Indian Army, along with three other soldiers, was martyred during a fierce gunfight with a group of suspected foreign terrorists in Jammu Dessa forest area, which shares its boundaries with Basantgarh in Udhampur, Anantnag, Keshwan in Kishtwar, and Pogal Paristan in Ramban district, late Monday night.

It is suspected the joint team of security forces was lured into the deep forest area where they were ambushed by the well-entrenched group of the foreign terrorists. Kashmir Tigers, a proxy outfit

of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The gruesome attack comes close on the heels of another deadly ambush on the soldiers near Badnota village of Machhedi in the Billawar tehsil of Kathua district on July 8 in which five soldiers were martyred and five others were injured.

The Indian Army, however, maintained that a joint operation with J&K Police was launched in the general area of Urarbaggi, 10 km North of Doda. At about 8.40 pm on Monday, the search party was able to establish



Security forces personnel during an encounter with terrorists in Desa forest area, in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday

hiding in the area, which is a forested mountainous area with restricted visibility due to low clouds and rain.

In the initial volley of fire, four Indian Army personnel were injured, who later succumbed to their injuries. Additional troops have

contact with the terrorists inducted to flush out the terrorists and the use of drones and other technical resources is being ensured. The bravehearts have been identified as Captain Brijesh Thapa, son of Col (Retd) BK

> Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Indian Army Chief General Upendra

Bijendra & Sepoy Ajay.

Thapa, Naik D Rajesh, Sepoy

Dwivedi, who apprised him of the ground situation and ongoing operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda on Tuesday. In a post on X Minister said, Defence "Deeply saddened by the loss of our brave and courageous Indian Army Soldiers in a counter-terrorist operation in Urrar Baggi, Doda (J&K). My heart goes out to the bereaved

families. The nation stands firmly with the families of our soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Singh said the Counter Terrorist operations are underway, and our soldiers committed to remain eliminating the scourge of terrorism and restoring peace and order in the region."

Continued on Page 2

## MoD marches on self-reliance in manufacturing

PNS NEW DELHI

 $S_{\rm momentum}^{\rm ustaining}$ achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing and minimising import by defence public undertakings (DPSU), the Ministry of Defence has notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) consisting of 346 items. It means Indian industry will manufacture these

Giving details of the list, officials said here on Tuesday the items include strategically-important Line Replacement Units/Systems/ systems/Assemblies/Subassemblies/Spares and Components and raw materials, with import substitution value worth ₹1,048 crore. The items will only be procured from the Indian industry after timelines indigenisation as indicated in the list available on the Srijan portal.

The Ministry of Defence had launched the Srijan portal in 2020. On this portal, DPSUs and Service Headquarters (SHQs) offer defence items to the industries, including MSMEs and start-ups, for indigenisation.

Continued on Page 2



Security personnel and locals near the residence of Jitan Sahani, father of former Minister Mukesh Sahani, after he was found dead, at Ghanshyampur in Darbhanga

#### **Spate of political murders**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA/CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

In two separate ghastly Imurder incidents that have sent shock waves across Bihar. Tamil Nadu, and the political circles of the national Capital days ahead of Parliament Session, former State Minister Mukesh Sahni's 70-year-old father was found stabbed to death at his native home in Darbhanga Meanwhile, in district. southern India, a senior functionary of Naam Tamilar Katchi was hacked to death in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday. The killing of Balasubramanian, who is Madurai district deputy secretary of the NTK, comes days after the murder of Bahujan Samaj Party state chief K Armstrong in

Chennai. Jitan Sahani, father of Mukesh Sahani, was allegedly found murdered at his ancestral

वांचन सदन

home in Bihar's Darbhanga district, police said on Tuesday. His body, with several stab injuries and cut marks on his chest and stomach, was found inside his room at his house in Biraul area this morning.

former technician who heads a fledgling outfit Vikassheel Insan Party (VIP), Sahni was away in Mumbai when the information reached him, party sources said. Upon arriving in Patna, on way to Darbhanga, Sahni told reporters at the airport that he was telephoned by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and RJD president Lalu Prasad. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, in whose Cabinet he had served for about a year-and-a-half, called Sahni to offer condolences and ensure

speedy investigation. Continued on Page 2

#### Two arrested in **NEET leak case**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday arrested two persons, including a key accused in the NEET-UG paper leak case, who allegedly stole the paper from a National Testing Agency's trunk Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. With the two arrests, the total number of persons arrested in connection with cases pertaining to leakage, impersonation and other irregularities in the medical entrance exam has now reached 14.

The CBI has arrested Pankaj Kumar alias Aditya, a 2017batch civil engineer from the National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur, who allegedly stole the NEET-UG paper from the NTA trunk in Hazaribagh officials said. Kumar, a resident of Bokaro, was arrested from Patna.

According to officials, the CBI has also arrested one Raju Singh who allegedly helped Kumar in stealing the paper and passing them on to other gang members, adding that Singh was arrested from Hazaribagh. Earlier this month, the CBI arrested the main accused, Rakesh Ranjan alias Rocky, from Bihar's Nalanda. Rakesh Ranjan is believed to be one of the key players in the NEET paper leak.

The CBI set a trap and conducted raids at four locations in Patna and Kolkata to arrest Ranjan. The CBI has been utilising advanced investigative techniques to track down and apprehend those involved

#### **Government convenes all-party meet** ahead of Monsoon session of Sadan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Centre has convened an all-party meeting on July 21 ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament which will start next Monday during which the full fledged annual the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government will presented.

The traditional "halwa' ceremony, marking the final stage of the Budget preparation process for Union Budget 2024, was held in North Block on Tuesday, in the presence of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The customary ceremony begins with the Finance Minister stirring the "halwa" in the kadhai and then serving it to the colleagues in the Ministry. It is a tradition performed every year ahead of the Budget and it marks the final stage of preparing the plan for the upcoming

financial year. Meanwhile, the Opposition parties under the INDIA Bloc too have convened a meeting of their Parliamentarians the same evening and another on July 22 morning ahead of the resumption of Parliament to discuss the strategy to raise the issues during the threeweeks-long Monsoon cum



The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman commences final stage of Union Budget 2024 with halwa ceremony, in New Delhi,

Budget session.

The meeting has been called by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, the Ministry said in a statement. This will be Leader of Opposition and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's first time at the customary session-eve meeting of the floor leaders from all parties if he attends it. Another large party in the Opposition ranks, Trinamool Congress, has regretted it won't attend the meet.

The Monsoon session is scheduled to begin on July 22 and will conclude on August 12. The Union Budget will be presented on July 23. Finance Minister Sitharaman will

become the first Finance Minister in India's history to deliver seven consecutive Budgets. She will surpass the record previously held by Morarji Desai, who presented six consecutive Budgets between 1959 and 1963.

While P Chidambaram is in the second spot, having presented the Budget on nine occasions, but in breaks which includes first in 1997, during the United Front Government led by Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda. Former President Pranab Mukherjee presented eight Budgets during his time as Finance Minister.

Continued on Page 2

#### **EC** releases SOPs for EVMs

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Acting on a Supreme Court judgment, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday released a technical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for checking and verifying the burnt memory of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), with expanded choices for the results of a mock poll tally with the VVPAT slips, then

there is no tampering.
The technical SOP includes the selection of EVMs from any polling station in an Assembly constituency, the mix and match of EVM units (BU-CU-VVPAT) from any polling station, connecting BU-CU-VVPAT in any sequence and the option of casting up to 1,400 votes in a mock poll in any sequence.

Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of Bharat Electronics Limited and Electronics Corporation of India Limited, the EC said the candidates would have the choice of selecting EVMs from any polling stations in the constituency and also any combination of the Ballot Units (BUs), Control Units (CUs), and VVPATs up to 5 per cent of the total.

They would also be able to decide in which order they want the BU, CU, and VVPAT to be connected. The order in which the units are connected does not have an impact on how they work. According to the SOP, the checking would be done by authorised and trained engineers from BEL and

The entire process would be In its letter to the Chief carried out under CCTV Electoral Officers, cameras and in the presence of candidates or their

representatives. On April 26, the Supreme Court had ordered the EC to facilitate checking and verification of the burnt memory or microcontrollers of up to 5 per cent of the Electronic Voting Machines (ballot units and control units) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails of an Assembly constituency or Assembly segment of a Lok Sabha constituency on the written request of the candidates who come in

second and third in that seat. The EC wrote, "There can be varied technical methods to verify the fidelity of a firmware burnt into a within microcontroller confines of a research laboratory or a secured manufacturing environment. Checking and verification of any firmware burnt (fused) into the memory of a microcontroller can be verified in a public process by giving a vast number of ransom test vectors as inputs

outcome(s)."
The poll body said the eligible candidates can give choices of polling stations or serial numbers of machines from within the Assembly segment or constituency, subject to a maximum of five per cent EVMs used in that segment or seat to undergo check and verification

and evaluating the intended

Γhis will ensure the EVMs are picked up from across the constituency as per choice of the applicant without the involvement of a third party or officials in selecting or leaving out any particular machine. The choice to mix and match EVM units from any polling station in the

also been offered. If any applicant candidate selects any specific unit ballot unit, control nit or VVPAT — of a particular polling station, he/she is not bound to choose other units of the same set used at that polling station. At least one ballot unit, one control unit and one VVPAT or paper trail machine makes up for

one EVM. Instead, the applicant candidate can mix and match and give his choice of other units from remaining polled units used at other polling stations in the assembly constituency or assembly segment to make a set. Polled units are those which were used in the elections to

cast votes. All EVM units will undergo self-diagnosis. electrical parameters will be checked, including the fidelity of the burnt memory and only self-diagnosed units will thereafter go for further check and verification.

Continued on Page 2

#### Top babus tasked to push Modi's 100-day agenda launched during the first 100

op bureaucrats of all I Central Government Ministries and departments have been directed to identify at least one impactful project to be commissioned in the first 100 days of the Government and implementation of action points, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra

In a communication to all secretaries, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba also said the 'whole of the Government' approach has to be adopted by Ministries and departments in formulating implementing their policies and schemes and



concerted steps should be

taken for India to become the third largest economy in the

shortest possible time. He said Modi has emphasised that all Ministries and departments should identify at least one impactful project to be commissioned, one project to be grounded and

one scheme or initiative to be

days of the new Government. "Ministries/departments to take steps for implementation of action points in 100 days' agenda prepared by them, after obtaining necessary approvals," the letter said. The secretaries were told that

Ministry each and department will formulate initiatives and ideas for implementation as part of 'Panch Pran' (five resolutions) announced by the Prime Minister during his

Independence Day address on August 15, 2022. "Each Ministry/ department qualitative effect improvements in their grievance redressal systems to make them more sensitive,

accessible and meaningful.

'Ease of Living' for citizens is a high priority for government. Ministries/departments to make sustained efforts for reducing compliance burden and decriminalising minor offences," the letter said.

The Cabinet Secretary said a comprehensive exercise to be undertaken by all Ministries and departments to simplify rules and regulations and processes to ensure that these are consistent with the spirit of laws and policies. This may be ensured also while framing new rules and processes, he said. He said Ministries and departments should revamp their websites to ensure that they are user friendly, taking from the LBSNAA which recalled Puja "for further into account the global best

Continued on Page 2 | Government kept her district

#### **Controversial IAS officer** Puja Khedkar grounded and immediately recall you for

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

 $R_{\text{district}}^{\text{elieving}} \ \underset{\text{training}}{\text{her}} \ \text{from its}$ training programme, the Maharashtra Government on Tuesday ordered controversial trainee Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Dr Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar who is under scanner for alleged misuse of power and privileges — to return to the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie. Acting on a letter received

action", the Maharashtra

academy on or before July 23. "It is informed that the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie has decided to keep your district training programme on hold



OBC certificates for getting

into the civil services. Continued on Page 2

## Political slugfest erupts after terror attack

political slugfest has bro-Aken out in the aftermath of a series of attacks on the security forces by suspected foreign terrorists across the Jammu region.

On a day when the security forces paid rich tributes to four bravehearts of the Indian army who laid down their lives in the line of duty while flushing out terrorists in the Dessa forest area of Doda, former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party Chief Mehbooba Mufti fired loose canons targeting Director General of Police RR Swain over the law-andorder situation in the union

Mehbooba also demanded the sacking of the director general of police, accusing him of treating Kashmiris as "Pakistanis"

The PDP chief's reaction came in the light of a statement made by RR Swain, chief of Jammu and Kashmir Police who blamed regional parties for Pakistan's 'successful' infiltration into the Kashmiri civil society.

Swain on Monday had even alleged that "so-called mainstream political parties" cul-tivated leaders of terror networks and sometimes directly to further their electoral prospects.



Referring to the incidents of infiltration from across the border Mehbboba asked what is the DGP doing. There is no accountability. By now the heads should have rolled. The DGP should have been sacked. Almost 50 soldiers have lost their lives in the last 32 months. Mehbooba thundered, Is it my job or Omar Abdullah's job to stop the infiltration? Who is at the borders? Who has to deal with the situation?

The current DGP is busy fixing things politically. His job is to break the PDP, harass people and journalists, and threaten people... Verification has been weaponized. They

are finding ways to impose UAPA on maximum people... We don't need a fixer here, we need a DGP. We have had DGPs from other states before and they have worked very well. No one has worked on communal lines like things are being done now.

"All Kashmiris, especially the majority community have been alienated by him (DGP). He is treating them as Pakistanis... He is talking through the barrel of a gun, through weaponizing of pass-ports, verifications and security agencies," said Mehbooba

Provincial President of the National Conference in the valley Nasir Sogami also reacted sharply to the statement of the DGP. Sogami said only those who plan to engage in politics should give political statements. The National Conference doesn't need anyone's certificate. Nearly 3,000 of our colleagues

have died standing for this

J&K Peoples Conference (PC) President Sajad Lone also criticised the J&K Director General of Police (DGP) for his 'Pakistan' remarks, saying that statements by serving officers are an indication of the disdain and contempt of anything related to democra-

officers are an indication o the disdain and contempt for anything remotely about democracy. Such a sad state of affairs and even sadder is the fact that the scriptwriters of this sad state of affairs take pride in having brought J&K to this level," PC President wrote on X.

Meanwhile, the Congress party leaders in Jammu staged a protest highlighting the failure of the government to pre-vent attacks on the security

Democratic Progressive Azad Party Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed deep sorrow over the death of four Indian Army soldiers, including a Captain, in Doda.

He emphasized that the rise in

militancy in the Jammu

region is alarming and called for serious government measures to combat it. "Every human life is precious,

and the enemies of peace must be dealt with firmly,' Azad stated.

Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni party Syed Altaf Bukhari said the Doda Terror attack is condemnable. I think our security forces are either failing in intelligence gathering or something else. They should identify where they are going wrong to pre-vent further martyrdom of

#### 'Sangathan', not ED, CBI can win polls, says Bengal BJP

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

The truth that central agen-L cies alone cannot win elections for the BJP in Bengal seems to have finally dawned on the saffron outfit which has asked the party rank and file to spruce up its organisational prowess to counter the Trinamool Congress in 2026 Assembly elections.

State party president Sukanta Majumdar, is known to have told the party men in an organizational meeting that instead of depending too much on the central agencies they should look forward to brace up the organizational strength of the party.

"Sometimes workers would ask for CBI action to arrest someone. They think that such actions will only ensure a victory... but that is not to be ... if you think that ED or CBI actions can win elections for you ... it is not going to happen ... the Agencies are there to catch the culprits and not win elections for parties ... we will have to spruce up the organization instead of relying too much on the agencies if we have to win elections," Majumdar who is also a Union Minister said.

Incidentally Majumdar who had won the Balurghat par-

liamentary constituency in 2019 general elections by a margin of more than 80 thousand votes could barely manage to retain the seat this time round. He won by about 28,000 votes.

Not only the BJP's vote share dipped but also it conceded 6 seats to the TMC winning only 12 parliamentary seats in comparison to the TMC's 29. In 2019 the party had won 18

Though Majumdar would not take names while making his statements inside sources said his remarks were directed at State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari who has often gone on record saying "most of the TMC leaders are on the ED and CBI radar and soon half of Mamata Banerjee's cabinet will go to

Referring to the ED and CBI Majumdar said that some people had thought that both district would come to the BJP once the party strongman Anubrata Mandal went to jail. "Anubrata is in jail ... he has been arrested by the CBI ... but could we win Birbhum and Bolpur seats ... not ... this is because of organizational deficiency," he said, "until we are able to strengthen the organization victory will not come."

Much like Majumdar another former State BJP president Dilip Ghosh too had warned that "if the party has to win then the workers will have to resist the TMC and for that organization is required ... in many areas we are not allowed to enter ... that hegemony has to be broken and only a strong and dedicated organisation can do that ... the cadres and not the agencies or central forces take you to the people." Ghosh who has been highly critical of the present State leadership including Majumdar and Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari, a Trinamool Congress import has however been sidelined in the party and there are rumors that he may also quit politics. The TMC was quick to react to Majumdar's statements saying he and his party had been able to realize the truth but

#### Kerala Govt blames Centre for mounting garbage which claimed life

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The death of 48-year-old Joy, a sanitary worker at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala shocked the entire State. The body of Joy was retrieved after 46 hours from the other end of a canal which meanders through the city carrying with it the entire garbage and solid waste. While the poor family of Joy, the lone brad earning member of the family, is in an uncontrollable grief, the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Government of Kerala and the ruling CPI(M) have blamed the Indian Railways for the mishap that claimed the life of the sanitary worker.

The garbage was piled up over a period of time because of the callousness of the Corporation authorities, according to V D Satheeshan, leader of the Opposition in Kerala assembly. The Corporation boasts of the youngest mayor in the country inefficient people's representative, said R S Sasikumar, a oneman army waging battles with the authorities on behalf of the

A start up company in Thiruvananthapuram has been providing robot "Bandicoot" to IPS officer, too made a quick

clean manholes as well as mountain of solid waste and garbage to other States but authorities in Kerala pay scant respect to such innovations. The canal meandering across the city passes through a tunnel under the railway tracks in Thiruvananthapuram Central Station and this has come handy for the education minister  $\dot{V}$  Sivankutty and CPI(M)

state secretary M V Govindan to defend Arya Rajendran, the controversial mayor. The mayor appeared from issue of garbage cleaning at nowhere on Monday as rescue cheap rates. "But the State govfrom the canal and hogged limelight by sobbing and weeping in public. With the news channel crews withdrawing from the scene, the youngest mayor, who has made it known

retreat. She was seen hugging and crying in the arms of the local MLA while the onlookers were taken aback by her behav-

'Mounting garbage and solid waste is a major problem haunting the residents of the capital city. The callousness of the local self-government authorities is the only reason behind the death of this poor sanitary worker," said P Sujathan, veteran author and journalist.

How can you blame the Railways for the present state of affairs? As far as I know, the Railways are executing their work with efficiency. But the waste is not generated by them. It is the sole responsibility of the Corporation and the department of public health," said Sasikumar.

Interestingly, there are many start up units in the capital city itself which can address the utilizing their expertise for reasons best known to the ministers and the party leaders. The mayor is said to carry a small bottle of glycerin in her hand bag for photo-ops wherthat her aim is to become an ever she goes," said a senior government official.

#### BMW hit-and-run case: Key accused sent to judicial custody till July 30

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

A Mumbai court on Tuesday remanded key accused in the sensational BMW hitand-run case Mihir R. Shah in judicial custody till July 30. At the end of her police remand, 24-year-old Miĥir was produced before Chief . Metropolitan Magistrate at Sewri S P Bhosale who sent him to judicial custody for 14 days. On their part, the police sought the extension of Mihir's custody. However, Mihir's Advocates Ayush Pasbola and Shudir Bhardwaj opposed the extension of the police custody, saying the police had gathered whatever evidence that was required from the accused and that they had recorded the statements of 27 witnesses. After hearing both sides, the

court remanded the accused in judicial custody till July 30. 7, a high-end BMW car allegedly driven by the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena's deputy leader Rajesh Shah's inebriated son Mihir Shah knocked down a two-wheeler, killing a fisher

woman and injuring her hus-

band at Worli in south-central

Mumbai in the early hours of

Mihir is being prosecuted under sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 281 (rash driving), 125B (causing grievous hurt), 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender and Sections 184 (driving dangerously), 134A (not taking the injured to hospital), 134B (not informing the police) of newly-introduced Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and 187 (punishment for offences related to accident) of the Motor Vehicle Act.

On the night of July 6, Mihir --after partying with his four friends and spending Rs 18,730 at a Juhu bar -- was driving his BMW when he rammed into a two-wheeler occupied by fish sellers -- Kaveri and his wife Pradik Nakva.

Kaveri and Pradik were return-Colaba in south Mumbai after purchasing fish stock at an auction, which they sold at a local market. After being hit by the speeding car, the two were thrown into the air and they crash-landed on the bonnet of

#### Maliwal assault case: Police chargesheet Kejriwal's aide Bibhav

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday filed its 500-odd page charge sheet against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the alleged assault of AAP MP Swati Maliwal. The charge sheet was filed before Metropolitan Magistrate Gaurav Goyal who also extended the judicial custody of Kumar till July 30. Kumar is accused of assaulting

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Maliwal on May 13 here at the chief minister's official residence. During the Tuesday's proceedings, the prosecution told the court that the charge sheet runs into around 500 pages and it also has the statements of about 50 witnesses.

The charge sheet is based on statements recorded by Maliwal, the accused Bibhav Kumar, the chief minister's viduals involved. Among the allegations, the chargesheet accuses Bibhav Kumar for destroying evidence.

The final report has been filed under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including sections 201 (causing



disappearance of evidence of offence), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354 B (assault or use of criminal force against a woman with the intent to disrobe her), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 509 (insult caused to the modesty of a woman by the use of any words, gestures or object intending to the do the same). After the FIR was Civil Lines Police Station, Kumar was arrested on May 18. He was sent to police custody for five days the same day by a magisterial court, which observed that his anticipatory bail plea had become infructuous because of his arrest.

#### Top babus...

From Page 1 An exercise should be

one bit too late.

undertaken to study the impact of 'Jal Jeevan Mission' on the lives of citizens. Suitable incentives to be devised to encourage officers to take full advantage of capacity building courses and modules available on iGOT, the secretaries were told.

Gauba said ministries and departments should take steps to make their IT systems adequately resilient and to sensitise their officers to ensure scrupulous adherence to cyber security guidelines and protocols. This should be a continuing endeavour.

Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Bharat Scouts and Guides and other similar initiatives to be synergised with the objective of providing adequate opportunities to youth in nation building. A comprehensive action plan to

'My Bharat, National Service

be finalised to implement the concept of women-led development," he said. The cabinet secretary said should commence planning

for post-Budget webinars immediately. All stakeholders to be involved in this exercise and implementation of budget announcements to be ensured in a time bound

## **Spate of political...**

A political blame game has followed the tragedy befalling the VIP supremo, who has, in a political career spanning barely half-adecade, aligned with parties on both sides of the ideological divide. The Nishad community leader, who goes by the evocative sobriquet 'son of Mallah', was won over into the INDIA bloc by Tejashwi Yadav, who gave his party seats from the RJD's own quota in the recent Lok Sabha polls, besides ensuing that Sahni accompanied him at over 250 rallies across the

Yadav, who is the leader of the opposition in

state assembly, came out with a statement lambasting NDA government for failure to check crime in Bihar where "people are forced to live in terror".Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who had shared the stage with Yadav and Sahni at some of the rallies, offered condolences and said "it is expected that the government in Bihar will ensure strongest possible punishment to the culprits at the earliest and ensure justice to the bereaved Sahni family". Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the murder is highly condemnable.

Leaders of the BJP, which had helped Sahni become a minister in 2020 by getting him elected to the legislative council, only to force his expulsion less than two years later, asserted that the guilty would be brought to book. 'Spoke to Sahni and assured him that the

government in Bihar has taken the incident very seriously and culprits will be brought to justice at the earliest", said Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, a former state BJP president. Union ministers Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi also came out with condolence messages. Manjhi, a former chief minister who heads Hindustani Awam Morcha, hit back at the RJD-led opposition. According to Jitendra Singh Gangwar, Bihar

Police ADG (Headquarters), two persons have been taken into custody for questioning, on the basis of CCTV footage obtained from cameras installed in the vicinity of the site of the crime. "They were found moving in a suspicious manner. However, the case is being investigated from all possible angles", said Gangwar, who did not divulge the identity of the detainees. The ADG said the body, which had deep wounds caused by a sharp-edged object on the chest and abdomen, has been sent for post mortem.

#### **EC** releases SOPs for...

The EVM units selected by the candidates after mix and match first shall undergo selfdiagnosis followed by mutual authentication of each other. Successful mutual authentication takes place only between genuine EVM units and the result of the self-diagnosis of connected units is displayed on control unit. The mutual authentication process ensures that spurious or unauthorised units do not get connected with ECI-EVMs at any stage. The counting of VVPAT slips will be done as per the procedure on counting of VVPAT slips prescribed by the Commission.

A total of eight applications for Lok Sabha and three for assembly polls were received for checking and verification of burnt memory/microcontroller of EVMs post the announcement of results on June 4.

#### Government convenes all...

From Page 1

Basantgarh

The first Parliament session after the formation of the 18th Lok Sabha witnessed the opposition INDIA bloc raising issues like the recent NEET controversy, Manipur situation, and price rise among others, resulting in uproars and adjournments. Protests were also witnessed in both Houses during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

Thanks on the President's address. In the Lok Sabha, Opposition MPs raised slogans demanding a statement on Manipur during the Prime Minister's reply, while in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition had staged a walkout. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) said no representatives from the party will attend the meeting as July 21 is including a observed by the party as "Martyrs' Day". TMC's day along Parliamentary party leader in colleagues.

reply to the Motion of Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien wrote to Rijiju and informed him that his party will not be

able to attend the meet. "For 30 years now, 21st July has been observed as 'Martyrs' Day' in Bengal in honour of our 13 colleagues who were unlawfully killed in a police firing on the day in 1993. In this context, all MPs of the All India Trinamool Congress including myself will be in our home State to mark the day along with other party

#### From Page 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's major push for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' has vielded remarkable results in the indigenisation of defence productions. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh driving the efforts to

production. The DPSUs will undertake indigenisation of the items mentioned in the fifth PIL through various routes including 'Make' procedure or in-house development the industry, involving including MSMEs. This will provide impetus to the growth of economy, enhance investment in defence and lead to reduced import dependence. In addition, this will augment the design capabilities of domestic

MoD marches on self-reliance...

with the realise the vision of selfreliance in

defence Industry due to the involvement of academia and

research institutions.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Electronics Limited (BHEL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), BEML Limited, India Limited Optel Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) and Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) are the DPSUs involved in production of the defence items of the fifth PIL. These have initiated process for issuing Expressions of Interest/Requests for Proposal on their respective websites with a link on the 'Srijan portal dashboard.

Earlier, four PILs comprising 4,666 items were notified by the DDP for DPSUs, of which having import substitution value worth Rs 3,400 crore, have already been indigenised.

provided by the Ahmednagar

## **Spiralling** Terror in **Jammu.**

From Page 1 General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS and all ranks of the Indian Army also conveyed their deepest condolences to the bravehearts who laid down their lives in the line counter-terrorist operation in Doda.

incident of terrorist violence in the Jammu region since

So far 48 soldiers including

of duty, while undertaking a This is the seventh major

the beginning of this year. According to a recent assessment of the various security agencies, around seven to eight groups of 3-4 foreign terrorists are active in the region and have taken shelter in the thickly forested belt inside natural maintaining a tight vigil in cave-like structures to dodge the area in the aftermath of the security forces. the killing of a village

elite para commandos and other ranks have been martyred in around one dozen operations since October 2021 in the Jammu region.

Since January 1, 2024, 12 soldiers including a village defence group member have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. 10 civilians and five terrorists were also killed in these operations. The security forces were

defence guard in the

The anti-terror operations in Doda were intensified after a fierce exchange of fire in Chattargalla pass left five Army personnel and a special police officer injured on June 12. A policeman was injured in another encounter in Gandoh the next day.

Udhampur on April 28.

area

After the Kathua ambush, terrorists managed to escape after an encounter with security forces in the nearby Ghadi Bhagwah forest bordering Kishtwar district

on July 9. Three foreign terrorists were killed in a day-long operation in the Gandoh area of the district on June 26. Iammu

witnessed a sudden spike in terror attacks soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the oath of office of Prime Minister on June 9. His oath-taking ceremony coincided with one of the brutal attacks on a pilgrim bus in the Reasi district in which nine persons were killed and 41 others were left

#### **Controversial IAS** officer **Puja Khedkar** grounded

From Page 1

The authenticity of various certificates submitted by her to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is being probed.

After having completed MBBS, Puja appeared for the civil services examination in 2021 and cleared the preliminary and main exams,

and interview, securing the 821st rank. Later the UPSC asked her to

undergo a medical check-up at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in Delhi to confirm her disability claim of suffering from "blindness and mental illness", an illness that gave her the benefits under the Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) category. However, she skipped call for a medical check-up on six occasions between April and August 2022.Puja had earlier submitted two certificates,

District Civil Hospital in 2018 and 2021, to the UPSC under PwBD category. It has now emerged that she had applied for a disability certificate from the Aundh Government Hospital in Pune in August 2022, but after medical tests, her application was rejected. Puja, who was initially posted as an assistant collector, hit headlines for wrong reasons following her alleged demand for a separate office and official car and unauthorised use of a beacon in her private

## GTB Hospital's resident doctors end indefinite strike after Government reassurance

The Resident Doctors' The Resident Posts Association (RDA) of the Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Hospital in Delhi's Dilshad garden area called off their indefinite strike, to demand better security measures in the wake of a shooting incident, on Tuesday following an assurance from the Delhi government.

A representative from the doctors' body said that a meeting with Special Health Secretary of Delhi Danish Ashraf was held regarding improvements in security measures for the staff and patients at the hospital.

"The health department has assured us that they will look into our demands. They have agreed to take measures such as metal detectors at entry gates, and walkie-talkies for ty of doctors and patients," he

The association also mentioned that Ashraf has assured police patrolling within the hospital premises. The representative said that they had signed the letter to call off the In a case of mistaken identi-

ty, a 32-year-old man was shot dead by a teenager inside a ward of the GTB Hospital here on Sunday after which the doctors went on indefinite strike the next day. According to doctors of the Delhi government-run hospital, three doctors were present in ward 24 when the assailant pushed aside a doctor and shot Riyazuddin.The strike commenced at 9 am on Monday, affecting routine patient care in all non-emergency areas, according to members of the



doctors' association. Meanwhile, according to the police, jailed gangster Hashim Baba, who is suspected to be behind the shooting at the

hospital, is facing 16 criminal

cases, including murder and attempt to murder.

Hashim Baba, whose real name is Ashim, was arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police in 2019 and booked under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), according to a Delhi Police dossier.

inside Tihar jail.

has failed to deter Baba who has been running his crime syndicate from behind bars. Since 2019, he allegedly ordered five killings, including the GTB hospital shooting, from jail, the officer said. He is facing 16 criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder and dacoity in east Delhi's Jaffrabad, Bhajanpura and Welcome areas. The murders were executed by the members of Hashim Baba's gang on his orders, the officer said. It is believed that the gangster formed an alliance with gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, an accused in the murder of Punjabi singer-politician Sidhu Moosewala,

Hashim Baba allegedly helped members of the Bishnoi gang in Delhi procure firearms, the officer said. Before forming his own gang, he was a

sharpshooter of the Nassir gang, active in trans-Yamuna areas. He and one Rashid alias Rashid Cablewala, were the henchmen of Nassir, also lodged in Tihar jail.

His name also cropped up in the 2016 shooting inside the Karkardooma court leading to the death of a Delhi Police constable. Four juveniles had allegedly orchestrated the attack at the behest of Hashim Baba and Nassir to eliminate their arch-rival Chennu Pehalwan, while he was produced in the court. Baba deliberately hires minors

from their gangs, as they get bail easily despite being involved in heinous crimes. The officer said the shooting at the GTB hospital was an outcome of a gang war. His shooters had come to eliminate Waseem, but they shot and killed Riyazuddin in a

Baba's first brush with the law was in 2007 when he was caught with an illegal firearm in the I P Estates area, according to the dossier. According to a police officer, Baba was in class eight when he decided to quit his studies and began making slippers at a factory in northeast Delhi.

Soon he fell into the company of local criminals dealing drugs and running illegal bet-ting rackets and became their sharpshooter, the officer said, adding Hashim Baba never hesitates to shoot. Due to his long hair, the gang members started calling him 'Baba' -- a nickname of Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt who made long hair popular among men in the 1990s -- while Ashim got changed to Hashim as it was easy on the tongue, the offi-

#### STP chief engineers to be punished for not treating sewage to prescribed standards

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

he Delhi government's pollution control body plans to penalise chief engineers of sewage treatment plants (STPs) that do not treat wastewater to prescribed standards, a major cause of high water pollution in the Yamuna river, after missing the deadline twice by the AAP government to clean the Yamuna to bathing stan-

Biological oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) in treated wastewater should be less than 10 milligrams per litre which is critical for cleaning the Delhi stretch of the Yamuna. The capital missed the December 2023 deadline to treat all the sewage generated to the prescribed standards.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) received a six-month extension but failed to meet the goal, according to monthly progress reports on the Yamuna river's Shakti Ministry.

In March this year, Delhi set a target to increase its sewage treatment capacity to 814 million gallons a day, but this too was not achieved. Now, the

was not achieved. Now, the DJB aims to reach a sewage treatment capacity of 922 MGD by December 2024 and 964.5 MGD by March 2025, according to the latest monthly progress report submitted to the Jal Shakti Ministry. Any further delays could make it very difficult for the AAP led Delhi government to fulfil its promise of cleaning the Yamuna to bathing standards by February 2025. "It is almost certain that the 2025 deadline certain that the 2025 deadline will also be missed, given the abysmal pace of rehabilitation and upgradation of the existing STPs to meet the standards and the construction of new ones, a former DJB official said. However, the Delhi Pollution

Control Committee (DPCC)

rejuvenation sent to the Jal their efforts. "We have been shakti Ministry. issuing reminders to the DJB, urging them to expedite the work and meet the deadlines. We even imposed penalties on the DJB. Now, we have decided to hold the chief engineers overseeing the upgrade of existing STPs and the construction of new STPs accountable," a senior environment department official said.

"We will impose personal penalties on the chief engineers responsible for specific sewage treatment plants if they do not comply with the standards," the official said.

Delhi generates 792 million gallons of sewage a day (MGD). The 37 sewage treatment plants (STPs) in the capital have a combined capacity of 667 MGD. Currently, these STPs utilise only 71 per cent of their installed capacity, treating 565 MGD of the 792 MGD of sewage, with the rest flowing untreated into the Yamuna

## Centre gets time till July 25 to decide on office space allotment to AAP

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Delhi High Court on}}_{\text{Tuesday granted the}}$  Centre time till July 25 to decide on allotment of office space to the AAP here on account of it being recognised as a national party. On June 5, the high court granted six weeks to the Centre to decide the AAP's request in this matter. The Directorate of Estates, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, on Tuesday, sought four more weeks to comply with the court's direction, stating it was occupied with the "mammoth task" of allotting accommodation to parliamentarians.

The senior counsel appearing for AAP opposed the Centre's request and emphasised that keeping in view the six-week deadline, which is expiring on Wednesday, the Supreme Court has granted the party time till August 10 as the last opportunity to vacate its present office in Rouse Avenue. In March, the Supreme Court



June 15 to vacate its Rouse Avenue office after noting that the land was allotted to the Delhi High Court for expanding judicial infrastructure.

The senior counsel said the extension of time was being sought to leave the party without any remedy and the Centre did not express before the top court its inability to comply with the Delhi High the allotment of office space. Tomorrow is the last date when the order completes six weeks... You chose not to come before this court. What is the purpose to come at the fag end? If you don't want to give, what is stopping them from giving a reasoned order that you don't want to give," the senior counsel said.

Justice Sanjeev Narula said "substantial time" has been granted to the authority to take a decision on the office space allotment issue and a further extension of four weeks cannot be given.

"However, considering the overall facts and circumoverall facts and circumstances, the time period is extended till July 25, 2024. This court expects that no further applications will be presented by the applicant for seeking extension," the court said. On June 5, the high court said the AAP was entitled to a space for a party office here like other nationoffice here like other national political parties and asked the Centre to decide on the issue within six weeks.

It had observed that national political parties have the right to secure allotment of one housing unit from the general pool in Delhi for office use on payment of licence fee until land is acquired by them for constructing its own accommodation.

"Pressure" or non-availability of a house in the general pool cannot be a reason for

AAP's representation is rejected by the Centre, the party can take appropriate steps under law, the high court had said in its June order. The party had moved the high court last year by filing two separate petitions seeking a piece of land in the national capital for the construction of its offices in view of its status as a recognised national party or allotment of a housing unit on a licence basis for the time being. The petition

rejection of the request, the

high court had said. If the

the AAP is still pending in the high court. The Arvind Kejriwal-led party had said in court that since land has been allotted by the authorities to all other national parties for building offices in central locations of New Delhi, it is incumbent upon them to ensure that a similar allotment is also made to the AAP in accordance with its entitlement as per the

seeking allotment of land to

## SC seeks CBI, ED's response on Sisodia's bail plea

can re-apply," he said,

adding, "The trial is at the

same stage as it was in

October 2023 when your lord-

The bench sought responses

from the Central Bureau of

ships had given me liberty."

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) on AAP leader Manish Sisodia's pleas seeking bail in the corruption and money laundering cases linked to cy scam. Sisodia, a former deputy chief minister of Delhi, has sought bail contending that he has been in custody for 16 months and the trial against him was at the same stage as it was in October last

A bench headed by Justice B R Gavai agreed to hear the pleas filed by Sisodia who has also filed an application seeking revival of his bail petitions in the excise policy-linked corruption and money laundering cases.

"Issue notice, returnable on July 29," said the bench, which



also comprised Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice K V

Advocate Vivek Jain, appearing for Sisodia, told the bench that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader has been in custody for 16 months. "I (Sisodia) have been inside

for 16 months. I had come in October. This court said that on Sisodia's pleas and posted the matter for hearing on July 29. Sisodia was arrested by the CBI on February 26, 2023, for his alleged role in the liquor policy case. The ÉD arrested him in the

money laundering case stemming from the CBI FIR on March 9 last year. He resigned from the Delhi cabinet on February 28 last year.

corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 which has now been scrapped.

On July 11, apex court judge Sanjay Kumar had recused himself from hearing Sisodia's pleas in the case. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Sisodia, had requested the bench to list the matter urgently and said the trial has not yet commenced in both cases.

Investigation (CBI) and the On July 8, the top court agreed to list Sisodia's pleas Enforcement Directorate (ED)

after Singhvi said an application has been filed for the revival of a disposed of petition seeking bail in these cases. The plea said the law officer, appearing for the probe agencies, had told the top court on June 4 that the top court on June 4 that the charge sheet and prosecution complaint in the main excise policy case and the linked would be filed on or before

On June 4, the apex court refused to entertain the bail pleas of Sisodia in cases lodged by the CBI and the ED in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam. It had said Sisodia could revive his petitions for bail after the ED and the CBI file their final prosecution complaint and charge sheet respectively in the cases involving alleged corruption and money laundering. A prosecution complaint is the ED's equivalent of a charge sheet.

#### Traffic congestion on Munirka flyover after truck-trailer collision hits commuters

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

collision between a truck Awith a trailer on the Munirka Flyover in southwest Delhi on Tuesday morning, leading to traffic congestion on the stretch and causing frustration among the commuters. said, "Accident of Trolla and a truck happened on the Munirka flyover. Moreover, no one was injured in the accident. The accident affected traffic movement on the stretch which resumed later."

The Delhi Traffic Police took to social media platform X to warn commuters of the traffic congestion on Outer Ring Road in the carriageway from IIT towards Delhi Cantonment. Meanwhile, the commuters also expressed the inconvenience caused to them from the traffic situation across the national capital on social media



One of them said the traffic was massive in Delhi's Mahipalpur

Other X users reported that there were huge traffic jams near Bhajanpura petrol pump, near Rohini court, from Modi Mill flyover to Kalkaji temple, and other areas.

Commenting on the incident, one X user stated, "Trailer should be ceased as this is

designed act to create trouble for commuters. DTP should ensure that whenever these trucks are crossing through Delhi roads they need to be on the left only & no overtaking. During night they drive as these roads are only for them." However, two hours later, the police shared another post mentioning both the vehicles had been removed and traffic

movement was resumed.

### Around 600 PUCCs remain shut for second consecutive day

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Around 600 Pollution Under Control Centres (PUCC) at the 400 petrol pumps in Delhi remained shut for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as part of a strike by petrol dealers to express dissatisfaction over the proposed hike in the pollution certificate charges. The closure call for the indef-

inite strike was given by the Delhi Petrol Dealers' Association (DPDA) amid tussle with the AAP led Delhi government over not revising the charges as per their demands.On July 11, the Delhi government increased the PUC certificate charges for petrol, CNG and diesel vehicles after a gap of about vehicles after a gap of accentage between Rs 20 and Rs 40.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot had said earlier that these new rates will be effective as soon as the city government notifies them. In a statement issued on Sunday, the DPDA said the

and the percentage increase was more than 70. They expressed their dissatisfaction over the nominal increase of the prices despite a revision after a period of more than a decade.

"The rate hike announced by the Delhi government now after 13 years is merely 35 per cent, whereas all our expenses in the operation of a PUC centre have increased multiple times, with just the wages having increased three times from 2011 to 2024," the state-

ment said A Transport Department offi-PUCC rates were last revised



in 2011 after a gap of six years cial said the hike had been

customers and petrol dealers. 'In response to the longpending demands of the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association and to keep up with the rising costs of pollution checking services, we have decided to revise the rates. This revision is necessary to ensure that pollution checking stations can continue to operate efficiently and

public," Gahlot said. According to officials, there are around 945 PUCC in Delhi, including around 600 at petrol pumps

provide quality services to the

### Minor girl forced into prostitution rescued by police, NGO

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

¬he Delhi Police, along with Manobal NGO, rescued a 14 year old orphan girl from working in a brothel at Delhi's

According to the police on Tuesday, the victim is an orphan hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor district who had come to Delhi in search of work. Due to the circumstances, she got lured into sex trade at a minor age. The Delhi police has also made an arrest in the matter.

DCP Central M. HARSHA VARDHAN stated, "On July out, she may be rescued."

12, at about 08:30 pm, an information was received through secret informer that in Shradhanand Marg, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi a minor aged about 14 years is compelled to work in a brothel house, and that if a rescue operation be carried He added that after receiving the information, the police, along with Manobal NGO,

reached the spot and found that

one minor girl age about 14

years was in the custody of a

woman namely 42 year old



"The minor was immediately rescued from her custody and taken to shelter. During rescue, NGO Counsellor conducted proper counselling and it was revealed that about three to four days earlier she was brought to the Kotha by one Anas from Zakir Nagar in Okhla, Delhi and she was handed over to Anjali," the DCP added

After counselling, the medical examination of victim was got conducted at Lok Nayak (LNJP) hospital on July 13 and her statement was recorded. The DCP stated that a case under the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (BNS)

(Prevention) ITP Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered at Police station Kamla Market. During the course of investi-

gation, statement of victim has been recorded by Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) and accused Anjali has been arrested and sent to judicial custody. "All Women PP SN Marg, ably supported by PS Kamla Market, located in this very sensitive area has been able to successfully keep a watch over the area to ensure that no minor or unwilling person is kept in the red-light area," the DCP stated.

#### Two killed, one hurt in accident on Mehrauli-Badarpur road



**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Atragic accident on Mehrauli Badarpur road in the early morning of Tuesday led to the death of two people and left an unidentified person with major injuries.

According to a senior police officer, the car climbed the footpath and hit a tree which resulted in the death of a passerby and the driver of the car at around 6 am on Tuesday. DCP South Ankit Chauhan said, "On Tuesday at around 6 am, an information regarding an accident on MB road from

Mehrauli to Badarpur carriage way( Opposite Saidulajab bus stop) was received at police staion Saket." The police team reached the

spot and a Tata Altroz car was found on foot path and dead body of a man namely 28 year old Moolchand, who is a resident of Shiv Park in Khan Pur was lying on the road. A senior officer said that Moolchand was the passerby who got killed in the accident. Other two injured, including driver of the car and one other unknown person, were taken to hospital

## **Exam panel receives feedback on** curbing lapses in exam process

ay down norms for any irreg-Lularities or lapses in the exam process, no normalisation of marks, infrastructure checks at exam centres and proper communication to candidates in case of schedule changes are among thousands of suggestions the Centre's high-level exam reform panel has received from stakeholders. According to sources, a majority of these suggestions have come from stu-

"Some aspirants have suggested laying down clear norms in case of any lapses. Like the grace marks issue, aspirants want to know what will happen will be used.

There are also complaints about some centres being too far off and not having the required infrastructure," a source said.

"There are concerns about the normalisation process too. Some aspirants have suggested against it, some have asked for transparency in the process so scores are neither inflated nor drastically reduced," the source added. Headed by former ISRO chief R Radhakrishnan, the committee tasked with reviewing the National Testing Agency's functioning had sought suggestions, views and ideas from stakeholders, particularly students and parents, between June 27 and July 7 through the MyGov



platform. The panel has received over 37,000 responses from students, parents, coaching institutions, school teachers, academic institutions and even career counsellors among others. It is supposed to submit its report within two months.

Regd. & Head Office

Kankanady Mangaluru - 575 002

including alleged leaks, UGC-NET was cancelled as the In the line of fire over alleged Ministry received inputs that the irregularities in the medical integrity of the exam had been entrance examination NEET compromised. Both matters are and PhD entrance NET, the being probed by the CBI. Two other exams - CSIR-UGC NET Centre last month set up the

at the last moment as a pre-emptive step.

The panel also includes former AIIMS Delhi director Randeep Guleria, Central University of Hyderabad Vice-Chancellor B J Rao, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT Madras K Ramamurthy, People Strong co-founder and Karmayogi Bharat board member Panka Bansal, IIT Delhi Dean of Student Affairs Aditya Mittal and MoE Joint Secretary Govind Jaiswal.

The committee has also been tasked with examining the existing security protocols related to the setting of the papers and other processes for various examinations and making recommendations to enhance the robustness of the system.

## India protests Zelenskyy's remarks against PM Modi

Days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow, India has conveyed to Kyiv its displeasure over the remarks, diplomatic sources said on Monday. It is learnt that India's disappointment over the comments by Zelenskyy was communicated to Ukraine's mission in Delhi.

New Delhi's views on the comments (by Zelenskyy) were conveyed to Kyiv, the sources said. There was no official word on the matter yet. Last Tuesday, the Ukrainian president described Modi's visit to Moscow as a "huge" disappointment and a "devastating blow" to peace efforts. In a social media post on, Zelenskyy specifically referred to Russia's missile attacks on Ukraine including on a chil-



"A Russian missile struck the largest children's hospital in Ukraine, targeting young cancer patients. Many were buried under the rubble," Zelenskyy said. "It is a huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day," he said. Modi visited Moscow on July 8 and 9 in his first trip to Russia since its invasion of

In his summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Modi, delivering an unambiguous mes-

Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs, guns and bullets.In his televised opening remarks, Modi said the killing of innocent children is heart-wrenching and very painful in a reference to the strike in the children's hospital in Kyiv. "Let's take war, any conflict or terrorist acts: any person who believes in humanity feels pain when people die, and especially when innocent children die. When we feel such pain, the heart simply explodes, and I had the opportunity to talk about these issues with you yesterday," Modi told Putin. The Ohmatdyt Children's Hospital in Kyiv was hit after Russia unleashed a barrage of missiles on cities across Ukraine on July 8. At least 38 people, including two

in the hospital, were killed in the

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the property bearing address Plot bearing No. 14, Road No. K-14, admeasuring 146.93 sq. meters situated in the residential colony known as DLF City Phase-II (formerly known as DLF Qutub Enclave Complex) located around Village Sarhaul, Tehsil and District-Gurugram, Haryana, a Residential Buildup House with Basement, Stilt, First Floor, Second Floor, Third Floor, Fourth Floor and Terrace Floor ("Disputed Property") with Occupation certificate Memo no. 12210, dated 10/10/2022, on

: Plot No. K-14/13 : Creche

is currently under dispute. The Disputed Property was agreed to be sold by Mrs. Shashi Bala, write of Mr. Rishipal Singh and Mr. Tanuj Singh, son of Mr. Rishipal Singh both residents of J-187, Third Floor, Saket, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi, New Delhi-110017 ("Sellers") to Smt. Kusum Nagpal, write of Mr. Parveen Nagpal r/o B-21, 2" Floor, Kirti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar. West Delhi, Delhi- 110015 ("Buyer") through a duly stamped Agreement to Sell dated 16.05.2024. That part payment has already been made by the Buyer to the Sellers.

By way of this communication, all stakeholders, potential buyers, and other interested parties are hereby cautioned to take notice of this dispute before entering into any transactions related to the afore-mentioned property. Any dealings or transactions made in connection with this property shall be subject to the outcome of the ongoing dispute.

The necessary FIR/Police Complaint vide complaint no. 13227031240528 dated 26th Jun 2024, has also been lodged by the aforesaid Buyer regarding the aforesaid Disputer Property. We are also in the process of taking other action, including but not limited to civi and criminal proceedings against the Seller.

You are also put to notice that in the event you deal with the Sellers with respect to the Disputed Property, you will be abetting and aiding a breach of contract and be treated as ar abettor and conspirator to the breach of the contract and you would be liable for all damages jointly and severally with the Sellers, including indemnification for any losses which are caused to the Buyer, which has been caused to the Buyer and are continually being caused on account of illegal actions of the Sellers.

B-21, 2nd Floor, Kirti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar West Delhi, Delhi- 110015 Email - pinkynagpal63@yahoo.ir Phone number - 9810651301

Dated: 17th July 2024

INDAG"

#### **INDAG RUBBER LIMITED** (CIN: L74899DL1978PLC009038)

Read, Office: Khemka House, 11, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi -110017. Ph. No. 011-26963172/73, E-mail Id:- info@indagrubber.com, Website: www.indagrubber.com

Information regarding Forty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of Indag Rubber Ltd. Notice is hereby given that the Forty-Fifth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of th Members of Indag Rubber Limited ("Company") will be held on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 03:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Mean ("OAVM"), in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, 2015 ('Listing Regulations') read with Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08 2020 and Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporat Affairs followed by Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 date January 13, 2021, Circular No. 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022, Circular No. 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022 and Circular No. 09/ 2023 dated September 25, 2023 and all other relevant circulars issued from time to time ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, Circular No SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022, Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated January 5, 2023 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CED/CED-PoD 2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated October 7, 2023, issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circulars") (collectively referred to as "relevant circulars"), to transact the

In compliance with the relevant circulars, the Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report fo the financial year 2023-2024 will be sent only through electronic mode to those member whose name appears in the Register of Members as on July 19, 2024 and whose emai addresses are registered with the Company/Registrar and Share Transfer Agent/Depository Participant(s). The aforesaid documents will also be made available on the Company's website at www.indagrubber.com and on the website of BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Members car attend and participate in the ensuing AGM through VC/OAVM only and such Members sha be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013 Remote e-voting facility is provided to Members to cast their votes on the Resolutions se out in the Notice of AGM. Members have option to cast their vote using the remote e-voting facility prior to the AGM or during the AGM. Detailed procedure for remote e-voting is

Manner of registering/ updating email addresses by the Members is given below: Members holding shares in physical form may register/ update their email address in

- prescribed form ISR-1 and send it to the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company i.e. Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., D-153/A, 1st Floor, Phase-1, Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi-110020 Members holding shares in demat mode may contact their respective Depositor

Manner of casting vote(s) through e-voting is given below

- The manner of voting remotely ("remote e-voting") by members holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email addresses will be provided in the Notice of the AGM. The details will also be available on the website of the Company at  $\underline{www.indagrubber.com}.$
- The facility for voting through electronic voting system will also be made available a the AGM and Members attending the AGM who have not cast their vote(s) by remot e-voting will be able to vote at the AGM.
- The login credentials for casting votes through e-voting shall be made available to the members through email. Members who do not receive email or whose email addresses are not registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s), may generate login credentials by following instructions given in the Notes to Notice o
- The same login credentials may also be used for attending the AGM through VC

The Board of Directors in their meeting held on May 14, 2024 had recommended a Fina Dividend of Rs. 2.10/- per equity Share of face value of Rs. 2/- each. The Book closure date for the purpose of AGM and Final Dividend for the financial year 2023-24 will be from Saturday, August 10, 2024 to Friday, August 16, 2024 (both days inclusive). The Final Dividend, once approved by the Shareholders in the ensuing AGM will be paid on or befor

SEBI, vide its Circular dated November 3, 2021, read with subsequent circulars issued in this regard, has mandated registration of PAN, KYC details and Nomination, by holders of physical securities. As per the said mandate, Shareholders, holding securities in physica form, whose folio(s) are not updated with any of the KYC details [viz., (i) PAN; (ii) Choice of Nomination; (iii) Contact Details; (iv) Mobile Number; (v) Bank Account Details and (v Signature] shall be eligible for any payment including dividend, interest or redemption i respect of such folios, only through electronic mode with effect from April 1, 2024. Ir accordance with the above, dividends, in respect of physical folios wherein any of the above KYC details (except choice of Nomination) are not updated before the Record Date will be held back by the Company. Shareholders may please note that the dividends will ge credited to their bank account only after the KYC details are updated in the folio

Pursuant to the changes introduced by the Finance Act, 2020, dividends paid or distribut by the Company after 1st April 2020, shall be taxable in the hands of the Members and the Company shall be required to deduct tax at source (TDS) at the prescribed rates from the dividend to be paid to Members. The TDS rate would vary depending on the residential status of the Member and the documents submitted by them and accepted by th Company. For more information, please refer the communication sent to the Shareholder for TDS on Dividend Distribution, which is available on the website under the lin https://indagrubber.com/uploads/document/Email\_to\_Shareholders\_reg\_\_TDS\_on\_Final \_Div\_\_2020-21.pdf. The shareholders are requested to update their PAN with the RT/ (where shares are held in Physical mode) and with depositories (where shares are held in

This Notice is being issued for the information and benefits of all the Shareholders of the

Company in compliance with the relevant circulars issued by MCA and SEBI

Date: July 16, 2024

Place: New Delhi

By order of the Board For Indag Rubber Limited

Company Secretary

 Mr. Subbanshu Jain, Slo Late Sunil Jain
 Mrs. Nikita Jain, Dlo Late Sunil Jain
 Mrs. Mamta Jain, Wlo Late Sunil Jain . M/s Blackberry Overseas Pvt Ltd, sented by its Directors a) Mr. Subbanshu Jain All. No. (2) to (4) are residing at: #1503, Kuncha Seth Dariba Kalan Near Jain Mandir Delhi-110006 Registered Office: G-11 North Square Mall, Netaii Subash Place Pitampura.

👀 Karnataka Bank Ltd. 🛚 📖

Mahaveera Circle
angaluru - 575 002

LEGAL & RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

Frone: 0824-2228488/104

E-Mail: legal.recovery@ktkbank.co
Website: www.karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

Your Family Bank. Across India. Phone : 0824-2228488/104

Late Sunil Jain, Represented by legal heirs Mr. Subbanshu Jain, Mrs. Nikita Jain.

smooth and fair conduct of

examinations through the

National Testing Agency (NTA).

While NEET is under the scan-

ner over several irregularities,

The (i) Overdraft Loan A/c No. 5607000100002301 dated 20.11.2021 for Rs.60,000.00, (ii PS-Term Loan A/c No. 560001800004101 dated 23.11.2021 for Rs.67,00,000.00, (iii) PS Term Loan Alc No. 5607001800004501 dated 11.11.2021 for Rs.5,00,00,000.00 (iv) PS-Term Loan Alc No. 5607001800004601 dated 11.11.2021 for Rs.74,44,000.00, are the facility availed at New-Delhi-East of Kailash Branch by You No.1] M/s Blackberry Overseas Pvt Ltd, Represented by its Directors, You No. 2] Mr. Subbanshu Jain and You No.3] Mrs. Nikita Jain is the borrower and You No. 2] Mr. Subbanshu Jain and You No.3] Mrs. Nikita Jain are the Co-Obligants/Guarantors and have availed the credit facilities at the relevant time and even up-to now. Mr. Sunil Jain (since deceased) was also one of the Co-Obligants/Gauarantors. He is now represented by You No. 2] Mr. Subbanshu Jain and You No.3] Mrs. Nikita Jain and You No.4] Mrs. Mamta Jain been classified as Non-Performing Asset on 09.10.2023 w.e.f 11.11.2021 and that action under SARFAESI Act has been initiated by issuing a detailed Demand Notice under Section 13(2) & (3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and ent of Security Interest Act, 2002 by the Authorised officer of the Bank on 22.05.2024 to the parties concerned. The said Demand Notice sent by speed post with acknowledgments to above mentioned addresses, have been returned undelivere Hence, we have published the contents of the Demand Notice by way of this Notice by observing the procedures laid down in the SARFAESI Act 2002. The balance as on 21.02.2024 is Rs. 7,01,79,360.14 i.e (i) Rs. 66,466.00 under Overdraft Loan A/c No. 5607000100002301 with future rate of interest @ 13.93% p.a compounded monthly with effect from 01.04.2024, (iii) Rs. 43,69,438.61 under PS - Term Loan A/c No. 5607001800004101 with future rate of interest @ 9.25% p.a compounded monthly with effect from 01.05.2024, (iii) Rs. 5,70,36,498.53 under PS-Term Loan A/c No. 5607001800004501 with future rate of interest @15.76% p.a compounded monthly with effect from 11.05.2024, (iv) Rs.87,06,957.00 under PS-Term Loan A/c No. 4601 with future rate of interest @15.76% p.a compounded monthly with effect from 11.05.2024, You are called upon to pay the same within 60 days from the date of

Brief description of mortgaged properties;

Item No.1 All that part & parcel of Residential Property Entire Ground Floor without roof/terrace rights, built on land area measuring 80 Sq.yd, built up bearing old Muncipal No. WZ-30, New No WZ-60, Rect No.10, Killa No.20/2, situated in village Chaukhandi in the colony Ram Nagar Extension, New Delhi-110018 belonging to M/s Blackberry Overseas Pvt Ltd, Represented by its Directors Item No. 2 All that part & parcel of Commercial shop measuring 487.38 Sq.Ft. Bearin No.G-11, Ground Floor, North Square Mall, Plot Nos F1, F2 & F3, Dist Centre, Wazirpu

etaji Subhash Palace, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034, belonging to Late Sunil Jain & Item No. 3 All that part and parcel of Residential Flat measuring 1500 Sq.Ft (SBA) bearing Flat No.106 Tower-6 (Lotus-6), First Floor Multi storied Group Housing Complex, 'Gulmohar Garden', Raj Nagar Extn. Noor Nagar Village, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad Tehsili Diet III Stote before t

Subbanshu Jain and Mrs. Nikita Jain Please note that I, the Authorised Officer of the secured creditor Bank intend to enforce the

aforesaid securities in the event of failure to discharge your liabilities in full on or before the expiry of 60 days from the date of this publication.

Sd/- For Karnataka Bank Ltd., Chief Manager & Authorised Officer.

#### 🔯 Karnataka Bank Ltd. 🛭 📖

Asset Recovery Management 8-B,First Floor, Rajender Park, New Delhi-110 060

: 011-40591567(Ext-240) Phone: 011-40591567(Ext-240 E-Mail: delhiarm@kbank.com Website: www.karnatakabank.com CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

read with provision to rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Karnataka Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor on 15.06.2020, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 22.08.2024, for recovery of Rs.3,98,78,175.70 Rupees Three Crore Ninety Eight Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy Five and Paisa Seventy Only) i.e. (1) 2,98,22,332.70 under PS Overdraft Account No.5617000600001201 along with future interest from 01.02.2021 (2) Rs. 64,62,965.00 Under Pre-Shipment Account No. SLGEN54200173048 along with uture interest from 26.01.2019, plus cost. (3) Rs.35,92,878.00 Under Pre-Shipment Account No. SLGEN54200173281 along with future interest from 26.01.2019, plus cost, lue to the Karnataka Bank Ltd, Ashok Vihar Branch-Delhi, A-1Ashok Vihar, Pl New Delhi -110052, the Secured creditor from (1) Pavo Industries Ltd Rep By its Director, (i) Mr. Sajjan Kumar S/o Mr Ronal Ram, (ii) Mrs. Sunita Garg W/o Mr. Sajjan mar, (iii) Mrs Sangeeta Bansal W/o Mr. Ramesh Bansal, Addressed at: E-120, Chanakya Place, Part-I, New Delhi-110059, (2)Mr. Sajian Kumar S/o Mr Ronal Ram (3) Mrs. Sunita Garg Wio Mr. Sagan Kumar, Both (2) & (3) residing at: K-28, Chanakya ace, Part-2 New Delhi-110059, (4) Mrs Sangeeta Bansal W/o Mr. Ramesh Bansal Residing at: J-90 B, Arya Samaj Road Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059; being borrowers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

1. All that part and parcel of Residential Property Bearing No. K-28, Land measuring 125 sq. yds in Khasra No.674 & 675, situated at Bindur Village, Chanakya Place, Part-II, New Delh belonging to Mr. Sajjan Kumar. Boundaries: East: Part of Property No.K-28, West Road 25ft wide North: Road 25ft wide, South: Property No.K-27

Reserve Price / Upset Price below which the property may not be sold Rs. 1,45,00,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Forty Five Lakhs only Earnest money to be deposited/tendered: Rs.14,50,000.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh

2.All that Part and Parcel of residential property Bearing No. E-120, Area Measuring 100 Sq.yds (approx) Out of Khasra No.659, With roof eight situated at Bindaur Village Chanakya Place, Part-1, Block E, New Delhi, Belonging to Mrs Sunita Garg oundaries: East : Other,s Property, West : Portion of Plot, North : 10ft. Wide Lane

Reserve Price / Upset Price below which the property may not be sold: Rs. 1,13,00,000,00 (Rupees One Crore Thirteen Lakhs Only) Earnest Money to be deposited/tendered: Rs.11,30,000.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakh: ThirtyThousandOnly)

The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of ection 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security nterest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's ebsite i.e.www.karnatakabank.com under the head "Mega E-Auction on 22.08.2024" The E-auction will be conducted through portal https://bankauctions.in/on 22.08.2024 from 11:30 A.Mto 12:30 P.M with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at https://bankauctions.in/ and get the user if and password free of cost and get online training on E-auction (tentatively on 21.08.2024) from M/s.4closure, 605A, 6th Floor, Maitrivanam, Ameerpet, Hyderal 500038, contact No.040-23836405, mobile 8142000809, E-mail: info@banka

Date:16.07.2024 For Karnataka Bank Ltd Chief Manager & Authorised Officer.

#### **SC** to hear Haryana's plea against removal of barricades at Shambhu border



PTI NEW DELHI

The Supreme court ....

July 22 hear the Haryana The Supreme Court will on Government's plea challenging a high court order giving it a week to remove barricades at the Shambhu border near Ambala where farmers have been camping since February 13.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan on Tuesday agreed to list the matter for next Monday after senior additional advocate general Lokesh Sinhal, appearing for the state Government, said the issue requires urgent consideration. The appeal filed through advocate Akshay Amritanshu against the July 10 order of the high court said it is limited to the impugned direction that the Haryana should open the Shambhu border within a week on an experimental basis so the general public is not inconve-

The Haryana Government had set up the barricades on the highway after the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha announced that farmers would march to Delhi in support of various demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops. "It is humbly submitted that though the petitioner is most concerned about any inconvenience of any kind caused to general public, the present SLP has been filed on an urgent basis...," the plea said.

The state Government said the high court while dealing with

Train No. & Name

Train No. & Name

Express Special

04019/04020 Delhi Jn.-Shamli-Delhi Jn. MEMU

the issue did not pass any orders on its affidavit where it had specifically pleaded that the barricading can only be removed if the farmers shift their dharna from the National It said the affidavit before the

high court spoke of the likelihood of tension, annoyance, obstruction, sabotage of public or private property, injury to persons lawfully employed and risk to damage to human life and property, disturbance of public peace and public order within Haryana/Punjab by the agitators. Despite the categorical submission regarding law and order issue that may arise, the threat to life and property and despite a plea to shift the agitators out of the National Highway, the high court has on an 'experimental basis' directed for opening of the Shambhu Border without passing any directions against the agitators," it said. The Haryana Government said law and order is a state subject entirely the state's responsibility to assess ground realities, threat perception, likelihood of breach of peace and violation of

It pointed out that the high court order records that 400-500 trolleys and 50-60 other vehicles with a gathering of around 500 agitators are still at site at Shambhu Border but no directions have been passed to these "illegally agitating groups" to vacate the highway, to stop causing inconvenience and to stop creating law and order issues.

CANCELLATION/PARTIAL CANCELLATION/DIVERSION/

**RESCHEDULING/REGULATION OF TRAINS** 

In order to upgrade the existing infrastructure and enhanced the safety standards,

Northern Railway will undertake RCC Box pushing work at L-xing no. 48 between

Baraut and Qasimpur Kheri stations on Delhi Jn.-Shamli-Saharanpur Jn. single line

section. To execute this work a 6.30 hrs. Power and Traffic Block will be taken on

18.07.2024. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under: -

**CANCELLATION OF TRAINS** 

**PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS** 

Short Terminate at /

Originate from

#### Govt urges retailers to ensure pulse prices are affordable ing progress for Kharif pulses

are robust.

PNS NEW DELHI

The Department Consumer Affairs organised a meeting with Retailers Association of India (RAI) on Tuesday to discuss the price scenario in respect of pulses and compliance to the stock limits for Tur and Chana prescribed in the Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (First and Second Amendments) Order, 2024 dated 21.06.2024 and 11.07.2024. The meeting was chaired by Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs. RAI has more than 2300 members and has about 6,00,000 outlets in the country. The meeting was attended by representatives of RAI, Reliance Retail, D Mart, Tata Stores, Spencer's, RSPG, V Mart among others.

During the meetin, the Secretary, informed that prices of Chana, Tur and Urad in major mandis had declined by up to 4 percent in past one month, but retails prices have not seen similar decline. She pointed out the diverging trends between wholesale mandi prices and retail prices, which seems to suggest that retailers are deriving higher profit margin. She also pointed out that sowNAFED and NCCF and the Department of Agriculture is in continuous engagement with the State Agriculture Departments to provide all nec-

The Government has under-

taken numerous efforts in facil-

itating enhanced production of

Tur and Urad in major Kharif

pulses producing States, includ-

ing distribution of good quali-

ty seeds to farmers through

Considering the current price scenario and Kharif outlook, Khare asked retail industry to extend all possible support to the Government in its efforts to keep prices of dals affordable to the consumers.

She informed that stock positions of all stockholding entities, including that of big chain retailers are being closely monitored to ensure that the prescribed limits are not breached. Breach of stock limits, unscrupulous speculation and profiteering on the part of market players would invite stern actions from the Government. Retail industry participants assured that they would make necessary adjustments in their retail margins and maintain at nominal level to ensure availability of prices at affordable prices to the consumers.

#### WHO urges Southeast Asia to expand rehabilitation services

PNS NEW DELHI

Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)

18.07.2024

Date (from the

originating station

Partial Cancelled

Between

sserting that approximately Asserting that application of the Spanish Asserting that application people in the spanish are spanish as a s South-East Asia Region require rehabilitation services - particularly for conditions such as low back pain, vision loss, fractures, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday urged countries in the region to accel-

erate access to rehabilitative and assistive technology services. These measures are crucial for enhancing quality of life and fostering community participa-

Additionally, the WHO called for the integration of basic rehabilitation into routine health services and the expansion of innovative care models to ensure equitable access, particularly for those in remote and under-

"Rehabilitation services encompass a wide range of essential support systems, from physical therapy for injury recovery to counselling for mental health and addiction recovery.

served areas.

These services are not merely about medical treatment; they are about restoring dignity, hope, and the ability to participate fully in society," said Saima Wazed. Regional Director, WHO South-

East Asia. Emphasising the urgency of the situation, she added, "The last 20 year's trends depicts that the need for rehabilitation is increasing in South-East Asia region, and will further elevate in coming years, given the increasing prevalence of conditions associated with ageing and noncommunicable diseases

Rehabilitation is a set of interventions designed to optimize functioning and reduce disability in individuals with health conditions in interaction with their environment.

Primary healthcare facilities often lack sufficient rehabilitation services and benefit packages offer inadequate coverage. Additionally, there is a significant shortage of healthcare professionals in this field.

"People and communities must be engaged and empowered, with a focus on increasing health literacy and enhancing demand for rehabilitation services, including assistive technologies," said Wazed.

RailMadad Helpline No. www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

04430 Saharanpur Jn.-Delhi Jn. MEMU Shamli -Delhi Jn 18.07.2024 04521 Delhi Jn.-Saharanpur Jn. MEMU From Shamli Delhi Jn.-Shamli 18.07.2024 **DIVERSION OF TRAINS** Date (from the Train No. & Name **Diverted Via** originating station) 14305 Delhi Jn.-Haridwar Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara Jn.-Ghaziabad Jn.-18.07.2024 **Express Special** Meerut City Jn.-Tapri Jn. 14306 Haridwar-Delhi Jn. Tapri Jn.-Meerut City Jn.-Ghaziabad Jn.-18.07.2024

Delhi Shahdara Jn.-Delhi Jn.

#### RESCHEDULING / REGULATION OF TRAINS

Train no. 01618 Shamli-Delhi Jn. MEMU will be rescheduled to depart from Shamli at 16:30 hrs instead of 14:10 hrs. on 18.07.2024 Train no. 04402 Saharanpur Jn.-Delhi Jn. MEMU will be regulated for 90 minutes between Tapri

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact Please join us on You Tube f RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website



NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY | JULY 17, 2024

### Cauvery row: K'taka Deputy CM appeals to TN to cooperate on Mekedatu project

budget in February.

"A survey to identify land that

will be submerged under this

project and the counting

process of trees have already

been initiated," he had also

said, adding, "action will be

taken on priority to

commence the work early

after obtaining remaining

necessary clearances from the

Responding to a question regarding Tamil Nadu

holding an all party meeting

about getting Cauvery water

for the state from Karnataka, Shivakumar said: "Tamil

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that we are filing application in L&DO for substitution/ mutation of the property no. B-266, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi area measuring 176 Sq. Yards, in the name of Debasish Sarkar, son of Late S. N.

Sarkar and Arup Sarkar, son of Late S. N.

Sarkar both residents of B-266, Chittaranian Park, New Delhi-110 019, on the grounds of only legal heir of Late S.N. Sarkar (owner of property).

If there are any objections/ claims from the

general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting

uments through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at Ido@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

ne: Debasish Sarkar, and Arup Sarkar,

Address: B-266, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110 019, Phone: 9811215204

it is to inform to the Public Notice at large,

that I Sumit Kumar is Purchasing the

property from Amrit Pal Singh property

address is - Plot No-8, Municipal bearing

No-46/2-E, area 66 Sq.yds, First Floor,

Khasra to - 634/479, Village Ghandoli,

Abadi of East Azad Nagar, Shahdara, New

I am aware that in this case the probate

order of will dated and 07/08/2013, in favour of Mr. Simrat Singh and Mr. Amrit Pal

Singh, and position deed dated 25/09/2003

executed by Simrat Singh and Amrit Pal

Singh / certified Khatoni copy Regarding

this Concern. I am going to given the News

Publication. if any person having any type

of claim/right/ title interest over the Said

property may inform in writing within free

from all 7 days from today. Said property is

Plot No 714, A/A, A Block Inder Enclave Ph-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, ND-86

Lost & Found

The Public at large is hereby notified thamy clients is intending to Purchase the Property No.123, SRESHTHA VIHAR Delhi-110092 Measuring Area 300.55 Sq.Yds. from M/s. LORIKEETS

having its regd. office at A-16, DSIDO Complex, Jhilmil Industrial Area, Delhi

110095 who represented himself as the sole owner of the above said property. It is

to inform the general public that origina documents of the property i.e. GPA executed by Smt. Savita Kalra in favour or

Shri Rajinder Kumar Jain dated 19.11.1987 and an Agreement to Sell, Receipt and other transfer documents dated 19.11.1987 in favour of Shri Ashok Kumar Jain and Shri Rajneesh Kumar

Jain both sons of Late Sh. Roshan Lal, has

been lost/misplaced somewhere and no

traceable by the best efforts of them. It anyone found or have any objection. Claim for any type such as any Loan Mortgage, Surety, Security etc. over the

said property regarding the above said original document, then contact to the

indersigned within 7 days of this Notice hereafter no body have any right on the

Office No. 107, First Floor, M.S. Chambe

Rakesh N.D. (Advocate

said property.

BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED, (Fo known as M/s. T.T. BUILDERS PVT

Basukee Nath Jha (Advocate)

free from all type of Encumbrance lien etc.

competent authorities."

regarding

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

arnataka Deputy Chief Minister D Shivakumar on Tuesdav made a passionate appeal to the Tamil Nadu government to cooperate with the implementation of Mekedatu project across river Cauvery which, he said, would be more beneficial to the neighbouring State.

He also expressed hope about "problems in releasing water to Tamil Nadu to get sorted out, if god permits" and the rains continue in the Cauvery catchment areas of Karnataka. "One thing I would like to appeal to Tamil Nadu, for your interest and our interest. More than our interest it is your interest, this Mekedatu reservoir, you just permit us, whatever storage we will do, we will give you that water, we can't take back that water," Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said: "It is my humble appeal on behalf of the people of Karnataka, where all selections Tamilians, Kannadigs, Andhraits and people from North India -- are there. It is for Bengaluru for drinking water and it is for you (Tamil Nadu). Please permit us for Makedatu, don't object, we will cooperate in whatever way we can.

Mekedatu is a multi-purpose (drinking water and power) project proposed Karnataka, which involves building a balancing reservoir Kanakapura Ramanagara district.

Tamil Nadu has been opposing raising project, apprehensions that the state would be affected if the project takes shape.

The project, once completed, is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighbouring areas (4.75 tmcft); it also can generate 400 MW power, and the estimated cost of the project is Rs 9,000 crore (2019 rates), according to Karnataka officials.

A separate Project Division and two Sub-Divisions have already been set up to implement the ambitious 'Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and drinking water project of Cauvery river valley Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said, presenting the state

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

creaming nurdies, memai tortures and agomes in my client and do not let him live peacefully. So m client hereby severe all his relations, ties and knot with his above named son, his wife and their so and daughter namely Master Shivay Khurana an Baby Kartika Khurana, respectively. They ar therefore debarred and disentitled to claim any righ concern in any of movable or immovable operties of my client. Any person dealing with pm, will do so at his/her own risk and cost & m client will not be responsible for the same.

PAWAN NARULA ADVOCATE
ENRL. ID: D/1138/2011, Shop No.3, G.F, BR-50-A,
Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88, 9811131770

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my clients (1). Mr. Jilender Kumar alias Jilender Kumar Gupta Son of Mr. Gian Chand Gupta and (2). Mrs. Ritu Gupta wrife of Mr. Jilender Kumar Gupta both Residents of House No.30, Block-AM, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, declare that their Son Mr. Tarang Gupta and his wrife Mrs. Nancy Gupta are not a conception will 8, evaluate causing calling attitude. co-operating well & showing selfish attitud co-operating wein a showing senior authority client. They both keep on fighting with my clients and creating hurdles, mental fortures and agonies for my clients and do not let them live peacefully. So my clients hereby severe all their relations, ties and knots with their above named son, his wife and their daughter namely Baby Anayka Gupta. They are therefore debarred and disordited to a loging my client to concern in our of the control Anayka Gupta. They are therefore debarred and disentifled to claim any right or concern in any of movable or immovable properties of my clients. Any person dealing with them, will do so at his/her own risk and cost & my clients will not be responsible for the same.

PAWAN NARULA ADVOCATE ENRL. ID: D/1138/2011, Shop No.3, G.F. BR-50-A.

ENRL. ID: D/1138/2011, Shop No.3, G.F, BR-50-A Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88, 9811131770



#### CHANGE OF NAME

I. Sudhir Nain S/o Shri Umed Ground Floor, Pocket- 7, Sector-24 Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name Sudhir Kumar to Sudhir Nain for all purpose.

PD(605)C

#### LOST & FOUND

I, Chander Bhan, S/o Mr. Khet Ram, C-199, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085 has lost the Original Medical Certificate of disability of My Son Ashok Kumar bearing Regn. No. Rehab. 11363/86 dt. 14.10.1987 Issued from Office of the medical Superintendent, Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi-110029 if some one found this document, please call 9560180262

PD(606)A

12-07-2024 FOR TENDER NO.: N\_2\_HQ\_EPC\_ABS\_2024-25

Nadu has every right to meet as we met, we don't object to

their meeting, I don't want to

He said: "At the same time

from yesterday I'm getting

good inflow, more than

50,000 cusecs inflow in

Cauvery region, whatever is

there we are allowing the

water to go out of Harangi

(dam), I think more than

20,000 cusecs was going out

from Harangi and other

places. If gods permit us, all

our problems will be sorted

Asked if his government will honour the directive of the

Cauvery Water Regulation

Committee (CWRC) to

release one tmcft of Cauvery

water to Tamil Nadu if rains

continue at this rate, Shivakumar said: "of course,

of course, we have to (release).

we will. Whatever the inflow

is coming, we are not holding

it, we are leaving it to Mettur

Form No. URC-2

Advertisement giving Notice about registration under park I

[Pursuit to section 374(b) of

the companies act, and rule 4 (1) of the companies

authorized to register) rules, 2014] 1.notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section

(2) of section 366 of the companies act, 2013, an application has been made to the

register at Uttar Pradesh kanpur that A.V.CONSTRUCTION a

egistered under part I or chapter

XXI off the companies act 2013, as a company limited by shares i.e AVN INFRA ENGICON

2.The Principal objects of the

company are as followers . TO CARRY ON THE BUSSINESS

OF CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD, BUILDING, BRIDGES SIVIL CONTECTORS AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES.

A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of

association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 64, WEST ARJUN

4. Notice is here be given that

4. Notice is nere be given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the registrar at (address), with in

twenty one days from the date of

publication of this notice, with a

copy to the company at it's

registered office.Date this 18th

Applicant

VISHESH YADAV

day of June 2024

NAGAR, AGRA-2820082.

(in Tamil Nadu).

of chapterXXI

comment on that."

Corrigendum-4forTender No. N\_2\_HQ\_2024-25 dated. 11-06-2024 against Tender No. N\_2\_HQ\_EPC\_ABS\_ 2024-25 has been issued. For details please visit in N.F. Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

General Manager (S&T), Maligaor MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

: is hereby notified for general public that my lients, Krishna Mahto S/o Late Ras Vihari Mahto 490 B. Gali No. 8. C-Block. Nangli Vihar Extension 490 B, Gall No. 8, 2-Block, Nangli vinar Extension, Village Baprolla, New Delhi-110043 has severed all their relations with their son Amit Mehto and daughter-in-law Neha Mehto and have debarred them from inheriting any moveable and immoveable properties of my clients due to their improveable properties of my clients due to their michobaciers. nisbehavior, unbecoming acts and neglecting duties owing towards my client. If anybody deals with them, shall do so at his/her own risks and my clients shall not be responsible for any act of Ami Mehto & Neha Mahto in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Mr.

Tarun Gupta is the owner of Property No. F-175 (now known as F-175/A), with roof right, area measuring 16:2 S Sq. Yds. out of Khasra No. 52/1 & 12, situated in the abadi of F-Block Extn., Laxmi Nagar, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi through Sale Deed dated 12.04.2023 doc. No. 2470 executed by Sh. Jai Prakash Gogia in favour of Sh. Tarun Gupta in respect of said property.

Mr. Tarun Gupta intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned Property to It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Naseem Begum has acquired Third Floor without roof rights built on Property bearing No. 283/3 root rights built on Property bearing No. 289, area 100 sq. yrds, Khasra No. 66, situate di'n the area of Village Khureji Khas, in the abadi of Khurej Khas, near Jama Masjid, Delhi vide GPA dt 29,09.1992 slong with ATS & Will executed by Mr Ishwar Chand, Now Mrs. Naseem Begum is the available to the state of the beat dealer the second to the property of the second second

undisputed owner of above said property.

OR by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned Property to Sh. Vishal Sharma. Subsequently, Sh. Vishal Any person / firm / institution / company having Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period the claims, if any of such person. Sh. Vishal Shafama. Subsequently, Sh. Vishal Shafama is in the process of mortgaging the said IDFC First Bank Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 10 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 10-days period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. notice period, the claims, if any, of such perso shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client

Aiav Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basemen

or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 10-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@Ivnorth.in This is to inform the general public that Ms. Pooja Malhotra & Mr. Hamant Tuteja is the Pooja Malhotra & Mr. Hamant Tuteja is the owner of Second Floor whou rool rights "Said Floor" built on Properly no. 5/16, area measuring 100 sq. yards, situated at Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015. through Sale Deed dated 27.12.2022 doc. No. 15770 executed by Mrs. Anita Mehta in favour of Ms. Pooja Malhotra & Mr. Hamant Tuteja in respect of Second Floor without roof rights of the said property. The above-said owner has misplaced the 10 Original Sale Deed dated 27.12.2022 doc. No. 15770 executed by Mrs. Anita Mehla in favour of Ms. Pooja Malhotra & Mr. Hamant Tuteja in respect of Second Floor without roof rights of the said property. Firs No. 1794419/2024, also registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 06.06.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Noida.

documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Noida. Ms. Pooja Malhotra & Mr. Hamant Tuteja intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned floor to Mr. Ankit Mehta. Subsequently, Mr. Ankit Mehta is in the process of mortgaging the said Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. 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 binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.

within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Nolda, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@Ivnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE Harish Chander Dhingra S/o Late Sh Asanand Dhingra & Mrs. Ishwar Dhingra W/o Sh. Harish Chander Dhingra both R/o House No.I-194 Sector-41 Noida I/O House No.J-194, Sector-41, Notda, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) who is/are the original allottee/ joint owners of property No. Plot No.194, Block J, Sector-41, Noida (U.P.) Mr. Harish Chander Dhingra expired on dt. 01/01/2022 & Mrs. Ishwar Dhingra expired on dt. 03/12/2022. WILL was executed on in favour of Mr. Hanish Dhippra S/O, 1 ate Sh. favour of Mr. Hanish Dhingra S/o Late Sh Harish Chander Dhingra & Ms. Pooja Dhingra D/o Late Sh. Harish Chander Dhingra R/o H.No.J-194, Sector-41, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) which is registered on dated 23/07/2021. So it is informed to all concern that the said Property No. Plot No. 194, Block J. Sector 41, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Mr. Hanish Dhingra S/o Late Sh. Harish Chander Dhingra & Ms. Pooja Dhingra D/o Late Sh. Harish Chander Dhingra R/o House No. J-194, Sector-41, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.). if any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this

notice. Hanish Dhingra & Pooja Dhingra

#### **CAN FIN HOMES LTD**

E-mail: noida@canfinhomes.com. Ph No: 0120 - 2970164/65/67, 7625079126

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)][For Immovable Property] The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercis of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand notice dated 03/05/2024 calling upon the borrowers Mr. Sushil Kumar S/o Jagdis Prasad, Mrs. Indu Tyagi W/o Mr. Sushil Kumar and (Guarantor) Mr. Girish Chandra Arya S/ Late Sri B.L. Sharma to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 26,70,203/ (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Three Only) with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and th public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herei helow in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. espect of time available, to redeem the secured assets The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the roperty and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CFHL for an amount o Rs. 26,70,203/- ( Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Three Only)

Flat No. S-1, Second Floor, Without Roof Right, Freehold Plot No. - 11/MI-2, Goud Shopper

Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 15th day of JULY of the year 2024.

Empire, Sector-11, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad **Bounded by:** East: Road 9 Meter Wide. **West:** Road 45 Meter Wide, **North**: Plot No 11/M.L-1 South: PLOT NO 11/M.L-3

#### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the hourse.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belownentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal

l	me wit	ith the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.					
	Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	rower(s)/ Loan Date of Symbolic Possession		Name of Branch		
Kumari/ LBFDB0006317395/ TBFDB0006259470 Hc   Caurav Ujjainwal/ Sharda/ LBPLW00005870271 Te		Kumari/ LBFDB00006317395/	Flat No. 305, 3rd Floor, Tower No. T-12, Type- D1, Phase-2 Aagman, Sector-70, Village Mujeri, Tehsil Ballagbarh District Faridabad, Haryana- 121003/ July 12, 2024	February 26, 2024 Rs. 20,97,790/-	Palwal/ Faridabad/ Delhi		
		Sharda/	Flat No. 601, 6th Floor, Tower B(T-9), Happy Homes, Situated at Village Budena, Sector 86, Tehsil & District Faridabad, Haryana- 121004/ July 12, 2024	February 26, 2024 Rs. 23,39,797/-	Palwal/ Faridabad		

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged propèrties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: July 17, 2024 Place: Palwal & Faridabad Sincerely Authorised Signatory

#### **E-AUCTION FOR CATERING UNIT** OVER KATIHAR DIVISION

E-auction catalogue for Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU) & Specia Minor Unit (SMU) over Katihar Division. Details are as under. Auction Catalogue No.: C-Catg-DEF-KIR; Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots): 12:00 hrs. on 29-07-2024; Auction Close Date & Time: 16:10 hrs. on 29-07-2024; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Trips/Days: 1826

Seq No.	Lot No.	Stations
AA/1	Catg-KIR-AZR-GMU-86-23-1	Azamnagar Road
AA/2	Catg-KIR-SI-GMU-64-23-1	Sonaili
AA/3	Catg-KIR-HCR-GMU-117-23-1	Harischandrapur
AA/4	Catg-KIR-HCR-GMU-116-23-1	Harischandrapur
AA/5	Catg-KIR-KDPR-GMU-112-23-1	Kumedpur
AA/6	Catg-KIR-RDP-GMU-90-23-1	Radhikapur
AA/7	Catg-KIR-HCR-GMU-118-23-1	Harischandrapur
AA/8	Catg-KIR-MLFC-GMU-77-23-1	Malda Court
AA/9	Catg-KIR-SRI-GMU-68-23-1	Salmari
AA/10	Catg-KIR-AZR-GMU-87-23-1	Azamnagar Road
AA/11	Catg-KIR-KAU-GMU-89-23-1	Kachna
AA/12	Catg-KIR-RDP-GMU-91-23-1	Radhikapur
AA/13	Catg-KIR-EKI-GMU-72-23-1	Eklakhi
AA/14	Catg-KIR-KDPR-GMU-114-23-1	Kumedpur
AA/15	Catg-KIR-EKI-GMU-73-23-1	Eklakhi
AB/1	Catg-KIR-SRI-SMU-69-23-1	Salmari
AB/2	Catg-KIR-KDPR-SMU-113-23-1	Kumedpur
AB/3	Catg-KIR-SRI-SMU-70-23-1	Salmari
AB/4	Catg-KIR-EKI-SMU-74-23-1	Eklakhi
AB/5	Catg-KIR-TKG-SMU-146-23-1	Thakurganj
AB/6	Catg-KIR-SI-SMU-65-23-1	Sonaili
AB/7	Catg-KIR-MLFC-SMU-78-23-1	Malda Court
AB/8	Catg-KIR-OMLF-SMU-80-23-1	Old Malda
5		

Participant/bidders are requested to visit e-Auction module on IREPS

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Katiha NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

### ्छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल <sub>र्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)</sub>

#### <u>// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //</u>

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि (1.) मेसर्स सेलूद लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो.- श्री श्याम शर्मा), खंसर क्रमांक-303/1, 304 एवं 307/1, लीज एरिया - 1.48 हेक्टेयर, खदान उत्खनन क्षमता 6,206 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम- सेलूद, तहसील-पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग (2.) मेसर्स सेलूद लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो.- श्री हिमांशु बघेल), खसरा क्रमांक- 324/2, 325 एवं 326, लीज एरिया- 1.13 हेक्टेयर, खदाँन उत्खनन क्षमता- 6,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम- सेलूद तहसील - पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई बाबत मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवाँ रायपुर अटल नगर में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजनाओं के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव / विचार / टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथव लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा संकती है। **इस परियोजनाओं के** लिए संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 16/08/2024 को समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे, स्थान-शहीद ठाक्र राम नायक कला मंच हाईस्कुल परिसर, ग्राम- सेलूद, तहसील पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

 लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।

2. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का प्रयोग किय जावेगा तथा समय - समय पर सेनेटाईजर का प्रयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम

कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों

का अक्षरश: पालन किया जाना अनीवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथा- संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एव अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवाय परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़, कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, दुर्ग, जिला-दुर्ग, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, दुर्ग, जिला-दुर्ग, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र दुर्ग, जिला- दुर्ग, सरपंचँ / सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत- सेलूद, तहसील- पाटन जिला-दुर्ग, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई जिला-दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर 19, नवाँ रायपुर अटल नगर जिला - रायपुर में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.

	<b>@</b> G	OVERNMENT OF H	ARYAI	VA [	ENDER NO	OTICE *			
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL			
1	UHBVN	CONSTRUCTION OF 09 NO. 33 KV S/STN. BAJANA KALAN, SAMPEDA, JAXHODA, KAKRALA, MAJRI, JOGNA KHERA, BALU, DEVRU & IIM SUNARIA ON TURNKEY BASIS IN UHBVN	CLOSING DATE 05.08.2024	10 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in NT- 436/ P8D/ 2024-25(B- 787)	01722570431 cepdc@uhbvn.org.in			

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

#### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Pranch Office: ICICI Bank Lta., Plot INO. 23, Blul INV. New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor,

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. Name of the No. Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch			
1.	Saurav Kumar/ Anjali Sehrawat/ LBGUR00003334697	Apartment No K-1706, 16th Floor, Tower K, Godrej Summit, Sector 104 Gurgaon 122001 (Along With 2 Car Parking Space)/ July 11, 2024	February 22, 2024 Rs.1,31,56,563/-	Gurgaon/ Rohtak/ Mumbai			
2.	Pradeep Kumar/ Pinkee Sharma/ Praveen Kumar Sharma/ Ganga Technomech Engineers/ LBGUR00004213866	Flat No. F-904, 9th Floor, Tower-F, Rof Ananda, Sector- 95, Village Dhorka, Tehsil & District Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001/ July 11, 2024	February 26, 2024 Rs. 13,71,164/-	Gurgaon			
3.	Tejbir Singh/ Poonam/ LBGUR00002372863	Appt No 504, 5th Floor Tower G Universal Aura Sector 82, Gurgaon/ July 11, 2024	July 06, 2021 Rs. 16,70,032/-	Gurgaon/ Hissar			
4.	Pankaj Bhardwaj/ Deepika Bhardwaj/ LBDEL00002086401	Flat No-501 5th Floor Tower-I Universal Aura, Village Shikanderpur Badha Sec 82, Gurgoan/ July 11, 2024	June 19, 2021 Rs. 24,67,690/-	Gurgaon			
5.	Birendra Kumar/ Guriya Kumari/ LBDEL00005237302	Flat No-308, (2BHK Type B) Tower-T5, 3rd Floor, Aashiyara, Sector-37C, Village Gadauli Khurd, Tehsil And District Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001/ July 11, 2024	January 10, 2024 Rs. 16,85,838/-	Gurgaon/ New Delhi			
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the							

per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: July 17, 2024 Place: Delhi/NCR (Gurgaon) Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as

Name of Facility/Equipment

#### MADHYA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT **CORPORATION LIMITED**

NIT PAC Cost of EMD in Rs. Time

(Government of M.P. Undertaking)

SECRETARIAT FOR SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM 21, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011, M.P. (India), (CIN: U51102MP1977SGC001392) Tel.: (91) 0755-2571830, 2575618, 3523555, 3523505

E-Mail: helpdesk@mpidc.co.in, Website: www.invest.mp.gov.in

MPIDC/RFP/CE/NIT-174 (A, F, G, H, I, J) Date: 16.07.2024

#### **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Online Item rate bids for the following work is invited through e-procurement system http:// mptenders.gov.in, from registered Suppliers/OEMs/firms who have experience in similar type

Procurement, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Validation, Documentation & Qualification of Equipment & Instruments for Common Infrastructure Facility, Testing Facility in Medical Devices Park at Vikram Udyogpuri, Ujjain

No.	Nume of Fuelity/Equipment	No.	(in Cr.) incl. GST	Tender Form (Non- Refundable) (in Rs.)	LIND III III.	Period (in Months) (i/c rainy season)
1	Biocompatibility Testing Facility	174-A	6.5	23,600/-	6,50,000/-	06
2	R&D Center (Incubation Hub)	174-F	1.74	14,750/-	1,74,000/-	06
3	Package Testing and Validation	174-G	1.27	14,750/-	1,27,000/-	06
4	Plastics Processing Assembly and Packaging	174-H	7.31	23,600/-	7,31,000/-	06
5	PC Board Manufacturing including component insertion and wave soldering	174-I	2.00	14,700/-	2,00,000/-	06
6	Ethylene Oxide Sterilization	174-J	1.48	14,700/-	1,48,000/-	06

Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above-mentioned portal. The Corrigendum if any shall not be published in the news paper; it will be uploaded on the e-procurement system. The bidder shall quote rates inclusive of all duties, taxes, royalties and other levies; and the Employer shall not be liable for the same.

M.P. Madhyam/115430/2024

CHIEF ENGINEER

#### HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008

E-mail id: cs@himalvainternational.com | website: www.himalayafoodcompany.com

NOTICE OF 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of **Himalaya Food** International Limited ("the Company") will be held on **Friday,August 09th, 2024 at 09:30 A.M.** (IST), through video conferencing ("VC")/ other audio-visual means ("OAVM")to transact the businesses, as set out in the Notice convening the 33rd AGM of the Company. In compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder and Securities Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular No. 14/20 dated April 08th 2020 and 17/20 dated 13th April 2020

ead with other related circular including General Circular No 09/2023 dated 25th September 2023issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA"), SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020and other related SEBI circular including SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated October 07, 2023along with the other applicable Circular (s) issued in this regard by MCA and SEBI, the AGM of the Company will be held Further, in accordance with the aforesaid Circulars, the Notice convening the 33rdAGM and the Annual Report of the

Company for the F.Y.2023-24 comprising of the Audited Financial statements, Auditor's report, Board Report and other documents has been electronically sent to all the shareholders whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company and/or Depository Participant(s) ("DPs").

#### Instructions for remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM

- Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Act read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration Rules), 2014 and Regulation 44 of the Listing Regulations, the Company is pleased to provide the facility of remote e-voting to the shareholders, to exercise their right to vote on the resolutions proposed to be passed at the AGM. The facility of casting votes by the members using an electronic voting system and for participating in the 33rd AGM through VC/OAVM facility along with e-voting during the AGM will be provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL").
- The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, August 06th, 2024 (9:00 A.M.) and ends on Thursday, August 08th, 2024 (05:00 P.M.) Voting through remote e-voting shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter. E-voting shall also be made available at the 33rd AGM and the members attending the meeting who have not caste their vote through remote e-voting shall be able to vote at the 33rd AGM.
- The cut-off date for determining eligibility of the members for voting through remote e-voting and voting at the 33rd AGM is Friday, August 02nd, 2024. A person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the Depositories as on Friday, August 02nd, 2024(cut-off date) shall only be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM.
- Members who have acquired shares after the dispatch of the Annual Report for the financial year 2023-24 through electronic means andholding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. Friday, August02nd, 2024arerequestedtorefer to theNoticeof AGM for the processes to be adopted for obtaining the User ID and Password for casting the vote
- The Instructions of remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for shareholders who have not registered their e-mail addresses has been provided in the Notice convening the AGM. Instructions for attending the AGM through VC/OAVM are also provided in the notice of AGM.
- Members who have caste their vote through remote e-voting can participate in the 33rd AGM but shall not be entitled to caste their vote again.
- The Board of Directors have appointed M/s. RBS, Practicing Company Secretary represented by Mr. Rahul Sharma, Partner (CP No: 18610) as the Scrutinizer for providing facility to the members of the Company to scrutinize the voting and remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
- If you have any queries or issues regarding attending AGM & e-Voting from the CDSL e-Voting System, you car write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact at toll free no. 1800 21 09911. All grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call toll free no. 1800 21 09911.

The Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2023-24 are made available at the Company's website at https://himalayafoodcompany.com/pages/annual-report, website of stock exchange i.e. BSE Limited at <u>www.bseindia.com</u> and agency providing the platform for e-voting i.e. CDSL at https://www.evotingindia.com/

Shareholders holding shares in demat form and who have not updated their email or KYC details are requested to register/update the details in their demat account, as per the processed advised by their DP. Shareholders holding shares in physical form and who have note updated their e-mail/KYC details are requested to register/update the said details in Form ISR-1 along with the requisite documents to the Registrar & Share Transfer Agent of the Company i.e., M/s. BEETAL Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd. at 3rd Floor, BEETAL House, 99, Behind Local Shopping Centre, Madangir Village, Madangir, New Delhi, Delhi 110062. The Form ISR-1 is available on the website of the Company and can be accessed at https://himalayafoodcompany.com/pages/forms-for-investors.

For any other query or information with respect to the 33rd AGM of the Company, members may please write to the Company Secretary at cs@himalyainternational.com.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Himalaya Food International Limited

Date: 16.07.2024

Man Mohan Malik Managing Director (DIN: 00696077)

Place: New Delh

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PAPER WITH PASSION

#### **Cycle of terror**

#### Terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir continue unabated, resulting in a heavy toll on lives

■ n yet another tragic incident four security personnel lost their lives in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), underscoring the persistent instability in the region. Four Indian Army soldiers, including a Major, were killed in action during an encounter with terrorists in Doda district. This incident highlights the ongoing challenges faced by security forces and raises concerns about the broader implications for peace and security in the area. Despite tall claims to restore order, the frequency and intensity of attacks remain alarming. The recent fatalities among security personnel are not isolated incidents but part of a broader pattern of violence that has plagued Jammu and Kashmir in recent times. The shift of terror incidents and targeted killings to Jammu, which had been peaceful for two decades, represents a significant and concerning development. Since 2021, following the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu has seen a troubling rise in terror attacks and targeted killings, leading to an alarming escalation in violence that has destabi-



lized the region. The counter-terrorism strategies that proved effective in Kashmir may not be suitable for Jammu's unique geopolitical and social landscape. Although past strategic lessons can provide some guidance, the new wave of terror in Jammu requires a new counter-terrorism approach.

A notable change is the decline in stone-pelting and social unrest in Kashmir; however, the militancy and terrorist groups that remained active have now relocated to the Jammu region. These groups often receive support from across the border, complicating the security landscape. Despite significant military operations aimed at curbing militancy, the resilience of these

groups remains a significant hurdle. The socio-political environment in Jammu and Kashmir also plays a crucial role in perpetuating violence. Historical grievances, political disenfranchisement, and socio-economic challenges contribute to a fertile ground for militancy. Many local youths, feeling marginalised, are drawn into the cycle of violence, further complicating the security situation. Addressing these underlying issues is vital for any long-term solution to the conflict. The loss of security personnel is not just a statistic; it represents the human cost of the ongoing conflict. Each casualty not only affects the families of the deceased but also has a profound impact on the morale of security forces operating in the region. The high casualty rate raises questions about the effectiveness of current strategies and the need for a re-evaluation of approaches to counter-terrorism and internal security. Following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, there was a glimmer of hope, but that now appears to be diminishing. Jammu and Kashmir seems to be slipping back into its previous cycle of violence and persecution. To address the unabated violence in Jammu and Kashmir, a multifaceted approach is essential. This includes not only robust security measures but also concerted efforts towards political dialogue and community engagement.



A vendor sells Capsicum at Azadpur Mandi, in New Delhi

## Bypoll results indicate a shifting voter preference



#### This outcome raises questions about the stability of the Govt, as the BJP grapples with internal and external pressures to maintain its coalition

he recent results of by-elections for 13 seats in various states are essential for understanding what people think of the major political parties. One month after the 2024 elections, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi won a third term, the INDIA bloc's significant victory in securing ten of the 13 seats has shifted the country's politics. This positive result for the INDIA bloc could weaken the ruling coalition's power. The BJP won 240 seats but fell short of the 272majority mark in the recent Lok Sabha elections. As a result, the party had to seek the support of NDA allies, which could influence its policy decisions and lead to compromises to maintain the coalition. This situation raises concerns about the government's stability. A boost to the Opposition could create unpredictability within the ruling coalition. Despite securing 240 seats in last month's Lok Sabha polls, the BJP fell short of the 272-majority mark. It had to seek the help of the NDA allies. This reliance could sway the BJP's policy decisions. The BJP may have to compro-

mise on specific issues to maintain the coalition. There is also a shadow of uncertainty over the government's stability. A substantial boost to the Opposition can shift the balance of power and create a sense of unease and unpredictability in the ruling coalition. The Election Commission conducts the by-polls when a legislative seat becomes vacant. There could be many reasons for a vacant seat. It could be death, resignation, disqualification, or expulsion of a sitting member. Elections are held to fill empty seats when a member of Parliament resigns or dies. Only voters from the area can vote, and there is no party

were held for 13 assembly seats two seats and an indepen-(1), Himachai Pradesh (3), Uttarakhand (2), Bihar add a layer of com-West Bengal (4), Madhya Pradesh (1), Bihar (1), and Tamil Nadu (1). The Congress,



TMC, AAP, and DMK are some of the parties that put forward candidates in the by-elections to test their strength.The INDIA bloc's win significantly boosted the Opposition. They have been a crucial test for the INDIA bloc as it faced the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP)led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the first electoral battle after the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. The regional chieftains in the Opposition performed exceptionally Trinamool Congress, a key player in the INDIA bloc, secured all four seats in Bengal, a significant victory. At the same time, the surging Congress won two seats each in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, further strengthening its position in these states. The DMK won one seat, and

AAP captured Jalandhar West. These diverse outcomes hint at potential shifts in power dynamics, adding a layer of uncertainty to the current political scenario. On Wednesday, by-elections Also, the BJP securing only dent candidate winning in plexity. Typically, the party in power wins the bye-election seat. The TMC, DMK,



**SHADOW** OF UNCERTAINTY **OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S** STABILITY. A SUBSTANTIAL **BOOST TO THE OPPOSITION** CAN SHIFT THE BALANCE OF **POWER AND CREATE A SENSE** OF UNEASE AND UNPREDICTABILITY IN THE RULING

COALITION

a month after it had bagged 29 parliamentary seats, up from 22 in 2019. In Uttarakhand and Bihar, things were different. The candidates from the ruling parties - BJP and JD(U) lost.Congress won two out of the three by-elections in Himachal. After the results, the party has 40 members again in the 68-member house. This will bring stability to our government.
Bye-elections are a crucial test for political parties and

their popularity. Parties

gauge public sentiment and assess their support base. They often use by-elections to test campaign strategies, influencing future elections. If the ruling party wins seats in the by-election, it could increase its overall number of seats and have more influence on the government's stability and decision-making.The BJP still needs to improve its performance despite investigating the reasons for its low number of seats in the Lok Sabha elections. This raises questions and potential strains within the party.

a possible strain between the RSS and the BJP, which could negatively affect the RSS's support for the party, adding to tension and uncertainty in the ruling coalition. The strong performance of the INDIA bloc shows that power dynamics may be shifting. Despite their differences, this success is because the opposition parties continued to work together. Some analysts think that both factors led to their success. The Opposition's strong showing could weaken the ruling coalition's power and strengthen the Opposition's position.The future is difficult to predict at this stage. Winning and losing are part of the game in a democracy.

The impact of these events will be more precise in the upcoming assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana later this year. The INDIA bloc's strong showing in the by-elections could strengthen the Opposition's position in these forthcoming assembly polls. They will help determine whether the Opposition gains strength or akens.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

## Cultivating civic sense: The path to a better society

A lack of civic sense results in numerous societal issues, but it can be instilled through awareness and the enforcement of stringent punitive measures

itizens are one of the four essential elements that define a country, and a responsible citizenry is undoubtedly an asset to any nation. Today, our country boasts state-ofthe-art facilities, with concerted efforts being made to upgrade infrastructure, services, logistics, and public transport. Additionally, inclusive and integrated policies are being formulated, and comprehensive citizencentric actions are being implemented

While the government's efforts are commendable, there is also a need for citizens to shoulder the responsibility of maintaining public goods and ensuring resources are accessible to all, especially the marginalised. Civic sense is the act of considering others in society and having a sense of responsibility towards public goods.

It can be described as "a set of perceptions and attitudes that guides an individual's independent actions or actions within a group for the benefit of many and harm towards none."



sense signifies disregard for fellow beings, depriving others of a fair chance of accessing what is due to them. Civic sense involves inculcated socially and ethically good behavior, conduct, and approach. Patriotism is deeply rooted among Indians, and we have a strong affinity for our civilizational values and ethos. However many of us are not adept at it, and civic rules are often flouted in some way or

Examples of this lack of civic sense include vandalism, mishandling public property, disobeying laws, infringing traffic rules, evading taxes, prejudice, intolerance, indiscipline, sectarianism, and insensitivity Conversely, a lack of civic towards the beliefs and prac-

tices of other social and religious groups. These behaviors create law and order problems and are rooted in disregard for social norms and appropriate behavior. Despite significant improvements in literacy rates in our country over the past few decades, people often remain casual regarding their societal responsibilities.

Examples of this include dumping household waste on streets; destroying public property and so on. Such uncivil behavior is rampant and alarming, detrimentally impacting the collective well-being of society. It not only translates into social conflicts but also triggers a vicious cycle, where such behavior, often being an easier way out, is quickly emulated by many, making the problem difficult to address. India witnessed 461,312 road accidents in 2022, resulting in the tragic loss of 168,491 lives. Many of these accidents could have been avoided had people not flouted traffic rules.

Similarly, problems arising from adulteration, corruption, and exploitation can be mitigated through a mindful

approach that prioritizes common interest over selfinterest.

Civic sense is crucial for quality of life and plays an important role in building the reputation of the country. Inculcating civic virtues is not a choice but is essential for addressing both perennial and new problems. Education plays a significant role in civilising people, but the fact that even well-educated individuals living in metropolitan cities often behave in an unruly and uncivilised manner makes it imperative that the desire to perform constructive and positive roles should come "from within." Elders need to set good examples for the young to emulate. Spreading awareness, rewarding good practices, and enforcing stringent punitive actions against law violations can be effective strategies for inculcating civic sense among the peo-

(The writer is Assistant Professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, Delhi; views are personal)

#### **OPPOSITION GAINING GROUND**

Madam — The recent state assembly bypolls held on July 10 may not have been critical for the survival of state governments in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. However, the results were highly anticipated as a potential indicator of shifting political winds, especially after the national elections where the BJP saw a reduced tally and the Congress-led INDIA bloc significantly increased its presence in the Lok Sabha.In these state assembly by-elections, the Congress and its allies achieved significant victories, winning 10 out of 13 seats. The ruling BJP secured only two seats, with an independent candidate winning in Bihar. While these results do not necessarily signal a nationwide trend, the BJP's below-par performance should be a concern for the central ruling party. The Congress and its partners in the IN

DIA bloc celebrated their success. Congress won two seats each in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, the TMC secured all four seats in West Bengal, AAP won in Jalandhar West, and DMK triumphed in Vikravandi, Tamil Nadu.Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi claimed these results reflect a changing political climate, suggesting the BJP's influence is waning. BJP leaders, however, dismissed these claims, pointing out that the ruling party did not previously hold the 13 contested seats. Bishal kumar Saha | Murshdidabad

#### **MANDELA'S LEGACY**

Madam — Kudos to Rajdeep Pathak for the article titled "Lessons in forgiveness from Mandela's life"(July 15).

On 10th April 1993, the South African Communist leader Chris Hani was murdered by a far-right White. When the newly independent Blacks were seething in anger and were getting ready to massacre the Whites in retaliation, it took Mandela to utter just two firm

#### THE EDITOR

There are speculations about



t is heartening that the chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have, putting aside their political affiliations, met each other recently to amicably resolve long standing issues that have arisen after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. AP Chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu is has taken the initiative. Both the sides have agreed upon setting up high-level chief secretarial and ministerial dispute resolution committees that will address grievances. Contentious issues like water shar-

words "NO REVENGE" to promptly bring back the situation under control. Even though Mandela was yet to become the President of the country, he led the nation in what a sane way guid-ing the society towards light by shedding all sorts of jingoism. Immediately after his release from prison Mandela said "I am not the only one who did not want revenge. Almost all my colleagues in prison did not want revenge, because there is no time to do anything else except to try and save your people".

Yes, "Save your people" needs to be the only priority of a true leader, not "call of revenge". And Mandela indeed did walk the talk when Chris Hani got murdered rendering him to a statesman and torch-bearer of the society guiding all on the path of peace.

Dr.Martin Luther King Jr had stated-"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that", "We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools".

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata



ministers.

ing power payment " dues" from either side

while Telangana appears keen to get more water allocation. Division of assets and liabilities running into a whopping 1.42 lakh crores, some that have been mentioned in the AP Reorganisation Act and a few that have not been stated, figured prominently in the chief ministers' meeting. Telangana's access to the long coastal corridor of AP may be an important issue. It's no wonder that allocation of some important landmark buildings of Hyderabad, that has exclusively become the capital of Telangana from June 2, have already occupied the attention of both chief

Ganpathi Bhat | Akola

**ALCARAZ TRIUMPHS AGAIN** Madam — Winning is a habit, and Alcaraz has mastered the art, clinching the Wimbledon men's singles title for the second time against all odds. Spectators at the Centre Court were treated to vintage tennis in a packed stadium. Alcaraz set the ball rolling, winning the first two sets rather comfortably. The final lasted for 147 minutes, with the defending champion establishing a 5-4 lead and serving for the championship point. However, he committed a couple of double faults, and the set went to a tie-break. The number three seed secured his second Wimbledon title and fourth Grand Slam win with a straight-set victory. Djokovic could not recover from the fierce serve-and-volley game of the Spaniard. Alcaraz played calculated tennis on his fourth match point, ultimately winning the tiebreak, set, match, and Championship. C K Subramaniam | Mumbai

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the pioneer



### **FIRST COLUMN**

#### THE TRUE MEANING **OF SUCCESS**

Strive for achieving success that is based on contentment, humility, peace and respect



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI** 

ost of us want to be successful, but not everyone knows what success looks like. The concept of "success" can be a real subject of contention because everyone has their definition of success. Success has different meanings to different people, however, to define it in simple words, it can be said that success is very largely a matter of adjusting one's self to the ever-varying and changing environments of life, in a spirit of harmony and poise. So, is it simply the completion of the next task, another job well done, a promise kept, an exam passed, a medal won or a mountain climbed? Whatever we believe success to be, there is no doubt that it will have a profound influence on

The great philosopher Lao Tzu said - "When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everyone will respect you." However, what we see today in the so-called modern society is something way too different. If we were to follow the trends of the current world, then success would be measured by acquisition i.e. the more you have the more successful you are. Nowadays even our education systems are geared to producing people whose character and skills are shaped and developed to make more. Similarly, economic growth is the yardstick for national success based on the production and selling of more. And amidst all this, we continue to avoid the connection between the philosophy of more and the unprecedented levels of unhappiness, abuse and breakdown of human relationships worldwide.

Some of us say that because we have more telephones there is more communication between more people in more countries every day than at any other time in history. But communication of what? Electronic symbols, packets of data, cold information? This is far from human communication. We seldom nourish each other at the level of mind and spirit over a telephone, Do we? Off lately we have developed more intimate relationships with our techno-toys than we do with each other. So what exactly does it mean to be successful? At what level, in what context and by whose standards? If we were to live in this question for long enough it would challenge us at the deepest level. It would invite us to



review and probably revise our core values. But we don't want that challenge because it means we might have to change how we think and what we do. So we live instead in avoidance and denial while going with the flow of traditional belief, and then we wonder why both contentment and fulfilment are so elusive. Just imagine for a moment that every school student in the world spent one year discussing and debating the question, "What is success?" inside out, and upside down. What would our children tell us? Would we have the patience and the faith to listen and

Instead of imposing our inherited beliefs, definitions and conditions, would we have the humility to facilitate their discussion and allow them to tell us? Or do we intuitively know they would be wiser than us and therefore pull the carpet from under our comfortable feet? Would we be threatened if their wisdom defined success as a simpler, more considerate, caring, sharing, spiritual state of being and giving, and not a material state of acquisition, accumulation and possession? Would success be less and not more for them? If we were to give ourselves the time to explore this question, we would likely arrive at the fairly obvious insight that success is not a material thing, it is not something that can be possessed, it is a state of being. We might call it contentment, or happiness, or even peace because these are the deepest and most meaningful symptoms of success, but only when they are not dependent on anything outside ourselves. So, let us engage our energies in achieving success that is based on a strong foundation of values like contentment, humility, peace, and respect and inspire the next generation to do so. (Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications;

views are personal)

## Imam Husain dared fighting terrorism



HASAN KHURSHID

The tragic events of Karbala, where Husain and his followers were mercilessly slain, serve as a poignant reminder of the values of justice and unwavering faith in the face of oppression



ohn Bradshaw once said," Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God. "Can man stand up to these conditions? "Man can but not necessarily with ease", Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Mohammad annunciated from the battlefield of Karbala (Iraq), on the fateful day of 10th Muharram, 61 A.H. (October 10, 680 A.D.).The pre-Islamic period in Arabia is known as the "age of ignorance". Scudding away from the noble attributes of human principles, the Arabs were treading the path of retrogression and abhorrence. Suffering from the worst evils and vices, these Arabs known as Bedouins (uncivilised rustics) were highly tentative of wrecking vengeance, group quarrels, and tribal animosities leading to bloody warfare that lasted for generations. In the pre-Islamic period, these Arabian Bedouins used to bury their newly born daughters alive out of ego. They had no sense of equality, humani-

ty, decency and brotherhood. In this cruiai moment, the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad brought the message of peace, tolerance, humanity, forbearance, liberty, equality, and brotherhood, assisting to weak and securing justice for the persecuted. The Prophet gradually started transforming the heartless brutes to humanise and turn towards peaceful life. The most notorious among them were the Bedouin tribals of "Bani-Omayya" (Omayyads). Omayyads did not tolerate the sojourn of humanity and peace. They violently opposed the Prophet's teachings. Omayya's grandson, Abu Sufiyan, son of Herb, unfurled the flag of revolt against Islamic teachings.

They started a campaign of persecution on the Prophet, who was forced to migrate from his home in Mecca to Medina. As such, the year of the Prophet's flight from Mecca to Medina is marked as the beginning of the Hijri era of the Islamic calender.Still, the Prophet Mohammad was not given any respite or relief. Mohammad was compelled to fight battles many a time. In Medina, the



MUAWIYA

HIS SON **ACCURSED** YAZID

ASCENDED TO THE CALIPHATE SEAT OF SYRIA. HE WAS A **HARDCORE TERRORIST** AND HAD SURPASSED ALL HIS ANCESTORS IN PRACTISING CRUELTY, **VIOLENCE AND** 

CORRUPTION

Prophet established the system for administering the "rule of law" in the light of Islamic jurisprudence, under the command of his sonin-law Hazrat Ali Murtaza. Notwithstanding the bravery of Ali, Omayyads suffered a thorough collapse. The shrewd Abu Sufiyan played a trick to subscribe to Islam outwardly and the Prophet mercifully granted a quarter to Abu Sufiyan and his men. On the contrary, Mohammad realised his duties as Prophet were preparing his two beloved grandsons, 'Hasan' and ' Husain', sons of Ali Murtaza and Fatima Zehra, as perfect specimens of his attainment and imparted to their young minds all the characteristics of his high morality. After the demise of the Holy Prophet Mohammad, the school of Islamic thought, philosophy, culture and administration was snifted to the Caliphate with temporal and ecclesiastical powers. The first three caliphs were:

Abubakar, Umar and Usman. The last caliph Imam Ali Murtaza, was assassinated by the henchmen of the conspirator and hypocrite Muawiya son of Abu Sufyan while Hazrat Ali Murtaza was prostrating before Allah in the mosque. After Ali's assassination, Muawiya with the might of a sword, usurped the seat of the Caliphate in Syria and declared himself as the self-appointed caliph. Muawiya, the first ruler of the House of Omayyads displaced the democratic Islamic rule by oligarchical and barbaric

despotic rule. After the death of Muawiya, his son accursed Yazid ascended to the Caliphate seat of Syria. He was a hardcore terrorist and had surpassed all his ancestors in prac-

tising cruelty, violence and corruption. Yazid was a libertine and sinner to the extent that the barest mention of his objectionable character is taboo in this civilised society. Yazid was the mammon of unrighteousness, whose lust for power prompted him to beat society into the mould he favoured. Yazid's criminal behaviour indicated the extreme occurrence of vulgar, and inhuman innovations in the established Islamic values. On the contrary Imam Husain was recognised throughout the

Arab world for his excellence of behaviour, wisdom, compassion and piety. When Yazid occupied the erstwhile seat of the Caliphate, deceitfully usurped by his father Muawiya, Yazid by terrorising the citizens sought their allegiance to accept him as leader of the faith-

He then demanded allegiance from Hazrat Imam Husain. Yazid was equipped with all the paraphernalia of power but so long, he didn't get the allegiance of Imam Husain, the grandson of the Prophet, he had no religious sanction to claim the Caliphate. He therefore demanded allegiance from Imam Husain to subscribe to him as the leader of the faithful.When Yazid bargained hard for Imam Husain to choose between allegiance and death, Husain straightaway refused his allegiance, saying, "A person of my kind, can not accept the allegiance of a man of his (Yazid's)

Husain knew that recognition of Yazid's immorality would permanently disfigure the "true faith" and a "pseudo-religion" would emerge in the guise of Islam. Had he encountered no opposition, Islam was bound to acclimatise to

the paralysing atonality from Yazid's degenerated symphony.Imam Husain was mercilessly assassinated in the desert of Karbala along with 71 family members and companions on the 10th of Muharram, 61 Hijri ( October 10, 680 A.D.), after being kept hungry and thirsty for three days. Their heads were severed from the bodies and were mounted on lancers. Among the slain martyrs was Husain's six-month-old infant son, Ali Asghar, the buoyancy of whose innocent blood refloated the sinking ship of Islam.

Ali Asghar's moon-like innocent severed head was too mounted on a lancer. Asghar's little body among 71 others was too trampled through the hoofs of office horses of Yazid's cavalry. The tents of Husain's household were torched. Daughters and grandchildren of Prophet Mohammad's extended family and the only surviving, ailing son office Imam Husain, were taken captives and paraded from Karbala to Syria, on bare backs of camels, where they appeared before accursed Yazid, the wild beast in human form.10th Muharram is universally observed by right-thinking and kind-hearted people irrespective of caste, religion or faith. Never in the fight of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few", said Churchill. The event of Karbala, taking place on 10th Moharram, 61 Hijri, teaches us: Never to support injustice and oppression, no matter, how powerful the oppressor might be. No matter, what incentive, what threat you might be

(The writer is a legal journalist and author. The views expressed

### Indian tourism industry: The challenges, resilience, and future prospects

#### As the Union Budget 2024 approaches, the Indian tourism industry has high hopes for increased support and strategic initiatives

≺ourism has always been a significant contributor to the economic growth and GDP of nations worldwide, and India is no exception. Indian tourism has consistently shown remarkable growth, even though it has not been a primary focus of government policies. There have been improvements in infrastructure and connectivity, but these efforts have been limit-

The Indian Tourism and Hospitality industry, faced unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sharp decline in both domestic and international travel led to a significant downturn.

Despite these challenges, the industry began to show signs of recovery in 2023. According



to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), 2023 saw 152 million domestic flyers, an increase of almost 24% from 123 million in 2022, and nearly 6% more than the 144 million in 2019. International travel also showed signs of revival, with 63.9 million international travellers to and from India in 2023, close to the 64.2 million seen in 2019, and 35% more than the 47 million in 2022. Consulting firm McKinsey & Company prolion) in 2024. Jobs in the

jects that India will become the fourth-largest domestic travel market in terms of spending by 2030. Additionally, aviation analytics firm OAG indicates that India is now the thirdlargest domestic aviation market, after the U.S. and China. The WTTC reported that this sector contributed INR 19.13 trillion (\$230 billion) to the Indian GDP in 2023, marking a nearly 10% increase over 2019 levels. Employment in the industry also saw an 8% rise, reaching 43 million jobs. This highlights the sector's resilience and its vital role in the national economy. They projects that the Indian tourism industry will continue to grow, with contributions to the GDP expected to reach INR 21.15 trillion (\$253 bil-

increase by 2.45 million, accounting for one in every 11 iobs in India

Despite positive indicators, the tourism industry has been largely overlooked in recent government budgets. This lack of support is concerning given the sector's significant contributions to the economy and employment.

Substantial investments and strategic initiatives are essential to fully capitalize on the industry's potential and ensure sustained growth. As the Union Budget 2024 approaches, the tourism industry remains hopeful for greater support and investment from the government.

Industry Perspectives
Jyoti Mayal, President, The

allocation for overseas promotion and publicity has been drastically reduced to just Rs. 3 crore, down from Rs. 100 crore in the previous year. She says, "The industry eagerly anticipates increased budget allocations to enhance infrastructure, marketing, and skill development. Investments in connectivity, heritage sites, and eco-tourism can propel growth. A focus on sustainable practices, waste management, and conservation efforts aligns with responsible tourism. Simplifying visa requirements and encouraging visa-free entry for tourists visiting India can significantly enhance foreign tourist arrivals".

Pradeep Shetty, President, Hotel and Restaurant Travel Agents Association of Association Western India policy changes. "One key Assistance to tour operators".

industry are also projected to India (TAAI) feels that the (HRAWI) says that the tourism and hospitality, accounting for around 10 percent of India's GDP and should be declared a priority sector. "Granting infrastructure status to hotels and convention centers of project cost of Rs 10 crore and above is essential for attracting investments and accelerating growth in the hospitality sector. Abolition of the 18 percent GST category for hotels with room rates above Rs.7500/-, merging it with the 12 percent GST category, would boost both domestic and inbound tourism," he says. Riaz Munshi, President,

Outbound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI) savs the outbound tourism sector is hoping for positive

expectation is the reduction of GST rates on outbound tour packages, making international travel more affordable. Additionally, better Tax Collected at Source (TCS) policies are hoped for as compared to current TCS rates, which are causing financial and administrative problems," says he.

Mr Rajiv Mehra, President, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) feels that the adequate funding is needed for promote tourism on global map. He says, "Ministry of Tourism should be given separate substantial funds for marketing and promotion for participation in overseas travel marts along with industry stakeholders, organizing road shows and for MDA

Mr. Ajay Prakash, President, Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) feels that for all the lip service to the economic and social benefits of tourism, the industry remains sadly neglected. Mere infrastructure development is not enough -the sector needs specific incentives if it is to realize its potential. The travel and tourism industry puts forth its Wishlist every year before the Budget and, come the day, is invariably disappointed. "The highest GST slab should not exceed 10% and travel agents/tour operators should be eligible to claim a setoff. Aviation fuel must be brought under GST to make airfares more affordable," says he.

(The writer is a travel influencer and writes on travel & tourism; views are personal)

## **Bandaged Trump's rapturous GOP convention debut**

Donald Trump, wearing a white bandage partially covering his injured right ear, stole the show when he made his first public appearance on the opening night of the Republican National Convention here, days after surviving an assassination

Trump on Monday entered the convention hall to roaring applause from thousands of delegates and holding his fist aloft towards the end of the first day of the four-day convention being held at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, a city in the US state of Wisconsin.

The former president entered the convention arena here with a fist raised and to the strains of a live performance of "God Bless the USA"

He then slowly walked through cheering delegates who pumped their fists and called out "Fight!

He then greeted key political allies and members of his fam-



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump and Republican vice presidential candidate Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, attend the first day of the Republican National Convention, Monday.

dren, but not his wife Melania. The former US president escaped an assassination bid when a bullet grazed his ear at

ily, including three of his chil- a campaign rally in Pennsylvania

on Saturday. Supporters on the convention floor and standing in the stadium sang along to a live rendition of "God Bless the USA" with singer Lee Greenwood. Trump was accompanied by his newlyannounced running mate Senator JD Vance.

Trump, 78, wore a subdued look as the room around him erupted and chants of "USA" rang out. On Monday, delegates from across the country nominated him as the Republican presidential nominee for the November 5 general election against incumbent Democratic President Joe Biden. It was the third consecutive time that Trump has received the Republican Party's nomina-tion.Trump will deliver his acceptance speech on Thursday. The delegation from Florida put him over the top, with Eric Trump, the second son of Trump, awarding the state's delegates to his father.

Several lawmakers and other officials spoke, including Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, Senator Tim Scott, and Representative Byron Donalds. The Democratic party would formally nominate Biden as its candidate at its convention in Chicago in August.

Earlier in the day, Trump announced that Senator Vance, 39, would be his running mate. He was welcomed by the crowd with a thunderous applause. The choice reflects Trump's belief that Vance is an effective communicator who can sell Trump's pop-ulist agenda — particularly to working-class voters in states like Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, where presidential elections can be decided by thousands of

"He is consistent with Trump's appeal to working men and women," Ohio Governor Mike DeWine said of Vance. "Also, someone who shares his desire to expand the base of the Republican Party," DeWine was quoted as saying by CNN.Trump survived an attempt on his life on Saturday when a young shooter fired multiple shots at him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear.

#### Sikh Republican Party leader recites 'ardas' at RNC

Milwaukee (PTI): Indian-American Sikh Republican Party leader Harmeet Kaur Dhillon on Monday recited 'ardas' at the Republican National Convention here in the presence of the party's presidential nominee Donald Trump.

Amidst tight security, the four-day Republican National Convention began on Monday with delegates and officials coming to the US state of Wisconsin to greet Trump like a hero for the first time since a gunman on Sunday opened fire at the former president during a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, grazing his ear.

Dhillon, a Republican Party leader and Civil Rights Attorney discussing the attack on Trump said: These last 48 hours have been some of the most intense, yet more prayerful of our lives, the heinous attack on President Trump and his supporters made all of us pause and seek answers in com-

A video posted on social media platform X by the California Republican Party, showed Dhillon, 55, as saying at the Fisery Forum: "I come from a family of Sikh immigrants and I'm honoured to share with you, my fellow Republicans and guests tonight, a prayer from my faith and tradition practised by over 25 million worldwide."

"We recite the Ardaas (Sikh prayer) before any new endeavour, giving thanks to God and asking for his protection and help to uphold the values of humility, truth, courage, service, and justice for all," she added.

"Dear Waheguru, our one true God, we thank you for creating America as a unique heaven on this Earth, where all people are free to worship according to their faith. We seek your blessings and guidance for our beloved country. Please bless our people with wisdom as they vote for the upcoming election and please bless with humility, honesty, skill and integrity all those who conduct the election," she said after offering the 'ardas'. Dhillon, who has also served as the vice chairwoman of the California Republican Party and also co-chairs the Women for Trump organisation, thanked God for protecting Trump's life, and also mentioned the leader's "tireless and uplifting spirit".Dhillon was born in a Sikh family in Chandigarh and immigrated to the US. She has experience working on matters involving intellectual property, unfair competition, civil rights, employment discrimination

and others, and also has her law firm.

## Israeli strikes across Gaza kill more than 30

PTI DEIR-AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes in the central Gaza Strip overnight into Tuesday killed 24 people, including women and children, according to hospital records, in deadly violence that continues to rage as Israel and Hamas weigh the latest cease-fire proposal. The deaths in Nuseirat and Zawaida, which included 10 women and four children, came days after Hamas said cease-fire talks meant to wind down the nine-month-long war would continue even after Israel targeted the militant group's top military commander, Mohammed Deif, whose fate remained unclear. Israel says another senior Hamas militant was killed in that strike which, according to local officials, killed 90 Palestinians, includ-

ing children. International mediators are working to push Israel and Hamas toward agreeing to a deal that would bring a halt to the devastating fighting and set free roughly 120 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza. The strikes late Monday and early Tuesday hit four residential gency workers. An Associated Press journalist saw the bodies of the dead, some wrapped in blue blankets and a floral sheet, as they were ferried to Al Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah. Clouds of smoke from Israeli strikes could be seen rising above the city.

The military said it "conducted targeted raids on terror targets" in central Gaza, without elaborating. It did not immediately provide additional details on the tar-

In southern Gaza, nine people were killed in two separate strikes overnight Monday, according to medical officials and Associated Press journalists.

Four people were killed in a blast that struck a house in eastern Khan Younis while five other people were killed in a strike on a street in southernmost Rafah, according to ambulance workers who transported the bodies

to Nasser Hospital. An AP journalist counted the bodies at the hospital before a funeral was held at

The military said that air force planes struck some 40 targets in Gaza over the past day, among them observation posts, Hamas military structures and explosives-rigged buildings. The war in Gaza, which was sparked by Hamas' October 7 attack, has killed more than 38,600 people, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its

The war has sparked a humanitarian catastrophe in the coastal Palestinian territory, displaced most of its 2.3 million population and triggered widespread hunger. Hamas' surprise attack killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and militants took roughly 250 people hostage. About 120 remain in captivity, with about a third of them believed to be dead, according to Israeli authorities.

Violence has also surged in the West Bank during the war stabbed an Israeli policeman, wounding him lightly, before another officer opened fire, killing the assailant, who was identified as a 19-year-old from Gaza

Meanwhile, hospital officials sav an Israeli airstrike killed 17 Palestinians on Tuesday in a military-declared "safe zone" outside the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis. Officials at Nasser Hospital said the strike hit near a gas station in Muwasi, an area packed with tent camps housing thousands of Palestinians who have fled Israeli offensives in other parts of Gaza. The site lies in a humanitarian "safe zone" where the Israeli military has told evacuating Palestinians to take refuge. The strike raises to at least 59 the number of people killed in southern and central Gaza by strikes overnight into Tuesday.

#### Oman mosque shooting leaves 5 dead, dozens injured

**Dubai (AP):** A rare shooting by multiple attackers at a Shiite mosque in Oman killed five people and wounded many more people and w including a police officer, authorities said on Tuesday. Pakistan's government said four of its nationals were dead and 30 hurt. The Royal Oman Police said in a statement mentioned no motive or suspect and said the shooting occurred on Monday night in the Wadi Kabir neighbourhood of the capital, Muscat. The state-run Oman News Agency said three attackers were killed. It reported 28 wounded of "different nationalities".

The shooting occurred on the eve of Ashoura, a remembrance of the 7th century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, that gave birth to

The day falls in the Islamic month of Muharram, one of the holiest months for Shiite

## Biden acknowledges 'mistake' in Bull's-eye comment on Trump

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden told NBC News in an interview Monday that it was a "mistake" to say he wanted to put a "bull's-eye" on Republican nomlinee Donald Trump, but argued that the rhetoric from his opponent was more incendiary while warning that Trump remained a threat to democratic institutions. The remark in question came during a private call with donors last week as Biden had been scrambling to shore up his imperiled candidacy with key party constituencies. During that conversation, Biden declared he was "done" talking about his poor debate performance and said it was "time to put Trump in the bull's-eye," saying Trump has gotten far too little scrutiny on his stances, rhetoric and lack of campaigning. The NBC interview — during which, at times, Biden grew defensive under questions about his fitness for office — came as the president

following the weekend assassination attempt on Trump. The president and his campaign let loose a flurry of criticism after the GOP nominee announced freshman Sen ID Vance of Ohio as his running mate. "He's a clone of Trump on the

issues," Biden told reporters as he headed to Nevada for a series of speeches and campaign events. "I don't see any difference." He expanded on that during the NBC interview, telling

Lester Holt that Vance has the same policies as Trump when it comes to abortion, taxes and climate change, adding, "He signed onto the Trump agenda, which he should, if he's running with Trump."
Once Vance was tapped as
Trump's vice-presidential pick,

the Biden campaign hit send on a fundraising solicitation signed by the president, and his team issued a blistering statement saying he picked the freshman senator because he would "bend over backwards

pared to resume full-throttle campaigning after a brief pause following the weekend assassi- her part, Vice President had been part of Biden's broaders trump and his extreme MAGA agenda." For her part, Vice President for office after angst grew Kamala Harris phoned Vance to congratulate him and left him a voicemail message, according to a person familiar with the matter.

And to NBC's Holt, Biden made it clear that he would keep up his focus on Trump. While he acknowledged his "mistake," Biden nonetheless said he is "not the guy who said I wanted to be a dictator on day one" and he wanted the focus to be on what Trump was saying. It's Trump, not Biden, who engages in that kind of rhetoric, Biden said, referring to Trump's past comments about a "bloodbath" if the Republican loses in November. Look, how do you talk about the threat to democracy, which is real, when a president says things like he says?" Biden said. 'Do you just not say anything because it may incite some body?'

The NBC interview, scheduled before the attempt on Trump's life at a rally in Pennsylvania, er strategy to prove his fitness that I don't need notes, I don't for office after angst grew need teleprompters" although Biden has used notes among Democrats because of his disastrous June 27 debate and teleprompters in recent appearances, which is not performance. Asked by Holt if he has weathered the worst of unusual. As for a potential repeat of his it from his own party, Biden responded that 14 million rocky debate, Biden said, "I Democratic voters selected him through the primaries and added, "I listen to them." don't plan on having another performance on that level." His mental acuity is "pretty damn good," Biden added, but

he said the question of his age was "legitimate" to ask. Yet Biden grew visibly testy when asked whether he was eager to "get back on the horse" by participating in another debate against Trump, even before their next scheduled one in September. "I'm on the horse. Where have you been?" rights. a defensive Biden said. He rattled off his recent travels across the country and a lengthy press conference last week in Washington where he parried questions from nearly a dozen reporters. He said he

The Biden campaign recalibrated some of its political plans in the immediate aftermath of the assassination attempt on Saturday, pulling advertising off the air and hit-

ting pause on messaging. The White House also scrapped Biden's planned Monday visit to the Lyndon B. Johnson library, where he had been slated to deliver remarks on civil Biden also spoke privately to Trump after the assassination attempt, a call that the presi-

dent described in the NBC interview as "very cordial." "I told him how concerned I was and wanted to make sure I knew how he was actually doing," Biden said.

#### Welsh leader to resign over campaign donation scandal

and his reelection team pre-

**AP** ■ LONDON

The leader of Wales' government, First Minister Tuesday he will resign after several members of his government quit over a campaign donation scandal.

Gething said that "I have this morning taken the difficult decision to begin the process of stepping down as leader of the Welsh Labour Party and, as a result, First Minister".

The announcement came after four members of Gething's semiautonomous government quit, demanding he resign. Gething, the son of a Welsh father and a Zambian mother, made history in March when he was elected to head the Cardiff-based administration,

becoming the first Black leader of a government in the UK. He has faced criticism for accepting 200,000 pounds (USD 255,000) in donations during his leadership campaign from a recycling company whose owner had been found guilty of environmental



offenses and breaching health and safety regulations. His leadership has crumbled since the Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru ended a cooperation arrangement with Gething's minority Labour government in April. The following month Gething lost a nonbinding no-confidence vote in Wales' parliament, the Senedd. In a resignation statement, Gething said he had "hoped that over the summer a period of reflection, rebuilding and renewal could take place under

my leadership. "I recognise that this is not possible," he

added. Wales, which has a population of about three million, is one of four parts of the United Kingdom, along with England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The British government in London is responsible for defence, foreign affairs and other UK-wide issues, while administrations in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast control areas such as education and

#### Thailand to launch controversial \$13.8 bn digital money handout

is "demonstrating to the American people that I have

Thailand's prime minister has said that eligible businesses and individuals can register from August for digital cash handouts, a controlars and is meant to boost the lagging economy.The government announced in April the widely criticised ambitious plan, named the Digital Wallet, meant to give 10,000 baht (about \$275) to 50 million citizens in digital money to spend at local businesses

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin posted on the social platform X on Monday, saying the registration will begin Aug 1 and that he has given instructions to ensure the smooth implementation of the program. The "Digital Wallet" was a major campaign

promise of the ruling Srettha's Pheu Thai party ahead of last year's general election. The government says that this scheme will cause an "economic tornado," and Srettha has said the stimulus and subsequent consumption are expected to boost gross domestic product growth by 1.2

to 1.6 percentage points. However, economists have criticised the programme, calling it an ineffective way to contribute to sustainable economic growth compared to other measures. In addition, its financing has faced several hurdles, delaying its planned implementation. At first, the government said the state Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives would cover some of the funding

needed. However, after warnings by financia

**UK gurdwara attack being treated** 

experts, it was announced that the project's funding would come out of the 2024 and 2025 fiscal

Deputy Minister of Finance Julapan Amornvivat said at a news conference on Monday the budestimated cost dropped from 500 billion baht (\$13.8 billion) to 450 billion baht (\$12.4 billion) asserting that all estimated 50 million people will still be part of the program as only up to 90% of those eligible utilised them in previous handouts. Julapan added that the Digital Wallet committee has agreed to exclude tens of thousands of shop owners and cash recipients who have a record of committing fraud in past programmes. The plan also has certain limitations, such as excluding certain goods that are yet to be decided, and earlier proposals suggested oil, services, and online purchases should be among them. Julapan said the Commerce Ministry would handle the exclusions set to be announced next week after the detailed plan is submitted to the Cabinet. Thailand has in recent years suffered from a slug gish economy that appears to have deteriorated with no clear sign of growth. This month, the World Bank's Thailand Economic Monitor projected GDP growth of 2.4% for the year 2024. The ruling Pheu Thai party had initially suggest ed digital wallet payments for all Thais 16 and older, but later this was limited to only lowerincome Thais, defined as people with yearly incomes not exceeding 840,000 baht (about

\$23,000) and savings in financial institutions not

totalling more than 500,000 baht (\$13,700)

#### Shiite Muslims commemorate mourning day of Ashura with processions in Iran

Tehran (AP): Iranian Shiite Muslims on Tuesday commemorated Ashura, a remembrance of the seventh century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, that gave birth to their faith. Over 1,340 years after Hussein's death, Tehran and other cities across the country were adorned with symbols of Shiite piety and repentance. Red flags represented Hussein's blood, black funeral tents and clothes indicated mourning, and processions of chest-beating and self-flagellating men expressed fervour. Some sprayed water over the mourners in the intense heat. Many Iranian people also travelled to the Iraqi city of Karbala, where Hussein is entombed in a gold-domed shrine, to mourn there. Iranian state TV broadcast live from there, showing people at the shrine. Shiites represent over 10 per cent of the world's 1.8



Shiite Muslims touch a horse, that symbolizes the horse that carried Imam Hussein during the battle of Karbala, during a Muharram procession, in Lahore, Pakistan, Tuesday

billion Muslims and view Hussein as the rightful successor to the Prophet Muhammad. Hussein's

death in battle at the hands of Sunnis at Karbala, south of Baghdad, ingrained a deep rift in

Islam and continues to this day to play a key role in shaping Shiite

## as 'religiously aggravated': Police

PTI ■ LONDON

The gurdwara attack in southeast England last week in which a 17-year-old boy was arrested and charged with multiple offences, including threats to kill, is being treated as "religiously aggravated", the local police have said.

The Kent Police said the boy appeared before Maidstone Crown Court where he was further charged with attempted grievous bodily harm along with assault occasioning actual bodily harm, using or threatening unlawful violence, threats to kill, threatening a person with a bladed weapon and possessing a bladed article in a public

He was bailed by the court over the incident at Sri Guru Thursday after a mental

Nanak Darbar Gurdwara in Gravesend last Thursday and was "immediately detained by officers for a mental health assessment".

'This is an isolated incident and our initial enquiries suggest it is not terrorism-related," said Chief Superintendent Angie Chapman, North Kent Divisional Commander for Kent Police.

We are treating it as religiously aggravated. It was upsetting for local people and our officers will remain on patrol in the area for reassurance and engagement with the community. I would like to thank the local community for their ongoing support and assistance while this investigation continues," she said. He will next appear before Medway Youth Court on

health assessment. Earlier, investigators from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate charged the boy, who cannot be named as a minor, over what the local police referred to as a "disturbance" at the gurdwara in Gravesend on July 11 evening. The Gurdwara, one of the largest outside India, held an "All Sangat Meeting" at its Lecture Theatre on Sunday to

reassure the community after it stated that 'Guru Granth Sahib Ji' was not present in the Darbar Hall at the time of the attack.

Two women suffered cuts and bruises in an assault outside the building shortly afterwards.

"Nobody was seriously injured during the incident and the constables recovered a bladed weapon," the police

said. According to the gurdwara's management team, the suspect was spotted by its security team and police were called immediately. "A person has been arrested by Kent Police on suspicion of attempted murder, after entering the gurdwara and creating an incident in one of the Darbar Halls. We can confirm that the inci-

and 'Guru Granth Sahib Ji' were not present in the Darbar Hall," the gurdwara said in a statement in the aftermath. Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara opened its doors to

dent happened after Sukhasan

the congregation in November 2010 and is a wellknown place of worship in Kent that offers regular "langar seva" for the local com-

## soldiers, 10 terrorists killed

**PTI** ■ PESHAWAR

t least eight soldiers of the A Pakistan Army and 10 terrorists were killed when a group of 10 terrorists attacked a major military cantonment in restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the army said on Tuesday. All 10 terrorists who launched

the daring attack were also eliminated after they attempt ed to enter the Bannu Cantonment on Monday, with security forces effectively thwarting the move, the statement said

The terrorists' failed attempt forced them to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the cantonment, leading to the collapse of a portion of the wall and damaging the adjoining infrastructure. Eight soldiers were killed in the ensuing operation and all the terrorists were "sent to hell", the statement added.



response by the security forces prevented major catastrophe, saving precious innocent lives," the statement said, adding that the heinous act was undertaken by the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group, which operates from Afghanistan and has used Afghan soil to orchestrate acts of terrorism inside Pakistan in the past as well.

Pakistan has consistently raised its concerns with the interim Afghan government, asking

'This timely and effective them to deny persistent use of Afghan soil by the terrorists and take effective action against such elements, the statement said, adding that the Pakistani side will take all necessary measures as deemed appropriate against these threats emanating from Afghanistan.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the attack and said the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army in the war against terror would not go to waste.

"Security forces' timely action saved Bannu Cantonment from a big catastrophe," he said. Pakistan has witnessed an increase in terrorist activities over the past year, particularly in regions like Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan following the cessation of a ceasefire between the government and the banned Tehreek e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group in November 2022. Last week, Islamabad reiterated its stance against engaging in talks with the TTP and called for Kabul's action against terrorists operating from Afghan territory.
According to the Centre for

Research and Security Studies'

annual security report, violence and casualties in Pakistan saw a notable decline in the second quarter of 2024. The report said there was a 12 per cent reduction in overall violence. with 380 fatalities reported compared to 432 in the preceding quarter.

### Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attack: 8 | Move to ban Imran's party finds little support among ruling PML-N's allies

**PTI** ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government's controversial move to ban jailed former prime minister Ímran Khan's Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf party has attracted flack from across the political spectrum with the stakeholders calling the move undemocratic, which could have far-reaching ramifications if executed. The Pakistan government on Monday decided to ban Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on charges of illegally receiving foreign funds, involvement in riots and alleged involvement in "anti-state" activities. The government led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party has also threatened to slap treason charges on 71-year-old Khan as well as on former president Arif Alvi, 74, among

Besides the PTI, which has called the move an act of "desperation" and a "sign of panic" within the federal administration, leaders from other parties including the Pakistan Peoples

Party, Awami National Party, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, and Jamaat-i-Islami have criticised the decision

The PPP led by former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has distanced itself from the controversial move, saying the party was not consulted on the move to ban the Khan-founded party. PPP Information Secretary Shazia Atta Marri also said the party, a key ally of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led government in the centre, would hold consultations on the government's decision to ban the PTI.

Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, who in a press conference on Monday, said the PTI and Pakistan "cannot coexist" and the matter to ban the party would go to the federal cabinet and the Supreme Court. The move drew a strong reaction from the PTI which in return has also demanded invoking Article 6 of the Constitution against those who undertook the uncon-

stitutional steps even though

The decision was announced by

there is a Constitution in the country.

The party also called on allies of the ruling coalition government, including the PPP and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), to clarify their position on the move. PPP's Senator Sherry Rehman confirmed Marri's remarks about not being consulted and noted that the party had no idea that such a move by the Centre would be taken, Geo News reported.Responding to a question regarding their alliance with the PML-N, the senator acknowledged that the government's move should not come as a surprise to them as they are allies. "We have also worked with allies before where every step is taken with careful due consideration about its repercussions.

"I have no idea on what level this whole issue was discussed by the government," she said.

When asked if the banning of the PTI would achieve anything, Rehman answered in the negative and said: "My personal opinion is that this won't achieve anything [...] Even though the PPP was subjected to various tactics in the past it still stands

strong today. "I'm of the view that you can't stop anything or anyone via

ban or censorship, there are other ways to make someone mend their ways," the PPP leader

The PPP's move to distance itself from the PML-N government's decision is significant as the party is a key ally of PM Shehbaz-led administration and enjoys a key position politically and parliamentary as none of the parties managed to secure a simple majority in the February 8 polls. The party's support is therefore essential to the survival of the Centre as the PTI-backed independent candidates - who emerged as the largest single group in the general elections got a major boost via the Supreme Court ruling declaring them eligible for reserved seats The development has deprived the ruling coalition of a twothirds majority in the National

## Violent clashes over govt jobs injures many in B'desh

 $P^{\text{olice fired tear gas and}}_{\text{charged with batons during}}$ violent clashes between a progovernment student body and student protesters overnight, leaving dozens injured at a public university outside Bangladesh's capital, authorities and students said on Tuesday.

The violence spread early Tuesday at Jahangir Nagar University in Savar, outside Dhaka, where protesters demanded an end to a quota reserved for family members of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971, allowing them to take up 30 per cent of gov-ernmental jobs. While job opportunities have expanded in Bangladesh's private sector, many find government jobs stable and lucrative. Each year, some 3,000 such jobs open up to nearly 400,000 graduates. Protesters argue such quota appointments are discriminatory and should be meritbased. Some even said the current system benefits groups

ministers criticized the protesters, saying they played on students' emotions. Hasina said on Tuesday war

supporting Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina. Some Cabinet

violence

veterans — commonly known as "freedom fighters" — should receive the highest respect for their sacrifice in 1971 regardless of their current political ideologies. "Abandoning the dream of their own life, leaving behind their families, parents and everything, they joined the war with whatever they had ... , she said during an event at her office in Dhaka Meanwhile, Protesters gath-

ered in front of the university's official residence of the vicechancellor early Tuesday when

broke Demonstrators accused the Bangladesh Chhatra League, a student wing of Hasina's ruling Awami League party, of attacking their "peaceful protests". According to local media reports, police and the ruling party-backed student wing

But Abdullaĥil Kafi, a senior police official, told the country's leading English-language newspaper Daily Star that they fired tear gas and "blank rounds" as protesters attacked the police.

attacked the protesters.

He said up to 15 police officers were injured. More than 50 people were

treated at Enam Medical College Hospital near Jahangir Nagar University as the violence continued for hours, said Ali Bin Solaiman, a medical officer of the hospital. He said at least 30 of them suffered pellet wounds.

On Monday, violence also spread at Dhaka University, the country's leading public university, as clashes gripped the campus in the capital. More than 100 students were injured in the clashes, police said.
On Tuesday, protesters blocked railways and some highways

across the country, and in Dhaka, they halted traffic in many areas as they vowed to continue demonstrating until the demands were met. Local media said police forces

were spread across the capital

to safeguard the peace. Swapon, a protester and student of Dhaka University who only gave his first name, said they only want the "rational reformation of the quota system." He said after studying for six years, if he can't find a job, it will cause me and my fam-

Protesters say they are apolitical, but leaders of the ruling

ily to suffer".

parties accused the opposition of using the demonstrations for political gains. A ruling partybacked student activist, who refused to give his name, told The Associated Press the pro-The Associated Press the pro-testers with the help of "goons" of the opposition's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaate-Islami party vandalized their rooms at the student dormitories near the Curzon Hall of the

Dhaka University The family of the veterans quota system was halted following a court order after mass student protests in 2018. But last month, Bangladesh's High Court nulled the decision to reinstall the system once more, angering scores of students and triggering protests. Last week, the Supreme Court halted the High Court's order for four weeks and the chief justice asked protesting students to return to their classes, saying the court would issue a decision in four weeks

However, the protests have continued daily, halting traffic in Dhaka.

The quota system also reserves government jobs for women, disabled people and ethnic minority groups, but students have only protested against jobs reserved for veterans' fam-

#### N Korean diplomat in Cuba defected to S Korea in November, Seoul says

Couth Korea's spy agency said Tuesday that a senior North Korea diplomat based in Cuba has fled to South Korea, the latest in a series of defections by members of the North's ruling elite in recent years. The National Intelligence Service said media reports on the defection of a North Korean counselor of political affairs in Cuba were true. A brief statement by the NIS public affairs office gave no further details. South Korea's mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported earlier Tuesday that diplomat Ri Il Kyu fled to South Korea with his wife and children in November.

Chosun Ilbo cited Ri as telling the newspaper in an interview that he had decided to defect because of what he called disil lusionment with North Korea's political system, an unfair job evaluation by Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry, and the ministry's disapproval of his hopes to visit Mexico to treat his neural damage. He said that hospitals in Cuba didn't have the necessary medical equipment to treat his health problem due to international sanctions. Other South Korean media outlets carried

similar reports later Tuesday. Ri defected before South Korea and Cuba established diplomatic ties in February, an event that experts say likely posed a political blow to North Korea, whose diplomatic footing is largely dependent on a small number of Cold War-era allies like Cuba. The Chosun report said Ri had been engaged in efforts to block Cuba from opening diplomatic ties with South Korea until his defection. The report said Ri won a commendation from leader Kim Jong Un for his role in negotiations with Panama that led to the release of a ship detained in 2013 for allegedly carrying banned items like missiles and fighter jet parts. The report said Ri was then a third secretary of the North Korean Embassy in Cuba. The South Korean government says the number of highly educated North Koreans with professional jobs escaping to South Korea has steadily increased in recent years. But it's still unusual for a member of the North's ruling elite to come to South Korea. About 34,000 North Koreans have defected to

them are women from the North's poorer northern regions who arrived in South Korea since the mid-1990s, when North Korea suffered a devastating famine that was estimated to have killed hundreds of thousands of people. In 2016, Tae Yongho, then a min-

ister at the North Korean Embassy in London, defected to South Korea. He told reporters in Seoul that he decided to flee because he didn't want his children to live "miserable" lives in North Korea and he fell into "despair" after watching North Korean leader Kim execute officials and pursue development of nuclear weapons. North Korea has called him "human scum" and accused him of embezzling government money and committing other crimes. Tae was elected to South Korea's parliament in 2020.In 2019, North Korea's acting ambassador to Italy, Jo Song Gil, arrived in South Korea. Also in 2019, North Korea's acting ambassador to Kuwait arrived in South Korea with his family. In 2021, lawmakers cited the NIS as telling them the diplomat changed his name to Ryu Hyunwoo after arriving in South

#### Some EU officials boycott meetings over Orbán's visits to Russia, China

**AP BUDAPEST** 

Some European Union leaders protested on Tuesday what they see as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's misuse of the bloc's rotating presidency, with many including those in the EU's executive commission boycotting an informal meeting hosted by Hungary in response to Orban's actions.

Officials are angry that Orban, a nationalist populist who is seen as having the warmest ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin among EU leaders, made unannounced trips to Moscow and Beijing earlier this month on what he called a "peace mission" aimed at brokering an end to Russia's war in Ukraine.

Orban said he was seeking the quickest path to peace in Ukraine and portrayed himself as uniquely positioned to communicate with both warring parties. He also met last week with former US President Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago compound and expressed confidence that Trump would quickly "solve" the conflict. But Orban's EU partners were startled by the appearance that he was acting on behalf of the 27-member bloc during his meetings with Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, and worried that he was undermining EU unity on support for Ukraine. Hungary holds the rotating presidency of the EU

Council from July to December 2024. In response, some nations including Sweden, Finland and the Baltic countries, as well as the Commission, said their top officials would boycott meetings in Budapest and send civil servants

But not all EU members joined the boycott. The energy ministers of Austria, Belgium and Bulgaria attended an informal meeting on energy on Tuesday in Hungary's capital, with one downplaying the boycott.

"I think that we have a good representation," Vladimir Malinov, Bulgaria's caretaker energy minister, said as he entered the meeting. "Having in mind that this is an informal meeting, it's not an issue. Maybe on the formal level we will have much more high representation." The boycott prompted mixed reactions from Hungarian officials, with some employing the kind of bellicose tone that has characterised Orban's government when it comes to the EU. Kinga Gal, a top EU lawmaker from Orbán's Fidesz party, said the Commission's boycott is "clearly a part of von der Leyen's election campaign", a reference to Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who hopes to be elected to another five-year term on Thursday. "We have become used to (von der Leyen) using the EU institutions, especially against Hungary for

political blackmail and pressure," Gal wrote on the social media site X on Monday. "This is unacceptable and goes against the very essence of European cooperation." Hungary's finance minister, Mihaly Varga, was more subdued, saying in Brussels on Tuesday that Hungary's EU presidency remains committed to sincere cooperation with all member states and institutions". Varga said ministers "are free to decide to take part in our events or not. But I am absolutely sure that there will be a high-level participation in the events". Speaking from outside the same Brussels meeting, Elisabeth Svantesson, Sweden's finance minister, said she was "both angry and quite sad" about how the Hungarian presidency has gone so

'That Mr. Orban went to Putin in Moscow is an insult not only to Ukraine but to all other 26 member states, and that's what I will tell today in the meeting," she said.During a media briefing on Tuesday, Stefan de Keersmaecker, a Commission spokesperson, said that by sending lower-level officials to Hungary's meetings, the body wanted to "mark our disapproval" with Orban's uncoordinated trips and the message they sent concerning the war in Ukraine. The visits, he said, "have indeed harmed the indispensable image of unity in the European Union".

nal Nature Astronomy.

## New hotline aims to prevent Chinese-Philippine sea clashes

Manila (AP): A recently signed agreement will open a direct line of communication between the presidential offices of China and the Philippines to help prevent any new confrontation from spiralling out of control in the disputed South China Sea, according to highlights of the accord seen by The Associated Press on Tuesday

China and the Philippines have created such emergency telephone hotlines at lower levels in the past to better manage disputes, particularly in two fiercely disputed shoals where the Philippines has accused Chinese forces of increasingly hostile actions and China says Philippine ships have encroached despite repeated warnings.

The territorial disputes, however, have persisted since last year, sparking fears of a larger armed conflict that could involve the United States, which has repeatedly warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, a key Asian treaty ally, if Filipino forces come under attack in the disputed waters. US Gen. Charles Brown Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met Philippine military chief Gen. Romeo Brawner in Manila on Tuesday and discussed ways to further boost defence ties, enhance the militaries' ability to operate jointly and ensure regional ability, the Philippine military said.

During a confrontation between Chinese and Philippine forces at the Philippines-occupied Second Thomas Shoal in August 2023, the Philippine government said it was unable to reach Chinese officials through an established 'maritime communication mechanism" for several hours. That emergency telephone hotline was arranged after Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Ir. met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing in January 2023. Chinese and Philippine officials

dealing with the territorial disputes held talks in Manila on July 2, following a violent confrontation at the Second Thomas Shoal in which Chinese coast guard personnel reportedly wielded knives, an axe and improvised spears and Philippine navy personnel were injured. The Chinese forces also seized seven

Philippine navy rifles, said Brawner, who demanded China return the firearms and pay for damages

South Korea to avoid economic

hardship and political suppres-

sion since the end of the 1950-

53 Korean War. A majority of

Both sides "recognised the need to strengthen the bilateral maritime communication mechanism on the South China Sea" and signed an arrangement "on improving Philippines-China maritime communication mechanisms", the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement after the talks in Manila, but did not provide a copy or details of the agreement. A copy of the agreement's highlights, seen by the AP, said it "provides several channels for communication between the Philippines and China, specifically on maritime issues, through the representatives to be designated by their leaders'

The hotline talks could also be done "through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs counterparts, including at the foreign minister and vice foreign minister levels or through their designated representatives", it said, and added without elaborating that Philippine officials were "in discussions with the Chinese side on the guidelines that will govern the implementation of this arrangement". There was also a plan to set up a new communication channel between the Chinese and Philippine coast guards "once the corresponding memorandum of understanding" between them is concluded, according to the agreement. During the talks in Manila,

China and the Philippines agreed on two other confidence-boosting steps to intensify "cooperation between their respective coast guard authorities" and the possible convening of a maritime forum between Chinese and Philippine scientists and academic leaders. "Both sides recognised that there is a need to restore trust, rebuild confidence and create conditions conducive to productive dialogue and interaction," the Philippine department of foreign affairs statement said. It added that China and the Philippines "affirmed their commitment to de-escalate tensions without prejudice to their respective positions".

### Scientists confirm moon cave discovery

Cape Canaveral (US) (AP): Scientists have confirmed a cave on the moon, not far from where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed 55 years ago, and suspect there are hundreds more that could house future astronauts.

An Italian-led team reported Monday that there's evidence for a sizable cave accessible from the deepest known pit on the moon. It's located at the Sea of Tranquility, just 250 miles (400 km) from Apollo 11's landing site. The pit, like the more than 200

was created by the collapse of Researchers analysed radar others discovered up there,

Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, and compared the results with lava tubes on Earth. Their measurements by NASA's findings appeared in the jour-

The radar data reveals only the initial part of the underground cavity, according to the scientists. They estimate it's at least 130 feet (40 metres) wide and tens of yards (metres) long, probably more. "Lunar caves have remained a mystery for over 50 years. So it was exciting to be able to finally prove the existence" of one, Leonardo Carrer and Lorenzo Bruzzone of the University of Trento, wrote in an email. Most of the pits seem to be located in the moon's ancient lava plains, according to the scientists.

There also could be some at the moon's south pole, the planned location of NASA's astronaut landings later this decade. Permanently shadowed craters there are believed to hold frozen water that could provide drinking water and rocket fuel. During NASA's Apollo programme, 12 astronauts landed on the moon, beginning with Armstrong and Aldrin on July 20, 1969.

The findings suggest there could be hundreds of pits on the moon and thousands of lava tubes. Such places could serve as a natural shelter for

astronauts, protecting them from cosmic rays and solar radiation as well as from micrometeorite strikes. Building habitats from scratch would be more time-consuming and challenging, even when factoring in the potential need of reinforcing the cave walls to prevent a collapse, the team

Rocks and other material inside these caves — unaltered by the harsh surface conditions over the eons — also can help scientists better understand how the moon evolved, especially involving its volcanic activity.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Sadig Road, Faridkot - 15120

ADMISSION NOTICE -2024 MASTER IN HOSPITAL AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (MHHA) COURSE line applications are invited through University website for admission to Maste

n Hospital and Health Administration (MHHA) Session, 2024 at the Department of Master in Hospital and Health Administration, University Centre of Excellence Research (UCER), BFUHS, Faridkot from 18/07/2024 to 17/08/2024, along w

Receipt of Application/Fee Rs.5000/+18% GST (Rs.5900/ -) and for SC

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The Selected candidates will pay the tuition fee (40,000/-) in the shape of Deman

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For details/updates kindly visit University website (www.bfuhs.ac.in) regularly

nil/12/200/2023/35681 Dated CHD :- 7/16/2024



#### **AWS' KUMARA RAGHAVAN SEES HUGE** POTENTIAL IN STARTUPS

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian startup ecosystem is mature, with multiple tailwinds that are poised to escalate India to become the third largest economy in the world, said

AWS' Kumara Raghavan. In a conversation with PTI, Raghavan, Head, Startups, Web Services (AWS) India, and South Asia, discussed the vibrant Indian startup scene, noting its strength and innovation potential. "We are the 5th

largest economy, we are trending towards becoming the 3rd largest... factors that will contribute to it are labor addition, infrastructure and growth, efficiency improvements, where technologies like GenAI will play their part, a large developer ecosystem, the ability to build products in the country and serviced all over the world, then there are regulatory tailwinds as well," he

## Sensex, Nifty close at record high levels for 3rd day in a row

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

 $B^{\rm enchmark}_{\rm Sensex\ and\ Nifty\ settled\ at}$ record high levels in their third straight day of gains on Tuesday following buying in FMCG, telecom and select IT shares and FII inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 51.69 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at a new lifetime high of 80,716.55. During the day, it advanced 233.44 points or 0.28 per cent to hit a fresh record high of 80,898,30.

The NSE Nifty went up by 26.30 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,613. Intra-day, it rallied 74.55 points or 0.30 to hit a new record peak of

Sensex and Nifty have been on a record-breaking run since Friday as foreign investors have turned buyers in the Indian equities ahead of the presentation of the Union 2024-25. budget for Encouraging quarterly results by blue-chips have also



supported the rally despite valuation concerns, according to analysts. Sensex

Among Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, ITC and Asian Paints were the biggest winners.

On the other hand, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries, NTPC, UltraTech Cement and Power Grid were among the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,684.78 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled higher, while Hong Kong ended lower

amid dovish comments from the US Fed Chair Jerome Powell bolstering hopes of a rate cut by September. European markets

trading lower. US markets ended in positive territory on

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.80 per cent to USD 84.13 a barrel.

On Monday, the BSE benchmark climbed 145.52 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new record high of 80,664.86. The NSE Nifty rallied 84.55 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,586.70. Markets will remain closed on Wednesday for Muharram.

#### Gold rallies ₹550; silver jumps ₹400 amid strong global cues

Gold prices rallied by Rs 5550 to Rs 75,700 per 10 grams in the local market on Tuesday on the back of fresh buying by jewellers as well as strong trends in the international markets.

According to All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal rates had closed at Rs 75,150 per 10 grams on Monday.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity quoted higher at Rs 75,700 per 10 grams and Rs 75,350 per 10 grams, respectively. Traders attributed the rise in

gold prices to a pick-up in demand by local jewellers and retailers in the domestic

In addition, silver prices also jumped by Rs 400 to Rs 94,400 per kg. It had ended at Rs 94,000 per kg in the previous session.

'Gold and silver prices witnessed a sharp recovery on the back of rate cut expectations.
"No major data points were

on however, comments from US Reserve Chair Federal Jerome Powell were in limelight," Manay Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research, Motilal Oswal Services Financial (MOFSL), said.

Fed Chair Powell said that second quarter data has given policymakers greater confidence that inflation is heading down to the central

bank's 2 per cent goal. Powell reiterated that the US central bank is in no rush to cut rates but he also raised concerns regarding ease off in labour market increase in deficits

an eye on important data points like US retail sales, industrial production and a few housing numbers, which could provide clarity on overall economic health, Modi added.

On the overseas front, spot gold at Comex was traded at USD 2,436 per ounce, registering a gain of USD 28 per ounce from previous day. According to Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, gold prices traded higher amid ETF demand and speculative buying as the global gold prices hovering

...Decline in the treasury yields and US dollar index also supported the spot gold prices," Parmar added. Additionally, silver was also quoted higher at USD 30.77 per ounce. In the previous

session, it had finished at

USD 30.68 per ounce.

near the record high.

"Gold continues to trade positive, supported by a steady US dollar and easing bond yields as focus remains on an early rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

#### Govt likely to scale down fiscal deficit target to 5% or less in Budget: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is likely I to lower fiscal deficit to 4.9-5 per cent of the GDP for this financial year in the upcoming Budget aided by

revenue buoyancy. The government had pegged the fiscal deficit estimate at 5.1 per cent for the current fiscal year when it presented the interim Budget in February

"The union government is likely to set a fiscal deficit target at 4.9-5 per cent, lower than projected 5.1 per cent of GDP, without

compromising the capital expenditure target of Rs 11.1 lakh crore," ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar told PTI. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to present the full Budget on July 23. This will be her seventh Budget in a row. This budget aims to set the foundation for India's journey towards becoming a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

The government achieved a fiscal deficit of 5.6 per cent previous financial year.



"There is also a high likelihood of reducing the net market borrowings for the current financial year by Rs 35,000-Rs 55,000 crore vis-à-vis the interim Budget estimate of Rs 11.8 lakh crore, which would augur well for yields, along with the demand boost for G-secs owing to their inclusion in the J P Morgan Government Bond Index," she said.

The incremental revenue receipts of Rs 1.2 lakh crore can be split to increase the spending and revenue fiscal facilitate consolidation, she said,

difficult over the next 3-4 years, with the decline in the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio largely dependent on the increase in nominal GDP. If the government continues with capex at 3.4 per cent of GDP over the medium term (in line with the FY2025 Budget), Interim then incremental fiscal consolidation would require a sustained compression in the revenue deficit, she said.

Notably, she said, the government has 'onbudgeted' a large portion of previously off-budget capex; this should be considered while determining the endpoint of the awaited fresh fiscal consolidation roadmap beyond FY'26.

Assuming that capex of about 1 per cent of GDP has been brought on budget, the government could consider further reducing its fiscal deficit target to 4 per cent of GDP over the medium term, adding, the government from the expected sub-4.5 could utilise it for spurring per cent of GDP in FY'26, consumption by providing she added.

Realtors' body NAREDCO on Tuesday suggested that

the tax exemption on interest

on self-occupied property loans should be increased to

Rs 5 lakh in the upcoming

budget from Rs 2 lakh currently to boost housing

demand amid a rise in

housing prices and mortgage

Builders also sought some tax

incentives to boost demand

and supply of affordable

NAREDCO noted that under

Section 24 of the Income Tax

Act, the deduction allowed on

interest on loans for self-

occupied property is limited

"Given the rising property

prices and interest rates, NAREDCO proposes

proposes

homes.

to Rs 2 lakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

## Incuspaze takes on lease 1.15 lakh sq ft office space in B'luru

lakh square feet area in Bengaluru to open a new centre as part of its strategy to expand business amid a rise in demand for flexible workspace.

said it has expanded its portfolio in Bengaluru with leasing of 1.15 lakh sq ft Industry.



million company 'space-as-a-service' model, integrating technology with real estate to deliver innovative solutions tailored for enterprises, MSMEs, and startups

the city's absorption, flex spaces account for 5.4 per cent of the total absorption in H1 2024," Vestian CEO Shrinivas Rao said. Flex spaces nearly account for 16 per cent of the total nar

## Rupee rises 3 paise to close at 83.58 against US dollar

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day 3 paise higher at 83.58 (provising all) 83.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, on firm domestic markets and sustained inflow of foreign Forex traders said a decline in

crude oil prices favoured the rupee, while a strong US dollar capped sharp gains. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.59, and touched an interded bight of the country of the country

touched an intraday high of 83.53 and a low of 83.60 against the dollar during the trading session.It finally settled at 83.58 (provisional) the American against currency, registering a gain of 3 paise from its previous close.On Monday, the rupee depreciated 10 paise to 83.61 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading marginally higher by 0.11 per cent at 104.29

"The US dollar gained on

rising expectations that Donald Trump may be reelected as the President of the United States upcoming " elections said Anuj November,

Research

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 0.68 per cent lower at USD 84.27 per barrel.

Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP

Choudhary

Paribas.

'We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on the strong US dollar and weak Asian currencies. However, a decline in crude oil prices and continued foreign inflows may support the rupee at lower levels," Choudhary said, adding that any intervention by the RBI may also support the local unit.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE surge in US treasury yields on Sensex ended the day 51.69 items.

points, or 0.06 per cent, higher at 80,716.55 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 26.30 points, or 0.11 per cent, higher at 24,613.00 points.Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 2,684.78 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, merchandise exports in June increased 2.56 per cent to USD 35.2 billion despite global challenges, even as the trade deficit widened to USD 20.98 billion during the month.On the price front, wholesale inflation in the country surged to a 16-month high of 3.36 per cent in June on account of a rise in prices of food articles, especially

## Telecom Ministry to work on actionable plan on issues identified by panels: Scindia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The telecom ministry will ■ work on actionable plan with defined timelines on issues that have been discussed with telecom operators and other players in the sector, Union minister Ivotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday. The minister held meetings with three of the six committees set by his ministry.

The meeting with the committee on telecom operators was attended by telecom chiefs including Reliance Jio Chairman Akash Bharti Ambani, Airtel Founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, and Vodafone Idea MD and CEO Akshava Moondra."We've identified a rather deep agenda for these committees. Now members of these committees and us will be working together," Scindia said.

Industry body Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) Director General S P Kochhar was also part of the meeting. Scindia said there are varied

schedule for the first presentation these of committees that will be over the next couple of weeks. "Then we will be taking on

each individual issue, delving into the details and devising an action plan, timelines and actionable items, so that we

can take our sector forward," Scindia said. He said the six committees are the backbone of the communication

sector.
"By forging these committees
take the sector we hope to take the sector forward realising Prime Minister's goal of creating not only a Atmanirbhar (self reliant) Bharat but a telecom superpower within India that we will hopefully transcend our boundaries in days to come," Scindia said. The minister also met

representatives of internet service providers and infrastructure committee as well as those of academia and R&D committee.

On Monday, Scindia held meetings with three advisory groups satellite, communications electronics ecosystem and original equipment makers

prepare a roadmap for achieving self reliance and global leadership in the sector.

The meetings were attended by Nokia India Country Head Tarun Chhabra, Samsung President and CEO Southwest Asia J B Park, Cisco System India System India Managing Director Harish Krishnan, STL Managing Director and CEO Ankit Tejas Agarwal, Executive Chairman N G Subramanium, Viasat India Managing Director Gautam Hughes Sharma, and Communications India ČEO, President and Managing Director Shivaji Chatterjee, among others.

#### some income tax sops. She further said that reducing the absolute size of the fiscal deficit will be quite to start coworking centre PTI ■ NEW DELHI Coworking firm Incuspaze has taken on lease a 1.15

In a statement, the company

office space at Whitefield, a major hub for the tech 'The new facility will

accommodate 1,800 seats," Incuspage said." Our new facility is designed to foster creativity and collaboration among said Sanjay businesses," Choudhary, founder and CEO of Incuspaze. Incuspaze said it aims to expand its portfolio in southern India, with a focus on Bengaluru, Chennai Hyderabad.Since

increasing this limit to at least Rs 5 lakh," the association

The realtors' body mentioned

that currently the annual

value of property held as stock-in-trade and not let out is considered nil for up to two

years from the end of the

financial year in which the

certificate is obtained. After

this period, the notional income is taxed.

It suggested that this

provision should not apply to

real estate developers holding

stock due to weak market

conditions and recommended

increasing the time limit from

two to five years.G Hari Babu,

President of NAREDCO, said

these recommendations, if

implemented, will not only

provide much-needed relief

developers but also

completion

said in a statement.

construction



startups.
"Bengaluru is India's most active office market, accounting for the highest absorption of 23 per cent in pan-India during H1 2024. While the IT-ITeS sector accounts for nearly half of the city's absorption flex

has 44 centres across 18 cities during the same period.

# NAREDCO pitches for raising tax exemption limit on home loan interest to ₹5 lakh

stimulate demand in the housing sector.

Ramani Sastri - Chairman & Sterling Developers, This year, the demands beyond the usual expectation of single-window clearance and industry status, which could unlock financial advantages and streamline project approvals. There is an express need for more tax sops for both homebuyers as well as investors". The government should raise

deduction limit for the interest payment on home loans from the existing Rs 2 lakh a year to Rs 5 lakh, which will add momentum to

housing demand, he added. The budget should offer a degree of personal tax relief, either by ways of lower tax rates or by readjusting tax slabs, which is the need of the hour," Sastri said. In his wishlist, Dhruv

Agarwala, Group CEO, Housing.Com

PropTiger.Com, said the could demand and supply for affordable homes have shown fluctuating trends over the last three years across major tier I and tier II cities.

"In response, the upcoming budget should focus on revitalising both demand and supply for homes in the Rs 15-75 lakh per unit price bracket. Introducing interest subsidy programmes could incentivise potential homebuyers effectively," he said.To boost supply, Agarwala said

government could strategically deploy its extensive land banks in partnership with private developers, offering land and capital at concessional rates. "Implementing tax incentives for developers engaging in these affordable projects

further stimulate activity in this sector. It's noteworthy that substantial demand persists within the Rs 15-75 lakh price category, necessitating focused governmental action in the upcoming budget," observed. Agarwala said this approach

would not only catalyse growth in the real estate sector but also stimulate approximately 200 ancillary industries, substantially boosting job creation across these sectors. "Moreover,

longstanding sector demands, such as industry or granting infrastructure status and raising tax exemption limits on home loan repayments, should be considered to sustain long-term growth in the housing sector," he added.

#### Auto industry needs 2 lakh skilled people by 2030 to meet 30% EV adoption target: SIAM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian automotive industry will need up to 2 lakh skilled people by 2030 to meet the government's vision of 30 per cent electric vehicle adoption, the Society of Automobile Indian Manufacturers said on Tuesday

A total talent investment of Rs 13,552 crore is expected for hiring and training the workforce.

"As we look ahead, one of the major constraints the auto industry will face is the dearth of skilled electric vehicle capable manpower," Society Indian Automobile (SIAM) Manufacturers President Vinod Aggarwal said while addressing a workshop on empowering EV-ready workforce in the Indian auto industry. Aggarwal, who is also MD & Volvo Eicher

Commercial Vehicle Ltd, pointed out the need for specialised domain skills in battery areas of technology, powered electronics and motor design. "To keep the pace of global trends and make our auto globally industry competitive industry, there is an urgent need that our workforce be equipped with new skills by upskilling, rescaling and skilling them," he added. Detailing the gap, SIAM Vice President Shailesh Chandra said, "By 2030, India



to meet government's mission of 30 per cent EV adoption." The talent need will be spread

across multiple blue-collar white-collar professionals, ranging from technicians in manufacturing and testing to PhD scientists and engineers in R&D, he

"The talent requirements will components, India needs to will need nearly one to two

disciplines like electrical and mechanical, chemical and electronics engineering, added Chandra who is also MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd & Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd.

According to the 'SIAM EV Skill Gap Study' report in order to achieve 100 per cent localisation EV localisation

add 30,000 EV-ready workers per year till 2030, up from a current rate of 15,000 per

The report pointed out that 43 per cent of technical competencies Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) and EV have minimal overlap and therefore would require fresh skilling of talent. On the other hand, 27 per cent of technical competencies have a high overlap between ICE and EV

and may require re-skilling of existing talent. "The estimated hiring cost would be Rs 7,671 crore, while the training cost would be around Rs 5,881 crore. The total talent investment is

expected to be around Rs

13,552 crore," the report said.

#### Graphisads launches G Force

PNS NEW DELHI

Graphisads Limited, advertising Company and Outdoor Media owner, has entered into a groundbreaking partnership with the prestigious Indian Institute Management (IIM) Lucknow to unveil "G Force," an innovative accelerator programme. This initiative aims to

cultivate and empower aspiring entrepreneurs within the Media sectors through dynamic collaboration of industry expertise and academic leadership.

## Balaji has explosive game, we can't be written off just like that: Bopanna

Aging like a fine wine, Rohan Bopanna is all fired up for his last hurrah at the Olympic Games. Not the one who would rail against circumstances or crib about not having the strongest of partners, the veteran Indian tennis player says his comrade N Sriram Balaji has enough firepower and the scratch pairing is potent enough to test the big teams in Paris.

Had Bopanna been ranked outside the top-10, India would not have any representation in the men's doubles event at the Paris Olympics, starting July 26. The 44-year-old had to make a

choice between Balaji and Yuki Bhambri and after consulting his coaches -- Scott Davidoff Balachandran Mannikkath -- he eventually settled for the more "athletic

and agile" Balaji. "I really believe that when we go out there, we genuinely have a chance to win every match, whoever we play against. It's not like we're just going to be written off, I feel," Bopanna told PTI in an exclusive

Bopanna has reason to have that confidence in Balaji's ability to rise to the occasion. He had a chance to test Balaji at Bopanna was pushed along with Matthew Ebden by the Tamil Nadu player and his Mexican partner Miguel Reyes-Varela.

Not only this, Balaji had a consistent run on the ATP Tour where he scalped a few big names such as Americans Rajeev Ram and Austin Krajicek -- both top-10 players -- at the Houston ATP 250

event on clay.
With his German partner
Andre Begemann, Balaji also
defeated Austria's top-50
players Alexander Erler and Lucas Miedler.

Balaji also showed that he can quickly adapt to conditions when he was asked to do the singles duty during the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan on grass. The rival was not of the highest quality but Balaji showed that he was willing to come out of his comfort zone if the team demands. "The idea is to go prepared, at least believe in as a team. That is what we're trying to do. With Bala, he definitely has the firepower to do well," Bopanna said.

He also gave his reason for picking Balaji over Bhambri. I felt Balaji, depending on the surface we're playing with, which is the clay, would have been the ideal partner. Currently, even if you look at



(Matthew) Ebden, who I'm playing with, he's somebody more agile, more explosive on that surface.

"And for clay, especially, I need

better in terms of going by the surface. If it was a hard court or a grass court, maybe Yuki would have been the preferred

Bopanna though admitted that

difficult choice since he has not played with either of them on

Balaji can move well on both flanks? I think he is, given on

it was not an obvious but a the clay court, he's definitely more athletic, given the two of us. Between me and Bala, I definitely need a partner who's more athletic, more agile. "Bala has similar capabilities as Matthew. Bala would be fast, quick, swift like Ebden. But Ebden comes with a lot of experience and Bala hasn't played at that level much."

It also means that Bopanna has to be leader of the team all the time. On the Tour he has Ebden to pull the team out of the pit if Bopanna is having an off day. In the past Olympics, he had illustrious teammates like Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza.

In Paris, it will Bopanna, who has to do the heavy lifting. But did he have any choice?

"There is nobody currently in the country who has played that kind of experience as Matthew Ebden. So, no matter who I played with on the country, it would be the same scenario.

Due to the considerable gap in their rankings in the past, Bopanna could never play with Balaji on the Tour. But they have planned to compete in a couple of ATP events, starting with Hamburg Open, to prepare for the Olympics.

This is my time at home basically to rest, recover and then come back into the circuit. But I thought it'll be nice to get to know whoever partner I'm playing with. Try and work and at least try and prepare better than

As the discussion veered over Balaji's game and how he compliments him, Bopanna had a good things to say about his partner.

"His serve is definitely a big strength. He's got a powerful shot there. Which definitely helps in the doubles game. No question on it.'

Bopanna also said that they don't just want to show up and get back. They consider themselves worthy of a medal. "Every athlete who goes into Olympics wants to win a Olympics wants to win a medal, right? There is 100 percent that belief. Everybody wants to do better than the previous time. There's no question on it, right? That's how life is. You want to do better. You want to keep going

Nobody can tell you what can happen. But the preparation going into the games is what really matters.

higher and higher.

"This time I was even listening that they have a fantastic medical team there to help the recovery, help the sports science, which is the first time ever, which is amazing. This is what is the progress already for what athletes can get and really see and make a difference," he signed off.

Tennis events at Paris Olympics start on July 27.

### Olympic tennis players return to red clay of Paris' Roland Garros after Wimbledon's grass

The competition surface doesn't change for most Olympic sports. A pool's a pool. A track's a track. A wrestling mat's a mat. And so on. Tennis? That's a whole other story, with tournaments contested on clay, hard or grass courts - and now there's a shift for the Paris Games. For the first time in more

than 30 years, the tennis competition at an Olympics will be held on red clay, which means players who recently made the adjustment from the dirt at the French Open in early June to grass at Wimbledon in early July will need to reverse course again in short order.

The "terre battue" at Roland Garros used for the French Open hosts Olympic matches starting on July 27 - two weeks after Wimbledon wrapped up with singles titles for Barbora Krejcikova of the Alcaraz of Spain - and the transition back to that site is more concerning to some athletes than others

"That'll definitely interesting. But everyone's kind of doing it. We'll all be in the same boat," said Jessica Pegula, an American ranked in the top 10 who is expected to play singles, women's doubles with U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff and perhaps mixed doubles, too. "I usually don't struggle too much with switching. And I like how the courts play there. It might be easier than some other places we play on clay. When the weather is warm in Paris, it plays pretty true. There's a good speed. There's not a lot to get used to." For her, maybe.

"It's going to be the first time for me, going from grass to clay," said Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan, the 2022 Wimbledon champion and a semifinalist there this month. "It's not easy. Physically, it's not easy, (or) mentally. One additional factor on



another brief turnaround after Olympics to prepare for the ahead of the U.S. Open, which starts in late August. That's more about choppy steps, to "It's awful for the schedule," said Taylor Fritz, Pegula's teammate for the United States and someone who just reached the quarterfinals at the All England Club. "It makes absolutely no sense. It screws everything up, for

Tennis becomes a different sport, in some key ways, depending on where it's being

You have to adapt to it. ... It's going to be weird, obviously, going back on the clay quickly," said Cam Norrie, who will represent Britain at the Olympics, "but we're changing surface and changing changing variables all the

Clay is softer and slower, which can dull the power on serves and groundstrokes and create longer exchanges, premium on stamina, while the grittiness can magnify the effect of topspin. Grass is speedier and balls bounce lower. Hard courts tend to produce truer, midrange

reward those who go for point-ending shots.

The biggest difference among move to the hard courts them might be the footwork. less than a month after the avoid slipping. Hard courts general many falls as either of the others.

"For a clay-court player, the adjustment's not that hard," 1989 French Open champion Michael Chang said. "For (people) that have grown up playing on the surface, you ust know the surface so well." So someone like Iga Swiatek, who has won four of the past five French Opens, should comfortable and confident on clay, by far her

best surface. The same goes, of course, for Rafael Nadal, a 14-time champion at Roland Garros. Novak Djokovic has won at least three Grand Slam titles at each of the sport's biggest events, the only man to do so, and the adjustments required come rather naturally to him. Then again, Alcaraz, whose title at Roland Garros this year made him, at 21, the youngest man to win a major trophy on clay, hard and grass courts, had this to say about going from London to Paris: 'It's not easy to change surfaces in just a week.

On incredible day, Mbappé welcomed by

## Messi loses fitness battle at Copa America, puts goal of playing 6th World Cup on hold

Lionel Messi cried uncontrollably after he exited from a Copa America final before fulltime for the first time in Beyond the severe pain in his right

ankle on Sunday night in Miami Gardens, the tears on the face of Argentina's captain showed a deeper

Despite winning the title in one of his "last battles," as Messi described this Copa, the 37-year-old superstar did not pass the fitness test that could have opened the way for him to play his sixth World Cup in 2026. Argentina successfully defended its

South American title with a hardfought 1-0 extra-time win against Colombia. Messi left the pitch in Hard Rock Stadium in the 64th minute, breaking down without being touched. The Copa was Messi's first major tournament since leaving European soccer to play in the less competitive Major League Soccer in the US. Still, he has missed several games over the last year for his Inter Miami club and

Messi felt muscular pains in his right leg in the second group match against Chile, which sidelined him from the



following game against Peru. He did not deliver an impressive performance in the quarterfinals against Ecuador and missed his chance in the penalty shootout. In the semifinal victory over Canada, he scored his only goal in the tournament in the 2-0 win.

With a limp, Messi celebrated his Copa title in modest fashion on the field. The injury still hurt the star on Monday

"One more," he said on his social media

Messi did not speak to the media after the injury, and Argentina did not give details about the damage. Messi's farewell to the national team is

still on hold, but there's other players aged above 35 who are likely to have played their last major international (36), defender Nicolás Otamendi (36), and substitute goalkeeper Franco

players and a squad averaging 28 years of age when the veterans are not counted. That is partly why it held strong against Colombia despite the absence of its star for 56 minutes of play. "I don't know whether we marked an era, but this team never ceases to surprise. It recovers from difficulties," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said.
"When (Messi) leaves, the team multiplies with the one that comes in

Argentina does have up-and-coming

and we play better in a different way." Young talents such as Alejandro Garnacho, Valentín Carboni, Thiago Almada, Claudio Echeverri and Valentín Barco are not to be compared with the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner, but they can help Argentina remain competitive when it defends the World Cup in 2026. Key squad members such as goalkeeper

Emiliano Martínez, defender Cristian Romero, midfielder Rodrigo de Paul and striker Lautaro Martínez are likely to remain. Argentina will return to action in

September in World Cup qualifying against Chile and Colombia. The international window will give more hints about whether Messi's legend will go on or stop at Sunday's title.

### Nagal attains career-high ATP ranking of 68

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic-bound Sumit Nagal continued his ascent in the ATP singles chart, climbing to a career-high ranking of 68. The 26-year-old rose five spots

in the latest ATP ranking list released on Monday. His previous best was 71.

Nagal thus moves past former world No. 71 Sashi Menon to become the fourth highestranked Indian man since 1973. Vijay Amritraj (ranked 18th in 1980), Ramesh Krishnan (ranked 23rd in 1985) and Somdev Devvarman (ranked 62nd in 2011) are the only other Indian players who have



held a higher rank than Nagal. A string of impressive results in recent times has not only helped Nagal improve his ranking but also make the cut for singles event at the Paris Nagal, who will be the sole

Indian in the men's singles

event at the Paris Olympics, has so far logged 779 ATP

The year began with a win against Alexander Bublik, the 31st seed from Kazkakhstan at the Australian Open. He also competed at the French Open and Wimbledon.

He had won the men's singles crown at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 Challenger event in Germany earlier this month and the Chennai Open in February.

in February.
Nagal, who is currently the best-ranked Indian singles player, has won four ATP Challenger titles since 2023 and Heilbronn was his fourth title on clay.



### Gareth says he will step down as England manager

After eight years, four tournaments and two finals, Gareth Southgate announced he was stepping down as England manager on Tuesday, saying it was "time for change.

Sunday's 2-1 loss to Spain in the European Championship final proved to be his last game in charge of the national team. "As a proud Englishman, it has been the honour of my life to play for England and to manage England. It has mean everything to me, and I have given it my all," he said. "But it's time for change, and for a new chapter.'

Southgate's contract was due to expire this year and his announcement comes after months uncertainty surrounding his future.

Mikel Oyarzabal's 86th-minute winner in Berlin was a painful way to end his reign after he transformed the fortunes of England's underperforming national team.

Hired in 2016, he led England to back-to-back finals at the

Euros and to the semifinals of the World Cup in 2018. But, ultimately, he was unable to end the nation's decades-

long wait for a first major trophy since the World Cup in

1966.
"Gareth has made the impossible job possible and laid strong foundations for future success. He is held in the highest regard by the players, the backroom team, by everyone at the FA and across the world of football," said Mark Bullingham, chief executive of the English Football Association.

Southgate said before the European Championship that it would likely be his last tournament if England did not During it, he faced fierce criticism for the team's early

performances and some fans throw plastic beer cups towards him at the end of the 0-0 draw with Slovenia in the group phase.

But he achieved what no other England manager has by leading his team to two finals, including the first final on foreign soil.

"We look back at Gareth's tenure with huge pride - his contribution to the English game, including a significant role in player development, and in culture transformation has been unique. However, it is his record of winning tournament games which is most extraordinary, Bullingham said.

**AP** ■ MADRID cheers by the Madrid fans. Kylian Mbappé finally put on a Real Madrid jersey on fulfilling childhood dream in front of a packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Nearly 80,000 fans were in hand at the Bernabeu to welcome the 25-year-old France star during his official

After signing his five-year contract with the Spanish powerhouse alongside club president Florentino Pérez, Mbappé entered the stage set up at the Bernabeu to loud

presentation as the club's

newest player.

Wearing the No. 9 jersey, Mbappé smiled broadly and waved to the fans who chanted his name, then embraced Pérez and former Madrid player and coach Zinedine Zidane, who invited Mbappé to visit the Spanish club for the first time when he was just a teenager.
"It's incredible day for me,"
Mbappé told the crowd, in Spanish. "Since being a kid I dreamed about playing for Madrid and today I'm here. It

means a lot to me.' Mbappé's relatives, club officials and several former



Real Madrid fans at packed Santiago Bernabeu

Bernabeu, which had its roof ceremony in the Spanish players were by the stage at the closed for the midday capital. Kids linked

Mbappé's foundation were also The record-15 European Cups won by Madrid were also on

display on the stage where Mbappé was introduced. The message "Welcome, Mbappé" was shown on the

large video boards at the newly revamped Bernabeu. Some of the club's most iconic moments were also shown while the song "Nessun Dorma" was played on the loudspeakers. Images of Mbappe's career were also displayed, as well as photos including Mbappé wearing Madrid's uniform as a kid and

posing alongside former club star Cristiano Ronaldo. called Mbappé's Pérez presentation a "historic act" for the club.

we welcome an exceptional player who today is fulfilling his childhood dream," Pérez said. "Today you are here because it's something that you wanted. Thank you for making a great effort to be able to wear this white jersey." Mbappé's presentation came after he played at the 2024 European Championship, European where France lost to eventual champion Spain in the

'Today

## HARDIK PANDYA TO LEAD INDIA IN T20IS AGAINST SRI LANKA

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is all set to lead India in the three-match T20 International series against Sri Lanka starting July 27.

However, one of the heroes of India's T20 World Cup victory last month will take a break during the three match

take a break during the three-match ODI series, which is scheduled in

August, due to "personal reasons". "Hardik Pandya was India's T2O vicecaptain under Rohit Sharma. He is completely fit and available for the three-match T20I series and will lead the side," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Rohit retired from T20 Internationals at the end of the World Cup.
The T20Is against Sri Lanka will run from July 27 to 30 in Pallekele, followed by the ODIs from August 2 to 7 in Colombo. The squad for the series is expected to be announced in the peyt expected to be announced in the next couple of days.

While there is still no clarity on who would be Pandya's deputy, the toss-up is between Shubman Gill, who recently captained India to a 4-1 series win over Zimbabwe, and Suryakumar Yadav, who led the side during the T20Is against South Africa last year.

About the ODIs, the official confirmed that Pandya has asked for leave and has already communicated this to regular skipper Rohit Sharma, who is also taking a break from this series.



"The break from ODIs is for very personal reasons. Hardik doesn't have any fitness issue as is being floated in the media," the official said.

For the ODIs, KL Rahul, who led in the last ODI series in South Africa, and Gill are in contention for the leadership

THRUST ON DOMESTIC AVAILABILITY: BCCI secretary Jay

Shah has made it clear that even star cricketers must make themselves available for domestic engagements when they are free from national duty. But exceptions will be made for the likes of Rohit, Virat Kohli and pace

spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

The BCCI would, however, want all the other Test specialists to play at least one if not a couple of Duleep Trophy games

"All Test team contend picked. For Rohit, Virat ar will be their choice if they or not," the source added.

in August as a precursor to the Tests against Bangladesh and New Zealand. "This time there is no zonal selection committee for Duleep Trophy. Only national selection committee will pick

Duleep teams. Test team contenders will be picked. For Rohit, Virat and Bumrah, it will be their choice if they want to play



## Harmanpreet moves to 12th, Shafali 15th in ICC T20 rankings

India opener Shafali Verma on Tuesday moved to 15th place while her skipper Harmanpreet Kaur climbed to the 12th spot in the latest ICC T20 rankings, following their strong performances in the strong performances in the series against South Africa.

Harmanpreet has moved up three places and now has 613 rating points while Shafali rose two rungs to share the 15th spot with New Zealand's Amelia Kerr and Danni Wyatt

from England. The swashbuckling Smriti Mandhana continues to be the top-ranked Indian batter as she remained static on the fifth

In the bowlers' list, the seasoned Deepti Sharma continued her stay at the third

Radha Yadav moved eight spots to 15th while Pooja Vastrakar climbed up six places to 23rd and Shreyanka Patil rose nine rungs to 60th. England spinner Sarah Glenn has claimed a new career-high rating of 768 points. She has claimed eight wickets through four matches of England's ongoing T20I series at home against New Zealand.

This has allowed the rightarmer to maintain her place as the No.2 ranked T20I bowler in the world. The only player in front of Glenn in the ratings is teammate and fellow spinner Sophie Ecclestone and she also has eight scalps from the first four matches of the five-game

## Lakshya underdog in reasonable Olympics draw, will play freely: Coach Vimal

The presence of some established foes notwithstanding, Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen has got a "fair" draw in his debut Olympics, according to his coach Vimal Kumar, who expects the youngster to play freely in Paris thanks to his "underdog" status and some technical improvements in his overall game.

World No. 19 Sen's path to an Olympic medal has multiple hurdles as he will need to get past familiar Indonesian nemesis Jonatan Christie, last Olympics' surprise semifinalist Kevin Cordon Guatemala, and Julian Carraggi from Belgium in Group L. "I think it (the draw) is very fair, I feel it is a very reasonable draw for him," Vimal, a former India coach, told PTI from Marseille, France where Sen is currently training ahead of the Paris Olympics.

"A couple of times, he has lost to Jonathan Christie in close matches. It's a 50-50 match. You have to convert (chances) if you have to get to the second stage. In my opinion, Lakshya has nothing to lose. He will be the underdog and he can play a lot more freely," he asserted.

Describing Sen as a big-match player, Vimal said he expects Sen to trump former. Asian Games

trump former Asian Games champion Christie, who was also a part of Indonesia's Thomas Cupwinning team in 2022.
Vimal said Sen has worked on his front court court alextness and closing

front-court alertness and closing stage composure. The 22-year-old would be aiming to become the first Indian male shuttler to finish on the Olympic podium.

India's previous badminton medals at the Games have been clinched by

Saina Nehwal (bronze in 2012, London) and P V Sindhu (silver in 2016, Rio de Janeiro and bronze in 2020, Tokyo)

"Jonathan will be the last match of the group and Lakshya should pull through. So I see a lot of positives. Not going to the Canada Open was a dampener but he has overcome that. Being away here in similar conditions will help him," Vimal said referring to Sen being forced said referring to Sen being forced out of his title defence in Canada Open owing to visa issues.

To prepare the player from Almora, Korea's Yoo Yong-Sung, a two-time men's doubles Olympic silvermedallist, was brought back to polish his net game, improve his on-court pace and dial up the focus in crunch situations. Yong-Sung had worked with Sen in 2022
"We have brought in a lot of speed work into closing stages, we

introduced a lot of double drills in finishing, pushing the pace towards certain points. Last three weeks, Yoo Yong-Sung has been helping us with those drills," Vimal said. Vimal said Sen has also been doing a lot of service variations practice. "(The idea is) basically to bring in

some sort of intensity in the routines. Certain sets of routines that we follow are mostly singles-oriented. He (Sen) worked on those flat exchanges, retrieving and things like approaching the net and being a little more alert at the net," Vimal

For the last one week, Sen has been training at the Halles des Sports Parsemain in Fos-sur-Mer, which is about 45 minutes from Marseille city centre.

Sen is also training with the Olympic-bound Popov brothers --Christo and Toma Junior -- till July 21. Indian shuttlers Kiran George, Ayush Shetty have been roped in too for sparring.

"Next week we will be doing one set of tournament practice because he needs that little bit of that match practice. It would have been good to see him in Canada. So next week I want to see how he is implementing what he learned.
"Against both the Popov brothers, it

will be a good test. So I'll be able to assess him. Once he gets into the village in Paris, we won't get to play much. We will have limited time for practice in the main arena.

Lakshya had struggled through much of 2023 and early part of 2024. He fell behind in the qualification race but turned things around in time with two semifinal finishes at the All England Championship and the French Open to seal his place in the Olympics.

"From all that he has survived, he got an opportunity to qualify. He has been practising and has worked on his game. Lakshya has acclimatised to the conditions, he plays well there in those conditions. "We have also got some of that tournament shuttlecock (F-90) because the conditions are a little on the slower side in Paris. So we have been practising with those shuttles," said Vimal, who guided Saina Nehwal to world No. 1 in 2015. Sen, along with his coach, will be leaving for Paris on July 22.

### Moudgil overcomes mental demons to secure | Bawa assures India of place in shooting contingent for Paris Games



PTI NEW DELHI

Overcoming mental demons after being left out of the Indian team from last year's Asian Games and the World Championships was key to shooter Anjum Moudgil securing a Paris Olympic berth. Former world no.1 Moudgil, a world championships and Commonwealth Games medallist, competed in two events during the last edition in Tokyo. She finished 15th in the 50m rifle 3 position and 18th in the 10m air rifle, but in Paris, she will be featuring in only women's  $50 \mathrm{m}$ 3 position.

By her own admission, the ouster from the Indian team for Worlds and Asian Games due to inconsistent form was an eye opener for her as the 30-year-old worked on bettering her mental toughness besides focussing entirely on her training.

"Three years after Tokyo was a rollercoaster ride for me. I have seen tough times but I wanted to comeback stronger. The experiences of Tokyo will surely be of helpful (in Paris)," Moudgil said in a virtual media interaction.

"I really took advantage of quotas and trials, the federation told me not to lose out hope. They understood the things I was going through. I was really confident of making through to the team after I didn't make the team for World Championships and the Asian Games because of just 2 points in the trials. "I was too focussed and positive in giving my best in the trials. I knew my strengths and how to work under pressure and it

One year after Tokyo, I won couple of medals in World Cups and became world no.1. I did mental training focus, it's been a positive step for me. I now speak up, which is a positive change heading to Paris. I used time to get better and find what works better for me," she added.

Understanding the importance of mental health issues, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has set up the Mentally Fit Helpline, a dedicated, independent and confidential mental health counselling service available to all athletes accredited for the Paris Games.

"It's (mental health) so important for all the federations and IOC to understand. It's important to understand the mental side, understand how it works for an athlete, understand mental toughness. So, it's positive step to see mental helpline being introduced in Paris Olympics," Moudgil

"Athletes have spoken in the past about mental health issues. It's a common issue which needs to be addressed not only for athletes, but in every profession.

"People should respect mental health, and not hide anything. The helpline is a positive step towards admiring mental health issues.

India have named a strong 21-member shooting contingent for Paris Games, includes many youngsters, including 22-year-old Sift Kaur Samra who will be competing alongside Moudgil in 50m 3p event.

There are so many strong, young shooters, it really helps me to push my limit. I would have been stuck if I was not pushed. There is high competition in my event, and it really helped me to push. The reason I am here because of the efforts I have put in over the last 3 years," Moudgil

"I am very positive going into Paris with this young contingent. All of them are confident, the team is doing very well. It is positive for each and every shooter, there is no pressure. My expectation is for everyone to give their best, everyone going with positive mindset."

Moudgil is counting on her difficult Tokyo experience to shine in Paris.

'Competing in one rather than two events both have positive and negative sides, but I am happy. In Tokyo, the environment was different because of Covid. Everything was tentative, we had to appear for Covid test everyday and if you turn positive you are out of the competition. All of these things were disturbances.

The competition is very high in India and the pressure situations we face during trials will definitely help in Olympics. I just wanted to be my best in trials, the fire to perform in trials and the experience of last 15 years really paid off. These things will surely help me in Paris, the experience of playing in the Olympics is there with me,'

...We had a different experience in Tokyo because of Covid, we won quotas 3 years before and was waiting as the Games were postponed. But we really don't discuss too much baggage of Tokyo. It's just another big competition and that's what we

Shooting competitions of the Paris Olympics will be held at National Shooting Center in Châteauroux, the capital city of the French department of

Indre, central France, which is approximately 270km from Paris.
"The preparation is going really well and according to plan. We are Luxembourg for the last phase of our training and preparation before we head to Châteauroux, France on 21st."

## medal in World Junior squash, Anahat bows out

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia's Shaurya Bawa Iguaranteed himself of a medal as he moved to the semifinals with a hard fought 3-2 win over Malaysian Low Wa-Sern in the World Junior Squash Championships in Houston.

The 18-year-old from Delhi, thus, becomes only the second Indian male to reach the semifinals after Kush Kumar, who reached the last four stage in 2014.

In a thrilling clash that lasted 80 minutes, Bawa was down 6-

9 and 7-10 in the fifth game but remarkably saved three match balls to eke out a 2-11 11-4 10-12 11-8 12-10 victory in the boys' quarterfinals on Monday. With the win, Bawa set up a semifinal clash with Egyptian top-seed Mohamed Zakaria. Meanwhile, compatriot Anahat Singh bowed out from the girls' quarterfinals for a

third straight year. The 16-year-old women's national champion lost a close five-setter to Nadien Elhammamy, with Egyptian winning 11-8 11-9 5-11 10-12 13-11.

### Punjab FC retains five Indian players ahead of upcoming ISL season

PTI MOHALI

 $P_{\text{announced retaining five}}^{\text{unjab} \ \text{FC}} \ \text{on} \ \text{Tuesday}$ Indian players, including midfielder Ashis Pradhan and goal-keeper Ravi Kumar, on multi-year deals for the upcoming Indian Super League season.

The other players retained are Ricky Shabong, Manglenthang Kipgen, and Suresh Meitei. While Ravi and Pradhan will remain at the club until May 2026, centre back Meitei and midfielder Ricky will be a part of the Punjab FC till May 2027. Kipgen, also a midfielder, will continue till May 2028.

They were key players for the club in the previous season and the club has kept their faith in these players," the club said in a release. Ravi made 47 saves for the club

in 16 appearances last season while Meitei made 14 appearances while assisting once for the club.

"Pradhan, Shabong and Kipgen made 17, 10 and four appearances respectively adding steel and creativity in the middle of the park," the

#### Olympics-bound javelin thrower Jena says he was on verge of quitting last year

sian Games silver medallist javelin Athrower Kishore Jena says he was on verge of quitting the sport in 2023 after a string of poor performances but he heeded to his father's advice, leading to a revival of his career.

Jena admitted that Neeraj Chopra's Tokyo Olympics gold medal motivated him to achieve more in his sport but he found it difficult to get the big throws and thought of quitting the sport in July last year just before the World Championships. "When Neeraj won at the Olympics, we

celebrated and enjoyed his victory. But honestly, the victory also left me dejected because I too was playing the same sport. I felt it was time for me to achieve something in sports," Jena said.

"I participated in Lebanon National Championships after a dip in my rankings and produced a throw of 78m. Despite giving it my all, I couldn't achieve much. I



started doubting if all the hard work was worth it. I called my father, who encouraged me to participate in next competition in Sri Lanka," he said in a

JioCinema release. Jena won in Lebanon (on July 21) with a throw of 78.96m, which by any standard was a modest performance. In fact, Jena could not breach the 80m mark till the end of 2022. His first 80m-plus throw came in March 2023 during the Indian Grand Prix in Thiruvananthapuram where he came up with 81.05m effort.

"I decided the event in Sri Lanka (July 30)

would be my last attempt, after which I would quit and go back to prioritizing work and family. With God's grace, I performed well, producing a throw of 84.38m which led to my qualification for the World Championships."

Jena qualified for the Budapest World

Championships in August 2023 through world ranking quota. He could not breach the automatic qualification mark of

performed well in the World Championships as well, achieving a personal best of 84.77m," said Jena who finished fifth in the final while Chopra

won the gold with 88.17m. "I followed it up with another personal best of 87.54m at the Asian Games (in Hangzhou, China where he won a silver behind Chopra) securing my ticket to Paris 2024. I now want to give my best at Paris. I am quite confident. While I haven't set any particular targets, I am aiming to improve my personal best."

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